



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

July 14, 2020

Lonny R. Bagley
Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

Casper Field Office,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) public review of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment to award three contracts to fund space, feeding and care for up to 7,500 excess wild horses in off-range corrals located in Wheatland, WY, Canon City, CO and Delta, UT.

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As excess wild horses affect our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and welfare of our citizens, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

WDA supports the renewal and creation of new wild horse off-range corrals. Wyoming has recently been negatively impacted by the lack of appropriate off-range corrals, where a wild horse gather was suspended in mid-gather because there was not enough room in off-range corrals within the designated timing restrictions. This event has led to the BLM not meeting its removal goals and allowing excess wild horses to remain on the range and continue to negatively impact the natural resources and rangeland health within that Herd Management Area.

WDA is specifically focused on the Wheatland, WY proposed off-range corrals. The proposed project will be built on private lands on a center pivot currently used to grow alfalfa. The site is surrounded by adjacent center pivots and Wyoming Highway 320 (Wheatland Highway). We agree that there are no impacts to special status species or designated crucial winter ranges. We see no reason why the contract should not be awarded to the private landowners who applied for the ability to house wild horses on their private lands.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the EA. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to the BLM growing their capacity to house excess wild horses in off-range corrals to allow

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for additional removal of wild horses from over populated Herd Management Areas in Wyoming and the west.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Miyamoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/cw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers
Wyoming Wool Growers
Wyoming Board of Agriculture