



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

August 27, 2014

Frank Romero
District Ranger
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY 82070

Dear Mr. Romero,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) scoping comments for the Muddy Creek and Lake Creek Watershed Restoration Project on the Laramie Ranger District (LRD) of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is 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 LRD's adherence to the Multiple Use Sustainability Yield Act and efforts to restore wetland, stream, and watershed conditions. We provide the following comments for LRD to consider when developing the Environmental Analysis (EA):

WDA encourages the LRD address livestock grazing in the EA. We understand livestock grazing is not present in the project area, therefore not a causal factor in the degradation of the Muddy Creek and Lake Creek watersheds. WDA is concerned the current proposal lacks the data and reason necessary for the proposed range of alternatives. Additionally we ask the LRD analyze any impact(s) of road closures for grazing permittees accessing to adjacent grazing allotments.

WDA supports the restoration of Muddy Creek and Lake Creek watersheds and the continued adherence to the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960. The restoration of these watersheds could potentially benefit downstream users.

In conclusion, the WDA supports the restoration of wetland, stream, and watershed conditions on Muddy Creek and Lake Creek watersheds. We appreciate continued attention to our concerns and ask for notification of any major changes to Alternatives or analysis throughout this National Environmental Policy

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Act process. WDA reserves the right to object after the analysis process is complete. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working closely with the LRD throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Jason Fearneyhough

Director

JF/jw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
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