



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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

August 30, 2012

Mr. Michael P. Stewart, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Cody Field Office
PO Box 518
Cody, WY 82414-0518

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to Environmental Assessment (EA) Number DOI-BLM-WY-020-2012-0007 and the associated permit renewals for the Bench Canal (01046), Dry Creek (01048) and Individual (01049) Allotments Proposed Decision by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody Field Office (FO).

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

WDA appreciates the effort the Cody FO has devoted to renewing livestock grazing leases in a timely and efficient manner. As BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Cody area, it is important lessees continue livestock grazing to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. We commend the Cody FO for making it a priority to collect data and documentation for use in the EA and permit renewal process.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the Bench Canal, Dry Creek and Individual Allotments and look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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