



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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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.

February 18, 2011

John R. Christensen, Field Manager
Kemmerer Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
312 Highway 189 North
Kemmerer, WY 83101

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Bureau of Land Management – Kemmerer Field Office's (KFO) request for information regarding the authorization of livestock grazing in the Christy Canyon Allotment (Allotment).

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 proposed action affects 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 us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA supports the Resource Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (2010) to release the Allotment for analysis and reauthorization of livestock grazing, and strongly support the Allotment being utilized for livestock grazing. We strongly encourage the KFO staff coordinate with landowners and permittees in the vicinity of the Allotment to evaluate the interest of livestock grazing operations in the Allotment.

The WDA absolutely does not support the livestock grazing permit being acquired by special interest groups for non-grazing purposes. We do support analyzing the Allotment and collecting site specific scientific data to determine the current state of the Allotment. We encourage the KFO staff to make appropriate decisions regarding the Allotment based on site specific and scientifically sound data collected within the Allotment.

We strongly support the reauthorization of livestock grazing within the Allotment, and firmly believe reauthorization will benefit adjacent allotments, the health of rangeland and the economy of landowners, permittees and the local economy. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NEPA analysis. We encourage continued attention to our concerns, and we look forward to hearing about and being involved in future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/cw

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming State Grazing Board

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