



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

November 15, 2010

**Mr. James C. Case, NEPA Program Manager
Wyoming Army National Guard
Construction & Facilities Management Office
5500 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3320**

Dear Mr. Case:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) scoping comments pertaining to the scoping letter for the Wyoming Army National Guard (WYARNG) proposal to construct and operate a live fire shoot house, a live fire breach facility, and an urban assault course at the former Gray Rocks Ranch and the Environmental Assessment (EA) associated with this proposal.

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 EA 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 the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA appreciates efforts made by the WYARNG to continue livestock grazing on the Gray Rocks Ranch, improve the health of the natural resources, build range improvements and communicate with livestock grazing lessees. We recommend the EA includes the following information:

- An evaluation of the proposed actions on livestock grazing management in the EA. This may include analysis of the effects of increased traffic on livestock movement, effects on vegetation and effects on range improvements.
- Holding scheduled meetings with livestock grazing lessees to discuss project-specific impacts and possible mitigation.
- An evaluation of the effects of the proposed actions on surrounding landowners.
- Specific noxious and invasive weed guidelines. These may include but are not limited to: development of a weed management plan that includes cooperation between the WYARNG, stakeholders and the local Weed and Pest District; monitoring of noxious and invasive weeds; and wash stations for vehicles. Noxious and invasive weed species cause adverse impacts to other resource values and it is important to inventory and control these species in a timely and effective manner.

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In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scope the proposed actions. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to hearing about and being involved in proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Fearneyhough".

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Stock Growers Association