



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.

October 26, 2010

Mr. Michael Phillips, Assistant Field Manager, Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to renewal of grazing leases for the Big Cottonwood (00030), Cottonwood Creek (00524), Cottonwood Draw (00026), Double H (00019), Grass Point (00545), Horse Mountain (01521), Lake Ridge (01511), North Blue Ridge (00161), Nowood Individual (00025), South Individual (00200) and Willow Springs (02001) livestock grazing allotments by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Worland 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 these 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.

The WDA appreciates the effort the Worland FO has devoted to authorizing livestock grazing in a timely and efficient manner. BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Bighorn Basin. It is important permittees continue livestock grazing on these allotments to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. In addition, livestock grazing represents irreplaceable environmental and social values, contributing to the preservation of open spaces, scenic vistas, and the traditional image of historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces also provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than alternative land uses.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the analyzed allotments and look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union
WY 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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