

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002 ■ Phone: 307-777-7321 ■ Fax: 307-777-6593 ■ Website: wyagric.state.wy.us ■ Email: wda1@state.wy.us

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



Dave Freudenthal, *Governor*
John Etchepare, *Director*

Dale Deiter
Jackson District Ranger
Bridger – Teton National Forest
P.O. Box 1689
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Deiter,

Following are our comments regarding the Gros Ventre Mineral Exploration proposed by Maverick Exploration.

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 project has the potential to affect our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we request that you please keep us informed of proposed actions and decisions regarding this project and any other projects that may be associated with this proposed action in the future.

We understand that the proposed project is located within the Bridger – Teton National Forest, adjacent to Cottonwood Creek, in the designated Bacon/Fish Creek winter forage reserve area. It is also our understanding that no active livestock allotments will be impacted by the proposed project. With this in mind we would appreciate proper notification and the opportunity to reevaluate the project, if the proposed project scope changes dramatically or if future developments of the mining exploration project expand beyond the current proposal.

We strongly support the mitigation measures put forward in the Request for Public Comment letter, and strongly recommend spot inspection of the project area during the proposed action, to ensure all mitigation measures are being fulfilled. Especially in regards to the following:

- Reclamation will be done to Forest Service specifications of all impacted areas
- Backfilling and placement of top soil will occur prior to moving on to next trench
- No activity will occur within 200 feet of Cottonwood Creek
- Timing restriction (prior to July 1 – later than November 1)
- Timely seeding and noxious weed control for up to 3 years

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In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Gros Ventre Mineral Exploration Project, we encourage continued attention to our concerns, and we look forward to hearing about and being involved in any future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Etchepare", written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Etchepare
Director

JE/cw

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Board of Agriculture