



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.

February 16, 2011

Mr. James A. Cagney, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office
PO Box 589
Lander, WY 82520-0589

Dear Mr. Cagney:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to renewal of grazing leases #4903856 on the Logan Pasture Allotment by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander 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 proposed decision 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 Lander FO has devoted to working with livestock grazing permittees to issue new grazing permits and incorporate grazing permittees requests. BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in northeast Fremont County. It is important that permittees continue livestock grazing 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 the historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces 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
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

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