



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

May 12, 2011

Laurie Walters-Clark  
USDA Forest Service, Bighorn National Forest  
2013 Eastside 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Dear Ms. Walters-Clark:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Draft FY 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Five Year Review for the Bighorn National Forest (BNF).

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 report 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.

**Page 9, Monitoring Driver 9, General Discussion:**

The discussion includes different reporting values by the West Zone and the East Zone. The West Zone has maintained 24 livestock exclosures and the East Zone has maintained 280 acres of livestock exclosures. It would be helpful if this discussion used the same values to measure progress.

**Page 24, Monitoring Driver 12, Potential Monitoring Items and Frequency:**

Acres of priority noxious weeds should be monitored and reported more often than every 5 years in order to effectively map and control populations. The WDA recommends the frequency of monitoring and reporting be changed to every 3 years. In addition, the general discussion (page 25) discusses the dispersal of Russian knapweed. We recommend adding Russian knapweed to the priority species list.

In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Monitoring and Evaluation Report. 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/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office  
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts  
Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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