



Wyoming  
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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.*

July 20, 2011

Mr. Steve Kozel, District Ranger  
Bearlodge Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest  
P.O. Box 680  
Sundance, WY 82729

Dear Mr. Kozel:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the notice to allow Rare Element Resources (RER) the opportunity to install monitoring devices to collect environmental information in anticipation of future mining operations in the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF), Bearlodge Ranger District.

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 project may affect our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important we be kept informed of proposed actions and decisions and that we continue to be provided the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

This project may temporarily impact grazing permittees, agriculture producers, landowners, and other citizens, as well as our natural resources. If mining operations do occur in the future, impacts will undoubtedly increase. Because of possible impacts, the WDA would like to remain involved in future proposals by RER and monitoring results.

We strongly encourage BHNF officials to work with all livestock grazing permittees and private landowners who may potentially be affected by monitoring.

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