



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

April 25, 2011

Mr. Marty Sharp, NEPA Coordinator  
Shoshone National Forest  
203A Yellowstone Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Sharp:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Sunlight Vegetation and Fuels Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Clarks Fork Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest (SNF).

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 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.

This project will impact grazing permittees, agriculture producers, landowners, and other citizens, as well as our natural resources, both in and near the 6,246-acre project area. For these reasons, we are making the following comments.

As noted in our scoping comments, we support efforts to reduce fuel loads as well as restore the vegetative and age-class diversity of fire-adapted ecosystems to forests in Wyoming.

#### Design Features – Project design for Rangeland

The WDA specifically requested in our scoping comments that the duration of time needed before grazing can occur on treated areas be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with the grazing permittees, rather than adhering to a predetermined nationwide policy. The project design features specify that livestock grazing will be deferred for two growing seasons following fire. While we support livestock deferment over rest, we strongly recommend the SNF make grazing determinations on a site specific basis.

We appreciate the SNF clearly outlining permittee involvement in project planning and implementation.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Fearneyhough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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