



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.*

January 25, 2011

Mr. Michael Phillips, Assistant Field Manager, Resources  
Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office  
PO Box 119  
Worland, WY 82401

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the renewal of grazing leases on the Demer Nowater (#00163) and Split Rock – V's (#00090) livestock grazing allotments by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Worland 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 these proposed decisions 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 Worland FO has devoted to authorizing livestock grazing in a timely and efficient manner. BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Bighorn Basin. It is important that permittees continue livestock grazing on these allotments 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 historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces also provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than alternative land uses.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the Demer Nowater and Split Rock – V's 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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