



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*
2219 Carey Ave. • Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7321 • Fax: (307) 777-6593
Web: agriculture.wy.gov • Email: wda1@state.wy.us

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

April 22, 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 permits on the Freeman Draw (#00625), South Lucerne (#00502), Upper 15 Mile (#00670), Cherry Creek (#00581) and Healy (#00185) allotments and the renewal of the ten-year base property lease on the Reed Creek (#02554) and Wood's Basin (#02516) 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 Freeman Draw, South Lucerne, Upper 15 Mile, Cherry Creek, Healy, Reed Creek and Wood's Basin livestock grazing allotments and look forward to continued cooperation on 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 State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

BOARD MEMBERS

Vacant, *District 1* • Jim Hodder, *District 2* • Shaun Sims, *District 3* • John Moore, *District 4* • Alison Lass, *District 5*
Bryan Brost, *District 6* • Jim Price, Jr., *District 7*

YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

Patrick Zimmerer, Southeast • Dalin Winters, Northwest • John Hansen, Southwest • Bridget Williams, Northeast