



Mark Gordon, *Governor*
Doug Miyamoto, *Director*
2219 Carey Ave. • Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7321 • Fax: (307) 777-6593
Web: agriculture.wy.gov • Email: wda1@wyo.gov

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

April 20, 2021

Forest Supervisor
Bighorn National Forest
2013 Eastside 2nd St
Sheridan, WY 82801
comments-bighorn@fs.fed.us

RE: Bighorn Salvage and Sanitation Project

Dear Forest Supervisor,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Bighorn National Forest (BNF) Salvage and Sanitation Project Proposal.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

We support BNF's proposal to proactively manage for more resilient and resistant forest systems and move towards objectives within the FS Resource Management Plan. Active management of forests will promote healthy stands of diverse age classes and species for the persistence of healthier, more robust tree populations. We also support thinning forests of dying and diseased trees to allow growth release of remaining trees and avoid potentially catastrophic wildfires. The FS should prioritize treatments in areas where maintaining healthy conditions with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects and diseases, and invasive species.

The Wyoming Board of Agriculture "supports ongoing management of federal, state and private timber lands for sustainable forests and rangeland to support grazing for livestock and wildlife." We believe effective salvage and sanitation activities will promote healthier forests not only for timber production, developed recreation and viewshed but also for grazing administration sites and wildlife.

BNF states they will "mitigate negative impacts to recreation and scenery from disturbance events." WDA insists the BNF does not include livestock grazing as a cumulative impact or potential mitigation. Instead, BNF should consider including targeted grazing to reduce fine fuels and work towards meeting desired resource conditions and objectives.

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

BOARD MEMBERS

Jana Ginter, *District 1* • James Rogers, *District 2* • Shaun Sims, *District 3* • Amanda Hulet, *District 4* • Mike Riley, *District 5*
Vacant, *District 6* • Larry Krause, *District 7*

YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

Landon Hoffer, *Southeast* • Jared Boardman, *Northwest* • Hadley Pape, *Southwest* • Cameron Smith, *Northeast*

BNF Salvage and Sanitation Project Proposal

4/20/21

Page 2 of 2

In conclusion, we support the proposal and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Doug Miyamoto

Director

DM/sm

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming County Commissioners Association