



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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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.
November 2, 2012

District Ranger
Big Piney Ranger District
PO Box 218
Big Piney, WY 83113

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Scoping Notice to reconstruct 15 miles of fence in the Big Piney Ranger District (BPRD) of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

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.

The WDA appreciates the BPRD efforts in replacing the fence and proactively addressing the National Environmental Policy Act on the Fontenelle Fire Fence Reconstruction Project. We fully support BPRD in the reconstruction of the 15 miles of fence, as this fence serves multiple purposes, including serving as a boundary for livestock grazing allotments. Livestock grazing permittees will also appreciate the timely construction of the fence prior to the 2013 grazing season.

The WDA supports the BPRD in pursuing a Categorical Exclusion for the fence reconstruction. The fence was in place prior to the fire and should not require an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. We encourage the BPRD pursue the fence reconstruction utilizing local materials, with a wildlife friendly fence design. However, prior to construction, we ask the BPRD coordinate with grazing permittees to ensure the fence design continues to meet their needs.

Again, we appreciate BPRD in their efforts on this project. Please keep us informed and feel free to contact the WDA with any future questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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