



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@wyo.gov

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

August 13, 2013

Kathleen Lacko, Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office  
2987 Prospector Drive  
Casper, WY 82604

Dear Ms. Lacko:

Following are our comments pertaining to the Travel and Transportation Management Plan for the Alcova Fossil Area, Jackson Canyon, and Bates Hole Travel Management Area (Travel Plan) by the Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

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 Travel Plan 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 this 201,161-acre planning area. For these reasons, we are making the following comments.

Following are some specific effects upon livestock grazing needing analyzed: use of cattle guards, increased number of vehicles in some areas causing death, impairments, or disturbance of livestock, cut fences, opened gates, damaged range improvements, decreased palatability of vegetation and forage from road dust, introduction and spread of noxious weeds, maintenance of range improvements, and other social and economic impacts on livestock operators and livestock management operations.

We strongly encourage BLM staff to work closely and consistently with all affected grazing permittees and agriculture producers to learn of their concerns and recommendations regarding this project. BLM should also work closely with other surface land owners in the area to minimize impact on access to private lands. In addition, the BLM should continue to allow administrative uses for livestock producers in the planning area.

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

Sincerely,

*FOR*  
  
Jason Fearneyhough  
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office  
Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union  
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  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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