



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*
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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.

September 21, 2012

Mr. Joe Meyer, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office
2987 Prospect Drive
Casper, WY 82604

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to renewal of grazing leases for the Cooney Hills (10041), Crystal Creek (10200), Gorely (00126), Sioux Creek (10189), Spring Canyon (10105) and Tea Kettle Rock (00252) livestock grazing allotments by the Bureau of Land Management Casper 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 this proposed decision 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.

The WDA appreciates the effort the Casper FO has devoted to responding to the renewal and authorization of livestock grazing leases in a timely and efficient manner. BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in Wyoming and are essential in management of private land operations. It is important lessees 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 provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than alternative land uses.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the analyzed allotments and look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

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 Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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