



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.

December 6, 2011

Mr. Michael P. Stewart, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Cody Field Office
P.O Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to proposed decision to issue a grazing lease on the Billy Goat (03013) and Canyon Pasture (03111) Allotments by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody 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 Cody FO has devoted to reviewing livestock grazing allotments in a timely and efficient manner. As BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Cody area, it is important lessees continue livestock grazing to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. We commend the Cody FO for making it a priority to collect the data and documentation presented in the associated Environmental Assessment and Rangeland Standards – Conformance Review.

In addition, the WDA appreciates the efforts of the Cody FO staff in working closely with permittees to improve range health and maintain viable grazing operations. We strongly urge you to continue this practice.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the allotments and the proposed management. We 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
WY Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Board of Agriculture

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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