



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*
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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.

May 31, 2012

Mr. Tim Kramer
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the request for comments for the Crooks Mountain Fuels Project by the Bureau of Land Management Lander 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 project affects our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important we be kept informed of proposed actions and decisions and that we continue to be provided the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

This project will temporarily impact grazing permittees, agriculture producers, landowners, and other citizens, as well as our natural resources, both in and near the project area. For these reasons, we are making the following comments.

We support efforts to reduce hazardous fuels through thinning treatments and slash pile burning.

We strongly encourage Lander FO officials to work closely with all livestock grazing permittees and private landowners who may potentially be affected by this project. We request the duration of time needed before grazing can occur on treated areas be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with the grazing permittees, rather than adhering to a predetermined nationwide policy. Managed livestock grazing is encouraged at the first feasible opportunity.

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

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
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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