



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.

February 6, 2012

Richard VanderVoet, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. VanderVoet:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 23 evaluated leases in the Dubois area by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 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 EA 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 supports renewing grazing permits while maintaining Animal Unit Months, seasons-of-use and current management.

We do not support Alternative II, which eliminates livestock grazing. As the EA clearly states, eliminating livestock grazing in the Dubois area is not a viable or necessary option as indicated by the current Lander Resource Management Plan and supplements. In addition, recent assessments by the BLM show the allotments passing the Wyoming Standards of Rangeland Health. Choosing Alternative 2 would have significant negative consequences on livestock grazing permittees, vegetative resources, wildlife habitat, and the local economy.

In conclusion, the WDA supports the continuance of commercial livestock grazing on the 23 Dubois area allotments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scope of the proposed EA. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and we look forward to hearing about and being involved in proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

FOIA

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
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