



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@state.wy.us

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

August 8, 2011

Mr. Richard C. Miller, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Newcastle Field Office
1101 Washington Blvd.
Newcastle, WY 82701

Dear Mr. Miller:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the transfers of grazing preference and grazing leases on the Basin Reservoir No. 1 (04375), Elkhorn Creek S29 (00742), Hay Creek I (04391), Lightning Creek S7 (04356), Lightning Creek S12 (04168), Lindsey Creek I (04077), Lindsey Creek 14-SEW (04229), Moore Canyon (04366), North Wood Canyon (04318), Reservoir (04297), Twenty-One Draw (04254) and Wallace Draw (04324) allotments by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Newcastle 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 each of these transfers affect 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 Newcastle FO has devoted to responding to transfer of grazing preference and lease applications in a timely and efficient manner. As BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Newcastle area, it is important permittees continue livestock grazing to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. In addition to its economic value, livestock grazing represents irreplaceable environmental and social values, contributing to the preservation of open spaces, scenic vistas, and the traditional image of the historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces also provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than some alternative land uses.

The WDA appreciates the efforts of the Newcastle FO staff in working with grazing leasees and strongly urge you to continue this practice. 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
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

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

BOARD MEMBERS

Jana Ginter, *District 1* • Jim Hodder, *District 2* • Shaun Sims, *District 3* • John Moore, *District 4* • Alison Lass, *District 5*
Bryan Brost, *District 6* • Jim Price, Jr., *District 7*

YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

Patrick Zimmerer, Southeast • Dalin Winters, Northwest • John Hansen, Southwest • Bridget Williams, Northeast