

**SCOPING NOTICE
BIG MESA FENCE
BLM PINEDALE FIELD OFFICE**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Field Office (PFO) proposes to build a fence on an area known as Big Mesa, in the North LaBarge Common Allotment, approximately 10 to 12 miles northwest of LaBarge, Wyoming. The Big Mesa area is a high plateau within the Big Mesa Pasture of the N LaBarge Common Allotment (see enclosed map). The proposed action consists of the construction of approximately 2.6 miles of a three wire fence. Portions of the fence would be a “let-down” and portions would be a “standing fence”. The fence would be let-down within one week before or after June 15th of each year, and would stay down through May 15 of the following year to accommodate wildlife passage. Most of the proposed fence line construction would occur directly on the edge of existing road or pipeline right of way disturbances or other long term disturbances. The fence would skirt the western edge of the Big Mesa, and would be set back from the edge approximately two hundred feet to allow wildlife room for jumping the structure. The fence would consist of a 3 wire design, the bottom a smooth wire at 16” above the ground and barbed wire at the 26” and 38” spacing respectively, according to BLM wildlife-friendly fence specifications. There would be a cattle guard crossing intersecting an oil and gas road at the south end of the proposed fence.

All facilities and supporting features would be constructed on Bureau of Land Management administered surface lands in Sublette County Wyoming.

The proposed fence will facilitate control of livestock in the Big Mesa pasture of the North LaBarge Common allotment, in accordance with the North LaBarge Allotment Management Plan. In particular, the fence would aid the efforts of grazing permittees in controlling grazing use in Dry Piney creek in the western portion of the Big Mesa pasture.

The BLM will accept written comments on the Big Mesa fence through regular mail or email. Your comments will be most useful if we receive them by May 11, 2015, but we will make every attempt to utilize all submissions we receive.

Written comments can be mailed or hand delivered directly to the BLM at:

BLM Pinedale Field Office
1625 W Pine St.
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY, 82941

Alternately, comments can be submitted directly via email to blm_wy_pinedale_wymail@blm.gov. Please reference Big Mesa Fence in the subject line.

We will be using the input from any written comments received, as well as our existing monitoring and mapping information, to put together alternatives for the EA for the Big Mesa Fence. Input from BLM staff and cooperating agencies will also be used in this process.

The written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After May 4, all comment letters received, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Pinedale Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

We welcome your participation in this process. Please contact Tony Howard, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist, at 307-367-5324, to request additional information regarding the Big Mesa Fence.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hansen
Acting Field Manager

N LaBarge Common - Proposed Action Big Mesa Fence

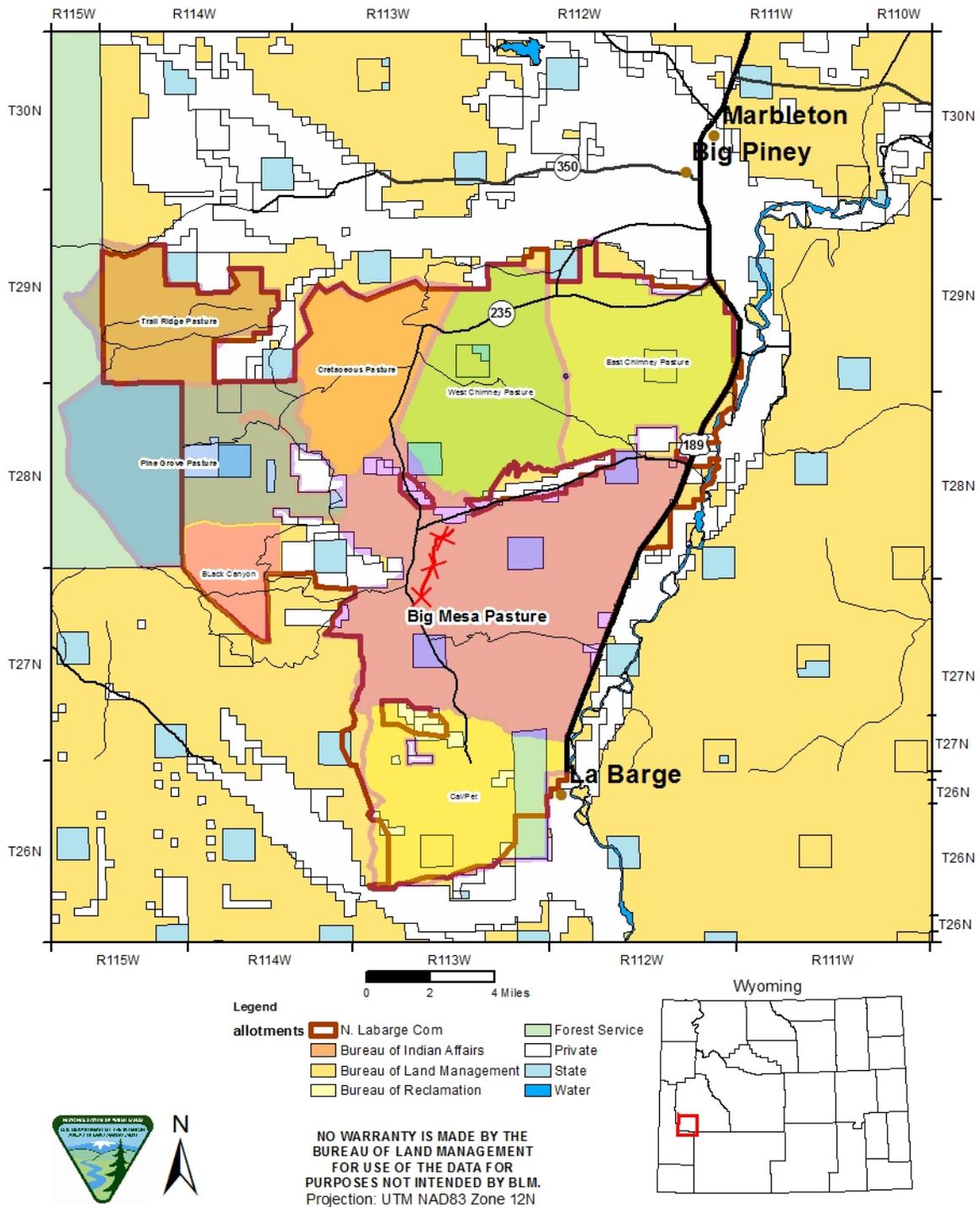


Figure 1