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Dear Wyoming Conservation Leader:

A few weeks ago, you should have received the *Final Report* from the Wildlife Heritage Summit hosted last May by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming. You will recall that at the conclusion of the Summit, participants were asked, by means of a questionnaire, to identify the highest priority conservation issues facing Wyoming in the next 10 years. These comments were analyzed and summarized in the *Final Report*, along with the priorities stated by the Summit panelists addressing the same question.

At the outset, organizers of the Summit established several goals for the event, two of which relate directly to the purpose of this letter. Specifically, it was hoped that participants would identify important areas where groups can work collaboratively and secondly, build an effective system to follow-up on progress being made in these areas. It was envisioned that a smaller working group, comprised of diverse interests would meet at a later date to discuss the findings, see if consensus could be reached on which issues to tackle, and how best to move forward with the momentum and interest that was generated as a result of the Summit. The Foundation agreed to convene this meeting.

From the questionnaire, we know that representatives from at least 37 different entities expressed an interest in participating in person in this follow-up smaller working group. As such, the Foundation will host this first working group meeting on January 25, 2008, at the Casper Region Game and Fish Office from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Attached is a list of people, yourself included, who volunteered to be a part of this smaller working group. You will note that in some instances more than one individual from the same entity volunteered. If you are associated with one of those entities, we would ask that the entity identify a single individual to represent its interests at the meeting.

Please RSVP your attendance to the meeting on January 25 to Roene.Kruckenberg@wgf.state.wy.us or call 307-777-4529. We look forward to seeing you at this important gathering.

Sincerely,

Marlene Salveson
Executive Director

Exhibit 6

Appendix B

Analysis of Participant Comments

At the conclusion of the Wildlife Heritage Summit, held May 11 and 12, 2007, participants were asked, by means of a questionnaire, to identify the highest priority conservation issues facing Wyoming in the next 10 years. Those who responded to this request identified over 400 priority conservation issues. In an effort to sort these stated priorities by importance, Summit organizers requested assistance from Game and Fish Department personnel familiar with conducting content analysis on this kind of data. The content analysis was conducted during the week of June 4, 2007.

The participant comments were first compiled within a Microsoft Word document. Comments were then sorted by topic (i.e. research, cooperation, energy development, etc). Comments addressing the same topic were then compared to each other to determine if they were expressing similar or divergent viewpoints. Comments expressing the same ideas were condensed into a single representative paraphrased comment. Paraphrased comments are displayed in *italics*. Comments expressing unique idea were not edited and are presented in a normal font.

Once the list of comments had been condensed, they were sorted by frequency. If a comment appeared over 20 times, it was classified as a Very High priority. Comments submitted between 15 and 20 times were considered to be a High priority, between 8 and 15 times a Moderate priority, between 2 and 7 times a Low priority, and unique comments were classified as being a Very Low priority.

It should be noted that these procedures constitute a qualitative analysis. The sorting and examinations performed were intuitive, rather than mathematically based. Other researchers, reviewing the same data, would likely produce a different set of results.

Very High

- *Protect existing habitats.*
- *Develop capacity amongst the entire wildlife community to address proactive conservation needs.*
- *Use county planning and zoning to manage habitat loss caused by rural sprawl, the subdivision of land, and the expansion of residential developments.*
- *Developing an effective paradigm for energy development that balances the needs of humans and wildlife (directional drilling, sacrifice areas, mitigation, poachers, etc.).*
- *Educating the public about wildlife and healthy habitat so that public is aware of this need.*

High

- *Maintain and improve degraded habitats.*
- *Funding from all residents to help preserve habitat and wildlife and the respective environment.*
- *Maintain habitat connectivity; work to prevent fragmentation.*
- Maintain private lands in agriculture and open space.
- Educating youth about wildlife conservation.
- Game and Fish funding.
- *Getting those interested in wildlife involved politically.*
- *Increase attempts to identify and eradicate wildlife diseases.*

Moderate

- *Protect lands thru permanent conservation easements.*
- Funding.
- *Identify health and status of all species and habitats in Wyoming.*
- *Adequate protection for existing wildlife populations to ensure their maintenance and enhancement.*
- *Develop a longer-range view of the future.*
- *Organize all our conservation groups to encourage legislative action on conservation issues.*
- *Conserve aquatic habitats using instream flow and other tools.*
- *Research ways to minimize impacts of invasive species.*
- *Bring wolves and grizzly bears under state management.*
- *Understanding how climate change will affect wildlife and habitats.*
- Predation management.
- *Better formal communications between stakeholders.*
- *Collaboration – quit fighting among groups – seek common ground – work toward consensus.*
- *Try to work with environmental organizations to prevent lawsuits.*
- *Encourage collective work with industry.*
- Continue funding for the Wyoming Natural Resource Trust.
- *Initiate watershed level planning.*
- *Work to conserve existing water sources and create new ones.*

Low

- *Better leadership – we have many, many dedicated wildlife professionals, but not good wildlife leaders.*
- *Do large landscape scale land management using various tools.*
- Mitigation of oil and gas development that is meaningful and long reaching.
- *Better monitoring of habitat conditions and wildlife response to altered management.*
- Funding for all species.
- *Funding not only for projects, but for infrastructure (hiring more biologists for inventory, more research on issues).*
- Funding for diseases.
- *Sagebrush steppe conservation.*
- *Educate the public and legislators about the importance of water to wildlife.*
- *Research energy impacts on wildlife.*
- *Energy impacts on traditional uses on public land.*
- *Public access for hunting and fishing and wildlife watching experiences.*
- *Fully fund and implement Wyoming's CWCS.*

Very Low

- Balance wildlife needs with others' needs.
- Local approaches, incremental improvement.
- Encourage more on the ground projects and get more groups to volunteer their time and labor as well as money.
- Giving wildlife a multiple use precedence in energy development.
- A state government that sets an example for energy conservation.
- Lesser approvals for POD, greater restrictions on drilling, site restrictions.
- Oil and Gas - advocate management, correct and clarify when they are wrong.
- We need a third-party unification in the oil field.
- We need to compliment good oil field practices.

- Develop a state working entity that deals with climate change and Wyoming's response to it.
- Incentive for individuals and industry for developing/using renewable energy (climate change threat).
- Habitat preservation plan, based on wildlife-focused bonafide ecosystems.
- Grasslands as a priority habitat.
- Habitat – identified as valuable as industry.
- Protection of USFS lands that are undeveloped roadless.
- Create a conservation area of at least 100,000 acres in SW and Eastern Wyoming.
- Maintain select important large scale systems versus exploit them.
- Societal stewardship ethic.
- Perception versus reality regarding Wyoming public, beliefs and changing demographics.
- Accountability in public lands use contracts.
- Preserving space and "community" (i.e. watershed scale, habitats, conservation easements, etc).
- Maintain a reasonable level multiple use of lands. The more users involved the more voices/opinions/perspectives/suggestions/creativity can be employed. Plus, you can increase the breadth of opportunities to educate about wildlife and wildlife issues.
- Collaborate/take a lead on collaboration to make some decisions about where development could reasonably occur and areas where it's just not appropriate and set those areas aside, but don't "piecemeal" withdraw other areas afterward unless there is some significant on-the-ground changes.
- Remember that species numbers should be determined by ecosystem interaction as well as intervention.
- Hunting and fishing dollars support management of game animals.
- We must keep the aesthetics of Wyoming!
- Identify priorities for Foundation to work on.
- Change in administration where the environmental laws have been gutted.
- Co-existence of people and wildlife.
- Recognition of Wyoming Game and Fish Department as wildlife leader in state.
- Preserve wildlife heritage of Wyoming in face of social and economic changes occurring in state.
- Economic management of wildlife.
- Effective enforcement/implementation of conservation/land management administration/statutes/policies (i.e. federal agencies should start doing their jobs).
- Create a public-at-large member slot on the Game and Fish Commission or mandate that one of its existing seats be dedicated to someone that represents nonhunting/nonfishing, albeit wildlife interests.
- Minimizing the footprint of industry on wildlife and landscapes without inappropriately restricting development.
- Avoid license fee increases in the future.
- Move more decision-making for wildlife conservation projects and initiatives closer to the ground and people on the ground.
- Expect mitigation through numerous small projects somewhere.
- Need to "allow" the professionals charged with management and science-based data to speak to the concerns of the public for wildlife.
- More science-based management (less trial and error management).
- More work, less study.
- Measurable goals.
- Reduce political pressure on wildlife management.

- Road kills and ways to move wildlife safely across, over, or under highways.
- Put proper oil and gas development and subdivisions ahead of the wolf issue.
- We need to recognize, in a more universal sense, that everything is connected to everything else. That is, that wildlife is connected to habitat, and habitat is composed of water, plants and air. These are connected to soils, oxygen and sun light. What happens in soils; for example, are meaningful in wildlife health and habitats.
- We do not know everything. We may have the capacity to know a lot, but we should not be so arrogant to think we know it all. Indeed, a theme in this meeting is that we are all humbled by the beauty, complexity and incredible intricacy of wild systems. And we do recognize that we do not know everything. But we have a great research organization in the state – the University of Wyoming. The state in general and the wildlife management community in general needs to take more advantage of the University. Yes, those of us at the University have a tendency to drift off into academic trivia, but if the right partnerships can be established with you, you can drag us back and help us to realize how essential applied research is. We want to be, must be, shall be more involved.
- Direct impacts/disturbance/traffic.
- No more catering to special interests if it doesn't fit in a unified approach.
- Make sure that those industries that are impacting wildlife restore it.
- Determine limits that we must agree to live within to leave room and resources for wildlife.
- Pre-conservation planning in energy projects.
- Develop a open space plan to deal with subdivision threat – zoning etc., at a statewide scale.
- Recognize priorities and roles/resources for meeting priorities.
- Research.
- Economic impacts resulting from loss of wildlife to Wyoming.
- How, specifically, will the loss of hunter/angler recruitment be addressed? (i.e. we all talk about it, but how do we change social values)
- Consider that wildlife viewing may be as important economically as hunting and fishing – especially in a tourism sense.
- Tourism.
- If we have the product, will attract and retain the customer.
- Make sure travel and tourism educates while they are out promoting.
- Stopping the officially-sanctioned war on certain species of native wildlife. Stop trying to get rid of wolves, prairie dogs, and other "inconvenient" wildlife.
- State of the western Wyoming mule deer herds.
- Water quality.