

CERTIFIED MAIL- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear interested party:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION  
Construct Livestock Water Pipeline  
North Labarge Common grazing allotment  
WY-100-EA09-20

The following is my Proposed Decision to construct the Chimney Butte Pipeline. This project consists of a 1.7 mile water pipeline connecting an existing livestock trough and pipeline system (the Dry Basin line) to an existing livestock water pit (the Chimney Butte Pit #2) in order to improve stock water availability in said stock pit. A copy of the Environmental Assessment (WY-100-EA09-20) for this action and the associated North Labarge Area Grazing Plan is enclosed and is on file in the Pinedale Field Office.

BACKGROUND

The allotment associated with this decision encompasses a total of 142,244 acres. The area is located in Sublette and Lincoln counties, WY and bounded by Labarge Creek to the south, Piney Creek to the north and highway 189 to the east. Ownership is predominantly Bureau of Land Management (BLM) but also includes private, state, and United States Forest Service (USFS) lands. This decision only applies to BLM and USFS managed lands.

A revised grazing plan has been developed concurrently with this NEPA effort that addresses any management changes needed to move toward desired conditions in an acceptable timeframe.

A scoping letter describing all alternatives was sent to permittees, interested publics, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on March 12, 2009. Scoping responses were due April 1, 2009. This decision, the associated grazing plan and the associated EA will be sent to the same scoping mailing list.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA# WY-100-EA09-20) for a proposed action to address livestock grazing and necessary associated range improvements in the North Labarge area in Sublette County, Wyoming. The project would authorize grazing for at least 10 years according to the Proposed Action described in EA# WY-100-EA09-20 (as attached). A No Action (or no change from current management) Alternative, a No Grazing Alternative, and a Proposed Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA. Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not

a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Pinedale RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

### PROPOSED DECISION

It is my Proposed Decision to construct the Chimney Butte Pipeline. This project consists of a 1.7 mile water pipeline connecting an existing livestock trough and pipeline system (the Dry Basin line) to an existing livestock water pit (the Chimney Butte Pit #2) in order to improve stock water availability in said stock pit.

### RATIONALE

This decision is appropriate because it is the most suitable course of action to achieve the objectives of the North Labarge Area Grazing Plan. Namely to:

1. Maintain or achieve those Wyoming Standards for Rangeland Health that can be positively affected by changes in livestock grazing management.
2. Maintain economically viable livestock operations while applying multiple use/sustained yield management principles.
3. Improve the orderly administration of the North Labarge Common Allotment.

Furthermore, the allotments contain lands identified as suitable for domestic livestock grazing in the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP), November 2008 and continued domestic livestock grazing is consistent with the management goals, objectives, and actions in the Pinedale RMP (pg 2-17 – 2-18, Pinedale RMP ROD).

And finally, the Pinedale RMP, which directs the management of lands contained within this project area, has as one its goals to “maintain and/or enhance livestock grazing opportunities and rangeland health”.

### AUTHORITY

The authority for issuing this decision is located in Sec. 43 CFR 4100 Subparts 4100, 4110, 4130, and 4160.

## RIGHTS OF PROTEST AND APPEAL

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to Chuck Otto, Field Office Manager, Pinedale Field Office, PO Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. A written protest should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in writing in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 pending final determination on appeal.

The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above. The appellant must also serve a copy of the appeal and petition for stay on the Office of the Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver Field Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, 755 Perfet Street, Room 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and all persons named in the "Copies Sent To" section of this decision.

The appeal must comply with all provisions of 43 CFR 4.470, including the requirement that the appeal state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 4.471. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471©, a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relevant harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,  
and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal should refer to 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Amber Robbins (307-367-5343) or myself (307-367-5300).

Sincerely,

Chuck Otto  
Field Manager

Attachment

Copies sent to:

Bernie Holz  
Wyoming Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 850  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Scott Smith  
Wyoming Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 850  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Chris Wichmann  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
2219 Carey Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Mary Flanderka  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
5400 Bishop Blvd  
Cheyenne, WY 82006

State Planning Coordinator's Office  
122 W. 25th St.  
Herschler Building, 1E  
Cheyenne, WY 82003

State Land Office  
Attn: Mike Henn  
122 W 25<sup>th</sup> St  
Herschler Building 3W  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0600

Jonathan Ratner  
Western Watersheds Project  
P.O. Box 1160  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Doug Holmes  
Ranch Manager, C&D Enterprises  
PO Box 34  
Labarge, WY 83123

C AND D ENTERPRISES, LLC  
c/o DAVE GRANT  
910 WEST 24TH STREET

OGDEN UT 84401

JF RANCH, INC.  
BOX 280  
BIG PINEY WY 83113

MIDWAY RANCHES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
c/o HOFFMAN, STEVE  
P.O. BOX 142  
LABARGE WY 83123

MILLEG PARTNERSHIP  
BOX 704  
BIG PINEY WY 83113

ROCKING CHAIR CATTLE CO.  
c/o JOHN J. CHRISMAN  
BOX 608  
BIG PINEY WY 83113

SCHAFFER, MIKE A.  
PO BOX 344  
BIG PINEY WY 83113

SIMS, JACK C & LYNDA J.  
REVOCABLE TRUST  
c/o JACK AND LYNDA SIMS  
P. O. BOX 304  
LABARGE WY 83123 - 0304