

SCOPING NOTICE
for
North Hart Allotment and Murdoch Allotment
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office
March 9, 2015

Background

A proposal has been submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Worland Field Office (WFO) for application of grazing privileges within the North Hart and Murdoch Allotments. Two qualified applicants have applied for grazing privileges, in the form of permits, for use of public lands administered by the WFO.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the WFO is preparing environmental analysis that will describe and evaluate the probable effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The analysis also provides the public and decision-makers with sufficient information to understand the environmental consequences of the proposal and to identify and develop appropriate mitigation measures to minimize environmental effects.

Description of Proposed Project Area

North Hart Allotment No. 00608. This allotment is located in Hot Spring County, Wyoming, USA. The allotment is located in T43 R100 Section 1 and T43 R99 Section 6. The allotment is comprised of approximately 540 acres of public land.

Murdoch Allotment No. 17741. This allotment is located in Hot Spring County, Wyoming, USA. The allotment is located in T43 R100 Sections 9 and 16. The allotment is comprised of approximately 440 acres of public land.

Identified Resource Management Issues and Concerns

The WFO is currently in the process of identifying potential issues and the development of the preliminary range of alternatives as it pertains to the analysis of grazing on public lands.

For the purpose of BLM NEPA analysis, an “issue” is a point of disagreement, debate or dispute with a proposed action based on some anticipated environmental effect. An issue is more than just a position statement, such as disagreement with grazing on public lands. An issue:

- has a cause and effect relationship with the proposed action or alternatives;
- is within the scope of the analysis;
- has not been decided by law, regulation or previous decision; and
- is amenable to scientific analysis rather than conjecture.

The BLM will determine whether or not the proposed action is in conformance with the Grass Creek RMP. If the proposed action does not conform with the RMP, the BLM may reject the proposal, modify the proposal, or complete appropriate plan amendments and NEPA compliance before proceeding with the proposed action.

Public Involvement

This scoping statement has been prepared to invite government agencies, the general public and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document. The BLM encourages the public to participate throughout the environmental assessment process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed or mitigated, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

The BLM can best utilize comments and resource information if submitted before the close of the public scoping period—March 9, 2015 to March 23, 2015.

Please email comments to worland_wymail@blm.gov. Include “grazing permit scoping” in the subject line.

Written comments may be submitted to:
Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office (c/o Holly Elliott)
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Please note that comments, names, email addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, phone number, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional information regarding this project, please visit www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/wfo/grazing-renewals.html or contact Holly Elliott at the above email or street address, or call 307-347-5193.