From: Reber, Garth (IHS/BIL) [mailto:Garth.Reber@ihs.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 11:48 AM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
Subject: BLM land management plan/comment

The importance of the Lander Field Office Planning Area's recreational resources to Fremont County residents and businesses can not be overstated. As our population grows and tourism increases, more people will be recreating on this finite amount of public land. It is critical, therefore, that these lands be carefully managed to encourage the features so deeply valued by recreationists—undeveloped scenic vistas, clean air and water, and relative solitude that is still easily accessible from town.

Lander area BLM lands like Johnny Behind the Rocks, the Bus, Red Canyon, Sweetwater Canyon and Beaver Creek have topography that is uniquely suited to single-track trail development for hiking, mountain-biking, and trail running. With proper management, these areas could easily be a regional draw for the growing numbers of mountain bike tourists, trail runners, and cross country skiers visiting our state. The positive economic impact that this particular kind of tourism could have in the Lander area is very significant..

These unique single-track trails are most attractive to cyclists, hikers, runners, and skiers when they are left undamaged by impacts of resource extraction, motorized use, and yes…grazing. The trail surfaces and flora of these areas, particularly the Bus at Baldwin Creek, are severely impacted by springtime grazing in muddy conditions. Several trails become unridable and dangerous for months even after the cattle are removed. Please manage all of these areas under the "Alternative B" plan, which provides the maximum protection from livestock grazing damage.

Lastly, I very strongly encourage a land-swap between the BLM and State Lands Board that would allow the BLM to acquire and manage all of the public lands in the Bus area between Baldwin and Squaw Creek roads for non-motorized recreation. The current situation, in which the management is spit between the state and BLM is simply too cumbersome and confusing to Lander recreationists. Unmarked trails are confusing and lead to redundant parallel trails. If the BLM managed all of the undeveloped land in township 16 and 17 Lander residents would benefit from clear and consistent signage and an even more productive partnership between the BLM and Lander Cycling Club. This would encourage more community involvement in the development and protection of valuable sustainable single track trails in the Bus area.

In Addition, the BLM land at the end of the controversial and yet unaccesible "Bunker Road" should be managed as a nonmotorized trail system or mountain biking , hiking and even horseback riding to allow an area so close to town to help grow the economic and recreational opportunities in our area.

Sorry I forgot to sign my last email
Thanks
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