

**Coleman, Randall**

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**From:** Lander RMP  
**Subject:** FW: Comment--Lander RMP Revision

**From:** Roy Fuller [<mailto:roywfuller@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2011 10:57 AM  
**To:** BLM\_WY\_LRMP\_WYMail  
**Subject:** Comment--Lander RMP Revision

BLM lands in the vicinity of Lander contain phosphate deposits, which to date have been largely unutilized. Phosphate, an important component of fertilizers and other products on which our society depends, is a finite resource for which global demand is increasing and will likely continue increasing in the future. Within the United States, there are only a few phosphate producing areas, and it is important to maintain a domestic supply.

We note in the draft RMP that the preferred alternative calls for closure to phosphate leasing of the majority of the lands with phosphate potential. While closure in some of these areas is presumably justified due to conflicts with wildlife and scenic or recreational values, we believe that the preferred alternative offers an overly broad stroke for phosphate closure and would impair the future of domestic phosphate production.

Certain areas may be left open to phosphate leasing without having a significant impact on scenic/wildlife/recreational values of the Lander Front and Red Canyon areas. For example, the area southeast of Highway 28 contains a significant phosphate deposit, and should be left open for phosphate exploration or leasing. Additionally, the Sheep Mountain area south of Highway 287 contains large exposures of the Phosphoria Formation that warrant exploration to determine the phosphate potential. Both of these areas could undergo phosphate exploration or leasing without unduly impacting the scenic/wildlife/recreational qualities of the Lander area as a whole.

We appreciate the analysis and close scrutiny that the BLM has taken of the important resource and land use values in the Lander area.

Roy Fuller  
MJI Resources  
3346 W. Guadalupe Road  
Apache Junction, AZ 85120  
480-288-6530 office  
480-288-6532 fax