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Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 4:47 PM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
Cc: darran@cw.edu
Subject: Lander RMP EIS Draft commetns for submission

Please consider my comments on the RMP under review.

Matt Seats
 October 20, 2011

Comment # 1 -

On page 19 of Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, 4.1.2 Soil, states under the Conclusion section 4.1.2.3 that, "Alternative B is anticipated to produce the least potential adverse impacts to soil resources because management actions are anticipated to result in less soil disturbance and potential soil compaction. Therefore, Alternative B is anticipated to conserve more soil resources."

The mission statement of the BLM is "...to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Any alternative which, by the BLM's own reckoning, is anticipated, "...to produce the least potential adverse impacts to soil resources" and "conserve more soil resources," is the most logical way to succeed in your mission.

By Merriam-Webster's natural resource oriented definition, to conserve means, "to avoid wasteful or destructive use of [natural resources]".

By following the suggested management plans outlined in Alternative B, the BLM will waste or destroy the smallest area of soil in comparison with any of the other alternatives proposed. According to the BLM's own conclusions only by following Alternative B can the BLM best sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the soil resources on public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Comment #2 - According to page 28 of the DRAFT Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lander Field Office Planning, the Coalmine Draw Area near the communities of Hudson, Lander, and Riverton has been proposed as one of two areas from which to lease or sell BLM-administered lands to an entity willing to provide and manage a "play area" for motorized vehicles. I fully support this idea.

Re-tasking an existing area as designated for OHV's that is near these three populated areas, yet apart from the horse and human-powered pursuit areas enjoyed in the Hudson, Lander, and Riverton area would avoid excessive incompatible land-use conflicts and deeply contribute to the sociopsychological enjoyment of both opposing interests. Such a plan could greatly reduce the likelihood of land use incompatibility related injuries, and reduce the financial burden on the BLM's budget.

Further, since there is only one BLM enforcement officer for the region, providing a separate area specifically for OHV's has a high likelihood of allowing that officer's role to be far more effective. With at least a percentage of OHV's using the newly designated OHV area, versus

the possibility of their using existing BLM lands where it may be tempting to ride outside of legally allowed areas, the job of enforcement on BLM lands should be less difficult.

Comment # 3 – Lander Draft RMP and EIS, Pages 1521 – 1532, labeled Appendix S, lists (BLM managed) lands identified for disposal. In this list there are fifty-one distinct, “[c]rucial (seasonal) [wildlife] habitats” identified, vitally important for the for the health and survival of each of the species.

“Habitat loss/degradation/fragmentation is an important cause of known extinctions. As deforestation proceeds in tropical forests, this promises to become THE cause of mass extinctions caused by human activity.”

All species have specific food and habitat needs. The more specific these needs and localized the habitat, the greater the vulnerability of species to loss of habitat to agricultural land, livestock, roads and cities. In the future, the only species that survive are likely to be those whose habitats are highly protected...”

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<http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/biodiversity/biodiversity.html>

In the interest of preserving and protecting these “...crucial habitats,” and the wildlife that thrive only because that land is managed by the BLM, I feel that the parcels specifically identified as containing or consisting of crucial, seasonal wildlife habitat should be withdrawn from consideration for disposal.

As these areas are crucial to the survival of the elk, deer, fish and other populations identified, managing the lands to maintain and ensure biodiversity offers the best long-term chance of survival for the ecosystems and the species that depend on those lands.