From: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
To: Lander RMP;
cc: Oakleaf, Jared C; Bryan, Curtis J;
Subject: FW: Lander RMP
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2012 8:18:04 AM

From: Mary & Ray Hanson [mailto:mrhanson@bresnan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 4:13 PM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
Subject: Lander RMP

Kristin, first let me say how impressed I am with the quality of the Draft LFO RMP Revision. A job well done by you and the LFO staff. I do have a couple of issues I would like to bring forward though.

1. I believe the best use within the Sweetwater Canyon WSA is that of the wilderness qualities and characteristics unique to this part of the field office – free flowing river, blue-ribbon trout fishery, wildlife habitat, and riparian vegetation. To do so, I believe removing the canyon riparian pasture from any and all grazing activity would allow the riparian areas to continue to heal and return the canyon to a more pristine quality for the enjoyment of the non-motorized recreating public. In my view, despite five years of rest from grazing in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the riparian areas will never completely heal until grazing is removed forever from the canyon pasture. During the five years of total rest from grazing there were significant improvements to the riparian vegetation and stream bank stabilization, but once grazing was reintroduced (early 2000s to present) both the vegetation and stream banks showed a slowdown, or worse, a reverse in the healing progress to the point of no net improvement. Impacts to the recreating public – fishermen, hikers, hunters and backpacking campers - includes "cow pies" and trampled vegetation and stream banks, as well as water quality. Whether the permittees were remiss accidently or intentionally in removing all livestock following the yearly 30 day grazing periods, there were cattle that remained in the canyon throughout the hot weather months. These remaining livestock "camped" along the riparian areas of the river and side drainages resulting in impacts to the vegetation during the vegetation growing season and continued to trample the stream banks throughout the time they remained in the canyon. Please choose an alternative that will protect the wilderness qualities and characteristics to the greatest extent – permanently remove all livestock grazing from the Sweetwater Canyon

pasture.

2. What is known as the Strawberry Creek Road that enters the Sweetwater Canyon on the north side, crosses at a ford through the river and continues up the canyon slope on the south side of the river should be closed to motorized use in this RMP Revision. To allow this road to continue to be open to motorized use will continue the impacts (i.e., increased erosion from rutted/compacted roads, water quality from oil/gas as the vehicles ford the river, solitude from the noise/sight of vehicles, and compaction of vegetation) to the wilderness qualities and characteristics of the Sweetwater Canyon. Another impact of the road continuing to remain open to motorized use is the designation of the river as a Wild River under the Wild and Scenic River Act. To be designated Wild there can be no motorized access within ¼ mile of the river. With the Strawberry Creek Road actually crossing the river it seems, at best, the Sweetwater River would have two Wild segments; at worst, the road would completely prevent the Wild designation of the river. Please include the designation of the Strawberry Creek Road within the fenced riparian pasture as Closed to motorized vehicle.

3. I believe there are several Section 15 grazing leases in the Dubois area that should be removed from grazing to protect other best uses for these small isolated parcels of public lands. Particularly, the parcels that contain the Wind River. One 40 acre parcel (Sarah Jones lease?) has a subdivision road on its downstream side. The river itself protects the Highway 287-side of the parcel from livestock use, but the opposite side is heavily impacted – little or no native vegetation remains along the stream bank due to use of this parcel for winter storage of, what, three bulls! If ever there was a better use for this Wind River riparian parcel it is for the protection of the riparian vegetation and water quality of the Wind River. Please select an alternative that will remove grazing from this and other public land parcels that contain the Wind River in the Dubois area.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments on the Draft LFO RMP Revision.

Ray Hanson
237 Popo Agie Street, Unit A
Lander, WY 82520
(307) 332-7511
r55hanson@hotmail.com

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