

**Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean**

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**From:** Lander RMP  
**Subject:** Comments on Lander RMP

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**From:** Dave and Norma Dufek [mailto:ddufek@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2012 6:44 PM  
**To:** BLM\_WY\_LRMP\_WYMail  
**Subject:** Comments on Lander RMP

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Overall, the management team did a nice job on this RMP but I do have a few comments to consider.

Sweetwater Canyon

The fenced area of the Sweetwater Canyon should be closed to livestock grazing in the Final RMP. The narrow river canyon concentrates the cattle on the banks and adjacent riparian areas causing heavy utilization and trampling of the banks. Because of the narrow nature of the canyon, livestock move to the bottom of the canyon and stay there throughout the entire season, unless moved. Livestock grazing in the canyon adversely impacts fish and wildlife habitat as well as recreational use.

The Strawberry Creek Road Crossing of the Sweetwater River in the Sweetwater Canyon should be closed to motorized vehicles. Vehicle use in this area degrades the riparian areas as well as impairs the wilderness values. Other roads that travel over steep slopes in the Sweetwater Canyon should be considered for closure. These roads are causing severe erosion that contributes sediment to the river. The roads leading to the canyon rim should remain open to provide access.

Sweetwater Watershed

The Sweetwater Watershed is the most threatened watershed in the RMP with significant riparian areas that are non-functioning or functioning at risk. An alternative should be developed to restore and maintain rangeland health. Rest from livestock grazing during the grazing season is needed to restore riparian habitat. Once riparian areas have been restored, they should be managed with sufficient growing season rest to fully meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.

Thank you.

Submitted by Dave Dufek