

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

From: Lander RMP
Subject: Draft RMP/EIS

From: Benjamin Mayer [mailto:blhmayer@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 8:45 PM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail
Subject: Draft RMP/EIS

To Whom It May Concern,

I have grown up in and around Dubois, with family dating back to the 20's. As I've grown older I have had many special experiences in these places that are up for wilderness designations; I have seen them change, and I have seen how people tend to take advantage of them, leaving them behind damaged and for the worse. I have been lucky enough to visit other places across the country and world and have come to realize how special this area of Wyoming really is, many of the WSA's and CWP's in particular. Really though, I feel lucky to have grown up in Wyoming with all the natural lands around the state - those around Dubois in particular. Many of these places are extremely fragile and deserve protection for everyone who has lived, still lives, and will live in this beautiful area of Wyoming.

Growing up around Dubois, I have come to know the Badlands fairly well. It is easy to see the tracks that have been made by motorcyclists who decided to go off trail once, several decades ago. This speaks to the fragility of the area and the necessity for its protection. With such a stunning, special place for so many that is so fragile one misplaced track can be seen for years, the Badlands need protection. A wilderness designation would provide the backbone for the correct management of that truly unique place.

The Whiskey Mountain area is another place that deserves protection. I remember as a kid going one of my first solo backpacking trips up Whiskey Mountain. The sheep amazed me, and continue to do so as an adult. It isn't what they are as much as what they represent - much like the philosophy of wilderness. It shows that we are thoughtful enough to look into the future and see that there are places around us that should keep their natural character. Not only for the historical aspect but for so many reasons. These places provide so many benefits to us, far more than we have found ways to count yet - far more than a moment's gas, road, or timber could ever start to compare with.

Please consider the unique history and future these special places have in Wyoming when deciding their future. We can always find more and more places to exploit, but it takes a conscious look ahead to see that the WSA's and CWP's are what make Wyoming special and will always make Wyoming special if we can find a way to protect them. Please recommend that the WSA's and CWP's in the draft plan are protected as Wilderness.

Thanks for your time,

Ben Mayer