

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

From: Lander RMP
Subject: Lander Resource Management Plan - Sep. 2011 - Comments

----- Original Message -----

From: [Tena Sun](#)
To: [Lander BLM](#)
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 11:17 AM
Subject: Lander Resource Management Plan - Sep. 2011 - Comments

Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office
 Attn: RMP Project Manager
 1335 Main Street
 Lander, WY 82520

Comments on Lander Resource Management Plan -- September 2011
 1/20/12

1) Page 25, Third whole paragraph, last sentence:

The last sentence of this paragraph says that people would like to see open spaces with no structures and no fences instead of just pastures for cows. I have a little recreation business here on the ranch that people come to and I believe that a lot of people come to Wyoming hoping and expecting to see cows and cowboys, as well as all the other things, but the old west with cows and cowboys is a big draw. The fences and wells and reservoirs for cows provide a better environment for all the other animals that the people love to see in Wyoming also.

2) Volume 1, Page 4 - Emerging Concerns and Changing Circumstances

I am insulted and I resent the insinuation that since I am "ageing" I don't need as many AUM's. I can't imagine why that would be for anybody, especially government, to decide for me. You people are scary!

3) Volume 1, 2.4.14, Page 27 - Manage the Sweetwater River Corridor as a High Priority Management Area

I have lived all my life on the lower Sweetwater River and apparently have done alright as far as managing it, along with the rest of my family, my great grandfather homesteaded here in 1872, because as it has for the last 150 years it is teeming with wildlife. The river is home to every kind of wildlife and includes critical deer habitat, antelope migration routes, a thriving sage grouse population, and even elk and an occasional moose, and every kind of bird you can imagine. Also our cows have grazed here since 1878, which has also contributed to improving the land and the grasses.

If I were to lose AUM's though, so that I can't sustain the ranching operation including the four permanent employees that I have, and with the almost 10,000 deeded acres along the river, the answer could be to sub-divide it and sell. I'm not sure the BLM or Game and Fish or anybody else would enjoy this adverse reaction, especially me but I probably would not sit here and go broke. Having more people here on the river than anything else would really affect in a negative way the wildlife, the wilderness study area in the Sweetwater Rocks, the health of the grass and the riparian habitat, not to mention the High Priority Management Area and the Congressionally Designated Trails.

It seems to me that a more practical answer would be to try to work with the people that have been here for a lot of years rather than allowing the people who come from other places to come in and get rid of us. We have tried to work with the BLM for a long time but they are going to force adverse reactions like I have mentioned here, eventually.

4) Volume 1, 2.4.9

I am curious who exactly provides all the "citizen proposals" and why they seem to carry more weight than the ranchers who have been living and doing business on our land for the last 150 years at least. More to the point, it seems to resolve any conflicts or problems such as drought, the first thing that we do is cut livestock AUM's. The ranches have always been willing to cut for drought or to improve a pasture if need be, but we sure don't cut wild horse AUM's or wildlife back to improve anything.

The water projects, the maintenance, the upkeep, as well as the money it takes to run the wells, and the private land with the most water on it is all given by the ranchers to the wildlife and the wild horses with no mention of that contribution to the public lands and the "citizen proposals".

5) Volume 3, Table K.1, Page 1448

General comment: This table should list all AUM's so we don't lose any in the shuffle: Preference and Suspended

6) Volume 3, Table K.2, Page 1466

One allotment that I use is Whiskey Peak Incommon, # 12003. On this table it is rated with an I. This allotment has been in a RMP and the BLM has been basically running it, by telling us exactly where and when to be for the last 25 years and apparently it still is in bad need of improvement. I would like to know how this allotment doesn't improve and where the problems are so we can work on them before our AUM's are cut more than they have been for the drought for the last ten years. We still have lot of horses up there though that hang out on the riparian areas all summer.

It has been researched and shown many times that if a ranch practices excellent livestock management it can improve watershed/riparian health and wildlife habitat and benefits recreational opportunities. A pasture that is not properly grazed will definitely deteriorate within 2 to 3 years due to the grass growing over itself and dying out. Try not mowing your lawn for a summer to see how it works.

7) Volume 2, 5.3, Page 1265

The BLM is mandated in FLITMA to coordinate with the state and local government entities that have requested to do so. Although in this paragraph the BLM claims to have coordinated with the agencies that have made the request, I don't believe this is right because I know that some have been refused when they asked the BLM for coordination, and if they had I don't believe the RMP would be so lopsided against the local communities and in favor of the outsiders coming in from who knows where. The local agencies would have fought for the local citizens as far as their resources, businesses and way of life, because that's what makes the whole community, not just the ranching community work.

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