



1/19/2012

Lander Field Office RMP/EIS
BLM Lander Field Office
PO Box 589
Lander, WY 82520

I am writing as a permittee on the Green Mountain Common Allotment, Cottonwood Basin Allotment, Flagg AMP and Government Draw/Lower Beaver Allotments. I offer the following comments on the Draft Lander RMP/EIS:

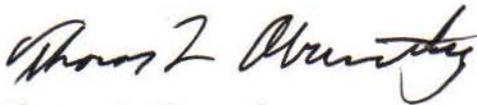
My first comment is to the size and complexity of this document. This document is too voluminous and too hard to understand for most of the general public, making commenting on such a document restrictive to many permittees affected and other public. The goal of this agency should be to reduce paperwork and simplify the process of developing an RMP.

On Pg. 24, I comment towards the BLM assumption of only 131,449 AUM's are sustainable and the extensive bias language throughout the document that sites livestock AUM reductions as the only way to solve resource problems. I would like to know what the BLM is basing their assumption that decreasing livestock AUM's would help to meet the healthy rangeland standards without the scientific data to back the AUM reduction. Any reduction in AUM's would be economically devastating to the local community and would only contribute to a decline in the world food supply. Your own data shows on Pg. 1486 that every active AUM produces \$92.55, which turns over in the community up to seven times, which on average district wide would be a multi-million dollar reduction in the economy each year. These local communities were built by the livestock industry, before oil/gas and beyond tourism and the BLM should give more consideration to what would be lost by reducing AUM's on such a broad area. The loss of these local family ranches would be a great economic and cultural loss to the district. Most ranches in the community have been struggling to make a living for 100 years and a significant AUM reduction, as proposed in this RMP, could end their existence. AMP's have been implemented in most allotments in the district and significant improvements in range conditions have been the result of these AMP's in the last four decades and continue to do so. There are many other ways to improve the resource without reducing the AUMs. Let this agency be mindful that their wages and benefits depend on the free enterprise system (i.e., small businesses) not the federal government. This is a quote from a winter 2012 issue of Range magazine, "The U.S. Constitution specifically prohibits the federal government from owning large blocks of land. The reason for this has become obvious in the past 50 years. Rural residents who make their living from western federal lands today are finding that Washington is regulating them toward bankruptcy while an ill-informed population in the East is complicit by default."

On Pg. 169, 7007, I comment against the 3-5 mile corridor on either side of the NHT. The NHT are no more historic than the ranching community as the settlements in the more productive areas of this district were settled less than 20 years after the Oregon Trail, they are synonymous. Also, the trails have coexisted with ranches and will continue to exist as long as Mother Nature dictates. So, to shut down future range projects because of NHT corridor is Ludacris and only shows the BLM's unwillingness to work with the local livestock industry. A five-mile corridor on each side of the NHT is completely ridiculous if a project is non-visual and constructed in such a manner to help mitigate livestock grazing then, projects should be considered.

On Pg. 110, I comment that gathering wild horses outside the established HMA's should be a high priority of the BLM. Furthermore, when assessing standards and guidelines, the impact of wild horses should be monitored particularly on riparian areas.

Thank you for considering my comments on this Draft RMP/EIS. I have been involved on several different allotments within this district for the past forty years and have witnessed range conditions improving across most areas within this district.



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