

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

From: Lander RMP
Subject: Lander resource management plan

From: pdvorak@wyoming.com [mailto:pdvorak@wyoming.com]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 2:16 PM
To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail; pdvorak@wyoming.com
Subject: Lander resource management plan

BLM office, Lander, Wyoming

Attention: Kristin Yannome, RMP Project manager

Thank you very much for the weighty and comprehensive resource review concerning the Lander area public lands. This detailed assessment of our neighborhood is a spectacular work product. In my opinion were these volumes, the current Shoshone National Forest plan and the recent Big Horn Basin resource management plan offered as a complete full year curriculum in our local high schools for study and discussion, our future would be characterized by science based stewardship, be less conflicted and the hopeful aspects of Wyoming's traditions and cultures would be assured. That not being the case, I will comment only for myself, my family and friends

I believe that for the short and long term, the provisions of Alternate B are by far the best plan for public land in west central Wyoming. The preservation of undeveloped areas seem sensible and prudent, our only remaining places for affordable solitude, reflection and general recharging of the human spirit. I strongly encourage maintaining all of the existing wilderness study areas and areas of critical environmental concern. Specifically I am concerned about the copper mountain area to the east of the Wind River canyon. This area is easily accessible from the riverton area, yet is essentially pristine in most ways. The dramatic hills and ravines provide a serene habitat for man, birds and animals, features great viewsheds and general privacy. Recently announcements have been made concerning major gas field development in front of these mountains. Hopefully the BLM, industry and others will monitor this potential field, and more importantly the air quality in and around this project, specifically the Copper Mountains (Bridger mountains) and beyond. The disheartening air quality problems of the Powder River Basin and Jonah fields should be a major lesson to us about unfettered industrialization. I like to wander the Copper Mountain area and do not want to be carrying an oxygen cannister to do so. I am also concerned about any mining development in another area I frequent, the Sweetwater rocks and granite mountain area. I strongly encourage the BLM to disallow any degradation of these unique areas to the east of us. Mining, oil exploration and excessive grazing appear to me to be legitimate threats to these isolated rocks and hills. Blasting granite or surface mining is simply incompatible with the opportunities for hiking, solitude and reflection that we all can use. Feet and hooves are the only defendable activities in areas that long ago were identified as environmentally unique and spectacular. Needless to say, with each passing day we are losing more opportunities to experience the environment as it was created.

I am also interested in discovering, preserving and enjoying our area's rock art, cave art and other evidence of historic or pre-historic occupation. While these campsites and art works would be considered vandalism today, hundreds of years ago they were a necessary making of a peoples lands. Any areas where this evidence of human activity can be found today are worth honoring, preserving and studying.

I believe that the most critical immediate problem in the lander Blm area, and throughout the state of Wyoming, is management of off highway vehical use. There are fewer and fewer places where one can go and not encounter tracks and ruts from ATV use. Clearly, the 1987 RMP could not have predicted that in 2012, anyone can buy or rent a motorized vehical capable of climbing near vertical

inclines and traveling anywhere on the surface of the earth. With this reality in mind, I believe that trails for traffic be established and monitored to the degree possible, and that logical and strict consequences be applied to ghost road makers (impound the vehical). The slicing and diceing of the west is ongoing and will soon be complete if efforts to educate and sanction these activities is not done diligently.

Long term (actually only a couple of years away) concerns of mine are the most fundamental of all: air and water quality. These problems need solutions before any industrialization of Fremont county and its surrounds are allowed. With the current confusion over fracking around Pavillion, and the gas field developement and the proposed in situ uranium extraction plans are to commence, comprehensive monitoring of air, ground water and discharge or recirculated waters must be an absolute essential to establish baselines. All my worries about Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study areas or even a nice walk in the country will be for naught if I can not breath, see anything or stroll safely.

In conclusion, I support Alternative B as it is the most likely scenario that will enable me to live my Wyoming lifestyle. I appreciate the massive amount of effort and detail that went in to the BLM plan for our neighborhood. thank you.

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