

Phoonswadi-Brewer, Sean

Subject: Comments for Lander RMP

From: Lois Herbst [mailto:lherbst@wyoming.com]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 7:42 PM

To: BLM_WY_LRMP_WYMail

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I have attempted to review the Lander Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. After reading the summary of the alternatives, I am pleased to support Alternative C which allows more intensive human presence on the land to achieve management goals. I reviewed every allotment in Appendix K, and will review my files in your office as soon as possible.

Alternative C also allows for better use of all the resources especially oil and gas development and access to resources on federal lands is the basis for the economy, culture and custom that we have enjoyed in this county since cattle were first traveling the Oregon Trail. Wagons on the trail were greased with a mixture made from oil that flowed from the soil in certain areas. Jim Bridger and Kit Carson even cooperated on making such mixture and selling it to the wagon trains. I didn't write the source for that tidbit of history, but it is something you read and do not forget.

Alternative C does not allow for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There are too many special designations throughout this plan.

These special designations require special management practices. If maps of all the overlaying designations were made available to the public, they would be shocked at how little land is not designated for a special protection. 2.6.2.8

I do object to the present Wilderness Study Areas as being treated as defacto wilderness, and I object to any designation of new wilderness areas especially as shown for the areas in the Lysite vicinity. This is a highly productive oil and gas development area and also used for livestock grazing since the early 1880's. Stage routes, Bridger Trail, traffic of all types have used these lands. They are not wild lands or wilderness.

I also object to the Wild and Scenic River designations in this RMP. Water is controlled by the state. Wild and Scenic gives the federal government management of water and any use of lands in vicinity of rivers.

2.6.4.5 The scenic viewing loops for wild horses are not needed. BLM has AMLs for horses which a lawsuit filed by the state mandates that BLM maintain AMLs. Certain elements of the public would prefer to remove cattle and allow feral horses to destroy the resource. No scenic viewing loops.

The visual view shed buffers are extreme at five miles each side of Oregon Trail for instance. The Casper BLM District has a three mile view shed on trail portions, Pinedale has one mile on either side of Lander Cutoff, and Kemmerer has a one-fourth mile viewshed within intact trail segments. The Lander Plan calls for three to five miles. These viewsheds encompass private lands, too. I think the most resource conservation Alternative B calls for ten miles on each side of the trail. There are many types of trails with special designations. The Casper Star Tribute had a good article on the viewshed issue in this RMP, and it would have been nice if more topics from the RMP could have been covered by media. The open houses held by BLM personnel were good, but not well attended.

Alternative D 4.6.5.1 Authorizes rangeland infrastructure only through the development of a Comprehensive Grazing Strategy. Is there a written BLM policy regarding CGS? Does it replace AMP?

9.3.3 All special status species, wild life and wild horses take preference over use by livestock grazing. One hundred and fifty years of livestock grazing is a historical use. The Fremont County Land Use Plan is supportive of livestock grazing.

In conclusion, I am glad I found time to review this Lander RMP. I will be following the rest of the process closely, and using the extensive information available in the maps and appendix and body of this RMP. The state of Wyoming and our Fremont County Commissioners will be involved in this planning process to assure that federal land management does not harm our economy, culture or custom. BLM should help the public understand the importance of protecting livestock grazing in order to protect open space and wildlife habitat provided by private lands used with federal lands. The value of the ranches should be protected.

Lois Herbst

Owner and trustee of lands that have been used by our family ranchers beginning in 1906. I manage these lands in three BLM districts: Lander, Worland and Casper