

January 16, 2012

Lander RMP Planner
Kristin Yannone
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Kristin,

I am writing this letter to comment on the Draft Lander RMP.

We are a family ranch in Lyons Valley. We are the largest permittee in the Gov. Draw allotment. Our family makes our living 100% from our cow calf operation. The survival of our way of life, as a viable ranching operation, depends on our BLM permits. The values of a viable ranching community to Lander, both socially and economically, are well known and well documented. We would oppose any cuts to grazing AUMs made in the Lander RMP.

A specific concern we have is Record #6105 on page 153. This Record identifies approximately 1,300 acres of land, in the Coal Mine Draw Area, that is proposed to be used as "a cross-country OHV and intensive target shooting area."

This is already a problem area for local land owners. Promoting it will only make matters worse. We also fear that it could reduce the number of AUMS available to the permittees after more grassland is torn up by intensive OHV use.

There have already been two deaths in "the Draw" caused by reckless OHV use. Who wants to be responsible for the accidents that will surely increase if the area is developed? The county has already stated that it doesn't want anything to do with this proposed area.

We support the public's right to access and explore its public lands in a reasonable manner. We also support permittee's use of OHVs to maintain and manage their range improvements and cattle. But promoting any intensive OHV red area especially in tandem with a shooting area is just plain dangerous. It would also increase air and noise pollution while decreasing adjacent property values.

We are also a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. We would like to fully support and endorse the comments made by the WSGA. We would also like to support the comments of the Fremont County Commissioners and the Popo Agie Conservation District. We feel that all three of these organizations have our best interests at heart.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lander Resource Management Plan.

Bill Hamilton
Hopkins Hamilton Ranch Company
550 Lyons Valley Road
Lander, WY. 82520

