



# OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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Dear Sirs:

I am writing with regard to the Draft Lander Resource Management Plan and EIS. I have submitted detailed comments to the BLM on behalf of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), but I would like to take this opportunity to make some general comments.

As an organization interested in cultural resources, and the Oregon and California National Historic Trails in particular, our preference is Alternative B. However, we realize that this alternative is really a stepping stone in the process that developed Alternative D. Alternative D is, as stated, the preferred approach. While not privy to the details, we know that this alternative was developed by a long process of evaluation and compromise. We will be submitting comments on the alternative, but it can be said that in general Alternative D is a reasonable compromise. Our concern is that it might be diluted in the review process.

Our major concern is possible changes to the Heritage Tourism and Recreation Corridor; the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC; the layered, managed landscape adjacent to the trails; and the utility corridors. The basis for our support of Alternative D is these four features. The rationale for the providing the level described in the draft RMP is very clearly presented in the cumulative effects section of the RMP. The level of protection in this area is also



appropriate given the heavy development planned south of I-80 in the area of the Overland and Cherokee Trails.

While we do not propose that "adjustments" to Alternative D are not permissible, we do suggest that they be limited in scope. Alternative D is the compromise between Alternatives B and C. To now develop a compromise between Alternatives C and D distorts the process. I hope that additional compromise is not proposed. Furthermore, many of the proponents of change were included as a stakeholder when Alternative D was developed, while OCTA was not.

For more than a dozen years OCTA has been working with all interests in Wyoming to achieve reasonable solutions for gas field developments (Pinedale Anticline, Jonah Field), utility corridors (Gateway West) and pipelines. We remain ready to continue this work on a project-by-project basis. We especially appreciate the cooperation of the ranchers adjacent to the trails for their long history of support for the trails. We believe that Alternative D provides the structure for continuing this working relationship while protecting the trails and their setting.

In conclusion I would like to express our appreciation to all of those who worked to prepare the Draft Lander RMP/EIS.

Sincerely,



David J. Welch  
Oregon-California Trails Association

cc: Duane Iles, President OCTA; Tom Rea, President Wyoming OCTA

