

Nov. 27, 2012

2012 NOV 28 AM 10:00

Mr. Donald Simpson
Wyoming State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1828

RECEIVED
DOI-BLM
CHEYENNE WYOMING

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming Resource Advisory Council supports the goal of enhanced communications with BLM, local landowners and operators on reclamation and restoration on split-estate lands in the Powder River Basin.

We recommend the following actions to improve communication with the BLM, local landowners, and the oil and gas industry in the High Plains District Office:

- Expand communications with the NRCS, the local Conservation Districts and the County Weed & Pest Districts;
- Provide a plug and abandon schedule to NRCS, the local Conservation Districts and the County Weed & Pest Districts so they can begin working with local landowners early on;
- Provide landowners with an updated listing of local contacts from all the agencies;
- Hold landowner education workshops in conjunction with the NRCS, Conservation Districts and the County Weed & Pest Districts;
- Partner with the NRCS, Conservation Districts and the County Weed & Pest Districts on outreach and education;
- Partner with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on reclamation and restoration in the Powder River Basin.

Coordinating with local landowners and the oil and gas industry on restoration and reclamation is important, especially in the Powder River Basin where there are thousands of wells that will be plugged over the next ten years. Working together on habitat and restoration in the Powder River Basin is critical, considering the upcoming United State Fish and Wildlife Service determination on the status of the Greater Sage-grouse.

We look forward to working with the High Plains District Office in the future and receiving updates on the progress of the Powder River Basin Restoration Initiative.

Sincerely,



Christine Aimone
WY BLM RAC, Chair