



WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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www.wyowool.org

April 16, 2015

John Moore
Pinedale Ranger District, USFS
PO Box 220
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Attention: Temple Creek, Bunion and Muddy Canyon Sheep Allotments

Dear Mr. Moore,

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Scoping Notice for Temple Creek, Bunion and Muddy Canyon Sheep Allotments. **We appreciate and fully support the proposal to continue domestic sheep grazing on the Temple Creek, Bunion, and Muddy Canyon Allotments.**

The WWGA is a membership organization that represents the interest of sheep ranchers in Wyoming. Our mission is to assist or support our members in any appropriate activity that would benefit them in the business of sheep, lamb and wool, goat or livestock production in the state of Wyoming and in the management and enhancement of Wyoming's natural resource base. The decision in this scoping notice impacts members of the WWGA so on behalf of our membership we offer the following comments.

For the Temple area and Bunion area, we support the permits as they are currently written.

For the Muddy Canyon allotment we offer more extensive comments. Because that location and topography of this allotment seems to work well with adjacent allotments, we would support a landscape-wide plan that utilizes all of the allotments in unison. A light grazing utilization along with a deferred rotation plan has been successful throughout the other allotments and would work well with this allotment. Furthermore, this requires no fencing and minimal infrastructure within the National Forest lands.

We are aware that access throughout the allotment is increasingly difficult due to inadequate trail maintenance and aging timber stands. The roads entering the south end of the allotment from the BLM lands into the Forest lands are excessively eroded and should be reviewed at this time. Because of the

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decadent timber stand, this area would seem a good candidate for control burns both on the south and north upslope areas.

We would support some modifications to the permit for the Muddy Canyon Allotment as suggested by the permittee, who has requested an earlier access date of 6/15. We agree that the springs and snow fed drainages in this allotment are sufficient for livestock grazing and that the plant phenology and topography would support utilization earlier than the 7/1 access date.

Lastly, although these permits are currently for sheep and goats grazing, which we strongly encourage continue, we lend support to the idea of adding the flexibility of a dual purpose permit. Adding cattle, more specifically, cows and calves and/or yearlings, to the permit would be beneficial in times of uncertainty and allow opportunity for the stimulation of different plant communities and a different biome.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in on this important issue. If you have questions or would like further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy W. Hendrickson".

Amy W. Hendrickson
Executive Director

/awh