WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION



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January 9, 2020

Monique Nelson Planning Team Leader U.S. Forest Service Laramie, WY 82070

RE: Thunder Basin Draft EA

Dear Ms. Nelson:

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft EA for the Thunder Basin National Grassland 2020 Plan Amendment. WSGA represents ranchers across Wy0oming including several who graze livestock on the TBNG. We have for several years been encouraging the Forest Service to move forward with an essential Plan Amendment to address the prairie dog issue. We commend you for moving forward in this effort and in your engagement of a diverse stakeholder group.

WSGA supports the Proposed Action subject to the following;

- WSGA opposes the potential expansion of Management Area 3.63.
- WSGA does not support the designation of complexes throughout the TBNG.
- WSGA opposes an increase to 15,000 acre targets to active prairie dogs.
- WSGA opposes any restrictions on the recreational shooting of prairie dogs.

WSGA strongly opposes Alternative 1-No Action and Alternative 4 Prairie Dog Emphasis. We urge the FS to move expeditiously to finalize and implement the Preferred Alternative.

