



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

August 29, 2022

Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region
1617 Cole Blvd. Bldg. 17
Lakewood, CO 80401

Attention Reviewing Officer:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments regarding the draft Record of Decision (dROD) for the Bighorn National Forest (BNF) Invasive and Other Select Plant Management project. The dROD for the Project: File Code 1900, signed July 13, 2022, was published in the Casper Star Tribune on July 14, 2022.

The WDA is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life. We have served as a Cooperating Agency and regularly provided comment letters and suggested changes throughout the review of the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and dROD process.

The WDA has concerns with language in the prescribed burn section (A.4.5) that may impact grazing through decisions regarding rest or deferment for an extended/unknown period of time. Additionally, language in the dRod includes the following unsupported statement with regards to deferment and rest: "It is often that more time and/or growth cycles will be necessary".

The WDA supports the BNF goal to progressively identify management options to treat increasing invasive plant species across the entire forest. We support an adaptive management approach by allowing flexible management options to address future invasive species infestations.

The WDA requests the opportunity to participate as an interested party for all future objection meetings and discussions with regards to the BNF Invasive and Other Select Plant Management project

We look forward to continuing to work closely with your staff on this project. If you have questions, please contact Linda Cope, Senior Policy Analyst at 307-777-7024.

Sincerely,

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/lc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming County Commissioners Association

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