



File Code: 1310; 2020
Date: May 19, 2017

Wyoming County Commissioners Association
PO Box 86
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Wyoming County Commissioners Association:

I wanted to personally thank you for hosting the recent tour on Thunder Basin National Grasslands. The opportunity to view the situation in person, as well as being able to engage with some of the Permittee's directly, was extremely valuable and has helped us to lay the groundwork for being able to move forward with future management on several of the issues that were identified. I also very much appreciated the participation of the permittees and the staff from the different Wyoming State Agencies. I know how valuable everyone's time is and to dedicate several days to this effort clearly demonstrates the level of concern that exists.

As we discussed, the Regional Office has worked with the Forest and District to identify both short term and long term work to be completed. The following is the current list of actions that we have identified:

Short Term Actions:

- No dusting for plague control will occur this season on federal lands within the Grassland.
- The Forest will increase acres treated this year for Prairie Dog control focusing on the boundary areas and the identified buffers around dwellings.
- The Regional Office is working with the Forest to identify maximum flexibility for options such as supplemental feeding, restoration work to aid in the recovery of impacted areas, invasive species control (cactus, etc).
- The Regional Office is looking into the appropriate use of Rozol on Forest Service lands in Thunder Basin.

Long Term Actions:

- The Regional Office is reviewing options for a potential management plan amendment regarding Black Footed Ferrets. The assessment will include the level of NEPA required, timeline, and staffing needs.

This is by no means a complete list of the work we will be carrying out, but it does reflect the majority of the areas that we discussed during the tour. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your commitment to working with us on these issues and for allowing us the opportunity to



redeem our responsibility to all of you that operate on Thunder Basin and to the lands that we have been given responsibility for managing. Together I know we can get to a better place.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Ferebee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Ferebee" clearly distinguishable.

BRIAN FEREBEE
Regional Forester

cc: Governor Mead, Dennis Jaeger, Sandy Henning