



# Guardians of the Range of the Range

Newsletter No. 63

July 2009

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## Guardians' National Day of the American Cowboy & 100th Annual Hyattville Old Timer's Celebration

Saturday, July 25th in Hyattville

See insert for schedule and details

[www.guardiansoftherange.org](http://www.guardiansoftherange.org) [www.hyattville.org](http://www.hyattville.org)

## Ken Hamilton Weighs In on Public Grazing Issues & The New Administration

**GR #1: GR - What do you see as the top three issues for ranchers utilizing public lands, as we face the economic crisis and new political landscape?**

**Ken** - I believe we will see things similar to what we experienced in the Clinton Administration, the change, however, is the court's impact on grazing. As anti-grazing groups file more lawsuits, there will be increased agency resources spent on responding to legal challenges instead of resource management. As agencies receive reversals from the courts in their resource documents, they will have a difficult time meeting the real needs of the resources.

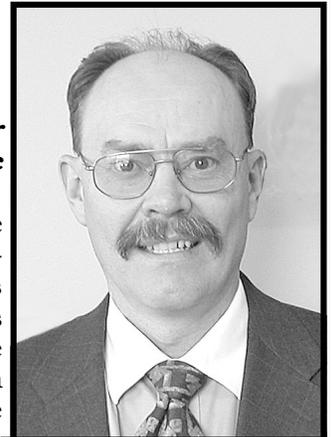
Congress seems to desire more federal control over natural resources via permits, etc. Traditionally, these requirements fall hardest on smaller operators who cannot absorb these increased fixed costs.

The response to the economic crisis will place significant inflationary pressures on the economy. During the last inflationary period, we saw land used as a hedge against these pressures. This meant people who owned land saw significant appreciation, but unless they were selling, these increases did not help pay the bills. A significant problem with increasing land values is the temptation to borrow against this increase. The early 1980's showed when the end came, lands with significant debt were soon owned by the banks, insurance companies, etc. Investors were also moving into real estate without much concern about how it would pay.

**GR #2 - What do you believe are the top two strengths agriculture folks will bring to bear in dealing with these issues?**

**Ken** - I don't believe there may be a "top" set of strengths applicable to every producer, rather a series of strategies to help folks continue production of food. Agricultural operators have always been able to find ways to become more efficient producers. This is one of the reasons American consumers pay less for their food as a percentage of their disposable income than just about anyone else in the world.

Please see **Hamilton** continued on page 3



Ken Hamilton, Executive  
Vice President of  
Wyoming Farm Bureau in  
Laramie, Wyoming

**The Multiple Use - Sustained Yield Act of 1960 gives a false sense of security to resource producers. As the resource class has discovered to its dismay, that all depends on who is administering the law.**

~ Ron Arnold, Author of 'Undue Influence'

## Wilford Tippetts, Jr.

Friends of Wilford Tippetts, Jr., a Guardians' Board member, may want to know that he is now recovering at home from a serious cow-related injury.

If you'd like to send a card, his address is:  
1002 - Road 16, Lovell, WY 82431  
Phone: 307- 548-2579

### Treasurer Opening

Guardians Board Treasurer, Tori Dietz, will soon be stepping aside to help with Guardians fund raising efforts. Therefore, we are looking to fill this unexpired term through January 2010.

If you like to work with numbers, and along side a dedicated group of folks, please contact Kathleen Jachowski at  
307-587-3723 or [guardians@hughes.net](mailto:guardians@hughes.net).

### Range Monitoring Workshop

Ranchers, landowners, range managers and others are invited to participate in a free range monitoring workshop on Friday, July 24th, at the L.U. Ranch, located between Meeteetse and Thermopolis.

Attendees will tour riparian and upland sites in the Grass Creek drainage on the L.U. Ranch. Instructors will teach range monitoring techniques, and how to identify native and alien grasses, as well as forbs and shrubs.

Barton Stam and Rachel Mealor, range specialists with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, will teach the workshop.

"We'll be teaching range monitoring methods that are simple and easy to learn, yet are scientifically valid and approved by federal land management agencies," says Stam.

Mealor adds, "Folks will learn how to set up and conduct range monitoring on their private property or public grazing allotments."

Interested persons should meet at the Gooseberry Creek Rest Area, 25 miles northwest of Thermopolis on Hwy 120, at 10 am, Friday, July 24th. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinking water, and wear footwear and clothing appropriate for extreme changes in weather. The workshop is FREE.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, the UW Cooperative Extension Service, the Cottonwood / Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District, and The Nature Conservancy are sponsoring the workshop.

For more information, contact Katherine Thompson at 307-587-1655.



## Huge Cowboy Thank You to Shipton's Big R

**Sheridan** - The Guardians wish to thank Rick Sirk, Manager; Jerry Rocovits, Assistant Manager; and the entire staff at Shipton's Big R for providing the Guardians an opportunity to participate in Shipton's Days, June 4, 5, 6, 7.

This was a wonderful opportunity to familiarize more of the public with the organization, sell tickets for our Golden Boy repeating rifle and a \$500 gift certificate, redeemable at a multitude of stores.

We really appreciate this type of retail sector support for the agricultural community. We encourage our readers to thank these folks personally when they are in the store. Let Shiptons know their support is recognized, and much appreciated!

## Time Limited to Bid on Brands

The Guardians are accepting sealed bids on two registered Wyoming brands with branding irons, generously donated by Steve Jones of Meeteetse.

A3382900-9 Brand #1: Lightning C  
 Location - Left Hip Cattle

A2578000-9 Brand #2: Lightning C  
 Location - Right Rib Cattle & Right Shoulder Horse

Steve has renewed both brands until 2019, and paid the transfer fees. The winning bidders will only need to let the Guardians know how to register the brands, and they will be transferred to you.

Minimum bid is \$400.00 for each brand.

### **Sealed bids must be mailed by July 20, 2009 to:**

Guardians of the Range  
P.O. Box 472  
Worland, WY 82401

Winning bidders will be announced July 25, in Hyattville at the Guardians' National Day of the American Cowboy & 100th Annual Hyattville Old Timer's Celebration, about 6pm during the Awards Ceremony. Bidders not required to be present on July 25.

## Shoshone National Forest

The Shoshone National Forest is beginning an environmental assessment process, including public scoping, to garner information on domestic pack goat use on the Shoshone. They are also trying to determine if adequate management practices are in place to preclude disease transmission between domestic goats and wild bighorns.

The scoping notice and a map are available at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/projects/planning/forest\\_projects/env\\_analysis\\_index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/projects/planning/forest_projects/env_analysis_index.shtml) (in the "Water, Soil, Air, and Wildlife" section of the page).

**Comments are requested by July 15, 2009.**

More information, and where to send comments, can be found in the scoping notice.

### Press Release from USDA:

## Ag Secretary Vilsack Names New Chief for US Forest Service

### Tom Tidwell brings 32 Years of Experience Working to Protect Our Nation's Forests

Washington, D.C., June 17, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that Tom Tidwell will serve as the new Chief for the US Forest Service (USFS).

"Tom Tidwell's 32 years of experience in our forests and impressive track record of collaboration and problem-solving will help us tackle the great challenges ahead," says Vilsack.

Tidwell has spent 32 years with the USFS in a variety of positions. He began his FS career on the Boise National Forest, and has since worked in eight different national forests, across three regions. He has worked at all levels of the agency in a variety of positions, including District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, and Legislative Affairs Specialist in the Washington Office.

Tidwell's field experience includes working from the rural areas of Nevada and Idaho, all the way to the urban forests in California and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah, where he served as Forest Supervisor during the 2002 Winter Olympics. He also has extensive fire experience, beginning as a firefighter, and accumulating 19 years as an agency administrator responsible for fire suppression decisions.

## CRAIG THOMAS GUARDIANS OF THE RANGE ENDOWMENT

Supporting this endowment is a wonderful tax exempt way to show your support for the Guardians' effort, or to honor a family member or friend. We want to have a sustainable financial resource base to achieve our goals and objectives.

For more details, please contact a board member or Kathleen Jachowski (307)587-3723 or [guardians@hughes.net](mailto:guardians@hughes.net).

## Bighorn NF - Heads Up

By the time you read this newsletter, Western Watersheds will have conducted two workshops on the BNF dealing with the re-introduction of frog species etc. The assault on grazing continues. Look for more information in the August newsletter.

## BLM Issues

KNOW YOUR BLM ISSUES AND TELL YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS WHO ARE WORKING ON YOUR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
SEE: [www.guardiansoftherange.org](http://www.guardiansoftherange.org) Issue page for details & contact information

*Hamilton continued from page 1*

**GR #3 - What two changes would you immediately make in public land policy, if you had the authority to do so, and why?**

**Ken** - Many of our laws passed to provide better information for agency personnel have instead resulted in a waste of resources to justify a decision to help the agency win a legal challenge. Two of the biggest offenders are NEPA and the ESA. NEPA has resulted in more paper, but less efficient decisions. We've seen the less efficient an agency is to respond to changing economic conditions, the more impact it has on permittees. The ESA by almost any measurement, has been a failure, and the current conflict between the State and the US Fish & Wildlife Service on the wolf reiterates this failure. I'm not sure changing these two laws would be possible, but removing them from the books would be beneficial for the resources.

For more information, contact Ken Hamilton at 307-721-7712 or [khamilton@wyfb.org](mailto:khamilton@wyfb.org).

## Join the Guardians of the Range

### LIVESTOCK OPERATORS:

\$50 for up to 50 head of cattle  
\$1.00 a head from 51 to 1,500 cattle  
20 cents a head for sheep

### BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS & ASSOCIATIONS

without federal grazing permits:

\$25 up to \$100 WRANGLER  
\$250 RANGE RIDER  
\$500 TOP HAND

\$1,000 GUARDIAN of the RANGE

Please make checks payable to:  
Guardians of the Range, P.O. Box 472, Worland, WY 82401

DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

# Guardians of the Range

P.O. Box 472  
Worland, Wyoming  
82401

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Worland, WY  
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## Sage Grouse Update: February 26, 2010

This is the date the court has decided the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) will make its determination if the Sage-grouse will be designated as warranted or not warranted for listing as an endangered species.

If, on February 26th, the FWS decides conditions 'warrant' a more in depth look, that decision puts into motion a timeline of about 18 months of more study, at the end of which the bird would either be listed, or not listed, as an endangered species.

If, on February 26th, the FWS decides that conditions do 'not warrant' listing the bird as an endangered species, the process stops. (This would not, however, prevent more future attempts by special interests to have it listed, nor would it prevent lawsuits against the agency for its 'not warranted' listing.)

In the meantime, conservation efforts will continue around the state and region. There are a multitude of statewide projects and research efforts being conducted for the bird's benefit.

For more information, click on Sage Grouse Info at the right side of page at <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

### Double Old Fashioned

Show your Guardians spirit by sporting the classy new Guardians of the Range 11-oz double old fashioned glasses.

Available from  
Guardians, Darla Rhodes at 307-921-8633, or  
Tori Dietz at 307-347-4026, or at Cowboy Day for  
\$6.50 ea. or set 4/\$25.

Supply is limited - don't wait!

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