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Guardians of the Range

Dedicated to the Multiple Use of Public Lands & the American Way of Life

Newsletter No. 72

April 2010

Roaming Livestock & Roaming Attitudes

- by Kathleen Jachowski

Where the 'deer and the antelope' roam is a line from a song. Most people understand wildlife roam the landscape as they go through their daily activities. It's an accepted dynamic in the minds of most people, be they rural or urban.

When it comes to livestock, however, the attitude of the general public seems to be less clear, less understanding, and less appreciative of the term 'Open Range'.

It's good business to pick up on marketing changes, and it's equally good business to pick up on changes in public attitudes, relative to established animal husbandry and state laws.

This does not mean, however, that traditional animal husbandry practices or laws must be set aside simply because folks less familiar with concepts, such as Open Range, move into the neighborhood.

No indeed! In fact, it's more important to realize how proactive communication and public relations are key management tools in explaining ranching and farming practices. These tools have no expiration date, and produce the long-term benefits of respect and understanding.

Respect and understanding, are almost never seen as the 'value added products' they intrinsically are in this context.

It is unfair and arrogant to expect neighbors to simply have a flair for the obvious when they move onto rural landscape. Such unfairness and arrogance is also frequently manifested by urban folks when people from rural backgrounds move into their neighborhoods. Homo sapiens can be very closed-minded, and somewhat contemptuous, of changes in the makeup of their neighborhoods. Contempt creates conflict!

*Please see **Roam** on page 2*



US FOREST SERVICE PLANNING All Forests This means YOU!

- by Kathleen Jachowski

There is a lot going on in Washington, D.C. these days. Not all of it is about health care, terrorism, jobs, and the economy. Something that isn't making the news every night, but will be with us for a very long time, is the current revision of Forest Service planning regulations.

While this is dry, and somewhat boring stuff, it gets very messy, and intensely interesting, when we have to live with the final outcome.

The Guardians submitted public comments last month on this process. Now that that particular public comment period is over, the agency is sitting down to develop the planning rules. Hopefully these rules will reflect much of what the public offered for consideration.

There will be Roundtable discussions in different parts of the country, between now and the end of April. The Guardians will try and be involved in those discussions, where we feel will be most beneficial to your interests.

*Please see **Forest** on page 2*

**"Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will
deserve neither and lose both." ~ Benjamin Franklin**

Forrest continued from page 1

Why this dry and laborious process is so important, is that it these planning rules guide the actions of the USFS and all they do. All forest plans, and actions will be tied back to these, and determined within the final framework.

We will keep you posted!

However, if you would like to participate (and we encourage you to do so), there is an electronic discussion forum at Planning Rule Blog on the web. Just type in: Planning Rule Blog and follow the link for Planning Rule.

It's the dry, complex and confusing details in this type of documents we need to pay attention to. The Guardians are working on your behalf to see that reasonable and sound rule making takes place.

Roam continued from page 1

As we see more and more legislative challenges to Open Range laws throughout our nation, it would be prudent and respectful for Open Range supporters to proactively explain the appropriateness and fairness of continuing such practices, and the legislative frameworks which allow for them.

Cowboys on the Green

Saturday June 12th 8:30 am

Green Hills Golf Club Worland, WYO

Guardians of the Range Fundraiser Golf Tournament in honor of
National Day of the American Cowboy

Golfer Registration Fees: \$70 Before June 1 \$85 After June 1
(fees include green fees, lunch, & cart rental)

The first 50 entries received before June 1, qualify for special drawing of a Cowboy Cookout Package
(cooler, steaks, wine, and other goodies)

Buckaroo Sponsorship \$100 Company name will appear on:

- Local & statewide newspaper advertising
- Tournament fliers (name only)
- Announced during tournament

Branding Iron Sponsorship \$150 Benefits same as Buckaroo Sponsorship plus:

- Tournament fliers (name and logo)*
- Subscription to Guardians newsletter
- Name & logo on Guardians website

Horseshoe Sponsorship \$200 Benefits same as Branding Iron Sponsorship plus:

- Sign at tee box

Roundup Sponsorship \$250 Benefits same as Horseshoe Sponsorship plus:

- One complimentary entry in tournament

Open Range Sponsorship \$_____ Benefits dependent upon sponsorship amount.

Hole Prize Donation _____ Please indicate what prize you would like to donate.

*Please email your company logo by April 30th in a .jpg format to
toridietz@gmail.com.

Sponsorship Forms & Golfer Entry Forms available at
www.GuardiansoftheRange.org

Defenders of Wildlife General Counsel Appointed to US Justice Department



I am sorry to report to you that Bob Dreher, the General Counsel of the Defenders of Wildlife, a litigious lobbying group that has repeatedly sued the US Department of Justice, has been appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. His job is now to oversee the Natural Resources and Wildlife and Marine Resources sections of the US Department of Justice.

Dreher previously served as co-managing editor of the Washington, D.C. office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice).

These two groups are among the worst offenders in costing the American taxpayer \$4.7 billion in legal fees through the Equal Opportunity to Justice Act.

DW has ongoing lawsuits in Federal courts dealing with sage grouse, wolves, plovers, wolverines, and other species.

It remains to be seen why this is not a conflict of interest...he is now in a position to influence the rulings on cases that DW have brought before the Department of Justice. Only a fool would think otherwise.

Your sponsorship is tax
-deductible!





Direct from the Director: Annual Meeting

The annual meeting, which was February 6, in Worland, seems to have come and gone in the wink of an eye.

Attendees, based on the meeting survey results, seemed to think the presentations were well worth the change in routine. I think I struck the right balance this year in the number of presenters. At least I hope I did. Last year, I think you all were a little worn-out taking in all of the information.

I received a call from a rancher in Washington state, who reads the Western Ag Reporter, and wanted information on the use of sugar to help fight invasive weeds. The presentation by Eve Warren, PhD with the Worland BLM office did a great job in bringing this most interesting research to folks' attention.

She is hoping to get people interested in trying it on their property or allotments, so she can expand the research area of this promising approach. We encourage interested readers who are trying to tackle cheat grass and other invasive weeds, to give Eve a call at (307) 347-5100.

Guardian member and Washakie County Commissioner, Terry Wolf gave a very informative update on the revision effort for the BLM's Resource Management Plan, which will affect Cody and Worland permittees.

This is a long and arduous public process and is not without its rough spots. Terry is an elected official, and as such serves in what is legally called a 'cooperator' under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Cooperator status is not open to the yous and Is of the world. The operative word is 'elected officials.' They serve alongside the agency folks and help to write the document, and they have to pay to play.

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.

I won't bore you with those details, let's save that for another time. However, a big Guardian 'Thanks' goes out to the conservation districts, county commissioners and State of Wyoming staff who are attempting to protect and incorporate all of our the socio-economic interests in the final document.

Till next month,

K

Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director
(307) 587-3723 guardians@hughes.net

Court Favors Sage Grouse in Montana Grazing Lawsuit

Reprinted from the Associated Press – March 11, 2010

Helena, Montana - The U.S. Forest Service (FS) must re-examine how livestock grazing affects sage grouse habitat in southwestern Montana after an appeals court ruled its original assessment was not reliable.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the FS Tuesday to prepare a new environmental assessment for its livestock allotments in the 48,000-acre Antelope Basin.

Tens of thousands of acres have been identified as sage grouse habitat, but few of the chicken-sized birds can be found there.

Michael Garrity, of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, says the ruling means the Forest Service must ensure that grazing will not harm the sage grouse's recovery.

The FS did not immediately return a call for comment.

SPECIAL NOTE from Ex. Director: While this action is in Montana, it is a heads up to all public land managers and public land livestock permittees as to what may happen on your USFS allotments.

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LIVESTOCK OPERATORS:

\$50 for up to 50 head of cattle
\$1.00 a head from 51 to 1,500 cattle
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BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS & ASSOCIATIONS

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Get More Value for Your Vote

- by Kathleen Jachowski

Don't mistake and/or accept bumper sticker responses as answers to real questions! Listen for quality answers, not shallow, insulting responses meant only to 'fire up the masses'.

When your question is not answered correctly, then politely ask candidates to please revisit your question as you are looking for more of a 'fleshed out' answer. When candidates begin to realize that shallow is not acceptable, they'll begin to think and reflect before they answer. You, as a potential voter, are THE one who sets the standard for what is a substantive and quality answer! You may not like the answer, but if it is a thoughtful and substantive one than you know the candidate is thinking and not just campaigning.

Publicly ask candidates which committees, boards, or commissions they have served on that have dealt with agriculture and/or natural resource issues. Someone seeking an elected office such as county commissioner or conservation supervisor should have something of a track record, and a demonstrated commitment to such long-term civic involvement. *On the job training* on federal land and natural resource issues is not an acceptable 'fast food learning curve' in today's world.

A candidate for an elected office should come with a demonstrated skill set in some of the above areas before they ask for your vote. Their Inexperience in these areas cannot be mitigated by good intentions, campaign rhetoric or their personal willingness to learn on the job.

Brucellosis & Trichomoniasis

We strongly encourage livestock producers to check with the Wyoming Livestock Board, and/or the office of the Wyoming State Veterinarian, on current status of rules and regulations open for public comment for these diseases.

Especially on common allotments – know what is happening relative to trichomoniasis.

If you have changes to your mailing information, please call 307-587-3723
or email guardians@hughes.net.

www.GuardiansoftheRange.org