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Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 92

December 2011

With One Gift.... Give the Past, Present & Future!

With the stroke of a pen, it is actually possible to give the past, present and future in one gift. That gift is a one-time donation or endowment contribution in the name of someone special to the Guardians of the Range. Both are tax-deductible, if received prior to December 31. Mail your check to Guardians of the Range, PO Box 472, Worland, WY 82401, and mark it either 'donation' or 'endowment'.

Such a gift respects ranching's proud past, secures a viable present, and helps to ensure a bright, sustainable future for the next generation.

A lovely gift card will be sent in your name, and the recipient will be added to our newsletter mailing list.



Wyoming Bentonite: A Multiple Use Company

~ by Echo Renner

Greybull ~ Have you ever considered what you have in common with a bentonite company? If you have a BLM grazing permit, you have more in common with Wyoming Bentonite than you may realize. Ninety percent of the mining Wyo-Ben does is on public land, primarily on BLM and State school sections.

Wyo-Ben, Inc. is a leading source of bentonite clay worldwide. In 2010, Wyo-Ben won the BLM Hard Rock Mineral Environmental Award. Headquartered in Billings, the 60-year-old company has 111 employees at processing facilities in Lovell, Greybull and Thermopolis. Wyo-Ben contracts with GK Construction to mine the richest deposit of bentonite in the world, situated in the Big Horn Basin.

Their materials are used world-wide in oil, gas, and water well drilling applications, as well as environmental construction and remediation, metal casting, hazardous waste treatment, cat litter, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and wine clarification.

*Please see **Bentonite** on page 4*

Save the
Date

Annual Meeting

February 4, 2012

10:00 - 2:30

Worland



**"If you have ten thousand regulations, you destroy
all respect for the law."**

~ Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

FY 2012 Agricultural Appropriations bill clears the way for the restoration of the U.S. Horse Industry

Washington, D.C. ~ On November 14, 2011, the Conference Committee on HR 2112 consolidated appropriations for Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Transportation - Housing and Urban Development signed a conference report resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill that for the first time since 2005, does not contain annual riders, driven by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), that prohibit USDA from providing necessary inspection for horse processing facilities.

The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) is a new association that is an outcome of the alliances that United Horsemen has formed with hundreds of entities like the National Tribal Horse Coalition, Charros Federation USA, horse councils, production agriculture, pet animal and animal entertainment groups, as well as international partners like the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada. The Association is eager to work with equine businesses, organizations, state, tribal, and federal agencies to maximize this opportunity.

"We could not be more pleased," says IEBA US co-chair Sue Wallis, "and grateful to our many partners and supporters to once again have a clear path to increase the welfare of horses, reinvigorate the devastated horse-related economy, and promote the ethical, appropriate use of horses that will be welcomed by a worldwide and domestic market, create jobs, and preserve our beloved horseback American culture for our children and grandchildren. The now devastated horse industry looks forward to the day when we can once again contribute more than \$1.9 Billion dollars in tax revenue nationwide from an industry that prior to 2007 was a \$102 Billion dollar sector of animal agriculture...to once again supporting 1.4 Million full-time jobs working with horses every-day."

The tide turned for the horse industry when Congress received a report from their research office that looked into the effect of the closure of the US horse processing facilities. That Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, [HORSE WELFARE: Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences of Domestic Slaughter Cessation](#), documents the decline in horse welfare, and the negative impacts on the overall equine economy as a direct result of the loss of a humane option for otherwise unwanted, unusable, excess horses.

Because of the back-door exclusionary efforts of the HSUS, Congress adopted the first of these damaging appropriations riders in 2005, with more added in 2007, that have prevented any facilities from operating in the 46 states that do not have state law preventing them.

"That roadblock is now removed," noted Wallis, "now we shift our focus to resuming profitable legitimate businesses in the horse industry, and a return of normal markets for horses at every level, and every sector of the diverse horse world."

The IEBA is positioned to promote and encourage equine harvesting businesses that are held to high humane handling and food safety standards, in order to bring quality products to a vibrant and viable worldwide market. IEBA will be providing legal defense, political advocacy, business consulting, technological solutions, and more for all aspects of the equine industry.

Information provided in news release from United Horsemen, a 100% volunteer grassroots nation-wide organization, to advocate for humane and regulated horse processing to end the unnecessary and wasteful suffering of horses. For more information see <http://United-Horsemen.org>.



BLM Coop Agreements Every Allotment Should Have Them!

In order to legally perform maintenance on your allotments, a Cooperative Agreement, signed by both the permit holder (you) and the agency, is required. It is in a permittee's best interest to ensure properly executed coop agreement(s) are in your BLM file, and in your own personal ranch file.

The importance of this cannot be overstated. What you want to avoid is performing what you think is approved maintenance on your allotment only to discover that no permission via a coop agreement exists. Do not make the mistake of thinking that one coop agreement is all you need. You may need more than one. The Guardians strongly encourage permittees to make certain ALL necessary coop agreements are executed and on file, and that you have your own copy.

The need for coop agreements applies to existing range improvement projects. New range improvement projects, all of which need to be initially approved via an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) or categorical exclusion (CE), will have a coop agreement prepared to allow for future maintenance.

The winter months are a good time to check on this. We suggest you make an appointment with your range con to review your file and double check. If some are missing or are incomplete, you and the BLM can begin the process of updating the paperwork. We do not suggest doing this over the telephone. Sharing with your range con the responsibility for making certain all such paperwork is correct, complete and retrievable is one of the best and easiest ways to get maintenance done' before you both are in an assisted living facility!



Direct from the Director: Things to Come

I have a few topics about which I want our readers to be more aware. Space constraints of our newsletter certainly make it a challenge to cover them in an adequate and substantive way-----these deserve more than a 'bumper sticker' depth. So.....I will list them here and then cover them one by one over the next year. I think the value in just getting them on your radar screen gives you the opportunity to ask around about them and perhaps more carefully reflect on what might be afoot.

*BIG TIME -Public participation concerns relative to revision of forest plans (USFS) and resource management plans (BLM).

*Circumvention of congressional guidance by wordsmithing and selective interpretation of public laws.

*Federal push to control young people working on farms and ranches.

*Need for quality questions of candidates running for the elected offices of county commissioners and conservation district supervisors, school boards, mayors and various municipal councils. Why this topic is more important than ever.

*Rural communities and their economics – the new flavor of the month (sour or sweet)?

Stay tuned, and stay strong!

Kathleen

Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director
307.587.3723 guardians@hughes.net

Pasture Needed

Guardian member seeks pasture starting in 2012.

Interested in either short-term or long-term leasing for about 70 head of cows/calves

Please contact Pepper Fipps at Rafter Star Ranch
307-737-2680 or 702-501-4243.

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.

Board Positions

The Guardians Board of Directors is accepting nominations of members who might like to serve on the board.

If you wish to be considered for such a position, or know of a fellow member who might make a good candidate, please contact:

Dana Kerns, President at 655-9539
or

Bill Greer, Vice President at 272-3723
for more information.

Terms of service begin in February.

Join Guardians of the Range

LIVESTOCK OPERATORS

\$100.00 up to 50 head of cattle

\$2.00 / head 51 to 1,500 cattle

40 cents / head for sheep

BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS & ASSOCIATIONS

without federal grazing permits:

\$25 - \$100

WRANGLER

\$250

RANGE RIDER

\$500

TOP HAND

\$1,000

GUARDIAN of the RANGE

Fairness Fee: One-time \$500 fee

Applicable to any new livestock operator membership that needs help within 90 days of joining the Guardians of the Range.

The Board of Directors recently voted to adopt a special one-time \$500 Fairness Fee (FF), or 'catch up fee, to cover situations where a permittee chooses to join only because they need help on an immediate issue. The FF recognizes the time, money and effort of past supporters who made it possible for an organization like the Guardians to be right at the end of the telephone and ready to step in immediately to help. The FF is appropriate and respectful of the past and ongoing support and organizational vision of current members. The FF is payable concurrent with initial dues.

You may join on line:

www.GuardiansoftheRange.org

To pay by check, please make checks payable to:
Guardians of the Range

mail to:

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

Guardians of the Range

P.O. Box 472
Worland, Wyoming
82401

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Bentonite continued from page 1

Rick Magstadt, Wyo-Ben's Vice President of Manufacturing, says, "We are an international company, selling a substantial amount overseas in Australia, China, India, the Middle East, Europe, and South America, as well as in the United States."

The General Mining Act of 1872 grants all US citizens over age 17 the right to locate and mine a claim on government-managed lands open to mineral entry. "Mining is permitted through the managing agency," explains Magstadt. "Most of the mining we do is on BLM managed lands. We're required to have a mining plan and submit it to the BLM and Wyoming DEQ, do vegetative soils work, monitor wildlife, and have a reclamation plan. The DEQ is pretty quick - they may get back to us in three months. With the BLM, it may be three years before they approve a permit because of all the red tape they have to go through."

"Because of that, we can't match our pace in new projects. That's one of our biggest threats. That forces us to focus on areas under permit and (utilize) them. We prefer a diffused mining approach, where we mine several areas, for example 50 active pits with equipment in about 12 pits at one time. That limits exposure in any one area. It's like grazing in different allotments (to avoid overgrazing). We want long-term, but relatively low impact mining in any one area."

Wyo-Ben has represented mining interests in the Big

Horn Basin Sage-grouse local working group since its inception in 2004. "This is a common issue we share with cattlemen," says Magstadt. "Sage-grouse is a perfect opportunity for ngo's (non-governmental organizations) to work their magic to kick us off public land. We're not in favor of that. There's too much focus on sagebrush and not enough focus on noxious weed invasion. If we really want to help sagebrush obligates, we have to quit competing with noxious weeds. Regulating oil and gas, mining, grazing, recreation, etc. won't solve the sage grouse problem. We need to control the spread of noxious weeds, and these industries, or uses, can play a role in that. Public agencies need to take action on the hot spots today. Crested wheat grass is a 'break glass in case of emergency' species, and I think we're at that point in parts of the Basin where there are just monocultures of cheat grass. We need to focus on solutions and put a lot of pressure on agencies to do something, because we're losing ground to cheat grass every year."

Magstadt continues, "Wyo-Ben is a multiple use company with opportunities to improve aspects of the range. In some cases we can develop water for wildlife and livestock, for example. We're in this together with ranchers and other multiple use folks. We need to work together, focus on common issues, be proactive, and engage the BLM from a multiple use standpoint."

For more information, log onto www.wyoben.com or call Rick Magstadt at 307.765.4446.

