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Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 81

January 2011



News Release from the USDA Forest Service, Shoshone National Forest December 2010:

Shoshone Resource Advisory Committee Request for Projects

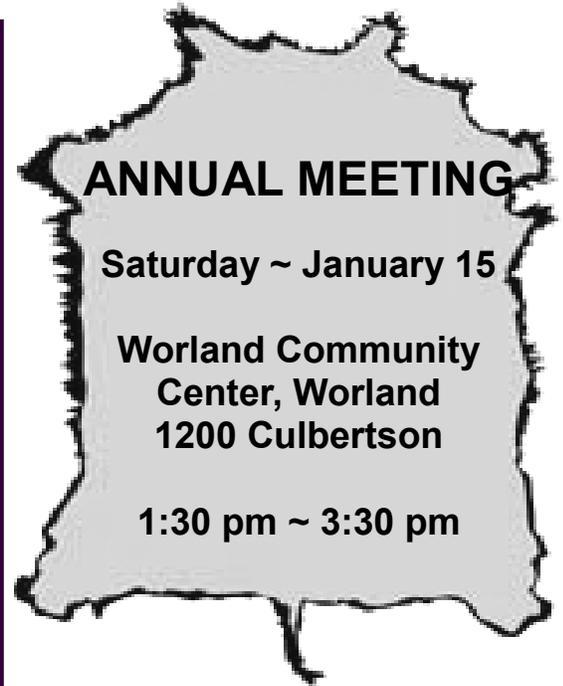
The Guardians' Executive Director is serving on this SNF Resource Advisory Committee representing Public at Large. Our time and effort on this committee is part of our commitment of working in the best interest of "affected economies in the region". This translates into the Guardians care and concern for fellow citizens, outside of only the public land grazing arena. We are proud to care!

Contact: Joe Alexander 307.527.6241 or Olga Troxel 307.578.5164

Cody, Wyoming ~ The Shoshone Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking applications for projects. The Shoshone RAC will have an estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000 for years 2008 through 2012 to work with in Park and Fremont counties.

The RAC will recommend projects that will benefit forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds, and other resources; maintain roads, trails, and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds.

Please see Projects on page 3



Bighorn Mountain Coalition Celebrates 21 Years

~ by Echo Renner

The Big Horn Mountain Coalition (BHMC), an economic development district comprised of Sheridan, Johnson, Washakie, and Big Horn Counties, celebrates its 21 birthday this month.

The BHMC works to enhance economic development activities and provide leadership, coordination, and cooperation among local, state, and federal entities.

Please see Coalition on page 2

**"It doesn't hurt to be optimistic. You can always cry later."
 ~ Lucimar Santos de Lima**



Cow Trails, Sheep Trails & Paper Trails: The Importance Thereof....

~ by Kathleen Jachowski

I imagine most of you immediately think that two out of the three trails cited above are great and valuable things. I certainly do.

However, my second imagining is that paper trails make you wrinkle up your nose, and quickly distance yourself from the thought.

Perhaps you even think that there is very little value and or productivity to creating or following paper trails. Now there is where we part company.

I would submit that paper trails are every bit as important to your continued viability as public land ranchers, both in terms of keeping yourselves and the agencies honest and organized, and in terms of correcting inaccuracies that pop up sometimes in all business (public grazing) transactions.

While we all dislike the idea of paperwork, and some make a career of avoiding it, the reality is, it will work in your favor to always know what is in your public grazing file. Have copies of it in your own office, and see to it that any and all corrections to misinformation or missing information are documented in both sets of files (yours and the agency's).

I have heard time and time again that you spoke with agency staff about an issue, inaccuracy, or idea only to have it seem to go no where. In many, many situations just having a conversation with agency staff is no longer adequate or in your best interests. Outside anti-grazing entities already know this and more importantly they know how to use it to destroy your livelihood. On the legal battlefield the term 'livelihood' translates into custom and culture. Make no mistake; anti-grazing activists have contempt for the custom and culture associated with public land ranching. You, and organizations such as the Guardians, are your best defense against this destruction.

In today's world, you can ease the pain of paperwork by following up on field trip conversations, or telephone and office visits by promptly sending a brief e-mail confirming what was agreed to or what mutual understanding was reached. If you can't do the 'computer' thing, you still have a couple of options. Ask someone at home if they will send the e-mail with proof of receipt to the agency; or if you are a Guardian member, or become a member, you can ask me, your humble Executive Director, if I will send it for you. I would be more than glad to assist you in such cases. Such help is included in your membership dues---don't be shy about utilizing this resource.

While cow trails, and sheep trails can get your livestock where you want it to go, paper trails can significantly help keep your livelihood on a much clearer and more stable path by using quality communication in today's world.

Happy Trails! ★

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### Coalition continued from page 1

BHMC is governed by a board comprised of county commissioners, municipal officials, economic development professionals, and representatives from the private sector.

"The BHMC was founded because there was a great deal of concern over public lands issues," explains Executive Director Patricia "Trish" Ullery-Whitaker. "People were concerned with policy changes they saw coming, regarding public lands, and how they would sustain their livelihoods.

"Initially, we got a small grant from the State of Wyoming that funded a study through the University Wyoming that looked at the economic impact of public lands in the four-county area, and identified the economic footprint of mining, agriculture, water, tourism, etc. Right now, we're working to get that study updated.

"We saw a need for economic diversity, and tourism seemed to have an historic economic impact, though not viewed then as vital industry. We wanted to build on marketing the Bighorns, so that more traditional industries might be positively impacted," she comments.

"We developed, with the Forest Service and other agencies, a photo journal coffee table book Beauty of the Bighorns, which is now in its second printing. We also developed a recreational map of the Bighorn Mountain District, which is in its third revision. Both have been a unified regional effort."

The BHMC realized a need for more sustainable mechanism to fund the organization, and applied for economic development funds, and in the late 1990's the organization was recognized as an economic development district, but didn't then receive federal funding. In 2006, they received a \$50,000 planning grant from the Economic Development Administration, a branch of the Department of Commerce. The group then hired Ullery-Whitaker as their executive director, and were off and running.

"Our goals are marketing and promoting tourism in the Bighorn Mountain region, monitoring public policy that affects this region, and providing economic development to small communities who don't have grant writers, etc. We push on several fronts. Last year worked a lot on public land policy.

"More Wilderness, Wilderness study areas and treasured landscapes all lead to a loss of multiple use, because they don't want livestock, oil wells, etc. The loss of public grazing means the loss of ranching." The loss of ranches leads to the loss businesses and jobs in nearby communities.

"The Wyoming Wilderness Association is set on creating more Wilderness. They would really like to see the entire Bighorn Mountain region become Wilderness. It is a never-ending endeavor to educate people why more Wilderness is not in the best interest of the Bighorns. We are trying to sustain our communities throughout the region."

**Please see Coalition on page 4**



by Kathleen  
Jachowski

## Direct from the Director: As Promised...More WHAT TO Dos Without Losing Your Mind

In last month's DFD we visited about the need to not assume that your public land ranching interests are once again safe and sound just because a recent national election went well in terms of your interests or philosophies. To assume such is like swallowing a chocolate covered grenade, it's tasty, filling and predictably destructive.

Staying involved, or reasonably in tune, with what issues could directly impact your livelihood does not mean staying worried and upset 24-7. Such stress is absolutely not necessary. Everyone doing a little is a winning strategy. No one can be up to speed on all such issues at all times.

To ease the worry without being totally clueless, here are a few suggestions:

- Pick only one or two issues that especially interest you. Don't overload!
- If you have a computer, go online and Google either the subject matter or various organizations that might be working on the topic. If you don't see it on their website, just click the 'contact us' button and ask them if they know where to go to begin gathering information on your area of interest. Do this with about four different organizations. You will be amazed at the help and networking that opens up. This will save you time, and get you up to speed much faster.
- Check out the Guardian website page ([www.guardiansoftherange.org](http://www.guardiansoftherange.org)) and click on LINKS. We have several helpful organizations you can easily reach this way. We have many categories and many links.
- Call your local Conservation District (CD) office and ask them what they know about your area of interest or who is someone that might be useful. These folks are generally pretty well networked and informed.
- Ask the folks you network with how you can help. Relax, they won't ask you to go on television, but they might ask you to send an e-mail or write a brief hand-written note, or make a telephone call.

- Always remember that the Guardians of the Range are only a click away on the computer, or at the other end of the telephone.
- Don't forget that shared efforts build knowledge and solve problems.

More proactive suggestions next month!

*Kathleen*

Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director  
307.587.3723 [guardians@hughes.net](mailto:guardians@hughes.net)

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The projects must be located on National Forest System Lands in Park and Fremont counties or on other nearby lands if the project will benefit the resources on the national forest. Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements, or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations.

RAC project submittal forms and instructions are available at Shoshone National Forest offices in Cody, Lander, and Dubois, Wyoming, or on the Shoshone National Forest Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone/>. Project proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2011.

Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act, Title II funds, and resource advisory committees is available from the Forest Service Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/srs>. For more information about the resource advisory committee process, contact Olga Troxel at 307.578.5164 or [otroxel@fs.fed.us](mailto:otroxel@fs.fed.us).

## Join 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  
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\$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

You can now join on line  
[www.GuardiansoftheRange.org](http://www.GuardiansoftheRange.org)

## 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).

## Guardians of the Range

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### Barrasso Names Lander Native as Agriculture & Public Lands Policy Advisor

**Washington, D.C.** ~ U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo) recently named Travis McNiven to be his legislative assistant on agricultural policy and public lands issues. McNiven, a Lander native, has extensive background in the agriculture industry.

Senator Barrasso praised McNiven's experience and ability to lead on issues that are crucial to Wyoming communities: "Wyoming is extremely fortunate to have someone like Travis working on their behalf. Travis's extensive experience in western agriculture and public lands policy will help our office better serve the farming and ranching communities across the state."

McNiven began his career in agribusiness early. At the age of 14 he began raising registered Gelbvieh cattle while continuing to work for his father's horseback vacation and hunting business. McNiven graduated with honors from Utah State University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and minor in Political Science. In 2006, he earned an International Masters of Business Administration in Food and Agribusiness from the Royal Agricultural College in England.

Upon graduation, McNiven worked on land entitlement, energy, ranch management and economic development projects in Wyoming and Utah. Most recently, McNiven engaged in various multiple-use, agricultural, and natural resource policy issues as part of former Wyoming gubernatorial candidate, Ron Micheli's campaign.

### Coalition continued from page 2

"Most people who get very passionate about 'protecting' public land will never see that land. They want to own the public land and control it, not do what's best for the resource. We have a lot of work to do to educate the public," Ullery-Whitaker explains.

"The Deficit Commission Report has only one sentence about decreasing the deficit by disposing of surplus federal buildings and lands. Why doesn't the federal government sell some of that land to pay down the deficit," she questions. "Most of federally-owned land is not a national park – much of it is just dirt. Why maintain the bureaucracy to manage and mismanage public lands, when it could be sold to pay down the deficit? The land could be sold, and the federal government could retain the mineral rights and have some benefit from that."

The federal government owns over 48% of the Cowboy State.

"We don't lobby, but we try very hard to educate, and get our message out. It's critical that we do."

For more information on the Big Horn Mountain Coalition, EDD, log onto [www.bighornmountains.org](http://www.bighornmountains.org), or contact Trish Ullery-Whitaker, Executive Director at 214 Center Street, P.O. Box 250, Kaycee, Wyoming 82639, or email [www.ullery@rtconnect.net](mailto:www.ullery@rtconnect.net).

