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# Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 86

June 2011

## Wonderful Wyoming Guardians of the Range 1st Annual Banquet & Auction

~ by *Echo Renner*

**Sheridan** ~ Over 100 people attended the first annual Wonderful Wyoming fundraiser at the Historic Sheridan Inn, May 13, in Sheridan. The non-profit organization Guardians of the Range raised over \$27,000 to further their cause of assisting ranchers with public land grazing issues, advocating for multiple use of public lands, and educating the public.

Craig Mead of Council Bluffs, Iowa was awarded the American Spirit Award. "As a very successful independent businessman, Craig has repeatedly made time to help build the Guardians infrastructure, at no cost to us," says Guardians Executive Director, Kathleen Jachowski of Cody. "Craig is a man with an American spirit to the core. He volunteers as our webmaster. He also participates in public comments relative to our issues, which makes the blood pressure rise among extremists who can't seem to understand his respect and appreciation for the American way of life that is so evident in the ranching culture."

Kimberly Michaelis of Las Vegas, Nevada was awarded Guardian of the Year. "Kimberly has proudly supported the Guardians for several years in a number of ways," comments Jachowski. "A highly successful entrepreneur and owner of the Rafter Star Ranch near Sheridan, Kimberly has a valuable and unique perspective. She has stepped forward on more than one occasion. Kimberly represents what it really means to be a Guardian of the Range; she has a strong mind and character and a warm spirit."

Guardians Board President, Dana Kerns of Sheridan adds, "The point that was so well made at the fundraiser is that people across this great country are desperate to protect private property rights. Our award recipients do not have public grazing allotments. Craig Mead doesn't own a horse or a cow, but both

## JUNE – A Special Edition

Readers will notice this month's newsletter covers three great citizen-sponsored events:

1. Recap of our first annual Wonderful Wyoming dinner & auction in Sheridan
2. Promotion of the June golf tournament to benefit efforts of the Meeteetse FFA
3. Promotion of the June Invitational Bronc Riding Event in Greybull sponsored by Hands Across the Saddle.

The strategic plan of the Guardians includes caring about our communities and nurturing the agricultural goals and interests of young people.

We encourage our readers to attend and / or support these events now and in the future.

Kimberly and Craig have put more into this organization I have."

"In our live and silent auctions, we had bidders from 19 states and Canada. Once people get exposed to what we offer in the West - whether it's hunting, fishing, a cattle drive or whatever - they realize we offer a way of life that helped to build this nation. We offer a life of integrity, morality, hard work, getting knocked down and getting back up, and finding joy in life's simple pleasures." Kerns continues, "It's our job to better inform the general public our way of life. Groups like the Guardians are essential in the education process of preserving the building blocks of this great nation."

Krayton Kerns, DVM and Montana State Legislator, was the featured speaker.

Local FFA members served as the Color Guard.

See next month's newsletter for event photos and a thank you to our sponsors. ★

**"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." ~ Abraham Lincoln (1809—1865)**



## Meeteetse FFA Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 9  
2pm

Olive Glenn Golf Course  
Cody, WY

- \* 18 Hole Scramble
- \* Shotgun Start
- \* 4 Person Teams (select your own team)
- \* Entry fee \$75 / player (Includes green fees, cart rental & dinner)

### HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST

Sponsored by Webster Motors  
A Hole-in-One WINS a LOADED  
2011 Regal!

### PUTTING CONTEST

Sponsored by Pinnacle Bank  
\$500 Guaranteed Payout  
for the Top Three Putters!

### Be A:

Hole Sponsor for \$250 contribution  
Pin Prize Sponsor \$50 suggested value item

### Contact:

Joe Thomas 307-868-9246  
Joey Johnson 307-272-2539  
Morgan Renner 307-868-9274

*Dinner & Awards follow  
the tournament*

*All proceeds benefit local youth*

## Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Your Comments are Welcome & Needed

The Bighorn Basin Draft RMP and Draft EIS are available for review and comment from April 22, 2011 through July 20, 2011.

See Draft Document and Comment Instructions at: [www/blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html).

From the BLM website:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) on October 17, 2008, to prepare the Bighorn Basin (BB) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BB RMP Revision Project is a combined effort revising RMPs for both the BLM Cody and BLM Worland Field Offices. Public lands within the field offices are currently managed according to three RMPs: the Washakie RMP (1988) and Grass Creek RMP (1998) for the Worland Field Office; and the Cody RMP (1990). The field offices will produce a single RMP and EIS encompassing both field offices that will be called the Bighorn Basin RMP Project. Each field office will issue its own Record of Decision for its jurisdictional area.

The revised plan will provide future direction for approximately 3.2 million surface acres and 4.2 million acres of federal mineral estate in north-west Wyoming. The revised plan will establish goals and objectives for resource management; identify lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any restrictions and lands that are administratively unavailable to certain uses; provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses; and make broad scale decisions guiding future site-specific implementation decisions. The area includes 12 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), two areas of special designation, and seven special recreation management areas. The planning area includes part of Hot Springs, and all of Park, Washakie, and Big Horn County, Wyoming.

You don't need to comment on entire document. See Index and select your area of interest.

ALSO: See Guardian website for tips on commenting. Click on Issues for BLM. ★

## Guardian Members Seek Good Help

Immediate openings for experienced ranch hands!

Seeking experienced help with three work references.  
Temporary and permanent positions.  
Calving on the range; everything done on horseback.  
Full ranching position including calving, fencing, irrigation. Some with housing.

Hyattville area

Contact: Kathleen Jachowski at 307.587.3723  
[guardians@hughes.net](mailto:guardians@hughes.net)



## Making a Difference with Federal Agencies: Interview with Bighorn County Commissioner Keith Grant

~ by Echo Renner

"We are experiencing a concerted war on the West by Washington D.C. Many counties in Wyoming are facing new Resource Management Plan Revisions. The federal agencies will lead us down the prim rose path of half truths, expecting us to believe everything they say. Trust, but verify," encourages Bighorn County Commissioner, Keith Grant of Lovell. "It is necessary for us to read the federal agency's planning hand book, planning regulations, guiding legislation and NEPA. Know their laws and regulations better than they do - it's not that hard, because they don't actually read their own laws and regulations. We must study the tactics used by the environmental community, and learn how to force the agencies to respect our opinions."

Grant, and others like him, are fighting back against the war on the West. Grant is beginning his fourth term as Bighorn County Commissioner - a county that is 82 percent public lands. He is currently involved in the Resource Management Plan Revision with the BLM in the Bighorn Basin. Previously, he was involved in the Resource Management Plan Revision of the Bighorn National Forest Plan, and the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service planning on the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

"Be prepared to counter the half-truths agencies repeatedly use," cautions Grant. "Read and know the Multiple-Use and Sustained-Yield Act. When they tell you it reads, "some land will be used for less than all of the resources," you can respond, "it reads "without impairment of the productivity of the land"."

Grant believes it's vital for ranchers to be involved in the public land processes. "Public comments are the scoping process that drive the decision process. The environmental community is very, very involved, and they comment all the time. Our ranchers are at home working, trying to make a living, but by not being involved they are making it easier for the environmental groups to be successful in forwarding their agenda," Grant explains. "The ranching community has to make their voice heard in writing and get those comments in the public record. Too many times, ranchers tell their range cons and think that's enough. Unless input is in writing, it has almost no value."

"Ranchers contact your county, state and federal elected

### 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).

**HANDS ACROSS THE SADDLE**  
presents  
invitational **SADDLE BRONC** competition

**THE 20th ANNUAL**

**JUNE 11, 2011**  
BRIMLEY'S B7 ARENA  
1:00 PM

**WALT ARGE**  
**100% OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT RESIDENTS OF THE BIG HORN BASIN**

Admission:  
\$40/person  
Kids 12 and under FREE

For more information call: 307.765.4466 or 307.765.9312  
Tickets on sale at Greybull Building Center  
Arena located 7 miles East of Greybull on Davis Road off Hwy 14. Look for signs  
[www.handsacrossthesaddle.org](http://www.handsacrossthesaddle.org)

**CALCUTTA BEFORE THE EVENT**

officials. Comment on everything in writing to make your voice is heard."

County commissioners have more influence with the federal agencies than you, or most of them realize, says Grant. "Encourage them to be involved in your allotment plans. Make sure your commissioners know all the facts; do not send them in with half the facts. He or she can help; just their presence can make the negotiations better."

By law, federal agencies are required to consult and coordinate their plans with local land use plans, and be as consistent with those plans as possible.

*please see **knowledge** on page 4*

### Join Guardians of the Range

#### LIVESTOCK OPERATORS:

\$100 for up to 50 head of cattle  
\$2.00 a head from 51 to 1,500 cattle  
40 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

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

## Guardians of the Range

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82401

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*knowledge continued from page 3*

“It is our duty, as elected local government,” explains Grant, “to ensure the agencies are informed of our plans, and that they fully consider them. Our involvement with those agencies must be recorded. We must have a documented record for our administrative file, so when, or if, the time comes, we are prepared for litigation.”

“Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) afford the opportunity for local government to influence decisions made by federal agencies. We have the right to be involved in the development of the EA’s and EIS’s, even if the agencies don’t want us to be. Insist on it. Document it.”

He continues, “Any County Commissioner body with public lands in their county that is not educating themselves on, and becoming involved in, public lands issues is not doing their job. As elected county commissioners, we have the power, now we must develop the knowledge.”

Grant says finding and utilizing a good consultant can prove invaluable in working with federal agencies. “When we are unable to educate ourselves enough to fight these issues, we need to remember that there are folks out there who are educated in these issues that can help. A few folks I have come to know and appreciate are Gregory Kennett with ERG, and Wyoming attorneys Harriet Hageman and Karen Budd Fallen.

“It does no good to say, ‘I don’t like it’ or ‘I’ve done it this way for ever’. Know the facts and have the data. Comment, and make sure your comments are substantive. Don’t give up!” ★

## The Rules On Your BLM Lands May Be Changing

The BLM is in the process of revising the way your public lands in the Bighorn Basin will be managed for the next 20 years.

The resource management plan operates much like zoning regulations, and will have far-reaching effects on how we use our public lands. The economic and social condition of our communities, as well as your business, family and friends are directly related to management decisions currently being formulated by the BLM. If we are to preserve our culture, interests and way of life, we need your help. Your local government cooperators in this planning effort need YOUR involvement. You have the right and responsibility to provide comments and give direction in this most important process. Outside interests will be very vocal about this plan, but people who live elsewhere are not the ones whose livelihood depends on federal lands in the Bighorn Basin. It is yours, and the BLM needs to have your comments in writing.

Download the document from: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>, or pick up a copy at the Cody or Worland Field Offices, or the Wind River / Bighorn Basin District Office.

Submit your comments in writing to:  
[www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html).