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Guardians of the Range

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

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September 2011

Executive Director

Executive Director will be unavailable:
 August 26 ~ September 2, and
 September 13 ~ 18th.

WIN for BLM, State of Idaho & Ranchers Monitoring & Adaptive Management Do Matter---Who Knew?

On July 22, 2011, the Honorable B. Lynn Winmill, Chief U.S. District Judge ruled against Western Watersheds Project in its effort to keep livestock grazing off of 28 allotments on the BLM Jarbridge Resource Area. This is good news, and actually extraordinary news because Judge Windmill has been no friend to public land agencies or public land grazers.

In this case, however, reason and fairness prevailed. The very shortest of legal backgrounds on this case runs something like this. In 2005, Judge Windmill ruled to stop grazing on these 28 allotments because they had been determined by the BLM to not have met Fundamental Rangeland Health Standards. The BLM then began, under a Stipulated Settlement Agreement (SSA), to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct both monitoring and an inventory to determine compliance with an Interim Grazing Management Plan.

*Please see **WIN** on page 2*

Texas Ranchers Need Help

Many ranches and livestock in Texas are in jeopardy due to the drought and fires in the southwest. These ranchers are looking for pasture/grass to lease long-term for their livestock.

If you or your neighbors have space on your ranches, or know someone who does, the Guardians encourage you to contact Joe Leathers, 6666 Ranch, Guthrie, Texas, jleathers@6666ranch.com, phone (806) 786-6900 or Dennis Braden, SMS Ranch, kdennis_96@sbcglobal.net, Stamford, Texas, (325) 338-8949.

Thank you for spreading the word.

Elected Officials Spending YOUR Tax Dollars Wisely

Over \$458,666 has been spent between October 2008 - June 2011 by the elected officials working on the revision of the Resource Management Plan for the BLM's Cody and Worland areas.

One of the positive outcomes has been convincing the BLM to keep 450,000 acres of YOUR public lands under full multiple use management and NOT the agency's initial intent to designate these acres as No Surface Occupancy! This works out to about \$1 per acre.

This would not have been possible without the financial wherewithal to have solid and ethical consulting work done on your behalf.

The BLM has spent OVER A MILLION DOLLARS on this draft document. The specific breakdown of the agency's costs have been requested, and we hope by next newsletter to have this information. STAY TUNED!

**"It's not tyranny we desire; it's a just, limited, federal government."
 ~ Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804)
 First Secretary of the Treasury and author of most of the Federalist Papers**



Photo courtesy Kathleen Jachowski and USFS

Cory Toye (left) of Trout Unlimited; Kathleen Jachowski, Guardians of the Range; and Bob Capron, a Trout Unlimited volunteer, during a recent field inspection of an irrigation diversion project on Timber Creek in Park County with monies from the Secure Rural Schools funds available to the Shoshone NF.

The Guardians serve on this Resource Advisory Council which recommends projects for funding that meet a criteria for improvement of water quality and resource conditions on the ground.

Next month, we'll cover another terrific project approved for funding to address invasive weeds in both Park and Fremont Counties.

Wyoming Livestock Board Appoints New Director

In August, the Wyoming Livestock Board appointed Leanne Stevenson as the new Director and Chief Executive Officer of the board. Leanne is a Wyoming native who was raised on a ranch north of Torrington. She has extensive experience in livestock production and management. For the last four years she has served as the Manager of Natural Resources and Policy Division for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Stevenson states, "I am both honored and pleased to be chosen as the next Livestock Board Director and Chief Executive Officer. I am excited about serving the livestock industry and producers of the state. I hope to look for proactive solutions in addressing current livestock issues."

She replaces Jim Schwartz who served as the first livestock board Director from 2006 through June 2011. Stevenson began her duties in August.



WIN continued from page 1

Then comes a huge fire (400,000 acres) and destroys a great deal of sage grouse habitat.....nothing is ever simple in resource management.

Then comes anti grazing folks - WWP - trying to derail the Interim Grazing Management Plans, even though the BLM was adaptively managing around the fire impacts while staying on track for getting the landscape moving in the right direction. Anti-grazing folks wanted to stop the 28 allotments from being grazed under the agreement, and wanted to have the court intervene against (prevent) grazing on 36 additional allotments. More is never enough with WWP.

Anyway, the BLM and State of Idaho were able to demonstrate to the court that they were doing everything possible to manage the landscape in a crisis situation.

Ranchers then moved to be relieved from the ban on grazing. It had to be demonstrated that continuing under this ban was not only injurious, but hampered rehabilitation of the landscape destroyed by fire: Thankfully, Vander Voet, Field Office Manager of the BLM's Jarbridge Resource Area testified that the total ban on grazing was hampering his ability to manage the main risk to sage grouse - fire.

From the court's document: "He testified that managed grazing could reduce the fuel load and at least slow down wildfires. He also testified that the ban makes it difficult to plan multi-year grazing rotations between pastures. There is a patchwork of private and state land holdings within these allotments - and just outside their boundaries - that are not subject to the injunction. The ban on BLM land prevents Vander Voet from using grazing rotation among pastures as a tool to reduce grazing's impact, and also makes it difficult for him to work with state and private land managers on joint conservation projects.

The gist of Vander Voet's testimony was that the injunction is interfering with the BLM's energetic management of the 17 allotments. That was not the case when the injunction was put into place in 2005. At that time, the Court confronted allotments that had been ravaged by grazing that was not subject to vigorous control. Today, the situation is much different. The BLM is engaged in both monitoring and inventory activity - the agency is taking inventory of the resources in these allotments and also monitoring trends in key indicators."

So.....the Judge agreed all that could be done was being done.....and the BLM could proceed with its Interim Management Plan and its efforts to rehabilitate the landscape.....and yes livestock grazing was recognized as a credible tool to reach that end.

Please see **WIN** continued on page 4



by Kathleen Jachowski

Direct from the Director: Leading the Herd

The Board of Directors is extending an invitation to Guardian members (old and new) to consider serving on the board, or nominating a member you think would bring additional leadership and insight to the Guardian effort.

Elections will take place at the annual meeting in February 2012. This 'heads up' on board recruitment will give the nominating committee time to contact prospective board members to determine their interest and share with them what is involved time and effort wise.

We now operate with nine board members, and are expanding that circle to 13. We are also anticipating replacing any retiring board members who have been serving since inception of the organization.

We need a wide variety of skill sets. We welcome and encourage business members as well as those with ranching experience. Our strength and effectiveness is to be found in a diverse talent base.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at: 587-3723. Thank you for helping to recruit top-notch folks for a top-notch organization.

Kathleen

Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director
307.587.3723 guardians@hughes.net

Clay Gibbons

Guardian Clay Gibbons is continuing to recover from his heart problems this past July. Recovery has had a couple of setbacks, but he is pressing forward.

**If you'd like to visit with Clay he can be reached at:
307-388-4145 cell
307-347-2671 home**

Wayne Barnett

Guardian Wayne Barnett is at home, feeling none to well.

**If you would like to share a word of encouragement he can be reached at:
307-765-2926**

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.

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

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WIN continued from page 2

The need for MONITORING cannot be overstated or over emphasized in the world of the public land rancher. Lack of acceptable monitoring created this Jarbridge nightmare, and appropriate monitoring has helped to give ranchers their successful day in court.

Our thanks to Vander Voet, BLM Field Office Manager and his staff for not only doing the job that needed to get done, but having the courage to clearly and honestly make the case for the benefit to sage grouse which grazing livestock brings to range resources. ★

Horse Loses - No Surprise!

On August 5, the carcass of an adult mare was found on private property on Carter Mountain, outside of Cody. The mare had apparently been dead a few days when discovered by its owner. It had been sharing a pasture with its colt and a gelding. When interviewed by the *Cody Enterprise* newspaper, Mark Bruscano, a grizzly bear specialist with WY Game & Fish stated, "With grizzlies, predacious behavior on large livestock usually involves an adult male. They are certainly capable of it. They are known to sometimes kill adult moose and elk." Indications are an adult male bear (boar) killed the horse, but a female (sow) and cubs had been feeding on the carcass. ★

Fairness Fee Adopted by Board of Directors (Effectively Immediately)

The Board of Directors recently voted to adopt a special one-time \$500 Fairness Fee, or 'catch up' fee if you will.

This Fairness Fee covers situations where a permittee chooses to join only because they need help on an immediate issue. The reasoning behind the Fairness Fee 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 Fairness Fee is appropriate and respectful of the past and ongoing support and organizational vision of current members.

The Fairness Fee is applicable to any new membership that needs immediate help, OR help within 90 days of joining the Guardians of the Range, and is payable concurrent with initial dues. ★