



# Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 98

June 2012



P.O. Box 472  
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[www.GuardiansOfTheRange.org](http://www.GuardiansOfTheRange.org)

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## Guardians Represented at Buffalo Small Business Expo



Here's a photo of your Executive Director manning the Guardian booth at the Buffalo Small Business Expo on March 30 and 31.

We met great people and spread the word about our unique and special organization. Board Director Dave Fraley, and his wife Robin, graciously opened their home to us while in Buffalo...making your support dollars go even further. We thank them most sincerely! ★



## National Day of the American Cowboy

Saturday, July 28, 2012

## Socio-Economics Names You Should Know! Who is defining your life?

~ by Kathleen Jachowski

Ray Rasker, Executive Director of Headwaters Economics is a name and organization with whom you should begin, right now, to familiarize yourself. Start with: [www.headwaterseconomics.org](http://www.headwaterseconomics.org). Take a careful look at this website and then begin to read some of its material.

Ray Rasker spearheaded the signing and circulation of a letter endorsed by 100 economists and academics calling on President Obama to create more monuments, parks, and wilderness areas—all in the name of economic growth.

He embraces the idea that such restrictive designations strengthen the economies of rural America. To advocate that position is certainly his right as an American.

However, when his work, and that of this organization, is being contracted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to provide data collection, research and 'tools' for developing socio-economic models for the agencies to use in the development of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Studies, you better take a serious and hard look at what this means to you and your life as an American.

The use of an Excel-based 'tool' called "economic profiling system (EPS) is provided for free on the internet by Headwaters Economics. What you need to think about and pay continuing close attention to is: how this data is being interpreted. How are both the USFS and the BLM interpreting this socio-economic data? Where in this data do you find a balanced presentation about the benefits of natural resource utilization?

Please see **Headwaters** on page 2

**"Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential."**  
~ Winston Churchill, statesman (1874 – 1965)

## Monitoring Help Available

### Rangeland Health Assessment Program Application Deadline is 5pm on June 30, 2012

Request for Proposal (RFP) application and supporting documents are available at <http://agriculture.wy.gov/divisions/nrp/resource-management/rangeland>. Application and Supporting Information links can also be found in the RFP document.

Please refer to these documents when completing the application. All applications must be completed and submitted by mail and electronically by June 30th, 2012 at 5:00 pm. An Application Approval Checklist is available online to ensure applications are complete. ★

## A Pig in Sunday School

*Sue Wallis posted this to the United Horsemen website. It is from Meetingplace columnist Raoul Baxter's "The 'Wounded' Meat Industry". [www.Meetingplace.com](http://www.Meetingplace.com)*

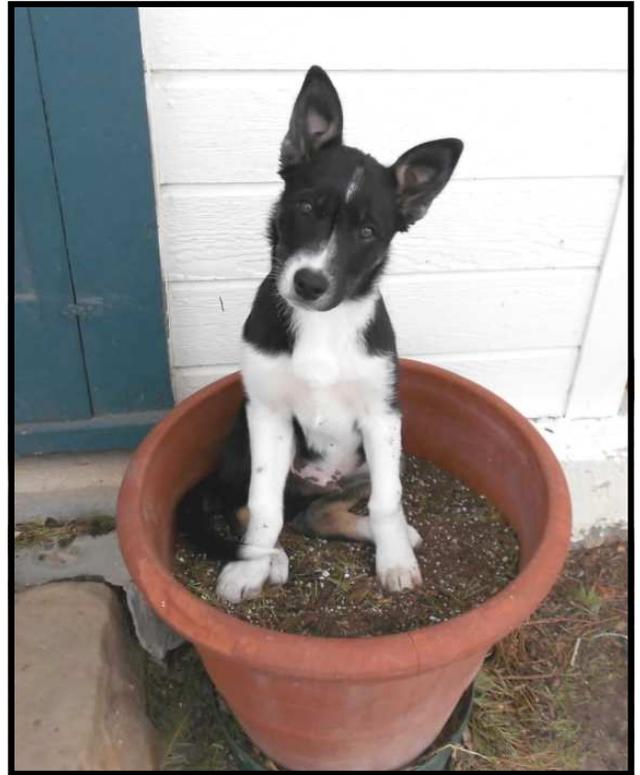
"The meat and livestock industry has been taking more arrows than Custer did at Wounded Knee lately. Part of the reason is that we in the industry tend to be extremely insular. I have always believed that if you want to remain ignorant about anything in life, just talk to or read things written by people who agree with you. Unpleasant as it often times can be, one has to read contrary views. It doesn't mean one has to agree with anyone. It just means you have to understand your competition and your adversaries.

We don't live in a rational world. We don't live in a world where it is easy to find facts and to verify basic truths. You have a lot of groups out there who could absolutely care less about facts, reality or balance. Historically the meat and livestock industries have had a group ostrich mentality. Those days are over. We have to start with the basics.

Not a day goes by that some group or study is talking about sustainability. Somewhere along the line, one has to begin separating fact from fiction. There are so many definitions about sustainability, you get a headache trying to find out what is legitimate. A basic aspect of sustainability that people seem to sidestep is that first you have to make a profit. Without profit, nothing works. Samuel Gompers, one of the founding leaders of the American Labor union movement in this country, even said that "the first obligation an employer has to its employees is to make a profit." This does not mean unbridled profit, but it does mean the generation of money to keep society and an economy going.

Without the responsibility and ability to make a profit there will just be a wounded landscape. I am as aware about the warts and shortcomings about our livestock and food industries as anybody. Imperfect as it may be, it is critical to the economy of America and the well being of people everywhere in the world.

Please see **Pig** continued on page 2



Here's your Executive Director's new border collie, Carbon! He was watching for grizzly bears, which roam his neighborhood. He is now in training in Kaycee by Lisa Cunningham. We'll publish a graduation picture when he comes back home in June. ★



### **Headwaters** continued from page 1

Chris Mehl, policy director for Headwaters has said that this group has recently run training sessions for federal staff, which not only covered how to use the EPS tool, but also, to a lesser extent, to instruct in how to interpret results.

More next month.....but in the meantime.....have your son, grandson, daughter or other technically savvy person search out and print off some reading material in large print.

I hate to have to sound so bossy.....but this is important, and the Guardians care about your socio-economics and how your livelihoods are portrayed. ★

## 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).

## Direct from the Director: Stewardship...Is a Matter of Degree



Warm weather brings more than just livestock to the public lands we share with others. Millions of recreating visitors use warm weather and open landscapes to relax and enjoy a change of pace. Fortunately for our nation, we have a great deal of open public landscapes upon which to recreate.

Responsible recreating is as important to public land stewardship as is properly managing livestock, mining, harvesting timber, exploring for and producing oil and natural gas, and the harnessing of wind and solar power.

Unique to recreation, however, is the general public's thin recognition and acknowledgement that recreation, like any other use on public land, can have negative impacts when it is not carefully managed.

In a recent 'public lands and issues' meeting in Cody in which the Guardians participated, it was obvious that the environmentalists (who now prefer to be referred to as conservationists) and some recreational interest groups have never considered that they themselves are increasing the pressure on public landscapes... by encouraging an endless stream of visitors to come and recreate. The words 'solitude', 'spiritual experience', 'wilderness', 'quiet', and 'finding balance' slid easily off their lips.

I did not, however, once hear acknowledgement from this quarter that both recreational pastimes and recreational business interests encourage people to come and use the public landscape and that with more people comes less solitude!

It was gratifying, however, to listen to one industry person after another find their courage and pride to speak directly and articulately about how they, almost to a person, had been born and raised in Wyoming or the rural west, and that they had grown up hunting, fishing and spiritually bonding with the land, yet they were proud to work and earn a living via resource utilization. How refreshing!

One fly-fishing outfitter from Park County announced that it was probably past time for traditional users of public lands to 'fade from the landscape' and make room for newer interests (code for recreationists). You could almost hear this person audibly wince when an oil and gas professional born and raised in the Big Horn Basin made the point that his life-time favorite fishing hole on the Greybull river had been discovered by recreational fishermen and that the four times he went there to fish in 2011 there was a fly-fishing outfitter there with clients lining the shore. He politely and clearly made the point that 'So.... there goes my solitude'. Point well-made and point well taken.

I pointed out that the overused reference to 'finding balance' on public land issues did not mean pushing one group of citizens off the cliff so there would be more room for other special interests... and that those who would advocate such a 'balancing act' would most definitely not be saying such things if American Indians were sitting around the table. Have we learned nothing from past transgressions?

If discussions of public lands and natural resource issues are to ever produce substantive results and engender genuine mutual respect, there must be a maturity of thought and a depth of insight.....these are the things that bring a sense of shared responsibilities to the stewardship of public lands.

*Kathleen*

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### *Pig continued from page 1*

I have literally been all over the world. I was in communist countries before and after the collapse. I have been to socialist and pseudo-socialist countries. I have been all over these countries, not just staying in isolated hotels for Western tourists. I have seen firsthand what a lack of profit does to an environment, a society and a country. Since not a single one of them has been anything but a disaster, what exactly do people think is going to go down in agribusiness if we keep sliding the way we are?

There are a lot of people writing blogs and writing articles who know as much about agriculture as a pig does about Sunday School. We have to confront them at every turn. With boring facts and open honesty — but that is the only way." ★

## 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.

**You may join on line:**

**[www.GuardiansoftheRange.org](http://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**

**[www.GuardiansoftheRange.org](http://www.GuardiansoftheRange.org)**

# Guardians of the Range

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## Victory for Ag Families

*News Release from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation*

"The Labor Department's notification today that it is withdrawing proposed rules that would have prevented many young people from working in agriculture is the right decision for our nation's family-based agriculture system," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. "Farm Bureau appreciates the administration's decision and efforts by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to listen to farmers, ranchers and other rural Americans. We also know that this would not have happened without the efforts of Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.) and others in Congress, and we thank them for standing up for agriculture and the rural way of life."

"This victory for farm families is due to the thousands of farmers and ranchers who sent comments to the Labor Department opposing the rules and continued to voice their concerns with members of Congress. This announcement shows the strength of American agriculture and grassroots action," He continued.

"Farm Bureau will continue working to ensure that the parental exemptions that remain important to agriculture will be protected, and we will continue our work to help educate families about the importance of farm safety," Stallman concluded. "We also look forward to working with the Departments of Agriculture and Labor, and rural stakeholders to develop a program to promote safer agricultural working practices."

