



Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 101

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Guardians at Work

Draft comments on SNF plan revision

Sage-grouse Local Working Group project selection

Secure Rural Schools – project field review

Initiation of membership survey

Shoshone NF Forest Plan Revision Draft EIS Comment Deadline: November 1, 2012

www.fs.usda.gov/detail/shoshone/home/?cid=stelprdb5379153

OR

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone>

(Then on right side of home page click on: Highlights – Forest Plan Revision)

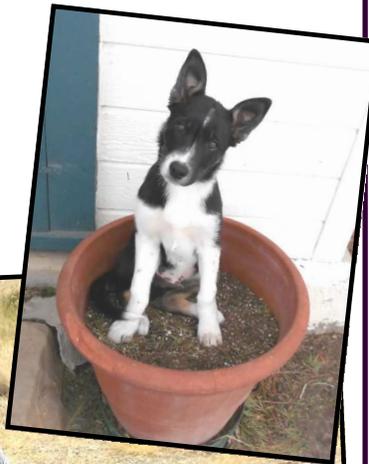
At long last, the draft environmental impact statement for revision of the existing forest plan has been released. We encourage all permittees and other members of the interested public who use the Shoshone NF for various purposes to review, at a minimum, the section of this draft that is of most interest to you.

By using the above internet address you can easily click on the link for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The table of contents, which will come up on the left side, is an easy avenue for you to find the section you most want to review, and perhaps comment upon.

For those unfamiliar with forest plans and their significance to things you are interested in, the short version goes like this: A separate forest plan is required under the National Forest Management Act for each national forest. They are supposed to be revised every 10 to 15 years.

The plans are developed with both agency and public participation. The revision of the Shoshone plan has been a difficult effort besieged by national legal hurdles beyond the control of the Shoshone NF forest staff.

Now, however, the draft has finally been completed and is available for final public comments, which are due by November 1, 2012.



Puppy Carbon (top right) before stock dog training school. (Above) Carbon immediately after graduation test which was comprised of 98 degree heat and 45 minutes of steady Border Collie 'get'er done'!

Thank you for indulging your Executive Director's moment of bragging!

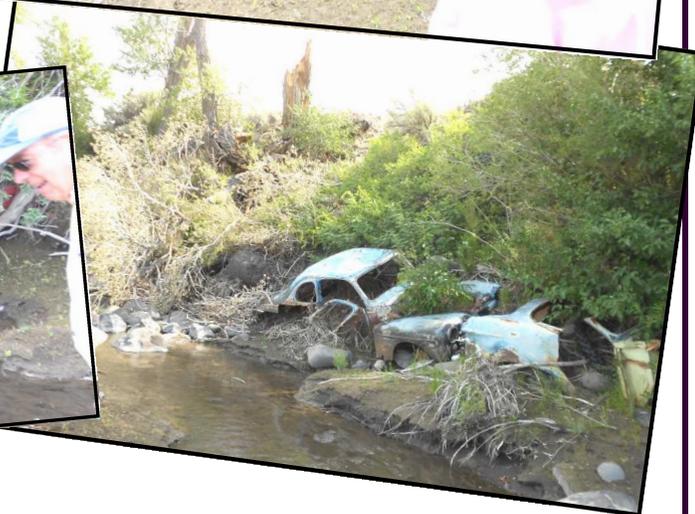
"A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."

~ Gerald Ford (1913 – 2006), 38th American President

Shoshone River Project

(Right) Jill Siggins, Contractor/Project Coordinator for the Cody Conservation District's Shoshone River Project inspects part of river bank from which old cars and trucks and miscellaneous mechanical parts will be removed. Bank stabilization will be part of the project. This long overdue project will help to restore the beauty along the Southfork of the Shoshone River. It is one of the projects funded under the Secure Rural Schools legislation and overseen by the Resource Advisory Council on which the Guardians serve.

(Bottom Left) Roy Holm's engineering firm, Holm Blough & Co., will be designing some of the project specifics as the Shoshone River project gets underway this fall. This Secure Rural Schools project will help restore and stabilize parts of the river's banks to a more natural aspect. The Guardians serve on the Resource Advisory Committee which recommends projects to the supervisor of the Shoshone NF, and acts as liaison to the agency through project completion.



Representative Lummis Wins Long-Sought Equal Access to Justice Act Improvements

Lummis amendment to require the tracking and reporting of tax-payer reimbursements for lawsuits passes the House unanimously

~ By Danielle Dills, Grassroots and Policy Advisor, National Association of Conservation Districts

Washington ~ The U.S. House of Representatives has passed by voice vote Congressman Cynthia Lummis' (R-Wyo) amendment to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), legislation passed in 1980 to reimburse individuals who otherwise could not afford to legally pursue claims against the government. Congress intended that EAJA operate as a social safety net program, with reimbursements available for the nation's veterans, seniors and small business. However, as scholarly journals from Virginia Tech and Notre Dame, GAO reports, and open court and tax records show, in recent years EAJA funds have been flowing to environmental organizations filing suit on procedural grounds.

Rep. Lummis' amendment restores transparency to EAJA payments by reinstating tracking and reporting requirements on all attorney reimbursements. The amendment also requires the creation of a searchable, online data base of all EAJA payments so tax-payers can easily access information on payments made, to whom, how much, and why. The amendment is pulled from Rep. Lummis' H.R. 1996, the Government Litigation and Savings Act (GLSA), a bill that improves EAJA by ensuring a fair market rate for attorneys representing seniors, veterans and small businesses, while at the same time closing loopholes that have allowed EAJA to be exploited. Going forward, the amendment will allow for more careful management of EAJA payments government-wide.

"Today's unanimous vote to require the robust tracking of tax-payer funded attorney's fees is a significant step toward updating EAJA," Lummis said. "The House has now spoken on this issue. In a bipartisan way, we have made clear that no one receiving tax-payer funds to pursue legal action against the government can do so in secret. There is more to do to make EAJA work the way it was intended. We need to ensure that our nation's veterans, seniors and small businesses have access to qualified attorneys. And we must put in place a reasonable eligibility standard for accessing EAJA in the first place. I am committed to working with both Republicans and Democrats to make the changes necessary to improve EAJA." ★

Direct from the Director: Meatless Mondays



by Kathleen
Jachowski

Several issues ago we ran a piece on the big push for "Meatless Mondays" in our school systems and those of the ever popular 'global village'.

No industrial or commercial sector of society is impervious to either praise or criticism, fair or unfair. It's called life on planet earth.

Prudence dictates, however, that those of us in the business of meat production had better stay on top of: (1) What the global information highway is delivering in terms of the *character assassination* of meat and; (2) What influence is our very own U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) deliberately using to develop a negative perception in the minds of the public about eating meat.

The July 23 edition of USDA's Greening Headquarters Update reads as follows:

"One simple way to reduce your environmental impact while dining at our cafeterias is to participate in the "Meatless Monday" initiative <http://meatlessmonday.com>'. This International effort, as the name implies, encourages people not to eat meat on Mondays...."

It goes on to read:"*The production of meat, especially beef (and dairy as well), has a large environmental impact. It gets worse....."Did you notice that our cafeterias have tasty meatless options? So you can really help yourself and the environment while having a good vegetarian meal!"* (They are referring to USDA employee cafeterias here.)

Now, here is where it starts to get particularly interesting. As soon as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) called USDA and took great exception to this attack the USDA hurriedly came up with this:

Courtney Rowe, press secretary, USDA Office of Communications, attributed the following message to an unnamed USDA spokesperson: "USDA does not endorse Meatless Monday. The statement found on the USDA website was posted without proper clearance and it has been removed."

As of press time, I still have not been able to find a 'paper trail' that confirms the USDA's denial of endorsement of Meatless Mondays. I have searched the USDA press release website, e-mailed Courtney Rowe, Press Secretary, USDA and so far nothing.

Here's the significance of this. So far all we, the citizens, have is an unidentified **VERBAL** denial of support. In deliberately not issuing a paper trail of denial the agency's denial of its endorsement gets lost and unprovable over time. What a clever way to make it almost impossible to archive the change in position. Take the article off of the website and poof the agency lets the dust settle without a paper trail to deal with later.

USDA is too important nationally and globally to have 'mistakes' of this magnitude happening. It is far more significant 'a mistake' than just an employee operating with a free hand. The problem is deeper. The problem is an unspoken and growing agenda with intent of marginalizing those industries which choose to produce meat.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is either gross incompetence or grossly unethical!

Kathleen

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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

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TOP HAND

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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

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

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.

Guardians of the Range

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BLM - Worland John Elliot Promotion

With the promotion and transfer of Mike Tietmeyer to the BLM's Nevada operations, Worland native John Elliott was selected to fill the position of Supervisor of Range Management Specialists, effective July 30. Many BLM permittees already know John and have worked with him over the years. Regardless, here is a little extra background information.

Elliot is a graduate from the University of Wyoming in range science. He started as a seasonal Range Tech with the BLM in 1992, and moved on to the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Range Con in South Dakota from 1993 – 1995. He joined the US Geological Survey as a Hydro Tech in Cheyenne and Casper from 1995 to 2001. He returned to his hometown of Worland, serving in the BLM field office since 2001.

John Elliot's direct and honest approach to conducting business has been most appreciated by those of us who have worked with him. ★

Interested in public land statistics?

<http://www.blm.gov/nhp/browse.htm>

(click on 'public land statistics'
on right side of page)

Desert Land Entry (DLE) Applications BLM Worland

Not so fast!

We are periodically cautioning permittees who are thinking of submitting an application for a Desert Land Entry (DLE) to be fully aware that the processing of such applications is way, way down on the priority list in the Worland office. Even though you will receive a letter of acknowledgement that you have applied, and that it will, in time, be handled, the timeline for actually executing your application is completely open ended----with no reasonable end in sight. An efficient use of your time and resources dictates that you fully discuss your intentions with the appropriate BLM staff person prior to deciding to make a submission.

Prudence is a partner to profitability! ★

Interested in Agricultural Research Service?

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/>

(type it in just as shown---I know it looks strange)