

Guardians of the Range

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

Newsletter No. 111

August 2013



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Our Thanks & Apology

Your Executive Director extends her apologies for having left out two of our sponsors for Wonderful Wyoming 2013 in our July newsletter.

That mistake rests on my shoulders as the final proof reader of each newsletter.

So on behalf of the Guardians of the Range, I want to acknowledge and thank both Rafter Star Ranch of Sheridan, WY & Wendell & Loretta Cayton of Wenatchee, WA for their sponsorships of Wonderful Wyoming 2013.

It is difficult, at best, to try and make up for such an oversight. However, both my apology, and the organization's expression of thanks and appreciation is genuine.

Padlock Ranch: Proud to call Padlock a Guardian!

Article by Saige Albert
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& Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Stewardship accolades: Padlock Ranch hosts Environmental Stewardship Tour Ranchester

~ With over 200 people in attendance, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA), Wyoming Department of Agriculture and Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA) jointly held the Environmental Stewardship Tour on July 9, recognizing Padlock Ranch for its excellence in improving landscapes, maintaining an operational cattle ranch and striving for continued improvement.

"Successful ranches enable the community to continue to have vast amounts of open space that would otherwise be used for uses that would not enhance water and air quality, wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities to the public," said Wayne Fahsholtz, president and CEO of Padlock Ranch. "When I came here 10 years ago, we really had the opportunity to look at our practices and decide what we needed to do to have as good a ranch as we could and to grow as much grass as possible."

Padlock Ranch and Wayne and Judi Fahsholtz received the 2013 Leopold Conservation Award, presented by Sand County Foundation, and the MSGA Environmental Stewardship Award. In addition, MSGA and WSGA will be jointly nominating the ranch for the National Environmental Stewardship Award presented by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Ranch management

Since Homer and Mildred Scott purchased Padlock Ranch in 1943, the initial 3,000-acre ranch has grown to encompass over 500,000 acres on the Wyoming-Montana border. Today, they operate their sustainable, profitable cattle operation raising natural beef.



Top: Padlock Ranch and Big Horn Mountains. Bottom: Wayne Fahsholtz, President & CEO of Padlock Ranch, visits with attendees on the Wonderful Wyoming 2013 Historic Ranch Tour. Attendees toured the Double Rafter Ranch, Padlock Ranch and Eaton's Ranch on June 1st.

Photos courtesy Kathleen Jachowski.

Please see **Padlock** on page 3

Follow Up on Blueways Water Grab

We recently ran a 'heads up' on the National Blueways, a poorly disguised effort to take control of all waterways in the United States. Not so fast...elected officials are still attempting to avoid this travesty and compromise of various water rights around the nation. Read the letter below...then consider sending an e-mail to your federal elected officials and let them know of your concerns. See the June E-Guardian newsletter on our website for background reading....www.guardiansoftherange.org.

July 11, 2013

Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman, Water & Power Subcommittee
House Committee on Natural Resources

Chairmen;

Thank you for your continued leadership in seeking answers to local concerns regarding the Department of the Interior's designation of the White River watershed as the National Blueway. Although the designation has been rescinded, we still have some concerns about future designations and why the region initially received the Blueways status without local input.

We need to better understand the Department's process for naming regions to the National Blueway System, and want to ensure an opt-out mechanism exists for the Blueways system in other areas of the country and for any future land designations that might arise. Many local elected leaders in the affected counties expressed their opposition to the White River designation, and are worried that future designations would lead to increased regulatory activity and threats to private property rights. Others have emphasized that conservation should be locally led, not driven by "Secretarial Orders" out of Washington.

We need answers to the following questions:

1. how states can opt-out of the Blueways program, 2. how much the program costs and how the Department is paying for it, 3. the legal authority that the Administration is using to justify the unilateral creation of this program, 4. the alleged benefits of the program, and 5. an explanation for the sufficient, closed-door process that was used to justify the White River designation. These questions are important not only for the citizens of the White River watershed but also for those that could be subject to future Blueways being pursued around the country.

This issue - and other federal natural resource matters affecting our districts - deserve congressional attention. As such, we invite you and the House Natural Resource Committee to conduct a field hearing in the White River watershed to hear directly from those who live in and conserve the watershed. We stand ready to work with you in any way possible to help facilitate this important visit and hope we can continue to work together to protect the rights of private property owners.

Sincerely,

(s) Jason Smith, Member of Congress
(s) Billy Long, Member of Congress



BLM Big Horn Basin Additional Comments Sought

Notice of Availability of a Supplement to the Bighorn Basin Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Cody and Worland Field Offices, WY

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing the availability of a Supplement to the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bighorn Basin Planning Area and announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Supplement to the Draft RMP/EIS within 90 days after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its notice of availability of the Supplement in the Federal Register. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public participation activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments related to the Supplement to the Draft RMP/EIS by any of the following methods:

Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/RMPs/bighorn.

Email: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

Mail: Worland Field Office, Attn: RMP Project Manager, 101 South 23rd, Worland, WY 82401.

Copies of the Supplemental Draft RMP/EIS are available at the BLM offices in Cody, Worland and Cheyenne, and on the web at: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/RMPs/bighorn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Manager, telephone 307-347-5171; address 101 South 23rd Street, Worland, WY 82401; email chiner@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Planning Area for the RMP supplement includes lands within the BLM Cody and Worland Field Offices administrative boundaries, in all of Big Horn, Park and Washakie Counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. The Planning Area includes all lands, regardless of jurisdiction, totaling 5.6 million acres; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction. Lands within the Planning Area under the BLM's jurisdiction make up the Decision Area. The Decision Area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres. The BLM-administered surface acreage and the Federal mineral estate acreage overlap in some areas.



Padlock *continued from page 1*

“Padlock Ranch is in its fourth generation of Scott Family ownership,” commented Jim Scott. “Homer and Mildred Scott moved to Sheridan from Nebraska in 1936 and founded this ranch six years later.”

The ranch, continued Scott, is in the hearts of the more than 80 offspring and spouses of Homer and Mildred.

“Everyone here is a valuable part of our team,” says Fahsholtz. “We all work together to make it a really great place.”

Fahsholtz works closely with Chief Operations Officer Trey Patterson, Assistant Operations Manager Les Nunn, Controller Stephen Severe, Farm Manager Greg Benzel and Officer Manager Lisa Hanson, as well as the Board of Directors, to accomplish the goals of the operation.

Business operation

“The Padlock is a business,” said Scott. “We’ve tried to apply the best business practices on the ranch.”

In the early 2000s, the family organized a Board of Directors to include independent board members. The Board developed their strategic plan and developed a concrete purpose for the ranch.

“The Padlock is a legacy for our family and everyone associated with the ranch,” he explained. “That legacy includes not just the past, but everything that happens in the present and in the future.”

As part of their lasting legacy, they focus on five primary elements: financial excellence, excellent people, natural resource sustainability, community leadership and family.

“We can’t have a sustainable ranch without having excellent financial performance,” Scott explained. “It provides us the discipline to make decisions.”

He also noted that Homer focused on surrounding himself with good people. “Our dad used to say he was of average intelligence, but he was successful by surrounding himself with people smarter than he was,” Scott said. “Dad was a great selector of people and winning these awards is a testament that the ranch is still attracting excellent people.” Fahsholtz noted he strives to work with good people to preserve the integrity of the operation.

Natural resources sustainability, Scott continued, is also important for continuing the legacy of ranch and the ability to pass it forward.

“We understand that our responsibility is to pass this land and pass it on in as good or better shape than we found it,” Scott mentioned.

They also focus on being leaders in their community and within the industry, aiming to positively impact more than just their immediate surroundings.

“The fifth element is that the ranch is a family emblem and a source of pride and cohesion in our family,” said Scott. “Our family is getting larger and more complex, and our goal is to have this ranch be a source of cohesion.”

Environmental honors

In honor of the Environmental Stewardship award and tour, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead also proclaimed July 9 as Wyoming Environmental Stewardship day.

Additionally, the Scott family was presented with an award on behalf of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust for Dan Scott’s involvement and dedication to the organization and preservation of lands in Wyoming. The Scott family and Padlock Ranch support the land trust extensively.

Awards and letters were presented on behalf of Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi, Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Congratulations to the Scott family and Wayne and Judi Fahsholtz on winning these awards,” added WSGA President Jim Wilson.

For more information on the ranch operations, check out the article in the Jan. 5, 2013 edition of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup titled, “Padlock Ranch named winner of 2013 Environmental Stewardship Award”

Stream restoration

The Tongue River runs through the Padlock Ranch near ranch headquarters in Ranchester, and Ranch CEO and President Wayne Fahsholtz explained that extensive river restoration work has taken place.

“This stream was full of tires and old cars,” said Fahsholtz. “We’ve put rocks in their place.”

Cheryl Harrelson of Steady Stream Hydrology in Sheridan explained, “So many ranches start working in the hills and build, divide streams, put in cattle and do a lot of work without regard for what happens to the river. Progressive ranches, like the Padlock, start at their river and work out.”

The work done in the Tongue River on Padlock Ranch helps stream flows and create trout habitat.

“They have narrowed the channel, deepened the pools and maintained sediment transport with these rock structures,” commented Harrelson. “This is a really innovative way to work on streams, and it is more cost effective in the long run. We can have multiple use streams and have viable ranches,” she added.

Saige Albert is managing editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at saige@wylr.net. ★

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Wayne Barnett

Wayne Barnett of Greybull has been dealing with health issues for a good while.

He has now been moved to: Worland Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, Room 302, 1901 Howell Avenue, Worland, WY 82401.

I'm sure he'd appreciate receiving a card of well wishes from his many friends.

Wayne is the type of person who helped to make Wyoming the wonderful state it is today!
A cheerful note would mean a lot!

Treasurer Opening on Board of Directors

Effective in early September our much appreciated current treasurer, Todd Rhodes will be stepping down from that board responsibility, but will remain as an active director on the Guardians board.

If you would like to help the Guardians continue to reach their goals and objectives by filling this critical organizational spot we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact: Kathleen Jachowski – 587-3723

A Special Request

We are in the processes of: 1. Converting most of the delivery system of our newsletter to E-mail; 2. Updating our data base to reflect correct e-mail addresses and current telephone numbers.

We understand that some readers would prefer to continue receiving the newsletter via hard copy and we're happy to honor that preference if we hear from you.

Please e-mail or telephone Kathleen Jachowski with your delivery preference for the newsletter, and your phone number. Also indicate your name as it appears on your newsletter, so we may update the correct reader's information.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH!

E-mail: guardians@hughes.net; telephone: 307-587-3723

Shoshone National Forest

New District Ranger on the Clarks Fork, Greybull and Wapiti Ranger Districts will be Susan Stresser.

Effective July 28, 2013

Susan will replace Terry Root who has retired, and who will be missed!

More on Susan once she is fully on board.