



Guardians of the Range

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



P.O. Box 472
Worland, Wyoming
82401

www.GuardiansOfTheRange.org

Executive Director

Kathleen Jachowski
307.587.3723

guardians@hughes.net

Board of Directors

Dana Kerns - President
307.655.9539
Bill Greer - Vice President
469.2352
Barb Lee - Secretary 366.2445
Dave Fraley - Treasurer
217.0517
Clay Gibbons 388.4145
Rick Magstadt 765.2089
Gil McEndree 347.3215
Rob Orchard 366.2450
Todd A. Rhodes 347.8329
Scott Rogers 684.1547

BLM/FS Advisory Board

(Producer Committee)
Jack Baird - Chairperson
307.864.2069
John Baird 388.2145
Matt Brown 867.2422
Stan Flitner 765.2905
Rob Orchard 366.2450
Dan Rice 366.2571
Gary Rice 366.2273

Resource Committee

(Project / Allotment
Improvements)
Kathleen Jachowski 587.3723
Dave Slover 868.2465

Webmaster

Craig Mead 402.415.6790

Newsletter Editor

Echo Renner 307.868.9232
echo00@tctwest.net

Newsletter Printer

Serlkay Printing, Worland

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Save the Date:



Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014

ANNUAL MEETING

Public is Welcome

Registration 10am

**Worland Community
Center**

1200 Culbertson Ave

Stay tuned for details

BLM – Stay Tuned Worland Field Office

Field Reviews for BLM Allotments Standards
and Guidelines

Government shutdown resulted in
cancellation of October 18 scheduled field
day.

We'll post the new date and allotments
involved on our website as soon as they are
rescheduled!

Guardians at Work Things in Common

- ◆ Cheatgrass Statewide Steering Committee
- ◆ Proactively networking with Healthy Habitat Coalition (national platform) on Invasive Weeds on Federal Lands
- ◆ Proactively networking with USFS / BLM and mechanized recreationists who also share public lands and interface with permittees. Lots of pieces to this.
- ◆ Public meetings and public comments on BLM Supplemental EIS for Cody - Worland RMP revisions
- ◆ Public Comments on Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence (External Review Draft)
- ◆ Participation in field reviews of BLM allotments for compliance with Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands. Never ending, but ties directly to a permittee's ability to utilize their allotment.
- ◆ Addendum to Big Horn Basin Sage-grouse Conservation Plan
- ◆ Facilitation of submission of application for water pipeline for Guardian member
- ◆ Finding resources to outsource development of appropriate data base for Guardians' expanding communication needs
- ◆ Wild horse situation—review of Wild Horse Advisory fall 2013 meeting - things are getting worse rather than better. More later.

“An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success.” ~ Anonymous

Do Let's All Pay Attention to This Warning Flag!

We suggest you make a point of following this topic! This type of 'buffer zone creep' does and will find traction in our area under other venues – these type of actions and efforts lay the groundwork for other efforts to erode the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act of 1960 as amended!

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Grazers-want-rights-maintained-as-BLM-launches-land-auctions-09112013.asp>

Grazers want rights maintained as BLM launches land auctions

~ By Sara Wyant

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11, 2013 - Grazing interests will look on with interest in late October when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosts the first competitive auction for three parcels of public lands in two Solar Energy Zones (SEZ) in Colorado.

The sealed and oral bid auction will mark the first of what are expected to be a growing number of sales aimed at developing utility-scale solar projects on public lands in 17 BLM-designated zones covering 280,000 acres across six southwestern states.

Identified last October, the zones are part of a Western Solar Plan the Obama administration hopes will help generate an additional 20,000 megawatts of electricity from public lands by 2020 and “ensure a fair return to taxpayers for the commercial use of these lands,” said Helen Hankins, BLM's Colorado state director. Another two zones were designated earlier this year.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, whose department oversees the BLM, told a national clean energy conference last month that the plan will incorporate what officials are calling a “smart-from-the start” approach to renewable energy development on public lands.

“Our nation's public lands are vast and varied,” Jewell said. “We need to take a close look at these resources to determine where it makes sense to develop renewable energy and - just as importantly - where it does not.

“Working with federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as leaders from industry and conservation communities, we can and should take actions to minimize the conflicts that solar, wind and geothermal projects might have with natural and cultural resources,” she said.

Jewell said the department will “require meaningful mitigation measures when conflict cannot be avoided, and leverage the momentum to enhance landscape-level conservation objectives.”

Unlike grazing, oil and gas drilling, mining and other BLM oversight arenas, the renewable energy initiative was created by the agency, not inherited, putting some pressure on the bureau to manage the projects and the land on which they are to be located in a sustainable and environmentally beneficial way. And they have to be conscious of other existing uses on that public land.

Cheatgrass - Good Info!

<http://www.wyomingextension.org/news/>
UW, CSU team for allied battle
against Cheatgrass

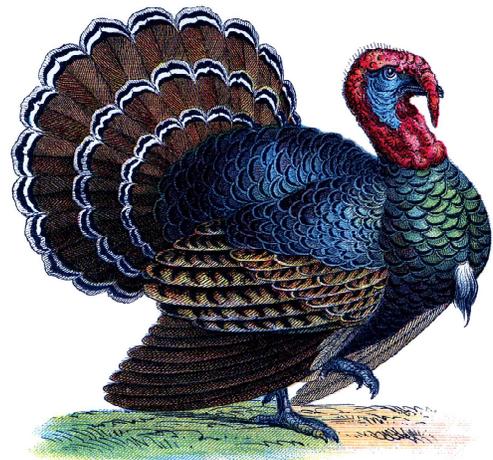
Groups like the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) have taken little public stance on the latest developments. But Chase Adams, NCBA's director of communications, says it's his group's position that federal lands be managed for multiple use, as federal law states.

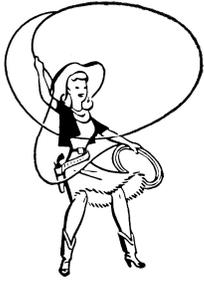
“So, we oppose single use areas such as solar zones when they negatively impact grazing on public lands,” Adams said. “We're not opposed to the sale of public lands for development such as solar zones, so long as the rights of ranchers are not negatively impacted. Federal grazing permits are a property right interest.”

The prospects of grazing rights on public lands being protected have improved since 2008, when BLM had more than 500 solar applications, but no orderly means of assessing, processing and managing them. Environmental critics said the agency was more concerned then with its role overseeing oil and gas development.

However, even environmental groups as vocal as the Natural Resources Defense Council have expressed some approval of the BLM's new approach, noting the “smart-from-the-start” approach is “a huge improvement over the traditional BLM way of managing energy resources that allowed energy companies to dictate the terms before key management protocols were even established.”

Bob McEnany, deputy director of NRDC's Western Renewable Energy Project, Land & Wildlife Program, says the BLM has listened to all constituents in an effort to develop a consistent standard that he hopes will allow the agency, with appropriate input from stakeholders, “to approach siting decisions in a pro-active and more comprehensive manner.” ★





Request for Current Contact Info

In case you missed some of our earlier requests, we are asking our readers to please send us your current contact information. It will be kept confidential, and used only to improve our communication effectiveness. Please do not assume that we have it, please assume that we don't and take a moment and e-mail or phone the information: guardians@hughes.net, or (307)587-3723. Many thanks, Kathleen

Taxes & Great Gift Giving Idea

A meaningful gift that keeps on giving!
A tax deductible contribution
to the Guardians - Craig Thomas Endowment!

Checks can be made out to Guardians of the Range with
CT Endowment in the notation.
We'll take care of the rest.

Mail to: GOR, P.O. Box 472, Cody, WY 82401

Shoshone NF What's Happening?

To Our Readers:

The Shoshone's Schedule of Proposed Actions for the Shoshone National Report for the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2014 is available.

You may view it online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110214>.

We encourage your interest and participation in any of the planned activities shown on the report.

If you would like more information about planning on the Shoshone National Forest, please contact Carrie Christman at 307.578.5118 or cchristman@fs.fed.us.

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 getting an inside look at the dynamics of mechanized recreation and livestock grazing on BLM lands. Kathleen Jachowski right; Paul Rau, BLM Recreation Specialist, Cody Field Office at left. Stay tuned!

**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

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
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www.GuardiansoftheRange.org

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