



Guardians of the Range

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



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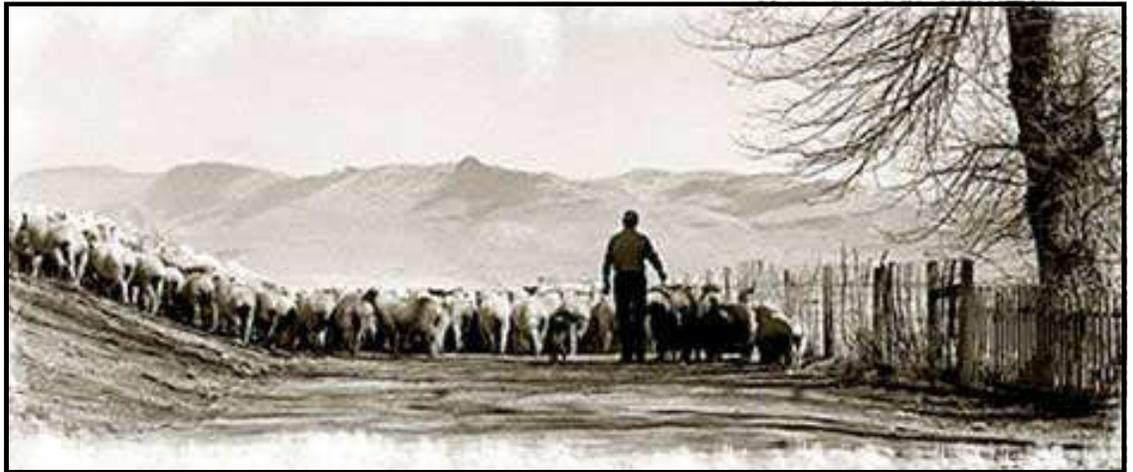
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Wonderful Wyoming Sheep
*Photo courtesy Wyoming Wool Growers
Association*

Barrasso Offers Amendment to Restore Funding for PILT Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. ~ U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo) offered an amendment to the Omnibus bill to restore funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The amendment, which is paid for by reducing US spending on overseas programs, would provide \$421 million for PILT in Fiscal Year 2014. Local governments receive federal payments under the PILT program to help compensate for the loss of property tax revenue due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries.

“Since Washington controls almost half of the land in Wyoming, local communities miss out on hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue each year,” said Barrasso. “The PILT program is a fair way to make sure states like Wyoming have the resources they would have if they had control over more of their land. Washington needs to do the right thing and restore funding for the PILT program immediately.”

*Please see **Barrasso** continued on page 4*



Shoshone NF Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement

**PUBLIC MEETINGS
To Be Held**

Week of February 24th

**Check Website for Area Meeting, Dates,
Times & Locations**

Just Google: Shoshone National Forest

**Success is not final, failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue that counts.
~ Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965) Statesman**

Clean Water & Cows - Who Knew - You Knew & Now 'They Know'

For those of you who missed our first notification of this study, here is your second chance to learn about something positive about cattle grazing and clean water. You can download more information at UC Davis website listed at the end of this article. You might want to keep this information handy.....for friends and foes!

<http://www.agweb.com/article/cattle-grazing-and-clean-water-can-coexist-on-public-lands-NAA-University-News-Release/>

Cattle Grazing & Clean Water Can Coexist on Public Lands

July 1, 2013

By: University News Release

Cattle grazing and clean water can coexist on national forest lands, according to research by the University of California (UC), Davis.

The study, published today in the journal PLOS ONE, is the most comprehensive examination of water quality on National Forest public grazing lands to date.

"There's been a lot of concern about public lands and water quality, especially with cattle grazing," said lead author Leslie Roche, a postdoctoral scholar in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences. "We're able to show that livestock grazing, public recreation and the provisioning of clean water can be compatible goals."

Roughly 1.8 million livestock graze on national forest lands in the western U.S. each year, the study says. In California, 500 active grazing allotments support 97,000 livestock across 8 million acres on 17 national forests.

"With an annual recreating population of over 26 million, California's national forests are at the crossroad of a growing debate about the compatibility of livestock grazing with other activities dependent upon clean, safe water," the study's authors write.

"We often hear that livestock production isn't compatible with environmental goals," said principal investigator Kenneth Tate, a Cooperative Extension specialist in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences. "This helps to show that's not absolutely true. There is no real evidence that we're creating hot spots of human health risk with livestock grazing in these areas."

The study was conducted in 2011, during the grazing and recreation season of June through November. Nearly 40 UC Davis researchers, ranchers, USDA Forest Service staff and environmental stakeholders went out by foot and on horseback, hiking across meadows, along campsites, and down ravines to collect 743 water samples from 155 sites across five national forests in northern California.

These areas stretched from Klamath National Forest to Plumas, Tahoe, Stanislaus, and Shasta-Trinity national forests. They included key cattle grazing areas, recreational lands and places where neither cattle nor humans tend to wander.

Please see **Water** continued on page 4

Western Governors Critical Habitat Assessment Tool

The Western Governors' Association unveiled its Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT), a cooperative effort of 16 Western states to provide the public and industry an overview of "crucial habitat" across the West in December 2013.

The CHAT provides a "30,000-foot view" of habitat for pre-planning that can be used for projects as varied as "macro-siting" energy corridors and transmission routes, to comparing fish and wildlife habitat across the West.

The free, online tool unveiled at a press conference at the conclusion of the WGA's 2013 Winter Meeting in Las Vegas is designed to enable industry to reduce time, costs, conflicts and surprises. It also will help conservation groups, state and federal agencies ensure wildlife values are better incorporated into land use decision-making.

"The public release of the Western Governors' CHAT shows the Governors' commitment to responsible development of Western resources, while at the same time protecting the environment," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, WGA Chairman. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (in photos below) also spoke about the tool's promise.

"The tool is an example of WGA's ongoing work with federal agencies – including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service – to enable use of state fish and wildlife data and analyses to guide land use, planning and related natural resource decisions."

"Crucial habitats" are places that are likely to provide the natural resources important to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including species of concern, as well as hunting and fishing species. States collaborated to ensure information is compatible across the region.

"The CHAT is meant to provide a first look at wildlife habitat using the same framework across the West," said John Harja, Chairman of the Western Governors' Wildlife Council, which oversaw the project. "It will help planners be better informed about wildlife priorities early in the process, so they can be better prepared as they engage in actual permitting with state and federal agencies."

"The states have provided a great service in developing this West-wide Crucial Habitat tool," said Pam Eaton, Senior Energy Advisor at The Wilderness Society. "This tool will be invaluable as we work to guide development to appropriate areas while also protecting sensitive lands. The Western Governors' CHAT can help reduce conflict as the place to go for wildlife information for energy and transmission planning."

Arizona, California, Kansas, Montana, Washington and Wyoming have developed state-specific CHATs; Nevada also launched its CHAT on Dec. 12, while New Mexico and Oregon launched CHATs in December. The Southern Great Plains CHAT depicts Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat across five states.

The Western Governors' CHAT can be found at westgovchat.org.





by Kathleen
Jachowski

This month's DFD is a little different. These are comments I gave to a Western newspaper writer and I thought they would be of some humble value for our newsletter.

His questions to me are in bold...on two different topics. These questions and these quotable remarks are germane to many, many situations with which we all work and live. They are a humble serving of 'brain food' for reflection!

What could other ranchers who graze public lands, along with agency people, mediators, etc., learn from this case?

"The CALIBER of communication is absolutely critical in preventing and solving land management and natural resource concerns..

Two skill sets needed by public land ranchers, agency people, and mediators, but are very hard to come by, are: (1) the skill to hear clearly what is being said, as well as what is not being said; and (2) the skill which comes from having both professional maturity and courage to know how, when and where to say what needs to be said.

When these skill sets are not a proactive dynamic of the ongoing communication around a problem it leads to serious misinterpretation and erodes trust and credibility on the part of all involved. Mutual anger and contempt then both become the communication framework which results in prolonged rehashing of problem(s).

Bottom line...all parties seeking resolution to a problem or issue should not use 'bumper sticker phrases' to either make their case, or respond to concerns. Finding one's 'courage in the pickup on the way home from a meeting' does not qualify as communication. This applies to all parties involved. This only results in decades of never ending 'running of the mouth and getting nowhere'..."

These needed skill sets can be taught - and they can be learned!

In addition to those comments, would you mind taking a few moments to email me some thoughts that could be used in the stories? These could center on issues that would be of interest to a wide audience (ranchers/farmers in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, etc.).

Topics:

*Cumulative Effects of a Third Kind...recognizing and mitigating their impacts. (Wild horse issues, invasive weeds, reduction and redistribution of appropriated funds, deterioration and/or postponement of range improvement projects, range and forest fires.

*Cooperator Status under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)...too much of a good thing, who pays the price?

Direct from the Director: Quotable Materials

*Elected officials...what ranchers need to look for in evaluating candidates who want your vote.
Public policy skill sets for young ranchers and farmers...

*Grassroots---it's far more than just learning how things run on Capitol Hill...it's much more local.

*Recognizing the Avoidance of Developing Problems and Issues ...how and why to do something about them..... (inadequately managed mechanized recreation)

*Monitoring range conditions...full circle of responsibility in the 21st century.

*Comfort Zone Comments...justifying inaction

*Being independent and being stubborn...important to know the difference.

*Web Worth Watching...the importance of the public policies of water and wildlife and the whys...

And there you have it!

Kathleen

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RANGE PROJECTS / MAINTENANCE & SPRING MEETINGS

Guardians are encouraged to fully utilize their membership benefits by calling on us for assistance in getting all types of range projects/maintenance efforts underway and completed. There is no fee, just a telephone call or e-mail is all that is necessary (587-3723); 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:

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WRANGLER

\$250

RANGE RIDER

\$500

TOP HAND

\$1,000

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Water continued from page 2

UC Davis researchers analyzed the water samples for microbial and nutrient pollution, including fecal indicator bacteria, fecal coliform, E. coli, nitrogen and phosphorous.

The scientists found that recreation sites were the cleanest, with the lowest levels of fecal indicator bacteria. They found no significant differences in fecal indicator bacteria between grazing lands and areas without recreation or grazing. Overall, 83% of all sample sites and 95% of all water samples collected were below U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) benchmarks for human health.

The study noted that several regional regulatory programs use different water quality standards for fecal bacteria. For instance, most of the study's sample sites would exceed levels set by a more restrictive standard based on fecal coliform concentrations. However, the U.S. EPA states that E. coli are better indicators of fecal contamination and provide the most accurate assessment of water quality conditions and human health risks.

The study also found that all nutrient concentrations were at or below background levels, and no samples exceeded concentrations of ecological or human health concern.

The study was funded by the USDA Forest Service, Region 5.

You can learn more about grazing and water quality at <http://rangelandwatersheds.ucdavis.edu/>.



Barrasso continued from page 1

The amendment was co-sponsored by Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY), Mike Lee (R-UT), Dean Heller (R-NV), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), James Inhofe (R-OK), James Risch (R-ID), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and John Hoeven (R-ND).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The funding for PILT is offset by reductions of \$421 million from the following international climate change programs under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act:

- U.S. Contributions to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - \$143.75 million
- U.S. Contributions to the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) - \$184.63 million
- U.S. Contributions to the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) - \$49.9 million
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - \$10 million
- Sustainable Landscape programs in the bilateral economic assistance through the economic support fund - \$32.72 million.

The GEF is an international financial institution that receives U.S. contributions to help address global climate change and other environmental issues.

The CTF and the SCF are investment trust funds administered by the multilateral development banks which finance low-carbon technologies and climate-resilient development in foreign countries.

