

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

Dale Bosworth
Chief, US Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

February 6, 2006

Dear Chief Bosworth,

On behalf of the following Wyoming citizens and Wyoming public land users: hunters, anglers, hikers and horse packers, teachers, writers, artists, business people, guest ranch owners, doctors, elected officials, engineers, and all around concerned citizens-- we are writing to you with apprehension about the future of Wyoming's last wild forests and the benefits these last roadless forests provide to Wyoming citizens as well as the benefits they provide to all Americans who share ownership of these national treasures.

On May 5, 2005, the Department of Agriculture announced the adoption of a final rule requiring Governors to file petitions with the Forest Service in order to receive protections for roadless areas within their states above those afforded by the forest planning process.

According to the Rule, any such petition must be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than November 13, 2006. After the petition is submitted, it will be reviewed by a National Advisory Committee that will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on any subsequent State-specific rulemakings within 90 days. If the petition is accepted, the Forest Service shall be directed to initiate notice and comment rulemaking to address the petition.

According to a statement by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns concurrent with the issuance of the Rule, the rule would, "advance President Bush's commitment to cooperatively conserve inventoried roadless areas within our national forests."

Similarly, on September 6, 2005, Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey stated, "We are providing interim protection to roadless areas, pending the development of state specific rules provided for in our 2005 rulemaking."

Consistent with these statements, and in order to ensure that no actions are taken which might preclude a full range of options for consideration by the state we write to request that the Forest Service agree to not propose projects in inventoried roadless areas that would alter the roadless qualities of the areas, and to halt and withdraw all such projects under development, including the Wiggins Fork Timber Sale and Road Construction Project in the Telephone Draw Inventoried Roadless Area on the Shoshone National Forest as well as proposed road construction and logging in the Lake Alice-Commissary Ridge Roadless Area and the Nugent Park-Hams Fork Roadless Area on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (see attachment) until either the November 13th deadline passes without the submission of a petition, or, if a petition is submitted, until the Forest Service has completed and adopted final rulemaking to establish management direction for these areas in Wyoming's National Forests.

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO
THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

The roadless areas of our national forests provide Wyoming’s citizens not only rich scenic and recreational opportunities, but also serve as a part of the economic foundation of our state. Decisions regarding the management of these lands as roadless areas must be afforded significant consideration and weight. Moreover, decisions to take actions which may disqualify areas or portions of areas from protection, or degrade their roadless qualities and values should not be made while the state is reviewing its options for the conservation of these areas per the request of the Department of Agriculture.

We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Liz Howell, Director
Wyoming Wilderness Association
PO Box 6588
Sheridan, WY 82801
307 672-2751
wild@wavecom.net

Bonnie Kreps, Filmmaker & Author
Director, New Story Productions
Jackson Hole, WY 83001

Debra Patla
Research Associate, Dept of Biological
Sciences, Idaho State University
PO Box 230, Victor, ID 83455
Enclosed: Project List

Peter M. Jorgensen
3250 W. Killdeer Rd.
Jackson, Wyoming 83001-9415
State Representative, HD-16

Victor Ashear, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical
Psychologist
1433 Stonegate Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801

Chuck Neal
Ecologist, US Dept. of Interior--retired
1526 Alger Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

James & Phyllis McNiece, Retired Sporting
Goods

PO Box 33
Wapiti, Wy 82450

Jonathan B Ratner, Biologist
Western Watersheds Project - Wyoming Office
PO Box 1160
Pinedale, WY 82941

Will Robinson, Biology Instructor
797 Inez Road
Douglas, WY 82633

Mr. Kim Johnson
PO Box 978
Thayne, Wyoming 83127-0978
Residential Counselor, C-V Ranch, Wilson,
Wyoming

Sean K. Leach
71 Marquette Drive
Cody, WY 82414
Affiliation: Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
(Retired)
Woods Loafer (active duty)

Jim Catlin
Wild Utah Project
68 S. Main,
SLC, UT 84101

Marcia A. Kunstel
3455 Aster Lane
Wilson, WY 83014
co-owner, Flat Creek Ranch (a guest ranch in
Jackson Hole)

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO
THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

Leila Bruno
POB 1735
Laramie, WY 82073
307-399-5869

William J. Gribb, Director
Graduate Program in Planning
University of Wyoming
Department of Geography
Dept. 3371 Rm. 207 A&S Bldg.
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

Thomas Turiano
Indomitus Books
3047 Rangeview Drive
PO Box 1504
Jackson, WY 83001

Sean Sheehan
Wyoming Nature Tours
www.wyomingnaturetours.com
1313 South Fork Rd.
Cody, Wy. 82414

Rosemary A Carr
Back Country Horseman
110 Cloud Peak Dr.
Buffalo, WY 82834
Forest Service Volunteer/BLM Retiree

Neil O. & Jennifer S. Miller
Retired
702 W “A”
P.O Box 742
Basin, WY 82410

Bill Bradshaw
Fisheries Biologist
706 Adair
Sheridan, WY 82801

Margi Schroth
H F Bar Ranch
1301 Rock Creek Rd.
Saddlestring, Wy 82840
Guest Ranch Owner

Lily M. Bliss

H F Bar Ranch
1301 Rock Creek Road
Saddlestring, Wyoming 82840
High School Senior

Carolyn A. Schroth
175 West Brock Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
Director-Boys & Girls Club of the Big Horns

Ronn Smith, Professional Engineer
Linda Smith, Teacher
16 Roberts Dr.
Sheridan, WY 82801

Kim A. Floyd
Executive Secretary
Wyoming State AFL-CIO
1021 West 23rd Street, Suite A
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Ron Beiswenger
1163 Inca Drive
Laramie, WY 82072
(Professor of Geography, University of Wyoming)

Darci Jones
377 Cliff St.
Lander, WY 82520
Master of Social Work

Marian Doane
Natural Scientist and Consultant
245 Wyoming Street
Lander, WY 82520

Julianne Couch
Lecturer, University of Wyoming
1421 Sublette
Laramie, Wyo. 82070

Connie L Thill, CPA
306 S. Thurmond
Sheridan, WY 82801

Mary Lou Morrison
Morrison Art Studio
845 East Third
Casper, Wy 82601

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO
THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

Artist, former art teacher,
Nic Discovery Center Director

Suzanne M. Smaglik
464 Lander Mountain Rd
Lander, WY 82520
Associate Professor of Chemistry,
Geology & Environmental Science
(Central Wyoming College)

Tom Darin
Public Lands Director
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
P.O. Box 2728
Jackson, WY 83001

John Spahr
CEO
Teton NewMedia, Inc
90 E. Simpson, Suite 110
P.O. Box 4833
Jackson, WY 83001

Nan Craft
P.O. Box 70
St. Stephens, WY 82524
Victim/Witness Advocate
Fremont County Attorney's Office

Erik Molvar
Executive Director
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
PO Box 1512
Laramie, WY 82073

Jean H. Jorgensen, Private Citizen
3250 W. Killdeer Rd.
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Carolyn Page McNeill
Jackson Hole Representative
Wyoming Wilderness Association
P.O. Box 263

Jackson, WY 83001

Colleen Cabot
mom and Wyoming Native
3291 Parkhaven Drive
San Jose CA 95132

Janet Marie Hoffman
Planning Consultant
P.O. Box 26
Sheridan, WY 82801

Gina Clingerman
Archeology Student
349 W. Brundage St.
Sheridan Wy 82801

Jeanne Leske
2001 Newport
Casper, WY. 82609
Ski instructor

Ted Lapis, President
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sheridan
PO Box 3034
Sheridan, WY 82801

Nancy Shea, Ph.D.
True Nature Consulting
Life Enhancing Services
PO Box 1158
Jackson, WY 83001

Judy & Dick Inberg
460 Mountain View Dr
Riverton, WY 82501

Karen King
POB 29
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Occupation: Independent Consultant with
American Indian educational and social service
programs

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO
THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

Attachment

Currently, by our calculation, the Forest Service currently is proposing x projects in inventoried roadless areas in the state of Wyoming. If all these projects were approved as proposed, Wyoming would lose thousands of inventoried roadless acres.

Wyoming’s national forests are regrettably offering timber sales, salvage sales or oil and gas leases to the following roadless areas in Wyoming. As detailed in the preceding letter, we/I hereby request that the following projects, which would alter the roadless qualities of Inventoried Roadless Areas in the State of Wyoming, precluding a full range of options for their protection under the sate petition process enacted by your agency, be halted and withdrawn.

Bighorn National Forest Roadless Areas:
Roadless acres loss from timber sales and illegally created motorized routes:

	RARE II	PRESENT
Devils Canyon	10000	14,204
Walker Prairie	62,530	49,533
Doyle Creek	6,910	0
Cloud Peak Contig, West	90,000~	45,245
Grommund Creek	12,800	6,192
Hazelton Peaks	10,500	8,975
Bruce Mountain	5,630	0
Sibley Lake	12,290	0
Leigh Creek Canyon	25,320	6,700
Little Bighorn	134,760	80,132

Bridger Teton National Forest Roadless Areas
All these RA are threatened by proposed timber sales:

	RARE II	EST 2003
Southern Wyoming Range	90,800	76,191
Hams Fork Ridge	13,950	
Little Cottonwood Creek		4,874
Little Sheep Mountain		17,300
Lake Alice-Commissary Ridge	179,920	179,920
Monument Ridge	17,380	17,380
Mosquito Lake-Seven Lakes		30,014
Munger Mountain	12,900	12,900
Palisades WSA	135,526	Threatened by helicopter skiing

Shoshone National Forest Roadless Areas
The Roadless acreage loss from these

	RARE II	EST 2005
Sleeping Giant	5,680	4,763
Franc's Peak	65,840	66,140
Wood River	28,504	17,915

WYOMING COALITION MORATORIUM LETTER TO
THE CHIEF OF THE USFS

Castle Rock	4,280	3830
Telephone Draw	19,160	18,810
Carson Lake	4,040	3,690
Canyon Creek	7,400	7,250
Middle Fork	75,440	74,925

Medicine Bow National Forest Roadless Areas:
Loss of acreage from timber sales and motorize abuse

	RARE II	2003
Battle Creek	7840	5,894
Bear Mountain	13310	9,426
Bridger Peak	7100	6,694
LaBonte Canyon	22150	16,257
Laramie Peak	28,680	28,577
Libby Flats	16440	11,082
Mowry Peak	12450	6,241
Pennock Mountain	16510	9,592
Platte River Additions	18,980	7,947
Rock Creek	19860	18,859
Little Sandstone Creek	5580	5,481
Sheep Mountain	17,720	17,614
Snowy Range	34,490	29,637

RARE II inventory	1,672,670
Present RA inventory	920,184
Estimated WY RA loss	242,486 acres