

Bob Price, Rangeland Management Specialist
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

October 24, 2007

RE: Continental Peak Scoping Period

Dear Mr. Price:

I would like to strongly oppose the proposed actions of converting the Continental Peak grazing allotment from sheep to cattle as this management action would severely impact wild horse habitat in the Divided Basin HMA.

First, cattle and wild horses compete more for the same forage so forage availability would be greatly reduced for the Divided Basin wild horse population.

Second, cattle are known to impact water sources and riparian areas to a much greater degree than wild horses due to their "camping" in the water areas until they are forced to move. The fencing of water sources will also most likely be required to protect sensitive riparian areas and water sources from the introduction of cattle as well.

Third, the implementation of so many fences within the HMA is against BLM policy as they are required to keep fencing to a minimum in wild horse and burro habitat and the current authorization of grazing sheep fulfill multiple-use mandates without compromising the integrity of the wild horse habitat or creating unnecessary dangers to herd health. The fences will also inhibit and restrict wildlife migratory routes, as well as posing increased dangers to them as well.

Based on all these factors, I would like to strongly urge BLM to deny this proposal and continue to allow the livestock operator to graze sheep as has been the historical use within the allotment for the benefit of all species concerned.

Please add me to your interested party list regarding management actions concerning the Continental Peak grazing allotment, the Divided Basin HMA and future environmental assessments regarding this current management proposal.

Sincerely,

CM

