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March 19, 2015

Jim Darlington
PO Box 458
Newcastle, WY 82701

Dear Jim,

The Ruckelshaus Institute at the University of Wyoming is conducting a situation assessment regarding prairie dog management in the Thunder Basin Grassland on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service. We are requesting your assistance in this to identify stakeholder perspectives regarding this issue and to assess the opportunities for stakeholder dialogues on prairie dog management options. You are receiving this letter because of your knowledge and interest in this issue. The study will provide valuable data that can be used to provide an explanation regarding how and why stakeholders view the tradeoffs associated with prairie dog management.

The study will be conducted in person or by phone and involves an interview. This one-on-one interview will explore your beliefs and values, and will assess the potential for a collaborative process to help develop options for prairie dog management on the Grassland. All responses will remain confidential and any personal identifying characteristics will be removed to ensure your anonymity. This project complies with human research protection guidelines set out by the University of Wyoming's Office of Research and Economic Development. For more information or concerns, please contact the office at (307) 766-5322.

Shannon Glendenning will be contacting you soon to schedule a date, time, and location for an interview if you are interested in participating. The interview should take no more than one hour, and will be conducted by Kristen Blume, Danielle Messing, Michael Kolkter, Shannon Glendenning or myself. If you are interested in participating in this study, we will send you more information on the study prior to the interview.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in this project. Please feel free to contact me at (307) 766- 5048 or jessica.clement@uwyo.edu if you have any questions about this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration in participating in this study.

Sincerely,

Jessica Clement, Ph.D.
University of Wyoming
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
Ruckelshaus Institute