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COUNTY OF WESTON

1 West Main

Newcastle, Wyoming 82701

94-2

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Weston County Commissioners are locally elected to represent the citizens of Weston County and cooperate with federal agencies in protecting the culture, custom, and economic stability of Weston County, and

WHEREAS, the Draft RMP/EIS for public lands in the Newcastle Resource Area published September, 1993, by the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management does not accurately depict the cultural nor economic importance of Weston County's land based industries particularly ranching, oil and gas, timber and recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Weston County Commissioners, a cooperating agency, respectfully request a more accurate socio-economic study be done and specific accurate economic information about these industries be included in the RMP/EIS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Weston County Commissioners oppose the entire Draft RMP/EIS for the NRA and the preferred alternative and support Alternative A, No Action, for the following reasons:

Vague, ambiguous and faulty information

Page 7 Split estate management can't include NSO and NSD designations because the surface is privately owned. More explanation should be incorporated into the RMP/EIS as has been included in Floyd Ewing's letter (1610 NRA RMP) concerning FLPMA, NEPA, NHPA, and ESA.

Page 107 Biodiversity/Ecosystem management of BLM lands cannot cross jurisdictional lands without consent of private land owners.

Page 140 Table 3-12 minimizes the economic importance of our major economic contributors. Economic information showing the importance of these industries must be included accurately in the RMP/EIS.

Page 195 Surface Disturbing activities need to be explicitly defined and livestock grazing explicitly excluded due to the migratory nature of livestock from private to BLM surface and back.

Rodent and Weed Control

Pages 28, 32, 35, 36, 69, 70, 88, 89. Aggressive prairie dog control is imperative for health and human safety.

Rodent and Weed Control

Pages 28, 32, 35, 36, 69, 70, 88, 89. Aggressive prairie dog control is imperative for health and human safety. BLM has a responsibility to private land owners to control prairie dog populations adjacent to private land. (page 28 paragraph 4) Prairie dog infestation devalues private property thereby directly reducing assessed valuation and county revenues. The economic importance of prairie dog viewing/shooting must be evaluated against the economic contributions of AUM's lost to prairie dog depredation. Weed infestation also reduces property values. Biological and chemical control should be pursued aggressively.

Whoop Up Canyon ACEC

Page 45, Para. 2,6,7 Protective withdrawal management of this ACEC inhibits the potential of the area for tourism. Visitor use of the area could stimulate much needed tourism activity in Weston County.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Page 158 A well known environmental group, Nature Conservancy, inventoried the rare plants listed here. This information should be discredited due to the special interest bias Nature Conservancy carries. There is also some question as to how legal access to the lands inventoried was obtained.

Oil and Gas Industry

45-50% of Weston County's declining assessed valuation is derived from the oil and gas industry. Most of the wells in Weston County are stripper wells marginally operating. Any more restrictions creating added expense to producers such as pit covering and plant and wildlife protecting will close these wells to production. Federal law adequately addresses environmental protection and we oppose any further restrictions above those already in place.

We object to the amount of taxpayers hard earned dollars expended on a document that focuses more on the preservation rather than the conservation and utilization of valuable resources which provided the means to produce this document in the first place.

DATED this 4th day of April, 1994.

WESTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ted M. Elliott
Ted M. Elliott Chairman

Martin Tysdal
Martin Tysdal, Vice Chair

Bill Barton
Bill Barton, member

John S. Berdahl
John S. Berdahl, member

Donna Baldwin Hunt
Donna Baldwin Hunt, member