



Carl R. Demshar, Jr., Mayor
212 D Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
Office [307] 352-1510 • FAX [307] 352-1516
carl_demshar@rswy.net

July 6, 2016

Kimberlee Foster
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Dear Ms. Foster,

The City of Rock Springs supports the inclusion of the Greater Little Mountain Coalition's Management Proposal for the Greater Little Mountain Area in the Preferred Alternative/Alternative D of the Rock Springs Field Office's Resource Management Plan revision. The Coalition's recommendations are described on the attached map showing the proposed Master Leasing Plan boundary of the Greater Little Mountain Area.

The City of Rock Springs supports including the Coalition's proposal for the following reasons:

- **Collaborative Process:** The Greater Little Mountain Coalition (GLMC) developed its proposal with the support of a broad group of partners, including Bowhunters of Wyoming, Muley Fanatic Foundation, Southwest Labor Council, Steelworkers Union 13214, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Wyoming Wildlife Federation, and more than 2,500 hunters, anglers, and recreationists. Moreover, the GLMC coordinated with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) on its proposal, and the GLMC proposal incorporates the recommendations the WGFD submitted to the BLM for the Greater Little Mountain Area (GLMA).
- **Wildlife and Recreational Opportunities:** Hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities depend on elk, mule deer, antelope, moose, trout, and numerous other species that are abundant in the GLMA. Many residents of Sweetwater County and Wyoming thrive on these activities and they are a key component of why we choose to live here. Therefore, it is essential that the fish and wildlife habitat contained in the GLMA be preserved. The Coalition's proposal provides appropriate protections for some of the


areas that are vitally important to Sweetwater County residents – including the Sage Creek, Currant Creek, Red Creek, Pine Mountain and Sugarloaf Basin areas.

- **Economic Impact:** The Coalition's proposal provides a balance between the biological needs of fish and wildlife and the economic realities of developing oil and gas in Sweetwater County. Hunting, fishing, recreation and oil and gas development are all important components of Sweetwater County's economy. The management prescriptions in the Coalition's proposal will help to preserve and enhance the economic base fish and wildlife bring in to the county, while relaxing restrictions on oil and gas development in the Salt Wells area to allow for year-round drilling. Both measures will add to the economic stability of the region.

In sum, the City of Rock Springs believes the hunting and fishing opportunities can be preserved alongside responsible oil and gas development. The management recommendations in the Coalition's proposal will help to strike that balance. We support and recommend the adoption of the Coalition's proposal as part of the Preferred Alternative/Alternative D in the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan revision.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (307) 352-1510 or by e-mail at carl_demshar@rswy.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl R. Demshar, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Carl R. Demshar, Jr.
Mayor
City of Rock Springs