

**Written/Fax/E-mail Comments, Public Hearings on  
11/7/07 Revised Proposed Rule for the Preble's Meadow  
Jumping Mouse**

**Updated 2/14/08**

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| 3  | Thomas P. Nestler<br>Colorado Division of Wildlife                    | Denver, Colorado               |
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| 12 | Rod Kuharich<br>South Metro Water Supply Authority                    | Greenwood Village,<br>Colorado |
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| 14 | Ken Hamilton<br>Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation                        | Laramie, Wyoming               |

|    |   |                                |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 15 | Tom Partin<br>American Forest Research Council  | Portland, Oregon               |
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| 19 | Pauline P. Reetz<br>Audubon Society of Greater Denver<br>Kent Holsinger<br>Holsinger Law, LLC   | Littleton, Colorado            |
| 20 | *Rescanned Documents/ New CD for<br>Adjustments this only<br>A-G; I-U; W-Y Holsinger<br>Bob L. Ingels   | Denver, Colorado               |
| 21 | Housing and Building Association of<br>Colorado Springs   | Colorado Springs,<br>Colorado  |
| 22 | Jack Ekstrom<br>Western Business Roundtable   | Golden Colorado                |
| 23 | David L. True<br>True Ranches, LLC  | Casper, Wyoming                |
| 24 | Jack Saunders<br>Saunders Company   | Leadville, Colorado            |
| 25 | William E. Gurski (1/08 FAX)<br>KEM Homes   | Fort Collins, Colorado         |
| 26 | Rob Roy Ramey II  | Nederland, Colorado            |
| 27 | Kenneth R. Faux Jr.   | Greenwood Village,<br>Colorado |
| 28 | Jack Rick   |                                |
| 29 | Howard Lind   | Monument, Colorado             |

|    |                              |                            |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 30 | Coleen P. Abeyta             | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 31 | Jane Rogers                  | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 32 | Ron and Mary Kunzelman       | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 33 | Tom Nettles                  |                            |
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| 43 | Doren Tenerowicz             | Castle Rock, Colorado      |
| 44 | Zachary Barr                 | Denver, Colorado           |
| 45 | Gene Shannon                 |                            |
| 46 | Harvey Huston                | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 47 | Pat Wells                    | Manitou Springs, Colorado  |

|    |                          |                            |
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| 48 | Dan Bjugstad             | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 49 | Gerald and Marsh Federer | Cheyenne, Wyoming          |
| 50 | Snookie Fatiuk           | Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| 51 | Larry Banister1          | Castle Rock, Colorado      |
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| 56 | 12/12/07 Public Hearing  | Wheatland, Wyoming         |

RECEIVED

DEC 13 2007

Pat Wells  
101 Palisade Circle  
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Dec. 12, 2007

Dear Sir -

I can't believe that a mouse can be important (especially one that's not really as rare as I was supposed) to our country in this overwhelmingly complex world.

There must be some more reasonable way to spend our tax dollars when there are so many important needs in America (& the world) than this.

Everyone I've talked to have just given up or are too lazy to let our government know how we feel about the unbelievable mess we are in!

Please use a little common sense in this.

Sincerely -  
Pat Wells



"Dan@New Vista"  
<db@newvistaonline.com>

12/15/2007 01:48 PM

Please respond to  
<db@newvistaonline.com>

To <FW6\_PMJM@fws.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Mouse

The whole mouse issue has been clearly refuted. It is not a distinct or separate species. Why do you continue to waste my tax dollars on this issue? It shows how far political correctness can lead use down the yellow brick road to nowhere when we think more of a mouse than people. We have thousands of people starving even here in America. When you have solved that problem, then you can take your extra money (not mine) and spend it protecting a mouse.

Dan Bjugstad  
New Vista Real Estate  
910 S. Weber Street #100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Cell- 719-499-8622

RECEIVED

DEC 17 2007

December 11, 2007  
1950 Federer Rd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colorado Field Office  
P. O. Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Sirs:

We are writing in response to your office's proposal to remove the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse from the Endangered Species list in Wyoming.

We believe that your proposed action is the correct one.

We found that Secretary Bruce Babbitt in his record of decisions to list the Prebles Jumping Mouse stated "the Prebles Mouse has suffered from habitat loss and degradation....", and that may have been true in Arizona at the time. He then applied that mouse habitat degradation in Arizona to much of the Western United States. That is simply not true in Wyoming, then or now.

Here in Wyoming (and I suspect it's true for Colorado also) we are seeing an improvement in range land based on published information by the Bureau of Land Management. This evidence is found in the "State of The Public Range In Wyoming, 2004" (copy attached). This report shows that the range in Wyoming has been improving for more than 30 years at a steady rate. (See table 3) The Wildlife numbers have increased dramatically (as shown in table 9). Continuous improving range conditions and

dramatically increased wildlife numbers are the opposite of range degradation. We believe the range conditions on private and other lands are very similar to that on the BLM.

The improved range conditions in Wyoming have benefited livestock, wildlife, and the Prebles Jumping mouse.

There is no documentation of range degradation in Wyoming by the BLM or any other agency.

Sincerely,

Gerald D. Federer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald D. Federer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Marcia T. Federer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia T. Federer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

**State**  
of the  
**Public Range**  
in  
**Wyoming**  
**2004**



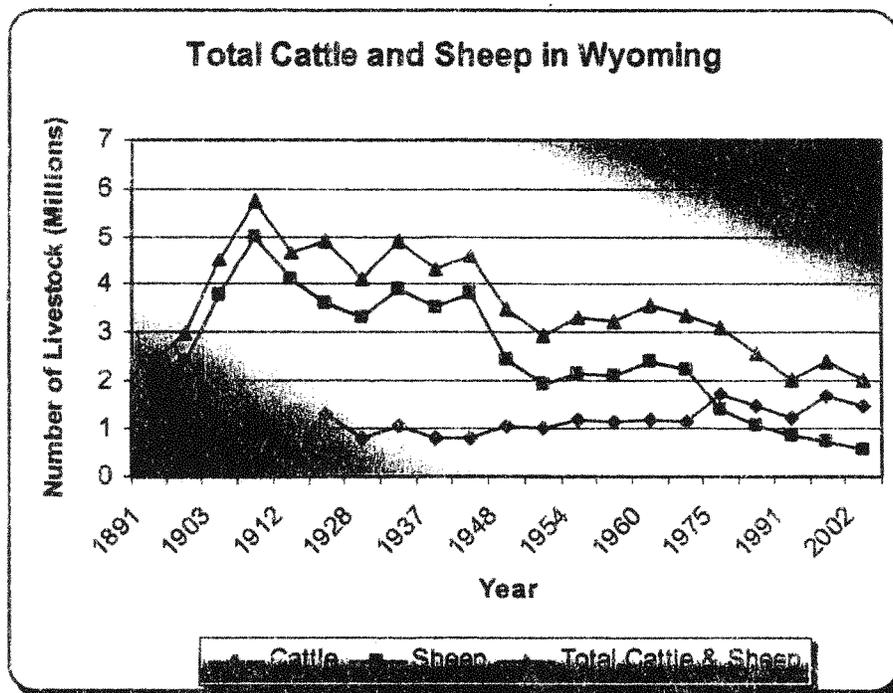


# The State Of The Public Range In Wyoming

## I. A Brief History

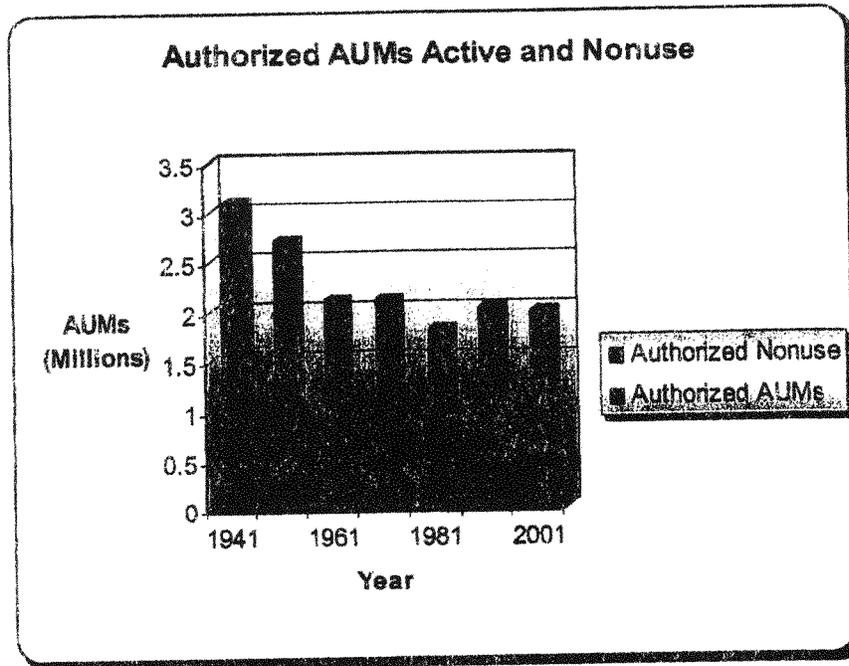
Livestock use in Wyoming began with the large cattle drives in the 1870's. Grazing was encouraged by the Government to settle the West. Sheep grazing began on the Wyoming rangelands in mid 1880 and by 1894 outnumbered cattle.

**TABLE 1**



Unregulated grazing continued until 1934 when the Taylor Grazing Act was passed. Adjudication of grazing privileges, which included establishment of grazing allotments, levels of use, season of use and class of livestock, was initiated following the Act. The initiative was completed in the 1970's. Livestock grazing use of the public lands has declined by 47% in the last 60 years. Table 2 shows the authorized Animal Unit Months (AUM's) on the public lands from 1941 to 2001.

**TABLE 2**



\* Public Lands Statistics

## II. Present

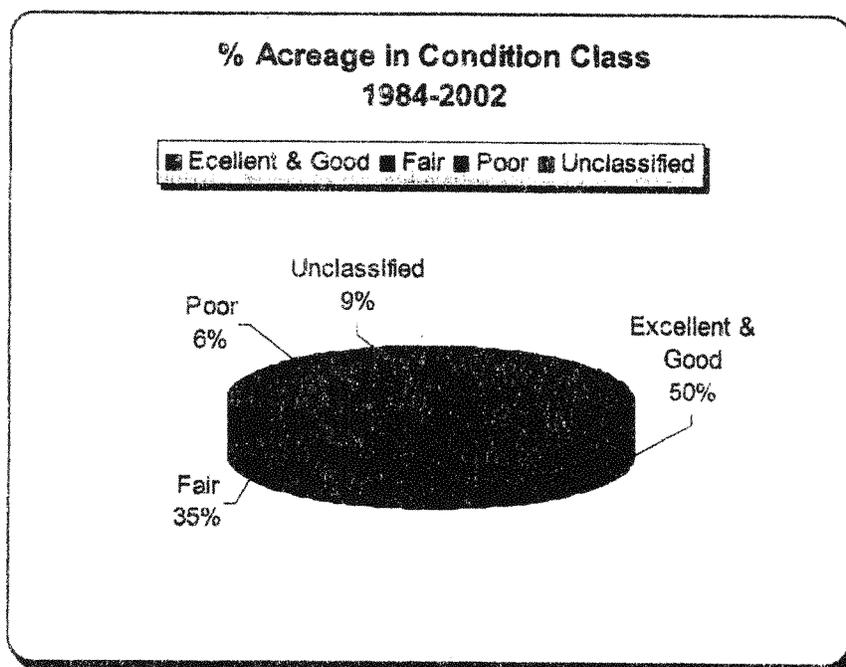
The Bureau of Land Management presently authorizes 2,613 permittees and lessees to graze livestock on 18,120,000 acres of public lands in Wyoming with an active preference of 1,117,777 AUM's. In 2002, there were 857,238 AUM's of voluntary nonuse authorized due to drought.

## III. Statistics

### A. *Range Condition.*

Range condition is technically defined as the degree of similarity of present vegetation to the potential or climax plant community. We have used the terms "excellent," "good," "fair" and "poor." In the past these terms have created unrealistic expectations about management success and the potential for improvement to higher stages of conditions. In the future, we will also report range conditions in ecological terms of seral stage, early, mid and late seral and potential natural or climax.

**TABLE 3**



\* Public Lands Statistics

Table 3 is an average of 50% of total public land acres inventoried each year from 1984-2002 in Wyoming.

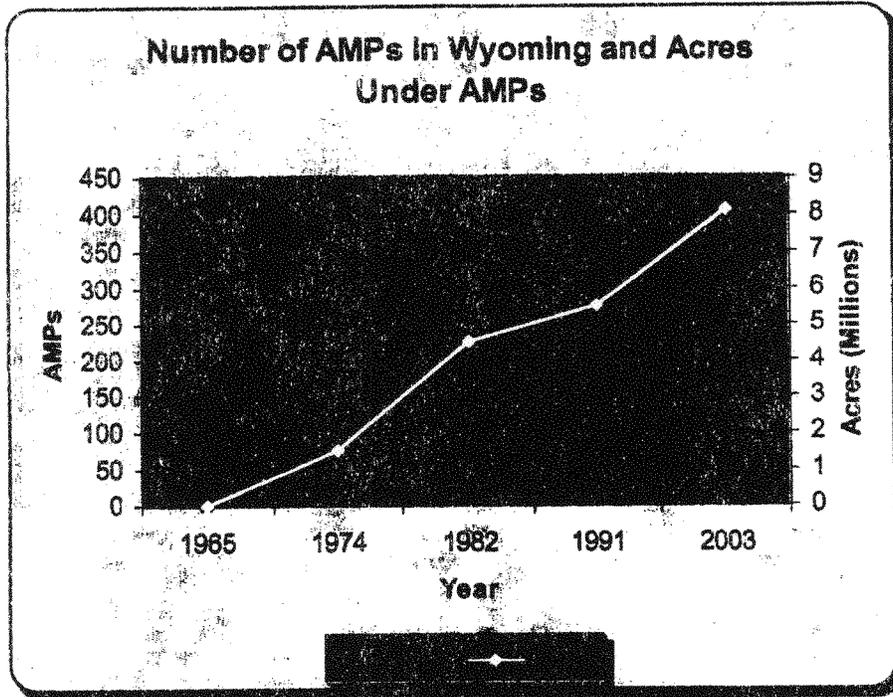
In 1974 19% of rangelands were in good or excellent condition and 31% of rangelands were in poor condition. From 1974 to the 1984-2002 average, rangelands increased 31% to 50% in good or excellent condition while poor condition range lands decreased 25% to only 6%.

***B. Allotment Management Plans (AMP's).***

The BLM implemented the Selective Management System in 1982 which provided a means to categorize and prioritize grazing allotments. This allowed us to concentrate our efforts on monitoring allotments and development of allotment management plans on allotments with greatest need.

Allotment management plans are documents which are prepared in careful consideration consultation, coordination and cooperation with permittees or lessees. AMP's prescribe the manner in and extent to which livestock grazing is conducted and managed to meet specific objectives for an allotment. AMP development began in 1965 and has progressed to 397 plans in 2003 covering 8,069,553 acres (See Table 5). That covers 45% of the total acres and 63% of the priority allotments.

TABLE 5



\* <http://www.blm.gov/nstc/rangeland/rangelandindex.html>

### **C. Monitoring.**

Rangeland monitoring is conducted to determine if resource objectives are being achieved or if progress toward meeting them is occurring. Priorities for monitoring are also established through the Selective Management System. The allotments with the greatest needs receive first attention. The level of monitoring is determined by the type of information needed and minimum monitoring standards.

Generally, the types of monitoring conducted are actual use, utilization, trend and climate. Refer to BLM Manual Handbook 4400-1 for further information. The information is collected over a specified period and analyzed to determine if progress toward the objectives is being achieved.

The BLM in Wyoming has established studies on 706 of our 833 high priority allotments.

***D. Standards and Guidelines Evaluation.***

According to grazing regulations that became effective in 1995 the BLM in Wyoming is required to develop and implement standards for healthy rangelands and guidelines for grazing management. The 6 standards apply to all uses of BLM administered public lands in Wyoming and represent the minimum acceptable conditions for public rangelands. The 9 guidelines apply only to livestock grazing. In 1998 implementation of the standards and guidelines began.

The regulations provide for public participation, referred to as consultation, cooperation and coordination with permittees and lessees, private land owners, interested public and State agencies which own or manage resources in the area.

**TABLE 6**

**Standards & Guidelines Report**

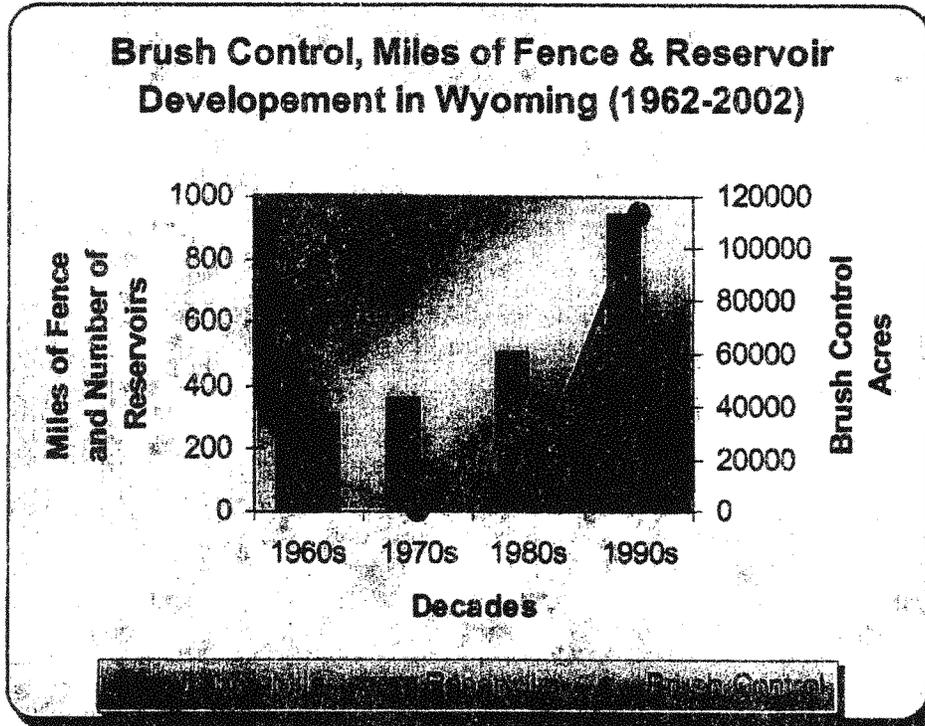
|  | <b>Number Allotments</b> | <b>Number Acres (Public)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rangelands Meeting All Standards                                 | 733                      | 632,768                      |
| Rangelands Not Meeting All Standards                             | 198                      | 3,528,134                    |
| Rangelands Not Meeting Standards Livestock is a Factor           | 53                       | 655,895                      |
| Rangelands Not Meeting Standards for Causes other than Livestock | 40                       | 192,347                      |
| Rangelands Unclassified  | 2,538                    | 7,184,016                    |
| Allotments Assessed Current Year 2003                            | 134                      | 1,984,241                    |
| Allotments Assessed Total to Date                                | 1,024                    | 10,700,144                   |
| Total Allotments and Acres in Wyoming                            | 3,562                    | 17,884,160                   |

\* <http://www.blm.gov/nstc/rangeland/rangelandindex.html>

### *E. Range Improvements.*

Fencing and water developments on the public lands began in the 1940s and was closely related to the range adjudication process. In the late 1960s, fencing, water development and brush control was most associated with AMP development.

TABLE 7



\* Public Lands Statistics

### *F. Weed Management Program.*

#### **Background:**

Throughout the West, invasive plants are overtaking many areas of public and private land. On public land it is estimated weed spread is at the rate of 4,600 acres per day. Because of various factors, including a strong State Noxious Weed Program, weeds have not spread as rapidly in Wyoming as in other western states. Nevertheless, noxious weed acreage (including cheatgrass) on BLM land in Wyoming is estimated at 1,293,800. To combat this situation, the BLM has one part-time weed coordinator in each of the 10 field offices to cover 18 million acres. Additionally, there is one part-time coordinator in the State Office to oversee the program. County Weed and Pest personnel primarily perform weed treatments under cooperative agreements with the BLM.

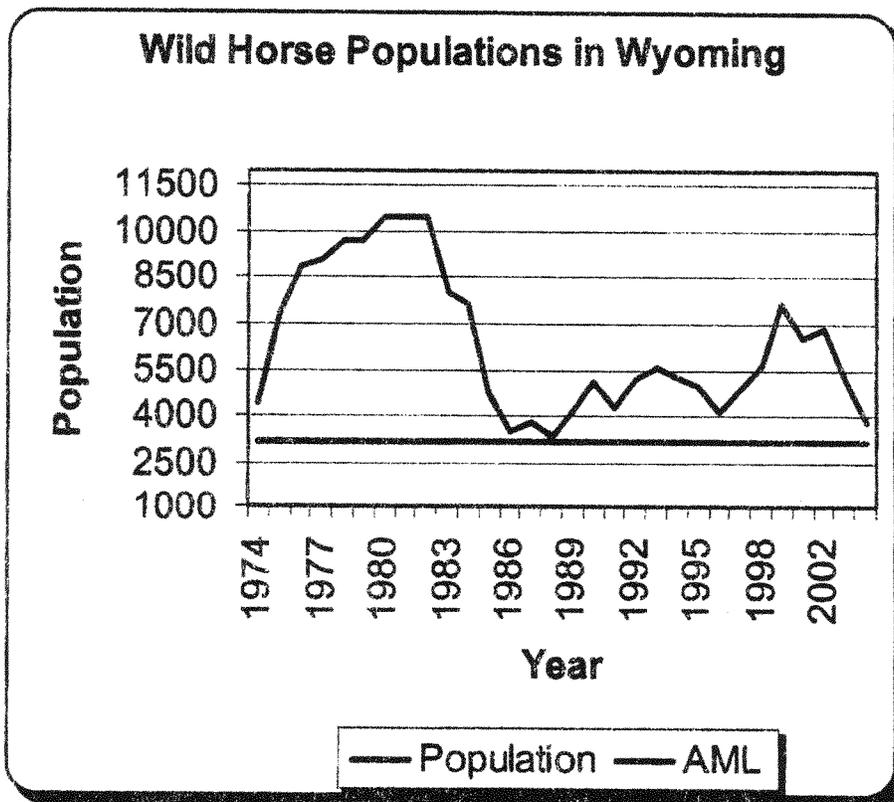
## **BLM Efforts:**

- Currently, the BLM has 19 cooperative agreements in place with County Weed and Pest Districts for biological, chemical, and mechanical weed treatment work.
- Field office weed personnel are conducting limited weed mapping inventories. All inventory data is being forwarded to the University of Wyoming for inclusion in a statewide database.
- Develop data collection standards
- Promote the use of digital technology for collecting inventory data, treatment acreage, and monitoring activities. Specifically, BLM employees and County Weed and Pest personnel should be trained to use Global Positioning Systems and associated mapping software.
- Fourteen Cooperative Weed Management Areas have been established on BLM administered land
- During fiscal year 2005, the BLM will establish a weed free forage policy for all BLM lands within Wyoming.
- BLM will continue to be a partner on the State Weed Team. Headed by the State of Wyoming, Department of Agriculture, the Team members include all federal agencies in the state and local weed & pest supervisors. By representing all the lands in Wyoming, this Team is able to address the issues concerning noxious weeds aggressively and without distinction of land ownership.
- Continue to develop weed awareness programs for the general public and BLM employees. As part of the educational outreach, the Wyoming State Office created a weed awareness poster. Currently, we have sent out over 3,000 of these posters nationwide.
- BLM is currently very active in working with county and university weed specialists on the control, eradication, and rehabilitation of areas over-taken by salt cedar.
- In a cooperative agreement with the University of Wyoming, a weed invasion predictive model has been developed. The BLM will continue to test the model and distribute it to all BLM field offices nationwide.
- Continue to use integrated weed management approach to weed invasions. This includes chemical treatment, releases of insects that feed on particular weed species (biological control), and mechanical removal. An important, but often-overlooked aspect of weed management, is consideration of cultural practices. These cultural practices include, but is not limited to, establishing good re-vegetation programs after wildland fires, construction activities, and weed treatments; ensuring all seed used for re-vegetation is weed free; and incorporating weed prevention measures in all BLM programs.
- An emphasis recently has been placed on Salt Cedar control throughout the state. Now listed as a State of Wyoming noxious weed, the BLM has entered into various cooperative projects to inventory and control this species. Establishment of this species is very damaging to riparian areas due to the creation of monocultures, thus replacing all native vegetation. Such monocultures displace wildlife and also deter recreational use.

**G. Wild Horses.**

The first complete inventory of wild horses in Wyoming numbered 4411 head in 1974. That number grew to over 10,000 head before BLM developed removal methods and began the adoption program. By 1988, the number was near 3,300 head and was near BLMs perceived management level. Wyoming has established 16 different Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and has established the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for each of the HMAs. The AML for all HMAs in Wyoming is 3,163 horses. Currently the population is 3,763 horses.

**TABLE 8**



\* Public Lands Statistics

## H. *Wildlife.*

The increase in big game populations in Wyoming is further indication of the improving condition of the public rangelands (See Table 9). The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has reported that deer, elk and antelope numbers were over objective levels in many parts of the State in 2003.

**TABLE 9**

**Big Game Population on Public Lands in Wyoming**

| <b>Big Game</b> | <b>1962</b> | <b>1973</b> | <b>1984</b> | <b>1990</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>% Inc In 41 Yrs</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Antelope        | 97,000      | 101,700     | 157,000     | 226,722     | 439,977     | 354%                   |
| Deer            | 87,500      | 135,250     | 214,800     | 246,465     | 484,700     | 454%                   |
| Elk             | 12,600      | 24,225      | 30,400      | 35,015      | 93,506      | 642%                   |
| Bighorn         | 320         | 1,020       | 1,200       | 1,221       | 5,513       | 1623%                  |
| Moose           | 390         | 1,790       | 2,000       | 2,481       | 10,777      | 2663%                  |

\* Wyoming Game and Fish Department

# The Range of Our Vision

## I. Summary of Bureau Objectives.

1. Revisions to the Grazing Regulations for the Public Lands.
  - i. This would improve grazing management and help continue public lands ranching in the rural West.
2. Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy.
  - i. establish baseline data for existing populations and habitat of the greater sage-grouse,
  - ii. explore management possibilities,
  - iii. explain management intent and methods for conserving sagebrush and sage-grouse habitat across the West, and
  - iv. design and implement on-the-ground projects to conserve and enhance habitat that is vital to the health and well-being of sage-grouse and other species populations that depend on sagebrush for their survival.
3. The Federal Land Stewardship tool.
  - i. A part of the NILS solution allows users to search, locate, and display the federal land management boundaries for federal lands in the United States. The browser-based viewer can be used to graphically or textually locate the federal land of interest. Users can select by township and range, latitude and longitude, federal land name, or by drawing a box on a map. The results of the search will display the selected area with symbolized boundaries that indicate the federal surface management agencies responsible for the federal lands. Users are able to view or "stream" live data directly to their desktop for use in GIS applications. The data represents the "best available" seamless source of the federal surface management agency boundaries. Much of the BLM data has been snapped to the Public Land Survey System making it more accurate than previous versions of the data layers.

## II. Wyoming Objectives and Situations.

1. Wyoming wants to be able to meet all standards in the standards and guidelines evaluations.
2. Complete all permit renewals by 2009.
  - i. This will cut down on the NEPA process for future renewals.
3. Decrease the administrative process for range improvement projects.
  - i. This will increase range improvement project planning.
4. Automate monitoring studies.
  - i. This will decrease preparation time for FOYA's for the public and data calls for the Washington Office.

12/14/07

RECEIVED  
DEC 19 2007

Dear Sir:

I have lived in colorful Colorado since 1957 when my husband was sent to the USAF Academy as an instructor. Being originally from the East coast, it took a little while for me to fall in love with the beauty of the magnificent wide open West. I've been at my present property for almost 20 years. My 12 acres east boundary is two or three hundred feet from Kettle Creek. In the 1990's (Chick listed preble mouse) a dense housing development was built next to me on the other side of Kettle Creek, with some of the houses much closer to the creek than mine. Three years ago a contract was put on my property, but was negated when the buyer was told roughly 6 acres were in the preble mouse habitat and could not be disturbed. Through the years I've been most fortunate to be able to ride on Kettle Creek Ranch. I can tack up my pony, go through a gate, and have access to acres of beautiful riding. So it was with much dismay over a period of about 3 years I watched Powers Blvd. being built right through the ranch, and its bridge over Kettle Creek. (This all after listing preble mouse) The massive concrete supports for the bridge are almost in the creek. When the heavy trucks go across the bridge, I (who am quite deaf) can hear the rumbling - never mind the constant drone of the cars. All this day and night taking place within the PMH, never mind within so many feet away from the habitat. When the decision to delist the mouse was ok in Wyoming, but not here in Colorado, it didn't surprise me. I just made the whole situation re the mouse even more ridiculous.

adult

I am 72 1/2 years old and throughout my life have been fortunate to live on a nice open space. When I first rode at Kettle Creek Ranch I always saw herds of elk, antelope, deer, lots of big jack rabbits, coyotes, Fox and wild turkeys. My husband called me Mother Nature because of my love per flowers, trees, birds and animals. I do respect all life, but I feel the Preble mouse will survive, breed and live happily off the endangered list.

Sincerely,

Snookie Fatick

2210 Old Ranch Rd  
Colorado Springs,  
CO 80908



LAKADISA@comcast.net

12/31/2007 09:56 AM

To FW6\_PMJM@fws.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Prebles Meadow jumping mouse

Hello,

I just received my Castle Rock Town newspaper and saw that the US Fish & Wildlife Service dediced that the mouse will remain on the endangered list for Colorado.

I signed on to your website, read articles, looked at maps, and found that the 1998 listing was questioned many times as a mistake - that it was not actually a sub-species anyway. I am a very strong supporter of caring for our environment and managing wildlife in realistic ways. But the endangered species act has created the most ridiculous and wasteful use of tax dollars and F&WS staff time that could ever be imagined. It is totally out of control. This mouse, just like the spotted owl in the Northwest, will survive just fine without your controls and regulations. It's shameful that experienced and educated wildlife experts have been fooled into supporting the Endangered Species Act and have created this meaningless bureaucracy that wastes hundreds of thousands of tax dollars each year.

As a tax payer and friend of many landowners in Douglas County Colorado, I ask that those of you at the F&WS who see the travesty in these procedings will take a stand against the Endangered Species Act, make some changes, and get back to the important work of managing our environment and wildlife with wisdom, efficiency, and meaningful using of the tax dollars so willingly sent each year to the government by it's citizens.

Regards,  
Larry Banister



LAKADISA@comcast.net  
12/31/2007 01:56 PM

To FW6\_PMJM@FWS.GOV  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Preble Mouse

Hello,

This is my second email. I would like to know how the mouse population is accurately counted in Colorado. My guess is that no one has ANY idea how many are out there. I've read that someone may go out and try to find a few mice in a given area, then extrapolate that number over the entire habitat area.

When was the last count done and what was the method? Do you really believe your counting methods are accurate? Or are the methods used because there is no better way known?

In my opinion, in order to get an accurate count, a force of hundreds of people would need to live in the habitat for weeks, use video surveillance, and scrounge around constantly to find these mice.

Regards.

Larry Banister

1/2/08

6860 Woodgate Ct.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the endangered species protection for the Prebble's jumping mouse. It is past time for us to realize that every plant and animal has an important impact on the environment. We must protect the environment to protect our own health and well-being as well as the well-being of other species. Let's keep the protection for this animal and at the same time protect the health of the overall environment. This mouse should also have protection in neighboring states as well.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Smith



"Liz Klein"  
<elizaklein@gmail.com>  
01/22/2008 12:39 PM

To FW6\_PMJM@fws.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject PMJM Listing-do not delist

Jan 22, 2008

I support continuing the protection of the PMJM under the ESA in Colorado and all other states. The PMJM is an keystone species of Front Range riparian ecosystems that are threatened by over development. Habitat for this species is very limited and thusly very important to protect.

Liz Klein  
719 633-5927