

September 24, 2009

Dear Permittee:

We hope by now you are aware of the actions taken by the Emery County Public Lands Council (PLC). To date, those actions include a vote in favor of creating a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Emery County as well as creating legislation to be sponsored by Senator Bob Bennett that would finalize the wilderness designation in Emery County. Over the last six months the Emery County Lands Council has formed multiple subcommittees to address the multiple resources involved in our public lands and how those resources will be affected by the creation of legislation. One of those subcommittees has been assigned the grazing resources in Emery County.

In the course of the public meetings held by the subcommittee on grazing, many issues have been discussed as well as discussing the direction that needs to be taken by the PLC to protect the grazing resources here in this county. We have taken the time to discuss what it would mean to change the current Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) into Wilderness Areas and how we can make sure that valid and existing rights are maintained. The language of the original Wilderness Bill actually helps to maintain and keep access to existing roads, water sources and improvements as long as those rights are current and mentioned in your term grazing permits.

When the PLC began this process, we gave ourselves a very aggressive time line to complete this legislation. However, when we had very little public response in our initial meetings, we determined to slow down a little and make sure that everyone involved has been informed and educated to our intent. In writing this letter, we hope to encourage you to do a few things:

- Become aware of the process taking place in Emery County right now.
- Check you own term grazing permit and make sure that it allows for motorized access to necessary areas in allotments.
- Check BLM and county maps and make sure that your water sources are noted on the map and if not help us inventory those sites.
- Ask questions and provide comments.

We don't feel like we have a lot of time to draw out this process as other parties have created and are pushing their own proposals for Emery County's San Rafael Swell. The intent of the PLC is to recommend legislation that actually comes from the citizens of Emery County and those whose livelihoods depend upon the resources in the San Rafael Swell.

If you have any questions or comments, , please call Ray Petersen, Emery County Public Lands Director at (435) 381 5552 or email either of the subcommittee chair persons at the addresses listed below:

Thank you for your concern and for your participation,

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