

Vermillion Ranch
Limited Partnership
14883 mcrd 10 n
Maybell co.81640
TWRIGHTDICKINSON@direcway.com

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Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
655 Emerson
Craig Co. 81625
Jeremy.Casterson@blm.gov

Dear Jeremy

I would like to Nominate the following for BLM consideration as a potential ACEC area. This is a conceptual outline I believe worthy of further refinement.

The Name of the Area will be: "The Real West" or " The Real Working West"

Potential Area: All of the Little Snake Resource Area and or all of the grazing allotments

A. Relevance criteria:

1. Significance , Natural process and system,

Real west ranching

The historic livestock grazing industry with its migratory patterns dating to the 1870's.

This historic, cultural and scenic phenomenon remains as it exists unique to Colorado and this region. Very few if any places still exist where migratory livestock operations still follow the natural rhythms of the seasons. Following the path of prehistoric and historic animal and human migration current rural pastoralists maintain the natural migratory cycle of moving from winter to spring to summer to fall ranges. No where is there left in Colorado where livestock and their herders move in the numbers and methods; Jenson Utah to Clark Colo., Oak Creek to Hiawatha, California park to Bitter creek, Browns Park to Rocksprings, Craig to Wamsutter, Three forks to Dad etc..

The scenic value of the horse drives, the migrating herds of sheep and trailing cows are not only unique in their own right but the last visage of a truly impotent cultural and historic event unable to be replicated in today's modern world, especially in Colorado.

B. Importance

The interrelationship between public land use and the retention of associated private lands in open space in the region is inseparable and at risk.

As described in A above private lands from Oak Creek Colo., to Jensen UT., to Rocksprings and Baggs Wyo. are at risk of development without careful coordination and cooperation between BLM and the private sector. Not only is there risk of further development and fragmentation of significant private land wildlife habitat and its corresponding impacts to habitat on public lands as well but the loss of a truly unique and distinctive culture that defines a region it's people and their history.

Fragile, sensitive, irreplaceable, exemplary, threaten; vulnerable, adverse to change, I agree with your criteria it pretty well describes the value of the industry and its people.

Closing

I propose that BIM recognize the significant, unique, historic and cultural importance of the livestock industry and take all the appropriate management actions to provide special management attention and resources to retain and enhance this important industry and culture

This proposal is not meant to be exclusionary to the contrary a true multiple use ACEC or similar special designation that would retain and enhance all forms of grazing agriculture, energy development and recreation would truly reflect the Real West that is Moffat and Routt counties

Sincerely T. Wright Dickinson