



Wyoming  
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

Dave Freudenthal, *Governor*  
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*  
2219 Carey Ave. • Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: (307) 777-7321 • Fax: (307) 777-6593  
Web: agriculture.wy.gov • Email: wda1@state.wy.us

*The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.*

July 27, 2009

John Glover, Acting Director  
Easements Programs Division  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm and Ranch Lands Program  
PO Box 2890, RM. 6819-S  
Washington, D.C. 20013

~~556~~  
561

Dear Mr. Glover:

Following are the comments from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) on the proposed interim final rule correction on the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP).

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this proposal has major impacts upon our agriculture industry, our natural resources and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA supports the conservation, protection and restoration of America's farm and ranchlands. We believe the benefits to these programs are multifaceted for the private landowner, the wildlife utilizing these private lands and the public for their water quality, aesthetic values and open space. We write the NRCS in support of the clarification and correction related to real property right on conservation easements in FRPP.

We continue to support and encourage NRCS to authorize eligible conservation easement entities to hold the easement deeds and monitor the restrictions set forth in the contract. We do not support Federal Government acquiring real property rights on or within private lands. However, we do agree with the recent correction and removal of the "*Secretary's authority to purchase easements or other interests in eligible land*" and replace the language with "*shall facilitate and provide funding for the purchase of conservation easements or other interests in eligible land,*" is much clearer and supported by the WDA.

We believe landowners interested in setting land aside for conservation in an easement would prefer to work with local or in-state entities that specialize in establishing easements for fair market value. The easement entities can work with neighboring landowners to create large, landscape scale easements, which is more beneficial to all.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Juan Reyes, *District 1* • Jim Hodder, *District 2* • Shaun Sims, *District 3* • Jim Bennage, *District 4* • Joe Thomas, *District 5*  
Bryan Brost, *District 6* • Jim Price, Jr., *District 7*

**YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Patrick Zimmerer, Southeast • Dalin Winters, Northwest • John Hansen, Southwest • Bridget Kukowski, Northeast

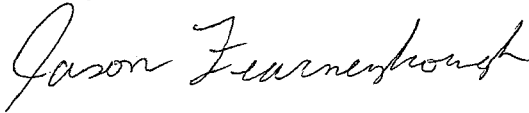
7/27/2009

FRPP Interim Rule Correction

Page 2

The WDA thanks the NRCS for receiving our comments. We look forward to reviewing the final rules and to the implementation of these programs onto the farm and ranchlands across Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Jason Fearneyhough  
Director

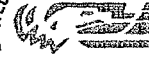
JF/jw

Cc: Governor's Planning Office  
WDA Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
Wyoming State Grazing Board  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming NRCS State Office

STATE OF WYOMING  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002-0100

John Glover, Acting Director  
Easements Programs Division  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm and Ranch Lands Program  
PO Box 2890, RM. 6819-S  
Washington, D.C. 20013



UNITED STATES POSTAGE  
  
PINEY BOWES  
02 1M \$ 00.44<sup>0</sup>  
0004247557 AUG 04 2009  
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 82001

20013\$2890 8001

