

Wyoming.  
Ogden District Ranger decisions:  
*Ogden Standard Examiner*, Ogden,  
Utah.  
Salt Lake District Ranger decisions:  
*Salt Lake Tribune*, Salt Lake City,  
Utah.

Dated: April 3, 2003.

Jack G. Troyer,  
Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 03-8617 Filed 4-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Bridger-Teton National Forest— Wyoming—Big Piney, Grey River and Jackson Ranger Districts; Sublette and Lincoln Counties, WY; Environmental Impact Statement for Wyoming Range Allotment Complex**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an  
environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Wyoming Range  
Allotment Complex (composed of the  
Corral Creek, Mule Creek, Grizzly Creek,  
Pickle Pass, Upper Grayback/Phosphate,  
North Horse, and Prospect Peak  
domestic sheep allotments) is located in  
Townships 34, 35, 36 and 37 North,  
Ranges 114, 115 and 116 West; Sixth  
Principal Meridian. The majority of the  
area (65%) is located within Sublette  
County, with the remainder being in  
Lincoln County. The complex is located  
on three districts—Greys River, Jackson,  
and Big Piney. Big Piney Ranger District  
administers all the allotments except  
Pickle Pass, which is administered by  
the Greys River District.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope  
of the analysis must be received by May  
11, 2003. The draft environmental  
impact statement is expected July 2003  
and the final environmental impact  
statement is expected September 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to:  
District Ranger, Big Piney Ranger  
District, Box 218, Big Piney, Wyoming  
83113. For further information, mail  
correspondence to  
*mailroom\_r4\_bridger\_teton@fs.fed.us*  
and on the subject line put only  
“Wyoming Range Complex.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
District Ranger, Big Piney Ranger  
District, Box 218, Big Piney, Wyoming  
83113 or phone (307) 276-3710.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The Purpose and Need is to make  
recommendations on interpretation and

site specific application of Forest Plan  
standards and guidelines to determine  
whether or not to allow domestic  
livestock grazing on the allotment  
complex.

To date, the Forest Service has  
identified four alternatives:

#### *Alternative 1—Proposed Action*

The Forest Service proposes to  
determine on the allotment complex if  
livestock grazing of 5 sheep bands will  
continue to be authorized on the  
allotment complex. All vacant allotment  
and allotment boundary changes have  
been incorporated into the complex  
through the administrative process as  
defined in FSH 2209.13—Grazing  
Permit Administration Handbook,  
Chapter 90—Rangeland Management  
Decision Making, Interim Directive No.:  
2209.13-2002-4 Section 96—  
Delineation of Grazing Allotments and  
Section 98—Allotment Management  
Changes.

#### **Possible Alternative**

#### *Alternative 2—No Action—Continue With the Current Livestock Management*

The current management provides for  
grazing 5 bands of sheep on the  
allotment complex. All vacant allotment  
and allotment boundary changes have  
been incorporated into the complex  
through the administrative process as  
defined in FSH 2209.13—grazing permit  
administration handbook, chapter 90—  
rangeland management decision  
making, Interim Directive No.: 2209.13-  
2002-4 Sections 96—Delineation of  
Grazing Allotments and section 98—  
Allotment Management Changes.

#### *Alternative 3—Separation Between Domestic Sheep Grazing Area and the Bighorn Sheep Core Area Boundary— Close Upper Grayback/Phosphate, Pickle Pass, Grizzly Creek and a Portion of Corral Creek Allotments to Domestic Sheep Grazing*

This alternative would close the  
Upper Grayback/Phosphate, Pickle Pass,  
Grizzly Creek and approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of  
the Corral Creek allotments to domestic  
sheep grazing. The remaining area of  
Corral Creek allotment would be  
combined with the North Horse Creek  
Allotment and would remain open to  
domestic sheep grazing. This alternative  
provides separation from the bighorn  
sheep core native herd boundary and  
would include all the management  
actions described in the proposed  
action.

#### *Alternative 4—No Livestock Grazing*

No domestic livestock would be  
allowed to graze on the allotment  
complex. We are required in 40 CFR

1502.14(d) and Forest Service Handbook  
1909.15, 23.1 to consider the No  
Livestock Grazing alternative in detail  
and to use it as a “baseline” for  
comparing the effects of the other  
alternatives.

#### **Responsible Officials**

Greg Clark, District Forest Ranger, Big  
Piney Ranger District, P.O. Box 218, Big  
Piney, Wyoming 83113. District Forest  
Ranger, Greys River Ranger District, P.O.  
Box 339, Afton, Wyoming 83110 Nancy  
Hall, District Forest Ranger, Jackson  
Ranger District, P.O. Box 1689, Jackson,  
Wyoming 83001.

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The decision, which is based on this  
analysis, will be decide if livestock will  
be allowed to graze on the allotment  
complex, either through the  
implementation of the proposed action,  
or an alternative to the proposed action.  
The decision would include any  
mitigation measures needed in addition  
to those prescribed in the Forest Plan.

#### **Scoping Process**

The Forest Service is seeking  
information, comments, and assistance  
from individuals, organizations, tribal  
governments, and federal, state, and  
local agencies interested in or affected  
by this project. Comments submitted on  
the 1999 scoping effort, comments on  
the Environmental Assessment released  
in December of 2002, previous field  
trips, and any new comments will be  
used to prepare the Draft Environmental  
Impact Statement (DEIS). Public  
participation will be solicited by  
notifying in person and/or by mail  
known interested and affected publics.  
News releases will be used to give the  
public general notice. Public  
participation activities would include  
requests for written comments. The first  
formal opportunity to comment is to  
respond to this notice of intent, which  
initiates the scoping process (40 CFR  
1501.7). Scoping includes: (1)  
Identifying potential issues, (2)  
narrowing the potential issues and  
identifying significant issues of those  
that have been covered by prior  
environmental review, (3) exploring  
alternatives in addition to No Action,  
and (4) identifying potential  
environmental effects of the proposed  
action and alternatives.

#### **Preliminary Issues**

The Forest Service has identified the  
following potential issues. In addition,  
through the April 1999 scoping effort  
and comments received on the  
Environmental Assessment released in  
December 2002, issues have been