



Guardians of the Range

Dedicated to the Multiple Use of Public Lands & the American Way of Life

Newsletter No. 65

September 2009

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Proposed Wilderness Bighorn National Forest Powder River District

- by Kathleen Jachowski

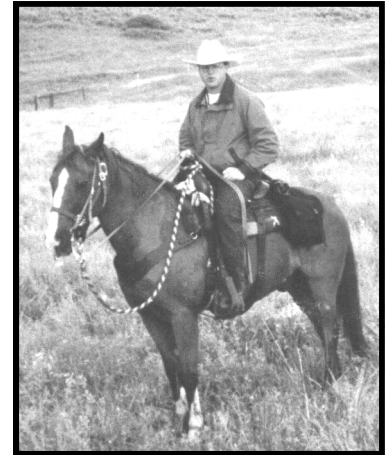
Guardian Christy Love's Rock Creek allotment (UM ranch) is once again in the crosshairs for Wilderness designation. On August 12, a group of us rode the proposed area for an up close and personal look. This area is next to the Cloud Peak Wilderness, and had been considered for inclusion in the 1984 designation. It was not included within the final boundary lines at that time.

It is back on the table, however, as a consequence of the Bighorn Forest Plan Revision completed in 2005. The forest plan revision process is one of the few times that public lands can be considered for Wilderness designation.

I, along with a business associate of the UM Ranch, participated in this field tour representing the interests of Guardian Christy Love who was out of town. Ms. Love heard about the field tour second hand shortly before it was to take place. The contention of the Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA) that 'all stakeholders' were invited and welcome is not quite on target. If the permittee had not heard about the tour and inquired, it would have taken place without her knowledge, or representatives of her interests being included.

Threats to this area, which would warrant a Wilderness designation, were not presented. The scenery was spectacular and the *footprint of man* almost non-existent. When I asked Liz Howe of the WWA to articulate what the threats were, she referred to the possibility of roads, and referred to a one mile stretch that had happened in the late 1980s. The accuracy of even that is being verified, as that stretch of road may have already existed as a long established jeep trail. We'll check that out. The lack of genuine inclusion of the largest permit holder or 'stakeholder' is what is noteworthy.

*Please see **Wilderness** on page 2*



Featured Guardian: Craig Mead

- by Echo Renner

Omaha, Nebraska - In 1996, Craig Mead relished his experience as a guest during one of Dana and Alice Kern's Doublerafter Cattle Drives near beautiful Ranchester, Wyoming. He returns annually as a guest, and has become a hand on the drive.

"I talked with Dana about the Guardians several times, and when I became a member, I suggested instead of the Guardians paying for a website, I do a website, pay the hosting fees, and get a membership in kind," comments Mead.

The board of directors agreed, and Craig Mead launched the Guardians much-needed web presence earlier this year at www.guardiansoftherange.org.

Folks can help by linking to the Guardians' site, either individually or through their website, which gives the Guardians a higher seating with the various search engines such as Google, Yahoo, etc. Mead says, "The more links we get, the higher the various search engines will rate us. That is priceless."

He explains, "I'm not a website design person, and I don't do this as a business. I have degrees in business with an emphasis in accounting and computer programming."

*Please see **Mead** on page 4*

**"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." ~ Winston Churchill (1874-1965)
(Sounds like ranching to me!)**

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**Direct from the Director:
BRUCELLOSIS**

Cody – August 18

I attended a meeting on the Future Cooperative Initiative for Brucellosis Management, one of Wyoming’s long-standing serious issues. Like the

weather, Brucellosis will most likely continue to be with us for decades in the one remaining reservoir of the disease, which is in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), and its management a nagging necessity.

Jim Logan, Wyoming State Veterinarian presented the Core Principles for Revising the Brucellosis Program. They are: An Overview or recognition of where things stand today relative to national distribution of the disease, Prevention/Surveillance, Disease Response, Disease Management and the Federal Role.

Because the GYA is the remaining disease reservoir in the nation, producers in this area are somewhat in the complicating crosshairs of both market realities and state/federal agencies with varying levels of cooperation.

One attendee put forth that the other producers around the state should share in the financial costs of having to have animals tested before transport. He felt it unfair that GYA producers are bearing these operational costs alone. Dr. Logan pointed out that other producers around the state have told him that they, in fact, feel as though they should not be held ‘hostage’ by the state losing its Brucellosis free status just because the problem is clearly centered in the GYA. Differing opinions from different parts of the state.

Under the proposed revisions, the state would not lose its brucellosis free status as a result of sporadic occurrences. A practical quarantine process which protects the industry and the individual/producer’s viability would be sought to bear on isolated occurrences.

Some important, but as yet, unanswered questions are: Where do the Indian tribes stand relative to participating in the management of the disease; How will the changes in wildlife movements as a result of constant wolf and grizzly bear pressures affect disease control; Will the Wyoming G&F continue to partner with the Wyoming Livestock Board and others to remove wild elk and wild bison when commingling occurs on cattle feed lines.

For more information and to share your thoughts and opinions go to: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

K Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director
(307) 587-3723 guardians@hughes.net

CRAIG THOMAS GUARDIANS OF THE RANGE ENDOWMENT

Supporting this endowment is a wonderful tax exempt way to show your support for the Guardians’ effort, or to honor a family member or friend. We want to have a sustainable financial resource base to achieve our goals and objectives.

For more details, please contact a board member or Kathleen Jachowski (307)587-3723 or guardians@hughes.net.

**Members-Only Mailing
Water Rights**

Current members will be receiving a special advisory, regarding filings on water rights on both BLM & USFS allotments.

Why Cowboy Day.....?

- by Kathleen Jachowski

Respectful space has been allocated in this September newsletter to thank the many entities who helped to make our July 25, celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy successful.

I want to use this opportunity to offer food for thought on the importance of the Guardians proactive involvement in such a celebration. It is not just because we are an organization of cowboys and cowgirls. It is out of respect for all that has come before us, the world of today, and the future we hope to ensure for the young ones coming up the trail.

Our voice as American male and female ranchers should not only be heard when we need help, or when outside forces are bearing down on all that we hold dear.

We should require of ourselves that we take time to volunteer to help with celebrations such as NDAC, and not just sit back and assume we are entitled to have it happen by the elbow grease of others because we are so ‘special’. We need to act special. We need to share in the limelight, but also we need to help out as part of the stage crew to bring our culture alive and open to the general public.

We know the message. We need to work together to deliver the message. Caring enough to share the work and the pride is what cowboys and cowgirls have done for decades.

So, next year, when NDAC comes around, please think about helping your Board of Directors and the NDAC committee put together a celebration that has your hand print and effort. What better legacy to leave to those you love, but that of a tradition of involvement and caring about something larger than ourselves.

Join the Guardians of the Range

LIVESTOCK OPERATORS:

- \$50 for up to 50 head of cattle
- \$1.00 a head from 51 to 1,500 cattle
- 20 cents a head for sheep

BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS & ASSOCIATIONS

without federal grazing permits:

- \$25 up to \$100 WRANGLER
- \$250 RANGE RIDER
- \$500 TOP HAND

\$1,000 GUARDIAN of the RANGE

Please make checks payable to:
Guardians of the Range, P.O. Box 472, Worland, WY 82401

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Treasurer Opening

The Guardians' Board Treasurer, Tori Dietz, has stepped aside to help with Guardians fund raising efforts. Therefore, we are looking to fill this unexpired term for a short time (through January 2010). If you like to work with numbers, and along side a dedicated group of folks, please contact Kathleen Jachowski at 307-587-3723 or guardians@hughes.net

Mead continued from page 1

"I had designed a website for the business my wife and I own, and one for the Doublerafter (www.doublerafter.com)," he comments. "The Guardians' site doesn't have a lot of flash or animation. It's not fancy; it's what I would call 'functionable.' You don't need a lot of flash, as long as you get your message across to your targeted audience."

Mead grew up in rural Iowa, and then moved to Omaha after college. He worked for the Omaha World Herald for 14 years and then at SITEL Corporation. Highlights of his business career included working on a major initial public offering of stock to the public, and having the opportunity to travel internationally. He later returned to Iowa and worked as Executive Vice President of Administration for West Central Cooperative, the largest local farmers' cooperative in Iowa. In 2000, he returned to Omaha to pursue a masters degree at Creighton University. In 2004, he and his wife purchased a small private college. Today Mead also runs a small consulting business.

"The Guardians, in order to be successful, need to expand beyond our grassroots base. The people trying to destroy a way of life by calling themselves environmentalists give the impression they are based in the west, but they are national in focus. In reality, the ranchers and people who live here are the original environmentalists, and they have a passion to take care of the land, because it is their livelihood."

He continues, "There are all kinds of marketing tools available today to help the Guardians get out there and get across what we're trying to accomplish. Some tools include direct mail, email blasts, and Facebook which will reach a different audience," Mead says. "It's important for the Guardians to expand beyond what we are. We need to get our message out to all people, and not just ranchers."

"When I was developing the Guardians website, I did research and went to Western Watersheds Project (WWP) website, and was just flabbergasted to find plain old outright lies. People who do not know, will not know WWP is not being truthful. That's why we need to reach people in all facets of life; young, old, professional, blue collar, rancher and so forth, or there will be a mass population who knows nothing but lies." He adds, "What is unique about the internet is people can post anything and others will believe it, simply because it's on the internet. We have to get people to be critical independent thinkers."

"The problem with our country is there are more people on government programs or working for the government than in manufacturing, service, and other sectors. Until people decide to go back to work, take pride in their accomplishments, and take responsibility for themselves, the country will continue to experience problems. We need to challenge people, get them to be critical and independent thinkers, and get the truth out there. What people do not understand is that a government big enough to give them everything is a government big enough to take everything away."

"We want the American Way and the Cowboy Way to survive, and to do that, we need to become of a nation of people who takes responsibility and thinks for ourselves. **Standing up for ranchers is about more than just grazing, it's about standing up for what is right in this country. It's about freedom, choice, and so on.** When an industry that is ethically strong, morally strong, and scientifically strong is villainized, people must become informed and object, so that those who are uninformed become informed. I don't see it as a matter of you against me; I see it as people standing up for what is right. That is the key."