



# Trail News

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

From the

## Meeteetse Conservation District

[www.meeteetse-conservery.net](http://www.meeteetse-conservery.net)

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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## **NEW RULE FOR WATERS OF THE U.S. RECEIVES PRAISE FROM SEVERAL GROUPS**

On January 23, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (Army) fulfilled yet another promise of President Trump by finalizing the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). For the first time, the agencies are streamlining the definition so that it includes four simple categories of jurisdictional waters, provides clear exclusions for many water features that traditionally have not been regulated, and defines terms in the regulatory text that have never been defined before. Congress, in the Clean Water Act, explicitly directed the Agencies to protect “navigable waters.” The Navigable Waters Protection Rule regulates these waters and the core tributary systems that provide perennial or intermittent flow into them. The Navigable Waters Protection Rule protects the environment while respecting states, localities, tribes, and private property owners. It clearly delineates where federal regulations apply and gives state and local authorities more flexibility to determine how best to manage waters within their borders. Assertions have been made that the new rule will reduce jurisdiction over thousands of stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands. These

assertions are incorrect because they are based on data that is too inaccurate and speculative to be meaningful for regulatory purposes. The final rule along with state, local, and tribal regulations and programs provide a network of protective coverage for the nation’s water resources. U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), released the following statement, “The old WOTUS rule put Washington in control of ponds, puddles, and prairie potholes. The punishing regulation was so confusing that property owners and businesses could not determine when permits were needed. Even worse, it inserted Washington into local decision making. This overreach put unfair restrictions on how farmers, ranchers, and landowners could use their property. I will continue to work closely with the Trump administration as it seeks commonsense ways to keep America’s water clean and safe.” The final rule fulfills Executive Order 13788 and reflects legal precedent set by key Supreme Court cases as well as robust public outreach and engagement, including pre-proposal input and comments received on the proposed rule.

**NorthernAg.NET**

## **IS SOYBEAN STUBBLE GOOD CATTLE FEED?**

After soybeans are harvested, cows sometimes are put out on the residues to graze. Some bean residues are even baled. But how good is this feed? We’re all familiar with the usefulness of grazing corn stalks, but I see more and more residue from soybean fields grazed every year. Cows seem to like licking up what’s left behind after combining. But frankly, I’m a little concerned that some folks may think their cows are getting more from those soybean residues than what truly is there. The problem is a matter of perception. When most of us think of soybeans, we think high protein so we expect soybean residues will be a high protein feed, too. Unfortunately, the opposite is true; soybean residue is very low in protein. Soybean stems and pods contain only about 4 to 6 percent crude protein, well below the 7 to 8 percent needed for minimum support of a dry beef cow. Even though leaves can be up to 12 percent protein, it’s only around one-third digestible, so that’s not much help. In fact, protein digestibility is low in all bean residues. Energy is even worse. TDN averages between 35 and 45 percent for leaves, stems, and pods. This is even lower than wheat straw. As a result, cows fed only bean residue can lose weight and condition very quickly. Heavy supplementation is needed to maintain cow health. This doesn’t mean soybean residues are worthless for grazing or even baled. They can be a good extender of much higher quality hay or silage. However, cattle must be fed quite a bit of higher energy and protein feeds to make up for the deficiencies in soybean residues. Don’t be misled into thinking bean residues are as good as or better than corn stalks. Otherwise, you and your cows will suffer the consequences.

**On Pasture**

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## BLM RELEASES ASSESSMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody Field Office has analyzed the purchase of 1,820 acres of land west of Cody. The acquisition will improve public access for recreation opportunities and protect critical wildlife migration corridors. The BLM received an appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to purchase the private inholding on top of Sheep Mountain, which will provide public access to 17,000 acres of adjacent public land. To review and comment on the environmental assessment, please visit the project's ePlanning site. Comments through ePlanning must be received by Feb. 20. Comments may also be mailed to AFM Minerals and Lands, BLM Cody Field Office, 1002 Blackburn Street, Cody, WY, 82414. The Sheep Mountain acquisition would not result in a net gain of federal ownership within the Cody Field Office area. Since 1980, the field office has conveyed approximately 31,300 acres and acquired 17,800 acres through disposal and exchange. For more information, contact Cody Field Office Assistant Field Manager Chad Krause at 307-578-5900



## NEPA APPLAUDED

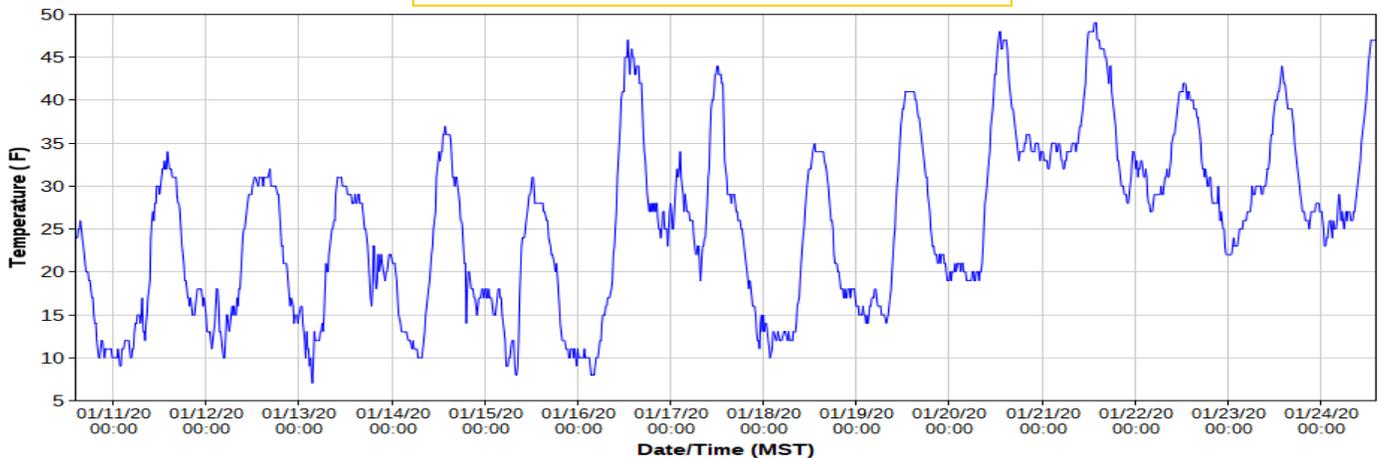
Ranchers across the country hailed an announcement by President Trump that his administration will promulgate new regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). "Over time, NEPA has evolved into a complex web of onerous processes and bureaucratic red tape," said fifth-generation Oregon rancher and Public Lands Council President Bob Skinner. "These sensible updates proposed by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) are welcome news to ranching families whose businesses have been impacted by the overwhelming and growing costs of NEPA compliance." "Cattle producers across the country are grateful to President Trump and his team at CEQ for listening to rural America and providing this commonsense regulatory relief," added National Cattlemen's Beef Association President Jennifer Houston. "Cattlemen and women should get their voice on the record by submitting comments in favor of this rulemaking." NEPA was first enacted in 1970 to "create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony," and has not undergone substantive regulatory revision since 1986. Ranchers must undergo NEPA reviews for many reasons, but common examples include renewal of a term grazing permit, construction of range improvements or to become eligible for participation in USDA programs. However, due to litigation, outside pressure, an abundance of caution and a variety of other reasons, oftentimes these costly processes are further delayed and create an uncertain business environment for livestock producers. When finalized, the draft rules will relieve that pressure, clarify exemptions and eliminate redundancies.

## RANCHERS WITH LIVESTOCK KILLED COULD SEE COMPENSATION

A Wyoming lawmaker is sponsoring legislation to create a new state compensation program for ranchers who lose livestock to wolves. The bill sponsored by Republican Rep. John Winter, of Thermopolis, would create a fund with \$90,000 to reimburse ranchers over a two-year period. Currently only livestock killed within wolf-hunting zones in western Wyoming qualify for compensation. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department pays out about \$385,000 a year under the program, the Casper Star-Tribune reports. Under Winter's bill, ranchers who lose livestock to wolves outside wolf-hunting areas also would qualify for compensation. Other reimbursement programs have been discontinued since the U.S. government removed Wyoming's wolves from federal protection in 2018. The bill would need a two-thirds vote to be introduced during this winter's legislative session dedicated primarily to the budget. The four-week session begins Feb. 10.



Meeteetse Weather Previous 14 Days



**NEXT MCD BOARD MEETING: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> @ 1:00 P.M. 1906  
STATE ST. MEETEETSE ~ PUBLIC IS WELCOME ~**