



# Big Horn County

STATE OF WYOMING

Office of The County Commissioners

*P. O. Box 31  
Basin WY  
82410*

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Felix N Carrizales, Chairman  
John G Hyde  
Deb Craft

Lori Smallwood, County Clerk  
Becky Lindsey, Treasurer  
Gina Anderson, Assessor  
Kim Adams, Prosecuting Attorney  
Serena Lipp, Clerk of District Court  
Kenneth Blackburn, Sheriff  
Delmar Atwood, Coroner

Phone: 307-568-2357 Fax 307-568-9375

[www.bighorncountyny.gov](http://www.bighorncountyny.gov)

April 21, 2018

U. S. Representative Liz Cheney  
2120 Capital Avenue Suite 8005  
Cheyenne, WY, 82002

Senator Mike Enzi  
SR379 A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-5004

Senator John Barrasso  
SD 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-5003

**RE: Support for Congressional Legislation Releasing Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) in Big Horn County, Wyoming**

Honorable Congressional Delegates:

We, the Big Horn County Board of Commissioners wish to go on record as being in total support of the Congressional Legislation which fully releases Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). We appreciate all your continuing efforts to eliminate WSA's in Big Horn County as well as the entire State of Wyoming.

Big Horn County contains 2.0 million acres of land. The Federal government is the largest category of landownership in the county, accounting for 77 percent of this land area (1.5 million acres). Of the total Federal land, the BLM manages 72 percent, the Forest Service manages 23 percent, the Bureau of Reclamation manages 4 percent, and the Park Service manages 1 percent. Mineral, petroleum and gas producers represent the top ten tax payers in Big Horn County. This production is almost exclusively on BLM lands. Therefore, it can be seen that public lands are extremely important to the overall economy of Big Horn County. It is important to keep these lands open to multiple use.



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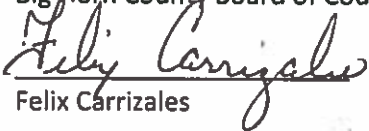
[www.bighorncountywy.gov](http://www.bighorncountywy.gov)

There are six (6) WSA's in the county. These are Trapper Creek, Alkali Creek, Medicine Lodge, Red Butte, Sheep Creek and Bobcat Draw. Bobcat Draw is shared with Washakie County. Total acreage for these WSA's is 64,297 acres. In addition there is another 261,712 acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC), and yet another 50,785 acres of Area of Critical Environment Concern (ACEC). This total begs the question; how much is enough? It has been our experience these specially designated lands result in single purpose or non-use. This is especially detrimental to the economy of Big Horn County as well as our culture, heritage and quality of life.

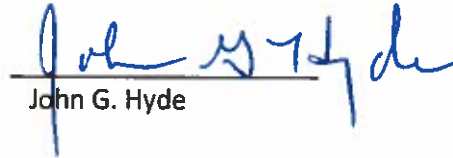
Residents of Big Horn County love our public lands. Nonetheless, they are ever resentful of the Federal Land Management Agencies gradual, but never ceasing, restrictions placed on these lands.

We thank you for your consideration and assistance to *fully release* Wilderness Study Areas in Big Horn County and within the entire State of Wyoming.

Sincerely,  
Big Horn County Board of County Commissioners

  
Felix Carrizales

  
Deb Craft

  
John G. Hyde