Public Comment:

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12LSO-0078.W5 Current Wolf Management Legislation authorized by Gov. Meade and Ken Salazar:

P14j.” The Department is authorized to take any action necessary to protect big and trophy game populations in this State from predation by gray wolves. The Department shall give priority to areas where wild ungulate herd is experiencing unacceptable impacts from wolf predation.”

(impacts on ungulates will also be required for grizzly management)

My comments are based on review of working group presentations and minutes:

1. Redefine Cody Herd Unit and Population Objectives for Annual JCR Reporting to Game and Fish Commission, Governor, Feds etc for purpose of demonstrating the "unacceptable impacts" on ‘wild’ ungulates.
   --- 2010 JCR reports: 5704 elk or 11% above population objective
   --- Doug McWhirter’s 11/7 handout ‘Hunt Area Information Summaries’(not data recorded with Commission) more accurately illustrates the ‘wild’ elk sustainability issues in HA55,56,57 and HA58,59 at above private landowner objectives.
   ---18 year old (1993) Population Objective illustrates non-adaptive management approach to challenges of ungulate management today.—i.e Rick Adair’s 11/7 comment regarding dynamic and changing tools?

2. Can Game and Fish supply rate of elk mortality to predation? 2007-2010 GPS Collars on N. Fork/ S. Fork? How many animals collared? Changes in migration from previous studies? Are wolf numbers verified in N.Fork, S. fork, Meeteesece? Summer helicopter survey good addition to 9 hours of Trend Count flight time.

3. Additional Food for Thought:
   G&F Commission Annual Report 2009:
   Total Elk Program Revenue (2008): $14,408,374
   Economic Return per Elk (2008): $ 1,858
   (without tourist dollar)
   Agriculture produces 2% of Wyoming’s Gross State Product
   Contributing to Wyoming’s 2000 Sales Tax $ 1,500,000
   USDA Statistical Census (2008) ave sales price per cow $900 (w/o expenses