3-05-94

Hi Gus,

Hope all is well with you and progress on your book.

I could not find another book in town 'The Range' so here is the information on the one I have:

_Book: The Range_, author Sherm Ewing

Mountain Press Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2399
Missoula, MT 59806

Also note the two letters enclosed - one from National Wildlife Federation (anti-livestock grazing) and 'Fine tuners' (anti-livestock grazing).

The 'fine tuners' are now spreading untrue information that cattle transmit disease to the Tender Wild Sheep herd in the Dell area. This is of course unfounded. A real 'blow up' just occurred between Fish and Game, Jones and BLM on this. The BLM is finally pushing to get those two jobs out of Dillion once and for all.

I planned to be out of the BLM by now - I am just waiting to see if Congress gets the retirement incentive bill through ($25,000 to retire now) I could use the change.

Best regards

Jack [Jones]
March 24, 1994

August Hormay  
101 Acadia Street  
San Francisco CA 94131

Dear Mr. Hormay:

Thank you for your recommendation of Joseph Egan to serve on the Department of Interior's Multiple Resource Advisory Council.

As you know, Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recently released a new rangeland reform proposal which will be published sometime soon as a Federal rule. Public comment, congressional involvement and other factors may modify the current proposal, and I expect it will take a period of time before the final rule is adopted and the process for Multiple Resource Advisory Councils is finalized and actually begins.

I very much appreciate the application of Joseph Egan, and appreciate your recommendation. I will certainly keep his application and your recommendation in mind when the process begins for nominations, selections and Department of Interior approval for Advisory Council appointments.

Thanks again for taking the time to let me know your thoughts on the appointment process, and thank you also for your stewardship commitment toward public range management. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this or other matters.

Sincerely,

MARC RACICOT  
Governor

TELEPHONE: (406) 444-3111  FAX: (406) 444-5529
March 24, 1994

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101 Acadia Street
San Francisco CA 94131

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Sincerely,

MARC RACICOT
Governor
JACK D. JONES

03.29.94

Hi, Gus,

The 'fine-tuners' will be gone before you finish your book. Theys will probably be gone before I retire in a few weeks a head.

Best regards

John
Our readers speak

the big horn sheep die-off south of Dillon, BLM employes were premature in linking cattle grazing to the die-off. Jim Roscoe and Brian Hockett of the Dillon BLM office should have cited specific data and documentation before making public disclosure of such a serious nature. Not only have their comments aroused the ire of permittees who graze livestock on public lands, but also sportsmen who have actively promoted the transplanting of sheep around the state. Their statement has created a serious rift in landowner-sportsmen relationships as well as halted future sheep transplants.

If the allotments in Muddy Creek were overgrazed, why did these same two individuals approve cattle increases in 1990? They stated in a May 31, 1990 memo, "No resource damage is anticipated as a result of this authorization." "Utilization will be monitored in both the uplands and the riparian areas." Roscoe and Hockett signed the memo, along with the area manager.

Now, just a few years later, after a wet grazing season in 1993, over-use on the allotment is blamed for the dead sheep. The direct blame lies with BLM personnel who were supposedly monitoring, not the permittees.

Several years ago, a similar situation occurred on the Matador ranch near Dillon. Nationally renowned range conservationist Gus Hormay was reviewing a successful rest-rotation system established in 1972. Jim Roscoe criticized him, embarrassing other field trip participants. When Roscoe was asked for documentation refuting Hormay's data, he had none.

We do not need public employees who work for all the public, creating unneeded tension and confusion among Montanans. We should be working together to mold a more viable and enjoyable state. — Jack Atcheson Jr., 2309 Hancock

Bureau should have monitored

In reference to the Montana Standard's article of March 12th regarding
March 31, 1994

Jack D. Jones
3014 Irene Street
Butte MT 59701

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