

# #1

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 01, 2024 8:27:57 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 01, 2024 8:40:28 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:31  
**IP Address:** 184.166.149.63

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** David Brammer  
**City/Town:** HELENA  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** gdbrammer6@gmail.com

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I support the Beartooth Grazing Lease being issued to the Sieben Livestock Co. I know Cooper Hibbard and have heard him discuss the regenerative grazing practices implemented on their ranch. As a sportsman, I attend the Devils Kitchen Working Group wildlife management meetings and am very impressed with the Sieben Livestock Co efforts in helping create and support one of Montana's healthiest elk herds. I believe their grazing practices on the Beartooth Game Management area is directly responsible for much of that success.

---

#2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, May 02, 2024 7:39:02 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 02, 2024 8:24:25 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:45:22  
**IP Address:** 67.44.224.2

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Stephen J Christian</b>
City/Town:	<b>Colstrip</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>mtduckhunter@gmail.com</b>

---

**Q2**

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

Dear Commissioners,

I support the FWP The recommendation for the Beartooth WMA lease for a six-year term beginning in May 2025.

Thank you,  
Steve

---

# #3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, May 05, 2024 10:39:13 AM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, May 05, 2024 10:54:29 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:15:16  
**IP Address:** 216.24.210.18

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Steven Diels</b>
City/Town:	<b>Thompson Falls</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>steve@aamcom.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

We encourage you to continue the wise stewardship of public and private land for the benefit of wildlife -- a public resource. The Beartooth Grazing Lease is important to ALL Montanans. It is not merely a regional issue. BGL is a model of cooperation among private landowners, ag interests, sportsmen and sportswomen, and the FWP. High quality fish and game habitats, lead to high quality fish and game, thus burnishing Montana's reputation as a premier recreation and sporting destination for locals and visitors alike. We like to call it "clean prosperity". Keep up the good work.

---

## #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, May 05, 2024 11:14:51 AM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, May 05, 2024 11:21:58 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:07  
**IP Address:** 216.24.210.22

---

Page 1

### Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Elisabeth Diels</b>
City/Town:	<b>Thompson Falls</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>edinucci5@hotmail.com</b>

---

### Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Great job on past management of the model of cooperation. Please keep the successful partnership together. Since the existing arrangement is a benefit for all stakeholders, especially fish and game wildlife, please keep the Beartooth Grazing Lease with Sieben Livestock Company.

---

#5

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 4:45:15 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 4:45:49 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:34  
**IP Address:** 174.45.47.12

---

Page 1

**Q1** Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

---

**Q2**  
Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I am writing in support of the renewal of the Sieben Livestock super lease of the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area with FWP. This lease has been a successful working relationship between a state/private partnership between two partners that have worked together and achieved positive outcomes between the private property owners and FWP. I understand this lease is the largest FWP lease in Montana and has been used by FWP as a model for other leases throughout the state. Before this lease was implemented, grass was dying on the WMA and this area was not an appealing area for elk to winter on. With the grazing practices used by Sieben Livestock, a more appealing habitat has been created and the WMA has seen a dramatic increase in the number of elk that now use this area. Sieben Livestock also works in concert with FWP in implementing watershed grazing plans to help manage wildlife habitat for elk. In addition, over 40 miles of stream has been restored and improved the habitat for native Western Cutthroats. This lease mirrors another group Sieben Livestock is associated with, the Devil's Kitchen Work Group, another model used throughout the state to help public hunters have an opportunity to quality elk hunting.

In closing, I would ask the commission to approve the renewal of this lease on the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area for Sieben Livestock. Why wouldn't you continue a working relationship that has a proven track record and impacts watershed, wildlife and fisheries? Thank you for your time.

John Huth

---

#6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 5:17:12 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 5:22:46 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:33  
**IP Address:** 104.28.116.51

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Bill Lukens</b>
City/Town:	<b>Whitefish</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>drbilllec@gmail.com</b>

---

**Q2**

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I have hunted elk on the Sieben Ranch 3 times in the last 7 years. It is a beautiful area. The grasslands and number of elk seem to increase in quantity and quality every year. It is truly a treasure

---

#7

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 9:25:35 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, May 07, 2024 9:34:06 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:08:30  
**IP Address:** 69.146.210.185

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Tim Lees</b>
City/Town:	<b>Whitefish</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>tlees914@gmail.com</b>

---

**Q2**

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I've been fortunate enough to hunt the Sieben Ranch most years for the last decade.

What a pleasure to see how the whole system works. From Cooper's meticulous attention to detail on managing his herd, to his sincerity concerning the elk herd and the hunters themselves.

The whole system seems to be working well as all of the above seem to be thriving. The elk herd actually appears to be growing. In addition, I hear that the native cutthroat are doing well on the ranch. I haven't fished there, but some friends have.

Kudos to FWP and Sieben's for a great working relationship!

---

#8

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 10:24:28 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 10:34:03 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:34  
**IP Address:** 72.174.78.247

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Bob Kimball</b>
City/Town:	<b>Whitefish</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>dryflyski@gmail.com</b>

---

**Q2**

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

This lease should be renewed. The Sieben ranch has done a fantastic job of developing one of the best hunting experiences in the country and should be able to continue developing the land. I have had the opportunity to hunt elk and deer on the property and I found the opportunity to be on the property to be spectacular. Just a beautiful place that needs to be preserved. Thank you FWP for all you do to preserve our hunting and fishing opportunities in Montana.

---



#9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 2:09:49 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 2:21:55 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:06  
**IP Address:** 209.137.228.95

---

Page 1

### Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>David Mannix</b>
City/Town:	<b>Helmville</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>mannixbros@bl;ackfoot.net</b>

---

### Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I am a member of the Mannix Bros Ranch in the Blackfoot Valley. We have long witnessed and participated in grazing schemes that positively influence habit (grasses, forbs, shrubs) that then have mutual benefits to wildlife and livestock. This Beartooth lease has seen great improvements in habit quality and wildlife populations. It makes perfect sense to renew and continue this relationship. This particular lease blurs the boundaries of public and private land which has the added benefit of connecting the public hunter with livestock owners/managers in a bridge building way at a time in history when this connection is very important.  
David Mannix

---

# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 6:35:07 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 6:42:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:53  
**IP Address:** 216.228.57.32

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Todd Barkley</b>
City/Town:	<b>Baker</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>mtrancher39@gmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I strongly support the extension of thr Beartooth Grazing Lease to Sieben Livestock Company. Cooper has been a strong agvocate for Montana in general and a strong advocate for regenerative grazing and holistic agriculture.

---

# #11

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 9:44:24 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 9:49:48 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:23  
**IP Address:** 161.7.115.128

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>David Dowell</b>
City/Town:	<b>Kalispell</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>daviddowell406@gmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

Sieban Livestock works in concert with FWP in drafting watershed area graze plans, irrespective of boundaries, to manage wildlife habitat and ecological health. Sieban Livestock uses grazing practices on the Beartooth and managed to create a more appealing habitat for elk, and the Beartooth has seen a massive influx in elk presence since implementing their progressive grazing practices, which has made for many happy sportsmen. When it was not being grazed by cattle, the grass was dying and elk would not go on the game range, therefore not fulfilling that part of the WMA's mission.

Also, working with FWP in these watersheds, Sieban Livestock has managed to create an overly healthy elk population (and healthier land, and happier sportsmen), but we've also restored native westslope cutthroats to over 40 miles of stream. Please continue with this lease. Sieban Livestock has also worked a very successfully Block management on their property which borders the WMA and Cooper has been very accommodating to sportsmen.

---

# #12

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 11:24:27 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 11:03:33 AM  
**Time Spent:** 23:39:05  
**IP Address:** 69.145.58.216

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Paul Nehring</b>
City/Town:	<b>Bozeman</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>notsaintpaul@gmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I am writing to support the renewal of the lease with Sieben Livestock Company on the Beartooth WMA. As an avid outdoorsman and as someone involved in livestock production for most of my career, I am impressed by the level management that Sieben Livestock provides. They are a model ranch in terms of continually working to improve their management to enhance the landscapes for wildlife, as well as livestock. Additionally, they regularly share information with the general public about what they are doing, and why. I can't think of a better steward of Montana's lands than Sieben Livestock Company. As your report states: "The expiring grazing system is currently meeting and exceeding objectives of both FWP and Sieben Live Stock Company."

We have all seen what happens when range land is not grazed appropriately, or not grazed at all. Both have severe negative consequences, reducing wildlife habitat and degrading soils. Sieben Livestock Company demonstrates that proper livestock grazing is the best way to manage these lands to accomplish our objectives for wildlife.

I encourage you to renew your lease with Sieben Livestock Company, as they have served as a reliable capable steward of Montana's land. Renewing this lease is an investment in our future that adds value for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Paul Nehring

---

# #13

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 1:02:26 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 1:10:12 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:45  
**IP Address:** 72.174.37.202

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Luke LaLiberty</b>
City/Town:	<b>Montana City</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>mazyan@hotmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I support the lease and the excellent work that FWP and Sieben Livestock Co. has done since 2018 to provide improved habitat for game and non-game species. Renewing this lease is important for continuation of opportunities for sportsmen and the Sieben Ranch has been very generous and accomodating to hunters. Please approve the lease. -Luke LaLiberty

---

#14

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 1:01:37 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 1:11:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:23  
**IP Address:** 199.155.252.64

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

**Name:** Joel LaLiberty  
**City/Town:** Belgrade  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** jllaliberty@hotmail.com

---

**Q2**

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I support the proposed grazing lease. Good grazing management is beneficial to the ecosystem including native vegetation and wildlife. Additionally, livestock grazing helps prevent wildfires. The managers are widely known and accepted as excellent grazers. For these reasons I am in support of the proposed grazing lease.

---

# #15

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 08, 2024 10:33:48 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, May 09, 2024 2:10:22 PM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
**IP Address:** 72.255.177.160

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Chris Mehus</b>
City/Town:	<b>Big Timber</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>cmehus@wsestaff.org</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

Members of the Commission,

My name is Chris Mehus, Executive Director of the Western Sustainability Exchange. We have worked with innovative ranchers across Montana for over thirty years, and are proud to be a partner of the Sieben Ranch, helping to promote all of the good work they've been able to accomplish over the years. Unfortunately operations like this are still in the minority across Montana; that's not to say most operators are not caring for the environment. However, few ranches have gone to the lengths of these fine people to prioritize wildlife species, fisheries, soil health, and other ecosystem functions right alongside ranch financial and lifestyle sustainability. Sieben Ranch continues to innovate and go above and beyond in their successful implementation of practices that are in concert with Nature and promote values of agriculture, recreation, timber, and other sustainable uses of our natural resources. Our organization strongly recommends the continuation of their stewardship of these lands and the beneficial use of grazing animals to sustain a natural grassland ecosystem where the soil-plant-animal continuum is continually improving.

---

# #16

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, May 13, 2024 10:50:51 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, May 13, 2024 11:01:08 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:10:17  
**IP Address:** 104.28.116.192

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Ben Montgomery  
**City/Town:** Polson  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** benmontgomery406@gmail.com

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I strongly support this grazing lease. I'm a professional in the conservation world and a recreationist and I can state that this lease is good for habitat, agriculture and recreationists. I have personally been on site as a recreationist and this model of grazing works for all and is a template and model others should follow. I would be happy to state my position publicly if desired.

---



# #17

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, May 13, 2024 12:07:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, May 13, 2024 12:13:38 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:32  
**IP Address:** 199.155.76.167

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Austin Allen</b>
City/Town:	<b>Moiese</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>austinleaallen@gmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

This proposal is an excellent way to manage and improve habitat while doing so through a grazing lease. Sieben Livestock are excellent land stewards and are a perfect tenant to responsibly graze our public land. I have seen firsthand the improvements on the Sieben Livestock's land made through responsibly grazing and feel this is a great opportunity to improve habitat on public land.

---

#18

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 5:46:18 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 5:47:54 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:35  
**IP Address:** 104.28.85.159

---

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

**Name:** Alex Rumpca  
**City/Town:** Belgrade  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** alexrumpca@gmail.com

---

Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I am writing in support of the renewal of the Sieben Livestock super lease of the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area with FWP. This lease has been a successful working relationship between a state/private partnership between two partners that have worked together and achieved positive outcomes between the private property owners and FWP. I understand this lease is the largest FWP lease in Montana and has been used by FWP as a model for other leases throughout the state. Before this lease was implemented, grass was dying on the WMA and this area was not an appealing area for elk to winter on. With the grazing practices used by Sieben Livestock, a more appealing habitat has been created and the WMA has seen a dramatic increase in the number of elk that now use this area. Sieben Livestock also works in concert with FWP in implementing watershed grazing plans to help manage wildlife habitat for elk. In addition, over 40 miles of stream has been restored and improved the habitat for native Western Cutthroats. This lease mirrors another group Sieben Livestock is associated with, the Devil's Kitchen Work Group, another model used throughout the state to help public hunters have an opportunity to quality elk hunting.

In closing, I would ask the commission to approve the renewal of this lease on the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area for Sieben Livestock. Why wouldn't you continue a working relationship that has a proven track record and impacts watershed, wildlife and fisheries? Thank you for your time.

---

# #19

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:22:42 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:28:28 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:46  
**IP Address:** 165.225.10.121

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Justin Lappe</b>
City/Town:	<b>Belgrade</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>justin.lappe@edwardjones.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

Please continue to renew this lease - I have seen the benefits of it first hand over the years. It would be disappointed to stop it.

---

#20

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 1:05:59 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, May 25, 2024 1:19:37 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:13:37  
**IP Address:** 107.191.169.26

---

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jacob Jeresek**  
City/Town: **Libby**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **jacobjeresek@hotmail.com**

---

Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I would like to offer my support for continuing the Beartooth grazing lease with the Sieben Livestock Ranch, managed by Cooper Hibbard. The Sieben Livestock Ranch in concert with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks has created some of the best elk and other big game species habitat in the entire state. Additionally, through responsible grazing practices, they have restored over 40 miles of streams for native westslope cutthroat trout. By being model stewards of the land, the Sieben Livestock Ranch has proven that through responsible grazing practices, Montana's wildlife population thrives. Additionally, through the block management program, the Sieben Livestock Ranch allows sportsmen like myself onto their property to not only help manage big game populations but to also witness firsthand the benefits of responsible grazing and the habitat improvement in the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area. I have been visiting this area for over a decade and I can't thank Cooper Hibbard with the Sieben Livestock Ranch and the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks enough for the experiences and memories created. It is for these reasons I fully support the renewal of the Beartooth Grazing Lease with the Sieben Livestock Ranch. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

---

# #21

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, May 27, 2024 6:26:16 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, May 27, 2024 6:30:52 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:35  
**IP Address:** 72.255.136.213

---

Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Keon Holzer</b>
City/Town:	<b>Moccasin</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>hlzrwccr@hotmail.com</b>

---

## Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

I am in support of renewing the grazing lease currently used by the Hibbard family. I seriously doubt you will find a more conscientious, conservation minded lessor. It is well known that their grazing practices have increased game nmbrs due to the strategic use of the grass resources.

Thank you for your time.

Keon Holzer

---

#22

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:37:33 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, May 27, 2024 10:25:21 AM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
**IP Address:** 72.175.53.185

---

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Montana Wildlife Federation**  
City/Town: **Missoula**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **jeff@mtwf.org**

---

Q2

Please comment on Beartooth Grazing Lease

The Montana Wildlife Federation supports the renewal of the Beartooth Grazing Lease, as we have in the past. For years, this grazing lease has struck the right balance between enhancing habitat, allowing access to high quality hunting and fishing grounds, and ensuring that a well respected ranch maintains it's ability to prosper. The Sieben Live Stock Company has a rich conservation legacy and MWF is very supportive of the work that the Hell's Kitchen Working Group has done over the decades. We believe that efforts to enhance habitat while keeping working agricultural lands productive is an essential element of maintaining Montana's economy and agricultural heritage, while at the same time allowing the public to enjoy the fruits of these labors and their generosity.

---