

WYOMING PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
FORTIFICATION CREEK PUBLIC ADVISORY MEETING

Wednesday February 7, 2018

The Committee met to revisit the initial recommendation reached on November 14, 2017 after holding two Public Comment Meetings.

- Monday December 4, 2017 in Buffalo, WY
- Wednesday December 6, 2017 in Gillette, WY

These meetings were followed by a 45 day Public Comment period. Committee members had approximately 2 weeks to review the Public Comments, received during that period, prior to our meeting on February 7, 2018.

Barry Hayden agreed to present to the Campbell County Commissioners at their Commission meeting on February 20, 2018 at the Campbell County Courthouse and James Hansen agreed to present to the Johnson County Commissioners on February 20, 2018 at the Johnson County Courthouse; any other members able to attend either meeting were encouraged to do so.

NOTE: This would be a good time for Barry and James to introduce other members of our committee that have been able to attend the County Commissioners meeting.

Due to Public Comment and additional discussion by Committee Members, the following recommendation was agreed on.

Hard Release from Wilderness Designation (meaning the area could not be reconsidered for Wilderness designation again), with a permanent designation entitled "**Fortification Creek Management Area**". The management intentions for this area follow:

1. Inclusion of a Map of the present Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area showing the exterior boundary.
2. Management area represents only federal lands within this boundary.
3. No new surface disturbance unless needed for fire suppression.
4. No new permanent roads.
5. Maintain existing characteristics.
6. Existing uses continued such as grazing, hunting, and recreation.
7. No motorized or mechanized vehicles allowed other than reasonable fire suppression, weed and pest control, wildlife and stock water, or emergency needs.

Vote passed 8 – 2 in favor of these recommendations. We had one absent member, Jeremy Murphy, for this meeting and Kelly Patton had to leave before the final vote was taken, but indicated he was in favor of the recommendation we reached on November 14, 2017 with the addition of the map and language indicating our recommendations were directed at federal lands only. Only adjustment made after his departure from that recommendation was the addition of "mechanized" to our #7 recommendation.