

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1/26/09  
HB 14

Heather Wills  
Wills Cattle Co.  
26255 MT Hwy 200 E  
Potomac, MT 59823  
(406)244-5253  
wills@blackfoot.net

House Natural Resources Committee  
State of Montana  
House Bill 14  
January 26, 2009

Chairman Milburn, and members of the Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Heather Wills. I am a fourth generation livestock producer from Potomac, Montana. I'm here today representing the Bonita-Clinton-Potomac Grazing Association, and my family ranch. HB14 is in support of the Working Forests Project, and today I would like to talk with you about another aspect of those working forests—Agriculture.

The grounds within the Working Forests Project are vital for my family's cattle operation, as well as for the other members of the BCP Grazing Association, for summer and early fall grazing. The timber industry and the livestock producers have worked together in the Potomac valley for well over 100 years. The ranch families provided meat, vegetables, milk, and horses for logging camps scattered through these timberlands at the turn of the century. In return the timber company allowed the livestock to graze their lands. This "working together" venture continues today.

The BCP officially started in 1938 and included ranches from both the Clinton/Bonita and the Potomac areas. At this time, Anaconda Company, BLM, and Burlington Northern owned the lands. Looking at the map of the area you will see many State allotments dispersed through the Association Grazing Boundaries as well. Some of

the state leases have been held by BCP since 1938, and many have been held by individual operations prior to the formal organization of the Grazing Association.

As the landowners of the timber ground have changed from Anaconda Company, to US Plywood, to Champion International, and until recently Plum Creek, the Association has worked together with these organizations to maintain the integrity of the lands. We, the BCP and landowners, have completed water projects, executed spring developments, and used salting techniques to continue wise use of the resources for livestock as well as wildlife. These grounds currently aid three ranches in sustaining their economic units. It is important for the grounds to remain a whole unit. Any loss of part of the unit is a loss of the whole. For the grazing and the Association to work as well as it has for the past 70+ years and for the continued operations of the ranches involved, maintaining a large block of land is key.

HB 14 can support the Working Forests Project. Growing up on these lands, I have seen the working landscapes in action, from cattle utilizing the grass, to loggers managing the trees, to hunters chasing game, to recreationalists enjoying the beauty and peace of the area. My family has truly enjoyed these lands as well. We picnic when taking the salt out, we admire the wildlife we see as we walk the cows home in the fall, and take photographs of the mountain ranges we can see from the tops of the ridges when looking for those cows. The continued historic use of these lands is necessary for Potomac's future in agriculture and timber management.

Thanks you and I encourage you to give positive support to HB 14.

*Heather Marie Mills*  
*January 26, 2009*