The Medora Grazing Association was started back in the thirties, there was not a lot of assistance at that time for the ranching community. You had to do with what you had to keep food on your table and feed your livestock.

We relied on mother nature to grow the grass, fill the water holes for our livestock.

Times have changed and there are programs/ funding for other industries for them to produce products for the state as well as the country. Ranching has been at the bottom of the pile.

With this Bill and funding in the last year has given some light, with shared funding, ranchers are able to improve their places, as well as the state and federal allotments for the cattle, to utilize areas of grass where there has been no water source, by spreading out the water cows and wildlife graze areas not used, which in turn rejuvenates grasses.

Areas that need new fencing to hold the cow on that grass, this in turn will give them a better quality of livestock to sell.

The ability to put in a pipeline and tanks, fences will help the future generations as they build up their operations and cow herds.

One other thing to think about is that these new water sources will also be utilized by bikers, trail riders and hikers, a water source out in the back county around Medora would certainly get utilized by wildlife as well tourist visiting the area. Hunters would also utilize these water sources.

I have experienced many rescues on the Maada Hey trail over the years, many of these rescues were due to dehydration, with these water tanks available on public lands it will benefit these types of incidents from happening as often.

In the event of a grasslands fire, one of these 1200-gallon tanks would fill a slip-on truck two to four times, right there on site.

This water improvement project over the last year has provided a reliable water source to areas that desperately needed improvement. Getting this water to our grazing areas will improve the quality of livestock, the grasslands and help to improve the Forest Service's public lands for future generations. I have meet with several permittees and they feel this is a step forward improving their Ranches.

The Medora Grazing Association is in support of this bill--------- to move forward

Thank you

John Hild