

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr Mark Gordon  
Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking- Powder River Basin Resource Council et al Revised Version - WQD Chapter 2

Dear Council,

I am a rancher in North West Campbell Co on the Middle Prong of Wild Horse. We run the ranch under the Middle Prong Land and Livestock L. P. We have 24 CBM Well on our ranch and 7 outfalls from Marathon and 3 out falls from Yates that are from State of Wyoming wells on the School Section we lease, W1/2 S 36 T 54 R 76.

We are one of many ranchers that in the last 7 years have been in drought and thanks to the water that we have received from the outfalls from the CBM Wells on the ranch. We have been able to graze parts of the pastures that we did not have water in before CBM. These far corners were water only in the bottom of draws by springs that have long dried up. My father-in-law back in the 50's and 60's had build 9 resaviors threw the ASCS Office and going into this drought they were dry after the first year. Now I have water in 7 of these and hopefully the other 2 will have water as soon as Yates gets their permits and drill in the BLM that We lease.

If I read the changes that are being asked to be made, I would lose all the water that I now have to water my cattle. The levels of pollution that are asked to be changed are only for CBM. Gillette's city water which would not pass these standards would be left alone.

Not only the cattle we own water at these resavoirs but so do the deer, antelope and last summer I was riding and saw 13 head of Elk. It has been years scence I've seen even one Elk here on my place. A year ago last fall there were 9 head out our back door. I have pictures of those and believe they were here drinking water from the CBM tank that waters the pasture behind my house.

From the money side of things the CBM has let me pay my place off, our cattle off and several other debts that I had. Before CBM my children were never going to be able to take over my ranch as I needed to keep ranching until my death. Now that I have been able to pay things off my daughter and her husband are coming home to help and take over in about 5 years. If this industry in shut down that may never happen.

As far as been a steward of the land I feel we are as good as any. The CBM has helped us put in water system to move water from one side of our ranch to the other, so when we move cattle the water can fallow. My children will be 5<sup>th</sup> generation on this ranch.

Hopefully you will make the decision that your rules are reasonable as they are now and not concenter the changes The Powder River Basin Resource Council are trying to regulate for us all and most of us are capable of taking care of our own ranches and families.

Thank You

*Jon & Ann Collins*  
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