

To: Mr. Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Rm. 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

FILED

JAN 29 2007

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2
By: The Powder River Basin Resource Council

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dear WYEQC,

I am writing this letter in regard to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Powder River Resource Council.

I am a rancher in Sheridan County and previously in Campbell County for the last eighteen years.

I have benefited and appreciated the CBM water for the last 11 years.

I understand there are a few instances where problems may have occurred, but the majority of ranchers that I interact, do business with and neighbor have all considered it a great blessing. I can remember all of the times I stood looking at windmills and a dry stock tank in the heat of August hoping for the smallest bit of wind. After the methane came, the water quality for their discharge was better than the old wells on the place. My calf weaning weights averaged 25 to 40 pounds higher than previous years due to fresh, cool, clean water supply. The amount of wildlife increased tremendously due to a constant water source. Deer, Antelope, Sage Grouse and Ducks all previously scarce, became abundant.

We also stocked several of the CBM reservoirs with Brown, Brook, Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout, along with Bass and Channel Cat fish. All have thrived and grown. They are great recreation for kids and adults. No one had ever had close access to fishing before. The closest opportunities were to drive to the mountains, the bass pond at Weston or the community fishing lake in Gillette.

When we moved to Sheridan we bought property on the Little Badger Creek drainage. The water quality is so poor there that it was unusable for stock. I lost 2 calves and a cow the first year, and then had to haul water for the rest of the summer. Wildlife was scarce due to inadequate poor water supply. I started a bird farm and planted Pheasants. The birds left because the spring to be used as a water source dried up due to many years of drought.


Since the CBM water has come in I have been able to utilize the whole ranch for grazing. Wildlife has moved in abundantly. Sage Grouse, Deer, Elk, Antelope, Hungarian Partridge and Sharptail Grouse have populated and established where none have been seen before.

The game birds that were planted have moved back in the drainage now that there is abundant quality water.

I strongly vote NO to the petition. It would be devastating to all ranchers in my area. Devastating to all wildlife that has come to rely on these water sources. Devastating to all fish that have been planted in the reservoirs to establish recreational and ecological benefits. Devastating to all people who are employed and rely on this water in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please take into consideration that a few people should not be allowed to set standards on the livelihood of the majority of us that it would negatively affect.

Cordially,

 1-29-07

Karen J. Dannar

Rancher

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