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Wyoming Environmental Quality Control
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building, room 1714
Cheyenne, Wy 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I have lived my entire 57 years on the banks of Powder River and Crazy Woman Creek drainages. My parents, and now I have been involved in the ranching business all that time. I use the water from methane for livestock and have plans to incorporate methane water into irrigation. I now pump from Crazy Woman for an existing 68 acre field of alfalfa. I plan to add 60 more acres of alfalfa using a water blend from methane production and Crazy Woman this year. I need either sufficient flow in Crazy Woman or storage capacity for the blended water to be able to utilize this new irrigation plan.

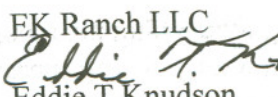
I think all ranchers would agree that a year round stream flow is desirable in Crazy Woman Creek for livestock water. After observing many deer and antelope water this summer from my stock tank that is 30 yards from the house, (because crazy woman was stagnant pools,) I feel the wild life would benefit also. It is a given that the fish would benefit. By eliminating the stagnant pools, we have removed the breeding areas for mosquito, buffalo gnat, and other undesirables that are problems for humans, livestock, sage grouse, and other animals. These problems are: West Nile, Sleeping sickness, Blue tongue, and others. Many of the ranch homes are within yards of the banks of Crazy Woman. If this petition passes, summer stream flow in Crazy Woman is weather dependent. In the last 5 years, since I started irrigating, Crazy Woman has ceased to flow 4 of the 5 years.

I use the water from methane for livestock water in my summer and winter pastures. Winter pasture has 5 stock tanks and summer pasture has many reservoirs and has methane water supplying water to 4 miles of pipeline, with 6 tanks, that I did have to pump with a generator. During this drought, the reservoirs were empty and the well for my pipeline wouldn't supply adequate water and Crazy Woman ceased to flow from the first part of June until late October. With the existing reservoirs and new ones that are now being built, I will have water in every segment of the pasture.

I am opposed to having DEQ regulate the quantity of the water and I feel that the current limits are adequate for safety. (If it ain't broke, don't fix it). In my opinion the landowner should have the personal freedom to use the water produced from his land.

I think that methane water discharge into Crazy Woman Creek, (with water that was suitable for livestock, wildlife, birds, and irrigation), would benefit not only the ranchers, but the entire ecosystem in this area.

I also feel that this petition should be disallowed or tabled until the Governor's Water Task Force has had time to render their recommendations.

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