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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

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Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
Herschler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the treater water in the Big Horn Basin.

My dad bought a ranch on Cottonwood Creek in Hot Springs County in 1936. Some of my family (living there after 70 years) still depend on Cottonwood Creek for raising winter feed and livestock water.

The first few years on the Baird ranch was tough going because of the high amount of selenium in the natural water in the creek during the late summer and early fall. This high selenium count would sometimes cause abortions, paralysis, and/or blindness in the cattle. With the steady flow of water from the oil wells this malady to the cattle was pretty much eliminated.

With the increase of water in the creek the riparian habitat improved immensely. The creek banks are much more stable with much less erosion. With steady water in the creek the water fowl and minnows benefit as do the beaver and muskrats. There is much more grass and tree protection for the pheasants, the deer and other wildlife.

The treater water in the arid part of the Western United States is not causing anyone any harm as long as the treated water remains at the same quality as it is now! It is better water in the creeks than what was here previously. Leave it alone, please! I know it is a lot better now than it was 70 years ago when my dad moved to the ranch on Cottonwood Creek. It is much better for livestock, irrigation, and wildlife. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully yours,



John Baird