

CPC
FAP

EDWARD J. LEDDER
Medicine Bow River Ranch
Post Office Box 410
Medicine Bow, Wyoming 82329

October 18, 1988

Marathon Oil Company
Box 2690
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Attention: Mr. Terry Skinner
Production Superintendent

Dear Mr. Skinner:

This will confirm our conversation in which you indicated that environmental action might be taken to stop the flow of fresh water produced from your well on our property and diverted into the Medicine Bow River which runs thru our Medicine Bow River Ranch for some five miles.

As a retired Chairman, CEO of Abbott Laboratories with production facilities in many of our states, I am generally in favor of the environmental controls which our Federal, State, and Local authorities have placed on industry, farming, ranching, etc.

In this particular case I am not.

I understand that you are required to test this water going into the Medicine Bow River every quarter, that you do conduct these tests properly and up to this point the discharge meets the requirements established.

As a rancher, if you were required to stop discharging this water into the river, we personally would not be affected on a commercial basis because we already have adequate wells to feed our livestock and horses. At the worst we might be required to drill one additional well.

I believe however that any proposed standard changes or restrictions on existing standards that would result in stopping or restricting the water contribution to the Medicine Bow River would be detrimental for the following reasons:

First, our cattle and horses drink this water daily and thrive on it. I have checked with the former owners and they confirm that their cattle, horses, and sheep have used this water over the years with no problem. (They also confirm that they put this in correspondence when requested a year or two ago.)

Marathon Oil Company
October 18, 1988
Page 2

Second, the deer and antelope and other wildlife use this water on its course down to the river and seem to prefer it to river water when the river water is available. (It is warm and stays open a good part of the year.)

Third, and most important, the Medicine Bow River (at least in the five mile stretch thru our ranch) is dry some two years out of three according to the former owners and local knowledge. Your supply of additional water provides a small continuing supply of water for the wildlife all along this portion of the river until it comes up again in the fall.

You supply enough water to maintain the pools in the riverbed which the ducks use and which hold some 20" German Brown Trout. Hence it permits these fish to live and multiply that would otherwise perish. This seems to us to be a very strong reason to continue the present flow of water you are supplying rather than restrict it in any way assuming the quality of water is maintained as it has been in the past.

If you have any questions on the above or any other area of the proposed restriction on what we consider to be a very desirable practice, please get back to us.

Sincerely,



EDWARD J. HEDDER
Medicine Bow River Ranch

TOP QUALITY
FEEDER CATTLE



Diamond Bar Ranch

Matt M. Brown Manager
Teresa H. Brown

Box 20, Owl Creek Route
THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

Office: 307-847-2344
Home: 307-867-2422

October 25, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

I just recently learned of the hearings before the EPA to require oil companies to reinject their treater-water. I am totally against the reinjection of this valuable community asset. I live in a very arid area of Wyoming where treater-water has become a necessity for maintaining the current economical and ecological conditions of the area. Treater-water provides stock water and irrigation water for ranching operations.

Probably of equal importance to the area is the fact that treater-water provides water and stream bank vegetation for wildlife habitat. This vegetation also prevents stream bank erosion such as the erosion found in seasonally dry areas where there is not any natural vegetation to check water and hold the soil.

I have two pastures that depend almost entirely on treater-water from the Hamilton Dome oil field for stock water. I also have two pastures that depend souly on treater-water from the C. W. Webster Oil Field on Black Mountain and is used as a source for stock water. This treater-water is a dependable year around source of stock water. Due to its warm temperature, my livestock and the wildlife of the area thrive on it during the cold winter months.

I feel that this is an issue of great importance to this area and that hearings by the EPA on the reinjection of treater-water should be held in this area that will be affected.

The people affected by the EPA's decision on this issue should have proper access to the hearing process.

Sincerely,

Matt M. Brown

Teresa H. Brown

October 28, 1988

Marvin Blakesley
Marathon Oil Co.
P.O. Box 2690
Cody, WY 82414

To whom it may concern:

In regard to the beneficial use of the water in Cottonwood Creek that comes out of the Hamilton Dome oil field. I have lived here all of my life (47 yrs) and we have increased our crop production by 300% with the use of the oil field water in the last 20 years. The livestock do better on the water because there is more volume and it decreases the selenium content in the water. High selenium can cause death, abortions, and several other problems in livestock. With the constant flow of water in the creek there is improved vegetation for wildlife and the creek banks are more stable so there is less erosion. I've seen ducks live here on the creek year around. As far as the quality of the water, I've seen rainbow trout here along with minnows by the millions so it is not all that bad. If the water from the oil field is put back underground as proposed, it will cause a financial burden on both the stockmen and farmers who depend on it and the oil companies that are involved. As far as I'm concerned, the water out of Hamilton Dome is of more benefit to all people concerned left where it is coming down the creek.

Thank you,

Allan Baird

Allan Baird

711 RANCH COMPANY
 Route 1, Box 755 5685 Greybull Highway
 Cody, Wyoming 82414

R. W. (Bert) Schultz, Pres.

October 19, 1988

Mr. Eugene Grant
 Marathon Oil Company
 P.O. Box 2690
 Cody, Wyoming 82414

Oregon Basin Field
 Price Co, Wyo

Dear Mr. Grant:

I received word, the Environmental Protection Agency will force Marathon Oil Company to cease producing water in Oregon Basin. This disturbs us for we have been using this water as a supplement to our own water system. Our main source of water in the Basin consists of a series of water tanks supplied by an electric pump. When our system breaks down we rely exclusively on the Marathon water for our livestock. Sometimes it takes many days to get the system working again, depending on the problem. It would be an exhausting and expensive ordeal to have to haul water from our ranch well.

Also, the E.P.A. is probably not aware that deer, antelope, small animals and birds use this water which they seem to prefer to our own water tanks. As you know, waterholes in Oregon Basin are few and far between.

I hope the E.P.A. will reverse its decision. In an area as arid as this one, every source of water is an asset.

Sincerely,

Irene Schultz
 Irene Schultz

Star Route
Worland, Wyoming
October 30, 1938

Marathon Oil Company
P. B. Box 2690
Cody, Wyoming

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in regard to the Hamilton Dome Oil Field water. We, as ranchers, would be in serious trouble without it. My folks have been on Cottonwood Creek for over fifty years. The last twenty-five years have been much more productive than the first twenty-five due to the extra water from the oil field. We own about 2,000 acres along the creek, of which we irrigate about 25%. This would be impossible without the water from the Hamilton Dome oil field.

There used to be a silinium problem in the water that caused alkali disease. This could result in abortions, paralysis, or blindness in the livestock. With the steady flow of the water in the creek now, these problems have nearly be eradicated.

The riparian habitat has improved immensely. The creek banks are much more stable with the water in the creek at all times. There are beavers and ducks on the creek all the time now. There is much more cover for the pheasants, other wild birds and wild game animals.

I think no matter where the water is in this arid western region of the United States, we are making a terrible mistake by putting it back under the ground. If the water is suitable for irrigation, wildlife, and livestock, us it!!

Respectfully submitted,

John Baird
John Baird

Oregon Basin Field
Packer Co, Wyo

Grabbert Ranch
Emblem, Wyoming
October 19, 1988

Eugene Grant
Marathon Oil
Cody, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Grant:

I understand that the EPA is concerned about the water that Marathon is discharging into Dry Creek from the Oregon Basin oil field. If this water were to cease flowing, there are some significant down stream problems that will surely occur.

The purpose of this letter is to point out some of these problems of which the EPA may not be aware.

As back ground information, I would like to point out that the Oregon Basin area receives less than 10 inches of average annual precipitation, and is somewhat arid country. Down stream to the northeast the average annual precipitation declines gradually to about 5 inches of average annual precipitation, where Dry Creek flows into the Big Horn River, about 50 miles from Oregon Basin. This is definitely arid country. Also, the annual precipitation is variable in this area. In some years only half of the average annual precipitation falls.

Water in all of this area is a precious commodity. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, game birds, eagles, rabbits, coyotes, wild horses, beaver, ducks, and many other animals, as well as domestic livestock depend on the water and/or riparian habitat provided by Dry Creek. And Dry Creek in turn depends on the water discharged by Marathon from Oregon Basin. This discharged water in Oregon Basin provides half of the stream flow at the point it enters Dry Creek, I would roughly guess. Earlier this summer the water discharged by Marathon provided all of the stream flow. Dry Creek was dry above this point. There was no other water in Dry Creek between Oregon Basin and Emblem. The creek did go dry in places, but there were occasional pools where the stream bed and water table overlapped. If this water were no longer discharged I would expect the water table to drop and the creek to go dry for many miles. There is no doubt in my mind that the wildlife species and numbers have adjusted to this dependable flow of water over the many years since this water began to flow.

Grabbert Ranch has been grazing cattle and sheep in Oregon Basin for more than 40 years and our livestock have come to depend on this source of water. Our cattle spend more time in Oregon Basin than the sheep do and have been drinking this discharged water with no apparent bad effects. The cattle can drink from Dry Creek above where the oil field water enters the creek or from the stream of discharged water. They are free to choose. I know they prefer high quality water, but they find this discharged water convenient when they are grazing that area of the pasture. Conception rates, percent calf crop, weaning weights, and other measures of livestock performance have been very good.

If this water were not available, we would be forced to develop another source of stock water to prevent overgrazing in other areas of the pasture. Stockwater development has the highest priority on this ranch, but money and time are both limiting factors. There is so much work and maintenance to be done that some other project would have to be put off.

Our early spring and winter range is located 30 miles on down Dry Creek near Emblem, Wyoming. The lack of stock water in Dry Creek at critical times would be both inconvenient and costly. The loss of trees and bushes in the creek bottom would mean less shelter for livestock and less habitat for wildlife.

Between Oregon Basin and Emblem there are other ranchers who also depend on the water discharged from the Oregon Basin oil field into Dry Creek. Desert Ranch, Chris Renner Ranch, Hoodoo Ranch, YU Ranch, Don Schlaf Ranch, and the Don Schlenker Ranch would surely like to see more water in Dry Creek, not less.

In summary, if this water is no longer allowed to flow from Oregon Basin, some of the effects will be as follows:

1. Decline in wildlife numbers.
2. Loss of riparian habitat.
3. Loss of hunting and recreational opportunities.
4. Economic hardship to local ranches

I am not qualified to say how bad some of these chemicals in the water are. I am not aware of any bad effects. But water has such a wonderful effect on this land, I want all I can get.

Sincerely,

Dave Grabbert
Dave Grabbert

To Whom it may concern

Attn: Marvin Blakesley:
Marathon Oil Company
PO Box 2690
Cody, Wyo. 82414

Dear Mr. Blakesley:

It has been brought to our attention there is a move to put all treater water from the Hamilton Dome and Grass Creek oil fields back underground. We the users believe we should have a voice in a matter that will so drastically effect us.

It is our belief this would be a mistake, since that would create a fiancial burdan on those depending on the water of Cottonwood and Grass Creek for stock water and water for irragation. This would cause a bigger water shortage, had there not been treater water this past summer, the creek would have been totaly dry. Since this water has been used for years, we the users cannot attribute any harmful effect to land or animals as some environmentalist groups would have the public believe.

Sincerely

Merle Pitz
Harry E. Spranger (Doh. M. Inc.)

Hamilton Dome, Wv.
Nov. 4, 1968

To Whom It May Concern:

As operator of one of the larger cattle ranches on Cottonwood Creek, in the vicinity of Hamilton Dome, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, we are requesting that the serious detriment to our operation and others in the area be considered if the discharges of fresh water from the local oil companies are suspended as planned.

We winter the cattle at the ranch headquarters each year. Water for the cattle was always a problem, being in short supply, and often freezing dry in the winter months. The addition of the discharged water not only assured us of adequate water for the cattle, but practically assured us of water that didn't freeze over, except in very extreme temperatures.

Irrigation water for summer use is always short, and in the dryer years some of our fields get very little water. Since we have had the use of the discharge water, we've been able to produce more hay, making wintering of the cattle easier.

Please consider these facts in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Rhodes Ranch, Inc.
Box 61.
Hamilton Dome, Wv. 52427



President

Spokane, Wash
23 Oct
Oct 28, 1955

Marathon Oil Field
P.O. Box 2692
Cody, Wyo 82414
Re: Hamilton Dome Oil Field

Gentlemen:

We were satisfied by telephone
Oct 28, 1955 that the water from
the Hamilton Dome Oil Field may
be put under ground.

I have owned our ranch on
Cottonwood since 1936. Before the
water from the H. D. Field
started running to the creek we
had a serious problem with
our cattle drinking the alkali
water, causing Alkali disease.
Now that the water runs steady
all of the time, we don't have
that problem.

The Hamilton Dome Oil Field
water is worth a small
fortune to us, and the whole
Cottonwood Creek Area, as stock
water and irrigation water.

We would miss it
immensely if we lost it.
Best regards

Yours truly
David J. Lewis
Thomas A. Baird
John R. Baird

Hamilton Dome
Nov 1, 1988

To whom it may concern.

I very much object to
the oil companies putting
the treated water back
into the ground.

As we have come to
depend on it for livestock
and wild game water
also for irrigation for
about 25 or 30 years.

It is the only water that
has been flowing in
Cottonwood creek at the ranch
this year since August.

The only water on our
B.L.M. winter and spring
allotment is what comes
from the treatment at
Hamilton Dome.

Ramul Levashkin

Farmers and Ranchers
Cottonwood Creek
Worland, Wy 82401

November 7, 1988

EPA
C/O Pat Childers
Marathon Oil Company
P.O. Box 2690
Cody, Wy 82414

Dear EPA,

We are writing this letter concerning the Hamilton Dome and Grass Creek water. The water is checked every day to make sure there is no chemicals in it.

Since the water has been running, it has improved the area ten times of what it was. We use the water to irrigate the farms along the creek.

The livestock, wildlife, and the water fowl use the water to survive. There is nothing wrong with the water. Why take something away that is so very useful and put it underground where it won't be useful to anyone or anything?

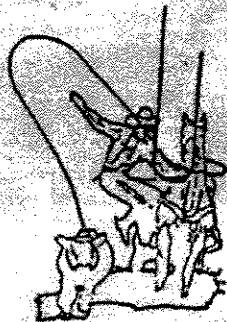
Why spend all this money on something that is going to hurt the farmers, ranchers, livestock, wildlife, and water fowl? Without the water we would be hurting. The water has helped us the way it is right now.

In closing, we wish that you will reconsider and think about the wildlife, the land, and the livestock and leave the water as it is.

Sincerely,

Pat Childers
Box 524
Worland, Wyo

Farmers and Ranchers
of Cottonwood Creek
Hamilton Dome and
Grass Creek



JIM WILSON

Box 317

Kirby, WY 82430

(307) 844-2009

October 21, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

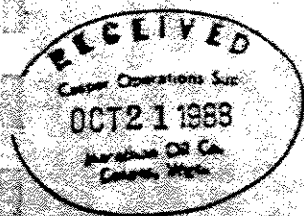
The usage of the water that is released from the Little Sand Draw oil field is a definite advantage to the livestock that is wintered in that area. Because the water runs for several miles through the range, it lets the cattle graze the forage in a much more even manner. Also since the water has been available, the wildlife has increased due to the improved habitat.

The loss of this water would hurt the cattle grazing as well as the wild life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Wilson
Jim Wilson



RECEIVED

OCT 24 1988

Environ. Dept.
and Salary

Lance Creek ridge 82222
Star Rte - Box 334
Oct 19 1988

Mr Jerry Skinner
Marathon Oil Co
P.O. Box 2690
Cody Wyo 82414
Sir

Your representative here, Mr Paul Petty, has asked me to contact you with regard to usage of surplus water from oil wells.

I have used it as the only source of water for my cattle in winter pasture and can assure anyone that cattle do very well on it, in fact eat less salt and minerals than otherwise, we find many minerals living in it, does I believe as well as beaver and have seen some small turtles. I have seen my cattle fill up on that warm water on some bitter cold windy days and head for the ridge top & start grazing while other rancher's cattle were humped up behind a wind break. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 307-334-3006 or if I can be of any service.

J C Chilton

HOODOO RANCH

P.O. BOX 850 - CODY, WYOMING 82414

*Half Moon Field
Pass Co, Wyo*GEORGE BROWN
MANAGER

October 20, 1988

Eugene Grant
Marathon Oil
P O Box 2690
Cody, Wyo

Eugene,

Concerning your telephone call in regards to treater water made me realize how much we have come to rely on it as our major, and in some cases only source of water, not only for livestock but wildlife as well.

In a normal year treater water from Half Moon Oil Field furnishes ninety percent of the water for the whole drainage of Sulphor Creek and this year close to a hundred percent. This is also true of Oregon Basin in regards to the Dry Creek drainage.

If and when we lose this water it will not only have a tremendous impact on livestock and wildlife but will change the ecology of these areas, which amounts to thousands of acres.

This should be of great concern not only to us, but everyone in the state. If I can be of any help in this matter please let me know.

Sincerely,



George Brown

Marathon Oil Co.
P.O. Box 2690
Cody, Wyoming
82414

Box 535
Half Moon Field
Park Co, Wyo

Mr. Eugene Grant
Dear Sir ;

In reference to your telephone call of this morning. As far as I can tell the water running through our grazing land from the Half Moon oil field is perfectly good for livestock to drink.

I have been observing the cattle for years when they graze on the land that the Half Moon oil well water through our land. There has never been any ill effects to the cattle from the cattle drinking the oil well water.

In fact the cattle will drink whatever water is closest to them. Either reservoir water or oil well water.

It is of my opinion that this water is perfectly safe for any animal to drink.

This property is currently owned by myself and my two brothers Paul and Fred Zinn. Addresses will be furnished upon demand.

Bert Bell is currently leasing the land for grazing.

If there is any further information necessary. My name is Martin J Zinn Box 535 Cody, Wyo, Zip 82414.

Thank You

Martin J. Zinn

To whom it may concern:

Pittfork F&E
Pack Co,

I have been advised that Marathon oil Co. may be requested to pump all water under ground at the H field.

This would be extremely detrimental to our winter grazing program as our cattle depend almost entirely on this water in the cold winter months as other sources are frozen beyond use.

This water is warm and never freezes.

I strongly urge that this policy not be implemented.

Thank You
Ott Thomas
-T- Ranch

High - Fico
- 3 - plant
Campbell Co.
110 30 PD T 23712

Oct 15, 1951

Union oil Co.
Box 1947
Billings, Wyo. 82017
Attn: H.T. Coors

Regarding our conversation on discharging water
from your water plant located in Sec 29, T. 46 N.,
Range 91 west.

I would like to keep it like it is. The
water discharge furnishes water for livestock on the
west side of Cool Creek also a nesting area for
Buck + Geese.

Sincerely,

N. Carl E. Edwards

2099 Heligato Road

Billings, Wyo 82016

Ellettsville, Indiana
October 11, 1953

Dear Sir,

Of the water quality out of your 4-9 battery in the Jayson unit, Sec 27, T46N R70W (continuous) good, all brought from the basin allowed to overflow into local creek, as it had the past time or so ago. That water in the winter time allows my cattle another source of open water, also for the few deer that are slowly increasing in number from past several winters. They, the deer, like that portion of creek just south of the 4-9 battery, few people expect will fall personnel as though the area, and there is plenty of grass and water, and it helps the deer prosper. And when some domestic livestock water at this 4-9 overflow, they graze the north east part of that pasture, and better utilize the longer vegetation.

And the unit production manager, Union Oil, have plenty of expenses, wages, maintenance, roads, without having to haul good quality water back, water sampling, etc.

As Ever
Dale V. Nelson

Jayson Unit 4-9
Milight Field
Campbell Co.
B 20 BOPD 7180 BWPD

ED F. MCKINNEY
Rawlins Route, Box 30
Lander, Wyoming 82520

October 6, 1968

Tim J. Noack
Union Oil Company of California
P.O. Box 79
Worland, Wyoming 82401

Dear Mr. Noack:

After a recent visit with your field foreman, Mr. Gerald B. Carr, I was informed that I may be losing the use of your oilfield produced water from your Derby Field in Fremont County, due to changes in federal law governing surface discharge waters. I would like to assure you that the waters I obtain from your Derby Field are put to beneficial use by me for my farming and ranching concerns. In the winter months I utilize the waters for watering of my cattle and horses. In the spring and summer this same water is used for irrigating my hay. The loss of this water source would severely impact my ranching operations and I would appreciate your efforts toward maintaining this source.

Sincerely,

Ed F. McKinney



November 15, 1936

To Whom It May Concern:

We need and use the produced water from the
Steamboat Little Field in Fremont County, Wyoming.

This water happens to be the only water available for our
cattle in this area.

Sincerely,

James Bergin
Edeline Scheer
Jim Bergin III

To whom it may concern:

The following ranchers, sportsman, and other interested persons feel that the lease water going into creeks is a benefit to livestock and wildlife.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Ruby A Pans | Leona A Ford |
| Dorinda Pans | Wally Kent |
| Re A Pans | Brad P. Kent |
| Stewart Sides | Ray Moore |
| Luther A Campbell | Walt Kent |
| Rita H. Campbell | Eric Jones |
| Larry T. Lower | Jim Green |
| Ray Bott | Donnie Eli |
| John T. Robb | Mike Lawrence |
| Harold D. Miller | William A. Bent |
| Petrick A. Miller | Ralph Hayes |
| Beverly D. Miller | Carl Miller |
| James R. Middleton | Howard S. Hawley |
| Peggy A. Middleton | Ken Larson |
| Foster P. Miller | Wynne Larson |
| John Olson | Ingvaldson |
| Michael F. Hart | Paul J. Jones |
| Gregory W. Jones | Ilecia Jones |
| Bill Greer | Way Jayne |
| JC Mellon | Dwight Klein |
| Walter Kent | Phil Jones |
| Pat Kent | Jim Freeman |