



December 21, 2001

Marvin Blakesley
 Marathon Oil Company
 1501 Stampede Ave.
 Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Blakesley:

I have the following information in regards to your request concerning the beneficial use by wildlife of production water produced at several of your oil fields.

The Gebo, North Sunshine and Pitchfork fields all produce water that is used yearlong by many species of wildlife. In particular pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, Hungarian and chukar partridge benefit by using these water sources. In addition mule deer and numerous species of nongame birds use these water sources on a daily basis. The presence of these water sources increases the distribution and abundance of most wildlife species.

The Gebo field drains into an unnamed tributary to the Big Horn River. Production water that meets DEQ standards is beneficial to the mainstem river fishery by providing additional water. The North Sunshine field drains into Gooseberry Creek – a Class 4 water supporting wild, native populations of mountain suckers, longnose dace, fathead minnows and a few brook trout. The Pitchfork field drains into the Rawhide Creek drainage – a Class 3 water supporting wild and native Yellowstone cutthroat, Snake River cutthroat, white suckers, mountain suckers, silvery minnows and longnose dace. Production water that meets or exceeds DEQ standards is beneficial to the aquatic resources in these drainages where water shortages are chronic.

Sincerely,

John Emmerich
 Wildlife Management Coordinator

Ron McKnight
 Regional Fisheries Supervisor
 2820 State Highway 120
 Cody, WY 82414