

**PRARIANA FARMS**  
*Clearmont, Wyoming*

**FILED**

**FEB 13 2006**

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
VIA FACSIMILE

February 9, 2006

Dear Environmental Quality Council:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking request by the Powder River Basin Resource Council. I fully agree with the proposed rule and urge you to approve it as soon as possible.

Areas referred to by DEQ as "ephemeral streams" are frequently prime forage-producing sites. As such, these areas are critical to the livelihoods of many Wyoming ranchers. Many landowners are concerned about the effect of poor quality water on these bottomland meadows and the more water pumped the greater the damage to soil and crops. Landowners experiencing the effects of uncontrolled water quantity have cattle with hoof rot, exclusion of cattle from important grazing lands, boggy bottomland with altered natural flora, natural forage killed, soil ruined for decades, wildlife habitat destroyed, and cottonwood trees dead.

We are only 5% into Coal Bed Methane development in the Powder River Basin region. There will be millions of gallons pumped out of our Wyoming aquifers over the next 10 to 15 years. Much of this water will be put into containment ponds and allowed to evaporate. This is not a beneficial use of the water. All of the cattle and wildlife in Wyoming cannot use the amount of water projected to be pumped out of coal seams. Most of the water will evaporate, infiltrate (often causing damage in areas where seepage occurs), or flow down drainages and out of state. All these harmful outcomes follow directly from the fiction that produced and discharged water is being put to "beneficial use."

A showing of **ACTUAL** beneficial use, as required under the proposed rule, would greatly reduce damages and contribute significantly to conservation of Wyoming's water for future beneficial uses.

After the water is pumped out and no longer available for wildlife or livestock or other aquatic life what will remain? Will ranchers earn a living from the dry ponds with salt bottoms and changed or eliminated forage? What will our landscape look like after we have covered it with poor quality water?

**There has to be a better way. Industry should not be allowed to externalize their costs and leave the citizens of Wyoming to pick up the tab.**

**This proposed rulemaking is a first step in addressing the water management problem created by coal bed methane development. I urge you to consider the considerable impacts to land, cattle, crops and citizens that are and will occur with continued unrestrained water discharge.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol LeResche". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Thank you," text.

**PRARIANA FARMS  
Carol LeResche  
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307-672-1859**