

Wyoming Environmental Equality Council
Agricultural Use Protection Rule
November 6, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My family homesteaded on Grass Creek and Gooseberry in 1906 we had a successful agricultural operation on account of produced water until 1995. If it wasn't for the produced water out of Little Buffalo Creek and Grass Creek, our operation would never have survived.

The produced water provided a good source of water to my cattle, as well as a robust sage grouse, chucker, deer and antelope population then – and still does today. The Hillberry's currently operate the land and they can tell you the land would be almost worthless without the availability of produced water.

When my family was in the agriculture business, we helped the ER ranch (the Butterfield place today) put in a center-pivot system so they can irrigate hay meadows with this produced water. This place has greatly benefited from produced water, too, and is evident that irrigation is successful with the water. Because of the produced water flow, I know the Butterfields are able to put in a second pivot – which has to potential to increase their operation even more.

A man can live with grass, but he can't live without water – the same goes for livestock and wildlife.

Please consider how valuable this produced water is and I urge you not to inflict more stringent water quality standards that would cause the discharge to cease.

Sincerely,

Louis Rankine
Representing Rankine Brothers
Worland, Wyoming
307-347-4781