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**File Code:** 2520

**Date:** May 10, 2018

Ronald Steg  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
510 Meadowview Drive  
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Steg:

The Shoshone National Forest staff have reviewed the Draft 2016/2018 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report and would like to provide formal comment. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality staff have been working with hydrologists on the Forest regarding water quality concerns in the Brooks Lake area (HUC 100800010104) for some time. We appreciate the open communication on these issues and the extensive water quality investigations that occurred around Brooks Lake. However, given the sources identified for the impairment, we are requesting further clarification on the rationale for the 303(d) listing for *Brooks Lake (WYBH100800010104\_01), Class 2AB*.

Both the water quality report (2015) and this Integrated Report identify the horse corrals and the wastewater lagoon as primary sources contributing to the water quality concerns at Brooks Lake. However, in September of 2017, we received correspondence from the DEQ Inspection and Compliance Supervisor as well as a District Engineer stating that wastewater system upgrades were required in order to ensure that wastewater discharges were not impacting the lake. These upgrades are nearing completion. Given the significant upgrade to the wastewater treatment system, we are requesting further discussion so that we fully understand the rationale for listing this waterbody.

Please note that the Forest Service recognizes the need to address watershed conditions within this area and has listed the Upper Wind River sub-watershed as a priority for watershed restoration actions. Several projects within this watershed have already been identified and include projects that address trail and road conditions as well as mitigations for the horse corral related effluent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Karri Cary, hydrologist on my staff at (307)578-5163.

Sincerely,



LISA A. TIMCHAK  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Joan Carlson, Jeff VonKienast

