

July 3, 2019

Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th St
Cheyenne WY 82002

Re: Moneta Divide Proposed Discharge Permit

Dear Department of Environmental Quality,

As outdoor recreation businesses that depend on clean water to sustain our livelihoods, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the permit application to increase produced water into tributaries of the Boysen Reservoir, and we urge DEQ to reject this permit.

The Wind and Bighorn River downstream of the Boysen Reservoir are considered Blue-Ribbon fisheries and offer some of the highest quality fishing in Wyoming. Drift boats can constantly be seen floating on the Bighorn through Thermopolis, carrying anglers who come from across Wyoming and America for the opportunity to pursue their fishing passion. Visitation has constantly increased over the past decade, creating an important economic boost for the region. We believe this fishery should be safeguarded from any impacts that could potentially harm this incredible resource.

The permit request to allow for an additional 8.27 million gallons of produced water, 2,161 tons a month of dissolved solids, and 719 tons a month of chloride, as well as additional chemicals, concerns from our businesses. The long-term impacts of climate change have already resulted in a 14% decrease of the Reservoir over the past two decades, which has diminished its dilution capacities. The Reservoir cannot handle additional produced water or pollutants without severely harming the fishery, as well as the businesses that depend on a thriving fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the permit request.

Sincerely,

JD High Country Outfitters, Jackson
Mike Vaughan River Guide, Thermopolis
North Fork Anglers, Cody
Sweetwater Fishing Expeditions, Lander
Tickled Trout, Dubois
Wind River Canyon Whitewater & Fly Fishing, Thermopolis
Wyoming Adventures, Thermopolis
Wyoming Anglers, Casper