

Linda Healow

I am commenting on the Moneta Divide discharge permit, WYPDES # WY0002062.

I live in Billings MT. I have fished in the Bighorn River upstream from Hardin MT, have paddled Bighorn Canyon a number of times both from the MT side (Ok A Beh) and the WY side (Horseshoe Bend), have floated Wind River Canyon, and have camped, fished and paddled in Boysen Reservoir. The clean waters and amazing fisheries of this river provide personal recreation and ample income for communities along its path.

I am exceptionally concerned about permitting discharge of oilfield wastewater into tributaries of the Wind River at Boysen Reservoir. The wastewater should be treated before being discharged into Boysen Reservoir, not just dumped into Badwater and Alkali Creeks.

The Bighorn in Montana is a world-renowned blue ribbon trout stream. Dumping this type of waste upstream and counting on dilution to remedy any water quality issues seems cavalier at best and negligent at worst.

I urge the WY DEQ to take another look at this permit and reassess any impact both on the creeks where the water will be released and impacts downstream. Independent review needs to be utilized. Current water quality needs to be measured and documented. For a dilution model to be used, adequate flow information needs to be obtained. Quarterly water quality testing needs to be applied and chemicals used in the drilling and fracking need to be disclosed to provide proof that water downstream does not contain these substances.

Sincerely,
Linda Healow