



508 North Broadway Avenue
Riverton, WY 82501

307-856-7524 EXT 3200
www.lowerwindrivercd.com

February 19, 2019

TO: WDEQ
ATTN: Ron Steg
510 Meadow Drive
Lander, WY 82520

RE: Comments for 2020 Integrated Report

Dear Ron,

The Lower Wind River Conservation District appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the 2020 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report. As you know, we have been working with landowners and other citizens to monitor and reduce impairments on three waters in our District for a number of years. Our comments follow:

Ocean Lake--We have commented several times concerning the fact that Ocean Lake was not man-made but rather was a natural depression originally called Dry Lake. In 1922, Ocean Lake began receiving water from irrigation return flows and natural springs. In 1945 an outlet structure was constructed to control out-flow from Ocean Lake to Five Mile Creek. The information in the assessment record needs corrected.

On the Use Support Decision Fact Sheet, the TMDL priority is listed as 2016. However, as noted in the next column, the TMDL was completed on 12/3/2009. The TMDL priority should be changed to completed or needing updated.

We have done considerable work to help reduce sediment loading to Ocean Lake from the drains and from bank erosion on the lake itself. More current monitoring data should be included in the report. The Wyoming Game and Fish has data for Ocean Lake and the drains which was collected much more recently than 2003.

There is no mention of the Ocean Lake Watershed Water Quality Management Plan that was written in 2008 by the Ocean Lake Steering Committee, the Ocean Lake Landowners and the Lower Wind River Conservation District with assistance from the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



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Poison Creek—The Use Support Fact Sheet lists the TMDL priority for Poison Creek as 2015. Since that year has passed, what is the priority date for the TMDL?

The Poison Creek Watershed Water Quality Management Plan (2007) written by the Poison Creek Steering Committee, Poison Creek Watershed Landowners and the Lower Wind River Conservation District with assistance from the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service was not mentioned. Additionally, a Use Attainability Study for Recreational Use was submitted to WDEQ by the Lower Wind River Conservation District in 2010. That document was not mentioned. Our District also did work for the Statewide Categorical UAA which included data for Poison Creek. The Use Support Decision Fact Sheet needs to include these documents to show that the impairment was reduced from “indefinite distance upstream from Boysen Reservoir” to “from the confluence with Boysen Reservoir to a point 2.0 miles upstream”.

WDEQ data from 2006 to present needs to be included in the Listing History.

Muddy Creek—The Use Support Fact Sheet lists the TMDL priority for Muddy Creek as 2015. Since that year has passed, what is the priority date for the TMDL?

The location of the listing “from the confluence with Boysen Reservoir upstream to the Wind River Indian Reservation” is considerably farther than 11.8 miles. The listing location needs to be consistent with the Statewide Categorical Use Attainability Analysis.

There is no mention of the Muddy Creek Watershed Water Quality Management Plan (2007) written by the Muddy Creek Steering Committee, the Muddy Creek Watershed Landowners and the Lower Wind River Conservation District with assistance from the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WDEQ data from 2006 to present needs to be included in the Listing History.



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GENERAL

WDEQ has chosen HCBs as the next recreational use concern. Data is not available to indicate if the issue is greater than it has been in the past. The page should be titled "Other" rather than "Emerging" issues. On page 16 "Emerging Surface Water Quality Issues", it is unclear what is meant by "primary production increases". Please elaborate.

The Conservation Districts in Wyoming have been and are working hard to address water quality issues. There have been Watershed Progress Reports published every other year since 2005 by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts which illustrate the work that is being done in our state. Those reports should at least be included in the references section.

We hope these comments will be incorporated in the final draft of the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Meyer".

Cathy Meyer, Manager
Lower Wind River Conservation District

