

# Protect Our Water Jackson Hole

Dear Mr. Ronald Steg,

Protect Our Water Jackson Hole (formally Friends of Fish Creek), a Wyoming 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft 2020 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report. Before December 2019, Protect Our Water Jackson Hole was known as Friends of Fish Creek. Friends of Fish Creek was created in 2014 by a group of long-time residents of the Westbank of the Snake River near Wilson, WY. Many Westbank residents were frustrated after little action was being taken to address nutrient pollution and excessive algae evident in Fish Creek. A series of scientific investigations completed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Teton Conservation District from 2004-2013 provided valuable evidence of nutrient enrichment in the watershed. In 2015, Friends of Fish Creek partnered with the Teton Conservation District and successfully received 205j grant money to form the Fish Creek Stakeholders Group. The stakeholders proceeded to work collaboratively with local government, business owners, and residents to reduce nutrient pollution from common sources. All the members of the stakeholder group were interested in an evaluation of Fish Creek for nutrient enrichment through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) water quality assessment program. Later, the assessment process began under Mr. Richard Thorp and was then transferred to Mr. Lanny Goyn. After discovering that some of the data collected during the last USGS investigation (2013) didn't meet WDEQ QA/QC criteria, Friends of Fish Creek contributed private donations to fund the collection of additional years of data to complete the water quality assessment. The 2016/2018 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report included a significant update on the status of the water quality assessment of Fish Creek, but the Draft Wyoming 2020 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report makes no mention of it. Due to the significant contribution that Friends of Fish Creek (now Protect Our Water Jackson Hole) has made to efforts to complete the water quality assessment, we would respectfully request that the Draft Wyoming 2020 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report include an update on the status of the Fish Creek water quality assessment. If WDEQ would prefer not to include an update in the Draft 2020 Integrated report, Protect Our Water Jackson Hole would also be satisfied with a written update from WDEQ on the current status of the assessment.

Sincerely,

Dan Leemon

Executive Director

Protect Our Water Jackson Hole