Jorgenson, Craig

From: Smith, Preston [preston.smith@bia.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 1:12 PM
To: Lozano, VelRey
Subject: Fwd:
Attachments: Permit no. wy-0025232.pdf; Permit no wy-0024953.pdf; Permit no wy-0025607.pdf; Permit no. wy-0020338.pdf; Permit no. wy-0024945.pdf

Velrey,

I am forwarding these letters via electronic mail, as well, I am going to send these out today so you have a hard copy on hand.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, thank you.

Preston W. Smith
Range Mgm't Specialist
Wind River Agency
Box 158
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514
307/332-4637
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Cachelin, Trisha** <trisha.cachelin@bia.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 8, 2013 at 2:49 PM
Subject:
To: Preston Smith <preston.smith@bia.gov>

Trisha Cachelin, Realty Specialist
Realty/Minerals
BIA, Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
ph 307.332.5605
cel 307.349.4904
fx 307.335.7236

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Natural Resources
Range Management

24 July 2013

BENEFICIAL USE – WINKLEMAN DOME OIL FIELD

Colleen Rathbone
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO
80202-1129

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

In review of the discharge water for the Winkleman Dome oilfield, NPDES Permit #WY-0025232, WESCO Operating Inc., it is our conclusion that the discharge water released as a artificial perennial stream provides beneficial ecological habitat. While the aesthetics of the discharge from the oilfield might be unsightly, it is a small sacrifice when considering that the water provides an abundance of riparian habitat in an area devoid of any type of water. Almost immediately as the water drops in elevation from the last production pond abundant plants become available and when the water flows into the first settling pond a momentous amount of aquatic, non-aquatic, domestic, and wildlife benefits are identifiable. As the water continues to flow downward to manmade ponds, the water enhancement to the ecosystem is evident in plant species abundance, as well as providing beneficial use to minnows (species unidentified) which can be seen actively swimming in both ponds as water continues to flow downstream. After the water passes the second pond the water basically becomes a perennial stream which flows onward to the Little Wind River.

The plant species benefit list is long and distinguishable: Bulrush (Scirpus spp.), Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis), Arrowgrass (Triglochin maritimum), Alkali sacaton (Sporoblus airoides), Basin wildrye (Elymus cinereus), Western wheatgrass (Elymus smithii), Bottlebrush squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix), Tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia caespitosa), Cattail (Typha spp.), American licorice (Glycyrrhiza lepidota), Swainson pea (Sphaerophysa salsula), Rubber rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), Wyoming big sage (Artemisia tridentata var wyomingensis) and Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).

It is our understanding that quite possibly the discharge may not be re-newed as water quality requirements have become more stringent. Accordingly, the discharge water may not meet the hydrogren-sulfide requirement, however as water drops in elevation it purifies itself of contaminants and additionally the water is aided by vegetation, soil type, rocks, logs, and debris that is normally found in creeks and drainages. Treatment technology standards established by the EPA require that a level of affluent quality must be met by all facilities affected by the applicable use. As required by

the Clean Water Act, the EPA must conduct an evaluation of numeric water quality standards and the assimilative capacity for the receiving stream. The results of this evaluation are used to establish permit limits by ensuring the receiving stream quality and its existing and designated uses are protected. Also, we are pleased to see sound science used from the published Water Quality for Wyoming and Livestock and Wildlife Report in determining the safe limitations of invasive contaminants from produced water discharge.

As well, ecologically, to lose this water though it is unsightly and appears unclean would be a detriment to the resource. Flora and fauna at various scales benefit and stand to be on the losing end if the discharge water is lost. These drainages are established with riparian zones that could be totally devoid should the water go away. Mass wasting, erosion, sedimentation, gully washes, and downsizing/downcutting will occur if these now naturalized riparian zones are allowed to go away.

The released water provides livestock water for six individuals permitted for cattle in Range Unit #19A, one permittee in Range Unit #24A, as well as providing water benefits for feral horses, antelope, mule deer, aquatic bird species, upland bird species, coyotes, small mammals, rodents, and insects. The released water has created an artificial wetland, over time, the ecosystem has adapted and the water release provides a full time benefit today. To lose the use of this water would be the decline of a now naturalized ecosystem.

If you have any further questions, comments, and/or concerns please feel free to contact the Deputy Superintendent of Trust Services at 307/332-3718 or the Rangeland Management Specialist at 307/332-4637.

Sincerely,

Ramon Nation,
Acting Superintendent

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Natural Resources
Range Management

24 July 2013

BENEFICIAL USE – ROLFF LAKE UNIT

Colleen Rathbone
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO
80202-1129

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

In review of the discharge water for the Rolff Lake oilfield, NPDES Permit # WY-0024945, Phoenix Production Company, it is our conclusion that the treated water released into an ephemeral stream related to the Dry Creek drainage provides beneficial ecological habitat. Almost immediately as the water drops in elevation from the production pond abundant plants become available and though the flows remain in a perennial state, a momentous amount of aquatic, non-aquatic, domestic, and wildlife benefits are identifiable. The plant species benefit list is long and distinguishable: Bulrush (Scirpus spp.), Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis), Arrowgrass (Triglochin maritimum), Alkali sacaton (Sporoblus airoides), Western wheatgrass (Elymus smithii), Bottlebrush squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix), Tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia caespitosa), American licorice (Glycyrrhiza lepidota), Swainson pea (Sphaerophysa salsula), Wyoming big sage (Artemisia tridentata var wyomingensis) and Rubber rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus).

It is our understanding that quite possibly the discharge may not be re-newed as water quality requirements have become more stringent. Accordingly, the discharge water may not meet the hydrogren-sulfide requirement, however as water drops in elevation it purifies itself of contaminants and additionally the water is aided by vegetation, soil type, rocks, logs, and debris that is normally found in creeks and drainages. Treatment technology standards established by the EPA require that a level of affluent quality must be met by all facilities affected by the applicable use. As required by the Clean Water Act, the EPA must conduct an evaluation of numeric water quality standards and the assimilative capacity for the receiving stream. The results of this evaluation are used to establish permit limits by ensuring the receiving stream quality and its existing and designated uses are protected. Also, we are pleased to see sound science used from the published Water Quality for Wyoming and Livestock and Wildlife Report in determining the safe limitations of invasive contaminants from produced water discharge.

As well, ecologically, to lose this water though it is unsightly and appears unclean would be a detriment to the resource. Flora and fauna at various scales benefit and stand to be on the losing end if the discharge water is lost. These drainages are established with riparian zones that could be totally devoid should the water go away. Mass wasting, erosion, sedimentation, gully washes, and downsizing/downcutting will occur if these now naturalized riparian zones are allowed to go away.

The released water provides livestock water for six individuals permitted for cattle in Range Unit #40, as well as providing water benefits for feral horses, antelope, mule deer, aquatic bird species, upland bird species, coyotes, small mammals, rodents, and insects. The released water has created an artificial wetland, over time, the ecosystem has adapted and the water release provides a full time benefit today. To lose the use of this water would be the decline of a now naturalized ecosystem.

If you have any further questions, comments, and/or concerns please feel free to contact the Deputy Superintendent of Trust Services at 307/332-3718 or the Rangeland Management Specialist at 307/332-4637.

Sincerely,

Ramon A. Nation,
Acting Superintendent

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Natural Resources
Range Management

24 July 2013

BENEFICIAL USE –SHELDON DOME FIELD

Colleen Rathbone
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO
80202-1129

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

In review of the discharge water for the Sheldon Dome oilfield, NPDES Permit # WY-0024953, Phoenix Production Company, it is our conclusion that the treated water released into an ephemeral stream related to the Dry Creek drainage provides beneficial ecological habitat. Almost immediately as the water drops in elevation from the production pond abundant plants become available and when the water flows into the first settling pond a momentous amount of aquatic, non-aquatic, domestic, and wildlife benefits are identifiable. The plant species benefit list is long and distinguishable: Bulrush (Scirpus spp.), Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis), Arrowgrass (Triglochin maritimum), Alkali sacaton (Sporoblus airoides), Basin wildrye (Elymus cinereus), Western wheatgrass (Elymus smithii), Bottlebrush squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix), Tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia caespitosa), Cattail (Typha spp.), American licorice (Glycyrrhiza lepidota), Swainson pea (Sphaerophysa salsula), Rubber rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), Skunkbush sumac (Rhus trilobata), and Saltcedar (Tamarix ramosissima).

It is our understanding that quite possibly the discharge may not be re-newed as water quality requirements have become more stringent. Accordingly, the discharge water may not meet the hydrogren-sulfide requirement, however as water drops in elevation it purifies itself of contaminants and additionally the water is aided by vegetation, soil type, rocks, logs, and debris that is normally found in creeks and drainages. Treatment technology standards established by the EPA require that a level of affluent quality must be met by all facilities affected by the applicable use. As required by the Clean Water Act, the EPA must conduct an evaluation of numeric water quality standards and the assimilative capacity for the receiving stream. The results of this evaluation are used to establish permit limits by ensuring the receiving stream quality and its existing and designated uses are protected. Also, we are pleased to see sound science used from the published Water Quality for Wyoming and Livestock and Wildlife Report in determining the safe limitations of invasive contaminants from produced water discharge.

As well, ecologically, to lose this water though it is unsightly and appears unclean would be a detriment to the resource. Flora and fauna at various scales benefit and stand to be on the losing end if the discharge water is lost. These drainages are established with riparian zones that could be totally devoid should the water go away. Mass wasting, erosion, sedimentation, gully washes, and downsizing/downcutting will occur if these now naturalized riparian zones are allowed to go away.

The released water provides livestock water for six individuals permitted for cattle in Range Unit #38, as well as providing water benefits for feral horses, antelope, mule deer, aquatic bird species, upland bird species, coyotes, small mammals, rodents, and insects. The released water has created an artificial wetland, over time, the ecosystem has adapted and the water release provides a full time benefit today. To lose the use of this water would be the decline of a now naturalized ecosystem.

If you have any further questions, comments, and/or concerns please feel free to contact the Deputy Superintendent of Trust Services at 307/332-3718 or the Rangeland Management Specialist at 307/332-4637.

Sincerely,

Ramon A. Nation,
Acting Superintendent

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Natural Resources
Range Management

24 July 2013

BENEFICIAL USE – SHELDON DOME OIL FIELD

Colleen Rathbone
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO
80202-1129

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

In review of the discharge water for the Sheldon Dome oilfield, NPDES Permit #WY-0025607, WESCO Operating Inc., it is our conclusion that the discharge water released as a artificial perennial stream provides beneficial ecological habitat. While the aesthetics of the discharge from the oilfield might be unsightly, it is a small sacrifice when considering that the water provides an abundance of riparian habitat in an area devoid of any type of water. Almost immediately as the water drops in elevation from the last production pond abundant plants become available and when the water flows into the first settling pond a momentous amount of aquatic, non-aquatic, domestic, and wildlife benefits are identifiable.

The plant species benefit list is long and distinguishable: Bulrush (Scirpus spp.), Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis), Arrowgrass (Triglochin maritimum), Alkali sacaton (Sporoblus airoides), Basin wildrye (Elymus cinereus), Western wheatgrass (Elymus smithii), Bottlebrush squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix), Tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia caespitosa), Cattail (Typha spp.), American licorice (Glycyrrhiza lepidota), Swainson pea (Sphaerophysa salsula), Rubber rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), Wyoming big sage (Artemisia tridentata var wyomingensis) and Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus).

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Wyoming and Livestock and Wildlife Report in determining the safe limitations of invasive contaminants from produced water discharge.

As well, ecologically, to lose this water though it is unsightly and appears unclean would be a detriment to the resource. Flora and fauna at various scales benefit and stand to be on the losing end if the discharge water is lost. These drainages are established with riparian zones that could be totally devoid should the water go away. Mass wasting, erosion, sedimentation, gully washes, and downsizing/downcutting will occur if these now naturalized riparian zones are allowed to go away. A conflicting concept arises with the water loss if the riparian zones are lost, and the conflict is whether the tribes will now have to mitigate the wetlands that will now be lost, at what cost, and in what location?

The released water provides livestock water for six individuals permitted for cattle in Range Unit #38 as well as providing water benefits for feral horses, antelope, mule deer, aquatic bird species, upland bird species, coyotes, small mammals, rodents, and insects. The released water has created an artificial wetland, over time, the ecosystem has adapted and the water release provides a full time benefit today. To lose the use of this water would be the decline of a now naturalized ecosystem.

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Sincerely,

Ramon Nation,
Acting Superintendent

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Wind River Agency
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Natural Resources
Range Management

24 July 2013

BENEFICIAL USE – SHELDON DOME OIL FIELD

Colleen Rathbone
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO
80202-1129

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

In review of the discharge water for the Sheldon Dome oilfield, NPDES Permit #WY-0020338, Eagle Oil and Gas Company, it is our conclusion that the discharge water released as a artificial perennial stream provides beneficial ecological habitat. While the aesthetics of the discharge from the oilfield might be unsightly, it is a small sacrifice when considering that the water provides an abundance of riparian habitat in an area devoid of any type of water. Almost immediately as the water drops in elevation from the last production pond abundant plants become available and when the water flows into the first settling pond a momentous amount of aquatic, non-aquatic, domestic, and wildlife benefits are identifiable.

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Sincerely,

Ramon Nation,
Acting Superintendent