



September 14, 2015

David Waterstreet  
Watershed Section Manager  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Herschler Building 4-W  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**RE: Categorical Use Attainability Analysis for Recreation**

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Categorical Use Attainability Analysis for Recreation (UAA) document dated August, 2014 and for the public meeting dated September 16, 2015.

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this UAA has the potential to affect our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important that you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA strongly supports DEQ's final UAA for Recreation. The UAA takes a logical and comprehensive approach in the fine scale identification of streams in the state having the potential of supporting primary contact recreational activities. Primary contact recreation or primary waters are those waters where recreational activities would be expected to result in full immersion and/or ingestion of the water, any other waters will be considered secondary contact recreation waters. In addition, waters that lack sufficient flows to support primary contact recreation (i.e. ephemeral, small intermittent and small perennial streams), and/or with a mean annual flows less than 6cfs are designated as secondary contact recreation waters. These designations provide users a more accurate depiction of where primary and secondary contact waters exist in the state.

The rationale and methods used by DEQ are defensible and field verified by both DEQ staff and Wyoming Conservation Districts (CD). Together 871 field surveys validated the findings and supports DEQ's identification of primary and secondary contact recreation waters. WDA supports these findings based on the numerous field verifications and believes these to be comprehensive and defensible to those who may question the UAA's determination.

In addition, we appreciate the DEQ collaborating with Wyoming CD's in verifying the determination of the category of waters in the UAA. Wyoming CDs are leaders in the state in water quality assessments and for their diligent work on impaired and threatened waters with the state. CDs have local knowledge

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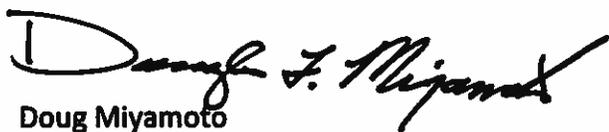
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and expertise of Wyoming's waters and watershed conditions. We appreciate your continued support and acknowledgement of their expertise.

We strongly support DEQ in the development and implementation of this UAA for Recreation. We believe the approval of this strategy will benefit the general public and the state by providing a more accurate depiction of areas meeting the definition of primary contact recreation waters and through the decreased need of future UAAs on streams having very little to no likelihood of being primary contact water. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to the approval of Wyoming's UAA for Recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug F. Miyamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Doug Miyamoto  
Director

DM/cw

CC: Governor's Policy Office  
Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
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