



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

September 27, 2013

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
Attn: Lindsay Patterson
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Building, 4th Floor West
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Ms. Patterson,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) Draft Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) Model for Recreation.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important 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 supports the WDEQ Draft UAA for Recreation, which identifies streams in the state not supporting primary contact recreational activities such as swimming based on insufficient flow and distance from recreation sites frequented by the public. The UAA provides a significant opportunity to designate water bodies as secondary points of contact recreation as intermittent, ephemeral and smaller water bodies that truly are not primary points of contact recreation. If approved this UAA for Recreation model would greatly decrease the need for future formal UAA's. We also believe the design of this model adequately errs on the side of primary contact recreation when evaluating streams for human protection.

We strongly support WDEQ in the development of their proposed UAA Model for Recreation. We believe the approval of this strategy will not only benefit the general public through the continued listing of primary recreation contact streams, but also through the decreased need of future UAA's on streams having very little to no likelihood for being primary contact streams. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and are willing to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearnelyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Association of Conservation districts
Wyoming Board of Agriculture

Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers

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