

August 17, 2015

Kevin Frederick, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Herschler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Frederick,

Re: Request for Public Hearing on the DEQ's Categorical Use Attainability Analysis for Recreation

On behalf of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, I would like to request that a public hearing be held in Jackson, Wyoming, to accept public comment on the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Categorical Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) for Recreation.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance works to protect the wildlife, wild places and community character of Jackson Hole. We do so by empowering people to live in balance with nature. We lead and engage in issue advocacy campaigns regarding wildlife management, appropriate use of our public lands, wildlife crossings, transportation, and community planning. We empower our constituents to hold decision makers accountable so that our decisions will be based on facts and data. A downgrade of any water quality standard, let alone one that applies to recreation activities across the entire state, is an issue of great importance to our organization and our constituents.

Based on recent news coverage, we understand that the DEQ has scheduled a public hearing in Casper on September 16th to accept public comment on the decision. For many of our members, the time, cost and inconvenience of attending a hearing in Casper is a barrier to full and active public engagement. For this reason, we respectfully request that you hold a public meeting in Jackson, WY so that our constituents' concerns can be heard.

It is our understanding that you relied on the Categorical UAA for Recreation as the technical basis for your decision to downgrade water quality standards on over 76% of the State's surface waters, roughly 87,775 stream miles. A cursory review of the DEQ's UAA and the Designated Uses Web Map reveals that many of the downgraded streams are located in watersheds used by our members for a variety of recreational activities, and we therefore have a significant and direct interest in this issue.

In addition to holding a public hearing in Jackson, we request a 60-day extension of time to submit written comments on the UAA. The UAA document, and the issues it

Protecting the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole.

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addresses, are difficult and complex and therefore deserve a thorough and thoughtful review, a review that unfortunately is not possible in the current timeframe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Siva Sundaresan
Conservation Director
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