

**SUBMITTED VIA DEQ PUBLIC COMMENT PORTAL**

March 25, 2024

Joanna Harter  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
510 Meadowview Drive  
Lander, Wyoming, 82520

RE: Draft Wyoming 2022/2024 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report and Listing of Fish Creek as Impaired Due to Nutrients

Dear Ms. Harter,

On behalf of Protect Our Water Jackson Hole (POWJH), we are pleased to submit this letter in response to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) February 8, 2024 public notice inviting comments on the above-referenced Draft 2022/2024 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report (Integrated Report). Specifically, we write in support of the proposed listing of Fish Creek as impaired due to nutrients.

POWJH is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving Teton County, WY as a powerful advocate for restoring and protecting the surface and groundwater in the Snake River Headwaters. POWJH and its predecessor organization, Friends of Fish Creek, have invested heavily in efforts to restore and protect water quality in Fish Creek and its tributaries. For example, POWJH has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in initiatives to improve water quality in the Fish Creek watershed, including funding for education, outreach, and advocacy by POWJH staff.

We support the listing of Fish Creek as impaired due to nutrients because it will help facilitate efforts to protect and restore the Fish Creek Watershed, such as the development of the Fish Creek Management Plan. The first step in solving a problem is recognizing that the problem exists. A nutrient impairment listing is an important step for protecting and restoring this important Class 1 waterbody.

We also note that Integrated Report fails to explain that the Fish Creek watershed has a complex interaction between groundwater and surface water. We recommend including this information in the report. We further ask that the Integrated Report include explanation of why DEQ only proposes to list the upper 9.6 miles of Fish Creek as impaired due to nutrients, as opposed to the entire length.

Thank you for considering POWJH's comments. Please let us know if there is any further information we can provide.