

Casper RMP/EIS Comments

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Category: Water Resources

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Comment:

Water Quality - BLM notes that water produced in conjunction with oil and gas development currently causes changes to water quality and quantity in streams within the Field Office boundary. See DEIS at 3-52. These water discharges total hundreds of millions of barrels. 3-25 through 3-27. Yet nowhere in the DEIS does BLM present, on a stream-by-stream basis, the alterations from natural flows in terms of quantity or quality that have been realized as a result of these outfalls. The Wyoming DEQ requires at least some monitoring of outfall and water channel quantity and quality, which is generally performed by the operator of the oil and gas field. Yet nowhere are these data summarized as a way to present baseline information on the current state of changes that have been wrought on natural stream flows. What are the changes in Class 1 and Class 2 streams? What fishes and other aquatic species have been affected so far? How have natural distributions of native fishes been altered (either expanded or contracted) by flow augmentation and/or water quality changes resulting from oil and gas outfalls?