



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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April 15, 2021

Tina Krueger, Conservation Director  
Joey's Fly Fishing Foundation Inc.  
109 South Main Street  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Re: Joey's Flyfishing Foundation Student-Involved Habitat Restoration Goal along Big Goose Creek

Dear Ms. Tina Krueger,

This letter is to support Joey's Fly Fishing Foundation's goal to develop student-involved education projects on private property located approximately two miles west of Sheridan along Big Goose Creek on the Ox Bow Ranch.

In the initial phase of the project, local fisheries personnel will be available on a scheduled date to electrofish the section to establish baseline fishery conditions. The kids could assist in identifying, counting, measuring and weighing fish. The recorded data could serve as the basis for their longer-term monitoring efforts on the property. Personnel would take this opportunity to discuss with the kids where they use these same techniques in other regional waters, some of their recent results, talk about good stream habitat for various fish communities and answer questions. Educational projects like this align with our Department's recently launched Inspire a Kid initiative.

For the later-term phases of the project involving potential habitat improvement projects, our Aquatic Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy is available to discuss opportunities, as well as challenges.

The project area is located in both the Sheridan Stream Restoration and Sheridan Riparian Restoration priority areas identified in the Department's 2020 Statewide Habitat Plan. The potential for improving the trout fishery along Big Goose Creek is extremely limited due to widely varying water flows and temperatures that occur in summer and early fall when upstream water is diverted for irrigation use.

Though maintaining a year-round trout fishery in Big Goose Creek near Sheridan is not possible due to low summer flows and high stream temperature, localized stream function and riparian habitat gains are possible through the implementation of treatments at the identified location.

Tina Kruger  
April 15, 2021  
Page 2

Please consider applying the Wyoming Stream Quantification Tool with your students to help you establish objectives regarding the level of functional lift that can be expected to occur along Big Goose Creek in the project area. Future funding requests related to this project will be reviewed and possibly supported if the objectives align with restoration potential and WGFD habitat priorities.

Thank you for your role in sponsoring student-involved outdoor activities and involving the WGFD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Osterland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Osterland".

Alan Osterland  
Chief of Fisheries

AO/cs/tc/pm/pd

Cc: Christina Schmidt, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Travis Cundy, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Paul Mavrakis, Wyoming Game and Fish Department