



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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April 3, 2020

Ref: 8WD-SDB

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Josh Wilson
Public Works Director
Town of Pinedale
P.O. Box 709
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941
josh@townofpinedale.us

Re: EPA Approval of Fremont Lake Watershed Management Improvements Plan and Schedule
PWS ID# WY5600041

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the U.S Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed and approved the Town of Pinedale's plan and schedule for improving management of the Fremont Lake watershed. The EPA has also reviewed the March 4, 2020 Fremont Lake Watershed Study Final Report and has determined that the Town of Pinedale has fulfilled its commitment to conduct a study of the Fremont Lake watershed and identify sources of fecal coliforms at the Town of Pinedale's public water system intake. The above action items were completed as per the May 14, 2019 "Fremont Lake Watershed Study Implementation Plan and Schedule" which was approved by the EPA on May 23, 2019.

The watershed improvements the Town of Pinedale has committed to implement and their associated approved completion dates are summarized below. For each item in this list, the Town of Pinedale must provide written confirmation to the EPA once the commitment has been fulfilled, including a description of the activities completed. This confirmation is due to the EPA on or before the approved completion date.

1. Pinedale will complete one additional year of in-depth sampling at Fremont Lake during 2020. The 2020 in-depth sampling will include a more thorough evaluation of the Sylvan Bay Creek Drainage. **(completed by December 31, 2020)**
2. Pinedale will update the Fremont Lake Watershed Management Control Plan based on the results of the 2019 and 2020 monitoring, including updates to the long-term lake and watershed monitoring commitments. **(completed by June 30, 2021)**

3. Pinedale will work with the U.S. Forest Service to extend the fencing along the eastern side of the watershed to keep cattle out of the Sylvan Bay drainage. **(completed by September 17, 2021).**
4. Pinedale will work with the U.S. Forest Service to correct infiltration and/or runoff concerns around U.S. Forest Service vault restroom facilities located in the Fremont Lake Watershed **(completed by September 30, 2020).**
5. Pinedale will work with the U.S. Forest Service to update the signage around the lake to make it more eye catching and informative to the public. Updated signage will be located at the Lower Boat Dock, Sandy Beach, Upper Boat Dock / Campground and Elkhart Park Trailhead. **(completed by September 17, 2021).**
6. Pinedale will install dog waste collection containers at the Lower Boat Dock, Upper Boat Dock, Sandy Beach and Elkhart Park **(completed by September 30, 2020).**
7. Pinedale will create educational brochures that can be distributed to community groups and recreators in the watershed. **(completed by June 30, 2020).**

In addition to the above items, the Town of Pinedale has committed to work toward completing the following activities, with no commitment that these activities will be fully implemented or adherence to a definitive completion timeframe. The EPA will discuss the current status of each of these items with the Town of Pinedale during future annual watershed protection meetings.

1. Pinedale will continue to encourage the Forest Service to classify the Fremont Lake watershed as a municipal watershed within their Forest Plan. The Forest Service has indicated that the current Forest Plan for the Bridger Teton National Forest will not be updated for at least another 3 years. Whether or not this action item is completed is outside of Pinedale's control.
2. Pinedale will work with the Forest Service and the Sublette County permitting agency to improve septic system design and maintenance within the watershed. The watershed study did not indicate this as an area of immediate concern as there was no evidence of septic influence in Fremont Lake or the watershed. However, this is a long-term action item for the Town of Pinedale.
3. Pinedale will coordinate with the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems to create an up-to-date Source Water Protection Plan and present it to the Town Council for consideration this summer.
4. Pinedale will engage with local community groups and schools to educate the public on the importance of protecting the Fremont Lake watershed.

The Town of Pinedale has also indicated that it intends to discontinue collection of monthly special total coliform samples in the distribution system based on the absence of any fecal coliform detections at the intake and the absence of any total coliform detections in the distribution system in both routine and special samples. The EPA agrees that this special monitoring can be discontinued.

As indicated in the EPA's February 28, 2019 letter, if any ongoing monitoring indicates that bacteriological contaminants are present at levels that present human health risks, the EPA may require additional activities, modify the scope of the approved plan and schedule, or require filtration. Routine monitoring indicating compliance with the filtration avoidance fecal coliform

limits of the Surface Water Treatment Rule will be considered evidence that the improvements to watershed management were successful.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact Jake Crosby at (303) 312-6389, or by email at crosby.jake@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Angelique D. Diaz, Ph.D., P.E.
Section Chief, Drinking Water Section B
Water Division