

April 11, 2019

Letter to the Editor:

In response to the Jackson Hole News & Guide article
“All the stuff we’re flushing needs a better solution”
April 10, 2019

Regarding Cody Cottier's excellent recent article on septic systems in Teton County to which we provided input. A couple of comments.

We are advocating hooking up those valley floor homes that are “practical” to be reached by a sewer line, not all homes. For those homes that can not be connected to a sewer line we want to utilize the best septic system technology available and insure that proper usage and maintenance procedures are followed.

While we are not saying that expanding the reach of sewer lines will be easy, many, many communities in our country and around the world have successfully accomplished this. Most of those communities do not have anywhere near the resources that we are fortunate enough to have here in Jackson Hole. This will be expensive but, when paid back over many years and spread across all residents and businesses in the County, it will result in a surprisingly small monthly cost.

The next step is to bring in an expert who can help us figure out the optimal solution for our community. Will it be expanding the current town plant to handle all wastewater or will adding one or two smaller plants be the answer?

While human health concerns are clearly the priority here, high levels of algae and plant growth in our streams and creeks caused by nutrients can also impact spawning and nursery habitat for our Snake River trout population. Here too, we don’t know where the tipping point is but clearly we do not want to find out.

John Culbertson
President of Friends of Fish Creek