

County gets \$5.1 million for landfill closure

Staff report Jackson Hole Daily | Posted: Thursday, June 9, 2016 4:30 am

Teton County has been awarded \$5.1 million toward the cost of cleaning up its old dump south of Jackson in Horsethief Canyon.

The money is half the cost of the cleanup, which was ordered by state environmental officers after it was found that the dump was leaching pollution into the ground and threatening groundwater and streams in the area.

“With the landfill’s close proximity to Flat Creek and the Snake River — which has Wild and Scenic designation — addressing the problem as quickly as possible is critical,” said Heather Overholser, the superintendent of Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling.

The money for the cleanup came through the Municipal Solid Waste Facilities Cease and Transfer Program, administered by the Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board.

The money is a big boost, said Teton County Commissioner Paul Vogelheim.

“Five million bucks — that’s huge,” Vogelheim said. “In this state’s economy right now, that’s a big deal.”

The county is responsible for the remainder of the \$10.37 million cost of the work, which is itself only part of the total plan. Money for much of the work already done came from the specific purpose excise tax, a 1 percent sales tax allocated to projects approved by voters. Citizens OK’d \$14.5 million in 2012.

The old 32-acre dump and the existing recycling and transfer station are the object of a major improvement campaign. Besides the cleanup, the work includes construction of a new “scale plaza” — an entry and weighing building — a new trash transfer building and an improved composting area. All the improvements are expected to be completed by 2020.