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OCT 20 2010

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

Waring, Kim

From: RICHARD ARTLEY
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 12:01 PM
To: Waring, Kim
Subject: Protecting Sand Creek in Wyoming which is a Blue Ribbon trout stream.

October 20, 2010

Dear Mr. Waring,

Please accept these comments supporting the designation of Sand Creek as a Very Rare and Uncommon stream.

Here in Idaho we are loosing streams to development (mostly placer and hard-rock mining) at a very rapid rate. Some of these streams are considered "Blue Ribbon" streams by Trout Unlimited. These streams also contain occupied habitat for T&E anadromous fish species (Chinook salmon) and Bull trout. These streams are considered "waters of concern" by the state of Idaho and yet they are still being mined.

Idaho has no Very Rare and Uncommon stream classifications. I have seen firsthand the damage that results from mining in and near these streams. It would be tragic to see Sand Creek end-up this way.

I understand that caring people have petitioned the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council to agree that Sand Creek should be designated a Very Rare and Uncommon stream.

The Sand Creek Roadless Area (on the Black Hills National Forest lands) is threatened by potential hard rock mining.

America loses many miles of stream habitat for aquatic species quite regularly to mining and road construction. Please be a leader by taking actions needed that will be needed to result in a Very Rare and Uncommon stream designation.

Most knowledgeable scientists would agree that Sand Creek and the ground in the immediate vicinity of the stream contains a rare group of living things both flora and fauna. Only a handful of other streams in the state even come close to having the variety of natural resources that require pristine conditions to survive.

Sand Creek is truly a special stream. If retained in its present state, it will provide the opportunity for future generations of Americans to experience an area that functions the way God intended.

Sincerely,

Dick Artley

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