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October 19, 2010

Mr. Tim Flitner, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street
Herschler Bldg, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82701

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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

Re: Docket No. 09-1103

Dear Mr. Flitner and Members of the Wyoming EQC,

My name is Ogden Driskill, a longtime resident of Crook County, Wyoming and a candidate for State Senator, District S01. I fully expect to be a State Senator when the Wyoming legislature convenes this coming January. It has come to my attention that there will be a hearing on October 26-28 in Sundance regarding the Very Rare and Uncommon (VRUC) petition filed by the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance (BCA), The Friends of Sand Creek and others seeking VRUC designation for the Sand Creek area of the Black Hills National Forest. I have examined the petition and the controversy surrounding it and truly question the validity of using this state statute for the purposes enumerated in the petition. Crook County has a land use plan in place that more than adequately deals with the issues in the petition. The forest service has a plan as well in place for federal lands. To have out of area conservation groups and local groups that represent almost none of the county population submit a petition of this magnitude is beyond my comprehension. What these groups are attempting to do may very well threaten the very thing they wish to protect. Use of the statute in this manner is beyond the scope of what was intended. Perhaps the State Legislature needs to examine this statute.

Furthermore, it is my opinion that such a designation is not in the best interests of the economy of Crook County and is not supported by a vast majority of the county's residents. In fact, most of us resent outside interests coming in and trying to impose restrictions on the legal multiple uses of our National Forests by our Crook County residents attempting to make a living in this area. This proposed designation, while purporting to restrict only non-coal surface mining, is based in part on the vegetative communities that our residents have been carefully using for over 100 years. It is almost certain that, if granted this designation, the environmental community will trumpet Sand Creek as eligible for Congressional designation as Wilderness, as they are already doing on the Adobe Town VRUC designation area. This forebodes economic loss for our grazing, timber, mining and recreational industries.

Crook County as well as the State of Wyoming has multiple other means of keeping this are the same as it has been for generations other than the VRUC petition. The petition has little to do with its stated purpose. The petition, if enabled will cause many more problems than it potentially

will solve.

I urge you to disapprove the VRUC petition on Sand Creek and trust the proper management of this area to the Forest Service under the Forest Management Plan and the residents who use and care for the land.

Sincerely,

Ogden Driskill