

October 13, 2010

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th, Herschler Bldg., Rm 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Wyoming Environmental Quality Council,

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of a declaration that the petitioned area around Sand Creek be designated Very Rare or Uncommon under W.S. §35-11-112, Chapter VII of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Rules of Practice and Procedure and W.S. §16-3-103.

I enjoy hiking in this area, particularly Dugout Gulch, because of its natural diversity and beauty and the wide variety of rare plants. It is an area that I come to specifically to view and study these plants. The number of rare plants present in such a small area makes Dugout Gulch a tremendous resource for botanical study. While there are other botanical areas in the Black Hills, no area is the same – they are all unique – and all valuable.

I'm extremely concerned that mining near this area will irreparably harm the many rare species that make a home in Dugout Gulch and take this resource away from me and others in generations to come. I believe that we must act now to protect areas such as Dugout Gulch or they will gone from us forever. Therefore it is critical that you vote to support the declaration.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Olson

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