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**OCT 18 2010**

**Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary  
Environmental Quality Council**

Doug Ottema  
1218 Easy Street  
Whitewood, SD 57793-2126  
October 15, 2010

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
Herschler Building  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Room 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Sir:

I don't believe the area above Ranch A should be classified as Vary Rare or Uncommon. If so, why isn't the area of Ranch A and downstream several miles not included. This area would likely support vary rare and uncommon plants. A mile or two above Ranch A, Sand Creek becomes a bed of gravel which continues above the Ada May patient property. Above this property, Sand Creek will almost dry up late summer and fall. This creek won't support fish other than minnows.

The hill sides are no different than many areas of the Black Hills. It's better to leave this area open to timber management to minimize wildfires and timber beetle infestation. Timber beetle infestation will lead to wildfires and the destruction of vegetation on the hill sides. Plants that are classified as Vary Rare and Uncommon have survived for over a century without being protected and will continue to survive today because of present regulations prohibiting encroachment.

Thank you for considering my comments and will rule against Vary Rare or Uncommon Classification.

Sincerely,

  
Doug Ottema