

Kim Waring
Kwarin@wyo.gov

22 October, 2010

Dear Ms. Waring

Please accept this letter as a small contribution to the efforts mounted to assist in the preservation of the unique Sand Creek riparian area. This environment is special to this latitude and the Black Hills. It is more similar to forests and environments that exist hundreds of miles away than it is to those in close proximity.

For our family, Sand Creek, is a very special place. My Maternal Great Grandfather fished and camped along this stream in the 1920's. Some of these trips are captured on film. My Paternal Grandfather as a child, learned to fly fish on these waters. He documented some of these trips in his fishing journal. All of my brothers and I learned to fish there. Finally, among the many family weddings between the rimrock, my wife and I married along Sand Creek.

We have enjoyed many family gatherings and personal retreats in Sand Creek. It is this uniqueness that makes the canyon, the stream and its denizens so important to save. We need to preserve the creek. This is one of the most valuable environmental treasures of the Black Hills and the Northern Plains. Please consider the Rare and Uncommon designation for this drainage. The generations yet to come will be forever appreciative of our efforts.

Sincerely,

John D. Rathbun
Chagrin Falls, OH