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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary  
Environmental Quality Council

October 11, 2010  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
Herschler Building  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1714  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Proposed Nomination of the Sand Creek Watershed area as  
Vary Rare or Uncommon.

Dear Council Members:

I am retired and living south of Lead in the SD Black Hills but I have some history with this area.

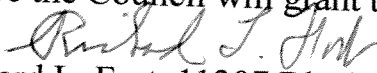
While I was a kid our family spent a summer's vacation on what was then the Finch Ranch on Sand Creek. This area now belongs to the state and is a public fishery. My father and my two brothers and I were avid fishermen and we experienced there the best trout fishing of our lives in that beautiful stream. My father was principal of Washington High School at that time and one of his teachers in the Science Department had done his doctor's thesis on the fishery at Sand Creek which he rated the best in the world for brown trout habitat. At later times we drove over to this area often to fish.

While this area is not within the area encompassed for this nomination the health of this uncommon trout stream very much depends on the health of its watershed. The same can be said for the private club grounds immediately south of this area, which is even more beautiful and is the site of many fine homes including the former place of the famous world war II Ace, Governor Joe Foss. And then there is the old Annenberg Ranch area south of this (Ranch A) with its unique history.

Above and south of this area is the aptly name Grand Canyon area. This would be part of the area nominated. This canyon is a match for the Spearfish Canyon area in South Dakota and its cliffs are even more colorful. The entire Spearfish Creek watershed was designated by the State as Special, Exceptional, Critical or Unique, South Dakota's equivalent for Wyoming's classification. This watershed is just as deserving of such a nomination.

The nomination should include all of this watershed in Wyoming with the Grand Canyon up to Buckhorn and the portion of the Creek that goes east to Cement Ridge.

I hope the Council will grant this application.

  
Richard L. Fort, 11307 Black Forest Road, Lead, SD 57754.