

5317 Bill Nye Avenue
Laramie, WY 82070

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Councilpersons:

I am writing in support of the petition to designate as Very Rare or Uncommon all 180,000 acres of Adobe Town in the Red Desert. I urge the WEQC to take this important step toward preserving this remarkable landscape for our children and grand children. While a significant part of the area is already somewhat protected by the Wilderness Study Area designation, it is clear that the whole of Adobe Town is under threat and needs to be protected.

I have been in the Adobe Town area only a few times; but I will be going back as long as I am able. It is like no other place I have ever been. Breath-taking views of distant multi-colored cliffs cut so deeply they look like palisades. Looking out over tremendous expanses of "empty" land, there is no sign of human interruption for miles. Distant dust plumes are almost certainly made by dust devils or wild horses. It is easy to take a deep breath and imagine what it must have been like 200, even 500 years ago or more across much of the West. It is Butch Cassidy's hide-out, sacred ground of Native Americans.

Then it is almost heartbreaking to imagine standing on, say, Skull Creek Rim and looking out over miles of service roads, mines and gas wells, where dust plumes are certainly made by trucks. If that happens, if Adobe Town, even outside the Wilderness Study Area, is industrialized, its unique empty wilderness quality will be *gone forever*. It is impossible to really be in wilderness when you can see huge storage tanks, piping and industrial equipment scattered, near or far, around the landscape.

It is my understanding that this – the industrialization of Adobe Town – could very likely happen. Mining for uranium and oil shale is a real possibility. The BLM has already approved significant expansion of gas exploration in much of the southern Red Desert. It is nearly impossible that I could mention a threat to the area that you are not already well aware of. And it is unlikely that anything I could say would make you more aware of what there is to lose – wildlife habitat, historical and archaeological sites, aesthetic value – I simply wish to add my voice to those who value this land and are working hard to preserve it for now and generations to come.

Sincerely,

Dale Frincke

