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Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th St.
Herschler Building
Cheyenne WY 82002

FILED

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Adobe Town Very Rare or Uncommon Designation

I join with the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance and seven other conservation groups in calling for full protections of Adobe Town including The Haystacks, The Willow Creek Rim and Badlands, the Flats at the base of the Skull Creek Rim and Powder Rim. With a B.S. in Environmental Studies and many years in the Christian ministry, I write this letter with a deep understanding of the profound sacredness of this land from both a scientific and a theological perspective. Not only does it have significant historical, archaeological, wildlife, surface geological and scenic values, it deserves to be protected because of its ecological and spiritual values.

Wild species make up the web of life upon which our quality of life depends. The health of our lives are intertwined. Birds and animals need this land protected because it is their home. We humans need this area protected so that we may see the diversity and integrity of creation flourish. Therefore, I am writing to urge you to designate Adobe Town Very Rare or Uncommon status.

The southern Red Desert is currently experiencing heavy pressure from oil shale mining and uranium mining industries. Adobe Town has already experienced development pressures through oil and gas leasing. Any more development would seriously endanger the qualities that make it uncommon. Enough is enough!

The Haystacks, Powder Rim and The Horseshoe provide crucial winter range for mule deer and pronghorn. The rare mountain plover nests in this area. Sage grouse leks are found in the Willow Creek Rim. Additionally, raptors, golden eagles and prairie falcons nest in these rims. Very rare juniper obligate songbirds nest in the Powder Rim. The Petition desert elk herd make this their year-round home as well. Encroaching industrial development threatens all these species and their habitat.

The geological formations found in Adobe Town are stunning, dramatic, breath-taking, and irreplaceable. This Washakie formation affords pre-eminent nature study, recreation, and aesthetic opportunities. The fossil deposits are far too valuable to be disturbed.

Both the flats at the base of the Skull Creek Rim and the rim itself need to be protected so that the integrity of this Wilderness area is maintained. Otherwise, industrialization of the flats would create an eyesore visible from all over.

Please do everything within your power to secure "Very Rare or Uncommon" status for Adobe Town, for the sake of the game and birds, for the sake of the citizens of Wyoming, for the sake of the integrity of creation.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter

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