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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dave Simons
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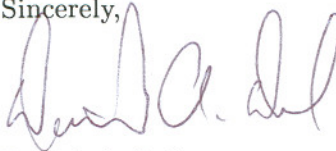
To Whom it May Concern,

I've recently spent fantastic weekends hiking and camping in the Red Desert. A couple years ago when my family and I explored the Desert we stayed north of the interstate, but the past few years year I've had fun in the southeastern backcountry regions. I love the beauty and isolation the land offers, and I plan to visit the Desert lots more in the future.

During one of my weekend visits I met up with a rancher who was branding some calves on his leased BLM land. I agree with his opinion: "There are places that are appropriate for drilling, and there are places where we should limit our impact on the environment." I am concerned about the prospect of additional drilling for gas wells within the fragile environment of the Southern Red Desert, particularly the Adobe Town citizens' proposed Wilderness Study Area. As an avid hunter and outdoorsman, I worry about continuing to damage crucial habitat for our state's precious wildlife. I've learned that the Red Desert helps deer and elk winter populations, prairie dogs, and sage grouse. Please avoid drilling in environmentally-sensitive regions such as wilderness quality lands and roadless areas, and please the support types of drilling that do the least amount of damage to the environment (e.g. directional drilling). Finally, please support the Very Rare or Uncommon petition to protect Adobe Town.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Dale