

October 17, 2007

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

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Friends On and With the Council,

My family and I wish to communicate to you our strong support for the "Very Rare or Uncommon" petition for designation for Adobe Town. We are sorry to be unable to attend the hearing on October 24 and 25 in Rock Springs, so wish to express our support via this letter.

Our first-hand experience with Adobe Town convinces us that the historical, archaeological, wildlife, surface geological, botanical and scenic values are all present in Adobe Town. The petition, and the area that it addresses, abundantly meet the criteria necessary for your designation as "Very Rare or Uncommon."

Pre-History / History – Archaeological Values: The area has a history of human habitation dating back some 12,000 years. The area contains an unusually high density of high-quality archaeological sites. In addition, Adobe Town figures prominently in the reports of the 1869 Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel, which named many of the features. In addition, Adobe Town is rich in Butch Cassidy lore.

Wildlife Values: The area contains crucial winter range for both mule deer and pronghorn, and year-around range for the desert elk herd. Several sage grouse leks are located along the Willow Creek Rim. The rare mountain plover has nesting habitat here. The area also provides outstanding nesting habitat for golden eagles, prairie falcons and a host of raptors. We believe that designation is essential to provide protection for high priority habitat for the avian and big-game species listed above.

Geologic Values: Adobe Town contains unique geological features and resources, and fossil resources, with highly unusual scientific, aesthetic and recreational values that are thoroughly documented in the petition. The spectacular surface geology draws us back for repeated visits, and is eminently worthy of permanent protection for scientific study and recreation by present and future generations of residents and visitors alike.

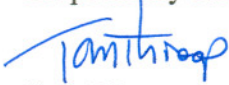
Scenic Values: What draws us back, time and time, again, are the obvious scenic values of the Adobe Town area. Of course, the high rims throughout the area draw one's first and immediate attention. But of equal importance is the need for protection of the flat areas below and at the base of the rims, as they are in a pristine state and form the critically important backdrop for the rim geologic / scenic features. Important in the designation is the protection of these flat areas around the rims so the scenic integrity of the rims is protected in their own rights, and that these vast areas below the rims are protected from the ravages of industrial transformation.

In the final analysis, we strongly support the protection of The Haystacks, the Willow Creek Rim and badlands, the flats at the base of Skull Creek Rim, and Powder Rim as integral features deserving permanent protection. We also strongly support the vital protection that the 180,000 acres addressed in the petition provide the adjacent Wilderness Study Area.

While we have enjoyed and strongly support protection for all of the area covered in the petition, we particularly embrace for your consideration Powder Rim and the crucial role its juniper woodlands play in providing habitat for nine of ten of Wyoming's obligate songbirds, most of which are rare in Wyoming, and the habitat provided the desert elk herd and mule deer.

Let me conclude by saying that the Adobe Town area is, indeed, a special place, and richly deserves your designation as "Very Rare or Uncommon." Thank you for your service, and your kind consideration of our strongly-held position that the 180,000 acres addressed in the Adobe Town area petition deserves your decision in favor of designation.

Respectfully submitted,



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