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The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation represents agricultural producers statewide. The organization is dedicated to ensuring agricultural producers receive equitable returns on their agricultural operations. Many of our agricultural producer members utilize the private and federal lands encompassed by the proposed "very rare and uncommon" designation.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has concerns regarding designating the area known as Adobe Town as Very Rare or Uncommon. These concerns are outlined as follows:

We are concerned about the potential cumulative effects on the economic activities, such as livestock grazing, this designation might create. Several of the groups listed on the petition have, in the past, worked to expand wilderness area designation in Wyoming. After analyzing the impact this will have as it relates to the area designated, the real impact appears to be as a lever to encourage Congress, through some protective state designation, to consider and propose a wilderness designation for the area. Wyoming Farm Bureau members do not support putting additional land area into wilderness area designations.

A Wilderness designation will remove lands from uses vital to the Wyoming and U.S. economies. Many people, including WYFB members, in our aging society will no longer be able to enjoy these lands. Giving this land a "very rare or uncommon" designation could have large, negative, cumulative effects on Wyoming's citizens.

We understand that a "very rare and uncommon" designation should not impact the ability for livestock producers to use the area, however, a wilderness designation would have significant impacts on the economic ability of these food producers to continue their operations.

Also, negative impacts to resources can occur when special designations are given to an area. A supervisor of the Big Horn National Forest indicated that the wilderness area within that forest was being "loved to death". Resources were being damaged from over use. This could happen in the Adobe Town area. Giving an area special designations can attract additional recreational activity, which can damage the very resource trying to be preserved.

While each acre of land is unique in some aspect, however miniscule, this area shares attributes with other landscapes, not only in Wyoming but also across the Western U.S., sharing similar soils, erosion devastation, topography, etc. Given these facts, the Adobe Town area is not truly unique and should not be given a special title.

We feel that designation of the area as "very rare and uncommon" will lead to further restrictions on the use of the area for multiple use. We feel a more robust economic analysis of the cumulative impacts needs to be performed before the public can fully analyze the impacts of such a designation. At this time we cannot support such a designation.

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