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Comments on the preservation of Adobe Town and surrounding areas

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If you go to Adobe town bring along a camera, your camping gear, and get ready to experience the absolute best part of the southern Red Desert. The views are nothing less than tremendous, the sense of space and the land formations both enormous and fantastic. Wild animals abound – they seem to sense a protection in their isolation. I've seen mustangs walk right out along the top plane of the many escarpments, presenting themselves to the pure air and the great sea of open space. They can stand there, just sampling the wilderness that is their home. Then, on some impulse, turn and run their herd back to some downward trail, and dust a-fly, plunge out of sight to their next position.

You will see the hawks for which this place is rightly famous. Can you imagine what it must be like to fly about this maze of canyons, cap rock and hoodoos? Their occasional cries starkly frame the absolute silence you can encounter there.

Of course there are elk, pronghorn, prairie dog and coyote as well as rattlers.

After you go, after you experience this landscape of fantasy, you will, without a doubt, come to argue for its protection from the rape of industrial development. The drilling of oil and gas wells here, already begun in some of the surrounding lands, is an **absolute** mistake! This is one of just two sizeable parcels of land in the southern desert that provide rich and unique recreational experiences for the people of this State and beyond. (The other being the proposed Wild Cow Creek Wilderness.) We can and need to save these lands. We will pass on the maps and the excitement to our kids, and they to theirs.

Adobe Town is geologic wonder that has been cut away from the parent desert lands. It exists in dramatic contrast to their vast pitch and roll. The surrounding lands like the Haystacks, and the Powder Rim form the cradle that Adobe Town rests in and they need to be preserved. Along with providing a visual backdrop they are important corridors and animal habitats as well. Assigning the entire parcel "Very Rare / Uncommon" status is certainly necessary.

In closing, I have to ask, what is the point really, of developing these marginal oil and gas play lands, when so much value is to be lost? Why not keep them intact as a measure of our ability to see other values beyond energy and money? I put these questions out to all of you there: Can we act on our own behalf in the preservation of these lands that have so much value as *place*? And, are we capable of an act of stewardship that future generations can admire?

I believe we can, and I believe we are.

Sincerely, Chuck Mollica, Rawlins resident.

