

COMMENTS

ADOBE TOWN PUBLIC HEARING

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There are so few areas left in America, let alone Wyoming, where areas are set aside so that views would not be compromised by signs of human encroachment and the wailing of coyotes signals room for wildlife and solitude. Please preserve Adobe Town as the very rare and uncommon area it is. I have found remains of the earlier presence of a substantial number of Native Americans there. I love to look at the vast horizons that once teemed with roaming herds of buffalo and have remained the same for thousands of years.

Adobe Town qualifies for a Very Rare or Uncommon designation based on the number and types of artifacts found there alone. There are areas where Uranium and, or Coal development are completely inappropriate, and this land should have the designation of "rare and uncommon", simply because it is. Surface mining of oil shale, coal and uranium are looming threats in the southern Red Desert, which is currently surrounded by heavy industry. In fact, on a drive back to Colorado from Wyoming just a few weeks ago, the entire corridor (from Rawlins to Grand Junction) looked like an industrial park. Although a good amount of the development along that corridor was oil and gas, which wouldn't currently be covered by a rare and uncommon designation, we need to start someplace before it is too late. Unless our public lands are prioritized for historical and pre-historical preservation, conservation and public enjoyment, we will have nothing rare and uncommon left. Air, water and land quality have been decimated by recent industrial development on public lands throughout the west. Wildlife, a popular Western value, depends on abundant and clean water and air. Wildlife also depends on migration corridors and preservation of fragile lands where food and habitat exist.

The following two values create enough gists for the mill of a Rare and Very Uncommon Designation.

- **Wildlife values**—There are irreplaceable wildlife habitats in Adobe Town, crucial ranges defined by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Fragile lands, with unique scientific values, are a high priority for migratory birds, or golden eagle or falcon nest sites. There are mule deer, which depend on Adobe Town for crucial winter range. I have seen pronghorn, mountain plover, sage grouse strutting and prairie falcons hunting right along with me in the proposed area. The rims afford outstanding nesting habitat for raptors and golden eagles.
- **Scenic values**—Geologic features of high scenic value are found along all of the high rims. To appreciate the flats as well as high rims, I refer you to the awesome photographs of the history of man's imprint on geological features in Adobe Town, which appear in the coffee table book Artifact: A Cultural Geography of Wyoming by Michael McClure, a long-term neighbor of Adobe Town.

Thank you for listening to why Adobe Town should be designated Rare and Very Uncommon. I hope you will be as enthusiastic about this designation as so many of us former residents of Wyoming are.