

FILED

OCT 24 2007

RECEIVED OCT 24 2007

Hi, My name is Mike Evans

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I am a native of Wyoming and have lived here all my life except for part of my childhood when I had no choice and when I served in the Air Force after graduating from the University of Wyoming. Along with my family we have owned a ranch and run a cow calf operation for the last 30 years near Saratoga. The ranch has been in our family for the last 110 years. I have noticed though, that this sort of statement seems necessary to establish one's qualification's ^{of} authority ~~or something~~. I come here believing I am no more or no less suited to comment about a Very Rare or Uncommon portion of our state than anybody else. We all live on the same planet. I do feel very fortunate to be all of the above and appreciate this opportunity to speak briefly about Adobe Town on behalf of the Wyoming Wilderness Association. The Wyoming Wilderness Association was instrumental in passage of the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act, inventory and establishment of wilderness study areas and continues to advocate effectively for wild landscapes that truly deserve lasting protection as Wilderness. Check out wildwyo.org.

In July of 1973 I was working for the university doing vegetation mapping using remote sensing out west of Baggs. The guy I was working with and I had heard about this place further west, that was pretty neat. We were camping at McPhearson Springs so on the Friday morning we were going back to Laramie we decided to take the scenic route home. We drove the length of Powder Rim on what I know now as the Cherokee Trail, crossed Powder Wash where there is an old dugout that Butch Cassidy was suppose to have used, then turned north. I have noticed that Butch got around quite a bit and if he slept every where he was suppose to have, he should still be alive today. After awhile we came to this rim with an amazing view of some very rough country. Without a map we figured we were surly at Adobe Town. We took a short walk down into the badlands to eat lunch. We spent several hours wondering around the amazing landscape. The ground was littered with fossils of all kinds of critters. ~~There were clear days then and~~ the scenic views were spectacular. We finally forced ourselves to go back to the truck. The drive up to Bitter Creek in that '67 Chevy two wheel drive panel truck or what ever they called them before there were Suburbans, took forever. By 10 o'clock, we were very lucky and very grateful to find gas at Table Rock. It was well after midnight when we pulled into Laramie. It was a wonderful experience. I will always remember that long day.

Since then I have returned, often with my family, a dozen times or more. I do this just to check on things. And things have changed. It seems lately we hear a lot about protecting our "Wyoming Way of Life". What ever that is. Most people admit the importance of energy development to our state's economy and the country. All of us probably drove here today. ^{8/27/03} However, I think most of us also value a way of life which includes open spaces and to quote from the Wilderness Act..." an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Remote areas all over the earth are the places where we discover new species of plants and animals, archaeological and palentological sites and yes new ^{mineral} ~~oil~~ and oil and gas reserves. There is a site about 100 miles north of Adobe Town, as a crow can fly, that is the only place in the world that a certain plant can be found. Desert Yellowhead exists no where else except on it's 4 or 5 acres. There could very well be another new species such Yermo xanthocephyalus in the Adobe Town area. These plants do not exist just to stop our mining, and oil and gas exploration activities.

Nor do they exist for us to even find them. It would be a shame for us however to be responsible for wiping them out and never know it.

Reserves of untrammled solitude are getting hard to come by these days. In 1973, when I first saw this country, I thought it was about as remote as you could get. I think I know why native americans spent so much time there the last 10,000 years. Now there are improved roads right up to the wilderness study area boundary and much gas exploration activity all around. However, the core area still retains the values put forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964. BLM's management of the area for nearly the last thirty years as a wilderness study area has protected Adobe Town. As I read what is required to garner rare and uncommon status from you, I find nothing that would disqualify the area outlined in the petition. Your granting of this protection would give the area much needed recognition and ~~provide a much needed buffer of protection.~~

I urge you and the Wyoming Wilderness Association urges you of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council to respect all of the historical, archaeological, wildlife, geological and scenic values that have been so eloquently pointed out to you today. I urge you to help maintain the environmental quality of a very important part of Wyoming, from Powder Rim to the Haystacks. By granting the petition before you, the state will step up and see to it that Wyoming's natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations. I paraphrase directly from the Environmental Quality Council Strategic Plan, 2007-2008----

It is time for the effort necessary to truly achieve balance in the management of all of our state's resources and insure EQC's contribution to Wyoming's Quality of Life.

Thank you very much.