Scott T. Smith

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October 23, 2007

To: Environmental Quality Council

Re: Adobe Town and surroundings

OCT 25 2007
Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I have worked as a full-time professional freelance photographer since 1988. In the last 19 years, I have photographed throughout North America, and in Europe, Central America and the Caribbean.

While working on a book about Wyoming's portion of the Continental in the mid-1990's I made my first extensive exploration of the Red Desert. This included a trip to Adobe Town and some of the surrounding terrain (Adobe Rim, Skull Creek Rim, Monument Valley, the flats below Skull Creek Rim). I found the area to be an extraordinary place to photograph.

I have returned twice since then, most recently less than a month ago. I have had a number of my shots of Adobe Town and Skull Creek Rim published in scenic calendars, books and magazines. I have also recommended the area to my photographer friends (professional and amateur) and will likely be taking several of them to the area next spring.

The badlands and rims of the Adobe Town region are some of the most intriguing desert country I have photographed anywhere. From small details found in the maze of drainages to grand panoramas taken from Skull Creek Rim, I am constantly delighted by the visual opportunities. On each visit, I have been surprised that the area is not visited by more landscape shooters.

The Adobe Town area (Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area and many more acres outside the WSA, especially those below Skull Creek Rim) are unique. It would be a extremely unfortunate and a great disappointment if the landscape were disturbed (visually and otherwise) by industrial development. This area is an undiscovered Wyoming gem and should be preserved and promoted just as it is.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Scott T. Smith