

Adobe Town/Red Desert Statement to:
Rock Springs, WY
October 24, 2007

The Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Bldg., Cheyenne, WY 82002

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I came to Wyoming to teach elementary art in 1960, having grown up on a Kansas wheat farm. As a child, I listened most evenings at 6:30 on the radio to the Lone Ranger, wore a picture of him in my locket, collected horses, had a real one, and said, "Someday I am going to live in Wyoming."

Teaching and creating art involves developing, appreciating, observing, touching, feeling and appreciating all the neat, natural beauty surrounding us in this magnificent state which has become the sacrificial lamb for greedy, energy companies whose only goal is to maximize profits while natural gas prices are high. Add to this, spoiled and wasteful, citizens addicted to gas guzzling vehicles while our clean air, blue skies, astounding views, delicate lands and wildlife are being put at risk and/or destroyed.

I am asking, you to preserve this region with a VERY RARE OR UNCOMMON DESIGNATION to protect it from industrial development with its related destruction of native flora, wildlife, water, ground covers and strikingly awesome far, far, unbroken vistas.

My husband spoke of his flight rescue trips into the Red Desert in the 40's & 50's and I regret not visiting the Red Desert until around 6 years ago. Honey Comb Buttes, Killpecker Dunes, Steamboat Mountain and one spot in particular will always be with me. Turning in a 360 degree circle I observed 5 ranges of mountains; looking up, there were 3 separate rain storms, none reaching the ground, and then seeing a herd of running wild horses disappearing over a not too distant rise. We hear much of religious talk and experiences today. That day was religious for me. Arapahoe and Shoshone Native Americans currently visit this sacred and respected site and have for thousands of years.

Never have I observed such a wealth of archeological remains of early man in the West. The region's 12,000 year human history includes Anglo-Americans that first came with the Geological Exploration of the 40th parallel in 1869, describing and recording Adobe Town's geological significance. Gilbert Munger, guest artist with the party, recorded scenes of Washakie Badlands (near or in Adobe Town) and Eocene Bluff along the Green River. Preserving this significant isolated region will allow current arm-chair geologists, modern explorers, adventurers and everyday citizens the opportunity to experience the same sense of discovery and awe that these early pioneers experienced in this unbroken and wild landscape. It must be preserved as such.

Prior to visiting the Red Desert, I had visited Peru, the Andes, the Altiplano, Grand Canyon, Europe, etc. These areas—Adobe Town, Willow Creek Badlands, the Haystacks, Skull Creek Rim, etc., were fully as awesome and beautiful, if not more so because of the open, visually uncluttered vistas.

The vast pristine region is a natural preserve for desert wildlife including its unique herd of desert elk. It has or had America's largest heard of wild horses. The approximately 8 million acre Great Red Desert is the largest unprotected and undeveloped high elevation desert remaining in the United States. Over 365,000 acres in the desert qualify for wilderness designation.

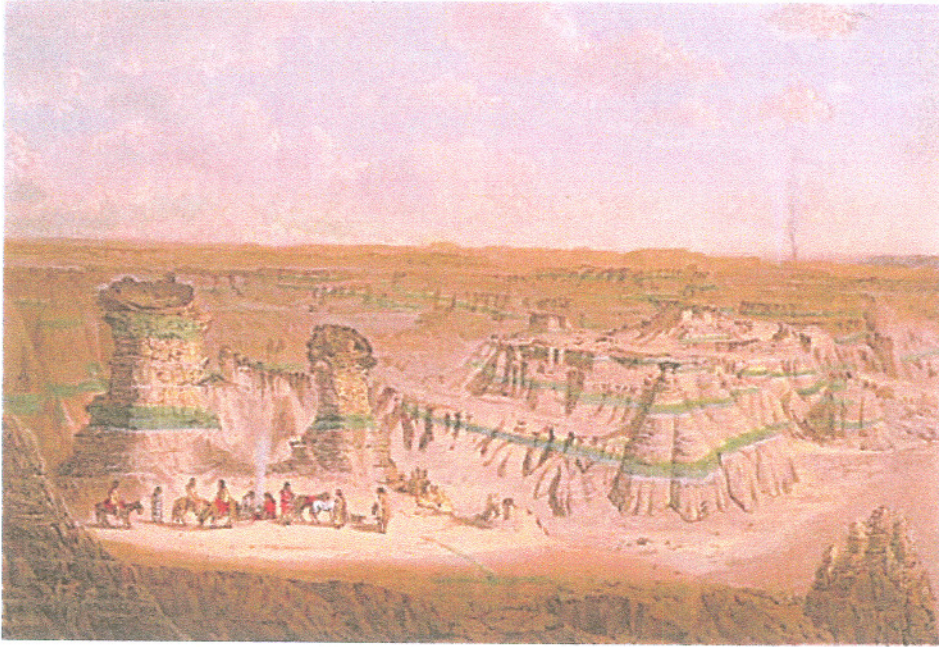
Without concerted efforts by the state of Wyoming, this irreplaceable treasure will be damaged before we can pass it along unmolested to future generations. I strongly urge the Council to approve the requested designation.

Mary Lou Morrison: Morrison Art Studio, 845 East Third, Casper, WY 82601(mlmorrison@vcn.com)

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Wyoming - 3

#150. Washakie Bad-Lands - Wyoming. 6 x 8.5, chromolithograph. Title on plate. This picture is Plate XV in Clarence King's *Systematic Geology*, published in 1878. It is based on a sketch by Gilbert Munger. He was guest artist with King's 40th Parallel Geological Survey in 1869 and 1870. The Washakie Badlands are part of the Washakie Basin in Wyoming, which is located just north of the Colorado border in southeast Sweetwater County. QFD 39. Image is a direct scan of the plate.

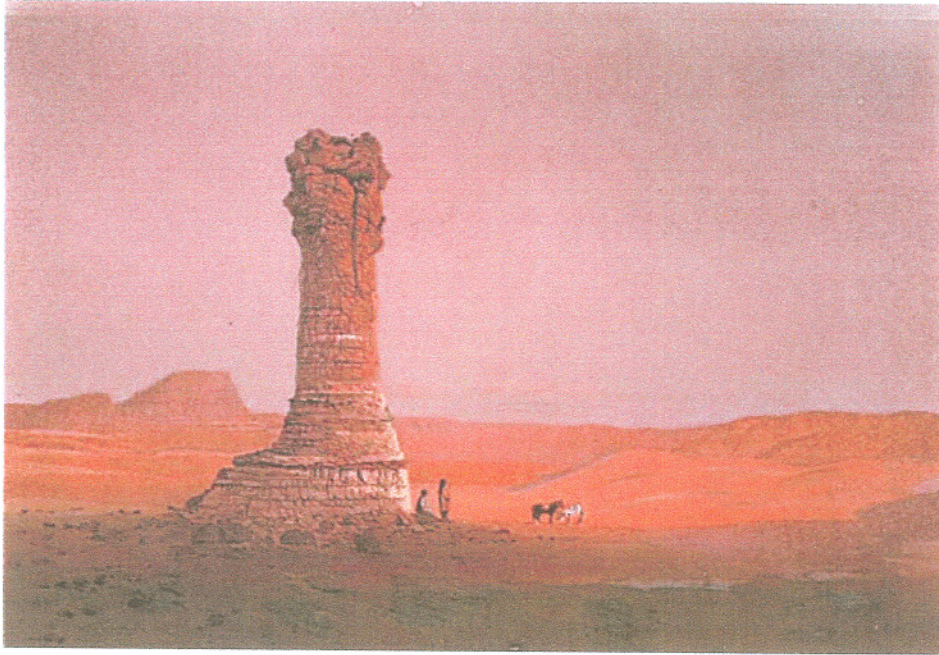


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Wyoming - 1

#143. Natural Column - Washakie Bad-Lands - Wyoming. 6 x 8.5, chromolithograph. Title on plate. This picture is the frontispiece in Clarence King's *Systematic Geology*, published in 1878. It is based on a sketch by Gilbert Munger. He was guest artist with King's 40th Parallel Geological Survey in 1869 and 1870. The Washakie Badlands are part of the Washakie Basin in Wyoming, which is located just north of the Colorado border in southeast Sweetwater County. QFD 38. A smaller version of this image appears as a chromolithograph titled "Naturliche Saule in Wyoming (Nordamerika)" in *Allgemeine Geologie* by Melchior Neumayr (1845 - 1890), published as volumes 1 and 2 of *Erdgeschichte* in Leipzig, Germany, in 1886. Image is a direct scan of the *Systematic Geology* plate.

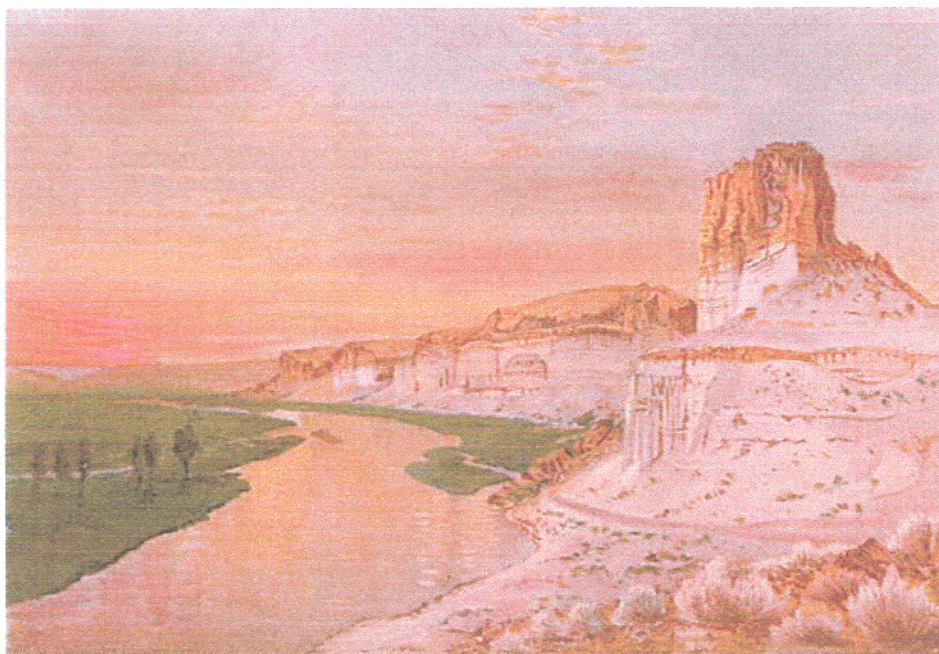


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Wyoming - 2

#149. Eocene Bluffs - Green River - Wyoming. 6 x 8.5, chromolithograph. Title on plate. This picture is Plate XIV in Clarence King's *Systematic Geology*, published in 1878. It is based on a sketch by Gilbert Munger. He was guest artist with King's 40th Parallel Geological Survey in 1869 and 1870. The rock tower resembles that in the background of painting [#123](#). QFD 41. Image is a direct scan of the plate.



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