

From: <loper@tc.umn.edu>
To: <kmcgee@state.wy.us>
Date: 10/5/2007 6:47 AM
Subject: Adobe Town

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Bldg.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

To Whom It May Concern:

The greater Adobe Town landscape should be protected as Very Rare or Uncommon, so we can enjoy this wilderness experience, the wildlife in the area can thrive, and the amazing history and geology of this area can be studied. While I cannot attend the hearing in person, I urge you to recognize the importance of the landscape and the benefits from designation.

The area meets the criteria for "Very Rare or Uncommon" based on the following values:

--Historical, prehistorical, or archaeological - There is evidence of human habitation dating back 12,000 years, plus interesting history from Butch Cassidy's use of the area.

--Wildlife - The Haystacks and Powder Rim contain mule deer crucial winter range, while The Horseshoe to the south of The Haystacks contains substantial pronghorn crucial winter range. The rare mountain plover and raptors finds nesting habitat and there are several sage grouse leks.

--Geological - There are palisades rising thousands of feet, as well as pillars, arches, multi-colored badlands and pedestals, all of which contain world-class fossil deposits.

--Scenic - Because of its stunning scenery, Adobe Town has been featured in several books (e.g., Wind River Wilderness, Wild Wyoming), and magazines (incl. National Geographic, Bugle, Wilderness Magazine, and Wyoming Wildlife). In addition to the high rims, the pristine flats below form the critically important scenic backdrop for the geological features.

The Very Rare or Uncommon designation is especially important to protect the flats below Skull Creek Rim, Powder Rim, the Haystacks, and the Willow Creek Rim and Badlands, which are outside the area that is currently protected from development as a Wilderness Study Area but boast beautiful formations, provide vital habitat, and hold important historical records.

Please recognize the irreplaceable values of this area by designating Adobe Town as Very Rare or Uncommon.

Sincerely,

Rodney Loper
2314 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418