



Daily Rocket-Miner/Justin Baldwin

**SKULL CREEK RIM** — Standing on top of Skull Creek Rim and looking west, the dry creek bed in the distance represents the border of the Adobe Town Rim and the proposed Desolation Flats gas field.

# Groups seek to limit impact on Adobe Town

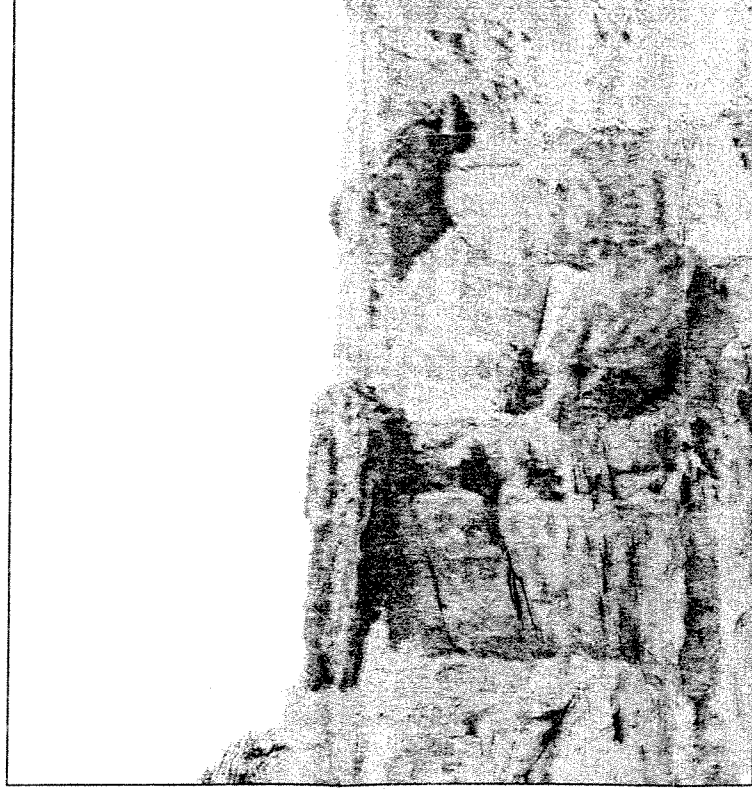
By JUSTIN BALDWIN  
Daily Rocket-Miner staff reporter

**POINT OF ROCKS** — Headed south on the Bitter Creek Road, off exit 144 on Interstate 80, ante-lope and wild horses cast a weary eye at vehicles traveling the lonely gravel road. The landscape is a dull gray of sage brush and small tufts of grass gripping onto solidified sand dunes, which stick up among hardpan gravel beds.

However, a few miles to the east and the ground literally falls away to form a surreal landscape of narrow gullies carved deep into the light gray, green, red and purple rock; dried mud caves and towering spires. Welcome to Adobe Town.

Wednesday, five environmental groups, including the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, filed suit against the Bureau of Land Management to halt the BLM's plans to open the 233,000-acre Desolation Flats area to oil and gas development, which would butt up against the 85,000-acre Adobe Town Rim Wilderness Study Area.

According to Biodiversity Conservation Alliance wildlife biologist Erik Molvar, the primary bone of contention revolves around opening up the Desolation Flats area to full field gas development, which would be four wells every square mile, against



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**NATURAL WONDERS** — The pillars in Adobe Town are formed by water erosion. A layer of hard sandstone on the tops of the pillars protect the much softer sandstone below it from rainwater.

policy set down in the BLM handbook, which includes listing alternatives and looking at environmental impact.

"Right now there is no oil and gas management," said Molvar.

Molvar reports the BCA made a survey using the BLM wilderness area guidelines and proposed adding 95,000 acres to the Adobe

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# GRPD investigates shooting of car

GREEN RIVER — Investigator

While officers were at the down. Whoever shot at the vehi-

# Residents conceal proposed

By STEPHANIE HABER  
Daily Rocket-Miner staff reporter

**FARSON** — More than Farson/Eden residents chance to look over the proposed Unified Development Code they would like more than their questions answered.

The Sweetwater Planning and Zoning Commission along with Bear West another open house Thursday allow residents time to get the document and ask questions. Bear West consultant Carter decided to take a different approach than the one he used Wednesday's meeting.

Spoke to the residents about them he would like to have some of the issues they have. Carter said a lot of residents have complained about the language in the document. The language in the document was based on the Air Planning Association Development Code. When the code came up with the code the association's code as plate, he said.

"A lot of people were upset they didn't get answers to comments," Carter said the residents who had made

# Area I events

**ROCK SPRINGS** — The lot of Labor Day activities area residents can attend.

Some of the celebratory take place near the F George Reservoir. An Labor Day celebration will start on Saturday with cake breakfast at 7 a.m. Senior Citizen's Center. A breakfast, residents can get for a parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. and will travel Highway 43 through Manito.

Once the parade is over children can participate in other activities at Central Park. A birthday celebration Smokey Bear's 60th birthday also take place.

**Flaming Gorge** A flea market will take place the Trout Creek Flies parade Friday through Sunday at John. For more information the flea market residents contact Grace Breer.

On Saturday, the Par Lights will take place at the

## Groups ...

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Town Wilderness Study Area. In order for an area to even be considered to be a wilderness area it needs to offer, among other factors, solitude and recreational opportunities. Then the BLM made their own survey and agreed about half of the proposed area was qualified to be wilderness. However, the Desolation Flats gas field would include 50,000 acres of the proposed wilderness addition, including some of the BLM sanctioned areas.

Ideally, Molvar would like to see a portion of the Red Desert set aside for wilderness. With 30-40 percent of the desert already in industrial production, Adobe Town is one of the few areas possessing limited roadway access.

In addition, the area is home to large numbers of antelope and some desert elk, as well as being habitat to prairie dogs, ferruginous hawks and burrowing owls.

"It's the biggest pristine area in the Red Desert," said Molvar, later adding, "it is every bit as pristine as any desert national park."

While Molvar thinks there could be some possibility of having the



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**PILLARS** — Believe it or not, at one time southeast Sweetwater County was part of a large lakeshore environment. The red sandstone on top of the pillars rest on top of lake bottom deposits of ash left from an explosion of the Yellowstone caldera 50 million years ago.

area become a tourist draw there are some problems, primarily the facts few know about it and there is limited access.

However, there is some room for compromise. Molvar said with directional drilling the impact to the environment is lessened but drilling companies are reluctant to do such because it is more

costly, 10-30 percent more, and the BLM won't make the companies do it. However, Molvar thinks with oil and gas prices so high this is a poor time to complain about the cost of more environmentally friendly practices.

"They could have full field development and still be compatible with wildlife," said Molvar.