

Adobe Town

Ever been to Adobe Town? Ask that question, and you'll learn how many people haven't heard of Adobe Town, nor know where it is.

Adobe Town is on the Red Desert, southwest of Wamsutter, west of Baggs, stretching south of The Haystacks and north of Powder Run, about 2-1/2 hours of driving from Rawlins.

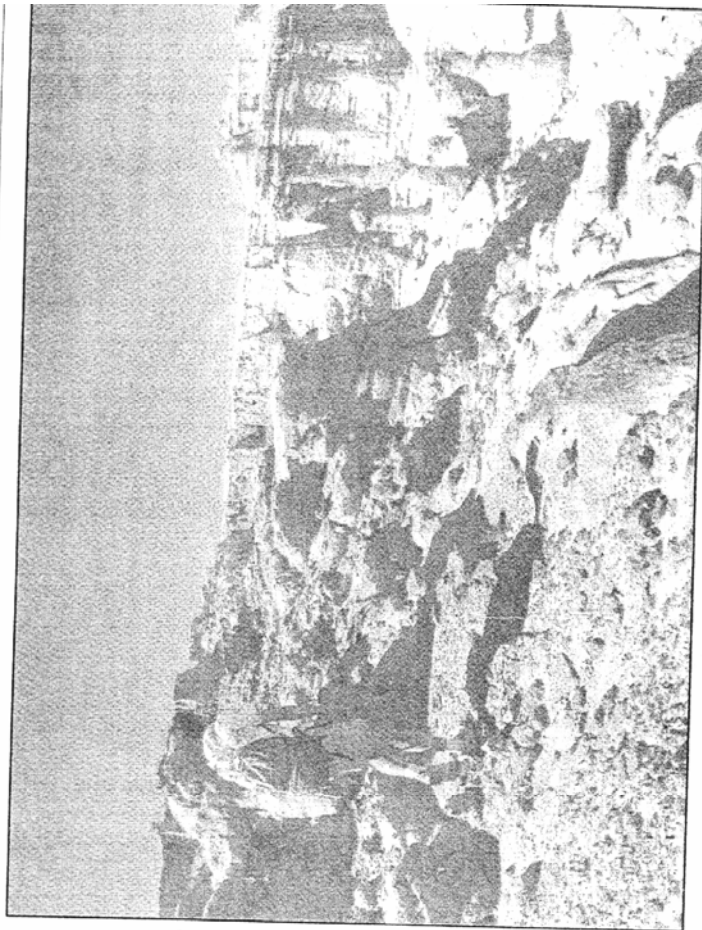
In other words, it's as close to nowhere as you'll find in southern Wyoming, and as remote as anywhere in the West. Adobe Town is a place of surprising high rims, wild badlands and erupiness. In 1869, General A.A. Humphreys led a geological exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, and he said the "escarpment, with its salient and recumbent angles, reminds one of the ruins of a fortified city."

You've never been "woowed" by a photograph from Adobe Town (and you won't be here, either) because there is no scale. Rock pillars, hoodoos and red-capped gray spires rise a hundred feet high, yet there's no way to tell size from a picture, or from a distance, because there is no scale, no comparison with a tree or a shrub or something familiar. Adobe Town is unfamiliar, and fascinating for that quality.

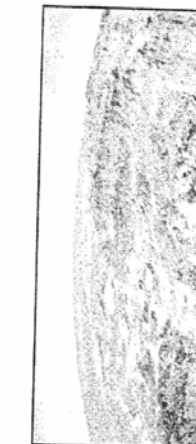
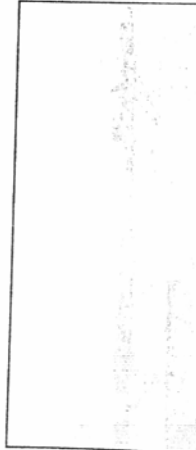
Erik Molvar, the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance director who guides frequent tours of Adobe Town, is intimately familiar ... with about 5 percent of the Adobe Town and Skull Creek Rim terrain his group believes should be designated as wilderness.

Molvar calls Adobe Town the singular most important piece of wild Wyoming desert that should be protected with wilderness designation. Not everyone agrees. A photograph of Adobe Town appeared in the July edition of National Geographic, as part of a story about the conflict between public lands protection and natural gas development in the Rocky Mountain region. Nationally, the debate is under way. You may not have heard of Adobe Town. But you will.

— Dave Perry

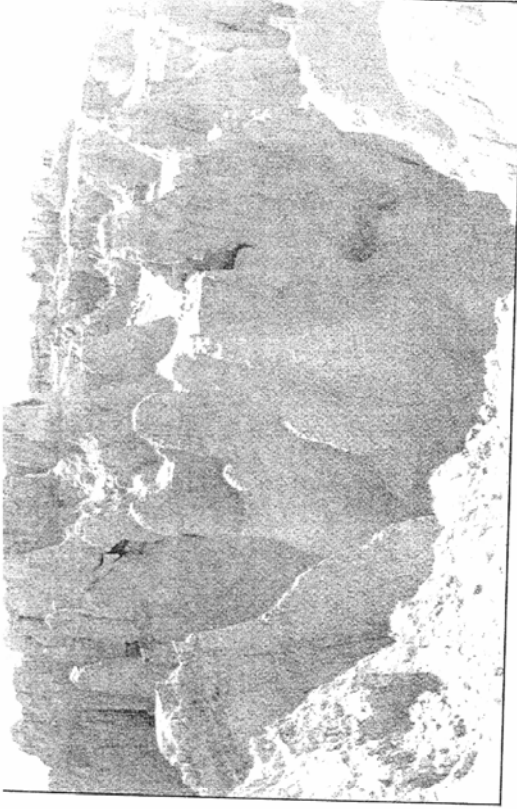
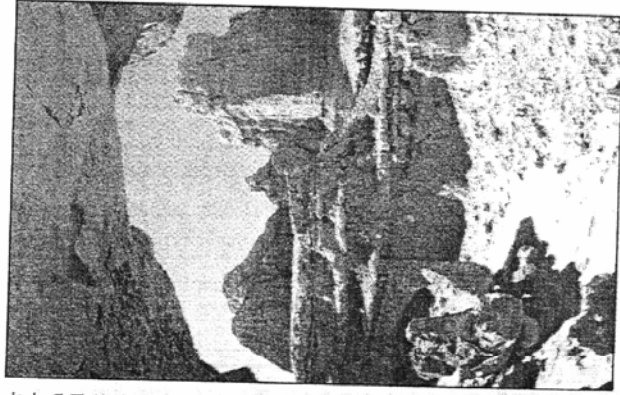


Erik Molvar walked into the hoodoos of Adobe Town Rim, where red sandstone caps protect gray spires from erosion.





Erik Molvar stands near one end of a two-ended cave at Adobe Town. Frequently, he finds mud in the midst. The photographer merely turns to view spires and the dry creek bed.



Rugged gray sandstone spires form a fascinating landscape along Adobe Town Rim.

Daily Times photos / Dave Perry



Running water has left stretches of stone across Adobe Town's bare ground.