

Protect Adobe Town from the drilling rigs

Dear editor,
I am a nature photographer from Nebraska. Over the last several years of vacationing out West, I always make a stop in the Red Desert of Wyoming. Allow me to explain why I enjoy and appreciate this scenic land.

Adobe Town is a spectacular area in the Red Desert; an immense area where visitors can still take in a view of a natural landscape from horizon to horizon. Its landscape is comparable to Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands and Badland National Parks, and represents the most intricate, outstanding badlands topography in the U.S.

Adobe Town has some of the wildest desert landscape in the world, and yet accessible on foot and horseback. It offers outstanding opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, rockhounding, and photography. Pronghorn antelope of excep-

'Bows, browns, but not stripers'

Dear editor, fishermen and women,

Mr. Erik Molvar, wildlife biologist, said it all. "The project would violate state water quality standards."

I brought this to the attention of our county commissioners, several years ago, when it was started, to no avail.

I spent 60 years fishing Seminoe and the Platte River. I wish to see my grandkids fish it for rainbows

Dear editor,
All across the West, the federal government is sweeping aside the interests of wildlife and public enjoyment of open spaces to make way for bigger profits for the oil industry. The very character of the Western landscape, world-famous for its wide-open spaces, awe-inspiring vistas, and abundant wildlife is being sacrificed in a bitter trade for a few years of fossil fuels. And as the gas fields creep outward to tap ever-more-marginal pockets of oil and gas, we are losing the signature landscapes that give the West its sense of place.

Nowhere is this wasteful onslaught more apparent than in the Red Desert. Here, one of the last great strongholds of desert wildlife, a mystical land where great herds of pronghorn still roam across unfenced expanses, where hawks and eagles circle above painted deserts, is steadily disappearing before the grinding drone of bulldozers and drilling rigs.

On the Atlantic Rim, 2,000 wells are planned at a density that will wipe out the elk herds, eagles, and mule deer that are found in abundance today. In the lowlands to the west, the open sagebrush grasslands that are currently home to one of the largest sage grouse nesting concentrations in the world are slated for conversion into industrial gas fields of the Creston - Blue Gap project. And the sacrificial wastelands of the Continental

Protect Adobe Town, today

wild places, like Adobe Town, are getting scarcer and scarcer with horrifying rapidity. We are destroying the last remnant of wild nature at such a breakneck pace that our grandchildren may have nothing but photographs by which to remember.

We are standing at the crux of an important choice. We could despoil Wyoming's last best places in the name of extra profits for some faceless billionaire in a distant city. But why? Don't our descendants have the same right as we do to enjoy Wyoming's most breathtaking landscapes?

Adobe Town is truly one of the crown jewels of the West, one of the signature Red Desert landscapes that cannot be allowed to fall under the blade of the bulldozer. From the rugged spine of the Haystacks to the grassy folds of the Powder Rim, all of Adobe Town must be protected through the Great Divide plan revision.

The BLM has heard from all corners of the state that nothing less than full protection for the wild country will do. Now we will see to whom this agency is really listening: the people of Wyoming or the oil executives based in Houston and Tulsa.

If we do not protect Adobe Town today, future generations will judge our generation as foolish gluttons. And they will be right.

Tom Mangelsen
Jackson