



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407

In Reply Refer To:

8500

February 5, 2002

Mr. Erik Molvar
Wilderness Inventory Coordinator
Biodiversity Associates
P.O. Box 6032
Laramie, Wyoming 82073

Dear Mr. Molvar:

This is to inform you that the Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management have evaluated and field-checked your report, *A Citizens' Wilderness Inventory of Adobe Town*. We have updated our inventory of the area and added it to our permanent files as *The Adobe Town Citizens' Proposal, WY-030-411/WY-040-408*. As you aware, these lands were reviewed in 1980 for wilderness characteristics and were not considered as a wilderness study area (WSA). The Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) is based on that evaluation. Your report provides information that we have evaluated for wilderness characteristics and applicability of multiple use management.

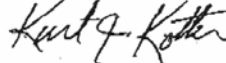
Certain of the public lands outlined in your report were found to contain sufficient human intrusions to preclude wilderness characteristics and have been dropped from further consideration (see map 1). Lands in the checkerboard land pattern which are not contiguous with the existing WSA were dropped from consideration because many of the individual tracts have no public access and each tract is approximately 640 acres in size which is of insufficient size to make practicable its preservation or use as wilderness.

The balance of the lands included within your Citizens' Proposal may have wilderness characteristics. We will evaluate those areas through the RMP revision process currently underway for the Great Divide RMP. Proposals for actions within those areas will be assessed and the information you have provided will be used to analyze the project.

The ongoing oil and gas development within the Citizens' Proposal is consistent with the *Great Divide Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan*, November 1990, and the *Green River RMP*, August 1997. Oil and gas development is also consistent with the Mulligan Draw Gas Field Project Record of Decision and the Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project Record of Decision. The majority of federal lands within the Citizens' Proposal have existing oil and gas leases (see map 2). Therefore, your proposal to place a moratorium on future oil and gas development is not consistent with the *Great Divide RMP*, the *Green River RMP*, or current policy or regulation. Your proposal to designate the area within the Citizens' Proposal a WSA is also inappropriate at this time without the supporting analysis and documentation developed through the land use planning process.

Thank you again for your detailed report. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Myers, Assistant Field Manager for Resources, or Krystal Clair, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at the address shown above or phone (307) 328-4200.

Sincerely,

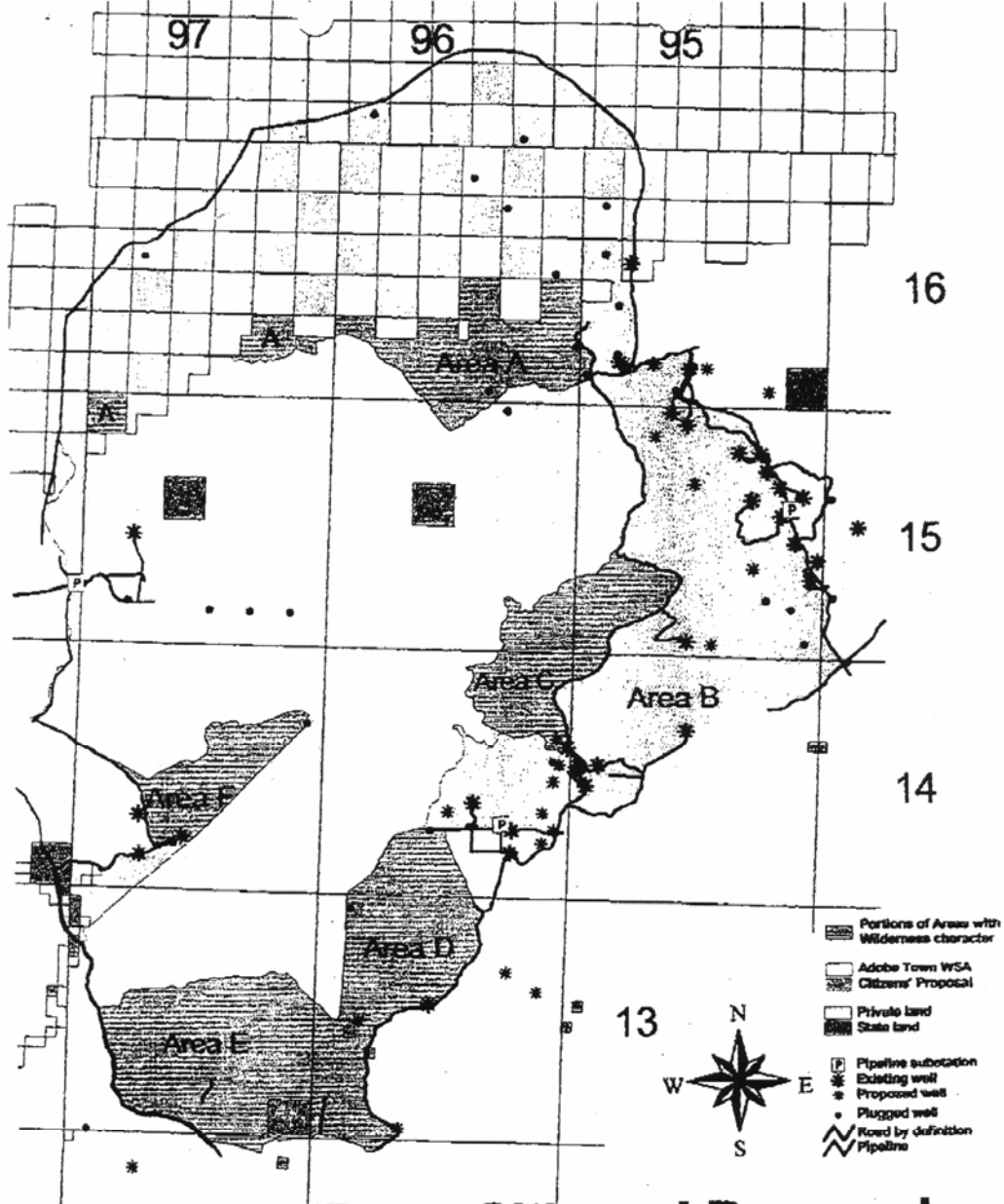


Kurt J. Kotter
Field Manager

2 Enclosures:

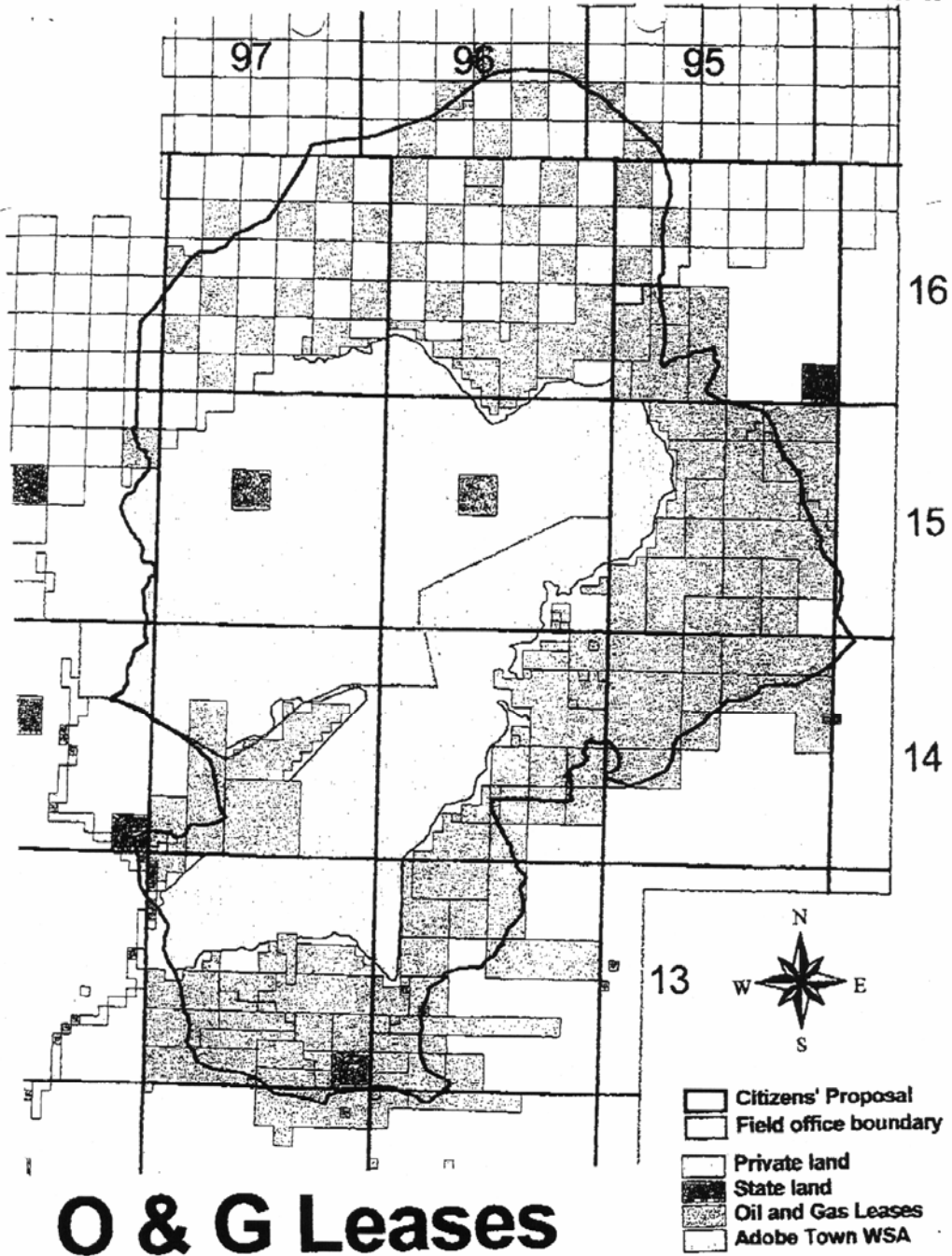
- 1 - Map 1 - Adobe Town Citizens' Proposal-Portions with Wilderness Character
- 2 - Map 2 - O&G Leases

cc: Al Pierson, WSO (910) (w/encls.)
Stan McKee, RSFO (w/encls.)



Adobe Town Citizens' Proposal Portions with Wilderness Character

Map 1



O & G Leases

MAP 2