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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

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June 17, 2008

Mr. Dennis M. Boal
Chair, Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street, Herschler Bldg., Rm. 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Boal,

On behalf of the members of the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition (see attached list of members) in Wyoming and South Dakota, I request that you not accept the petition from The Friends of Sand Creek to designate 11,000 acres of the Sand Creek Watershed as Very Rare and Uncommon at your June 24, 2008 meeting.

We all agree that the Sand Creek watershed is very special. However, our fear is that a decision to grant the Very Rare and Uncommon designation for Sand Creek would unnecessarily and inappropriately 1) limit multiple use management of the Black Hills National Forest, as outlined in the Land and Resource Management Plan, 2) stop mining exploration and implementation, 3) adversely affect agricultural uses on private lands, and 4) reduce economic benefits of natural resource management to northeast Wyoming.

Granting the Petitioners' request to designate a large portion of the Sand Creek Watershed as Very Rare and Uncommon is not necessary to maintain the values associated with Sand Creek. The national forest lands and the private agricultural lands have been carefully managed for years without the necessity of Rare and Uncommon Designation by the State of Wyoming.

Again, we do not support designating the Sand Creek watershed as Very Rare and Uncommon, and we urge you to stop this process now by not accepting the petition for consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Troxel
Executive Secretary

Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition Members

Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences
Association of National Grasslands
Black Hills Area Conservation Districts
Black Hills, Badlands and Lakes Association of South Dakota
Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc
Black Hills FlyFishers
Black Hills Forest Resource Association
Black Hills 4 Wheelers - Rapid City Chapter
Black Hills 4 Wheelers - Sturgis Chapter
Black Hills Home Builders Association
Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development Association
Black Hills Snowmobile Club
Black Hills Women In Timber
Cottonwood Grazing Association
Dakota Territory Cruisers
Fall River County Commissioners
Lawrence County Commissioners
Off-Road Riders Association
Pioneer Co-op Grazing District
Rapid City Economic Development Partnership
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Grasslands Coalition
South Dakota Off Highway Vehicle Coalition
South Dakota Public Lands Council
South Dakota Snowmobile Association
South Dakota Stockgrowers
South Dakota Tree Farm Committee
South Dakota Trail Riders
Spearfish Livestock Association
Spearfish Pistol and Gun Club
West Dakota Water Development District
Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society
Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters
Wyoming Farm Bureau
Wyoming Stockgrowers Association