

Crook County Land Use Planning & Zoning Commission
P.O. Box 37
Sundance, WY 82729

FILED

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

June 9, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Boal and Members of the Environmental Quality Council:


We are very concerned about the potential designation of the Sand Creek area as Very Rare and Uncommon. After review of the petition filed on May 17, 2007 by "Friends of Sand Creek," we wish to submit the following comments for your consideration.

As the petition states, Sand Creek currently has the "strongest possible protection" as a Class 1 waterway. The area also contains two special designations, a Botanical Area and a Late Successional Forest Landscape. The area's unique characteristics and resources are already being given special management consideration.

In the 1998 Land Use Plan for Crook County (page 1), it states the county's intention "to coordinate with federal and state agencies on their proposed actions that may potentially affect the management of private and public land and natural resource use." It also establishes that "Crook County will coordinate on the proposed actions so Crook County citizens may preserve their customs, culture, and economic stability while protecting and using their environment."

We believe the Council's upcoming decision to either deny or pursue the petitioners' request will have a direct impact on the customs, culture, and economy in Crook County. Because such a designation would adversely impact the multiple use activities historically enjoyed in the Sand Creek watershed and surrounding area, we are opposed to the Very Rare and Uncommon designation being proposed.

Sincerely,


Kelly B. Dennis
Chairman