

Casper RMP/EIS Comments

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Category: Special Designations

OLeary Daniel
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Agency Organization

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Comment:

Dear Casper Area BLM Planners:

I find your Area management plan's proposal to dispose of hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands in Natrona, Platte, and Goshen counties deeply disturbing. The public lands you propose to open for energy development include vast parcels rich in undisturbed space, history, wildlife, and environmentally unique areas. I am afraid these vast, natural treasures will be irreparably scarred and degraded by development under your plan and I strongly urge they be protected from the grasp of the profit-motivated energy industry. I kindly ask that you amend the Casper Area plan to designate the following as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern along with Jackson Canyon and the Alcova Fossil Area:

- The entire 372, 872 acres of the Southern Bighorns/Red Wall area for its unparalleled scenery and large, undisturbed grassland ecosystem
- Cedar Ridge, for it's unique cultural value
- Black-tailed Prairie Dog complex due to the value of this species and its fragility and rarity in the wild
- The North Platte River from Alcova Reservoir to Casper, for it's outstanding fishery resource, stunning scenery, rich historical attributes, and rich recreational value.

I am also worried that continued unchecked energy development will permanently degrade the priceless, pristine quality of the South Fork of the Powder River. Please do not let this area be developed as other vast areas of northern Natrona County have been. Please take a stand for it's long-term protection by designating it as a wilderness area. Again, thanks for doing the right thing for all like you and I who wish our natural heritage to remain intact.

Sincerely,
Dan O'Leary