



Wyoming Wilderness Association  
Wyoming Outdoor Council, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, FOAL,  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Northern Arapahoe Preservation Society, Sacred Ground of Wyoming,  
The Wilderness Society – Wyoming Office, Western Watersheds Project, Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club

*August 9, 2011*

Mr. Don Simpson, State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82003

**RE: BLM “crown jewel” areas that meet Wilderness Act criteria**

Dear State Director Simpson:

Per the BLM’s recent Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2011-147, the signed groups below would like to offer the following recommendations for BLM lands that should be designated as Wilderness pursuant to the Wilderness Act. Under the terms of the IM, the BLM State Office is to identify “crown jewel” areas that meet Wilderness Act criteria in a report to the BLM director submitted by September 1, 2011. We believe the areas identified in the attached Citizens Proposal, which were originally submitted to BLM in 1994, meet these criteria. They are crown jewels with strong support for protection of their natural qualities and would be manageable as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This developed wilderness proposal was submitted twice to the Bureau of Land Management, once in 1994 and once in 2004. We believe that there is also strong Field Office support for protection of many of these areas.

Areas such as the Oregon Buttes and Big Empty in the Red Desert, the Red Creek Badlands in the Flaming Gorge Country, Raymond Mountain in the Bridger Country, Honeycombs in the Bighorn Basin, and the Dubois Badlands in the Wind River Basin are striking wilderness quality areas that would be crown jewel additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The same is true of all 51 areas recommended for wilderness designation in the Citizens Proposal. Accordingly, we ask that you include these areas in the report you file with the BLM Director.

Thank you for considering these comments, and we would, as individual organizations, like to remain involved in discussions regarding wilderness qualities and wilderness designations on BLM lands in Wyoming, particularly as a component of RMP revisions, as provided for in IM 2011-154.

Sincerely,

Liz Howell, Executive Director  
Wyoming Wilderness Association

**Signing on behalf of the following groups who endorse the  
WY BLM CITIZENS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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