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Terri A. Lorenzon, Adm. Aide
Environmental Quality Council

April 11, 1986



Copy to LANDER
4/16/86

Rick C.

Land Quality Division
Environmental Quality Apartment
Hershler Building
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

MAIL FOR YOUR
ACTION

RE: Mine Permit No. 503
Natural Corrals

MAKE COPY FOR
LANDER

TFN 1 1/338

Dear Sir:

The letter is in response to the application of Robert C. LeFavre to amend Mine Permit No. 503. We would like to voice our strong opposition to amend the Mine Permit to include the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, Township 21 North, Range 101 West, Sweetwater County, Wyoming; the area locally referred to as the Natural Corrals. Our opposition stems primarily from the fact that the area contains important prehistoric and historic values. Currently a portion of the area is in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The historic and prehistoric resources contained in the proposed mine permit area contain significant data that can contribute to our understanding of prehistoric and history. The cultural resources are not only important because of their information content but also for the quality and type of their natural setting. This natural setting is unique for southwest Wyoming. The area contains an abundance of natural resources that were heavily exploited by prehistoric and historic aboriginal groups. The area also retains a relatively pristine character.

Although the effect on the information content of the archaeological resources could be mitigated by data recovery methods, the effects to unique setting of the sites could not be. The archaeological resources have visual, contextual, and environmental attributes which could be developed for public information and education as well as long-term academic study. The mining of the area would prohibit such use.

The potential cost for mitigation of the archaeological resources in the proposed mine area would approach, if not exceed, \$1,000,000. Other areas suitable for mining exist within the region, and some have been partially mined already, mining of these areas would be less likely to impact the number and/or quality of resources found in Natural Corrals, the cost of mitigation would be substantially less.

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In conclusion it is our opinion the cultural values represented sites in Natural Corrals, the proposed mine permit area, far exceed the benefit resulting from mining. This is especially true when we consider the potential mineable deposits found outside of Natural Corrals are very extensive.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Creasman
Director
Archaeological Services
Western Wyoming College



Charles M. Love
Professor Anth/Geo
Western Wyoming College

SDC/cab

