

The Desolation Flats Project – Sacrificing one of the West’s Crown Jewels

The Project

BLM has approved the drilling of 385 wells at a standard full-field density of 4 wells per square mile in an area that includes 50,000 acres of Adobe Town, the largest and most spectacular of Wyoming’s potential BLM wilderness areas. This landscape of national park quality is already beginning to see bulldozer and drilling activity, making it the most threatened special place in the West. Meanwhile, BLM doing little to



Hiking in Adobe Town

protect the Adobe Town expansion areas through their revision of the Rawlins Resource Management Plan.

Threatened by Drilling:

- Some 50,000 acres of Wyoming’s largest and most spectacular desert wilderness
- Sensitive sage grouse breeding areas and raptor nesting habitat.



Skull Creek Rim – Ken Driese photo

Problems with the Project

- The BLM is approving the project without planning where the 385 wells and associated roads and pipelines will be sited. This amounts to a blank check for the oil and gas industry.
- Because the facility locations are unknown, BLM is unable to accurately assess the levels of impact.
- BLM proposes to rely on seasonal protections for wildlife that are proven failures in maintaining viable populations for mule deer and sage grouse.
- Categorical Exclusion abuse - BLM has approved several wells inside citizens’ proposed wilderness areas under Categorical Exclusions, even though they will have a significant impact on wilderness qualities.

