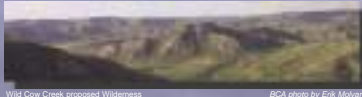


# The Western Heritage Alternative

## A Sustainable Vision

The Great Divide Western Heritage Alternative, backed by concerned citizens, hunters, and conservationists, envisions a landscape where well-planned development is compatible with wildlife conservation and public recreation. This plan allows many of these lands to remain as they are today, requires development to be done responsibly and sustainably, and safeguards spectacular hunting, camping, and hiking opportunities for our children, and our children's children.



Wild Cow Creek proposed Wilderness  
BCA photo by Erik Molvar

### Saving Our Unique Western Landscapes

Conservation of our scenic landscapes and wide open spaces should come first in the new plan, and any development must be compatible with this goal.

Wildlands like Wild Cow Creek, the Pedro Mountains, and the lands surrounding Adobe Town are irreplaceable treasures that deserve to be protected as Wilderness Study Areas. This status allows wilderness-quality lands to remain pristine for the benefit of current and future generations.



Adobe Town proposed Wilderness



Pedro Mountains proposed Wilderness

### Oil and Gas Development — Doing It Right

The use of our public lands and resources for private profit can only be allowed if it is done with respect for the land and an eye toward sustainability. This means avoiding habitat destruction in sensitive areas, and using the best available tools and technologies such as directional drilling and seasonal protections to minimize landscape impact. Oil and gas development should occur only in well-managed stages. And strong protections must be adopted to prevent water and air pollution, widespread erosion, and the discharge of toxic coalbed methane wastewater.

### Protecting Our Wildlife Heritage

The Great Divide is one of the last strongholds of high-desert wildlife, such as the sage grouse, mountain plover, and pronghorn antelope. Under the citizens' plan, elk and mule deer calving areas and crucial winter ranges, as well as key habitats for other sensitive wildlife, would receive special protection from drilling. Development plans would be modified so that wildlife can flourish, while still allowing for oil and gas production in most cases.

Wyoming's native wildlife is a treasure that we must conserve for our grandchildren to enjoy, so meaningful habitat protection should become a key part of the management of our federal lands.



Burrowing owl nestlings



Strutting sage grouse



Black-footed ferret



Medicine Bow River, threatened by coalbed methane drilling



Wild Cow Creek proposed Wilderness

### You CAN HELP! Speak Out to Protect Wyoming's Wild Deserts

The BLM is now writing its new plan for the Great Divide, a plan that will guide the stewardship of your public lands for decades. Now is the time to tell the BLM how you want these lands to be managed.

Fill out the enclosed card, or better yet, send a detailed letter and speak out at a public meeting in support of the Western Heritage Alternative and demand protection for the spectacular public lands of the Great Divide. For more information on the Western Heritage Alternative, visit [www.voiceforthewild.org/greatdivide.html](http://www.voiceforthewild.org/greatdivide.html).

Flattop Mountain, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance photo by Erik Molvar