

Bjornsen, Alan

From: Timothy Mark Sprague [tsprague@uwyo.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 12:54 PM
To: Bjornsen, Alan
Subject: RE: Chain Lakes WHMA

Mr. Bjornsen,

First off, I should state that I am the cartographer that created the map and I was not involved in writing the law that created the rare / uncommon designation. That law was created in the 1970s and the WHMAs (Wildlife Habitat Management Areas) were included in a blanket designation of large tracts of federal, state, and locally managed or owned lands. Here is a copy of the text of the first part of that state law:

*Unique and Irreplaceable Designation
Resolution No. 1
January 25, 1974*

*The initial designation of restricted areas shall include but shall not be limited to those places which are now or hereafter included in the the Wyoming Recreation Commission Inventory of Historical Places, the U.S. Department of the Interior National Register of Historical Places, national and state parks, **national and state wildlife refuges**, National System of Trails, the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National and State Recreation areas, monuments, forts, museums, ranger stations, petroglyph sites, dams, depots, and any area which may adversely affect a publicly owned park, or sites and places listed by the University of Wyoming Department of Archaeology, the Wyoming Recreation Commission, and the Wyoming Archives and Historical Department.*

This designation shall also include sites and places identified by mining permit applicants within the proposed development area as having more than local interest and importance as a restricted area.

So as you can see, all the national and state wildlife refuges were included in that first designation. The subsequent designations preserved more specific, smaller tracts of land. The way I understand the law, it is a restriction on permits for surface mining, so I'm not sure whether in-situ mining would be included in that or not. This map was originally commissioned by the Wyoming Environmental Quality, and they are the ones who wrote the law. Here is their web site:

<http://deq.state.wy.us/eqc/index.asp>

For more specific information on the law and its intent, you would want to speak with Jim Ruby (jruby@wyo.gov), the director, or Joe Girardin (jgirar@wyo.gov).

I hope this helps,

Tim Sprague

From: Bjornsen, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Bjornsen@nrc.gov>]
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 10:01 AM
To: Timothy Mark Sprague
Subject: Chain Lakes WHMA

Mr. Sprague,

I am preparing the NEPA document for the licensing of an in-situ uranium recovery facility (Lost Creek) in NE Sweetwater County. I noticed (on-line) on your map entitled "Land Areas of Wyoming Designated Unique and Irreplaceable or Rare and Uncommon" that the Chain Lakes WHMA lies just south of the Lost Creek site. Can you tell me which of the four characteristics (unique, irreplaceable, rare or uncommon) the Chain Lakes WHMA is? And, who designated it so? Thank you.

Alan B. Bjornsen

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