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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
P.O. Box 68  
Kremmling, CO 80459**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

### **A. Background**

BLM Office: Kremmling Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Number: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0035-CX-LDS Youth Pioneer Trek

Proposed Action Title/Type: The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints Youth Pioneer Trek

Location of Proposed Action: T. 9 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 5, 6, 7, 18;  
T. 10 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 20, 21, 29, 32;  
T. 11 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 31;  
T. 11 N., R. 81 W., Sec. 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 36;  
T. 12 N., R. 81 W., Sec. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35;

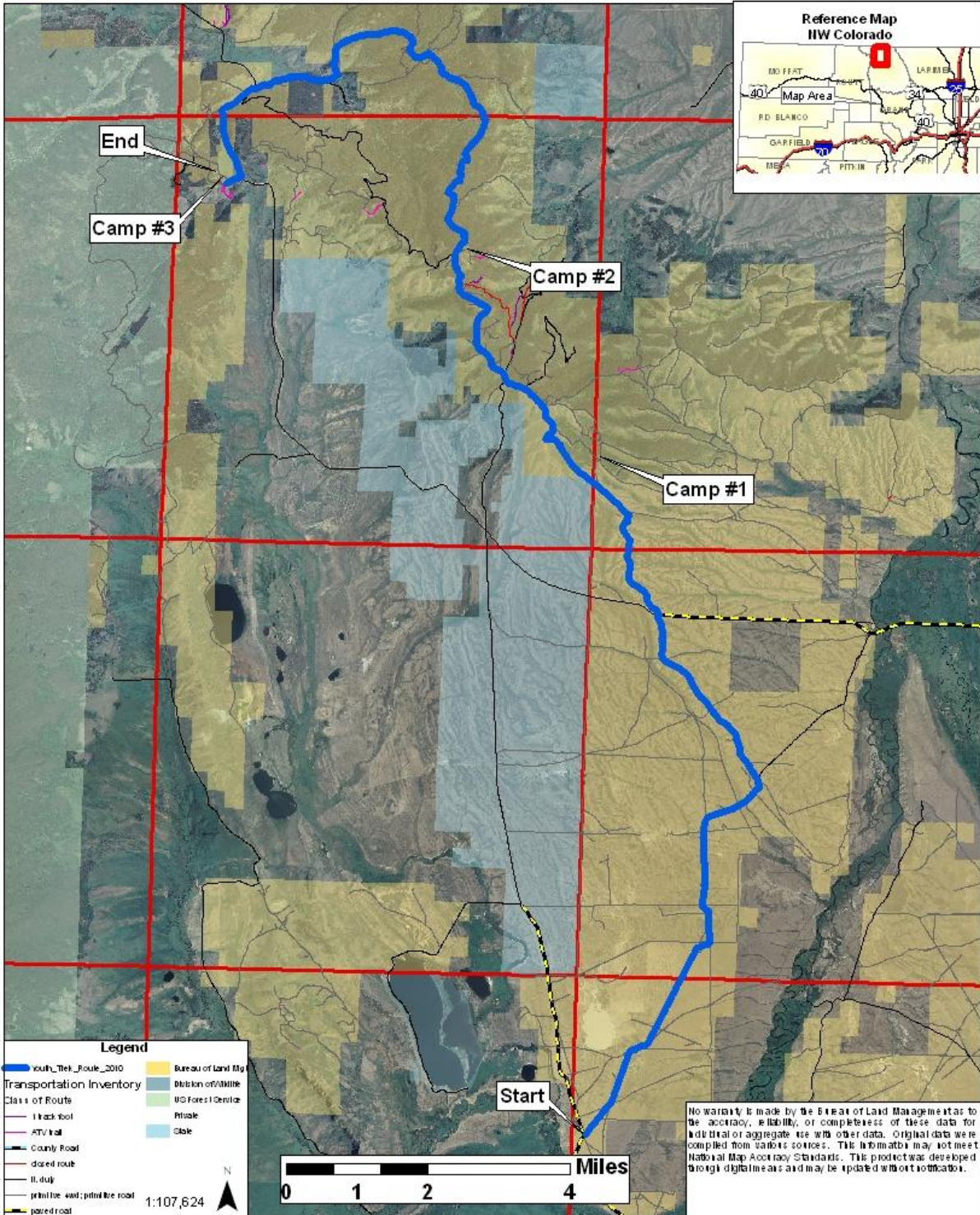
Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would authorize The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) to conduct an organized group Youth Pioneer Trek for up to 150 participants on BLM administered lands. The LDS has previously been authorized for their Youth Trek within the Kremmling Field Office in 2006 along the same route. The LDS proposes to utilize Jackson County Road 9A, BLM Independence Mountain Road #2503, and a small portion of a road on BLM administered lands that leads to Forest Service Road 609 as their designated route. Youth, chaperones and staff with first aid training will be pulling and pushing hand carts as a re-enactment of LDS pioneers. This non-motorized re-enactment would be supported by a few vehicles that would transport additional supplies and portable toilets. The LDS also proposes to camp in three different locations on BLM administered lands along the designated route.

The event would be permitted between June 10, 2010 and June 14, 2010. The proposed areas of use are currently designated as "Open" for Motorized and non-motorized cross-country travel. The first segment would be along Jackson County Road 9A, and BLM Independence Mountain Road #2503. The first night camp would be located along BLM Independence Mountain Road #2503 approximately .7 miles east of the intersection with BLM Three Mile Creek Road #2510. This location has existing fire pits and is adjacent to an Aspen stand but would provide enough separation from the Lodgepole Pine stand that is heavily impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle

infestation. The second night camp would be located just past the intersection with BLM Independence Mountain Lower Loop Road #2504 in an area that has had a timber harvest completed in recent years. This area has several dispersed campsites within it and has minimal safety concerns in regards to the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation. The third and fourth night camp would be located on BLM administered lands near the Swede Group Mine. This area is heavily impacted by dispersed camps with multiple fire rings. The LDS proposes to use this area on the fourth day for Sunday worship and activities related to the history of the LDS pioneers.

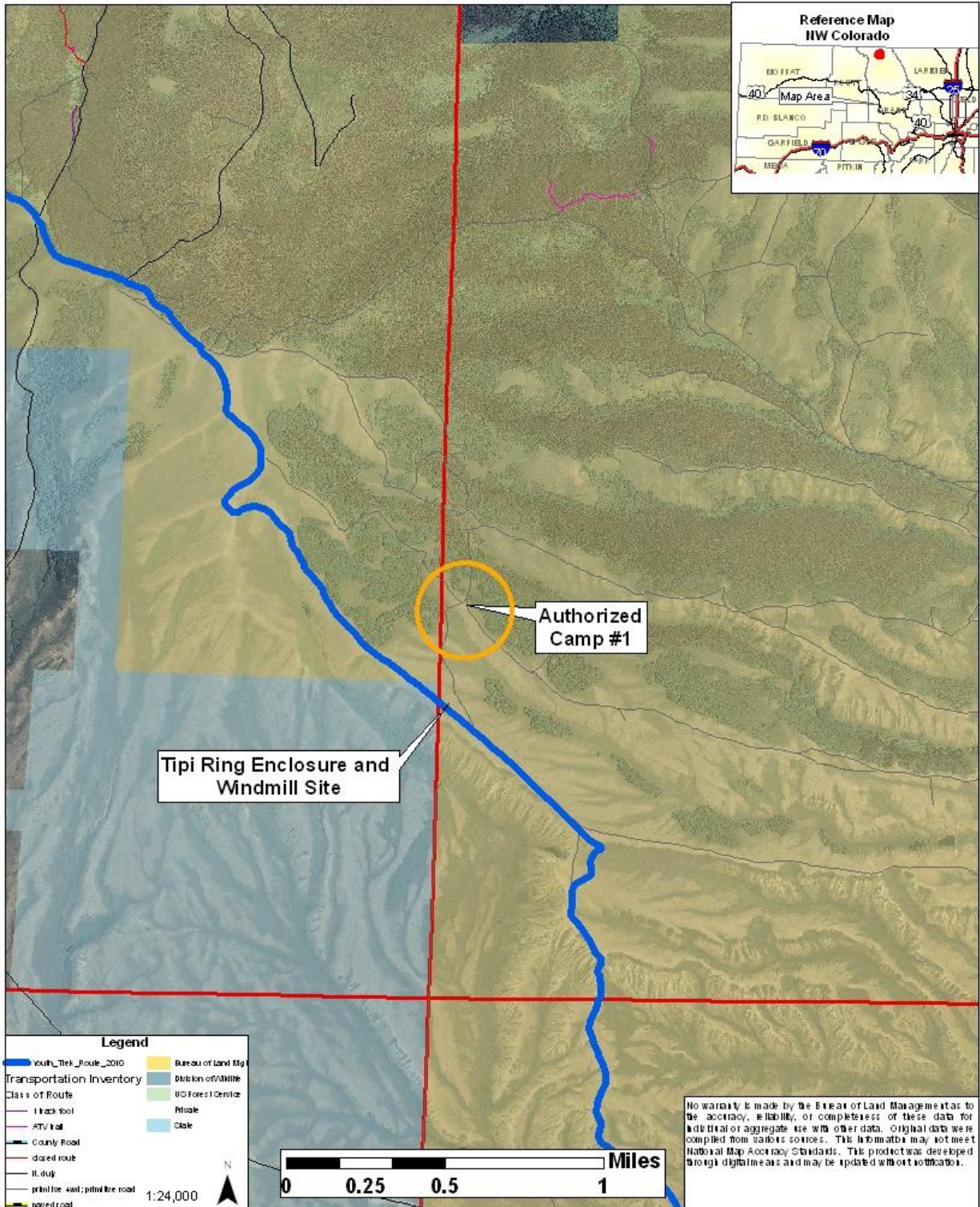


# LDS Youth Trek



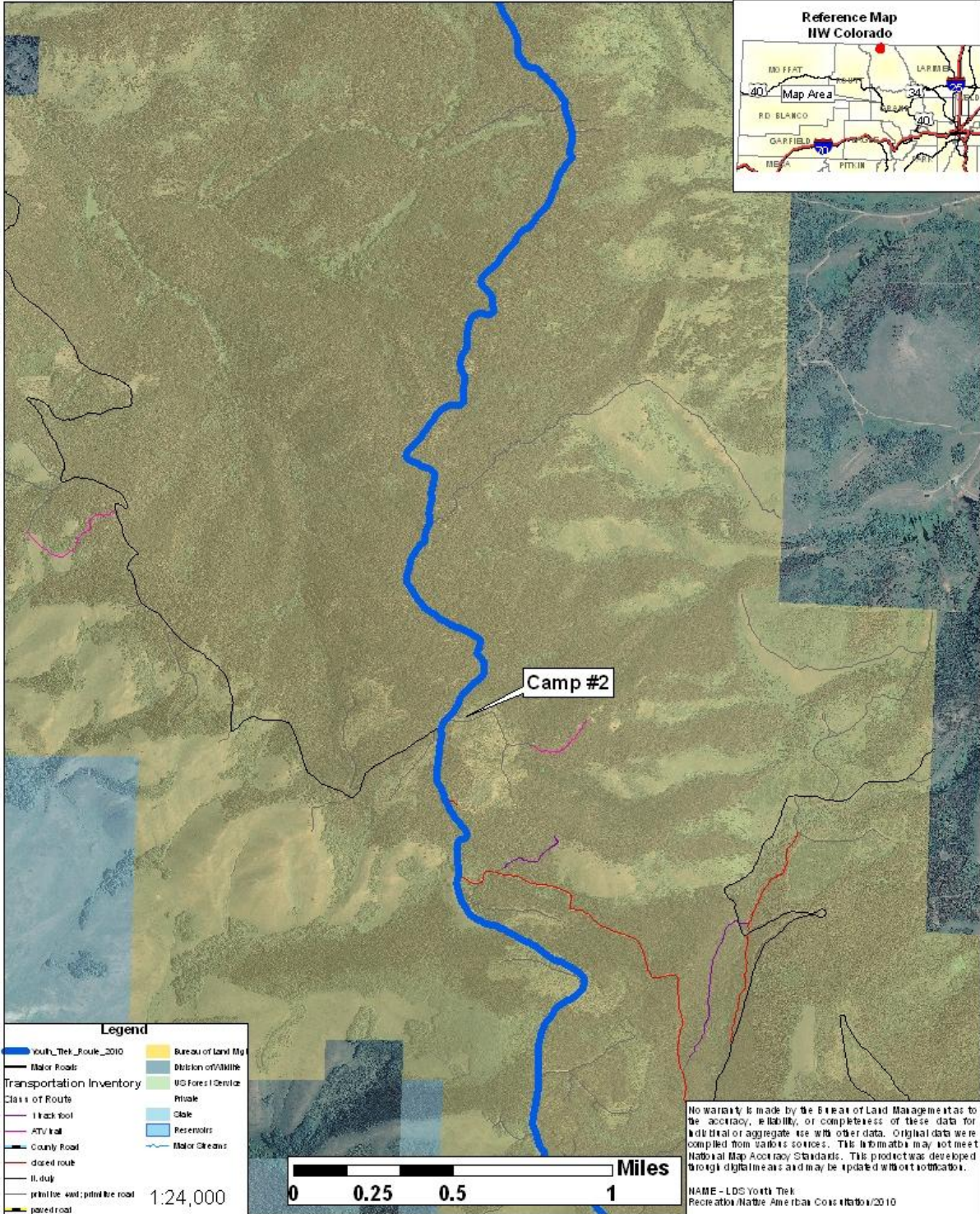


# LDS Youth Trek



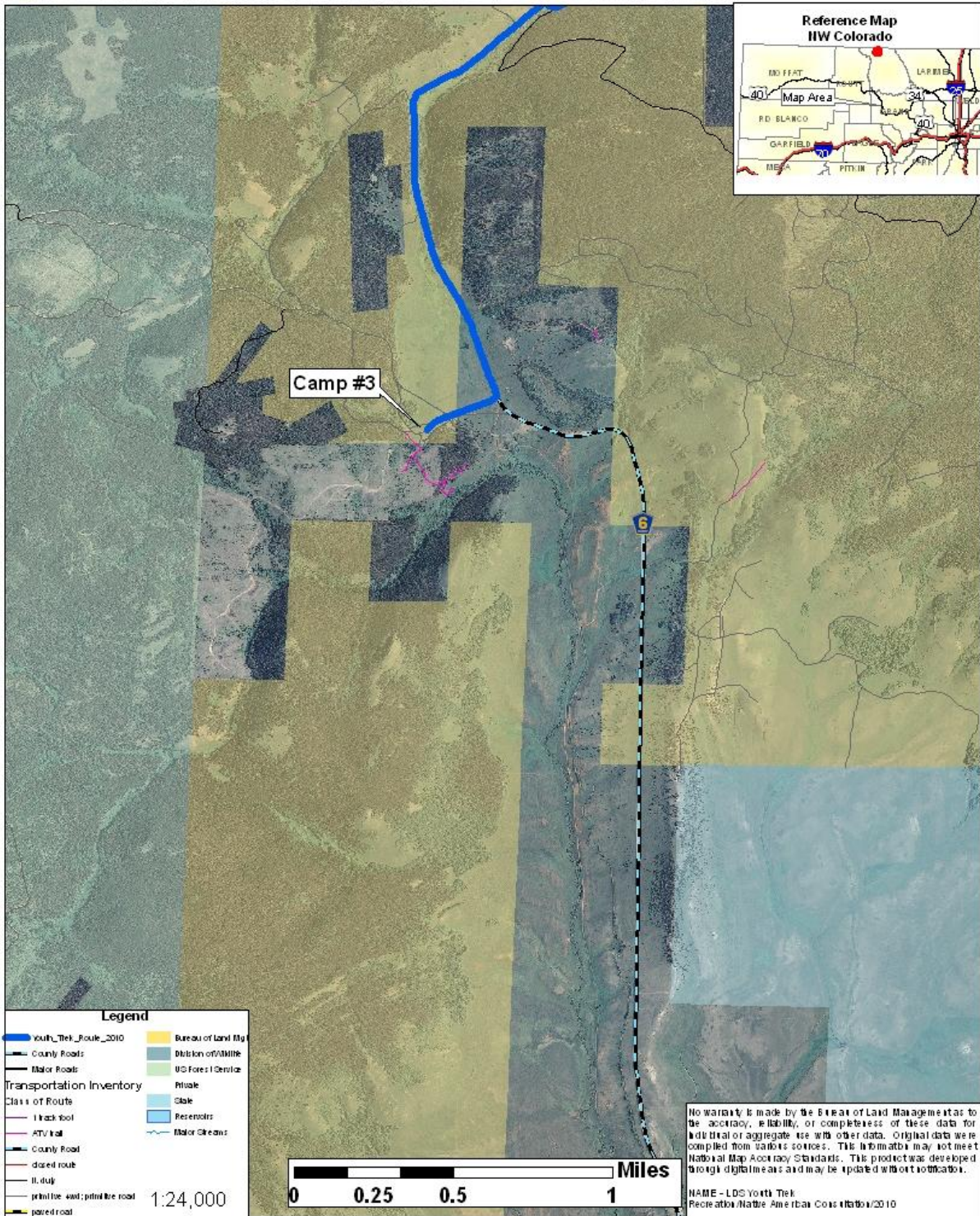


# LDS Youth Trek - Camp #2





# LDS Youth Trek - Camp #3



## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD) \_ Date Approved/Amended: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions(s):

Decision Number/Page: Decision Number II B 7a/ Page 11

Decision Language: a. Objective. "To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation."

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1,

**1.5 H. Recreation Management**

*(1) Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for "Special Area" management (43 CFR 2932.5).*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

Other routes than those proposed were not identified as alternatives since the proposal is along existing routes that would not have any new disturbance. The Proposed Action is along routes currently utilized by full size vehicles and other Off Highway Vehicles. A section of the proposed route will be on Independence Mountain Road #2504. The remainder of the route is along county roads.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>	<b>Date Review Completed</b>
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation	3/19/10
Bill Wyatt	Archeologist	Cultural Resources	5/19/2010

		and Tribal Consultation	
Frank Rupp	Archaeologist	Paleontology	3/31/2010
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species	3/26/10
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian	4/1/2010
Kenneth Belcher	Forester	Forestry	4/26/2010
Susan Cassel	Assistant Field Manager	NEPA	5-26-10

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource inventory (CR-10-24) was completed for the proposed campsite locations. Campsites #1 and #2 are located within areas that have recently been inventoried (CR-07-10 and CR-07-23) and do not have any significant resources within the proposed campsite locations. Three cultural resource sites were located at campsite #3 but have been determined to be not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed action is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.

Tribal Consultation: Consultation was initiated on March 26, 2010, and to date no American Indian Tribe has identified any area of traditional cultural concern.

Forestry: The Parsons Draw Sanitation Harvest Sale is immediately adjacent to the trek route on BLM Independence Mountain Road #2503 (in the area of T11.N, R81.W, Sections 23 and 24) and to the proposed Camp #1. Independence Mountain Road #2503 is also the designated haul road for the sale. The estimated sale date for the Parsons Draw Sanitation Harvest Sale will likely be around the end of May or the early part of June. While it is unlikely that harvest operations would begin by this date, it is a possibility. From the Parsons Draw sale, the route follows the Independence Mountain Road #2503 north through, or adjacent to, several harvest and pre-commercial thinning units proposed in the Independence Mountain Fuels/Forestry Project EA. This area is popular with woodcutters and Trekkers may encounter active post and pole cutting or firewood collecting along the route.

#### D. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Susan Cassel Date: 5-26-2010  
(Signature)

Name: Susan Cassel  
Title: Acting Field Manager

#### Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact John Monkouski; Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kremmling Field Office, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459, (970)724-3040.

**DECISION RECORD**  
**CX# DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0035-CX**

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached CX.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

RATIONALE: The proposed action to issue an authorization to The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) to conduct an organized group Youth Pioneer Trek for up to 150 participants on BLM administered lands was chosen as there would be no new ground disturbance and all activities are along existing BLM and county roads. The campsites are in areas that have been previously used as campsites.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan L. Cassel (Acting)

DATE SIGNED: 5-26-2010