



**White River Field Office
Oil & Gas Development Proposed RMPA/Final EIS
Northwest Resource Advisory Council
June 4, 2015**

Briefing Objectives

- Planning Process & Schedule
- Proposed Amendment (Alternative E)

Schedule

Published Notice of Availability in Federal Register on 3/27

- 30-day Protest Period ended 4/27
- 60-day Governors Consistency Review ended 5/26

WO Reviews and Resolves Protests

- In progress

Record of Decision and Approved RMP Amendment

- July 2015

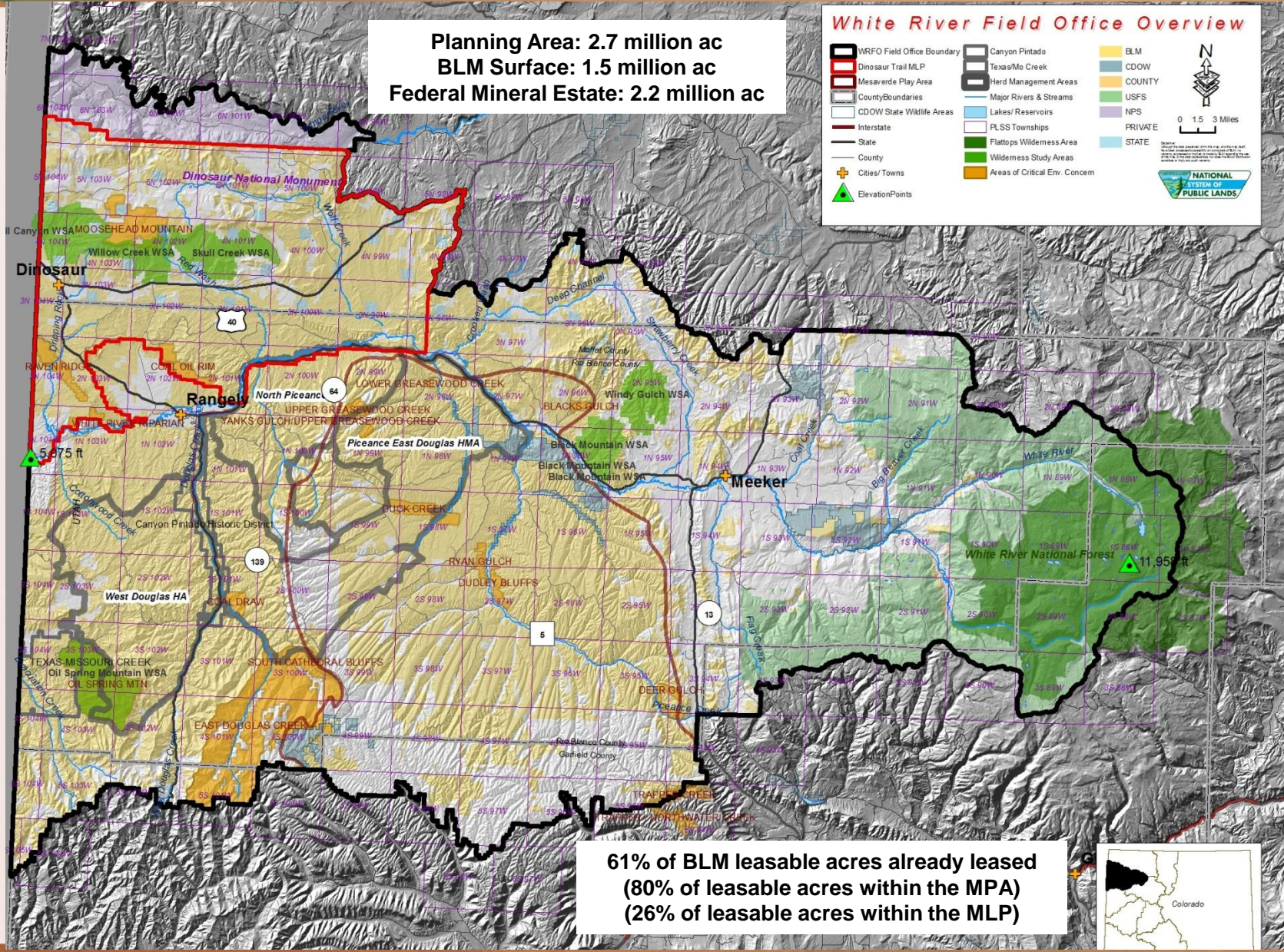
WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE OIL AND GAS RMPA/EIS

Planning Area: 2.7 million ac
BLM Surface: 1.5 million ac
Federal Mineral Estate: 2.2 million ac

White River Field Office Overview

WRFO Field Office Boundary	Canyon Pintado	BLM
Dinosaur Trail MLP	Texas/Mo Creek	CDOW
Mesaverde Play Area	Herd Management Areas	COUNTY
County Boundaries	Major Rivers & Streams	USFS
CDOW State Wildlife Areas	Lakes/Reservoirs	NPS
Interstate	PLS Townships	PRIVATE
State	Flattops Wilderness Area	STATE
County	Wilderness Study Areas	
Cities/Towns	Areas of Critical Env. Concern	
Elevation Points		

Scale: 0 1.5 3 Miles



61% of BLM leasable acres already leased
(80% of leasable acres within the MPA)
(26% of leasable acres within the MLP)



Need for the Amendment

- Changing conditions since the 1997 RMP...
 - Level of development
(from 1,100 to 15,040 wells)
 - Type of development
(from single to multi-well pads)
 - Location of development
(from south of Rangely to Mesaverde Play Area)
- Proposed RMPA (Alternative E) assumed...
 - Development of 15,040 wells on 1,100 multi-well pads with an associated surface disturbance of 13,200 acres
 - Majority of development will occur within the Mesaverde Play Area (MPA)

How does the Oil & Gas RMPA change the 1997 RMP?

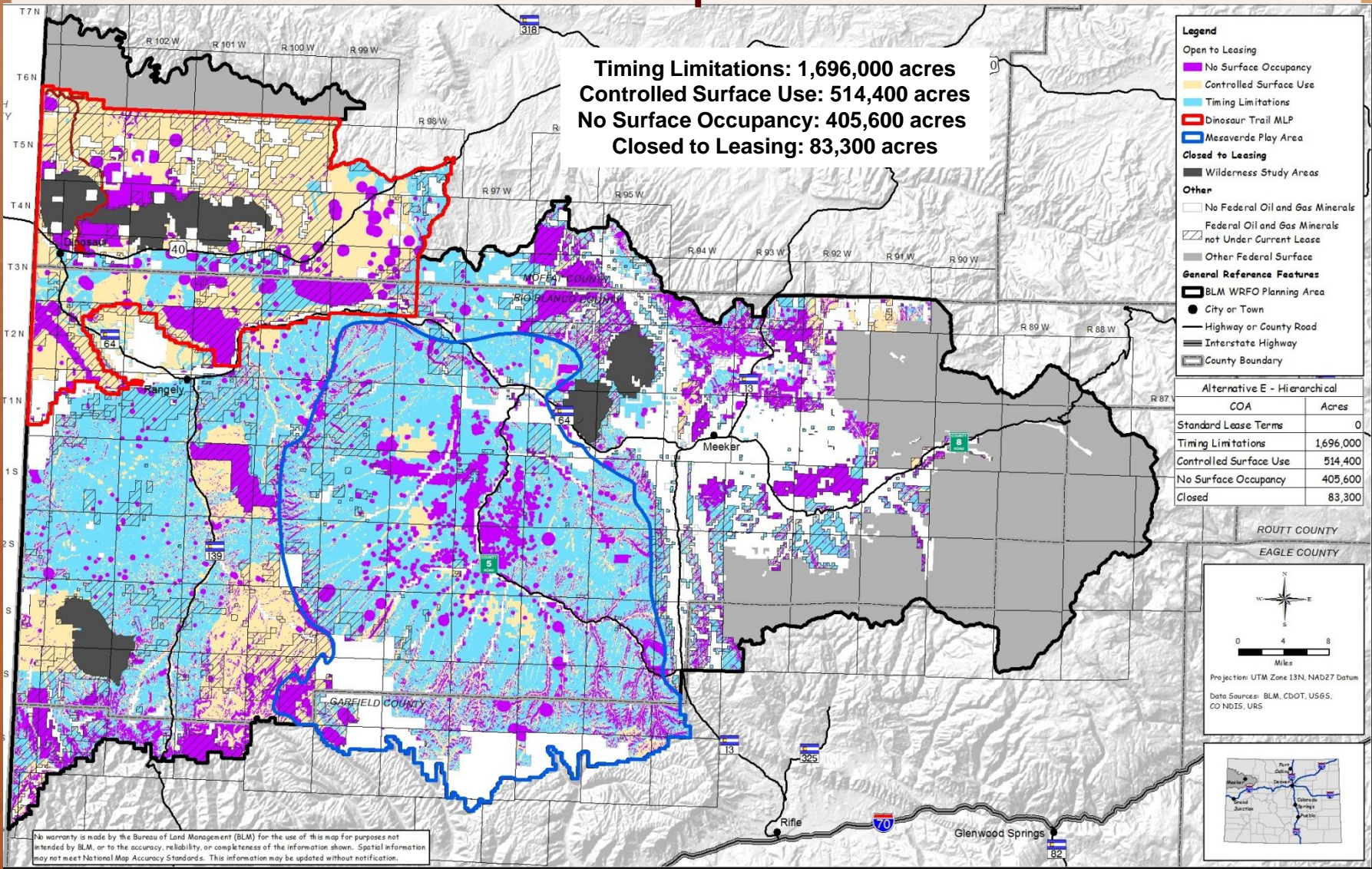
Major decisions in the RMPA include:

- Using thresholds to promote clustered development in order to allow for year-round drilling while reducing habitat loss due to behavioral avoidance by big game (especially mule deer);
- Identification of specific success criteria for reclamation;
- Using a tiered approach to managing lands with wilderness characteristics;
- Adoption of the Dinosaur Trail Master Leasing Plan (MLP).

The RMPA does not change any decisions related to:

- Non-oil and gas related activities or programs;
- Special designations; or
- Areas open or closed for oil and gas leasing.

Lease Stipulations

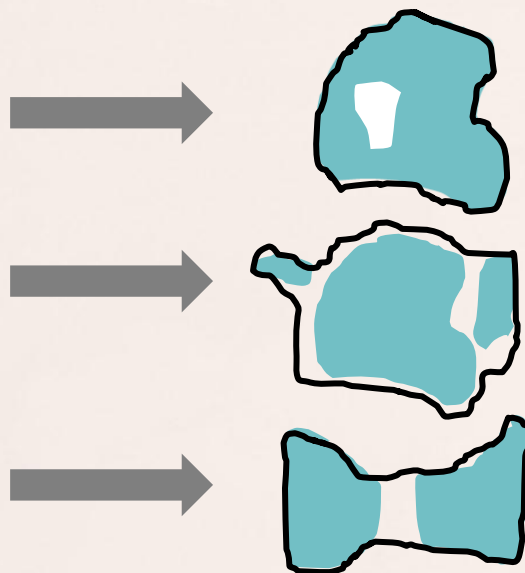


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Potential Non-Recoverable Oil & Gas Resource

Assumed current technology could drain resources from 2,900 ft from the edge of effective NSO areas.

- Less than 7.5 acres within an NSO area
- Aggregate of small NSOs within 600 ft of a larger NSO
- NSOs with less than 600 ft between boundaries



Approximately 34,700 acres would be non-recoverable using current technology



2% of the 1.7 million acres available for oil & gas leasing by the BLM would be non-recoverable

Data Management System (DMS)

- Specific reclamation success criteria
- Reclamation data submitted by industry via the DMS
- DMS available for the public to view

Jonah Infill Data Management System

Home Reporting Operator: EnCana Search Locations

Location Entry Page: CAB 11-19 (EnCana)

Navigation:

- Summary
- Status Reports
- Spatial Reports
- Photographs
- Airport
- Anadarko
- Compressor Station
- Bridger
- Compressor Station
- CAB 11-19
- CAB 11-25
- CAB 11-30
- CAB 12-19

Downloads:

- ESRI Shapefile
- Microsoft Excel

Location Status:

Type: Well Pad
 Status: ! Rollover Not Met
 Latest Seeding: [10/01/2007 \(A\)](#)
 Latest Quantitative Report: [05/24/2010](#)
 Latest Qualitative Report: [06/10/2011](#)
 Latest Spatial Report: [12/31/2009](#)
 Disturbed Acreage: 4.69 acres
 Reclamation: 4.08 acres

Most Recent Status Report:

Collection Date: 06/10/2011
 Collection Method:
 Reviewed By BLM: No

Qualitative:

Is seed germination apparent?	Yes	✔
Is the area free of undesirable materials (trash, construction materials, liquids, etc)?	Yes	✔
Is the soil stable with no indications of subsidence, slumping and/or significant erosion?	Yes	✔
Are other undesirable species absent?	Yes	✔
Is there evidence of good reproductive capability?	No	!
Explanation: Grass repro forbs only		
Are noxious weeds absent?	Yes	✔
Stage of Reclamation:	Stage 2	
Stage Regressed:	No	✔

Map: Aerial imagery showing the well pad location (CAB 11-19) and Feature 3022. Scale: 0, 150, 300ft. Aerial Imagery Courtesy BLM. Printable Map

Most Recent Photographs:

Close-up 07/10/2010	East 07/10/2010	North 07/10/2010
South 07/10/2010	West 07/10/2010	

Threshold Concept

Benefits of Using Thresholds?

- Supports year-round oil and gas activities
- Encourages prompt reclamation
- Supports clustering development



Threshold Concept

How does it work?

- All of WRFO would have TL stipulations
- Mapped mule deer seasonal ranges can not overlap (modified CPW map)
- Adverse Behavioral Effects
 - Acute Effects
 - Collective Effects
 - Buffered by 660ft
- Thresholds Applied by:
 - Game Management Unit
 - Mule Deer Seasonal Range
 - Leaseholder/Unit

Big Game Timing Limitations & Thresholds

Timing Limitations

- Up to 120 days: severe winter range (Dec 1 – Apr 30)
- Up to 90 days: summer range (May 15 – Aug 15)
- Up to 60 days: winter range & winter conc. areas (Dec 1 – Apr 30)

Acute Thresholds

- 20% of deer winter range and winter concentration areas
- 15% of severe winter range and summer range
- 0% of Restricted Development Areas (North Ridge)

Collective Thresholds

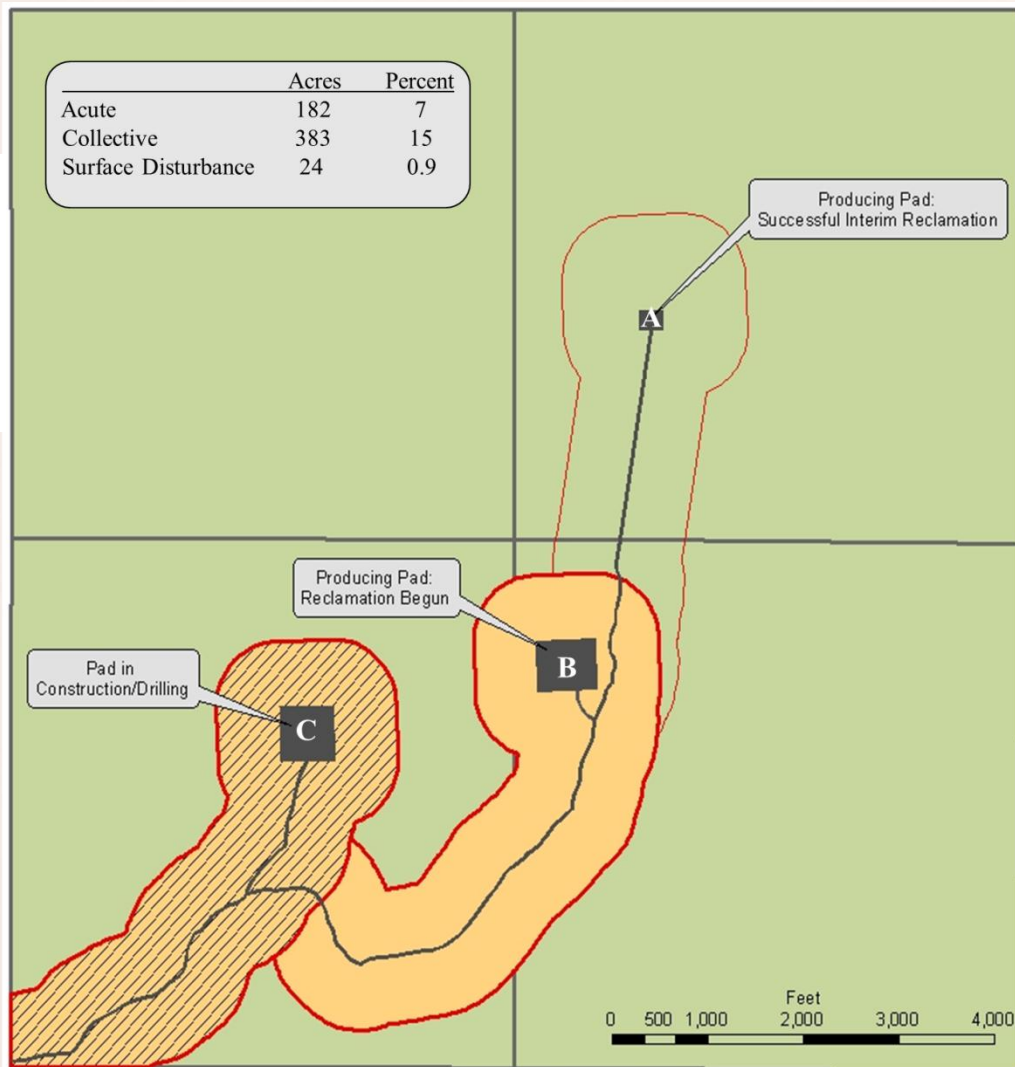
- 20% of all seasonal ranges
- 5% of Restricted Development Areas (North Ridge)

Threshold Concept Diagram

Thresholds applied

by:

- 1) leaseholder
- 2) GMU
- 3) seasonal range



Implementation of the Threshold Concept

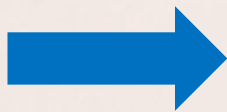
- Use the DMS to track disturbance, reclamation, and activity.
- Grace period of 5 years after the ROD to allow compliance for those leaseholders exceeding threshold allowances at the time the ROD is issued.
- Intend for thresholds to be refined when necessary and through appropriate means based on animal response or the influence of compensatory mitigation in meeting long-term population objectives.

What are lands with wilderness characteristics?

- Lands with wilderness characteristics are a resource and not a special designation
- They are a resource to be managed in a defined area
 - Similar to visual resources...
 - VRI is what the resource is on the ground
 - VRM is BLM's decision on how to manage that resource
 - Not designated, but evaluated, considered, and managed

Inventory Guidance (Manual 6310)

- Undeveloped ROWs and mineral leases are not treated as impacts to wilderness characteristics because these rights may never be developed
- An area can have wilderness characteristics even though every acre within the area may not meet all the criteria. The boundary should be determined largely on the basis of wilderness inventory roads and naturalness...



Inventory guidance results in
lands with wilderness characteristics
polygons that include existing leases

Planning Guidance (Manual 6320)

Manageability

- Consider whether the lands can be effectively managed to protect their wilderness characteristics
- Determine how areas will be managed based on knowledge of resources, ongoing uses, and valid existing rights in the area

Resource Values & Uses

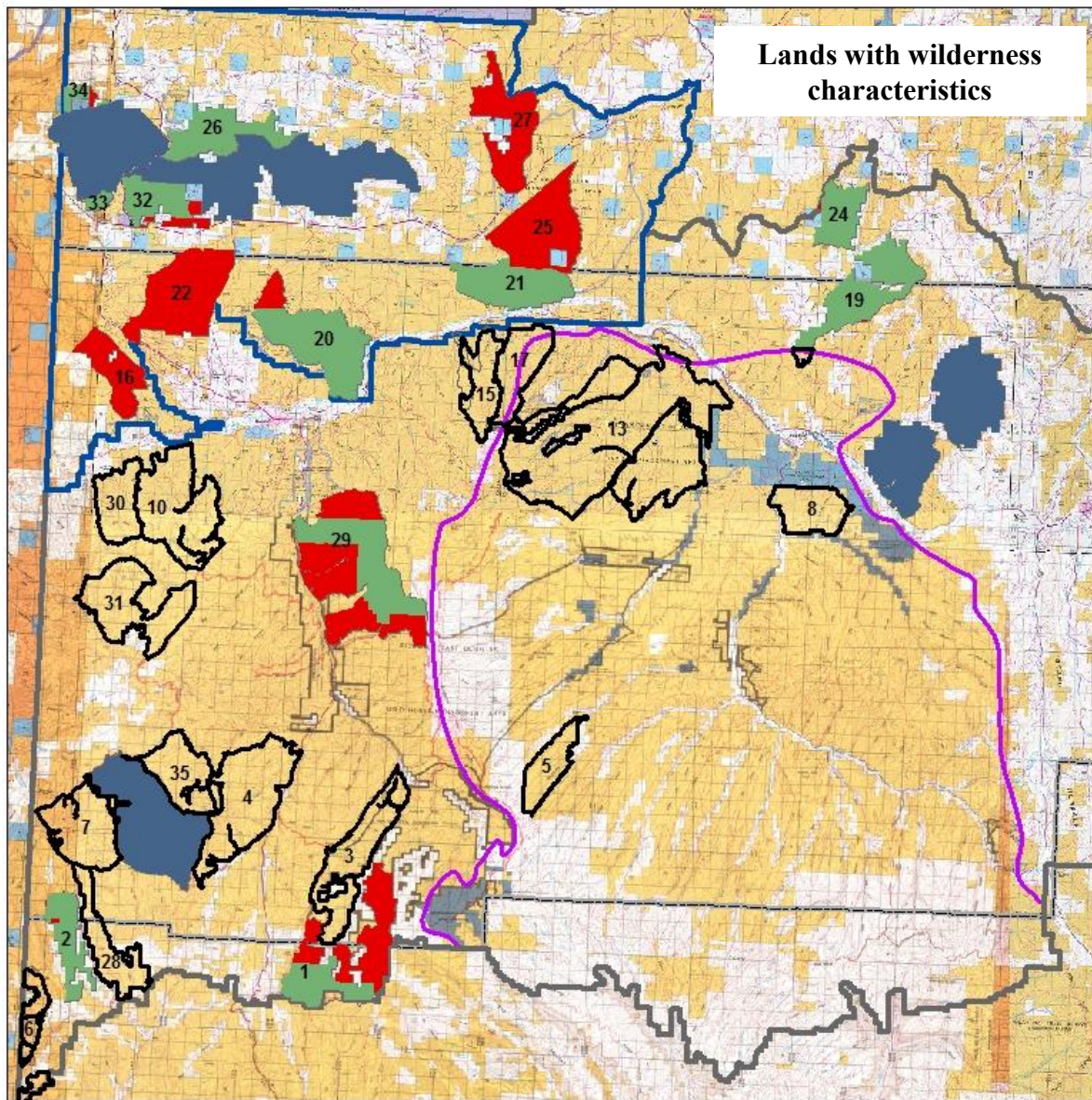
- Consider the extent to which other resource values and uses of LWCs would be forgone or adversely affected if wilderness characteristics are protected
- Consider the benefits that may accrue to other resource values and uses as a result of protecting wilderness characteristics
- Specifically consider the following: presence of other resources, development potential, resource availability (present on lands outside of LWCs), economic importance (develop or protect), and compatibility with protection (compatible or conflicts with wilderness characteristics)

Manageability of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Manage by levels in consideration of existing rights.
- Tier 1: Parcels with $\geq 5,000$ acres that are not leased or encumbered by ROWs
- Tier 2: If current leases were to expire, then $\geq 5,000$ acres would not be encumbered
 - Assume development in MPA
 - Manage for some wilderness characteristics values in MLP
- Tier 3: Less than 5,000 acres within the parcel that aren't currently held by production

Tiered Management Approach for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- **Tier 1:** managed to protect wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses
 - NSO with no exceptions; ROW exclusion areas
 - No construction of facilities or new roads
- **Tier 2:** managed to emphasize other multiple uses while applying management restrictions to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics
 - ROW avoidance area
 - CSU stipulation (linear features can't bisect the unit; new development located adjacent to existing roads)
- **Tier 3:** managed to emphasize other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics

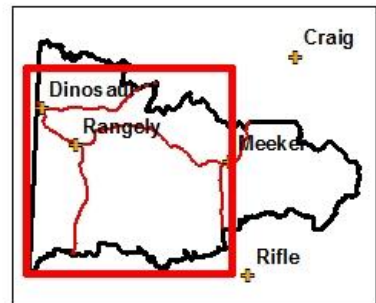


Lands with wilderness characteristics

Proposed Alt E

Manageability Tiers, Tier Definition

- 1 - NSO 70,000 acres
- 2 - CSU 67,900 acres
- 3 164,000 acres
- WSAs
- Dinosaur Trail MLP
- Mesaverde Gas Play Area
- County Boundaries
- Field Office



11/19/2013

Sources:
BLM

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Master Leasing Plan

What is an MLP?

- Concept introduced in leasing reform IM-2010-117
- Not a special designation but rather a planning area boundary
- More focused analysis of decisions pertaining to oil and gas compared to a typical RMP revision but not as detailed as a master development plan

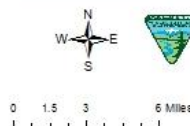
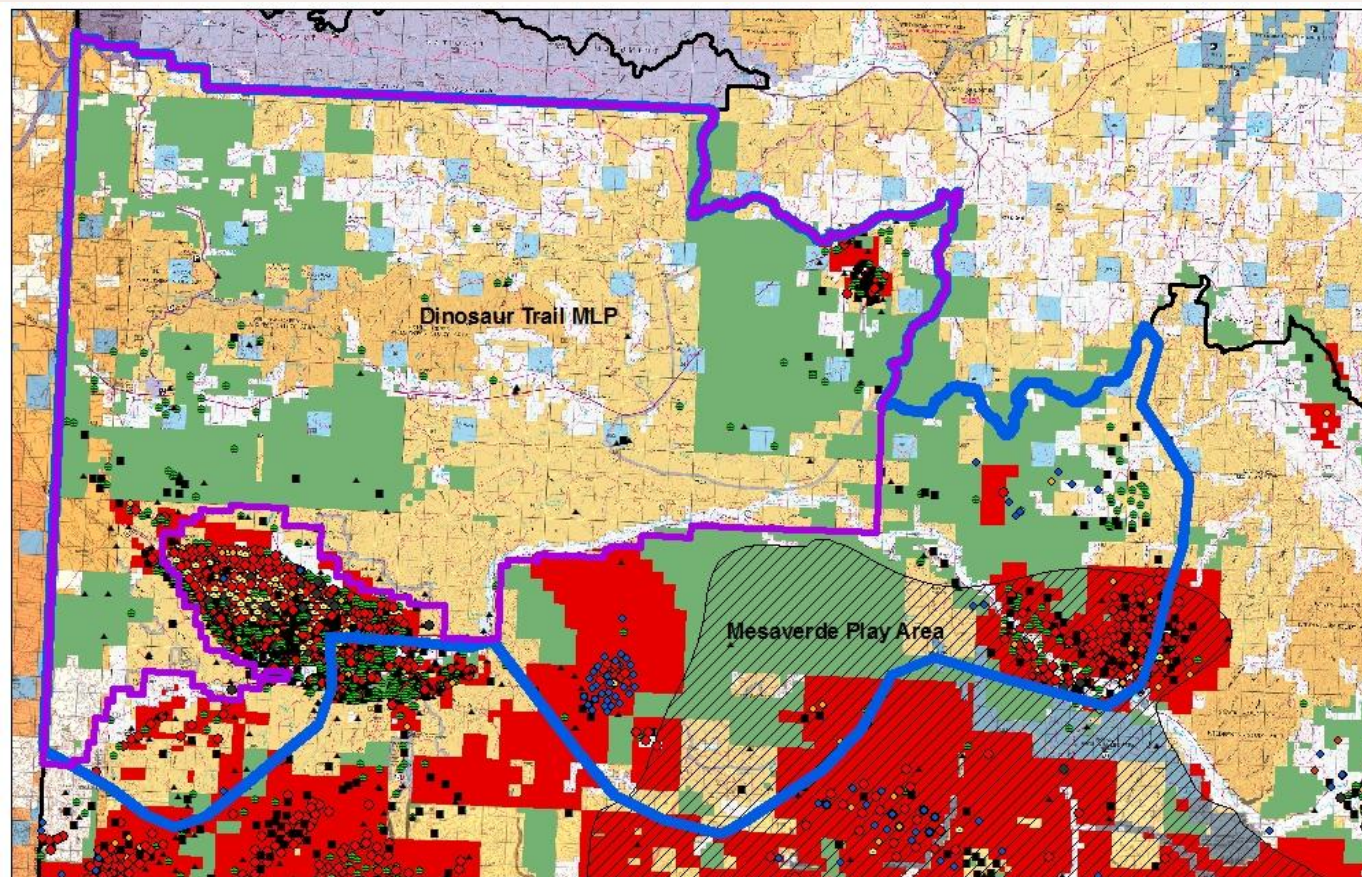
Criteria

1. Substantial portion of MLP is not leased
2. There is a majority Federal mineral interest
3. Industry has expressed interest in leasing & there is a moderate or high potential for oil and gas confirmed by the discovery of oil and gas in the general area.
4. Additional analysis or information is needed to address likely resource or cumulative impacts if development were to occur where there are multiple use or natural/cultural resource conflicts; impacts to air quality; impacts on resources or values of any unit of the National Park System; or impacts on other specially designated areas.

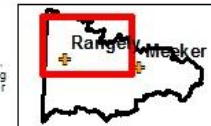
Dinosaur Trail MLP

- Dinosaur Trail MLP
 - Borders Dinosaur National Monument
 - Contains 3 WSAs and 4 ACECs
 - 422,700 acres within the MLP
 - 315,600 acres open to leasing
 - 42,200 acres closed to leasing
- All decisions in the RMPA apply to the MLP
- Additional key decisions that apply only within the MLP
 - Phased leasing
 - Master Development Plans required
 - CSU for visual resources, night skies, and soundscapes

Dinosaur Lowlands vs Dinosaur Trail



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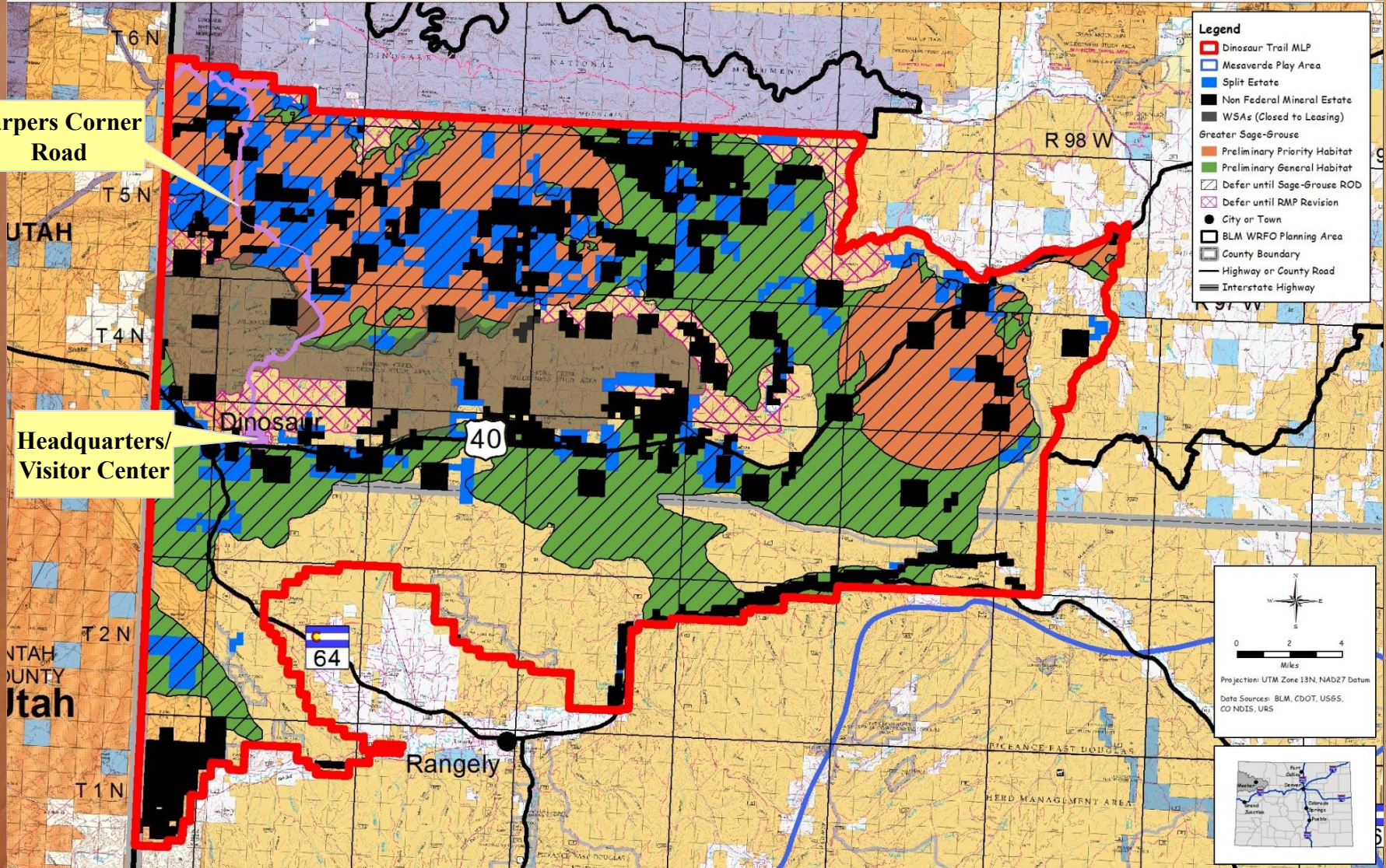
Phased Leasing in the MLP

- Leasing would first occur in the southern portion of the MLP, where the oil and gas occurrence potential is rated medium or high.
- Leasing within sage-grouse habitat, areas of low oil and gas potential, or areas adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument would occur once the BLM has completed additional analysis and planning.
 - Within sage-grouse habitat in the MLP, leasing would only occur after the BLM has issued the Record of Decision for the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse RMPA.
 - Outside of sage-grouse habitat, areas within either low oil and gas potential or adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument Headquarters could be leased only after the RMP Revision to determine whether or not leasing is appropriate given considerations such as the potential impacts to visual resources, night skies, and soundscapes.

Mineral Estate and Phased Leasing in the Dinosaur Trail MLP

Harpers Corner Road

Headquarters/ Visitor Center



Visual Resources, Soundscapes, and Night Skies in the MLP

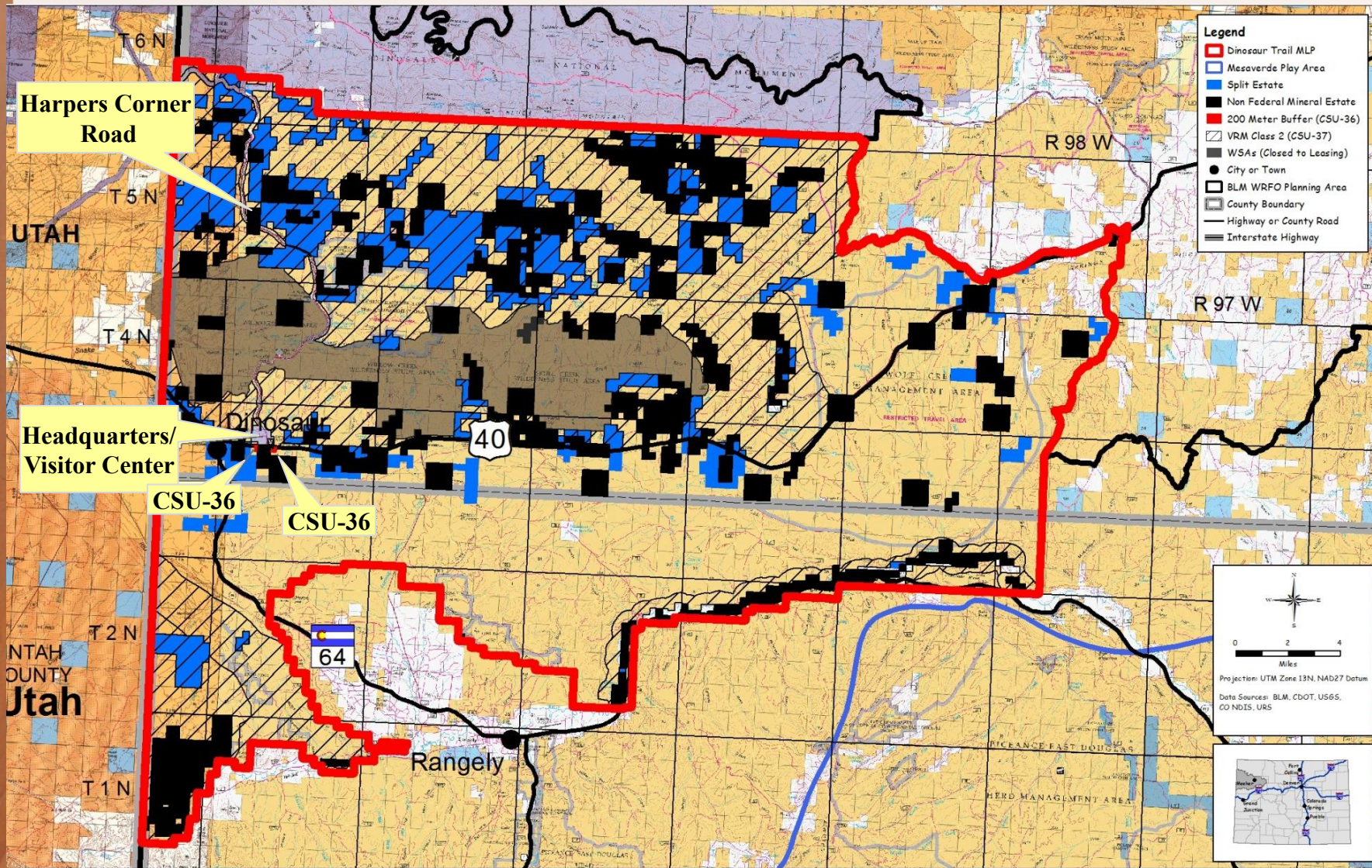
CSU-37:

- Applies to all federal mineral estate within the MLP that is identified as, adjacent to, or surrounded by VRM Class II areas
- Requires a site-specific Visual Resources Management and Noise Reduction Plan prior to initiating construction activities.
 - retain the existing character of the landscape to meet VRM Class II
 - minimize noise using the best available technology
 - minimize impacts to night skies (specific lighting designs & timing of operations)
 - must coordinate with NPS for development north of Highway 40

CSU-36:

- Applies to VRM Class III areas adjacent to Dinosaur NM Headquarters
- Similar to original NPS request and requires operators to minimize light and noise pollution.

CSU-36 and CSU-37



Questions?