

# **Colorado River Valley Field Office EIS Updates**

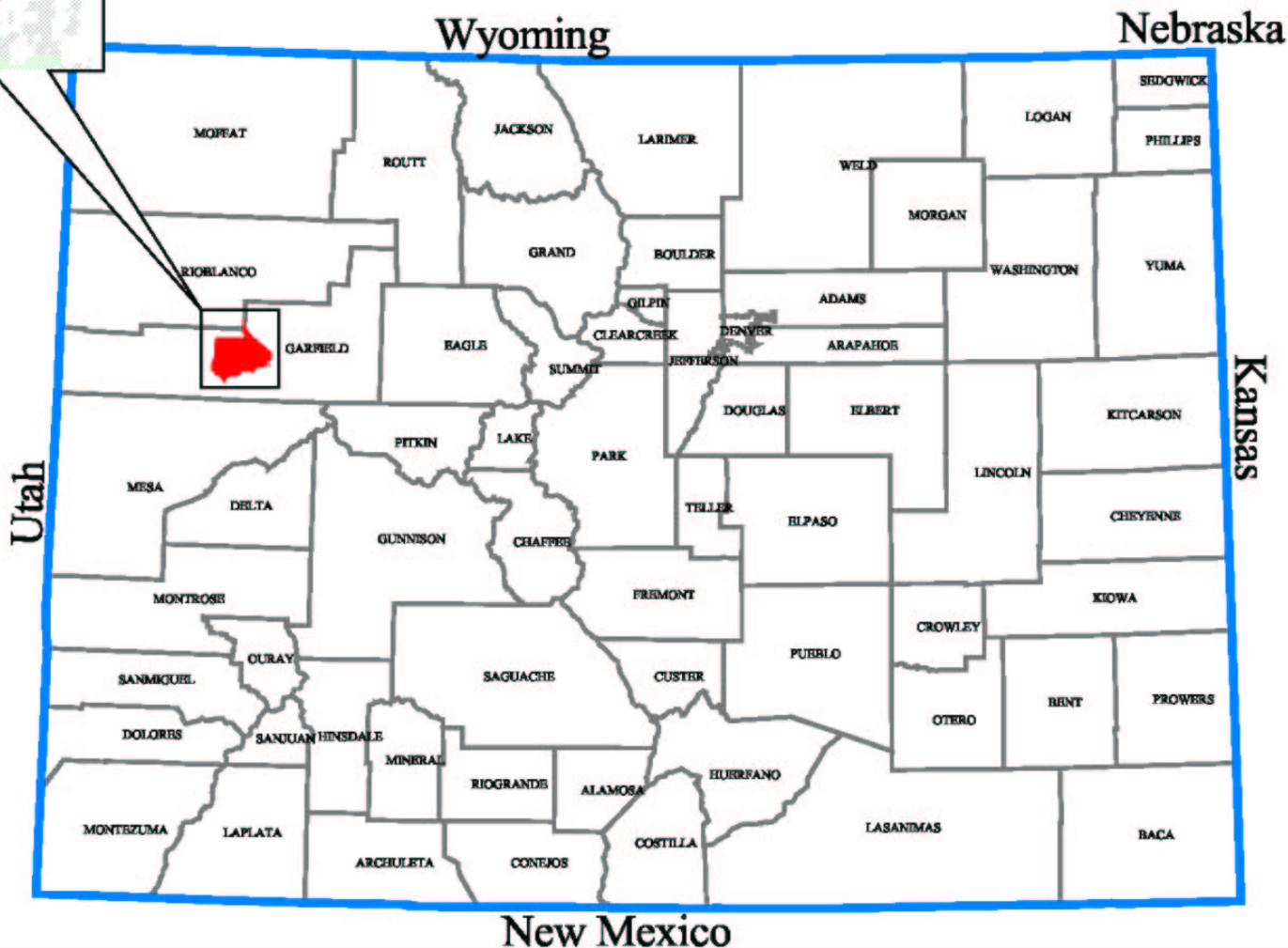
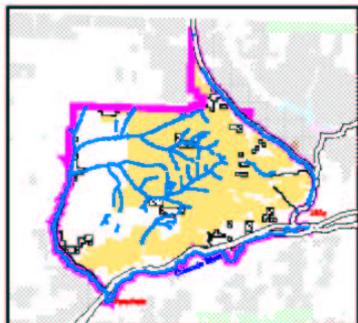
**Roan Plateau  
and Previously Issued Leases**

NW RAC Aug. 18, 2016

# Roan Plateau Final SEIS



# Roan Plateau RMP Amendment General Location



# Roan Plateau Planning Area

## Legend

 Roan Plateau Planning Boundary

 Perennial Streams

 Major Highway

 Rim

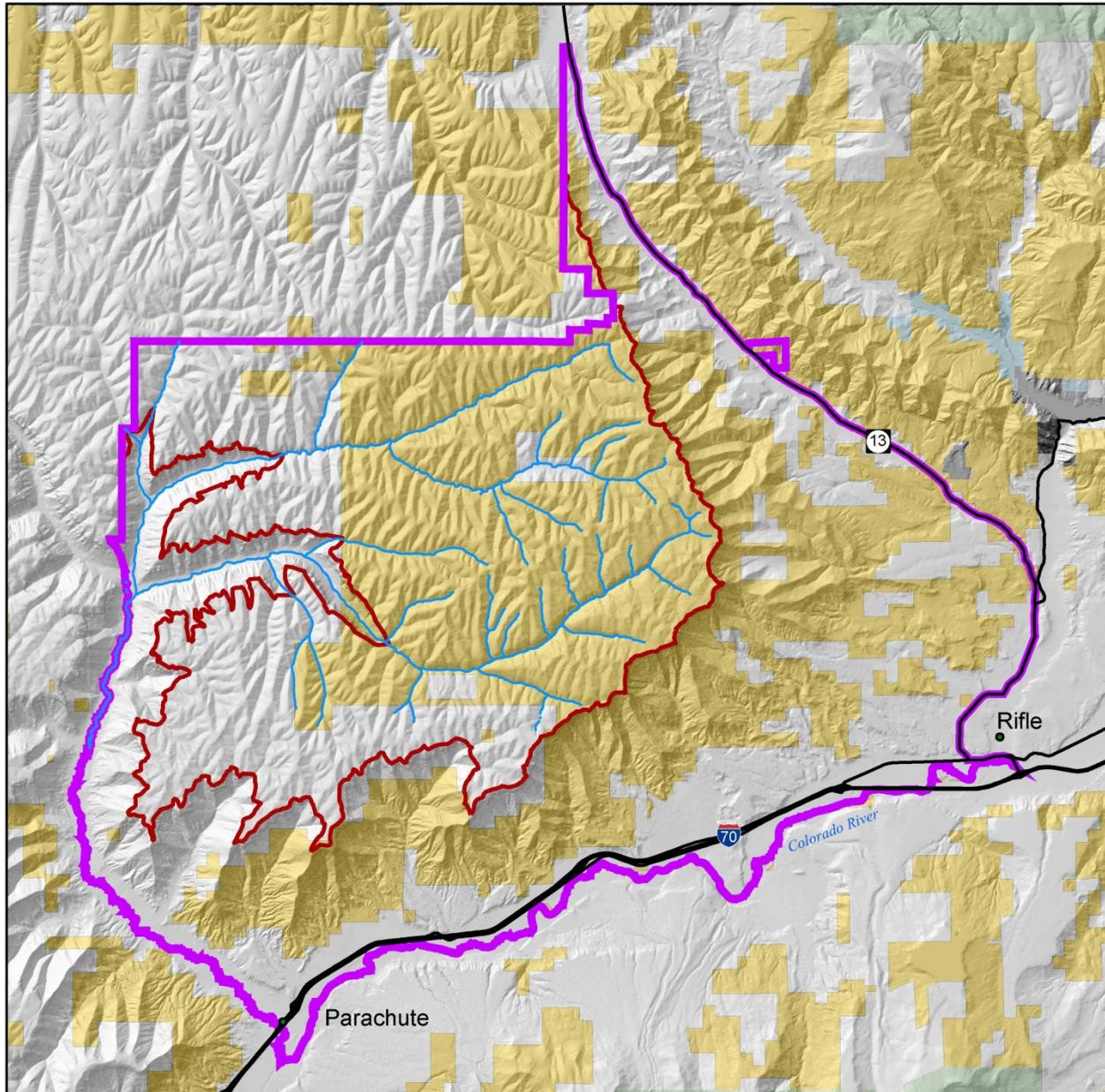
## Land Status

 BLM

 National Forest

 Private

 State















# Roan Plateau History

- DOD manages to 1977
- 1977 to 1997 – DOE
- 1997 – Congress transfers NOSRs to BLM
- 1999 – 8,400 acres at base leased



# Roan Plateau History

- 2000 – BLM begins Roan planning
- 2006 – Final EIS
- 2007/2008 – Final Decisions





# Roan Plateau History



- 2012 – U.S. District Court Decision
  - Air analysis
  - Community Alternative
  - “Supplemental” EIS
- Nov. 2014 – Settlement
  - 17 of 19 leases to be on top
  - All 12 leases retained on bottom
- April 2015 – 17 leases canceled

# Roan Timeline

- **November 2015- *Draft RMPA/Supplemental EIS published*** addressing Court remand and settlement
- **July 2016 – *Final SEIS published***
- ***Final Decision expected this fall***



# Alternatives

## Alternative I – No Action:

The No Action Alternative *from the Roan RMPA/FEIS* (2006).

## Alternative II – FEIS Proposed Plan:

Based on the Proposed Plan from the Roan RMPA/FEIS (2006).

## Alternative III – Community Alternative:

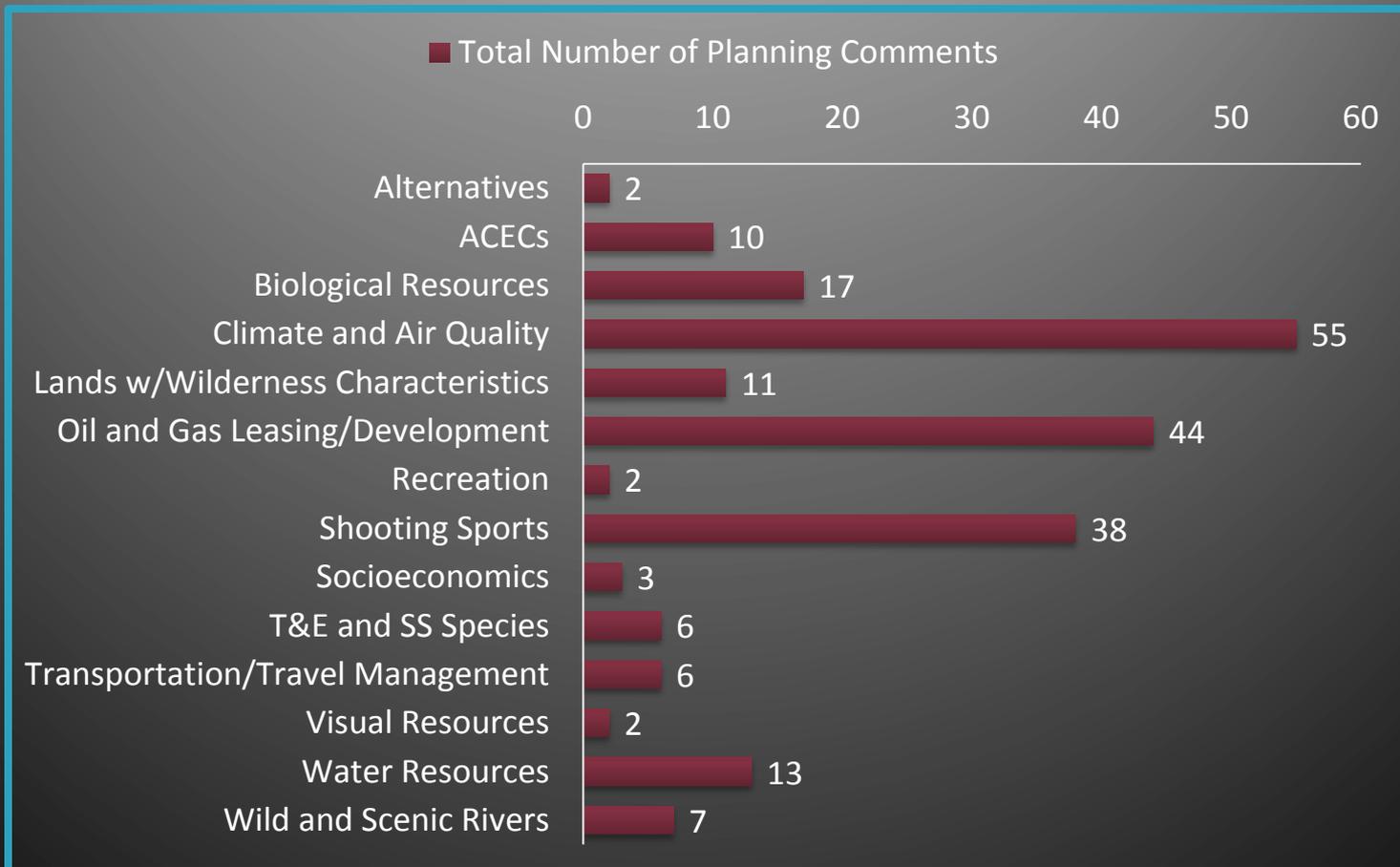
Areas available for oil and gas leasing above and below the rim, but an *NSO restriction for all BLM surface above the rim* would prohibit development, except (as feasible) from private land.

## Alternative IV – PROPOSED RMPA (Settlement Alternative):

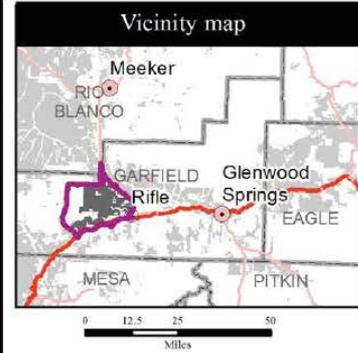
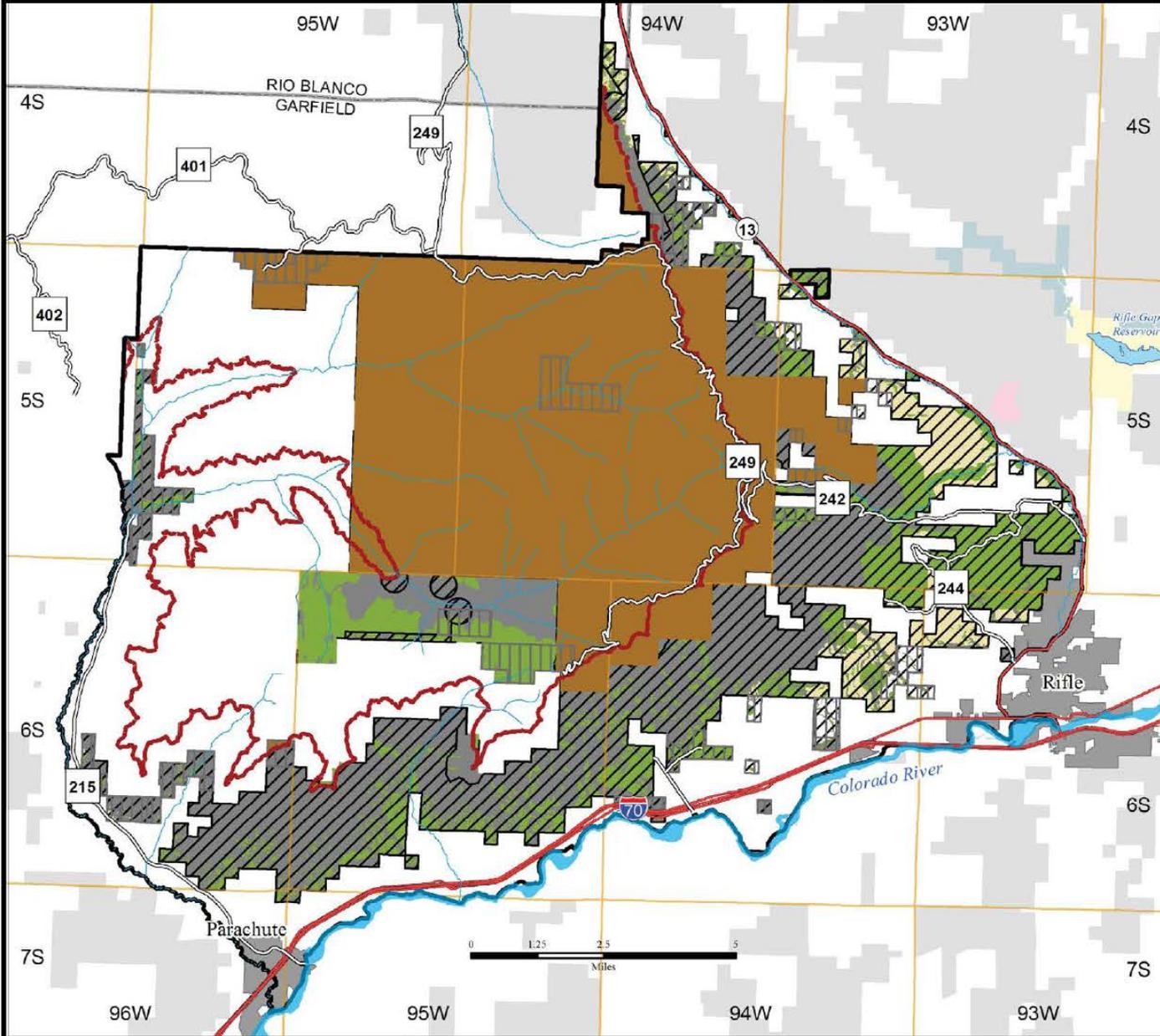
**Incorporates terms of the the Settlement Agreement (2014).  
All other management actions from FEIS Proposed Plan (2006).**

# Public Comments on the Draft

Submission Type	Letters	Percent
Unique	96	0.2%
Form Letters	50,887	99.8%
Total	50,983	100%



# Alternative IV Oil and Gas Surface Management



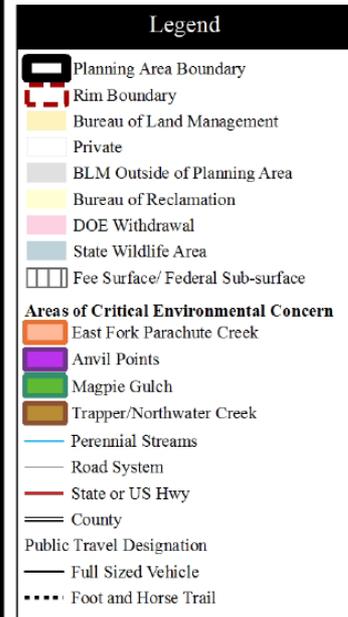
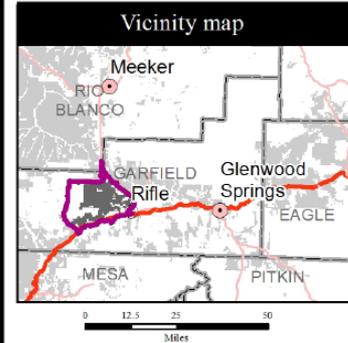
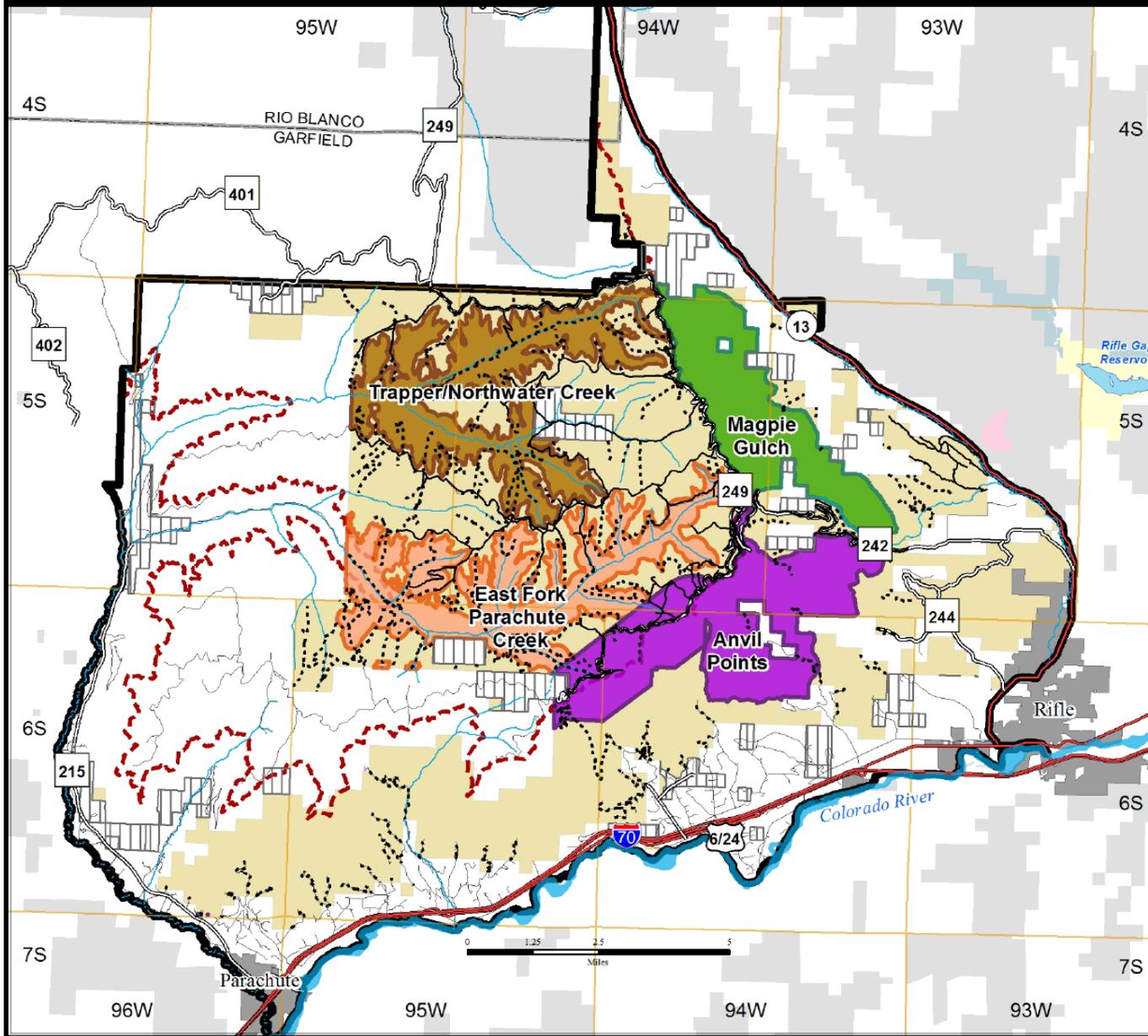
**Map # 9**



# Oil and Gas Leasing

	<i>ALTERNATIVE I NO ACTION</i>	<i>ALTERNATIVE II 2006 FEIS PROPOSED PLAN</i>	<i>ALTERNATIVE III COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE</i>	<i>ALTERNATIVE IV PROPOSED RMPA</i>
Open- BLM surface	24,980	66,780	66,780	<b>32,000</b>
Open - Fee surface/Fed subsurface	4,640	7,020	7,020	<b>5,480</b>
Closed - BLM surface	41,800	0	0	<b>34,780</b>
Closed - Fee surface/Fed subsurface	2,380	0	0	<b>1,540</b>
<hr/>				
NSO (NGD in Action Alts)	14,090	45,790	63,910	<b>21,720 (44,730)</b>
CSU (SSR in Action Alts)	21,580	68,900	70,140	<b>36,990 (72,990)</b>
Timing Limitation	21,440	62,090	62,090	<b>32,150 (57,870)</b>
Standard Stipulations	7,570	4,480	3,080	<b>3,050</b>

# Alternative IV Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

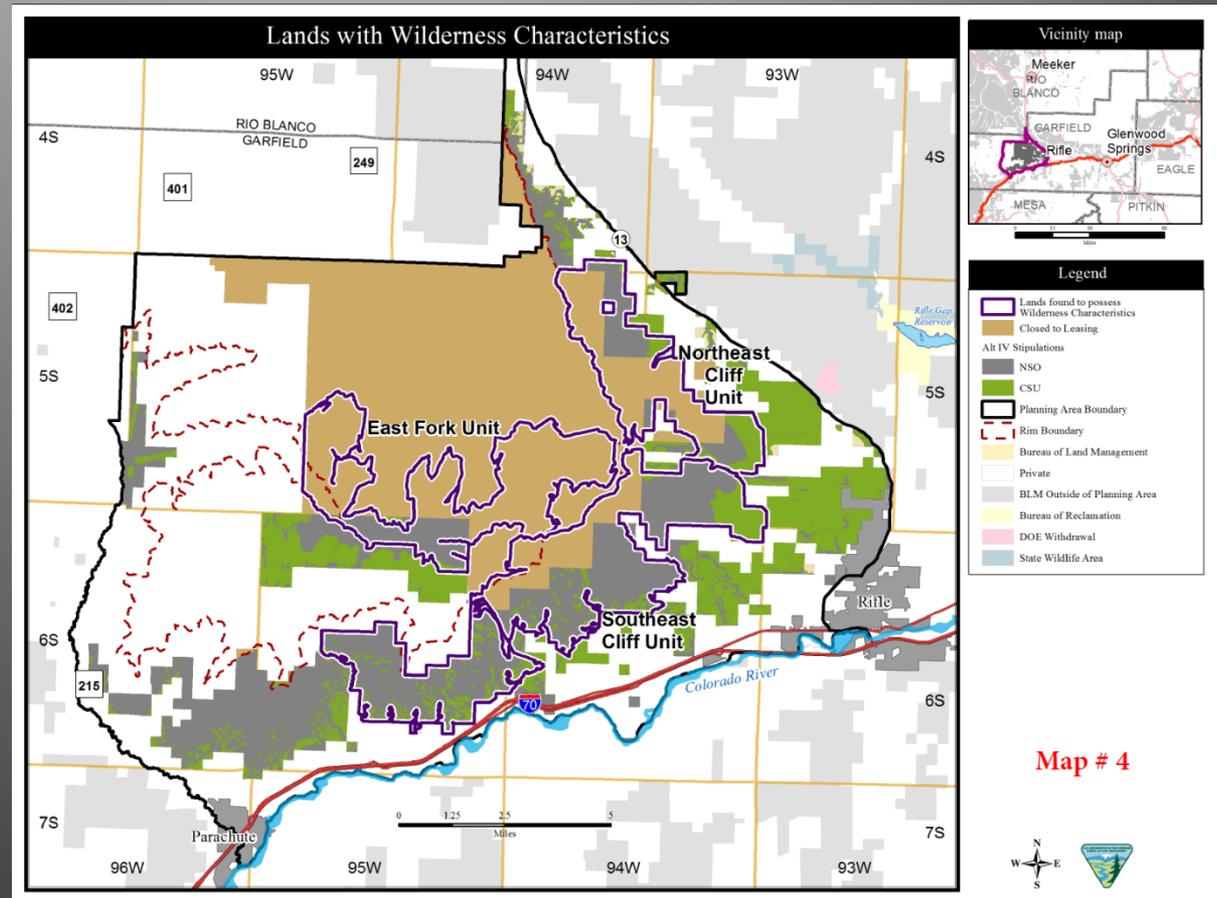


Map # 2

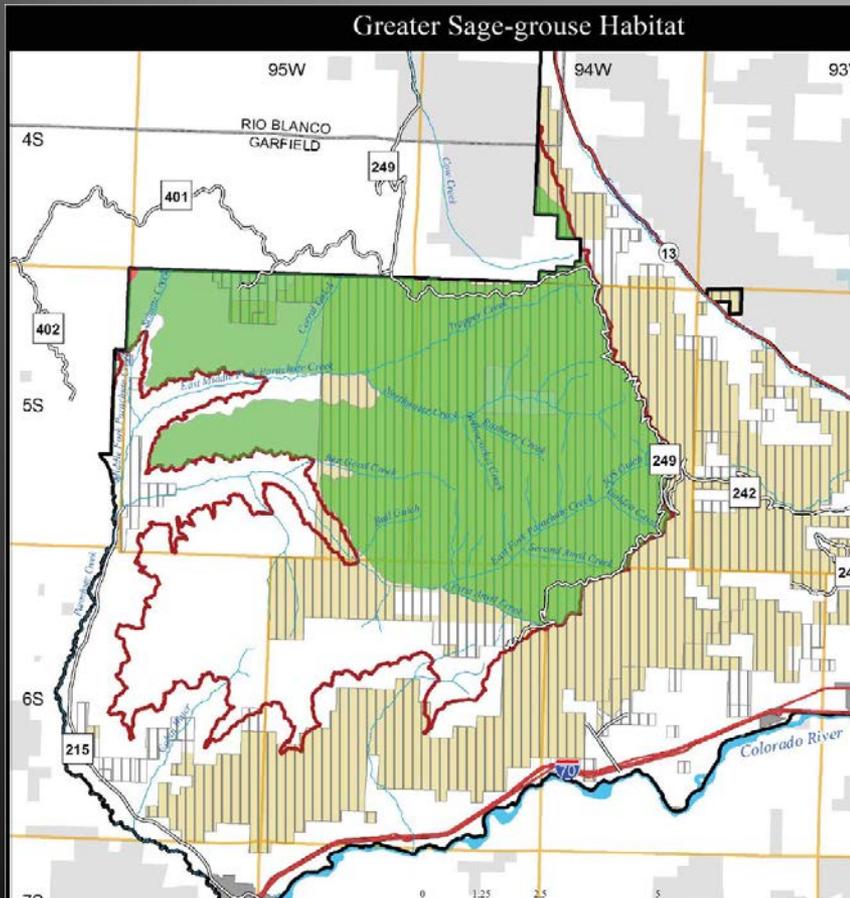


# Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Info submitted information by The Wilderness Society
- Three areas totaling 19,320 acres have wilderness characteristics
- Considered managing areas specifically to protect WCs in Alt 3
- Settlement constrained ability to manage for WCs
- Indirectly protected from other decisions

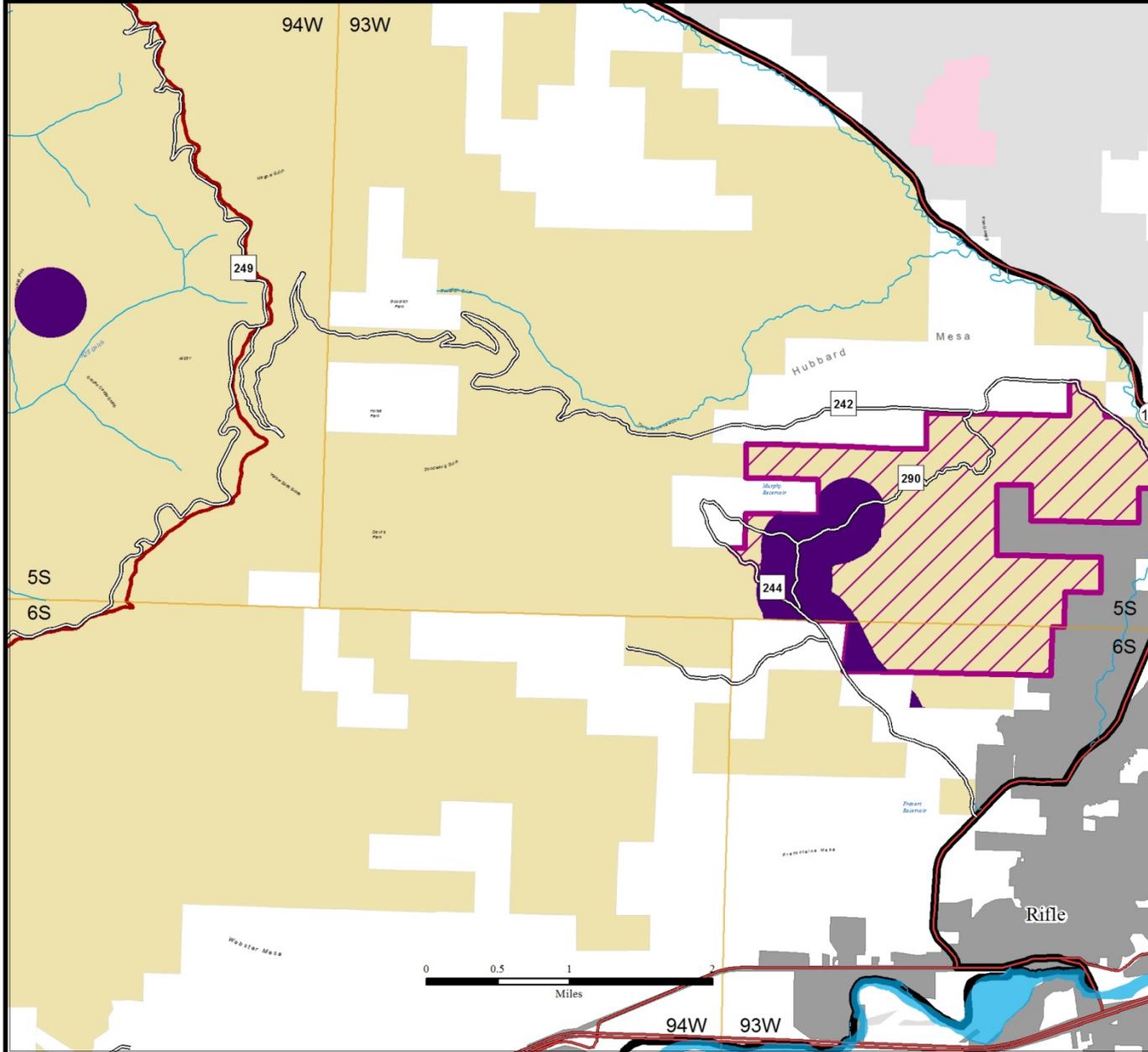


# Greater Sage Grouse

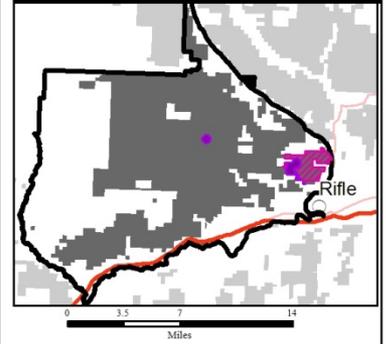


- 36,210 acres of General Habitat
- 30 acres of Priority Habitat (on private surface/minerals)
- Consistent w/NW Colorado Greater Sage Grouse Amendment

# Alternative III Firearm Use Restriction Area



## Vicinity map



## Legend

- Alternative III Firearm Use Restriction
- Hubbard Mesa OHV Area
- Planning Area Boundary
- Rim Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



Questions on Roan?

# Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases on the White River National Forest EIS

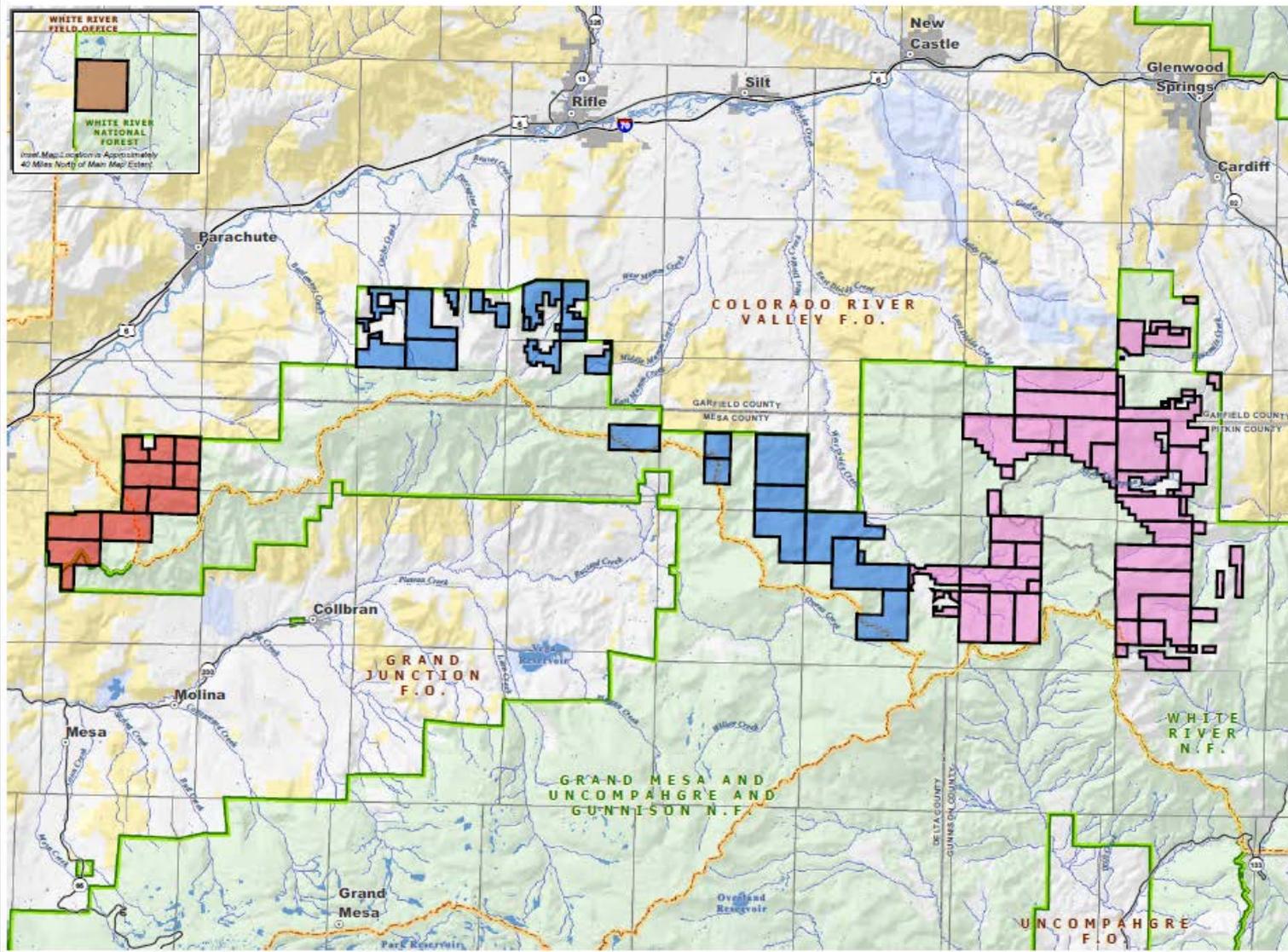


# Timeline

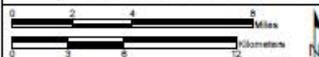
- Scoping spring 2014
- Draft EIS comment period Nov. 20, 2015 through January 8, 2016
- Final EIS released July 31. **Public availability period ends Sept. 4, 2016**
- Final decision expected this fall

# What does the BLM EIS do?

- EIS analyzing 65 *existing* leases issued since 1993 on the White River National Forest
- Final result will be a Record of Decision based largely on the analysis in the EIS
  - Keep leases as they currently are
  - Modify existing leases
  - Cancel existing leases



- Legend**
- Project Features**
- Lease Zones**
- Zone 1
  - Zone 2
  - Zone 3
  - Zone 4
- Boundaries**
- USFS Administrative Boundary
  - BLM Field Office Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - Township/Range
  - Urban Area
- Hydrology**
- Stream/River
  - Lake/Reservoir
- Highways**
- Interstate
  - Highway
- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Local
  - Private
  - US Forest Service



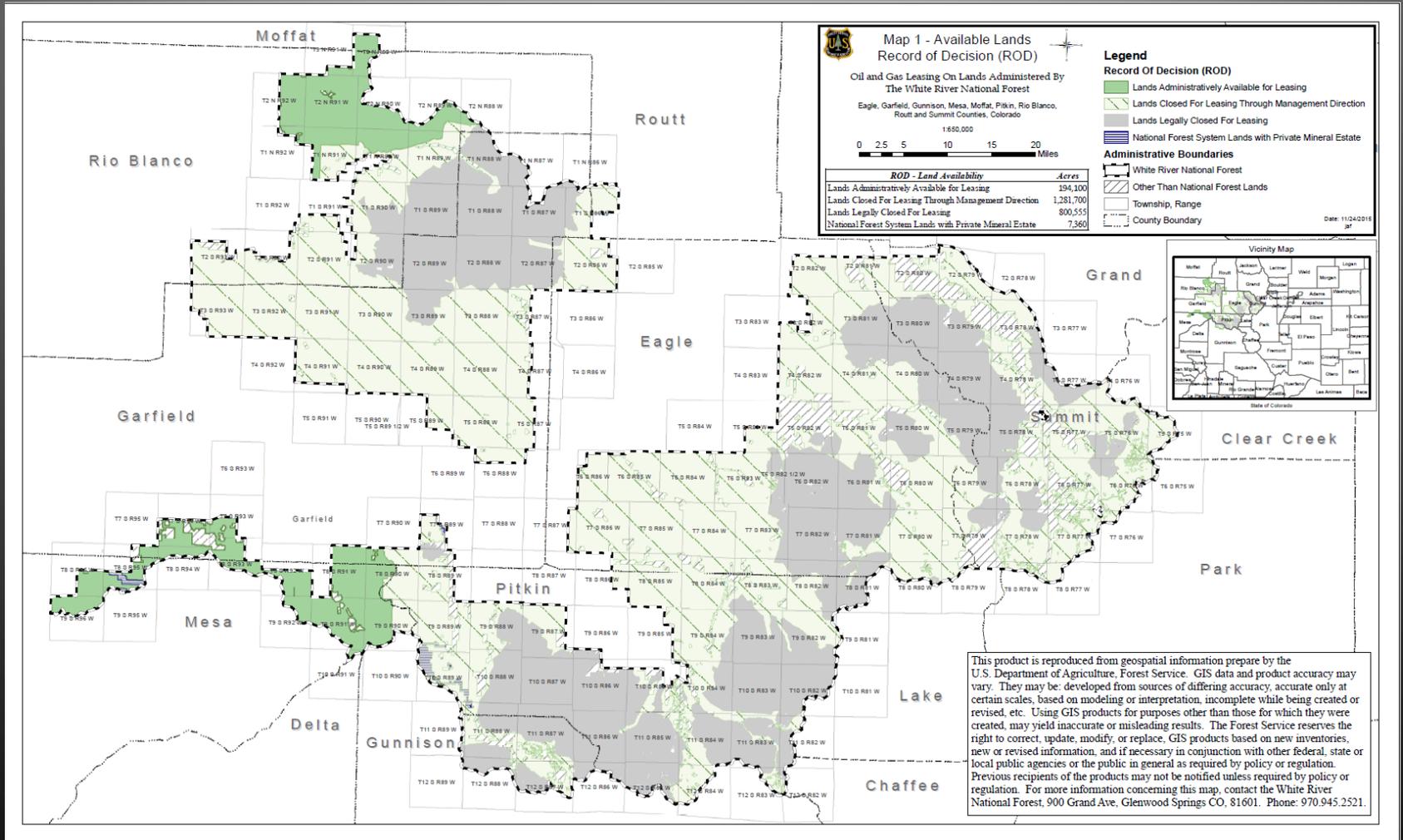
# Why is BLM conducting the EIS?

- Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing (BLM manages the leases)
- Forest Service 1993 EIS made lands available
  - Decisions carried forward in 2002 Forest Plan
  - Most leased '95-2004
- 2007 IBLA decision
  - BLM did not formally adopt Forest Service analysis or do our own (This EIS is our own analysis)

# Background: Forest Service EIS

- Separate but concurrent process looking at *future* leasing in the White River Nat'l Forest
- BLM's EIS only looks at 65 *existing* leases
- Most of White River National Forest closed to future leasing under USFS 2015 decision
- Producing and some high potential areas remain open with new steps

# Forest Service 2015 Decision: Future Leasing



# Five Alternatives in BLM Draft EIS

- Alt 1 No Action, no changes
- Alt 2, Modifies 8 existing leases to address inconsistencies
- Alt 3, Modifies stipulations on 65 leases to match a USFS EIS alternative for future leasing
- Alt 4, Cancels 18 and parts of 7 existing leases, same as Alt 3 for other 40. Mirrors USFS 2015 final decision for future leasing (Proposed Action)
- Alt 5, Cancels all 65 leases

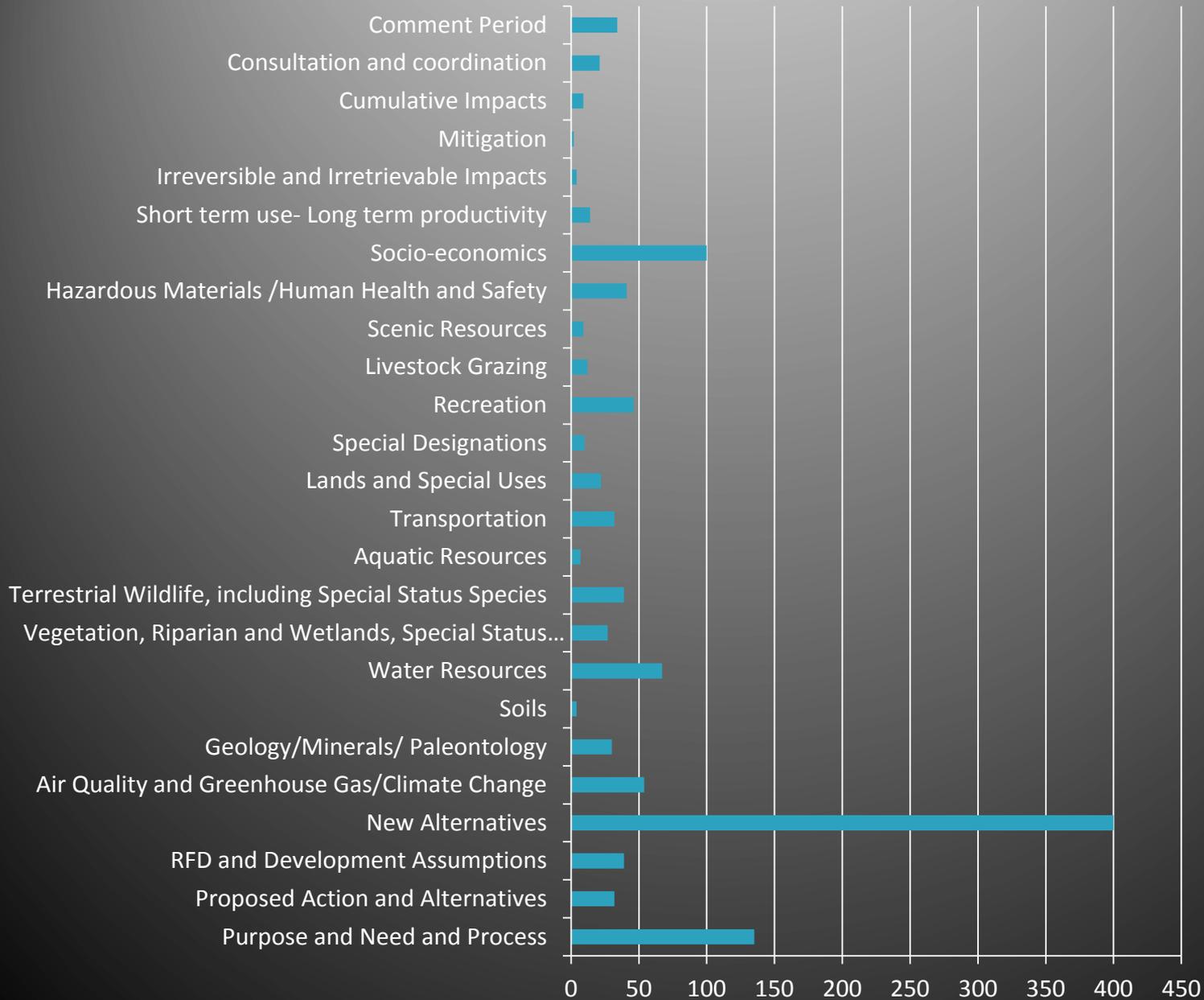
# Draft EIS

- No Preferred Alternative identified until after public comment period
- BLM emphasized that the Preferred Alternative could be any alternative or blend of alternatives within the range in the Draft EIS

# Comment Summary

Submittal Type	Count
Form Letters	59,413
Form Letter "Plus"	829
Individual	273
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,515</b>

# Comment Summary



# Final EIS: Preferred Alternative

- Blend of Alternative 4 (for undeveloped leases) and Alternative 2 (for producing leases)
  - Cancels 25 undeveloped leases that overlap area closed to future leasing by USFS (Alt 4+)
  - Modifies lease stipulations on 13 non-producing leases in to USFS 2015 decision (Alt 4)
  - Reaffirms 27 leases that are held by production (Alt 2), maintains existing stipulations (1993). Minor adjustments to three leases.



Garfield

T5 S R91 W

T5 S R90 W  
T5 S R89 1/2 W

T5 S R89 W

T5 S R88 W

T6 S R93 W

T6 S R89 W

T6 S R88 W

T7 S R95 W

T7 S R94 W

T7 S R93 W

Garfield

T7 S R90 W

T7 S R89 W

T7 S R88 W

T8 S R96 W

T8 S R95 W

T8 S R94 W

T8 S R93 W

T8 S R92 W

T8 S R91 W

T8 S R90 W

T8 S R89 W

P

T9 S R96 W

T9 S R95 W

Mesa

T9 S R92 W

T9 S R91 W

T9 S R90 W

T9 S R89 W

T9 S R88 W

Delta

T10 S R91 W

T10 S R90 W

T10 S R89 W

T10 S R88 W

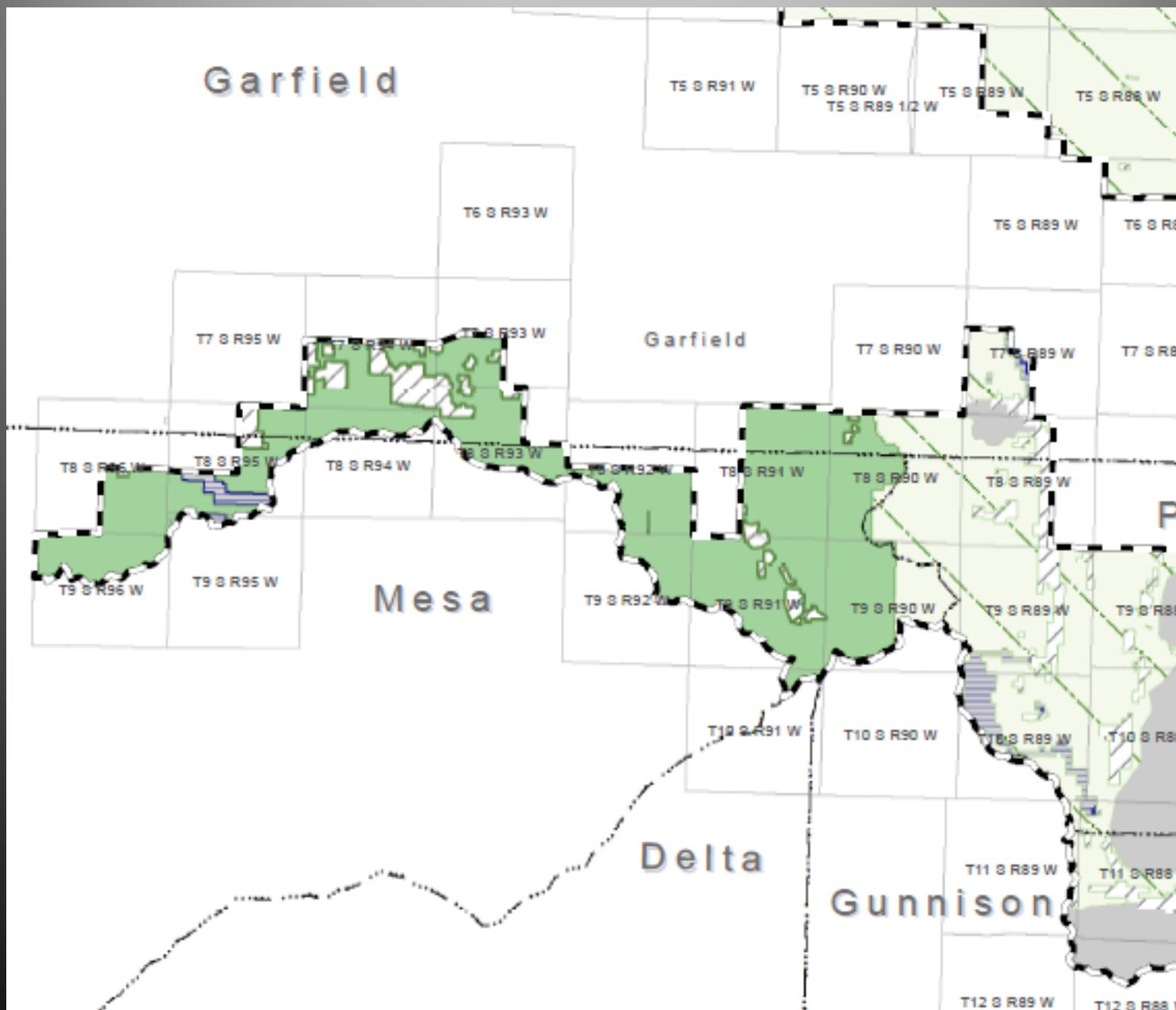
Gunnison

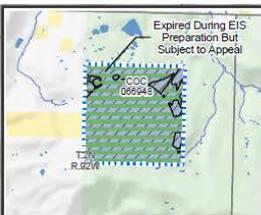
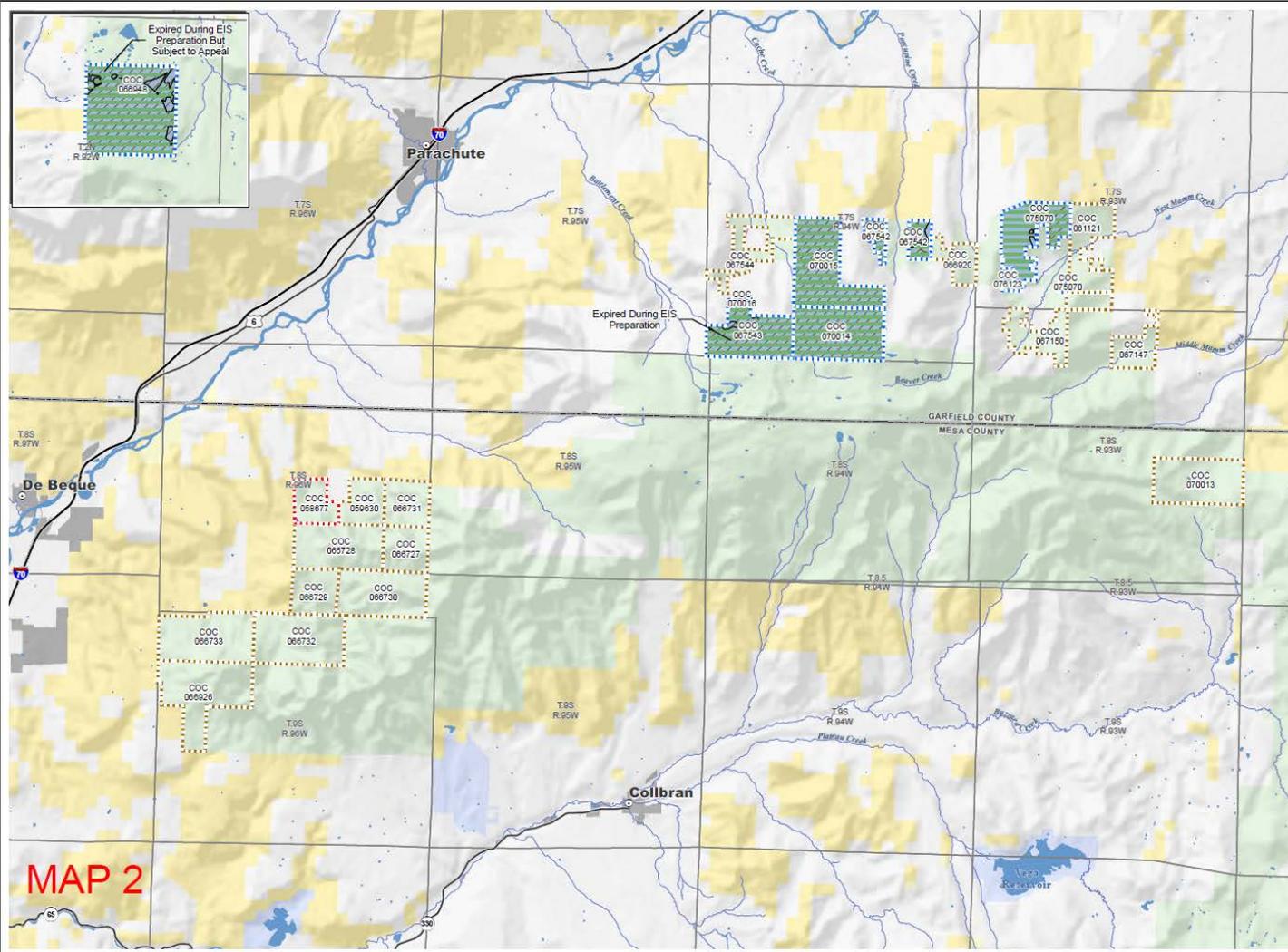
T11 S R89 W

T11 S R88 W

T12 S R89 W

T12 S R88 W



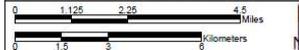


### BLM's Preferred Alternative - Agency Actions

- Legend**
- Lease Actions**
- Reaffirmed Leases with 1993 Stipulations Added
  - Leases to be Offered Modified Stipulations
  - Reaffirmed Leases
  - Leases to be Cancelled
- Added Stipulations**
- Timing Limitations
  - No Surface Occupancy
  - Controlled Surface Use
- Modified Stipulations**
- Timing Limitations
  - No Surface Occupancy
  - Controlled Surface Use
- Boundaries**
- County Boundary
  - Township/Range
  - Urban Area
- Hydrology**
- Stream/River
  - Lake/Reservoir
- Highways**
- Interstate
  - Highway
- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Local
  - Private
  - US Forest Service



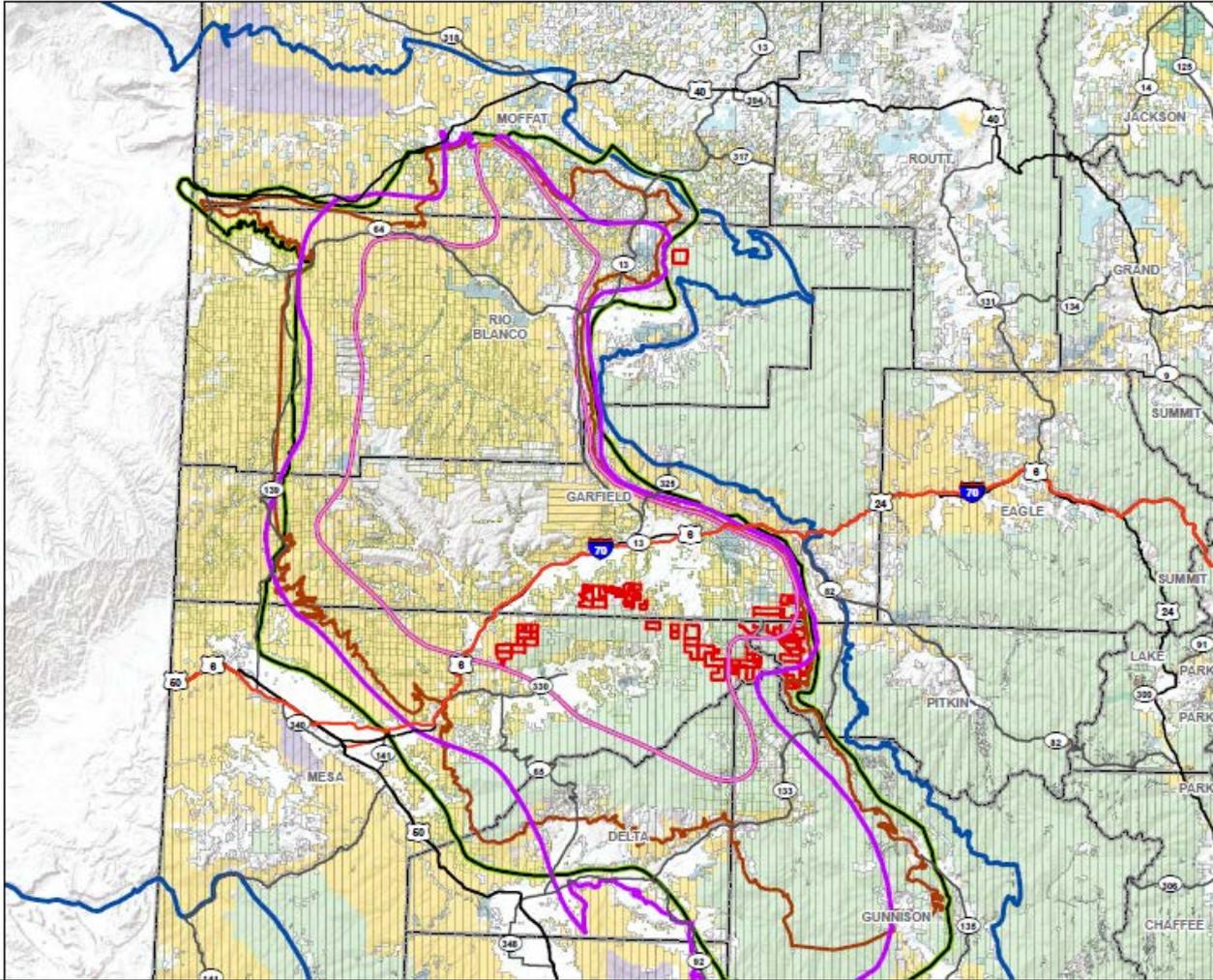
MAP 2



## BLM Preferred Alternative

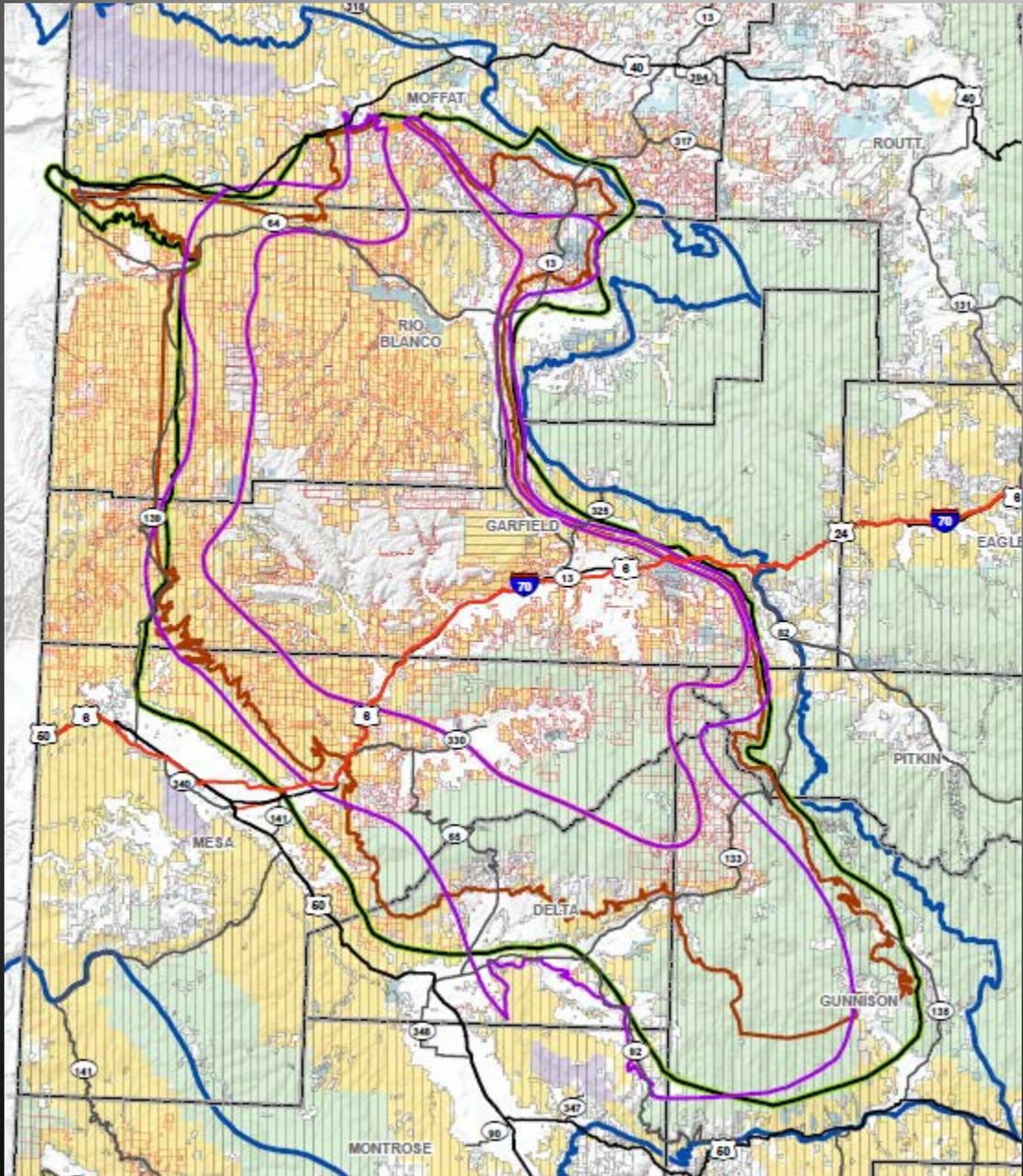
County	Lease Area (acres)	% Lease Area		
		Cancelled	Modified	Reaffirmed
Garfield	18,145	47%	33%	20%
Gunnison	116	81%	0%	19%
Mesa	38,707	10%	23%	67%
Pitkin	20,850	99%	0%	1%
Rio Blanco	2,562	0%	100%	0%
<b>Total:</b>	80,379	41%	22%	37%

Questions on 65 Leases?



# USGS Mancos Study

- Addressed in Appx E



## Mancos Study

- BLM manages 3.4 mil acres subsurface
- 47 percent leased (1.6 mil)
- About 1/3 held by production (527,000 acres)