

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

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# North Powderhorn Fuels Treatment Project

BLM CO SWD DM Briefing

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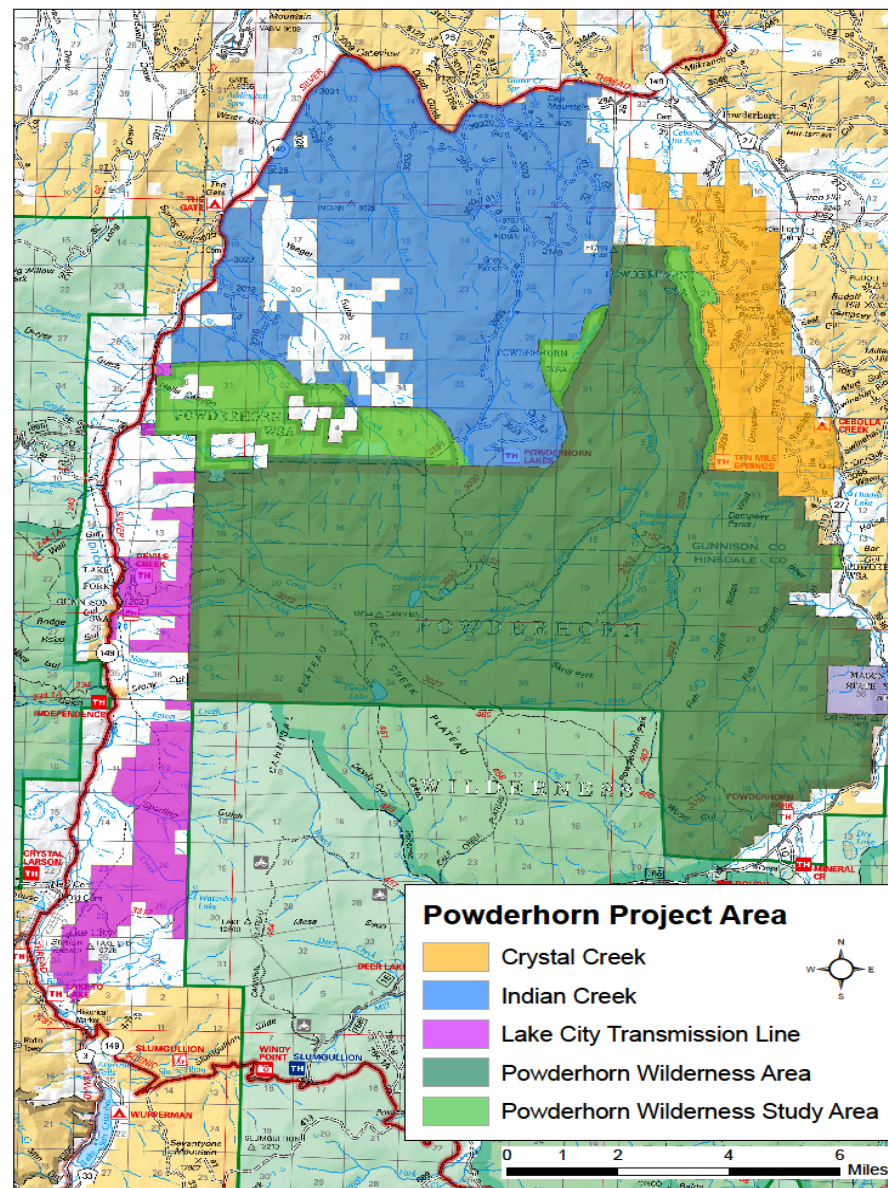
# Summary of Alternatives

## Proposed Action

Fuels Reduction Treatment within and adjacent to the Powderhorn Wilderness area and WSA

- Total Project Area: 90,725
- 36,819 Acre Project area where mechanical, timber sale, prescribed fire and manual treatments are proposed outside the wilderness
- 53,877 acres inside the Wilderness and W.S.A.. Where prescribed fire and manual treatments are proposed.

Treatment Areas	
Name	Size (Acres)
Indian Creek	23,746
Crystal Creek	7,427
Wilderness WSA	53,877
Transmission Line	5,646







# Project Objectives

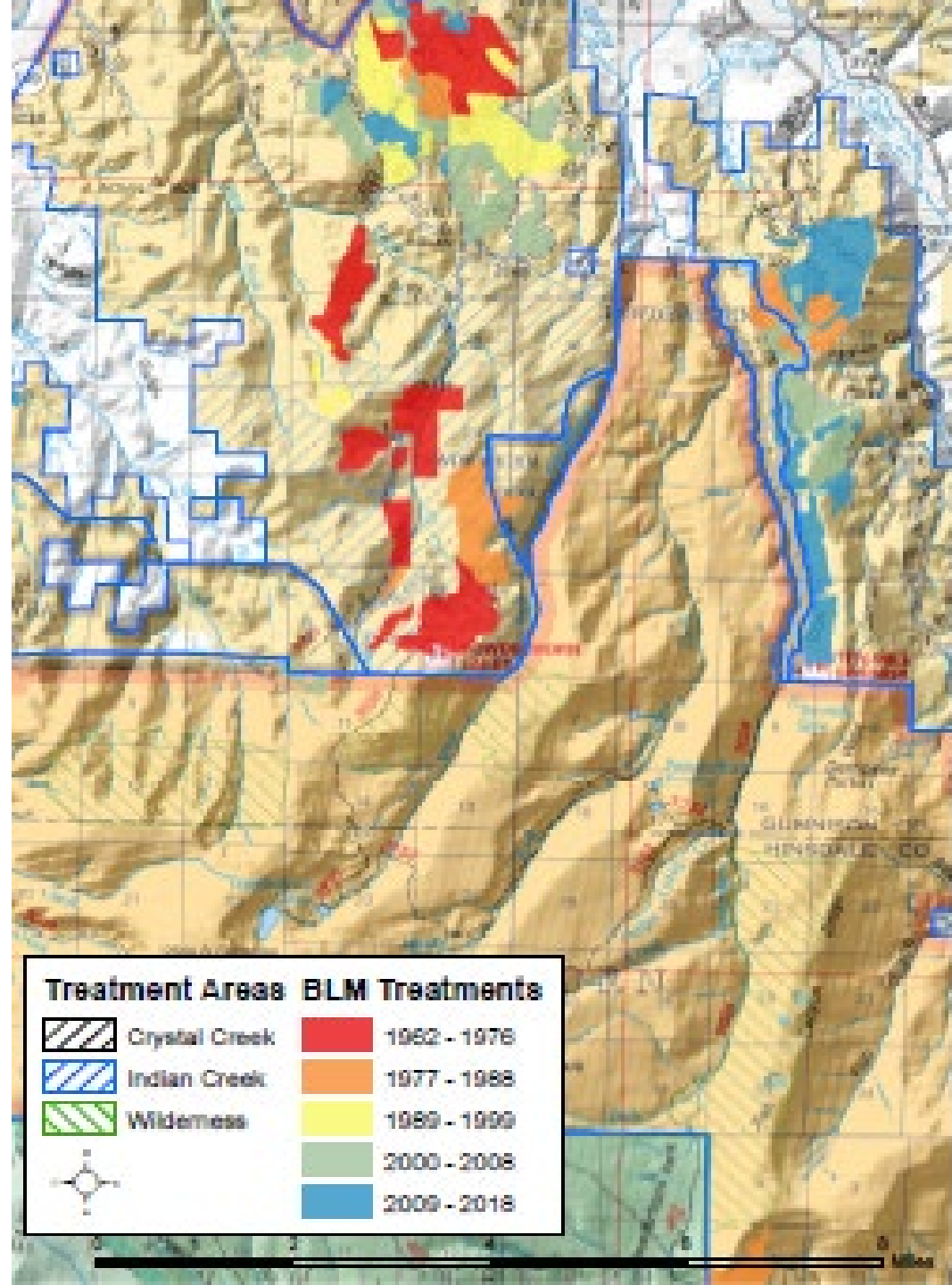
- Mimic small-scale disturbance on the landscape
- Improve timber stand resiliency against catastrophic fires



# Past Treatments

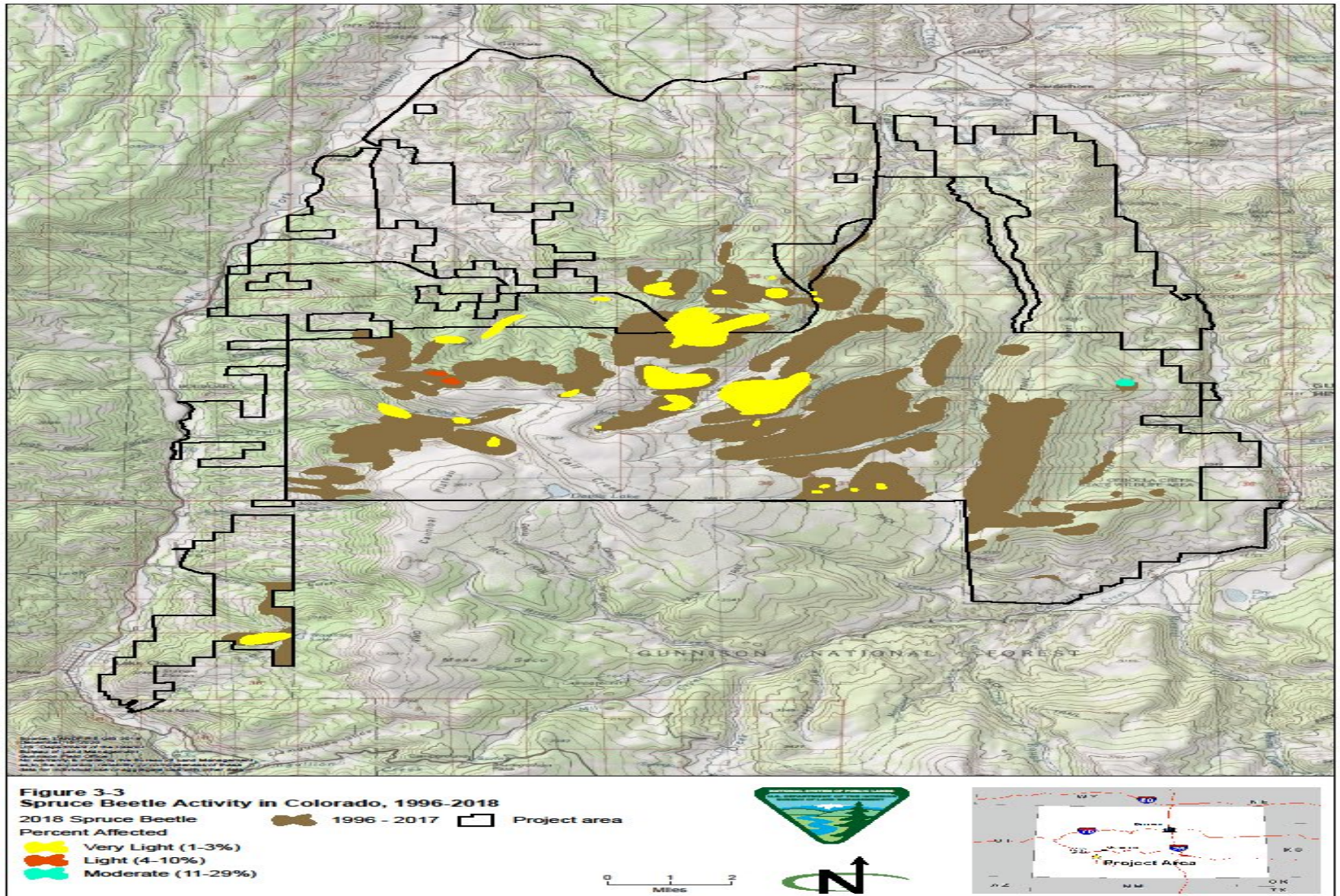
## Prior BLM Treatments:

- Thinning
- Fire
- Timber Sales
- Mastication
- Over 9,000 acres of past treatments
- Past Timber Sales Only  
Health Stands of  
Englemann Spruce





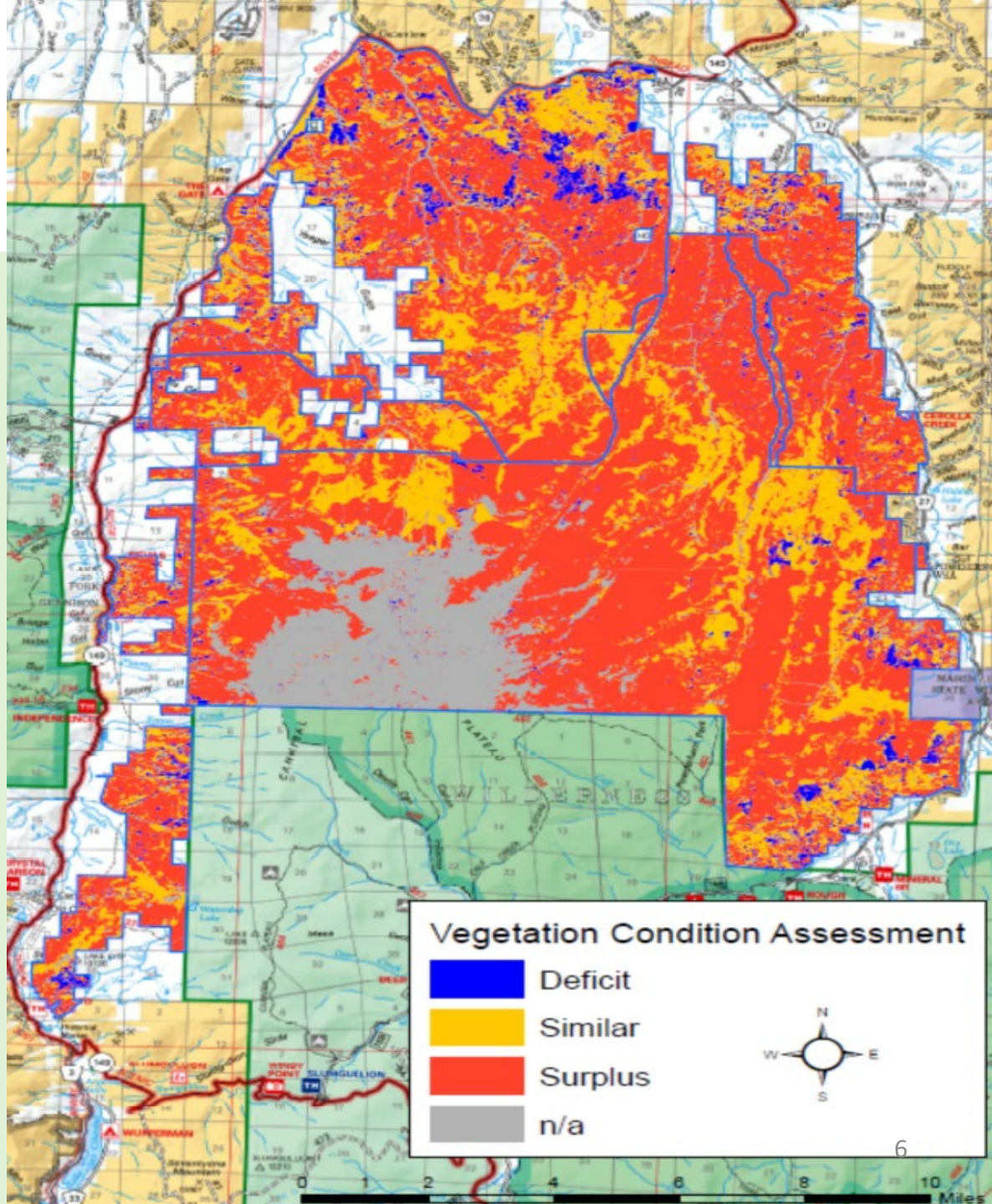
# Spruce Beetle Outbreak Map





## Vegetation Condition Assessment

- Mid- to late-successional stands & lack of early-successional stands.
- Overstocked stands
- Notable lack of regeneration.
- 57% Surplus Condition based on VCA (models departure from current to presumed historic successional class distribution).









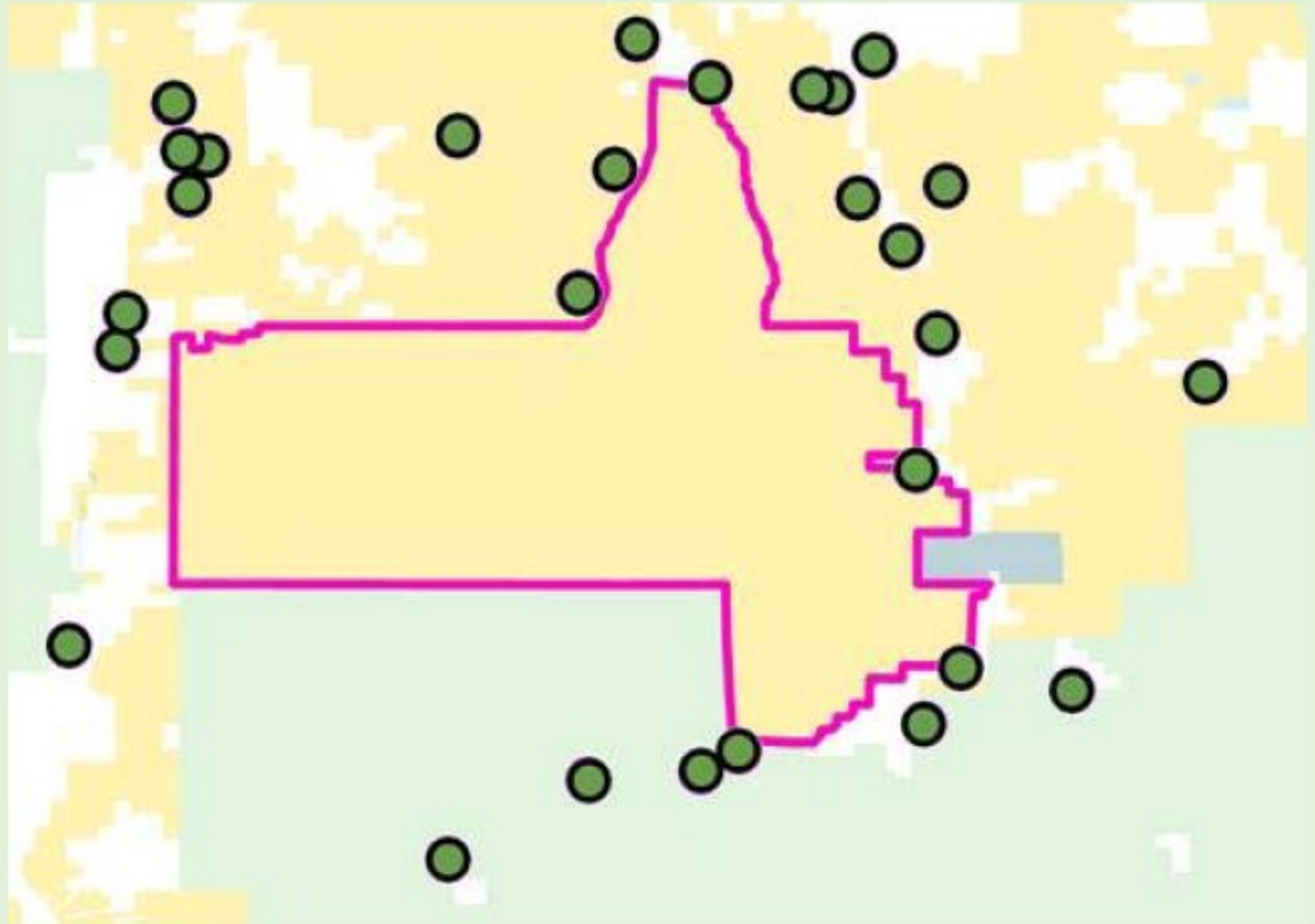


## Papoose Fire





## FIRE STARTS 2010 - 2018







# Proposed Action

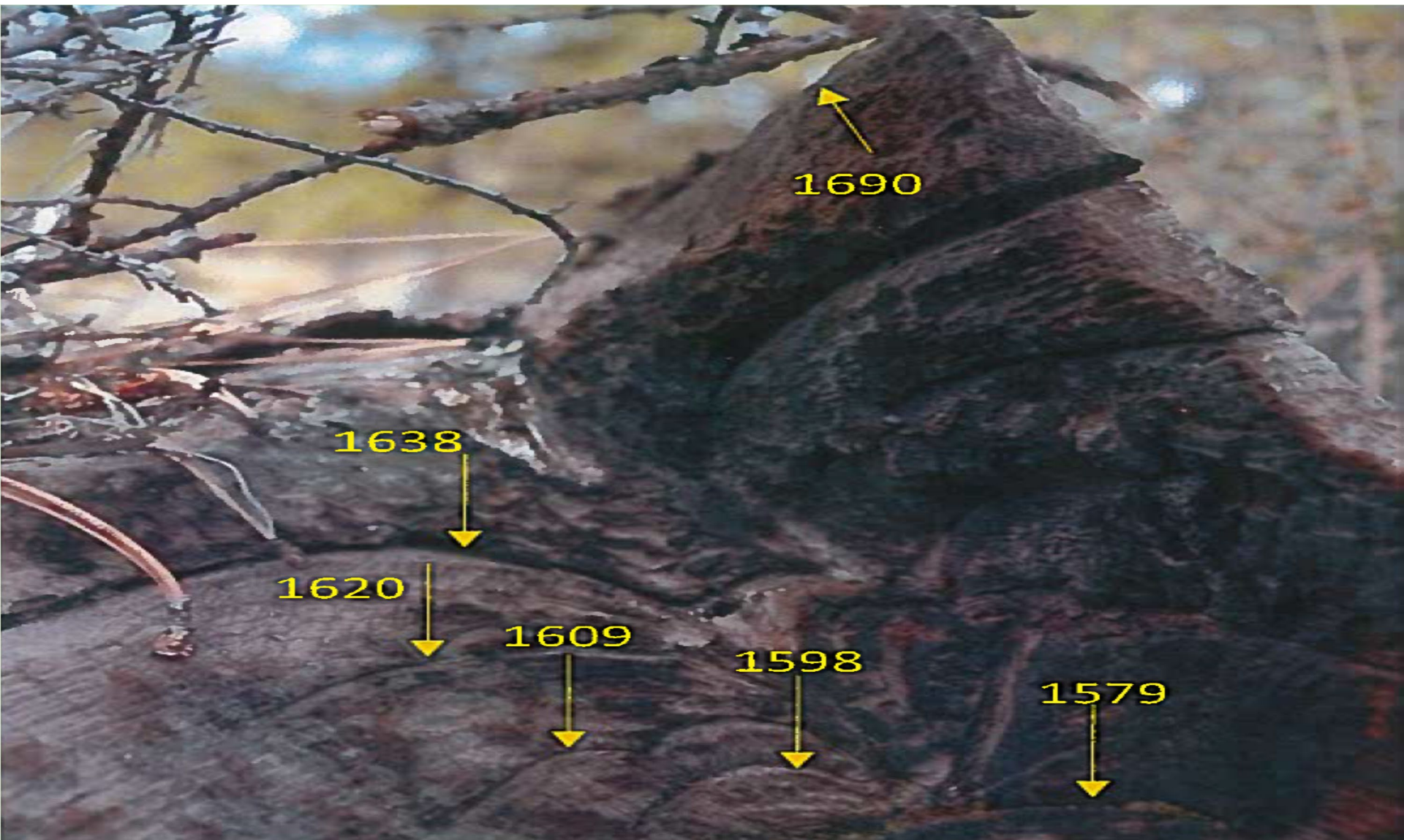
Rationale for selection of the Proposed Action as the BLM's preferred Alternative:

- Seeks to re-introduce fire to a fire adapted landscape.
- Strategic fuels reduction can improve the capacity for fire managed for resource benefits across the entire landscape.
- Enhances firefighter and public safety as well as Wilderness, recreation, wildlife and scenic values within the project area  
Meets objectives of the Gunnison Resource Area RMP (1993)





# Fire History Study







# Stakeholder Involvement

- March 4<sup>th</sup> , 2020 Lake City, Hinsdale County Commissioners Meeting
- May 15, 2020 – June 11, 2020 – Public scoping period.
  - One open house was held – June 4, 2020 in Powderhorn, CO.
- May 2020- Draft EA was released.
- June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Open house to solicit public comments in Powderhorn, CO.
- August 9<sup>th</sup> Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council



## **Stakeholder Include:**

**Gunnison  
County,  
Colorado**

**Hinsdale  
County,  
Colorado**

**Youmans**

**San Luis Valley  
Ecosystem  
Council**

**San Juan Citizen  
Alliance  
High Country  
Conservation  
Advocates  
The Wilderness  
Society  
Center for  
Biological  
Diversity  
Rocky Smith  
Ecoflight**

**Colorado Parks  
and Wildlife**

**Great Old  
Broads for  
Wilderness**

**Rocky  
Mountain Wild**

**Colorado Native  
Plant Society**

**Rocky  
Mountain  
Initiative**

**Wild  
Connections**

**Quiet Use  
Coalitions**

**Central  
Colorado  
Wilderness  
Coalition**





# Schedule

- Original Completion date was targeted January 20,2021
- ROD and FONSI is expected to be signed early 2021.





# Questions?

