

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management**  
**Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado**  
**Glade Park Maintenance Treatments**  
**CO-130-2014-0016-DNA**

**A. Purpose and Need:**

Many portions of Glade Park were historically open parks consisting of sagebrush and/or grass parks surrounded by pinon and juniper hillsides and canyons. Pinon and juniper over the years have encroached upon these parks due to fire suppression or other management activities. Efforts were made back in the 1950's through 1970's to address this encroachment including chaining, brushbeating and plowing and seeding. Forty years later, the dominant vegetation is again pinon and juniper. The presence of this tree community has several management implications. First off, the opportunity for high intensity fires is greater with the presence of the tree community. This is especially important in this area of Glade Park where there is a substantial amount of private land, some with structures and inhabitants. Another implication is that this portion of Glade Park has been identified as being historic range of the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

In 2000, the Pinon Mesa Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan was completed identifying a strategy, objectives and conservation actions needed to improve habitat for the sage grouse. The plan identified the need to treat these pinon-juniper dominated plant communities that once were sagebrush parks occupied by sage grouse. Since 2000, the DOW and BLM have treated areas to optimize the density of sagebrush and increase the grass and forb component to benefit sage grouse.

This proposed project is to retreat and maintain prior treatments in an ongoing effort to improve Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat as described in the plan. Active removal of encroaching PJ will help maintain open and healthy sagebrush shrublands that will be available for wildlife habitat. Treatment of encroaching PJ will also help to reduce fuel loading within these sagebrush ecosystems and reduce the chance of uncharacteristically severe and/or frequent wildfires.

**B. Proposed Action:**

The proposed action is to mechanically retreat and maintain approximately 2,560 acres within the previous hydro-axe and rollerchop projects areas which are experiencing new PJ regrowth. Hand crews with chainsaws would be used to remove the encroaching PJ. In closed canopy stands the resulting material will be piled and burned at a later date. In open and less dense areas, vegetation will be lopped and scattered. No mechanized machinery will be used during implementation; therefore impacts will be minimal to none. This project encompasses only areas where prior NEPA and Cultural Inventories have been completed. Additional consultation and research has also been completed by the Cultural staff to insure that project areas were designed to avoid any significant historic properties.

The primary objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) Decrease the fuel load of the area which is adjacent to inhabited private lands. Conversion of the area from a pinon/juniper vegetation type to a sagebrush/grass community will reduce the intensity of wildfires if they occur thus reducing the threat to private dwellings in the area.

2) Improve habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Eliminating pinon and juniper trees from the treatment area will encourage a sagebrush/grass vegetative community which is desired habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Removing these tree species within sagebrush parks eliminates roosts for raptors which prey upon the sage grouse.

3) Improve the overall vegetative diversity of the area. The treatment areas were once a sagebrush/grass plant community but due to fire suppression and other management activities have converted to pinon and juniper communities as is the case with many areas on Glade Park.

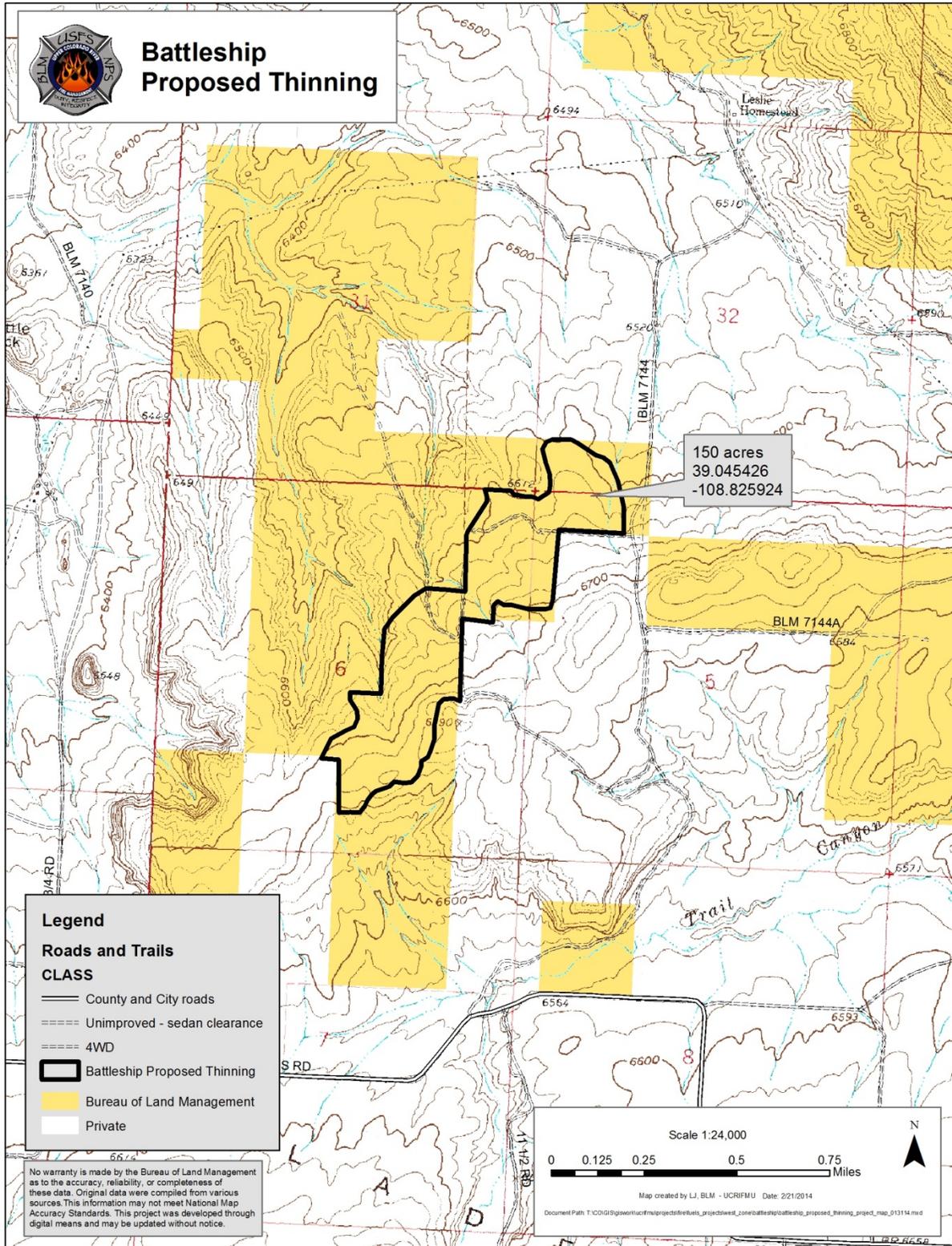
The Project Area's for the Proposed Action are all located on Glade Park at an elevations ranging from approximately 6,800 feet to 7,500 feet.

More specifically the Project Area for Battleship is located in Township (T) 12 South (S), Range (R) 103 West (W), Section's 5, 6, and 32. Clark Wash is Township (T) 12 South (S), Range (R) 102 West (W), Section's 27, and 34. Little Dolores is Township (T) 12 South (S), Range 103 West (W), Section's 19, 20, 29 and 30. Thompson is Township (T) 14 South (S), Range (R) 100 West (W), Section's 4, 5, 7 and 8. Timber Ridge is Township (T) 13 South (S), Range (R) 102 West (W), Section's 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, and 32. Toms Canyon is Township (T) 12 South (S), Range (R) 103 West (W), Section's 6, 25, 30, 31, and 32.

The shapefiles for the Proposed Action is located at:

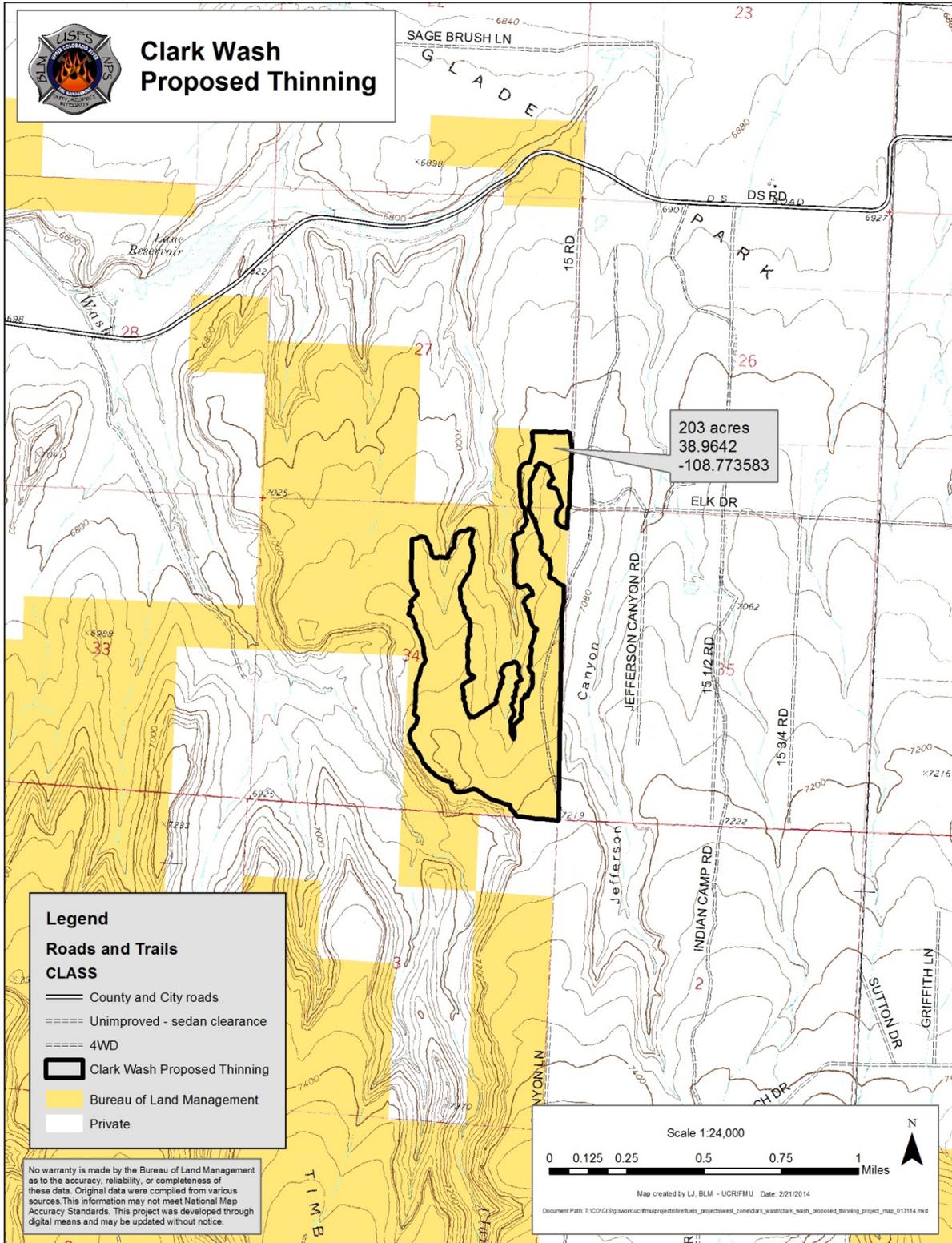
T:\giswork\project\fire\fuels\_reduction\west\_zone\**Project Name**

Figure 1. Map of project areas.





# Clark Wash Proposed Thinning



203 acres  
38.9642  
-108.773583

**Legend**

**Roads and Trails**

**CLASS**

- ==== County and City roads
- ==== Unimproved - sedan clearance
- ==== 4WD
- █ Clark Wash Proposed Thinning
- █ Bureau of Land Management
- █ Private

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

Scale 1:24,000

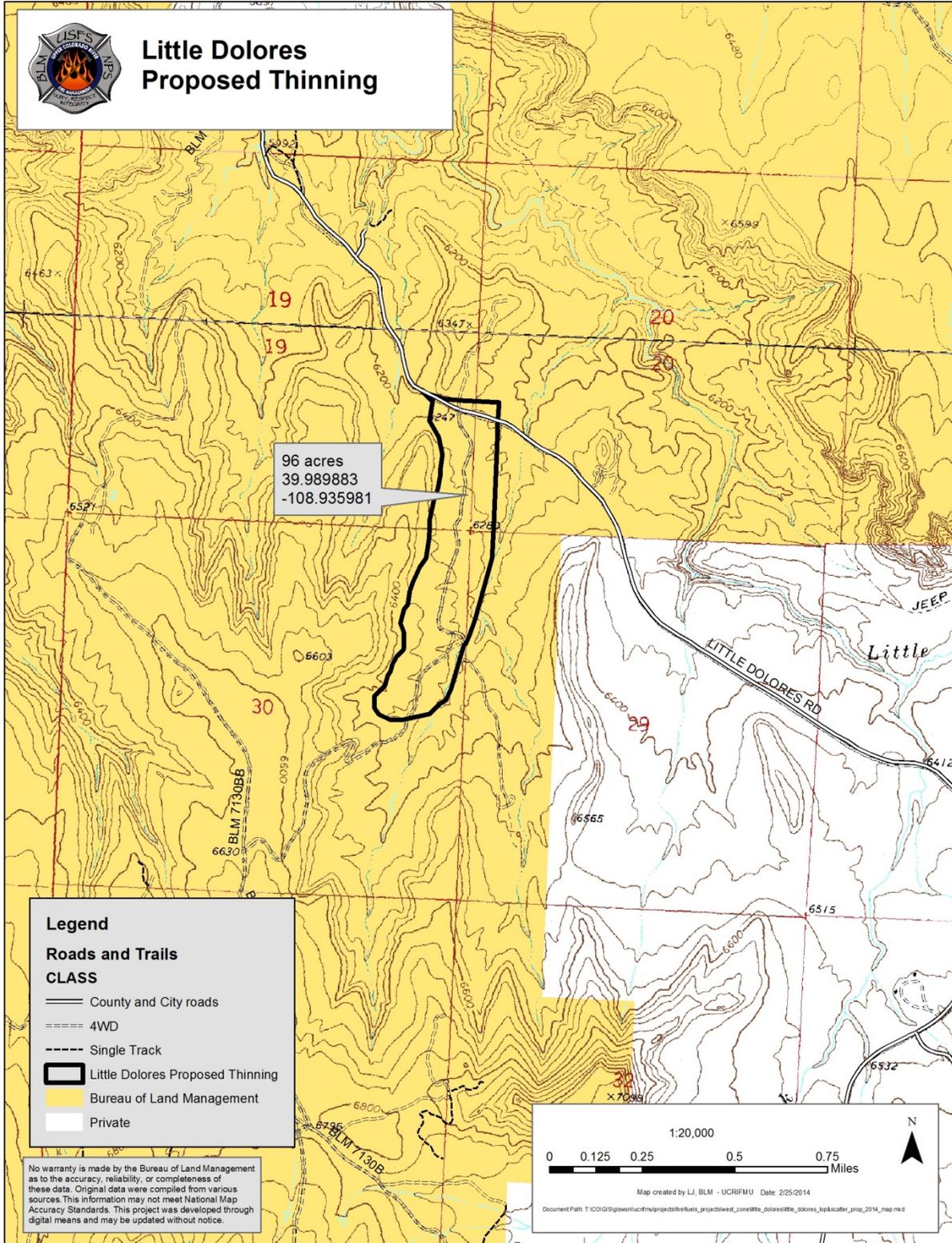
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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# Little Dolores Proposed Thinning



96 acres  
39.989883  
-108.935981

**Legend**

**Roads and Trails**

**CLASS**

- County and City roads
- 4WD
- Single Track
- Little Dolores Proposed Thinning
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

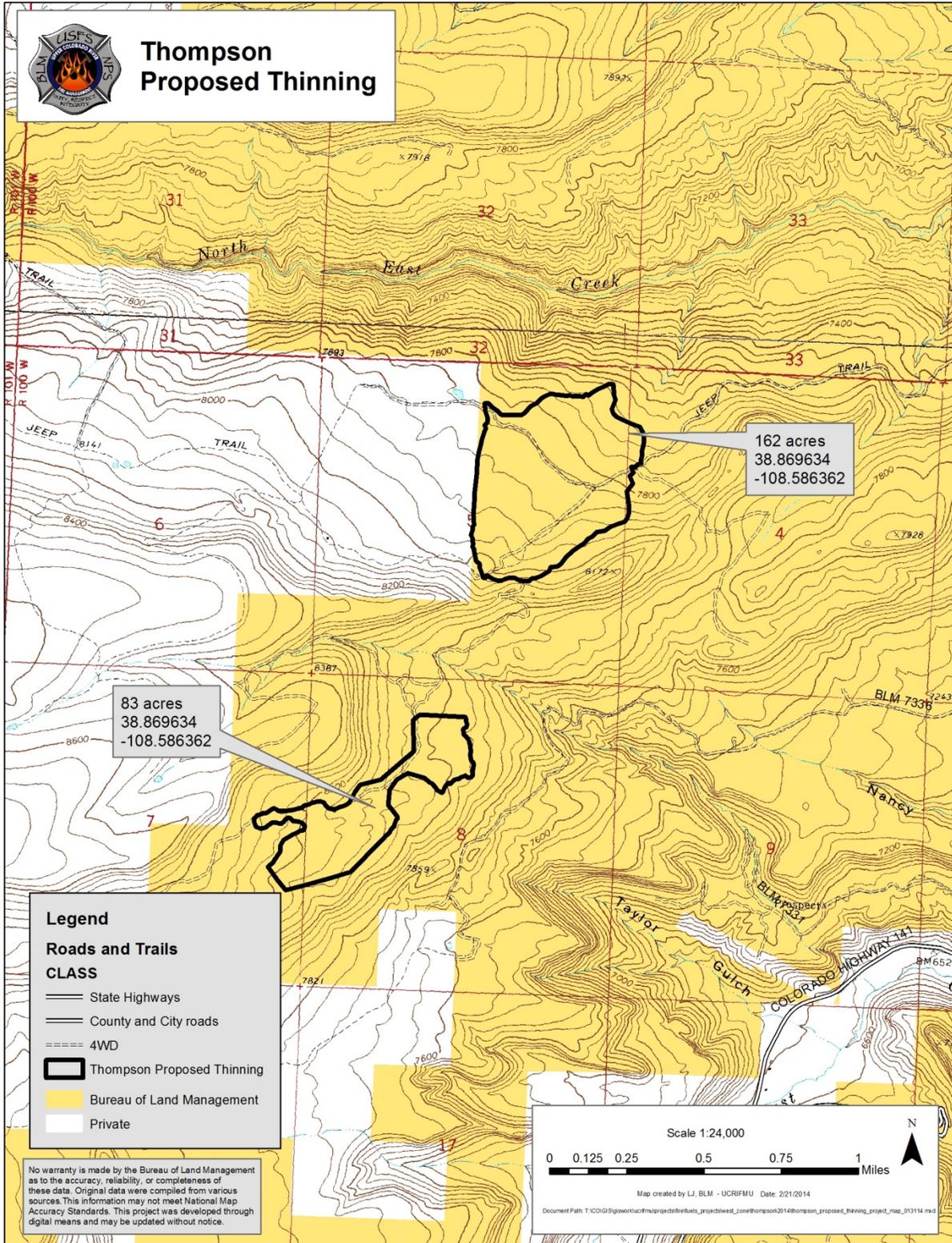
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# Thompson Proposed Thinning



83 acres  
38.869634  
-108.586362

162 acres  
38.869634  
-108.586362

**Legend**

**Roads and Trails**

**CLASS**

- State Highways
- County and City roads
- ==== 4WD
- ▭ Thompson Proposed Thinning
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Private

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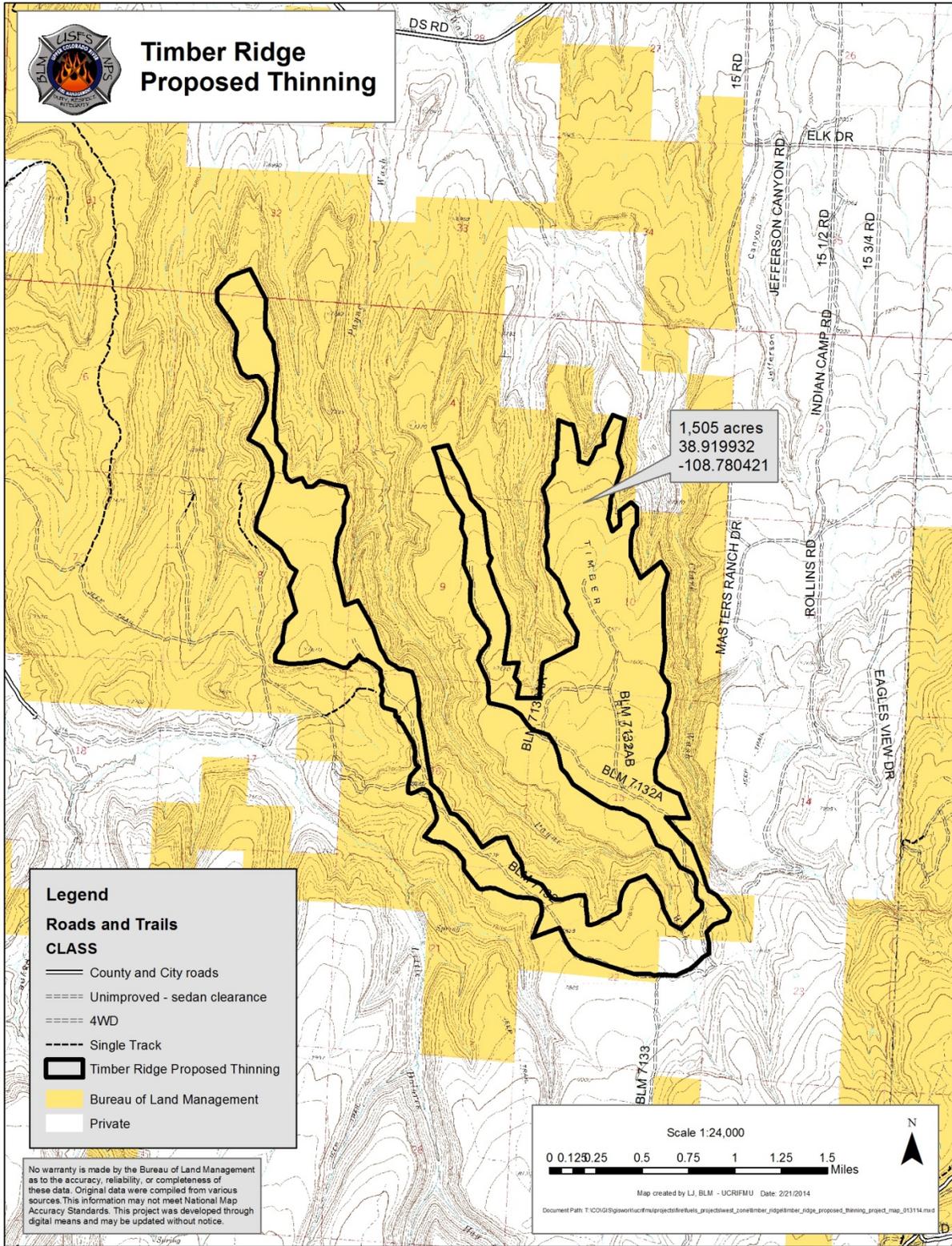
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Map created by L.J. BLM - UCRI/FMU Date: 2/21/2014

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# Timber Ridge Proposed Thinning



1,505 acres  
38.919932  
-108.780421

**Legend**

**Roads and Trails**

**CLASS**

- ==== County and City roads
- ==== Unimproved - sedan clearance
- ==== 4WD
- Single Track
- ▭ Timber Ridge Proposed Thinning
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Private

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Scale 1:24,000

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 Miles

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# Toms Canyon Proposed Thinning

357 acres  
38.974709  
-108.946176

**Legend**

**Roads and Trails**

**CLASS**

- County and City roads
- Unimproved - sedan clearance
- 4WD
- Single Track
- Toms Canyon Proposed Cultural
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

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Scale 1:24,000

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 Miles

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### **C. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Date Approved: January 1987

Decision Number/Page: Chapter 2, Page 42, Paragraph 1; WM-5-2-14, and FM-4-2-32

Decision Language: Under all alternatives, habitat of the major wildlife species would be actively managed using standard management practices; Wildlife Management: Actively manage the areas shown on Map 10 and listed in Table 11 placing management emphasis on the key species shown, and Fire Management: Assign levels to areas based upon protection of resource values present, and manage or suppress fires as prescribed by the assigned levels.

### **D. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Name of Document: Timber Ridge EA (CO-130-2002-014-EA).

Date Approved: March 3, 2002

Name of Document: Clarks Bench EA (CO-130-2002-046-EA).

Date Approved: August 16, 2002

Name of Document: A.2 Road and Maiden Creek EA (CO-130-2003-051-EA).

Date Approved: March 8, 2004

Name of Document: Glade Park Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Scattered Parcels, CO-130-2005-045-EA

Date Approved: August 23, 2005

Name of Document: Miller Canyon Fuels Reduction (CO-130-2006-058- DNA).

Date Approved: June 23, 2006

Name of Document: East Glade Park (CO-130-2007-003-EA).

Date Approved: April 22, 2008

## E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the current proposed action largely the same action (or a part of the same action) that was previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?** The current proposed action will use the same type of mechanical treatments that were analyzed in the Glade Park Wildland Urban Interface Scattered Parcels EA as well as the other five NEPA documents. The proposed action falls within the boundary of the area analyzed in those EA's.
- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?** The proposed action areas have the same environmental concerns, interests, and resource values as the areas analyzed in the existing NEPA documents. The proposed action falls within the range of alternatives provided in the original NEPA documents.
- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?** Yes. No circumstances or information has changed that would result in impacts that were not analyzed in the existing EA's. Recent data has shown that reintroduced Gunnison sage-grouse are moving around across the landscape and the proposed action would be likely to improve Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in the area, creating more areas that the birds could disperse to.
- 4. Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** Yes. The area is within the analysis area for the referenced EA's and the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing EA's would be the same if a new EA was written.
- 5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?** Yes. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are the same as those identified in the existing NEPA documents, because the proposed action is the same as the action in the preferred alternative of the referenced EA's and the resources and resource concerns are the same.
- 6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?** Yes. This action combined with the actions analyzed in the existing EA's would contribute to hazardous fuels reduction and landscape-scale improvements to Gunnison sage-grouse habitat. Cumulative impacts in the area are limited and would remain the same as those analyzed in the referenced EA's.
- 7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** This proposed action is consistent with the actions of the existing EA's, in which scoping and a public meeting was held. Annual meetings continue to be held with interested parties in the Glade Park area to discuss progress and the results of vegetative treatments.

**F. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist/Special Status Species (plants)
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist/ Special Status Species (fish and wildlife)
Wayne Werkmeister	Hydrologist (Soils, Water Quality, Air)
Wayne Werkmeister	Wetlands/Riparian Zones

**REMARKS:**

**Cultural Resources:**

A records search of the general project area, and various Class III field inventories have covered the Area of Potential Effect, as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). All inventories were conducted by Colorado BLM permitted cultural resource contracting firms (references GJFO Cultural Resource Inventory Reports: 1079-21, 1080-14, 1081-39, 1083-21, 1093-29, 1101-16, 1102-12, 1103-04, 1108-01, 1196-04, 14504-02, 14505-11, 17307-01, 2082-23, and 8204-01). Thirty-five prehistoric cultural resource sites (5ME4355, 5ME14352, 5ME14356, 5ME12741, 5ME12743, 5ME12747, 5ME12749, 5ME12750, 5ME12752, 5ME12753, 5ME12754, 5ME12755, 5ME12756, 5ME12760, 5ME12761, 5ME12762, 5ME12763, 5ME12764, 5ME12768, 5ME13075, 5ME13076, 5ME13077, 5ME13078, 5ME13079, 5ME12736, 5ME12737, 5ME12738, 5ME12739, 5ME12740, 5ME13657, 5ME1644, 5ME14361, 5ME14362, 5ME14370, 5ME14383) consisting of open lithic and open camp sites were present in the project area and all had been determined via previous consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties recommended as eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places have been excluded from the project boundaries. The project inventories and evaluation are in compliance with the NHPA, the Colorado State Protocol Agreement, and other federal law, regulation, policy, and guidelines regarding cultural resources.

**Native American Religious Concerns:**

American Indian religious concerns are legislatively considered under several acts and Executive Orders, namely the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (PL 95-341), the Native American Graves Environmental Assessment Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (PL 101-601), and Executive Order 13007 (1996; Indian Sacred Sites). In summary, these require, in concert with other provisions such as those found in the NHPA and ARPA, that the federal government carefully and proactively take into consideration traditional and religious Native American culture and life and ensure, to the degree possible, that access to sacred sites, the treatment of human remains, the possession of sacred items, the conduct of traditional religious practices, and the preservation of important cultural properties are considered and not unduly infringed upon. In some cases, these concerns are directly related to “historic properties” and “archaeological resources”. In some cases elements of the landscape without archaeological or other human material remains may be involved. Identification of these concerns is normally completed during the land use planning efforts, reference to existing studies, or via direct consultation. General annual project consultation has been

conducted with tribes who traditionally used the GJFO area, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation. Concerns identified included eradication of sage, impacts to medicinal plants, and general modern intervention in the natural processes. The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that they have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. No traditional cultural properties, natural resources, or properties of a type previously identified as being of interest to local tribes, were found during the cultural resources inventories of the project area or identified by consultation. There is no other known evidence that suggests that the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

**Special Status Species:** OK, ANL

**Wildlife:** OK, HJP

**Water quality/ Hydrology/Soils:** OK, WSW

**Wetlands/Riparian Zones:** OK, WSW

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE:

Conclusion

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

  
Grand Junction Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 3-12-14

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

The following mitigation measures are also part of the Proposed Action:

1. Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments) that may exist in this project area.
2. Areas to be avoided by equipment to protect other resource values would be flagged prior to project implementation. In areas with significant cultural resources, project boundaries will be designed as to avoid such areas.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds equipment would be cleaned through established procedures as part of the Statement of Work.
4. Fueling and maintenance activities should not be conducted within 100 feet of any drainage or watercourse. All spills of fuel and lubricants should be reported to the BLM and should be cleaned up promptly. Fueling of machinery and storage of fuel would be accomplished through established BLM procedures.
5. Determine boundaries of the treatment areas near private lands prior to fuel reduction to avoid treatment of private lands.
6. Existing roads and trails would be used by agency personnel to eliminate development of new routes and trails. When driving off roads, personnel would avoid repeatedly driving back and forth via the same route.
7. Schedule project work outside of the dates May 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>, which would comply with measures to protect species identified by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

8. Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Wildlife to best determine timing and operation procedures to limit any possible wildlife winter range issues.
9. All road, telephone, and power line rights-of-way's and facilities will be located and flagged prior to commencement of the project to assure that no damage will occur.
10. Heavy equipment use will not occur when soils are saturated to a depth of three inches or more. All drainage courses will be protected from any impacts associated with operation of heavy equipment (e.g. bank shearing, de-stabilization of existing drainage patterns, etc...). In these areas closest to drainages, alternative methods for treating vegetation (e.g. hand crews) will be used.