DESCRIPTION: The public gained access to the Emerald Mountain parcel west of Steamboat Springs in February, 2007 after the Bureau of Land Management formally closed on a land exchange that brings the parcel under its management.

"We've been working towards this for a number of years," said John Husband, Field Manager of the BLM Little Snake Field Office in Craig, which will manage the parcel. "Emerald Mountain is now public land that will be enjoyed for generations to come."

For now, public access on Emerald Mountain will be limited to day-use, foot travel only, and all dogs must be leashed. These provisions will remain in place to protect the area's resource values in the interim until a detailed recreation plan for the area is completed.

The recreation plan will be developed within several months in cooperation with the Emerald Mountain Partnership, City of Steamboat Springs and other partners. BLM will manage Emerald Mountain as a Special Recreation Management Area with two zones, each targeting different non-motorized recreation opportunities. One zone will emphasize strenuous outdoor activities including mountain biking and cross-country skiing. The other zone will emphasize wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting.

The BLM acquired the Emerald Mountain parcel from the Colorado State Land Board, which had slated the property for sale to generate revenue for public schools. The majority of BLM parcels exchanged had no public access. Through a multi-party exchange facilitated by the Western Land Group, the BLM parcels will be sold to private landowners and the revenue will go to the State Land Board to benefit public schools.

The BLM lands exchanged will primarily be sold to the livestock permittees in the area and will continue to be grazed. Grazing will also continue at Emerald Mountain.

ACCESS: From the Steamboat Springs side (northwest) foot access is provided across City of Steamboat Springs trails and easements. The only road access is along Cow Creek Road (Routt County 45) on the west. This rough dirt road is not plowed in winter.

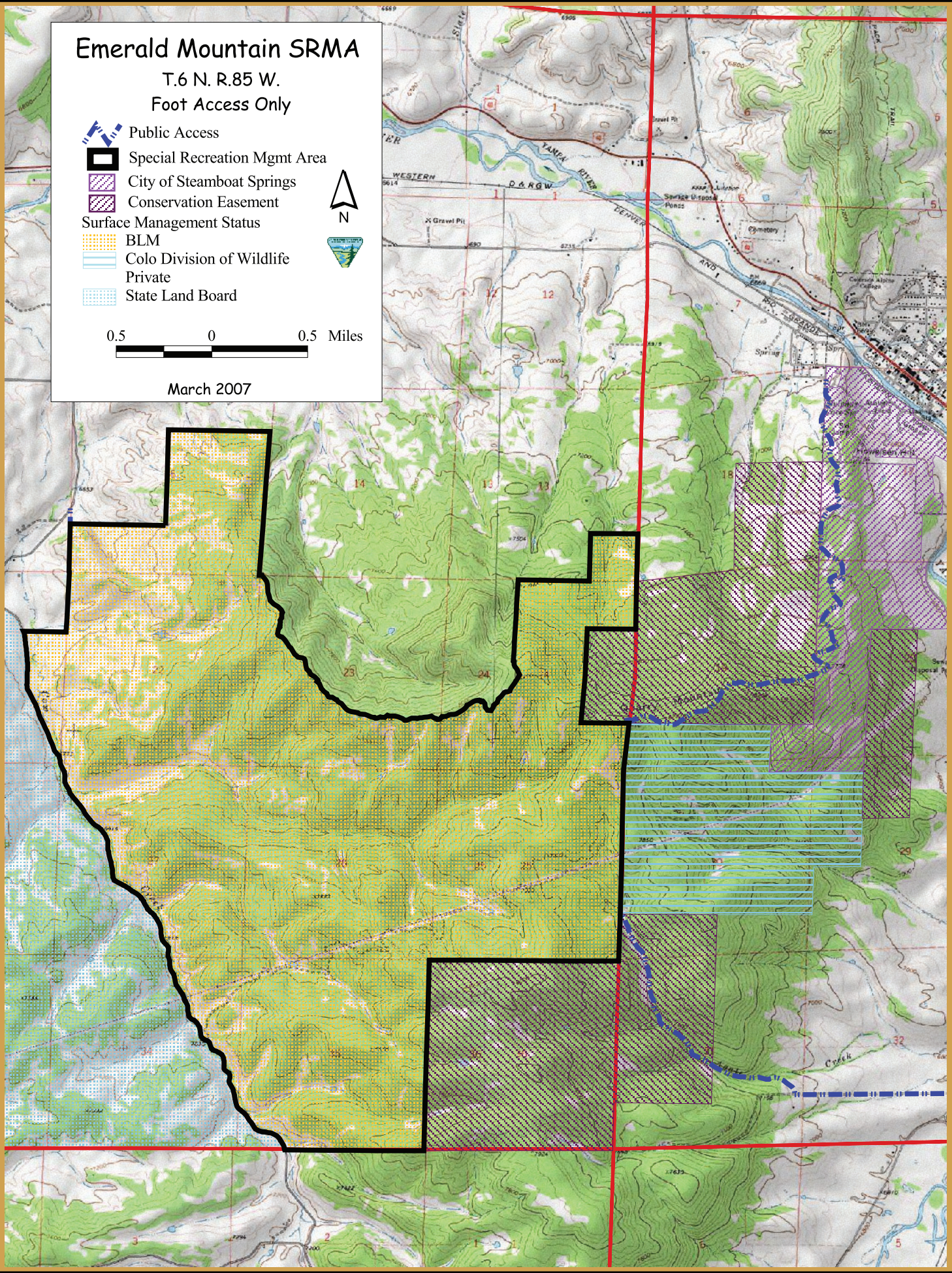
MAPS: BLM Steamboat Springs Color Quad (scale = 1:100,000). USGS Topographic Maps (scale = 1:24,000) Cow Creek and Steamboat Springs, are available from USGS, Branch of Distribution (map sales), P. 0. Box 25286, Building 41, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, phone (303) 236-7477.

Emerald Mountain

Special Recreation Management Area

4,139 acres

For more information contact the BLM Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado 81625, phone (970) 826-5000
http://www.co.blm.gov/lsra/lsraindex.htm


Emerald Mountain SRMA
T.6 N. R.85 W.
Foot Access Only
Public Access
Special Recreation Mgmt Area
City of Steamboat Springs
Conservation Easement
Surface Management Status
BLM
Colo Division of Wildlife
Private
State Land Board
N
0.5
0
0.5
Miles
March 2007