BLM

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

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Transfer of Grazing Lease for Thompson Arroyo, Patterson Hollow, Daisy Canyon, and Lyons Allotments

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
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DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2015-0037 DNA

Prepared by
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Bureau of Land Management
Canon City, CO

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Table of Contents

1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) 1

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List of Figures

Figure 1.1. Overview Map Thompson Arroyo 2
Figure 1.2. Project Map Thompson Arroyo 3
Figure 1.3. Overview Map Patterson Hollow 4
Figure 1.4. Project Map Patterson Hollow 5
Figure 1.5. Overview Map Daisy Canyon 6
Figure 1.6. Project Map Daisy Canyon 7
Figure 1.7. Overview Map Lyons 8
Figure 1.8. Project Map Lyons 9

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Chapter 1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

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

OFFICE: RGFO LLCOF02000

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2015-0037 DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range – Grazing Lease Transfer and Renewal for Thompson Arroyo #05823, Patterson Hollow #05919, Daisy Canyon #05905, and Lyons #16002 grazing allotments.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Thompson arroyo T.24S., R.53W., Sec. 18, T.24S., R.54W., Sec. 26, 35, Public Acres: 1114; Patterson Hollow T.24S., R.57W., Sec. 18, T.24S., R.58W., Sec. 24, Public Acres: 322; Daisy Canyon T.31S., R.65W., Sec. 6, Public Acres: 176; Lyons T.3N., R.71W., Sec. 40, Public Acres: 54.

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The transfer of grazing preference is conducted under Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 D (1). For NEPA analysis for permit issuance see part C below.

The proposed action is to transfer the authorization to graze livestock on public lands included in the Thompson Arroyo, Patterson Hollow, Daisy Canyon, and Lyons Allotments. The new leases/permits will expire after ten years. **Grazing use on the allotments will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates and times; authorized levels of use; or terms and conditions.**

The new leases/permits will expire in ten years (2/28/2025).

The allotments have undergone internal interdisciplinary team review through Public Land Health Assessments conducted 2007–2008. The allotments are currently meeting public land health standards.

As per CFR 4130.3-3 the authorized officer may modify the grazing schedule, terms and conditions of the permits at any time during the term when the active use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan or other activity plan, or management objectives.

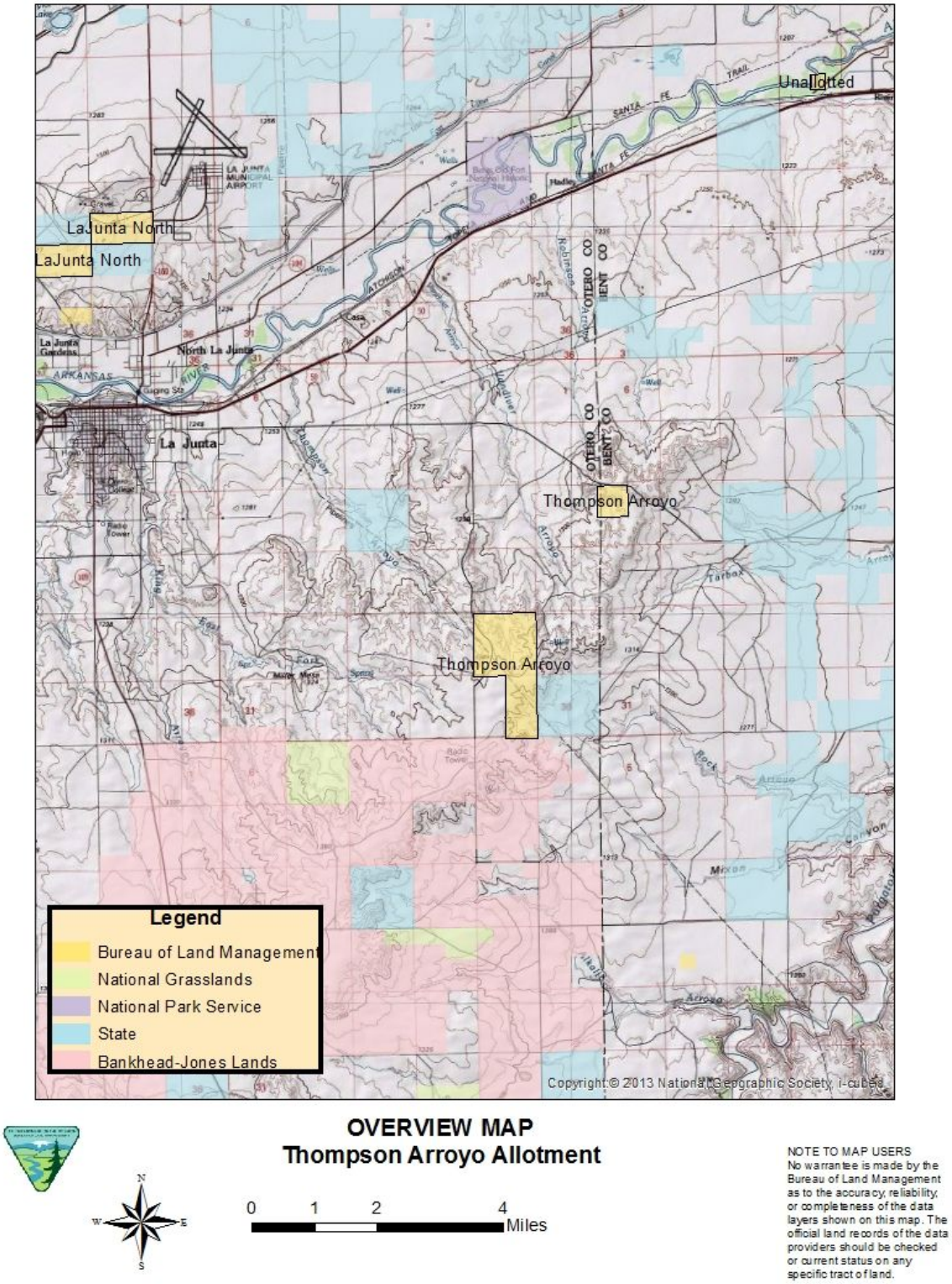

Figure 1.1. Overview Map Thompson Arroyo

Chapter 1 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

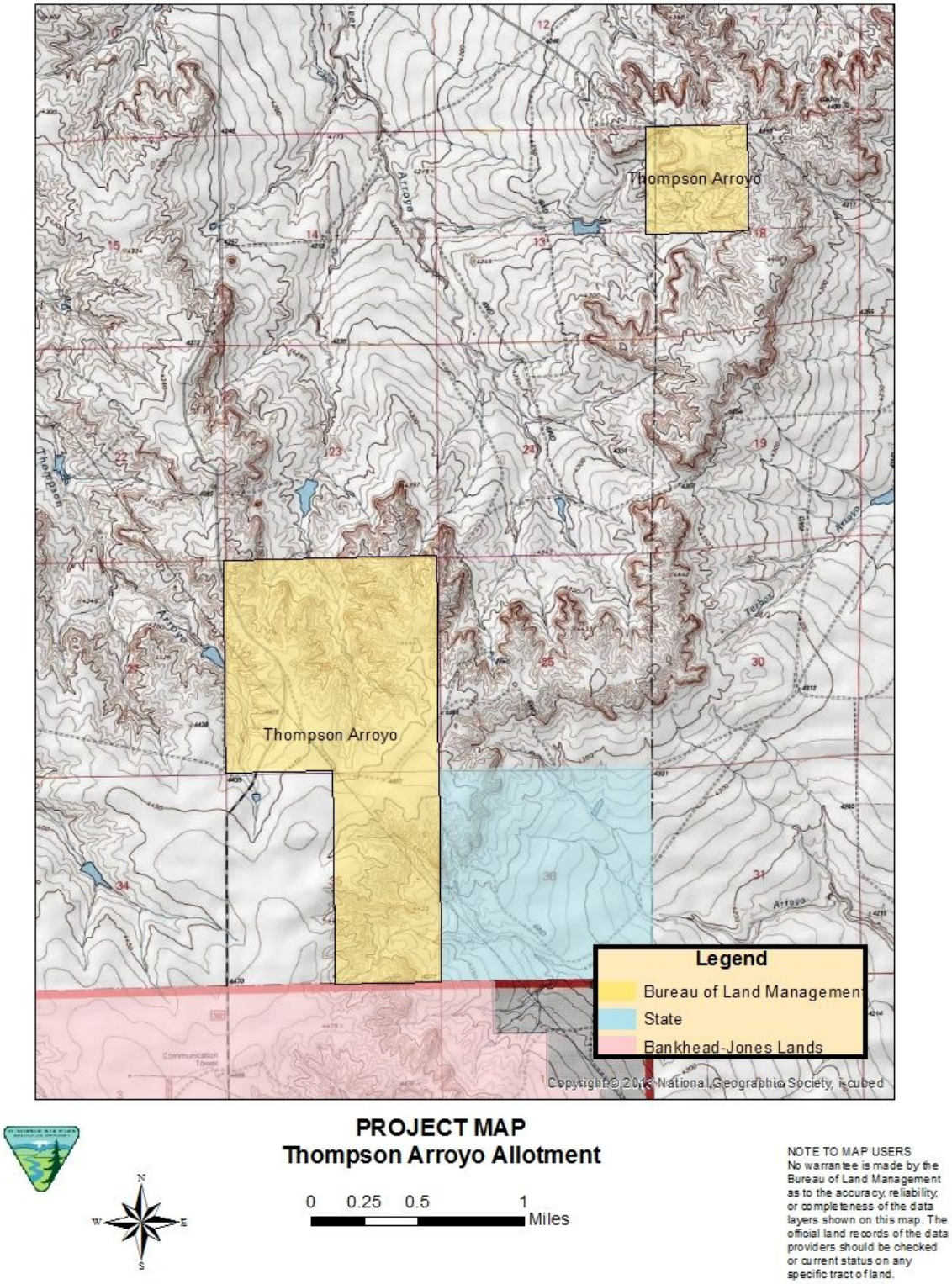

Figure 1.2. Project Map Thompson Arroyo

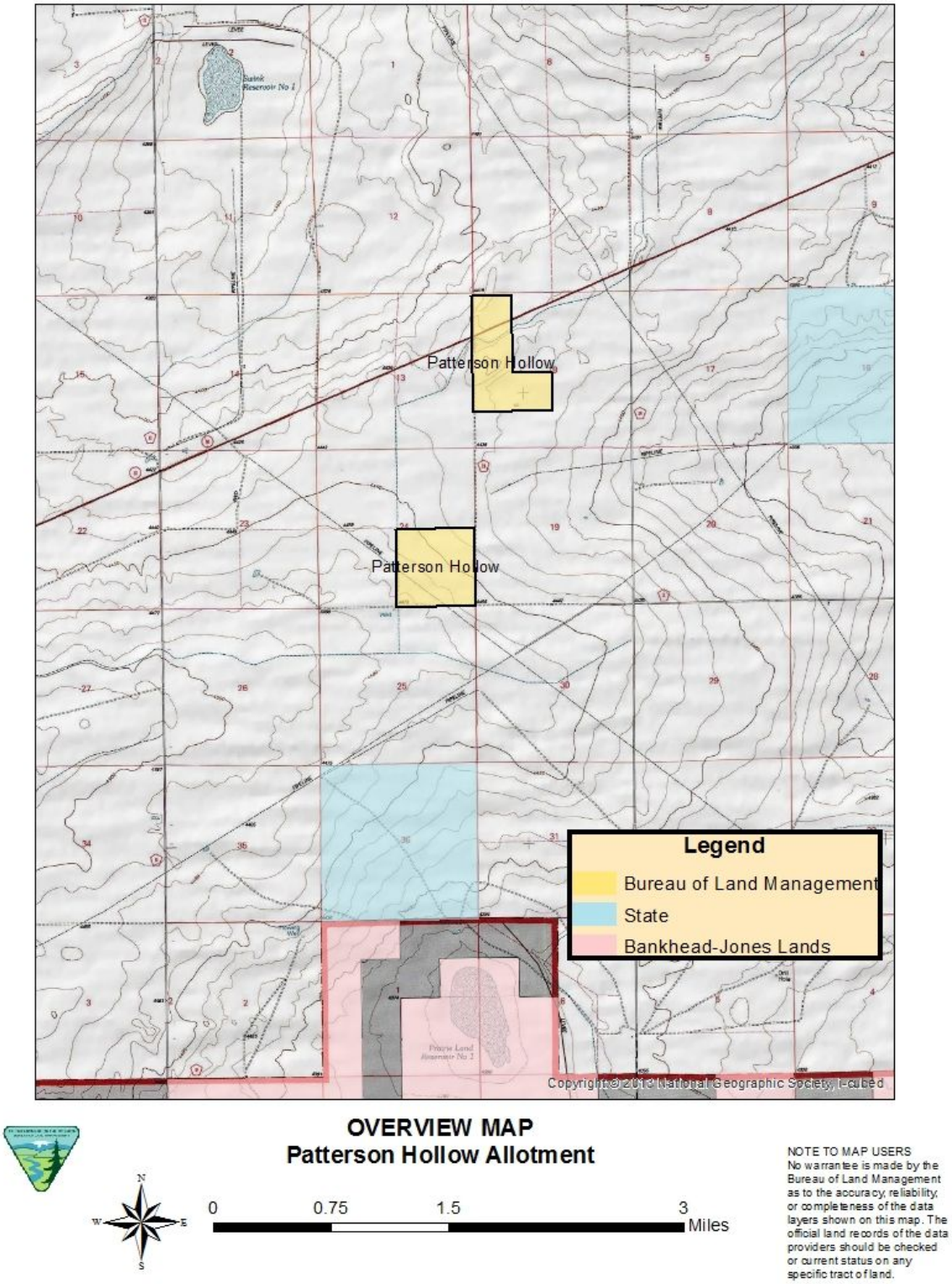

Figure 1.3. Overview Map Patterson Hollow

Chapter 1 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
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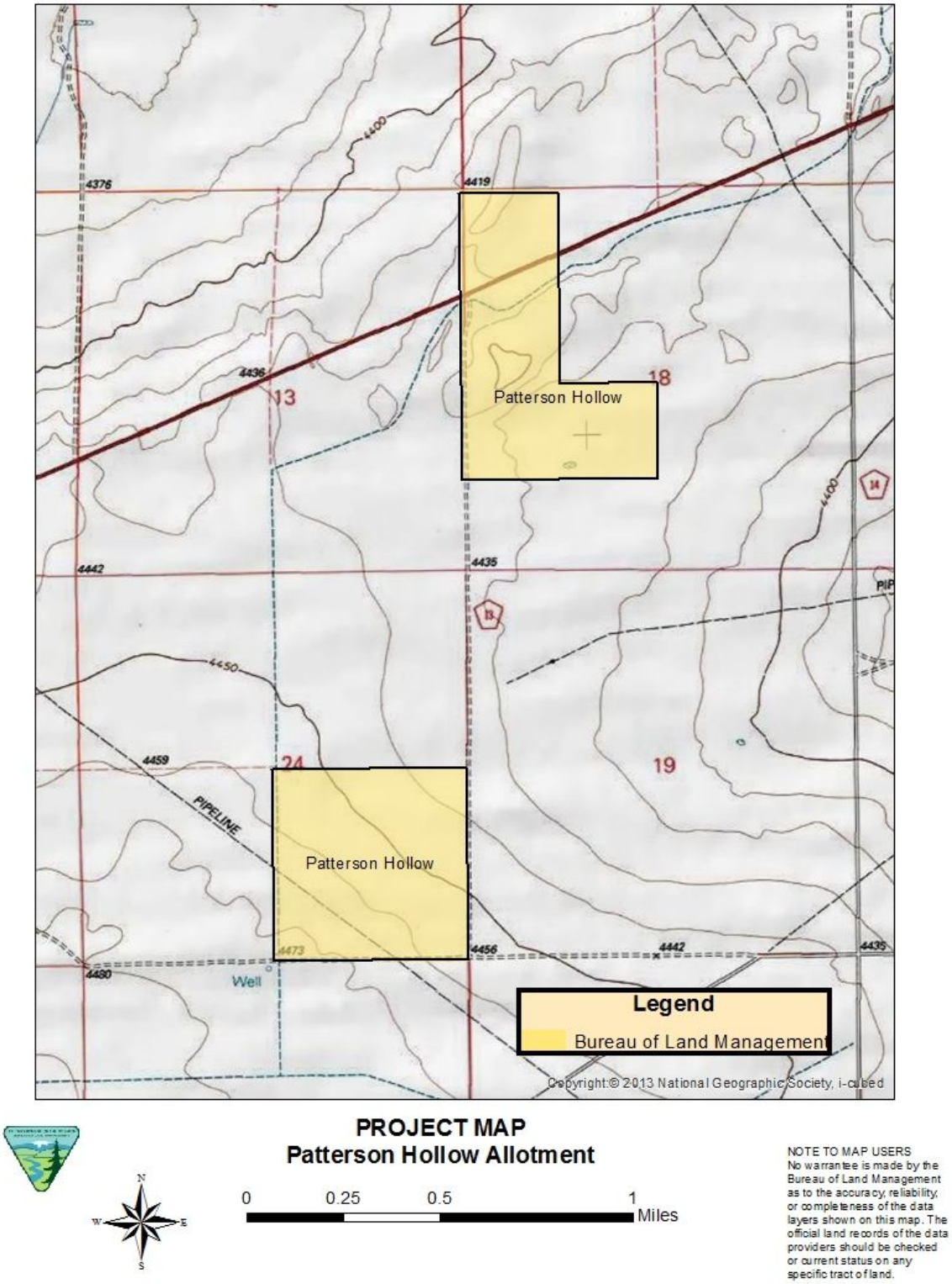
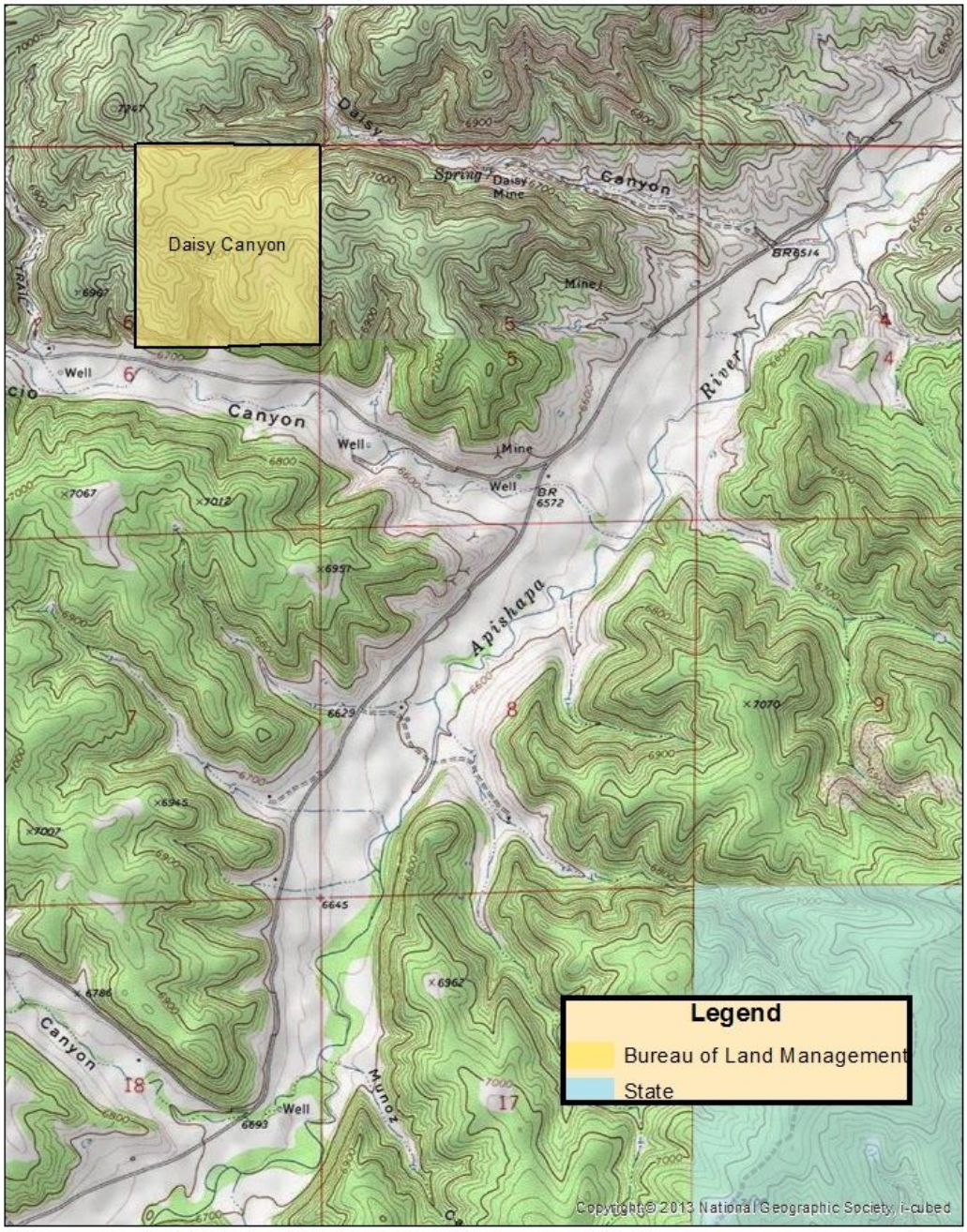


Figure 1.4. Project Map Patterson Hollow



OVERVIEW MAP
Daisy Canyon Allotment

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

Figure 1.5. Overview Map Daisy Canyon

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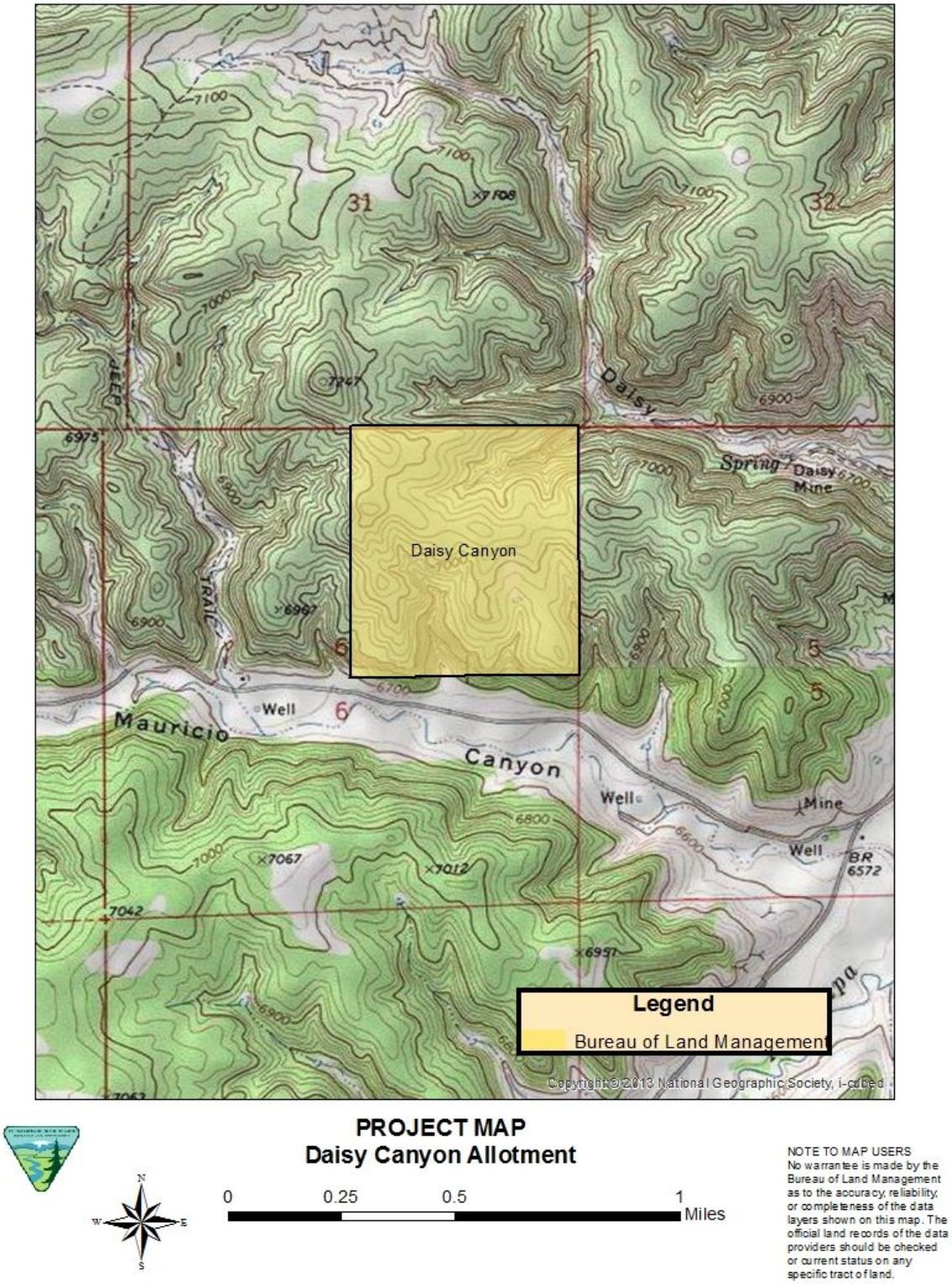

Figure 1.6. Project Map Daisy Canyon

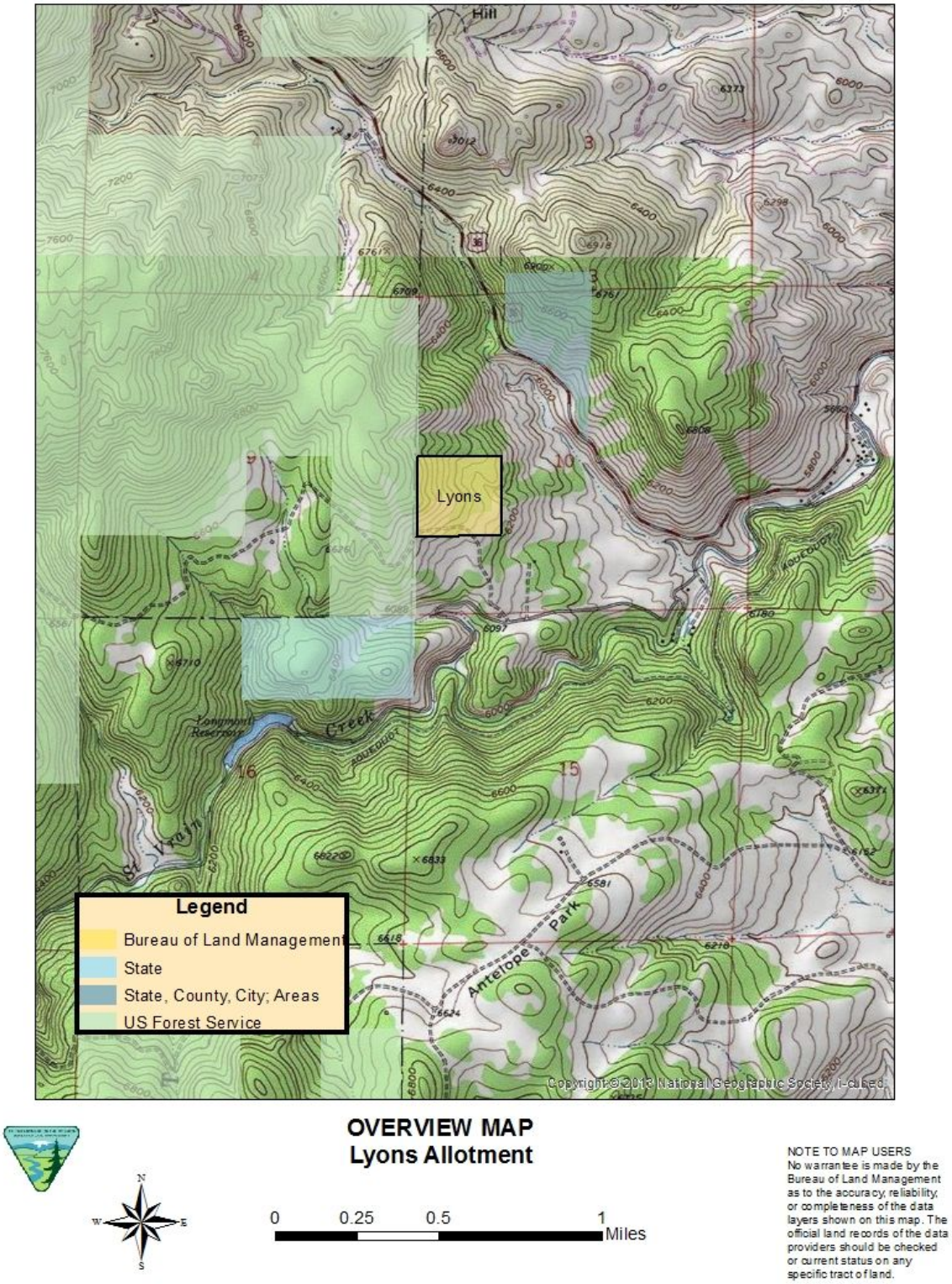

Figure 1.7. Overview Map Lyons

Chapter 1 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
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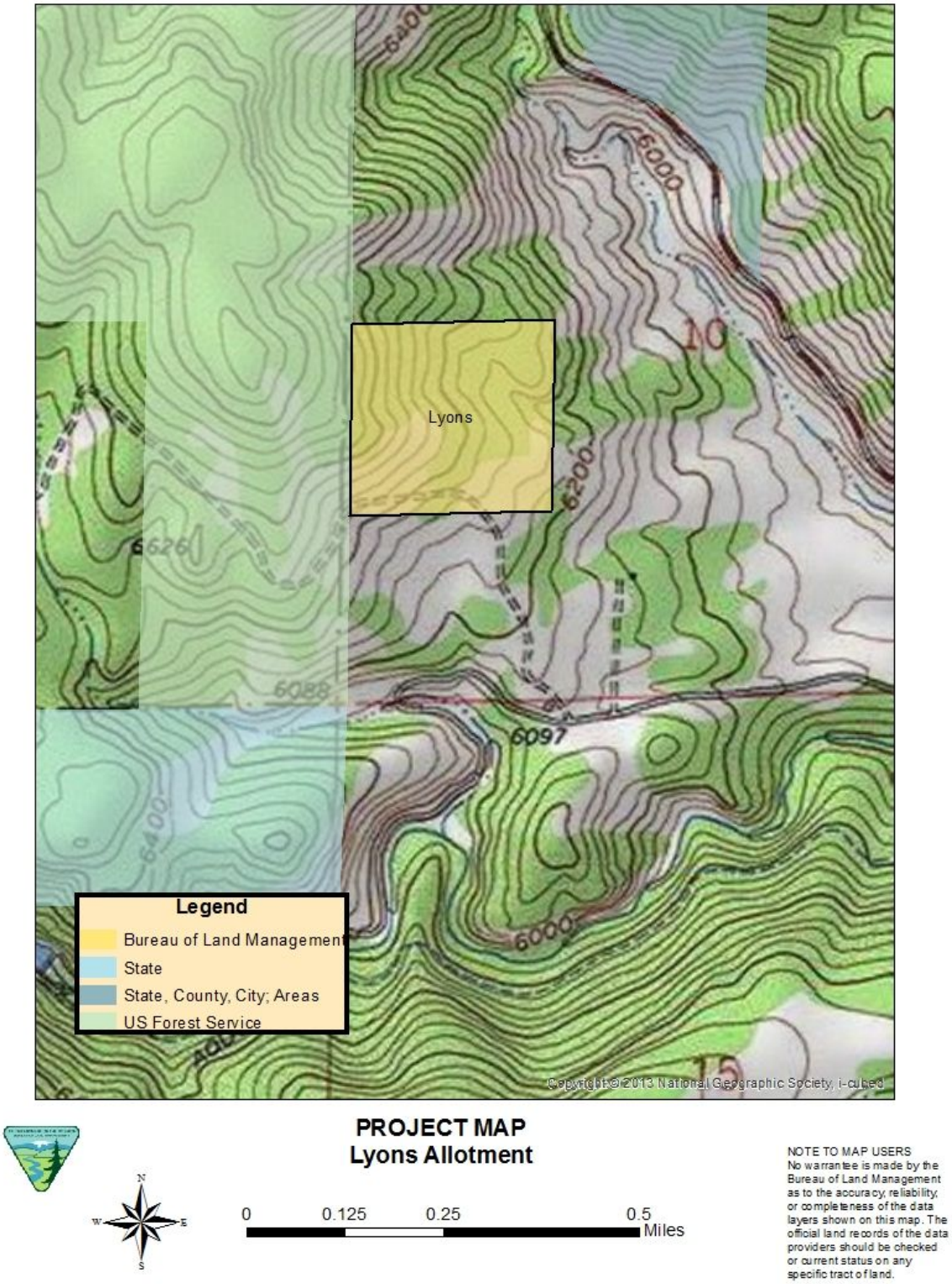

Figure 1.8. Project Map Lyons

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

LUP Name: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: 05/13/1996
LUP Name: Northeast Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: 09/16/1986
Other Document: Final Livestock Grazing EIS	Date Approved: 1995
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions). 10–2, 10–4, C-30, & C-44, and Leased (5A).

Decision Language:

10–2: Season of use and stocking rates will continue based on the Grazing EIS and vegetation monitoring.

10-4: Grazing is authorized on 132 allotments.

C-30: Base livestock grazing management on the 1981 Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement. Continue to use allotment management plans (AMPs) on an interim basis until replaced with IAPs.

C-44: On single pasture allotments with season long spring/summer grazing, utilization will be held to the 40 to 60 percent range on forage species in lieu of a rest standard. This requirement will be on high elevation allotments where deferment or dormant season use is impractical because of deep snow and fencing the allotment into smaller units is uneconomical.

Leased (5A) - Currently 5,385 acres are leased for livestock grazing. Custodial level management provides for use up to the grazing capacity as determined by field examination with adjustments made if necessary after monitoring. Grazing on public land occurs in conjunction with the lessee's normal operation. Improvements are generally operator initiated, developed, and maintained. Examples of improvements include, but are not limited to, fences and water developments such as stock water impoundments and spring developments. Monitoring of grazing use, range condition, and trend will provide indications of needed improvements or possible changes in grazing use.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

BLM-CO-200-2007-0114 EA Term Grazing Lease Renewal

Date Approved: September 24, 2007.

BLM-CO-200-2008-0107 EA Term Grazing Lease Renewal

Date Approved: September 24, 2008.

BLM-CO-200-2008-0109 EA Term Grazing Lease Renewal

Date Approved: September 24, 2008.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g. biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Public Land Health Assessment 2007

Date Approved: September, 2007

Public Land Health Assessment 2008

Date Approved: September, 2008

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The Proposed Action is substantially the same actions at the sites specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA documents. Grazing use on the allotments will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates and times; authorized levels of use; or terms and conditions.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource value?

Yes. The RMP/EIS and EAs considered a range of alternatives. The existing EAs for permit renewal were conducted in 2007–2008 and continues to be appropriate for current conditions. The EAs included a proposed action alternative, a no action alternative, and a no grazing alternative that were analyzed in the documents. The proposed actions in the existing NEPA documents included Renewal of the Current Grazing Leases for 10 years as previously scheduled with additional changes to include specific forage utilization standards on allotments under "Custodial" management. Grazing use on the allotments would be scheduled exactly the same as they were previously scheduled. The no action alternative was analyzed as the "current management" of the allotments in the previous EAs with no changes in terms and conditions. The no grazing alternative was analyzed as removal of livestock grazing from the allotments. No new environmental conditions or change in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The previous information and circumstances and analysis are still valid in light of the 2007–2008 Health Assessments, and no new issues concerning grazing have arisen on these allotments.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The impacts remain unchanged. Those impacts, including cumulative impacts, normally associated with livestock grazing are managed through monitoring of land health standards. Any necessary adjustments will be based on the results of livestock utilization and vegetation monitoring.

5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Public scoping was conducted for the previous NEPA analysis. No issues were brought forward as a result of this scoping.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Note

Refer to the EAs/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum Number CO-2002-029, RGFO cultural resources staff conducted a literature review of previous inventories and sites recorded on the public land in the allotment areas [see Report CR-RG-15-127 R]. Based on the information collected during the literature review, it was determined that in order to assess the potential for impacts to historic properties, additional inventory will be required on the Daisy Canyon, Lyons, Patterson Hollow, and Thompson Arroyo allotments. The proposed action may proceed and the additional inventories will be phased over FY15 and conducted under the cultural resource project IDs: CR-RG-15-130, CR-RG-15-131, CR-RG-15-132, and CR-RG-15-133. If the inventories suggest that historic properties are present and may be impacted by range activities, cultural resource staff will work with range managers, in consultation with the SHPO and other interested parties, to identify applicable mitigation strategies.

Native American Religious Concerns: The literature review indicated that no traditional cultural properties have been recorded within the allotment boundaries. Native American Tribal consultation has been completed for these allotments. There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans. Therefore, it is unlikely that any traditional cultural properties or other sites of concern to the tribes will be affected by grazing.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to federally listed species.

MITIGATION: None.

Conclusion

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 requirement of NEPA.

/s/ John Lamman
Signature of Project Lead

/s/ Melissa Garcia
Signature of Supervisor

/s/ Martin Weimer
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

/s/ Keith E. Berger 4/13/15
Signature of the Responsible Official Date

Note:

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute and appealable decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.