

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2000-0040-DNA

PROJECT NAME: Williams Bareground and Noxious Weed Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Township	Range	Lots, Sections, or portions thereof
1 North	98 West	All
1 North	99 West	13, 14, 23-25, 35, 36
1 South	98 West	6-36
2 South	98 West	All
2 South	97 West	6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31
3 South	98 West	1-22, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34
3 South	97 West	6, 7, 18

APPLICANT: Monty Elder

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to use herbicides to control noxious weeds, removal of existing vegetation and promote bare ground around the production facilities controlled by Williams. The chemicals to be analyzed in this document are: Round Up Pro (glyphosate), Sahara (diuron and imazapyr), Tordon 22K (Picloram), 2,4-D LV6 (2,4-D), and Escort XP (Metsulfuron Methyl).

Areas to be treated for bareground have been previously disturbed during the construction phase of the project. Treatments will be limited to a distance of 10 feet from the edge of well heads, meter houses, treaters, and other facilities. Equipment enclosed in fences would be protected from the encroachment of vegetation out to the fence.

Noxious weed treatments will also take place on previously disturbed areas associated with oil and gas development such as rights-of-way and well pads. Weeds present in the vicinity of the development are knapweed, houndstongue, black henbane, thistles, and mullein. Most of the proposed treatment areas have been treated in the past with the majority of spraying being maintenance or new outbreaks.

Date Approved: 03/19/2010

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? 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? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the proposed chemical treatments in the Proposed Action were a feature of the analysis in the White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA), which analyzed alternatives for doing noxious weed treatments within the field office boundary using these herbicides. The integrated weed control strategy is improving vegetation conditions.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Four alternatives, the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, No Aerial Application of Herbicides Alternative, and the No Herbicide Use Alternative were analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, 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 analysis in the EA listed above is still valid. There is no known new information or circumstances that would substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action is similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document, DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA.

(~150 acres) with most of the ridge line habitat dominated by pinyon-juniper or mountain shrub communities. The nearest active lek is over two miles from the treatment area polygon.

Two perennial streams are located in the proposed treatment area, 1) Black Sulphur Creek which provides habitat for two BLM-sensitive fish species - mountain sucker and Colorado River cutthroat trout (further upstream outside the treatment area) and 2) Fawn Creek which also supports populations of mountain sucker. Privately owned portions of Yellow Creek, an intermittent channel are also located in the project area. These reaches do not support fisheries populations.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: T1S 98W Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 14 all contain the Duck Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, designated for federally listed threatened plant species, *Physaria congesta* (Dudley Bluffs bladderpod) and *Physaria obcordata* (Dudley Bluffs twinpod). T1N 98W Secs. 12, 18, 24, 25, and 36 contain suitable and occupied habitat of *P. congesta* and *P. obcordata*. All of these areas are within the herbicide buffer distances from potential terrestrial special status plant species designated in the White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA).

The largest herbicide buffer distance requires 0.5 miles from special status plant species habitats. Glyphosate is permitted to use as spot treatments outside of 50 feet from special status plant species habitats. There are 17 maps (Figures 5-21) that show the 50 foot and 0.5 miles avoidance areas. All herbicide application must only be spot treatments within 0.5 miles of special status plant species populations.

MITIGATION:

The following applicable mitigation from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA has been carried forward:

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.
2. The applicant must not pick up dead and down firewood while spraying this project area.
3. The applicator should be aware of all SOPs (Appendix C), mitigation measures (Appendix D) and conservation measures (Appendix E) regarding terrestrial wildlife/migratory birds, and aquatic wildlife required in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA.
4. Since 2,4-D poses a high risk to a variety of migratory birds and special status species, it is recommended that its use be restricted within suitable habitats for these species. Other

15. Do not broadcast spray triclopyr BEE or Tordon (picloram) in upland habitats adjacent to the 100-year floodplain of the White River or riparian systems that support special status aquatic wildlife under conditions that would likely result in off-site drift.
16. Chlorsulfuron and Tordon (picloram) have not been specifically evaluated for effects on amphibians. Where feasible, avoid the use of this herbicide in occupied amphibian habitats.
17. Herbicides containing 2,4-D, bromacil, or diuron will not be applied inside the Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area during the peak foaling season from March 1st until June 15th.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Matthew Dupire

CONCLUSION

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

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/2/12

ATTACHMENTS:

- Figure 1: Map 1 of the Williams Project Area
- Figure 2: Map 2 of the Williams Project Area
- Figure 3: Map 3 of the Williams Project Area
- Figure 4: Map 4 of the Williams Project Area
- Figure 5: General Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #1
- Figure 6: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #1
- Figure 7: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #2
- Figure 8: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #3
- Figure 9: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #4
- Figure 10: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #5

Figure 1: Map 1 of the Williams Project Area

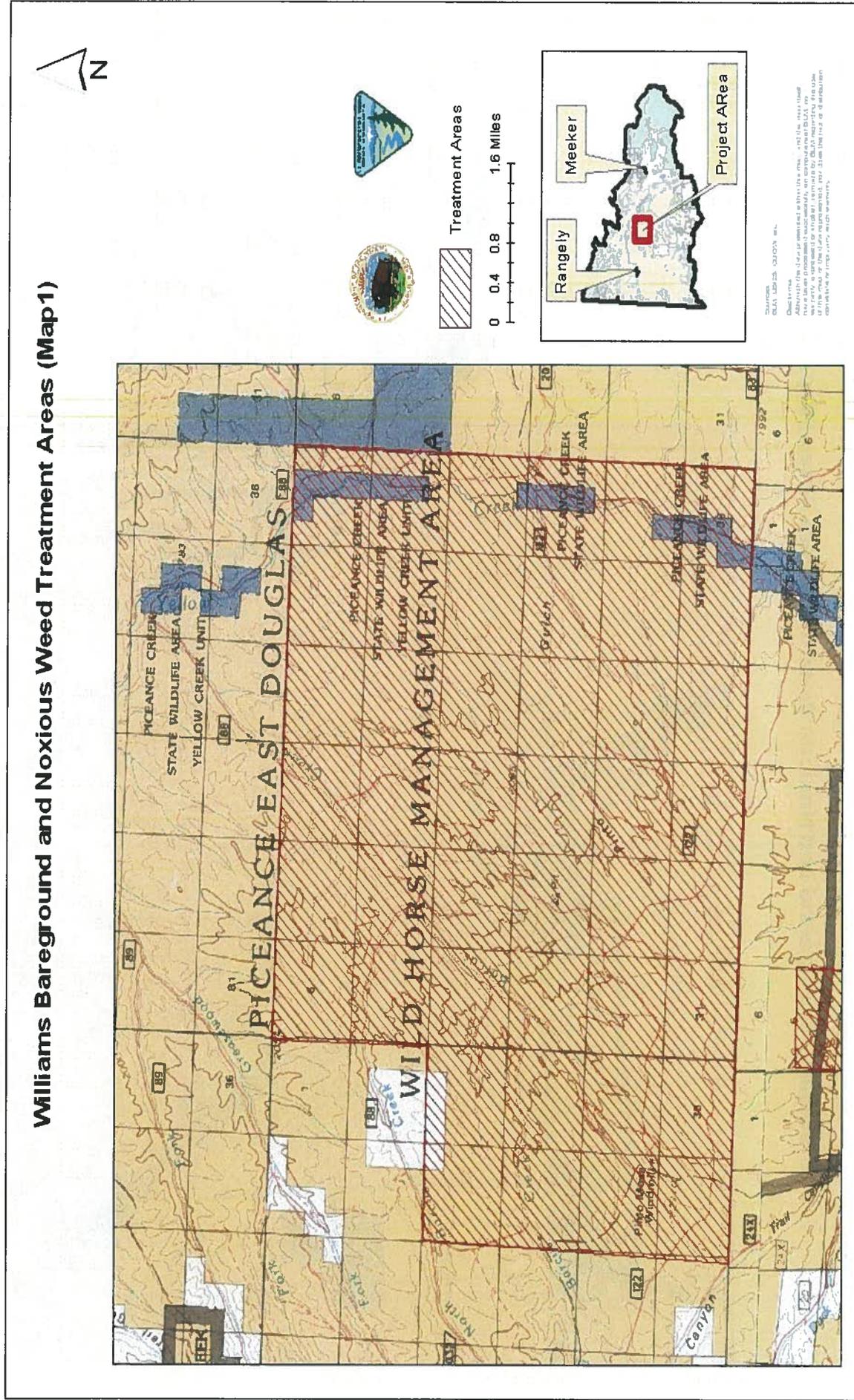
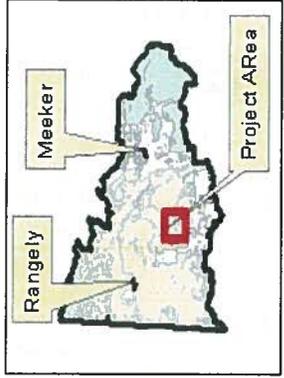


Figure 3: Map 3 of the Williams Project Area

Williams Background and Noxious Weed Treatment Areas (Map3)



Treatment Areas
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles



Source:
BLM, USGS, COGS, etc.
Check for error.
Although this map is for informational purposes only, it is not intended to be used as a legal document. For more information, contact the BLM, Regional Office, Williams Project Area, 1000 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Figure 7: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #2

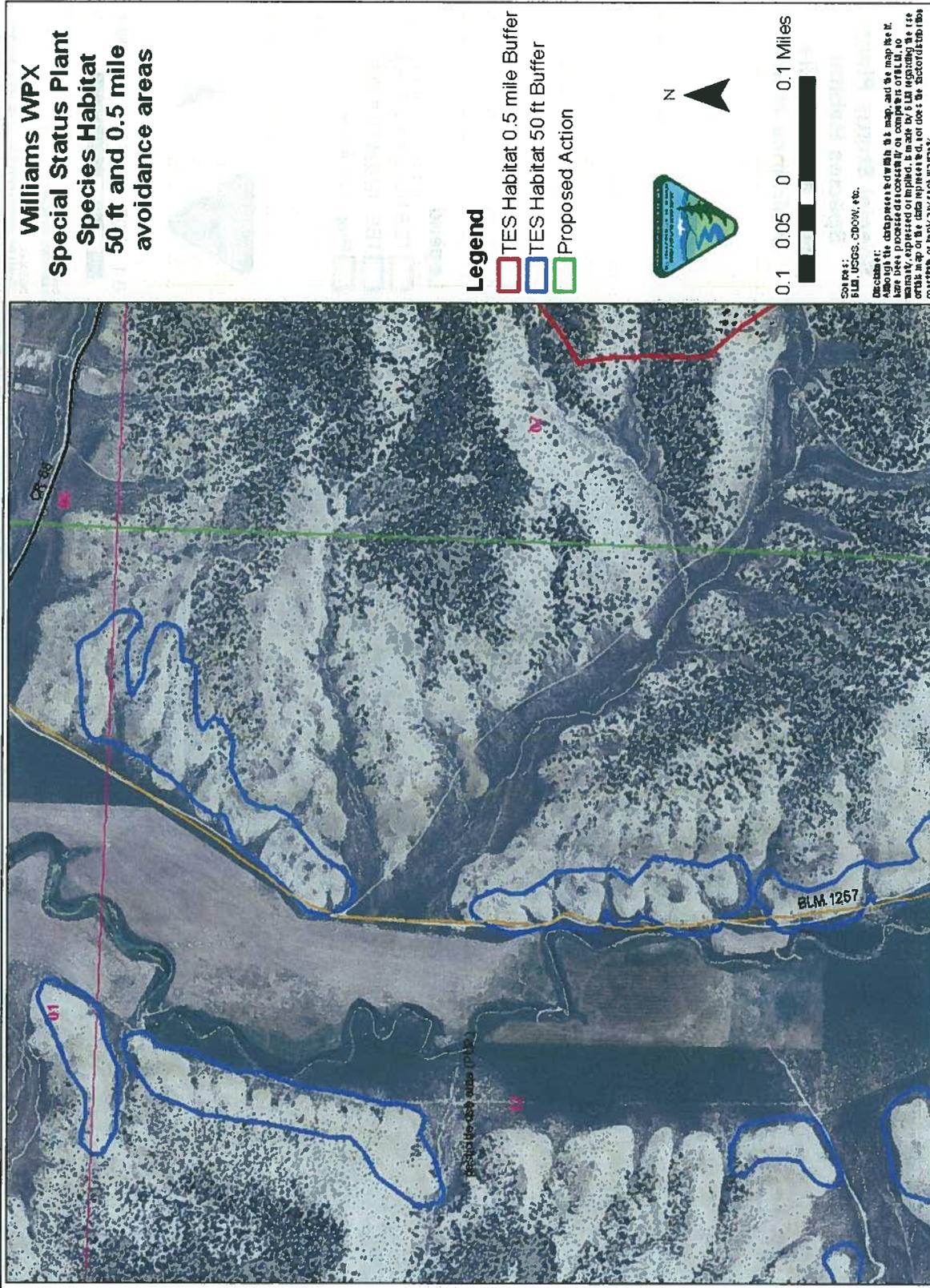


Figure 9: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #4

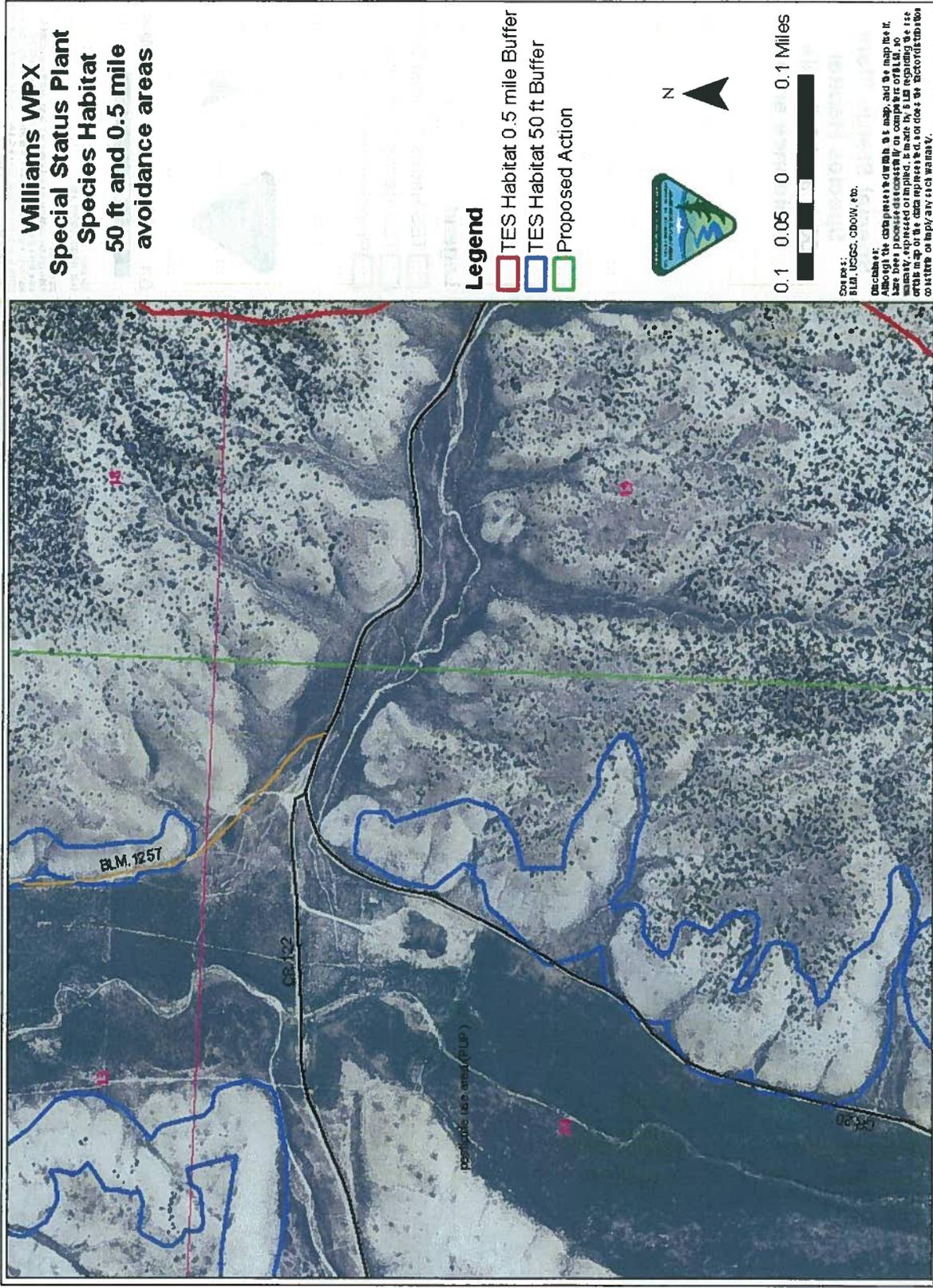


Figure 11: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #6

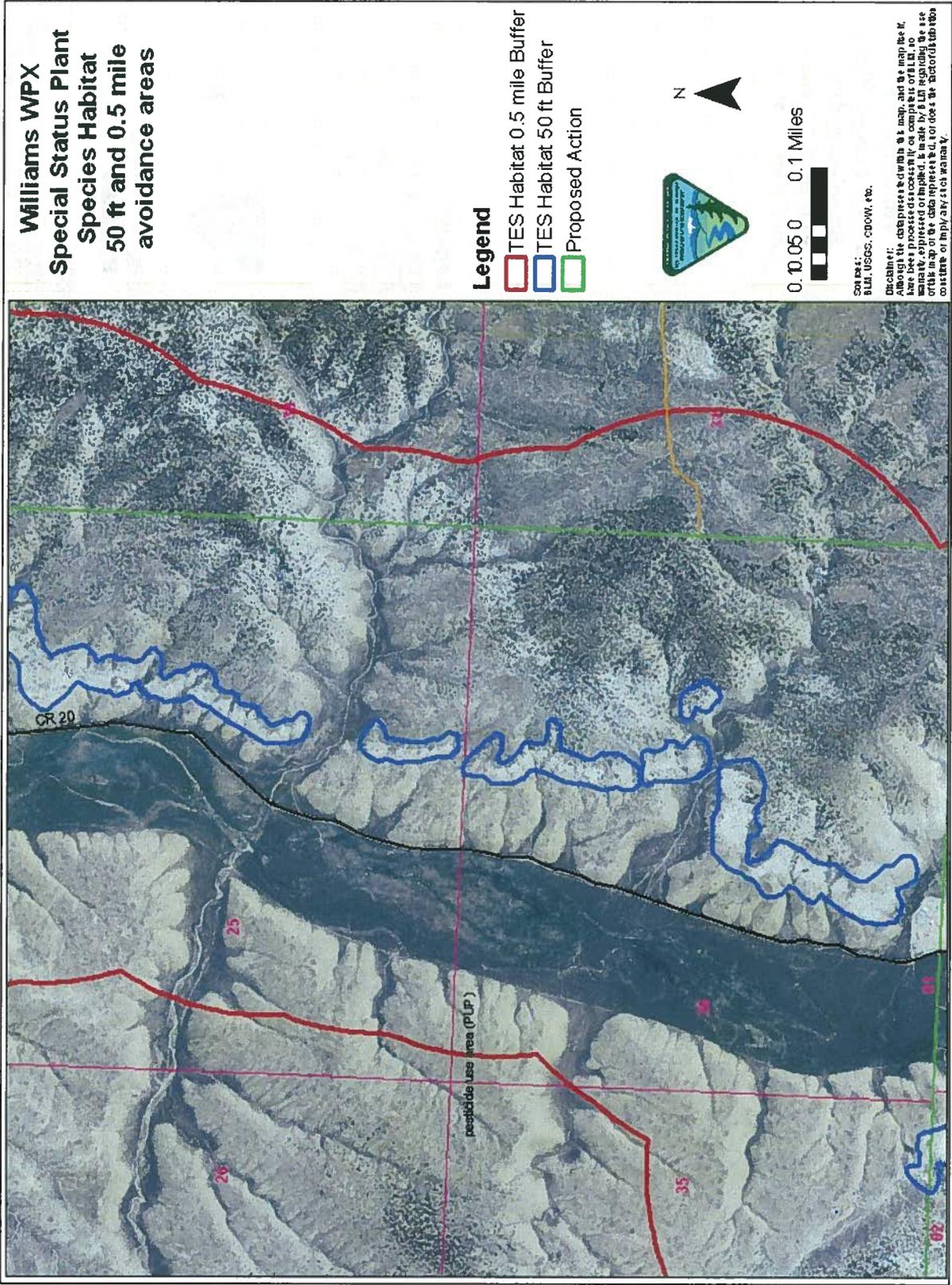


Figure 13: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #8

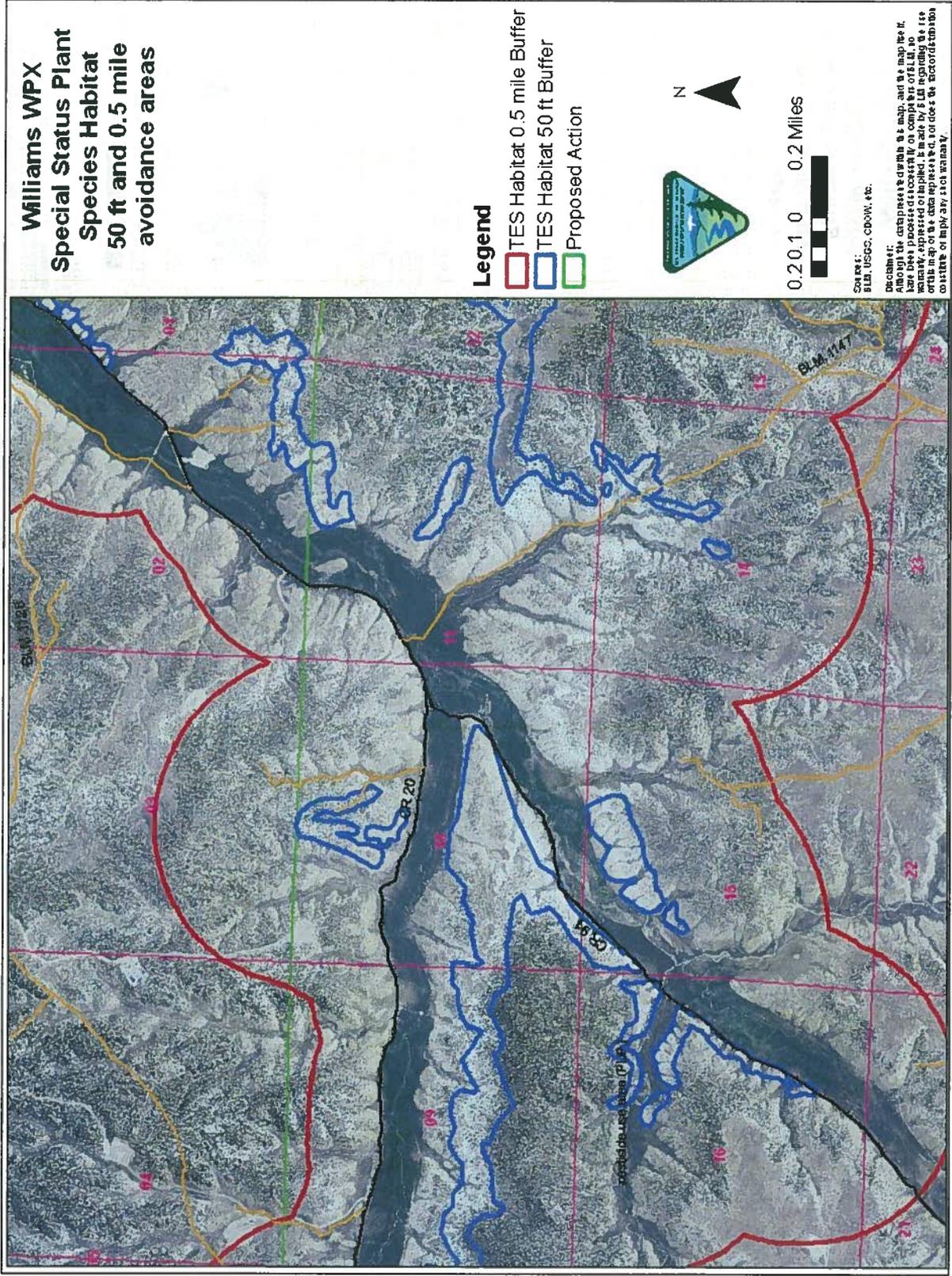


Figure 15: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #10

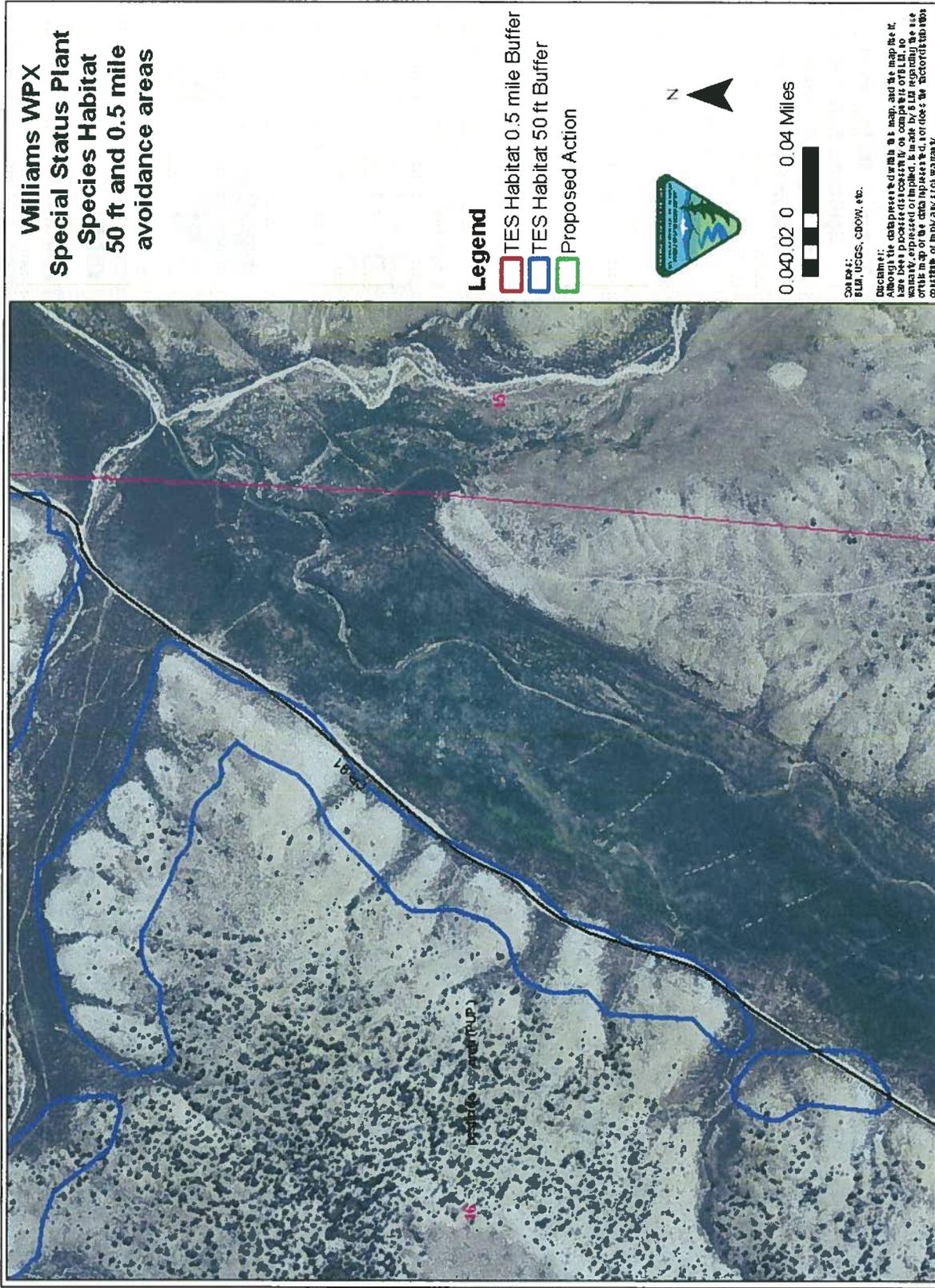


Figure 19: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #12

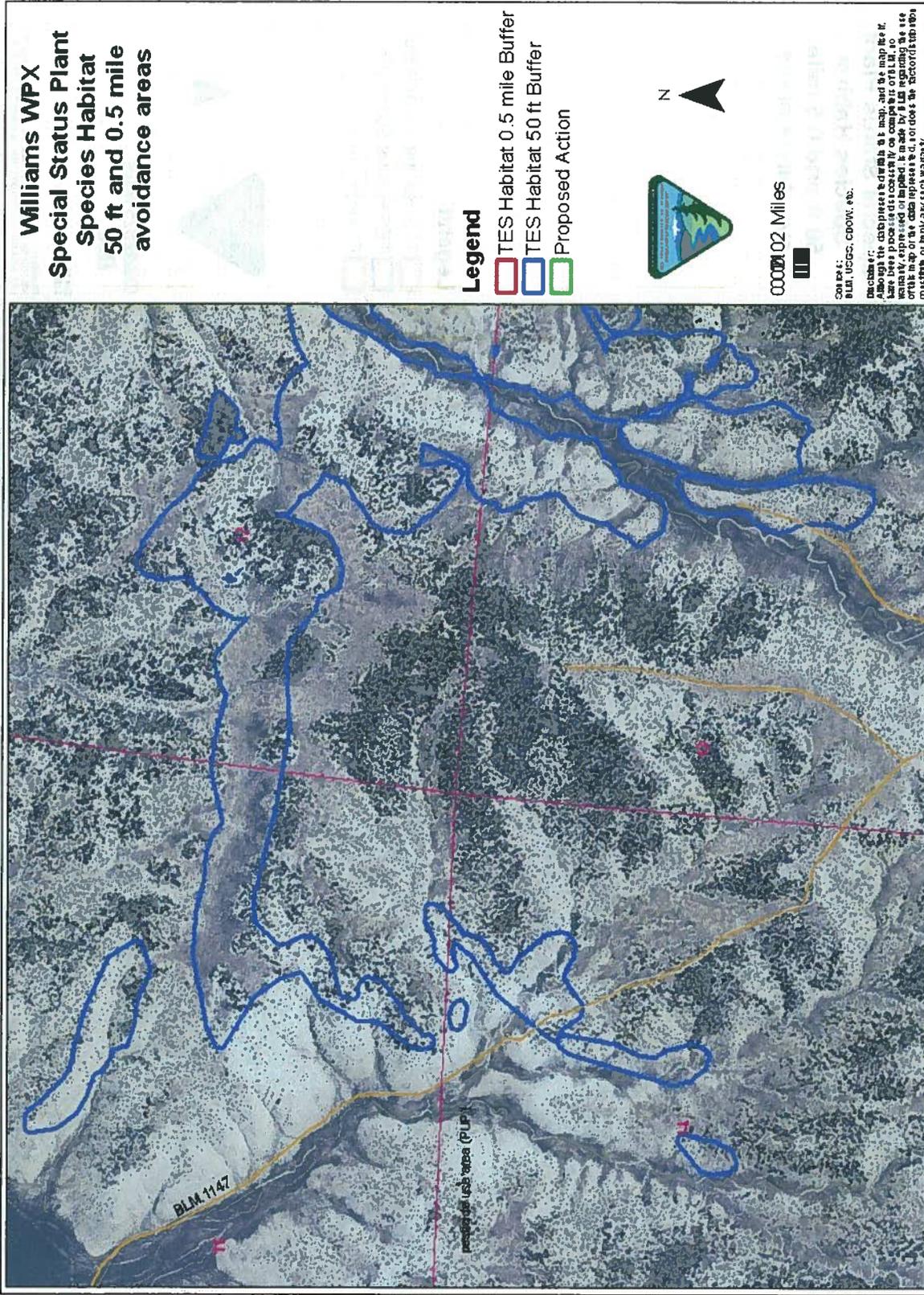
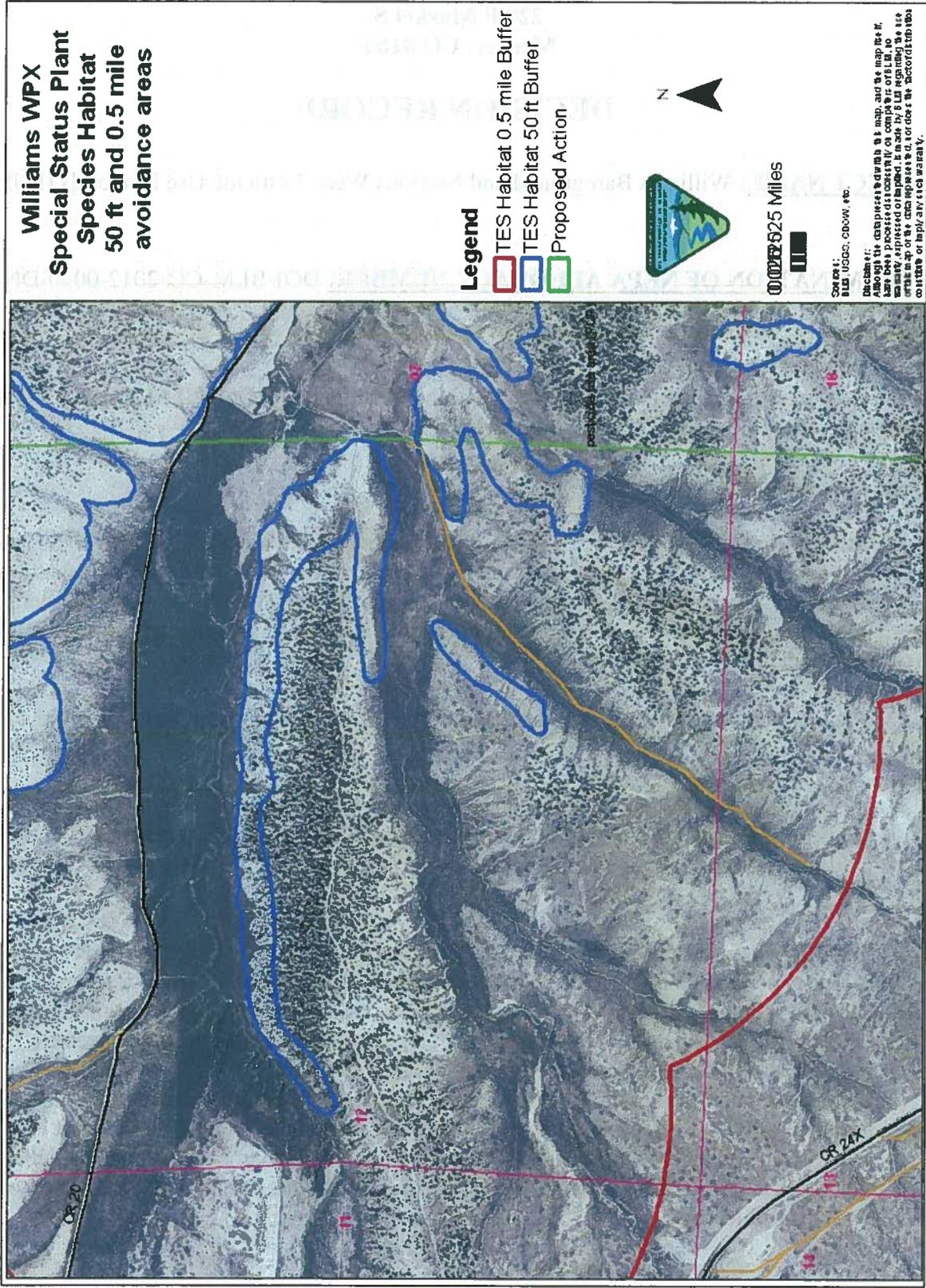


Figure 21: Close-up Map of Williams Project Area with 50 foot and 0.5 Mile Buffers #14



5. Implement all conservation measures for aquatic animals developed during consultation for the BLM WRFO Programmatic Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment.
6. Special care should be taken to follow all instructions and SOPs to avoid spill and direct spray scenarios in aquatic habitats during transport and application.
7. Use appropriate herbicide-free buffer zones for herbicides not labeled for aquatic use based on risk assessment guidance, with minimum widths of 100 feet for aerial, 25 feet for vehicle, and use of only herbicides that pose no to low risk to fish or amphibians within 10 feet of riparian areas.
8. Use appropriate buffer zones based on label and risk assessment guidance.
9. Minimize treatments near fish-bearing water bodies during periods when fish are in life stages most sensitive to the herbicide(s) used, and use spot rather than broadcast or aerial treatments.
10. Use appropriate application equipment/method near water bodies if the potential for offsite drift exists.
11. For treatment of aquatic vegetation, 1) treat only that portion of the aquatic system necessary to achieve acceptable vegetation management, 2) use the appropriate application method to minimize the potential for injury to desirable vegetation and aquatic organisms, and 3) follow water use restrictions presented on the herbicide label.
12. Limit the use of terrestrial herbicides in watersheds with characteristics suitable for potential surface runoff, and have fish-bearing streams, during periods when fish are in life stages most sensitive to the herbicide(s) used.
13. Establish appropriate herbicide-specific buffer zones for water bodies, habitats, or fish or other aquatic species of interest (see Appendix C and recommendations in individual ERAs).
14. Avoid using the adjuvant R-11® in aquatic environments and do not use glyphosate formulations containing the POEA surfactant to reduce risks to aquatic organisms.
15. Do not broadcast spray triclopyr BEE or Tordon (picloram) in upland habitats adjacent to the 100-year floodplain of the White River or riparian systems that support special status aquatic wildlife under conditions that would likely result in off-site drift.
16. Chlorsulfron and Tordon (picloram) have not been specifically evaluated for effects on amphibians. Where feasible, avoid the use of this herbicide in occupied amphibian habitats.