

Uncompahgre Field Office

SW RAC

Briefing on RMP/EIS

and

Range of Alternatives

February 2013

Uncompahgre Planning Area

675,800 acres - Surface
 970,400 acres - Federal mineral estate (does not include USFS)
 294,580 acres - Split Estate

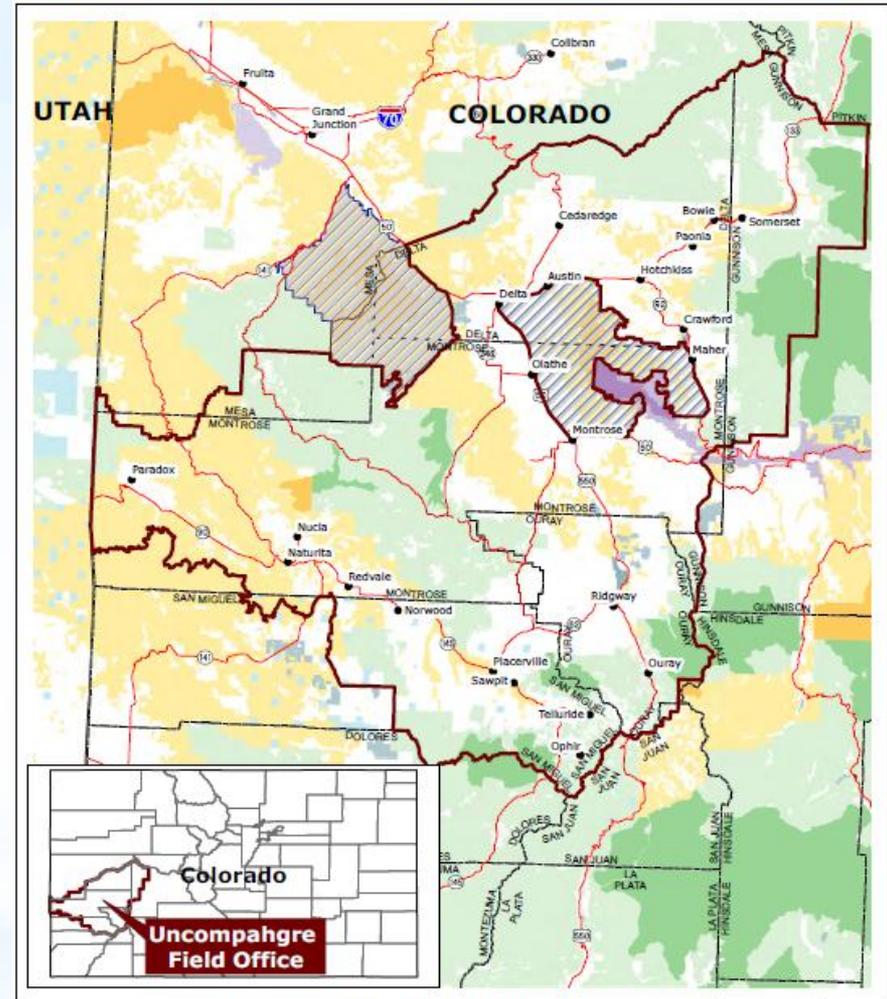
Does not include

- *Gunnison Gorge NCA
- *Dominguez-Escalante NCA

Counties:

Montrose, Delta,
 Ouray, San Miguel,
 Gunnison, Mesa

25 Communities



Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area

Uncompahgre RMP Boundary	Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office Boundary	National Park Service
Dominguez Escalante NCA	Other Federal
Gunnison Gorge NCA	Private
County Boundaries	State
Town	State, County, City Areas
BLM Wilderness*	US Forest Service
Forest Service Wilderness	Major Roads
National Park Service Wilderness	

14
 Miles
 Projection NAD 1983, UTM Zone 13
 February 2010

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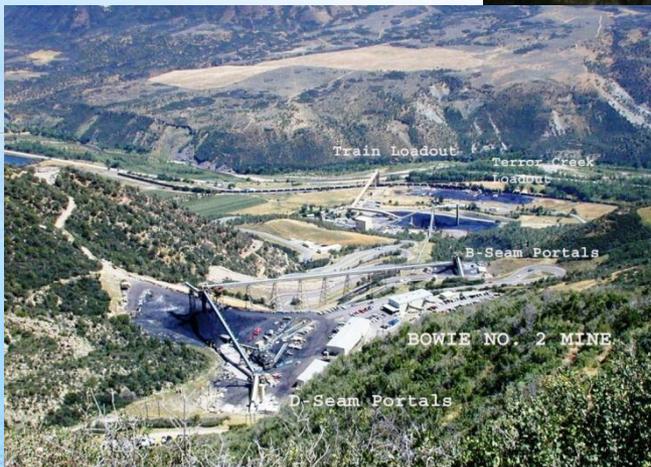
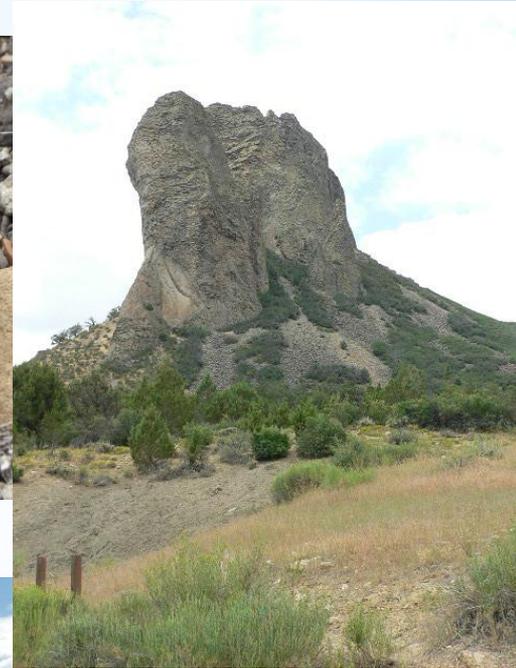
The Uncompahgre RMP decision area excludes the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante NCAs. Separate plans have and/or will be made for those areas.

*The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 protects the wilderness characteristics of the Routteau and Tebequache Areas but does not label them as Wilderness. They are illustrated on this map as Wilderness.

Process

- **Public Scoping, January/February 2010**
- **Ten Cooperating Agency Meetings (17 agencies)**
- **Ten SW RAC Sub-Group Meetings (11 people)**

Special Information About UFO



Recreation & Tourism

Motorized and mechanized travel, hiking, equestrian, rafting and hunting are very important to the economy and quality of life in the planning area.

UFO recreational visitor numbers are estimated to be 472,050 for FY 2012.

(Information was generated from Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) 2012 Data)

Oil and Gas

Oil and Gas activity is increasing in the field office
Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) projects
1,271 wells in planning area over 20 years

Coal

3 active coal mines
Exploring for coal on Oak Mesa this winter/spring

Uranium

5 Mines with an approved plan of operations or mining notice
None currently operating or producing
About to begin work on one small Plan of Operations

Special Status Species

T&E Species

Colorado hookless cactus

Clay-loving wild buckwheat

Gunnison Sage grouse – Proposed for Listing

Mapped habitat for:

Lynx

4 big-river fish

Mexican spotted owl

Greenback cutthroat trout

BLM Colorado Sensitive Species

11 plants

9 mammals

3 amphibians

1 butterfly

10 birds

4 fish

3 reptiles

RMP Alternatives

Alternative

A – No Action

continues current management direction and prevailing conditions

B – Conservation oriented

emphasizes improving and restoring resources and sustaining integrity of habitats while allowing appropriate development for uses (minerals, recreation, Rights-of -Way, livestock grazing)

C – Production oriented

emphasizes resource production in an environmentally responsible manner, while maintaining the basic protection needed to sustain resources and mitigate impacts on land health.

D – Agency preferred

emphasizes balancing resources and resource uses among competing human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity across the landscape, including plant, wildlife and fish habitat.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

We will specifically discuss the following:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Ecological Emphasis Areas

SRMA/ERMA

Travel Management

Visual Resource Management

Coal Leasing

Locatable, Salable, Non-Energy Leasable

Fluid Mineral Leasing

Open

Closed

NSO

CSU

Timing Limitations

ROW Exclusion

ROW Avoidance

Land Disposal

NGD, SSR, TL

The following are included in the RMP, but are not discussed by themselves in this slide show.

Air Quality

Climate

Cultural Resources

Native American Religious Concerns

Forestry

National Trails and Biways

Paleontological Resources

Public Health and Safety

Soils, Water Management

Special Status Species

Vegetation

Watchable Wildlife

Wild Horses

Wildland Fire Ecology

Wildlife

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Alternative	A	B	C	D
<i>Existing</i>	5	1	4	3
<i>*Existing with Expansion</i>	-	3	-	1
<i>New</i>	-	11	-	4
Total Number of ACECs	5	15	4	8
Total Acres	30,000	215,840	29,440	51,320

*Expansion or within a proposed ACEC of another name

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Eligible Segments	29	-	0	-
Suitable Segments	-	29	0	16
Total Miles of River Segment - Eligible or Suitable	155.5	155.5	0	106.4

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWWC)

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Number of Areas: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	0	5	0	3
Total Acres	0	24,910	0	18,320

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

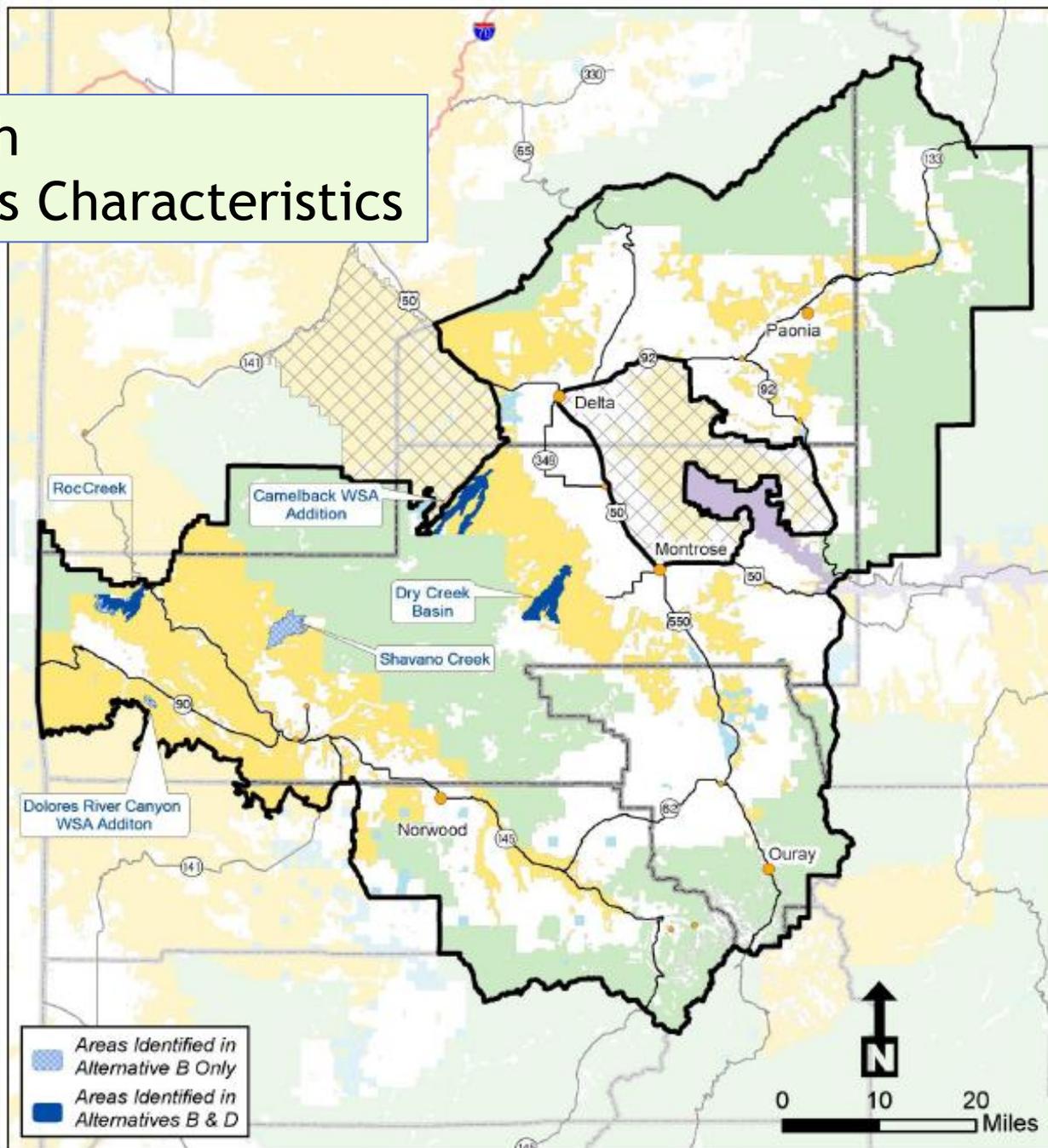


Figure 2-8: Alternatives B and D: Lands Identified for Wilderness Characteristics Protection

Ecological Emphasis Areas

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Number of Biological Core Areas	0	12	2	12
Total Acres	0	242,580	24,150	177,700

Ecological Emphasis Area. The central and primary area of habitat for a population of a given species or group of species. Includes corridors, which are strips of land that aid in the movement of species between disconnected core areas of their natural habitat.

Ecological Emphasis Areas in Alternative D, Agency Preferred

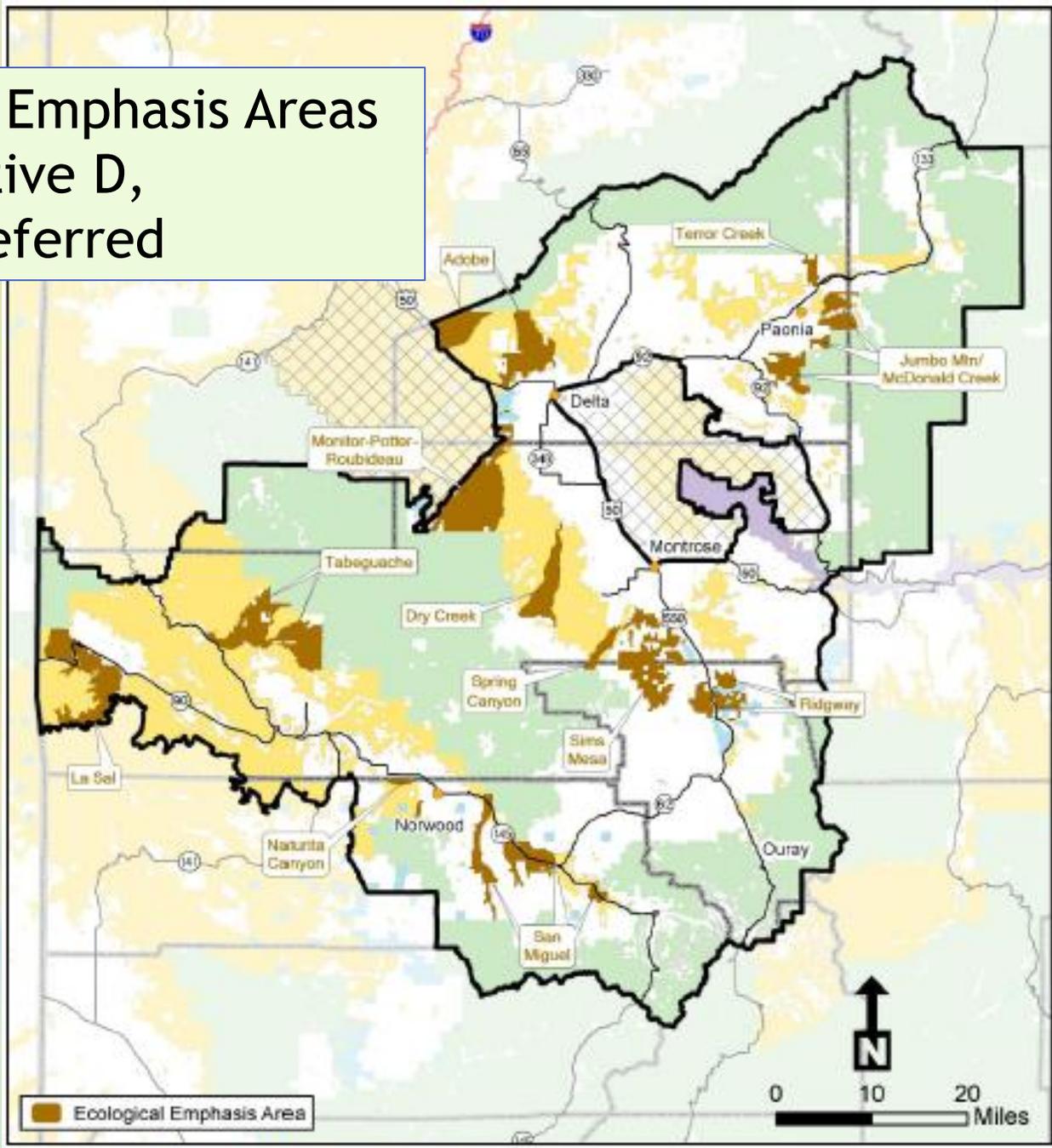


Figure 2-3 Alternative D: Ecological Emphasis Areas

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

Alternative	A	B	C	D
ERMA: Number Acres	0	0	12 215,880	4 73,310
SRMA: Number Acres	2 49,320	11 242,920	0	7 122,270

ERMA and SRMA
in Alternative D,
Agency Preferred

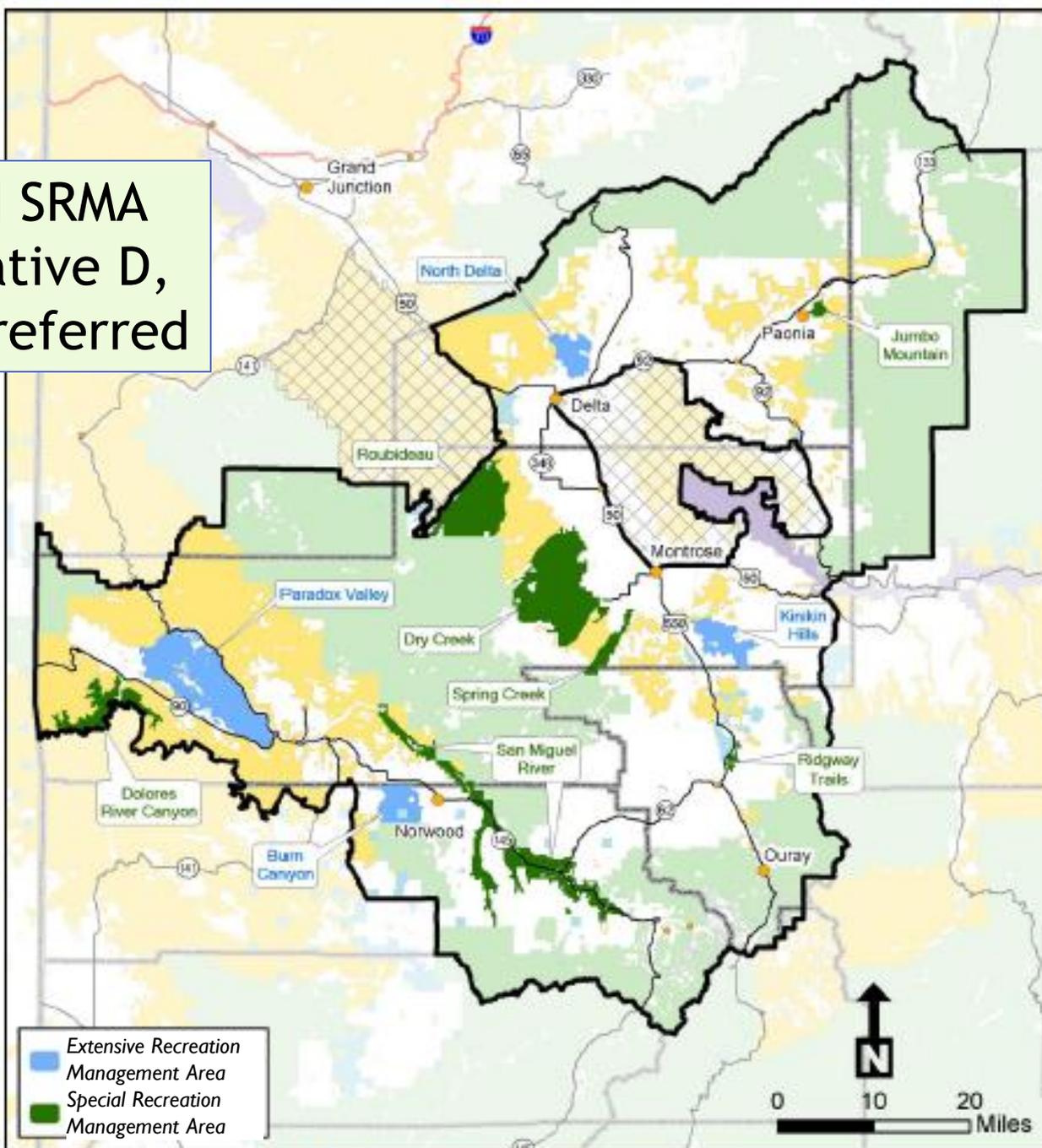


Figure 2-16: Alternative D: Recreation Management Areas

Trails and Travel Management

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Open to Cross-County Motorized	8,560	0	16,060	0
Closed to Motorized Travel	11,950	12,180	0	1,160
Closed to Motorized and Mechanized Use	44,200	84,210	45,170	57,400

All other areas limited to designated routes (motorized and mechanized) (Alts B, C, and D), or limited to existing/designated routes (Alt A).

Trails and Travel Management

“Open to Cross-County Motorized Travel” is reduced from 8560 acres (No Action) to zero acres in alternatives B and D.

Uncompahgre currently has the North Delta OHV Open Area. Because of Sensitive Plant concerns and eroding saline soils, the preferred alternative is to limit travel in this area to designated routes.



Trails and Travel Management (continued)

Uncompahgre has chosen to initiate comprehensive travel management planning within five years after the ROD is approved.

Identified Travel Management Areas:

- North Fork (71,020 acres);
- South Montrose (66,180 acres);
- North Delta (61,270 acres);
- San Miguel (74,960 acres); and
- West End (289,960 acres).

Travel in one area is completed: Dry Creek Travel Management Plan (BLM 2009) – 110,500 acres. Decisions carried forward.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

Alternative	A	B	C	D
VRM Class I	44,320	53,870	44,220	46,440
VRM Class II	21,930	162,590	31,750	98,660
VRM Class III	280,520	435,920	421,120	404,810
VRM Class IV	9,260	23,420	178,710	125,890
Undesignated	319,870	0	0	0

WSAs and Tabeguache Area are 44,220 acres

Livestock Grazing

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Acres Open to Livestock Grazing	658,540	510,070	647,900	611,560
Acres Closed to Livestock Grazing (all classes)	17,260	165,730	27,900	64,240
Animal Unit Months Available	38,364	29,862	37,926	36,424

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Acres Open to Sheep Grazing	658,540	115,530	647,900	569,010
Acres Closed to Sheep Grazing	0	394,540	0	42,550

Regarding sheep grazing, open/closed are acres within the areas open to livestock grazing

Grazing Allotments in Alternative D, Agency Preferred

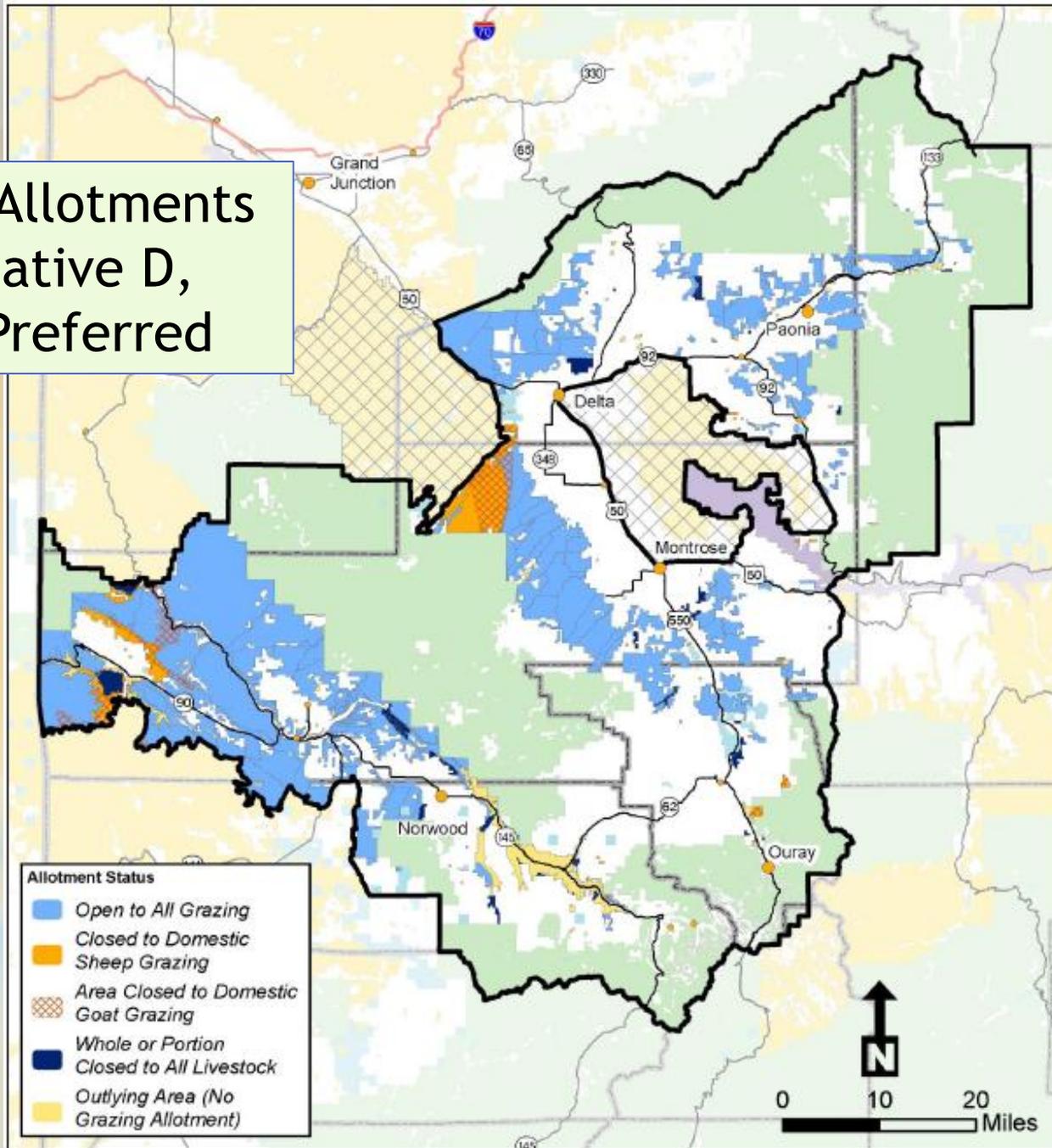
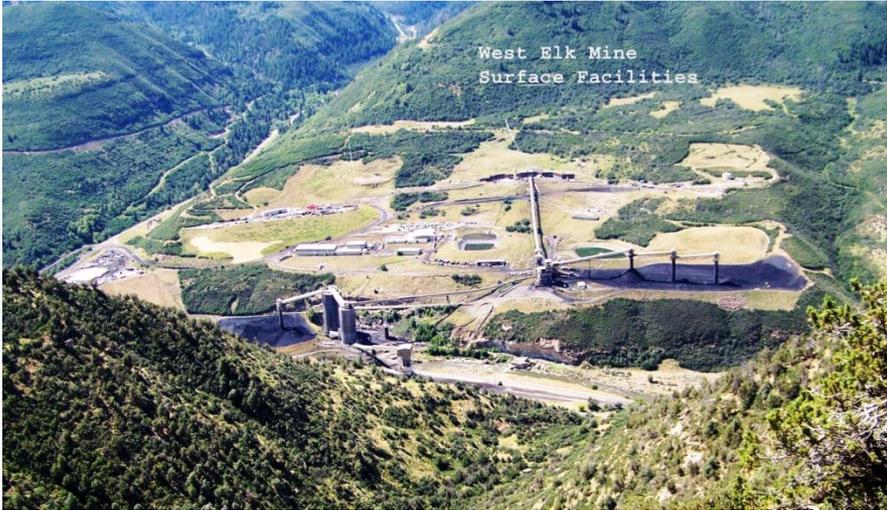


Figure 2-12: Alternative D: Grazing Allotments

Coal Leasing

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Acceptable for Coal Leasing	145,270	329,700	408,390	374,450
Unacceptable for Coal Leasing	490	95,020	16,330	50,270

Acres are within the coal resource development potential area



Coal Leasing in Alternative D

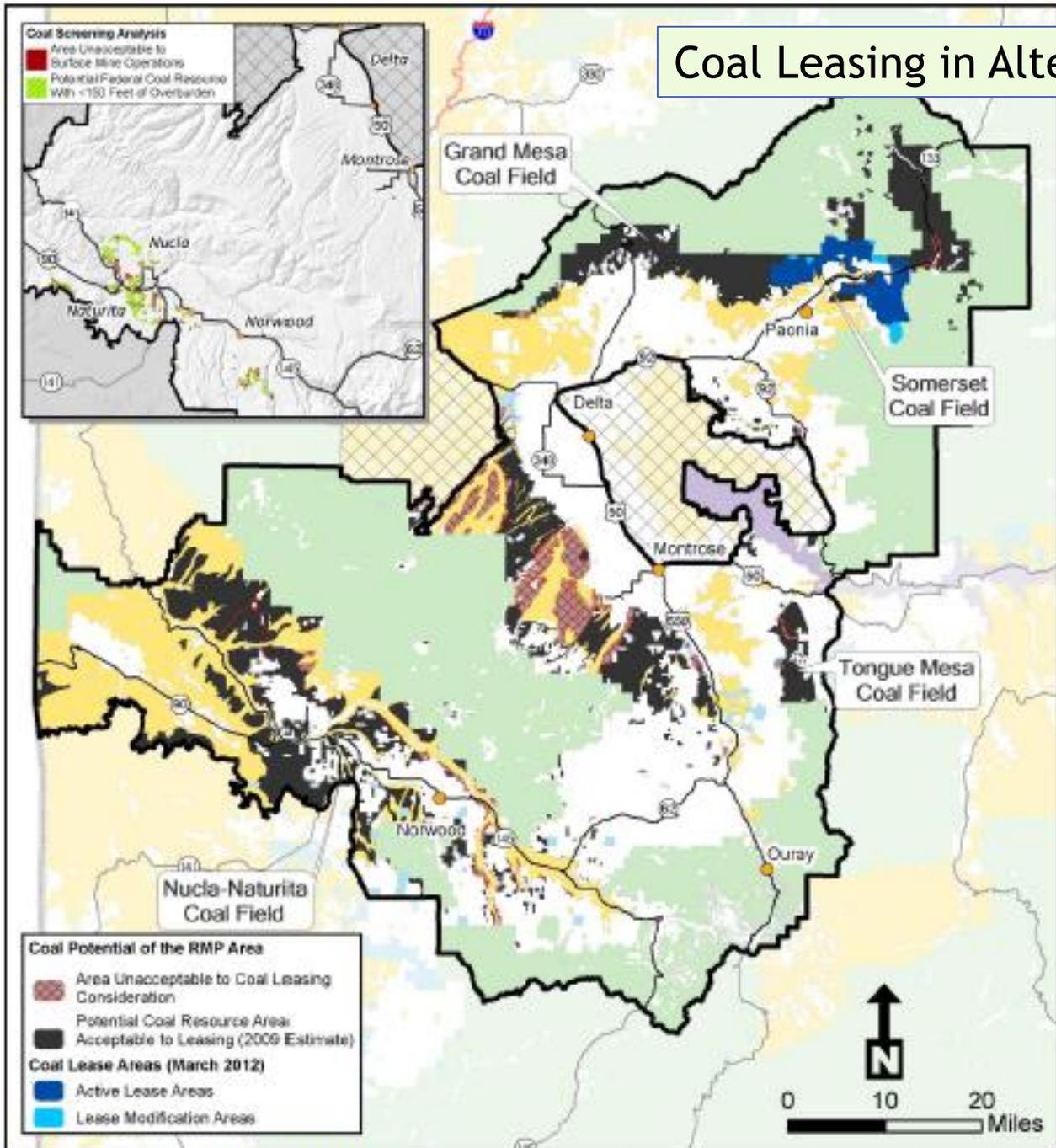


Figure 2-33: Alternative D: Coal Leasing

Locatable, Salable, Non-Energy Leasable

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Withdrawn from locatable mineral entry (existing)	28,060	28,060	28,060	28,060
Petition for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	27,690	364,010	11,250	55,880
Closed to mineral material disposal	104,690	562,610	58,610	135,370
Closed to non-energy solid leasable development	44,320	391,300	57,390	170,490

Primarily BLM Surface/Federal Minerals, but has some Private and State Lands with Federal Minerals (mostly Source Water Protection areas and SSS Plant Occupied Habitat).

Fluid Mineral Leasing

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Closed to Leasing	44,220	169,830	44,220	50,060
BLM Surface/Federal Minerals	44,220	153,070	44,220	48,510
Private, State Surface/Fed Minerals	0	16,760	0	1,550
Open to Leasing	871,810	746,200	871,810	865,970
Open, with NSO (BLM Surface)	24,890	381,270	14,680	187,560
Open, with NSO (Private, State Surface)	720	114,650	7,620	50,580
Open, with CSU (BLM Surface)	110,180	141,400	365,810	265,140
Open, with CSU (Private, State Surface)	9,680	103,220	91,310	68,190
Open, with TL (BLM Surface)	423,900	522,720	475,220	627,290
Open, with TL (Private, State Surface)	77,200	223,460	107,170	238,680

WSAs and Tabeguache Area are 44,220 acres

Fluid Mineral Leasing in Alternative D, Agency Preferred

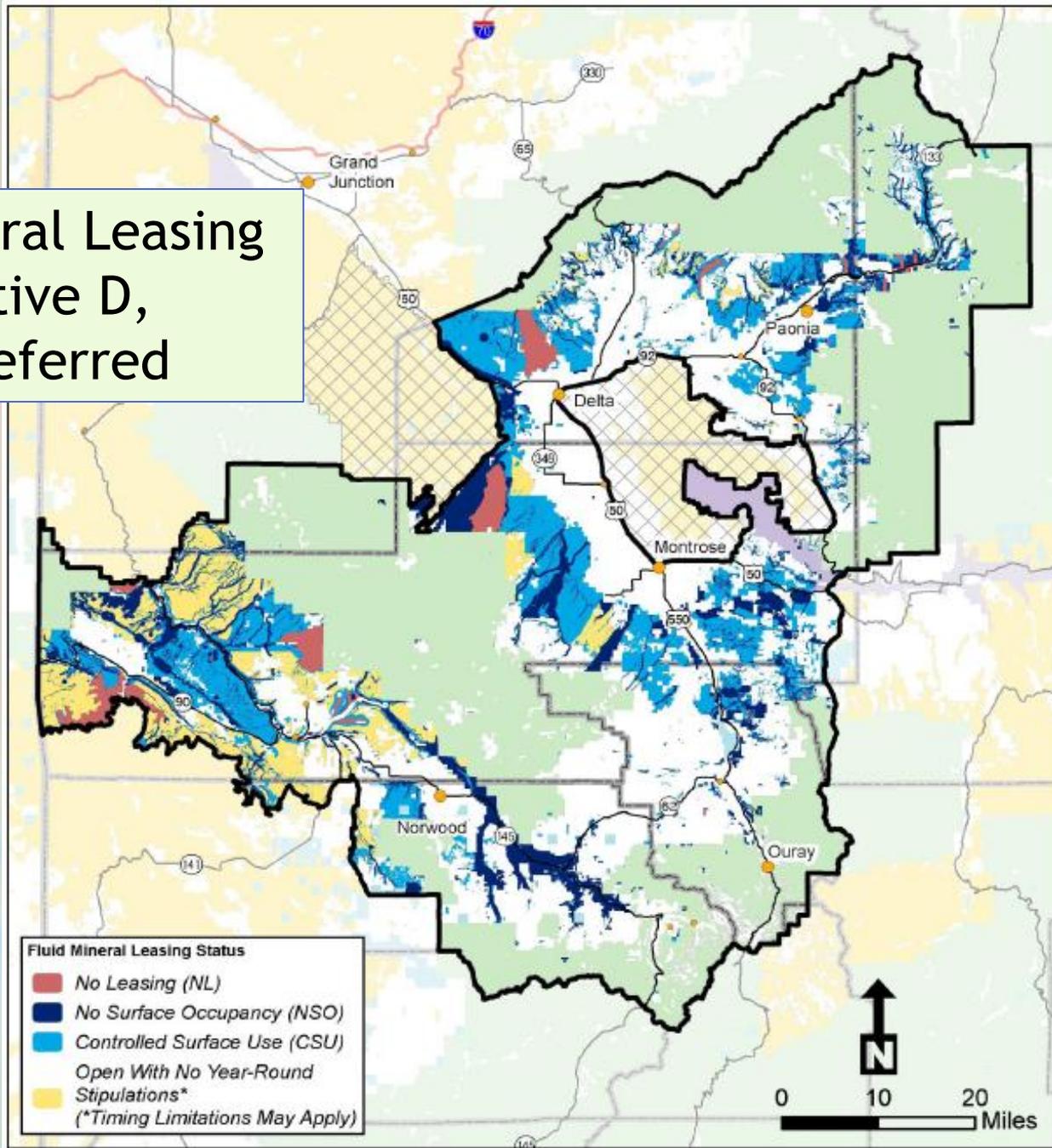


Figure 2-37: Alternative D: Fluid Minerals Leasing

ROW Exclusion, ROW Avoidance

Alternative	A	B	C	D
ROW Exclusion	85,080	427,310	44,550	53,700
ROW Avoidance	0	198,060	239,310	276,500

Land Disposal

Alternative	A	B	C	D
Lands Identified for Disposal	9,850	2,650	9,850	1,930

ROW Avoidance and Exclusion in Alternative D, Agency Preferred

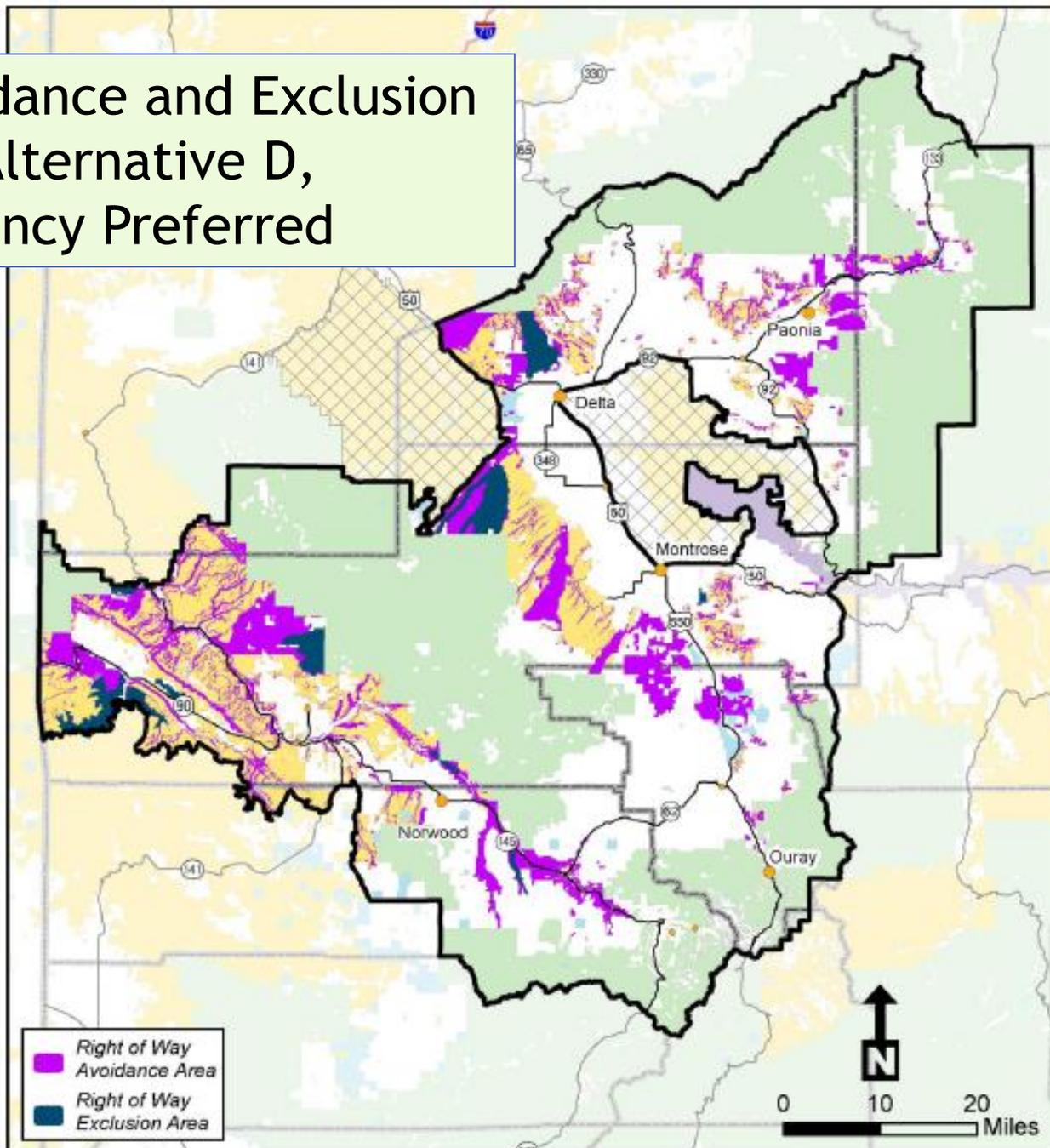


Figure 2-24: Alternative D: Right-of-Way Exclusion and Avoidance Areas

NGD, SSR, TL

Alternative	A	B	C	D
No Ground Disturbance	36,450	444,430	42,660	36,180
Site Specific Relocation	-	231,310	241,400	512,570
Timing Limitations	-	675,800	503,410	675,800

No Ground Disturbance (NGD)

NGD does not apply to Fluid Minerals or Rights of Way.

Areas restricted by NGD are closed to all other surface-disturbing activities.

Surface-disturbing activities are those that normally result in more than negligible disturbance to vegetation and soils

Includes (but not limited to):

- mechanized earth-moving equipment;
- truck-mounted drilling, geophysical exploration equipment off designated routes;
- off-road vehicle travel in areas designated as limited or closed to off-road vehicle use;
- construction of facilities such as range facilities/improvements, power lines, pipelines, oil and gas wells and pads;
- recreation sites;
- new road and trail construction.

Activities not considered surface-disturbing include (but are not limited to):

livestock grazing, cross-country hiking or equestrian use, installing signs, vehicular travel on designated routes, and general use of the land by wildlife.

No Ground Disturbance (Continued)

The following actions or activities are not subject to the NGD stipulation because specific laws and program terminology constrain them.

- Operations conducted under the mining laws
- Fluid Mineral Permitting (areas can be identified as NSO)
- Right-of-way (ROW) location (areas can be identified as “ROW exclusion”)
- Coal leasing: (areas can be identified as open or closed to coal leasing)
- Non-energy solid mineral leasing (areas can be identified as open or closed to non-energy solid mineral leasing)
- Mineral material disposal: (areas can be identified as open or closed to mineral material disposal)

However, the last 3 actions or activities may be subject to SSR stipulations.

Site-Specific Relocation (SSR)

An SSR restriction allows some use and occupancy of public land while protecting identified resources or values.

SSR areas are potentially open to surface-disturbing activities but the restriction allows the BLM to require special constraints, or the activity can be shifted to protect the specified resource or value.

Does not apply to fluid minerals (has CSU)

Does not apply to rights of way (has ROW Avoidance)

Education, Outreach, Partnerships

One element Common to All Alternatives is:
Seek to enhance collaborative opportunities, partnerships, and communications with other agencies and interested parties to implement the RMP, including education and outreach and project-specific activities (such as monitoring and trail development).



QUESTIONS?