



COLORADO MESA
UNIVERSITY



PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT IN THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY

2010 - 2011

**A Report for the Mesa County Commissioners regarding
NCA stakeholder meetings**

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Lack of Consensus.....	4
Introduction - Background.....	6
Methodology – Design.....	9
Meeting Analysis	13
Issues Raised at Individual Stakeholder group meetings.....	13
Stakeholder Roundtable meetings.....	14
Meeting 1 Summary	14
Meeting 2 Summary	15
Meeting 3 Summary	16
Meeting 4 Summary	17
Points of Consensus	18
Lack of Consensus.....	19
Conclusions.....	19
Recommendations	21
Appendix 1: Individual Group Meeting Notes.....	22
Appendix 2: Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting Notes.....	38
Appendix 3: Maps and Handouts.....	65

Gateway NCA Proposal Report 2010-2011

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Executive Summary

The community of Gateway, Colorado is located in the southwestern corner of Mesa County, approximately 50 miles from Grand Junction. The residents of Gateway have a long-standing connection with traditional western culture. Many of those living in the community have generations of family members who have ranched and mined the area for well over one hundred years. More recently, Gateway Canyons Resort was built on private land and has introduced tourism and recreation as new enterprises in the area. Finally, the renewed international interest in nuclear energy has rekindled interest in the uranium and vanadium holdings located throughout the region.

Much of the land surrounding Gateway is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Tasked with managing its lands to promote multiple uses, the BLM has struggled to find the resources necessary to balance the competing values of community members, proponents of mining, interests supporting recreation and others desiring to protect the unique environment found in the area. In many ways these conflicts between “old west” and “new west” values resemble similar land use problems that have and will continue to play out across the west.

Mesa County commissioners, seeking to identify the best management tool available to the BLM to protect the residents of Gateway and the community’s rich culture, asked researchers at Colorado Mesa University’s Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute (NRLPI) to explore the community’s interest in asking Congress to create a National Conservation Area (NCA). As a management tool, NCA’s have been frequently used in the area to address similar concerns regarding multiple use and competing values. Generally speaking, this approach has met with favorable reviews from most county residents. To assist with this effort, John Hendricks, owner of Gateway Canyons, agreed to finance the study.

Beginning in the summer of 2010, staff from NRLPI began meeting with various stakeholders in the Gateway area. The purpose of these meetings was to determine the issues concerning land management decisions in the Gateway area and particularly the benefits of and the concerns stakeholders may have about an NCA designation in the area. Once individual stakeholder meetings had been convened, the NRLPI staff met with representatives from each of these stakeholder groups in a series of roundtable meetings to determine if the concerns voiced during the individual stakeholder meetings could be resolved and, if so, what the proposed NCA should look like. If there was consensus that an NCA designation in the area was worth pursuing, then the next phase of this study would have opened the question up to the larger public for their input.

Despite the inability to arrive at consensus at this time on the NCA designation for public lands in the Gateway community, the discussion was fruitful in helping to define what ideas enjoyed broad, general support and what ideas created disagreement between participating stakeholders. Below is a list of the points of consensus and the points that lacked consensus amongst the various stakeholders.

Points of consensus

- The landscape is special and supports a wide variety of human and non-human uses.
- The landscape should remain multiple use.
- The heritage and link to the traditional uses of the land such as ranching and mining should be preserved.
- The area provides a great opportunity for educating the public on traditional uses of a western landscape as well as many unique opportunities to enhance our scientific knowledge of the geology and environment in the area.
- The areas on top of the Palisade and Sewemup Mesa are Wilderness areas by all definitions and deserve protection as such.
- Other areas such as the lower part of Maverick Canyon should be considered for inclusion in Wilderness designation (Not all agree that wilderness needs to expand, but if it did, this is certainly one of the first places that should be considered).
- The impact of visitors to the area is likely to grow as others discover the beauty of the landscape and the recreational opportunities in the area.
- Proactive planning is far better than reactive planning in the area.
- The planning process should have broad public support and input at the local level.
- Any NCA or other designation should not cross state lines into Utah.
- Uranium extraction is an important part of the history and future of the area and any NCA designation should avoid those areas that have active uranium claims.
- There are a number of management issues such as law enforcement, trespass, trail development, etc. that would benefit from additional resources not currently allocated to the area.
- Grazing rights shouldn't be infringed on by any future designation.
- The problems in the Gateway area are unlikely to go away on their own, so further dialogue is needed to find a solution. Some sort of management plan is needed for the area to address these issues.
- Any future dialogue on the issues needs to include a wide cross section of stakeholders.

- Most stakeholders were interested in seeing the alternatives proposed for the area currently contained in the revision of the GJFO-BLM RMP before they commit to moving forward on an NCA designation for the area.

Lack of Consensus

- There was disagreement about the economic impacts of an NCA designation.
- There was disagreement about how much of past mining claims should be excluded from an NCA designation.
- There was disagreement over the limitations an NCA designation will have over future economic uses of the land.
- There was disagreement about whether an NCA was the right management tool for the area.
- There was disagreement about how the boundaries of current WSAs should be modified and what additional lands should be considered for Wilderness designation.
- There was disagreement about whether increased visitation on public lands in the area would benefit or hurt the Gateway community.
- There was disagreement over whether NCA designation would provide BLM with additional resources to manage the public lands in the Gateway area.
- There was disagreement on the willingness of Congress to abide by local input when designating an NCA.

Conclusions

By the end of the fourth stakeholder roundtable meeting it was clear that there was no consensus among stakeholder representatives to move forward with a proposal to create an NCA on the public lands surrounding the Gateway community at this time. Equally clear was the understanding by the stakeholder participants of the challenges the BLM will face in managing the land to protect and promote multiple use. The stakeholders present appreciated that the Mesa County Commissioners were interested in hearing their thoughts on how the land should be managed. Roundtable participants expressed willingness to participate in further discussions, but only if other land management tools would be considered. An NCA designation may still be considered but this designation can not be fully weighed without consideration of other options.

There are several reasons why the roundtable stakeholders were unable to support an NCA designation at this time. First is a lack of trust that the federal government would abide by local input when passing legislation to create an NCA. While all participants expressed faith in their local

BLM officials, several stakeholders were concerned that their recommendations would not be followed by a Congress beset by national pressure to manage public lands in the Gateway area in a different manner, nor were many of the participants convinced that, given the problems with our national debt, additional resources to help the BLM would be forthcoming in legislation creating an NCA. Without the additional funding, the primary benefit of the NCA designation would be lost.

A second reason many believe for the failure to gain consensus relates to the sense of permanency in regards to an NCA designation. Some saw the benefits to creating NCA boundaries that excluded known uranium claims as a way to provide long-term protection for development of these claims. Additionally, some believed that the establishment of an NCA would encourage more public and private partnerships in the development of recreational infrastructure to channel these activities while protecting livestock grazing. Still the more vocal stakeholders were concerned that the establishment of an NCA would permanently limit future economic activity such as potential timber operations or as yet undiscovered resource extraction opportunities. The likelihood of these economic activities actually presenting themselves was never discussed in any great detail.

Finally, a number of the stakeholder representatives did not believe they could fully understand the benefits of an NCA designation without being able to compare this option with other management options. Some expressed the opinion that considering a request for NCA designation was a bit premature given that the BLM was to review their draft Recreational Management Plan for this area in only a few months. These stakeholders wanted to wait to see how the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office proposed to manage the public lands in their community over the next twenty years before deciding to pursue any other management options.

Despite these apprehensions, there was genuine agreement that the public lands in the Gateway area would face increased stress from the growing demands for more recreational opportunities and the influx of more tourists into the area. The threat these newcomers pose to traditional ranching and mining will require the full attention of federal land managers in the very near future. Mesa County commissioners seeking to encourage federal land policy that will protect the community's interest still need a better idea of how the community would like to see their interests protected.

Recommendations

- The Mesa County Commissioners should continue to encourage community discussion of federal land management options in the Gateway area.
- These discussions should be expanded to include all viable land management options including but not limited to NCA designation.
- These discussions should occur after the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office has released its draft Resource Management Plan.
- Participation in these discussions should be expanded to include broader county participation by other stakeholders who will be affected by the eventual manner in which the BLM will manage federal lands in the Gateway community.

Introduction - Background

Gateway lies in the southeastern area of Mesa County approximately 50 miles from Grand Junction. The community is almost entirely surrounded on all sides by BLM managed public lands. Gateway is a community in transition. Traditionally the economy of Gateway had been driven by uranium and other mineral extraction, as well as ranching. Several years ago, a new resort, Gateway Canyons, was built on private land, and the economic base of the community has been shifting from traditional uses of public lands to tourism opportunities and extensive marketing by the resort of the surrounding public lands as a destination tourism site.

The vast majority of the Gateway area under consideration for NCA designation is federal public land, largely under the management of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO), with 10,000 acres in the southern part of the Sewemup Wilderness Study area under the management of the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office. In the larger area there is a small section of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, and the BLM land is bounded by the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre National Forest to the east and north. There are a number of private in holdings in the federal lands, but most of the private property is located along the Dolores River valley and the East Creek Drainage of Unewee Canyon. The individual with the largest private landholdings in the area is John Hendricks, CEO of the Discovery Channel and owner of Gateway Canyons Resort. In the Gateway area there are also a few tracts of land that are under the mineral control of the Department of Energy and are leased out through the DOE for mineral development. These tracts are located on the eastern mesas (Calamity, Flattop, etc) and are clearly marked on the maps in Appendix 3.

The designation of an area as a National Conservation Area is a rather new and growing phenomenon in public lands management. Currently it occurs only on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The NCAs are part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). According to the website of the NLCS, "National conservation areas (NCAs) and similarly designated lands are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." The goal of an NCA is to better allocate management resources and planning to best preserve the unique values of the particular area. Generally, NCAs have some Wilderness areas inside their boundaries, but the principle focus of an NCA is to preserve the landscape while maintaining a multiple use focus in which a variety of activities and objectives are managed for. The NCA designation is accompanied by a requirement that a resource management plan be developed. This is typically done in partnership with an Advisory Council of citizen stakeholders. The designating legislation of each NCA will address the makeup and duration of the Advisory Council. Within the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management there are three NCAs already established. They are McInnis Canyons NCA, Gunnison Gorge NCA and the recently designated Dominquez-Escalante NCA. There are 16 designated NCAs and 5 similarly designated areas in the entire NLCS, therefore three NCAs within 50 miles of Grand Junction (the only NCAs in Colorado) already makes this area the highest concentration of NCAs in the national system. Although there is some disagreement about the merit of these designations among some locals, generally the NCAs in the area have been seen as a successful management option by the BLM and local government agencies from city to county. While it is difficult to measure the exact economic impact of NCA designations to the local economy, many local businesses as well as the chambers of commerce and visitor and convention bureaus agree that the existing NCA designations in the area have added to the economic strength of the region.

The public lands in the Gateway area have been a cause of some concern in terms of what the optimal management tools might be. Initially, the GJFO of the BLM hired researchers from Arizona State University to conduct a survey of recreational users of the Gateway area to determine the viability of amending the existing Resource Management Plan by making the Gateway area a Special Recreational Management Area (SRMA). Staff at The Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute (NRLPI) administered the survey for Arizona State in the summer of 2007. Because the management of the Gateway area was closely connected to the management of surrounding landscapes, the BLM later decided to move discussion of SRMA designation to their comprehensive RMP Revision process that began in 2008.

In 2008, the staff of NRLPI at Mesa State College was asked to conduct a series of meetings in the Gateway area to assess the recreational issues concerning an option in the proposed Resource Management Plan to make the Gateway area a Special Recreational Management Area (SRMA). Several meetings were held and a variety of issues were raised about the need to develop a more comprehensive plan to account for projected increased recreation in the area as it mixes with traditional land uses such as ranching and mining.

In the summer of 2009, the Sonoran Institute released a study of the Gateway area in which they considered the economic impact of an economy based on uranium and resource extraction compared to an economy based on tourism and outdoor recreation¹. In that report, the Sonoran Institute concludes that an economy that continues its reliance on uranium and other mineral extraction in the area has a variety of hidden costs in terms of impacts to the human and ecological systems of the area. When compared to an economy based on outdoor recreation in the area, the uranium based economy appears far less sustainable given these hidden costs. The study suggests that areas with protected public lands for tourism and outdoor recreation do far better economically, all things considered, than resource extractive economies. The Gateway area certainly has great potential for tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities as witnessed by the presence of Gateway Canyons Resort and the serious consideration of an SRMA designation for the area. However the increased attention worldwide to nuclear energy has raised interest in the uranium and vanadium that is found in the area. The question arises, what is the appropriate level of public lands management to maximize these opportunities without endangering the landscape resources?

As part of the RMP process, the staff of NRLPI conducted a series of community assessment focus groups for communities throughout the Grand Junction Field Office, including a meeting in Gateway in March of 2009. Some of the observations from that focus group concerning the Gateway community's vision for public lands in the area were useful for informing the current NCA proposal process. The residents suggested they like living in Gateway because of the small town feel, sense of community and heritage connected to their family which lived in the area for generations. Other comments focused on the access to the night sky without light pollution, open spaces, the nature of the landscape and wildlife in the area, the lack of crowds and access to public lands on all sides. There was a strong sense of ownership of public lands and a sense of privilege to have such un-crowded access to public lands. This access and connection to the land enhances the sense of community as long as others don't trash the lands through littering, driving off trail and congregating in previously isolated places. They were also clear that the public lands provide traditional use economic opportunities for miners, timber workers, guides, hunters, ranchers and

¹ For a complete text of the Sonoran Institute study of Gateway in 2009, see:
http://www.uraniumwatch.org/colorado/si_gatewayrpt.090714.pdf

river rafting. Concerns were raised around the issues of the ability for people to continue to work and make their livelihood on public lands; proper stewardship of the land so that groups don't abuse it; and that habitat and open space must be maintained for wildlife. There was a concern expressed that people responsibly use the land. This was specifically related to everything from trash on public lands to land swaps. Other issues were raised about the need to properly manage the area given the pressures it is likely to face in the future from more demands on the resources from recreation to energy development. A resource protection emphasis in the area it was suggested that it would help recreation as the area would become a destination point especially with additional Wilderness designation. On the other hand, if trails are closed to protect resources this might negatively affect livestock jobs and recreation in the area. There seemed to be interest in further conversations about how to best manage the area given the challenges discussed. This series of meeting on the consideration of an NCA designation in the area are part of the on-going management conversation.

In the summer of 2010, the Mesa County Commissioners asked the staff of NRLPI to conduct a series of meetings to determine the level of public support for and issues surrounding the federal designation of a National Conservation Area in the Gateway area. Over the past several years a wide variety of issues had surfaced as a result of the numerous public discussions about the need for more management resources for the public lands in the area. One option that has proved successful in other parts of Mesa County is the designation of an area as a National Conservation Area. Previously NRLPI staff had held a similar set of public meetings to consider the designation of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area in Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties. Additionally, the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area has been in existence for 10 years in the western part of Mesa County. Although a variety of management options had been discussed in recent years for Gateway, the Commissioners felt more information was needed about the possibility of a National Conservation Area that some members of the public were advocating for.

Recent budget shortfalls have challenged the Commissioners of Mesa County and other local governments causing them to seek public/private partnerships to fund planning projects such as the discussions surrounding Gateway. The Hendricks family generously offered to fund the research into an NCA designation as long as the local community was significantly involved in the process. National organizations that advocate for and against particular land use designations have done extensive research on the impacts of National Conservation Areas, but the Commissioners and their private sector partners felt it was very important to understand what local stakeholders thought about the possible designation before considering whether to propose it to the US Congressional delegation for action. It was thought that such activity in the process of designating the Dominguez-Escalante NCA was a vital part of the success of the designation, and it should be a model for the need for local input and support for special designations of western public lands.

Because of our capacity to facilitate public discussion around public lands issues, the staff at NRLPI was asked to conduct a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the area to determine the issues that need to be considered with any NCA designation in the area. If there was support from the stakeholders to move forward, the issues raised would become the basis for a few open-invitation public meetings to gauge the level of interest and support for an NCA designation. Conversations with individual stakeholder groups began in the Fall of 2010 and led to the formation of a stakeholders roundtable which met four times in the Spring of 2011 to discuss issues surrounding an NCA designation and to determine what issues would need to be brought to the larger public meetings assuming there was support from the local stakeholder's roundtable to move forward.

Methodology – Design

In any land policy decision there are a number of issues that various stakeholders express concerning the policy. . In order to determine whether a particular policy option has merit, it is useful to ask these stakeholders what they perceive the positive and negative impacts to be. It is often better to start with interested stakeholder groups that feel they have a vested interest and local knowledge of the landscape because they have already considered many of the issues associated with the different policy options. The staff at NRLPI thought it would be useful to speak with these stakeholder groups individually at first so that they would feel free to raise issues without having to react to disagreement from other stakeholders they might encounter in a more open invitation public meeting. Often initial large public meetings revolve around the posturing of various stakeholders relative to other groups at the meeting. If stakeholders first consider their own hopes and concerns, they will be better able to listen to other stakeholders when they come together in a roundtable or public meeting forum. A list of the issues discussed in these individual stakeholder meetings is in Appendix 1. The issues raised at these individual stakeholder meetings became the first item on the agenda at the Stakeholder Roundtable meetings where participants were asked to add any additional issues missed in earlier conversations. Then, the roundtable began to discuss the issues raised in the hopes of refining the list of issues that would become the basis for a series of public meetings in Grand Junction and Gateway.

All public policy will have costs and benefits. After considering these in the context of a proposed Gateway NCA, the members of the roundtable were asked to determine if there was enough support among them for an NCA that it would be worth the effort needed to take these questions to the general public. If there was no source of agreement among the interested stakeholders, it was thought that there was not enough support to move forward by asking the general public. As the analysis of the stakeholder meetings should make clear, although the group did not agree to move forward with larger public meetings at this point due to a lack of consensus on the value of an NCA in the area, there was a tremendous amount of agreement on many issues that might provide the foundation for future land policy, perhaps even including a congressional designation as an NCA. At this time, however, it is still unclear what tool is the best to move forward and address the many issues raised through these conversations.

It was determined early on in the stakeholder process, that if there was any point in holding larger public meetings, it would be important to have something concrete for the public to consider. Boundaries and basic agreement on the unique values of the area that should be preserved in any legislation appeared to be essential for the possibility of a productive conversation with members of the public who may or may not have ever considered the complex set of issues that arise from possible NCA designation. With boundaries on a map, the public would be able to visualize what areas are actually being affected. The more issues that are raised, especially regarding a policy change such as NCA designation, the more important it is that all voices are heard. Thus, it would be important for the success of the public meetings, that a clear plan begin to emerge from the stakeholder conversations so that the public wasn't subjected to more broad philosophical discussions about NCAs in the abstract, but rather that they make an informed decision based on a concrete proposal.

The Staff of NRLPI held a series of meetings with the individual stakeholder groups during the fall of 2010 in order to determine what issues each group believed should be addressed regarding an NCA in the Gateway area. The table below indicates the meeting dates and groups. Some groups had more than one meeting to accommodate follow up discussions leading up to the development of a stakeholder's roundtable in which representatives from the groups could interact with each other. Analysis of the issues raised will be addressed later in the report.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Stakeholder group</u>
8/12/2010	OHV organizations (WSATV, COHVCO, MTRA, etc.)
8/18/2010	Environmental Groups (FOND/CEC, Wilderness Society)
8/21/2010	Residents of Gateway Community
8/27/2010	Ranchers in Gateway Area
9/20/2010	Mesa County Commissioners
10/25/2010	Environmental Groups
10/25/2010	OHV Community
11/18/2010	Quiet Users (COPMOBA, Hikers, Backcountry Horseman, Wilderness Advocacy groups, etc.)
12/16/2010	Gateway Canyons Resort
2/25/2010	US Congressman Scott Tipton and staff

The initial design of the study called for individual stakeholder group meetings that would surface issues surrounding the proposal of an NCA in the Gateway area. These issues would become the agenda of a series of open invitation public meetings held in Grand Junction and Gateway to determine the level of public support or concern over such an NCA. After numerous meetings with individual stakeholder groups, it became clear that the issues involved in the Gateway NCA proposal were more complicated and needed further refinement before they could be productively discussed in an open invitation set of meetings with the general public. The study design was modified to incorporate a series of meetings called the "stakeholder's roundtable" in which representatives from each of the individual stakeholder groups would come together to discuss the issues raised at earlier meetings with individual groups. The stakeholders at the roundtable would help to refine the issues and the proposal that could be brought before the public at larger meetings. In an effort to keep the roundtable to a manageable number, a limited number of representatives from each group were called for. Most stakeholder groups had one representative except for the local Gateway community, the environmental/conservation organizations, and the OHV community due to the diversity of interests in the area that each of those categories represented. Each of those groups was asked to send two representatives. When asked about this additional step in the process, and the makeup of the stakeholder roundtable, all groups thought the roundtable step was a good idea and an important step in the process. If the roundtable could agree on basic principles and some general parameters to the proposal, then there would be something concrete to bring forward to the general public that they would be able to understand and react to.

An important part of the design of the roundtable is to get each individual stakeholder group to determine their own representation. This was critical for support from the different groups

regarding any proposal that might emerge from the roundtable process. If a government agency, or the staff at NRLPI were to select representatives, then it would appear to be a “stacked” or bias committee with a pre-determined agenda. Although the staff at NRLPI initially contacted the individual stakeholder group members to talk to based on previous interest and contacts in the Gateway area from earlier planning efforts, we asked the stakeholder groups to go back to their “constituents” and determine in their own way who will represent them. Each group did this differently, and the table below indicates who the representatives were and which stakeholder group they represented.

Stakeholder Group	Representative
Environmental/Conservation 1	Kate Graham (CEC/FOND)
Environmental/Conservation 2	Jeff Widen (The Wilderness Society)
OHV 1	Steve Martin (COHVCO, MTRA)
OHV 2	Tom Derryberry (WSATV, COHVCO)
Gateway Community 1	Jean Moores
Gateway Community 2	Jacque Bevan
Hikers	Stanley Nunnally (CMC)
Mountain Bikers	Dan Antonelli (COPMOBA)
Horseback Riders	Jan Potterveld (Backcountry Horseman)
Gateway Canyons Resort	John Williams
Uranium and other mineral producers	Bill Chenoweth (DOE Retired)
Upstream communities along Dolores and San Miguel Rivers	John Reams (Nucla) ²
Energy Producer	Dick White (Energy Fuels)

Additional members of the local community also sat in on the roundtable meetings and participated, voicing their opinions to the issues discussed. They included: Leon Moores, Elda Graham, Linda Boulden, Andrew Massey and Al Sisson. Although their participation as stakeholders ran the risk of skewing the balance of representation worked out prior to the roundtable (and some stakeholder representatives expressed this concern to the facilitators in private conversations), the county commissioners who asked for the report were particularly interested in assessing local interest or concern about the NCA proposal so additional community members were allowed to voice those concerns and hopes during the roundtable process. No formal votes were taken in which one would have to make such distinctions between participant and non-participant.

²After the first roundtable meeting it was clear that additional stakeholders were needed to get a truly representative group. A request was made to add a representative from the upstream communities of Nucla and Naturita along the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. John Reams of Reams Construction and an independent miner in the area was invited to represent this group starting at the second meeting. The largest energy lease holder in the area, Energy Fuels Ltd. asked if they could observe and then participate in the roundtable and the group agreed to that expansion as well at the third meeting. Members of the Energy Fuels team attended all but the first roundtable meeting.

Additional members of the public showed up to the roundtable meetings periodically, but were less involved in the discussion. A complete account of all who attended and which meetings they attended is located in Appendix 2 Meeting Notes.

Staff members from various governmental agencies were asked to participate in the stakeholder roundtable as consultants to answer questions that the stakeholders themselves might have. These consultants generally only responded to questions in their areas of expertise. Federal and state agencies were represented by consultants from the BLM (the federal land managers of most of the land considered in the NCA proposal), CDOW (the state agency managing the wildlife in the area), the DOE (represented by Ed Cotter and Kyle Turley of SM Stoller – a consulting firm that manage the DOE lease tracks in the area), and a former DOE employee of 30 years (Bill Chenoweth) who advised the group on uranium and other energy development in the area.

Initially, the stakeholder representatives agreed to three meetings in the spring of 2011 to be held in the Gateway Community Center, with the understanding that an additional meeting or two might be necessary to finalize an agreement that could be taken to the public for input. The meetings would take place once a month throughout the spring so that representatives could communicate with their groups in between meetings to develop their positions. Four roundtable meetings in total were held in Gateway.

The agenda for the first meeting was the presentation of several proposals developed by individual stakeholder groups. The Friends of the Northern Dolores presented a plan that would significantly increase the amount of land designated as wilderness within an NCA boundary, the OHV community presented a proposal to designate the area as a National Recreation Area (NRA) instead of an NCA, and Gateway Canyons presented their vision of an NCA in the area, and the benefits that would accrue from such a designation. Participants were asked to only ask clarifying questions at the first meeting to understand the proposals, they were then to take the proposals back to the groups they represent to discuss them. The agenda of the second meeting was to discuss the proposals and any reaction to them and look for common ground. The second meeting was dominated by conversations about Wilderness and uranium mining without much conclusion. Because boundaries are necessary for any Congressional designation, maps were distributed and the participants were asked to identify those boundaries and any special places in the area for discussion at the third meeting. The maps that were produced and presented in the third meeting are included in Appendix 3. At the end of the third meeting, the stakeholder representatives decided that at least one more meeting was needed to determine what if anything could forward to a broader public conversation. The list of issues raised at the individual stakeholder meetings (see below) was circulated to the participants as a basis for determining in the fourth meeting whether the NCA designation would help or hurt each of those issues. At the end of the fourth meeting, the participants agreed that there was no clear proposal to bring forward to the general public at this time, although there were several areas of agreement (discussed below) upon which future conversations could be built.

In addition to the face to face roundtable meetings of stakeholders, the staff of NRLPI also facilitated an on-going exchange with the participants between the meetings by e-mail correspondence. The minutes for every meeting (See Appendix 2) were sent out for approval as well as any digital files such as maps, and a list of the issues raised at the individual stakeholders meetings and the agendas for upcoming meetings. Several participants used the e-mail correspondence to develop common ground between the meetings.

The original design of the study called for additional meetings with the general public to discuss an NCA proposal in the Gateway area, but the stakeholders roundtable did not produce a concrete proposal to bring forward to the larger public meetings, so no meetings were scheduled at this point. Without a concrete proposal, it was thought that the public meetings would only serve to confuse the issues further, rather than help assess the public's level of support for a proposal.

Meeting Analysis

Issues Raised at Individual Stakeholder group meetings

- Designated Boundaries of the NCA and any wilderness areas within the NCA
 - State borders
 - Agency borders
 - County borders
 - Watershed borders
- Wilderness
 - Improper designation of area as wilderness (routes exist or wild character doesn't exist)
 - Resolve WSA status
 - Fear of significant increase in wilderness designation with NCA
 - Opportunity to rethink current designation of WSA and citizen's proposed wilderness
 - Road Maintenance Issues on Wilderness Boundaries
- Budget
 - Opportunity for a new line item
 - Could dilute pot of money for other NCAs in the area
 - Current federal impasse over budget
- Change
 - Do not like changing from what we already know
 - Fear of the unknown
- Participation/process issues
 - "minds made up before we meet"
 - Best chance to have locals give meaningful input into management
- Reduced Risks
 - Adds constraints through articulated legislation
 - Directs the management done by local federal agencies
- Outside "meddling"
 - Possible Presidential designation through the Antiquities Act
 - Land designations from Congress without local input
- Educational Opportunities
 - How to respect land and surrounding private property
 - Gateway Canyons Academy
 - Heritage Tourism
 - Interpretive signs cost money and attention of BLM

- Partnerships and funding
 - Increased opportunity for public/private partnerships
 - Opportunity for increased grants in designated spaces
- Tourism
 - Economic opportunity
 - Many new people who don't know the landscape may need more guidance
- Uranium
 - Resources are in the area
 - Development plans?
 - Public safety
 - Property rights on claims
- Private Property
 - Trespass issues
 - Access issues
- Water Issues
- Lack of Public understanding of NCAs and the process
- Law Enforcement
- Master Planning Document for the area
 - Need to develop a strategy for that part of the county
- Recreation
 - Need for recreational infrastructure (trails, trailheads, etc)
- Land Needs to be Multiple Use
- Cultural Heritage
 - Petra glyphs and other archeological sites need to be cataloged, accessed and preserved
 - Need to protect traditional uses (ranching, mining)
 - Opportunity to educate public about those uses in the area
- “Spot on the Map” issue
 - Designation will draw attention to the area and increase public pressure on the landscape.
- Expansion of the Resort
 - What are their plans for the future?
 - How will they draw attention to the area independent of the designation?
 - How will NCA designation affect their business plan?
- “Permanent” Solution

Some stakeholders, but not all, would prefer to see a permanent solution to the area so that they can plan for the future.
- Limitations on economic uses of public lands within an NCA

Stakeholder Roundtable meetings

Meeting 1 Summary

- Initial introductions of stakeholder representatives and the process

- List and discuss all issues raised in the individual stakeholder meetings. All issues were listed earlier in this report. The participants were invited to add any issues not raised in the list.
- Most substantive addition to the issue list was Wildlife
- Presentation of proposals by three stakeholder groups
 - OHV community advocated a National Recreation Area (NRA) designation
 - Environmental group (Dolores River Coalition) proposes an NCA with significant increase in area designated as Wilderness.
 - Gateway Canyons Resort endorsed an NCA with the boundaries to Granite Creek area in the west, and south to the bottom of Sewemup Mesa. Not a lot of expansion of wilderness beyond the current WSAs in the area. Stressed the need to be proactive in planning for increased visitor population.
 - Details of all proposals are in the meeting notes in Appendix 2 of this report.
- Participants were asked to reserve reaction and response until the next meeting, and simply to ask clarifying questions at this first meeting.

Meeting 2 Summary

- An additional proposal from the Backcountry Horseman was e-mailed to all participants between meeting 1 and 2.
- An additional proposal by Energy Fuels was offered to “carve out” uranium deposits from NCA to avoid complicating further mineral development.
- Local reaction expressed severe reservations about the expansion of wilderness suggested in the Dolores River Coalition proposal and reservations about the strict recreation focus that would come with the NRA proposal.
- Local’s comments strongly favored the status quo.
- Strong emphasis on the current cooperative management between locals and the BLM.
- Concerns were expressed about increasing the government presence and involvement, especially the federal government involvement.
- Highlighted the need and desirability of local involvement in planning and management of the landscape.
- Value of an NCA is that locals have a say in how legislation is written.

- Several impassioned stories of locals' interaction with the landscape.
- Fear of loss of economic opportunities (traditional uses) with NCA designation.
- Some were concerned about the permanency of a designation and management plan, while others saw the permanency as an added layer of protection beyond the current RMP process which can change.
- Concerns were raised that the BLM won't have the resources to handle the increased visitors without some designation and the additional resources that would likely accompany such a designation.
- NCA could be a way to secure resources for traditional uses in the area
- All participants were given maps to fill in before meeting 3 (Appendix 3: map 1) and asked to fill in possible NCA boundaries and areas of interest/concern
- Several participants thought the current RMP process would be more flexible than an NCA designation. [Both require an RMP with the same rules about amending and changing the RMP].
- Several suggested that NCA and mining are incompatible, uranium would need to be carved out to satisfy stakeholders such as Energy Fuels.

Meeting 3 Summary

- Several participants brought maps back with boundaries and areas of interest/concern identified (see Appendix 3, maps 2-11).
- Maps were projected for all to see and discussed.
- Energy Fuels was officially added as another stakeholder representing uranium producers by unanimous consent.
- Much of the conversation about the maps focused on access and trespass issues.
- The group agreed to exclude Utah and any USFS lands from any future NCA designation.
- Maverick Canyon was discussed as a possible Wilderness area, other discussion centered around redrawing the boundaries of existing WSAs.
- There was some discussion of recreation opportunities in the area.

- There was a strong interest at the meeting to continue the dialogue on Wilderness, but it was inconclusive regarding the NCA.
- Participants agreed to one additional meeting to conclude the NCA discussion.

Meeting 4 Summary

- Discussion returned to original issues.
- Concern was voiced regarding the impact to grazing. All agreed it was important to preserve grazing.
- The underlying issue is how to deal with the increased use as more people “discover” the area.
- Importance of local input in planning for increased visitors. The NCA was suggested as a very good way to do that proactively.
- Participants agreed that mining should be excluded from the NCA. “Carve out” areas of significant commercial mining possibility.
- NCA provides opportunity for additional or targeted funding to the area, although the federal government may not allocate much funding in the future. Some disagreed with the need for additional funding, or suggested that the NCA might also create additional costs that would eat up any additional funding and perhaps more.
- Concerns were raised that the group was not focusing on all the issues raised in the process, but rather it was getting stuck on a few such as wilderness and mining to the detriment of a broader conversation.
- The local ranchers, the OHV representatives and the mining representative were against any NCA designation at this time. Other recreationists and Gateway Canyons Resort endorsed moving forward with an NCA designation. Conservationist/Environmental representatives committed to additional discussions before they would commit to any NCA designation.
- All agreed there was not enough of a concrete proposal from these discussions to move forward with at this time.

Points of Consensus

- The landscape is special and supports a wide variety of human and non-human uses.
- The landscape should remain multiple use.
- The heritage and link to the traditional uses of the land such as ranching and mining should be preserved.
- The area provides a great opportunity for educating the public on traditional uses of a western landscape as well as many unique opportunities to enhance our scientific knowledge of the geology and environment in the area.
- The areas on top of the Palisade and Sewemup Mesa are Wilderness areas by all definitions and deserve protection as such.
- Other areas such as the lower part of Maverick Canyon should be considered for inclusion in Wilderness designation (Not all agree that wilderness needs to expand, but if it did, this is certainly one of the first places that should be considered).
- The impact of visitors to the area is likely to grow as others discover the beauty of the landscape and the recreational opportunities in the area.
- Proactive planning is far better than reactive planning in the area.
- The planning process should have broad public support and input at the local level.
- Any NCA or other designation should not cross state lines into Utah.
- Uranium extraction is an important part of the history and future of the area and any NCA designation should avoid those areas that have active uranium claims.
- There are a number of management issues such as law enforcement, trespass, trail development, etc. that would benefit from additional resources not currently allocated to the area.
- Grazing rights shouldn't be infringed on by any future designation.
- The problems in the Gateway area are unlikely to go away on their own, so further dialogue is needed to find a solution. Some sort of management plan is needed for the area to address these issues.
- Any future dialogue on the issues needs to include a wide cross section of stakeholders.

- Most stakeholders were interested in seeing the alternatives proposed for the area currently contained in the revision of the GJFO-BLM RMP before they commit to moving forward on an NCA designation for the area.

Lack of Consensus

- There was disagreement about the economic impacts of an NCA designation.
- There was disagreement about how much of past mining claims should be excluded from an NCA designation.
- There was disagreement over the limitations an NCA designation will have over future economic uses of the land.
- There was disagreement about whether an NCA was the right management tool for the area.
- There was disagreement about how the boundaries of current WSAs should be modified and what additional lands should be considered for Wilderness designation.
- There was disagreement about whether increased visitation on public lands in the area would benefit or hurt the Gateway community.
- There was disagreement over whether NCA designation would provide BLM with additional resources to manage the public lands in the Gateway area.
- There was disagreement on the willingness of Congress to abide by local input when designating an NCA.

Conclusions

By the end of the fourth stakeholder roundtable meeting it was clear that there was no consensus among stakeholder representatives to move forward with a proposal to create an NCA on the public lands surrounding the Gateway community. Equally clear was the understanding by the stakeholder participants of the challenges the BLM will face in managing the land to protect and promote multiple use. The stakeholders present appreciated that the Mesa County commissioners were interested in hearing their thoughts on how the land should be managed. Roundtable participants expressed willingness to participate in further discussions, but only if other land management tools would be considered. An NCA designation may still be considered but this designation can not be fully weighed without consideration of other options.

There are several reasons why the roundtable stakeholders were unable to support an NCA designation at this time. First is a lack of trust that the federal government would abide by local input when passing legislation to create an NCA. While all participants expressed faith in their local BLM officials, several stakeholders were concerned that their recommendations would not be followed by a Congress beset by national pressure to manage public lands in the Gateway area in a different manner, nor were many of the participants convinced that, given the problems with our national debt, additional resources to help the BLM would be forthcoming in legislation creating an NCA. Without the additional funding, the primary benefit of the NCA designation would be lost.

A second reason many believe for the failure to gain consensus relates to the sense of permanency in regards to an NCA designation. Some saw the benefits to creating NCA boundaries that excluded known uranium claims as a way to provide long-term protection for development of these claims. Additionally, some believed that the establishment of an NCA would encourage more public and private partnerships in the development of recreational infrastructure to channel these activities while protecting livestock grazing. Still the more vocal stakeholders were concerned that the establishment of an NCA would permanently limit future economic activity such as potential timber operations or as yet undiscovered resource extraction opportunities. The likelihood of these economic activities actually presenting themselves was never discussed in any great detail.

Finally, a number of the stakeholder representatives did not believe they could fully understand the benefits of an NCA designation without being able to compare this option with other management options. Some expressed the opinion that considering a request for NCA designation was a bit premature given that the BLM was to review their draft Recreational Management Plan for this area in only a few months. These stakeholders wanted to wait to see how the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office proposed to manage the public lands in their community over the next twenty years before deciding to pursue any other management options.

Despite these apprehensions, there was genuine agreement that the public lands in the Gateway area would face increased stress from the growing demands for more recreational opportunities and the influx of more tourists into the area. The threat these newcomers pose to traditional ranching and mining will require the full attention of federal land managers in the very near future. Mesa County Commissioners seeking to encourage federal land policy that will protect the community's interest still need a better idea of how the community would like to see their interests protected.

Recommendations

- The Mesa County Commissioners should continue to encourage community discussion of federal land management options in the Gateway area.
- These discussions should be expanded to include all viable land management options including but not limited to NCA designation.
- These discussions should occur after the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office has released its draft Resource Management Plan.
- Participation in these discussions should be expanded to include broader county participation by other stakeholders who will be affected by the eventual manner in which the BLM will manage federal lands in the Gateway community.

Appendix 1: Individual Group Meeting Notes

I: OHV Community – 8/12/2010

Attendees: Jared Renner, Steve Gunderson, James Solomon, Nate Green, Steve Martin, Ken Sanders, Tom Derryberry Sr., Kent Cook, John Redifer, Tim Casey.

Concern was expressed that creation of an NCA is just another way to create more wilderness area. The cost to manage wilderness areas is four times greater than non-wilderness areas. One advantage of an NCA classification is that it lays out land uses.

Some participants expressed the concern that a Gateway NCA would not provide greater funding, rather it will take funding away from existing NCAs in the area.

Another benefit of an NCA is that it allows wilderness boundaries to be moved. The ATV/OHV community does not see any reason to support an NCA. Congress won't allocate more funding it doesn't have to give. We need to change wilderness boundaries if the existing boundaries contain trails or structures. McInnis NCA lost three quarters of its existing trails.

The ATV/OHV community would rather take its chances with the current on-going RMP process. The motorized community always loses on land use compromises. If we leave Gateway alone, we have all the trails we need for our use. All existing roads will be kept open or re-opened for motorized travel.

Participants questioned, What needs to be conserved in Gateway? Who are we saving the land from? Under an NCA some trails will go away; others will be improved. This may not be bad if it is done right.

Gateway Resorts has changed the area. Hiking can't make it as a recreational opportunity alone. It's too hot. ATV routes are the way to go. [We] should be able to partner with Hendricks to build trails.

Many risks for ATV's are current in discussion of how to manage public lands in the Gateway area. Loss of funding for land agencies will hurt motorized users. The President could use the Antiquities Act to designate the area as a National Monument. [Diana] DeGette is constantly trying to create wilderness areas.

Changes in the land use management for the area is in the wind. The growth of Gateway Resorts adds to the pressure for change. Can we continue to ignore these risks? Maybe the NCA designation process would be the best way to minimize these risks for the ATV community. But there is little trust for the BLM to ensure ATV interests are protected.

Are there other options besides an NCA? There can be stipulations and special designations based on the field office's management plan.

We have failed at getting the general public to understand the impacts of wilderness study area or NCA designation. The public needs to know the impacts of designation before it occurs not afterward. How many miles of useable trail will there be? Will additional motorized trails be constructed?

The ATV community has had a long relationship with federal agencies and/or partnerships to build and maintain trails.

II: Environmentalist Groups – 8/18/2010

Attendees: Steve Smith, The Wilderness Society; Kate Graham, Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC) and Friends of the Northern Dolores River(FOND); Dr. John Redifer, Director of NRLPI; Dr. Tim Casey, NRLPI.

Subject: Environmental Groups position on an NCA proposal for Gateway Area of BLM lands

Notes:

FOND is already doing work on this issue, particularly ground work reaching out to other stakeholders and partnering with them in common projects in the area such as Calamity Camp Restoration project. They are also looking at the GJFO RMP scoping report and other sources of public input on the area.

There was real interest in the process used to discuss the NCA possibilities. While the environmentalists would support public meetings to discuss the issues that emerge from these stakeholder meetings, they are also interested in setting up a committee similar to the representative sub-RAC committee used in the GJFO RMP process to “work through the weeds” on specifics of a proposal. Each stakeholder group would have representation. This would not supplant the public process, but would allow a more nuanced conversation about specific issues than might be possible at a large public gathering. They felt there were enough issues in the area to warrant such an effort.

Other agencies such as the USFS and CDOW ought to be brought into the conversation to discuss how they might tie into the proposal and future management of the region.

Several Issues emerged in the conversation, chief among them was a focus on the Wilderness components of an NCA proposal. Other issues included: uranium development, boundaries of NCA, Wild and Scenic Rivers/water resources, and process issues.

Six Wilderness areas were identified as areas of interest that ought to be discussed for future Wilderness Designation in any NCA legislation (FOND promised to include a map with this report for specific boundary delineation). These include 1. The Palisade WSA; 2. Bottom of Zone 9 to the Utah Border (the Sheep Creek Road and the route through the Granite Creek area would be

excluded from the Wilderness areas and act as a boundary to the Palisade wilderness area, and to this area. Note: Many refer to this as “cherry-stemming” the roads, but the environmentalists suggest this should be seen as two distinct Wilderness areas that share a road as a border); 3. The Granite Creek Area; 4. Sewemup Mesa WSA including possible expansions to include parts of Sinbad Valley, Rock Creek, and much of Cone Mountain (zone 7); 5. Zone 2 from River to top of ridgeline east of Dolores River including the 4 “finger” canyons such as Maverick Canyon; and 6. A two part Wilderness area to the North and to the South of the Niche Road (not including the Road itself) around Ute Creek. For the purposes of the discussion all of these areas were drawn on a map, but the official proposal to be discussed will be produced on a map to be provided by FOND and the Wilderness Society.

The stakeholders were open to discussing these areas, and requested that their Wilderness proposal be raised as an issue for discussion at the public meetings on the NCA proposal. A strategy for moving forward in stages was proposed by Kate Graham, first work on areas of common agreement such as the Zone 4 Calamity Mesa Area including the proposal for Maverick Canyon including the building of a rim overlook motorized trail at the edge of the Mesa to look into the Wilderness areas of Maverick and other canyons. It was suggested there is broad agreement among stakeholders on this. Building on this success, the stakeholders group could move onto other areas of the proposed NCA. This could be a three stage process mirroring the Travel Management Zones (start with zone V, then W and U).

Uranium development areas in Wilderness proposed areas and larger NCA proposed areas was discussed. The DOE has surveyed the area, and all high potential uranium deposits would be left out of Wilderness proposed areas. They were not opposed to grandfathering in past uranium claims in the area, but thought it best to withdraw all future mineral claims. There is some serious disagreement within the environmental community about how to deal with the uranium mining issues in the area, so it was definitely agreed to be an issue warranting further discussion in the public and/or stakeholder’s process. It was suggested that we look at the county Resource Management Plan on uranium in the area as well.

Boundaries of a proposed NCA were discussed. IT was suggested that the southern end of the area be expanded from Sewemup down to Carpenter Ridge, and the Dolores River be included in the NCA down to either Bedrock or the confluence with the San Miguel River.

Wild and Scenic River Issues: There was real reluctance to tie the NCA discussion to the recently concluded Wild and Scenic River discussion of the Dolores, Ute Creek and other water resources in the area. While we certainly could learn from the process, do not draw the W/S suitability status into a tradeoff for an NCA designation. “The flow of water is too important to the landscape” to be a “bargaining chip”. Other tools for managing the water such as the state’s in-stream flow process were discussed as possible alternative mechanisms for dealing with water issues.

Process issues: The environmentalists are committed to the discussion of an NCA proposal. They emphasized the need to have these conversations with local populations as well. They support the

development of a “roundtable” of stakeholders to work out the details of the proposal. This should complement the work done in a series of public meetings discussing the key issues surrounding an NCA proposal. They see merit in the NCA as a multiple use “variety pie” for public lands. They recognize the need to compromise by all sides in a collaborative solution to the challenges facing the landscape in the Gateway area.

III: Residents of the Gateway Community – 8/21/2010

Introductions

NRLPI_ We are beginning a series of informal conversation to find the ideas about the NCA. Commissioners want to see where the community is. There are rising concerns about the increase in recreation and uranium mining, the influx of tourists and the impact on your lifestyle.

NCA would provide more resources. Some concerns about the “dime on the map” because an NCA could bring more attention. Not sure how it works here because the attention is already here. Conversations with environmentalists equal wilderness and the expansion with the WSA. Conversations with OHV equal NEA. They say it will provide a boom to the community. However, you may not be interested because the resort already does that.

NCA creates some certainty in uncertain times. Look at the NCA in Dominquez, They now have a law enforcement officer, boundary changes and special considerations with the land management plan. There are more and more people coming to this area, and things are not going to stay the same on the land. If the status quo remains, it is possible that the management plan does not have the resources to manage the area demands. Lots of things bring uncertainty. Creating an NCA may help you control the area. This is one way this could help protect the community but if you are not interested it won't go far.

Participant (P)_ It's better than a wilderness. I think that something like a NCA and rec is a good force to prevent wilderness areas.

NRLPI_ This is a language issues conversation vs preservation. We all want a multi use and multi yield area and want to conserve the area.

P_ In the palisade area lower stuff around is surrounding private property and trespassing. What would happen if it will be left alone? Trying to state that we are “saving”. This is a “boondoggle”

Some discussion about the trails and trespassing issue specific to the Palisade area.

P_ Who do you put there to protect the people who own the land. We are trying to save something there isn't much there we need to look at why they (the people in the first round of discussion in the 60s) didn't do anything.

P_ The environmentalists are going to come any way. Putting another layer of bureaucracy might help us protect the area from another wilderness area.

P_ Will the boundaries stay the same?

NRLPI_ If there is no NCA, then it stays the same. Remember there will be give and take especially between the environmentalists and the OHV community. This meeting is to find the interest and then go forward with a small stake holder group where one or two representatives will throw out ideas but if we don't find a consensus, then there won't be any support.

P_ What were the results of the DeGette's findings?

NRLPI_ Her office has contacted me. I am waiting to find consensus and for our report to come out. I think her bill will be dead after the election, Salazar and Tipton will want something from the ground up.

P_ I want Oscar and Elsa to be our representatives

P_ What are the advantages or disadvantages to the wilderness and NCA?

P_ Advantages there are no motorized unless people have special permission.

NRLPI_ Special things have been written into legislation before like in the DENCA

P_ Part of the problem is we just can't check up on the status of this thing, and then it already happens.

P_ It does help put money into things, but money has been assigned to the DENCA and I haven't seen any real improvements or protecting the area. It will help the BLM get more money, and no more wilderness areas

NRLPI_ Can't do anything with WSA until Congress acts one way or the other, but when you put it in a NCA the boundaries can change.

P_ I understand trying to help protect stuff but it's like the scenic river you just can't do anything with Wilderness areas.

NRLPI_ About the wild and scenic river, the designation didn't always fit with the river i.e. geological formations. But with an NCA special things can be written into the legislation

P_ The Sewumup WSA boundaries have changed since the original agreement

NRLPI_ My understanding is that BLM had to survey the area and find characteristics and then create the WSA to make sure that it stayed protect they have to manage it like a wilderness area, even though it never actually becomes a wilderness area. NCA will finalize it one way or the other. People may want to expand it.

P_ Its already too big, can't make it any bigger

P_ Congresswoman talked about expanding the WSA to the river

NRLPI_ This is why commissioners are concerned. It has to be driven by locals, not the federal government. The resort wants to keep minimal impact.

P_ Not to side track but uranium needs to be restored

NRLPI_ Claims can be grandfathered in.

P_ The NCA would be most of the areas on the map?

NRLPI_ Boundaries could use this as a starting point. Some people want to include the USFS land. If you are interested in this it would make it more difficult. There are risks that the legislation might change from start to finish. But our job here is to find consensus. For example, the environmentalist will want more wilderness. One such compromise might be to consider Maverick Canyon for wilderness designation in the NCA, what do you think?

P_ Would mining be allowed?

NRLPI_ Existing claims would be, or you could carve out the mining areas

P_ We could write it how we see fit.

NRLPI_ Environmentalists admit that there will be mining, it will be sticky but we still need to find a consensus.

P_ All of us are environmentalists, and none of us are here to destroy the land. If we were here to destroy the land, we wouldn't have a livelihood

NRLPI_ What is the DOW prospective?

P_ It's a positive, more involvement, more commitments from the BLM is a good. It helps the BLM commit someone to the area.

P_ But it always seems like it is the government that tells us, not the other way around.

P_ It used to be that we could haul water on this specific road, and it helped keep the cattle up on the grass, but now we can't, because of the wilderness area.

P_ I just feel like if we give them a toehold, then they already have a foothold.

NRLPI_ They already have that. The idea of an NCA in the area might be worth looking into it.

P_ A stakeholder meeting is the best idea and the way to go because we are always out numbered.

NRLPI_ Part of the process, we can try and find solutions to meet needs. If 8-12 people who can say yes, then we can pull in the public.

P_ They do not want to give us an inch.

NRLPI_ We need to weigh the options. Look at it several different ways: look at what we have now, what we risk losing, what we want to move forward and we can't make any assumptions.

P_ On the DENCA, we own a lot of it because no one wanted it but now maybe people want it (the land). It is not always going to be protected forever.

P_ But we need to be able to use the trails, access the fences, put salt down, build and do maintenance on ponds.

NRLPI_ So is the mood that you will try a stakeholder roundtable, but not happy about it?

P_ I don't see anything happening. I wish it could go back to before the wilderness areas. Enough is enough 30 years is long enough to study and a recreation area brings more people.

P_ What if we want to keep the status quo? Do the environmentalists keep the upper hand, do they want to produce another WSA.

NRLPI_ That is part of the conservation, but they didn't want to end with the Palisade and Sewumup. You can get a better feel about what they want to do.

P_ We need to find more support than just the stakeholder's group. We are so outnumbered, look at the wild and scenic river.

P_ DeGette is a real player and she has her eyes here. She won't stop, so you can stop it or limit it, because there is no conversation with her.

P_ Our efforts really helped with the DENCA

NRLPI_ This could provide extra protections, it's not an easy process.

P_ We can't fight any money, but we can't keep staying on the defensive. We don't need environmentalists telling us what to do, they will run us into the ground.

P_ What about water rights?

NRLPI_ In DENCA, no federal reserve water rights were claimed, they agreed to manage water rights through the state process.

P_ Could claim private land water, but they wanted to control head water. And they tried to control some size and need to have a sign off, instream flow is misleading.

NRLPI_ You can address water rights in the legislation.

P_ What is the wilderness description of water in 1964, or is it in the Wild and Scenic River Act?

P_ So are things better or worse in the DENCA?

P_ Still need to be seen, but it has been helpful. In Blackridge Wilderness { McInnis Canyons NCA} has been an improvement, there are some good things but be careful because it could change. If we don't do something it will come back to bite you later.

IV: Ranchers in Gateway – 8/27/2010

Attendees: Jean Moores, rancher and resident of Gateway; Jacques Bevan, rancher and president of Gateway Homeowners Association; Dr. John Redifer, Director of NRLPI; Dr. Tim Casey, NRLPI.

Subject: Local landowners position on an NCA proposal for Gateway Area of BLM lands

Notes:

Several Issues emerged from a conversation at the home of Jean Mores regarding a proposal for an NCA designation in the Gateway area

Trespass Issues: There is a real concern by the local residents about issues of trespass on private property from people using public lands in the area. It was suggested that the Gateway Canyons Resort staff and guests have been good about respecting private property. The problem comes with people who don't know or care about the rules and property of the area.

Understanding of NCA process: There was concern expressed that locals may not understand the differences between the variety of designations including an NCA designation that have been proposed for the area. More education is needed about the pros and cons of various alternative designations so local land owners can assess what is in their best interest.

Budget: NCA could bring more funds to the area in need of some signage, law enforcement officers, and other services that the BLM does not have the money for in the current system. This would be seen as a positive development, but there is skepticism that money will necessarily follow designation especially in a down economy and budget tightening.

Dot on a Map problem: Locals are concerned that any designation such as an NCA would make them a "dot on the map" which will draw in more people and stress the landscape and local community feel. In this case, the NCA designation would work against the desire of many locals to be "left alone" and "undiscovered". It was suggested that this may be irrelevant with the resort's interest in marketing the area to a broader audience, and its ability to do so.

Adjustment in Wilderness Boundaries: There was concern that current WSA boundaries are not realistic for a variety of reasons, mostly due to routes being used by motorized vehicles in the eastern part of the Palisades WSA, and the inability to maintain roads due to wilderness restrictions.

This particularly affects Sheep Creek Road and the road into Sinbad Valley. They are not opposed to designating “true Wilderness areas” such as the top of Sewemup Mesa as actual Wilderness areas, but these boundaries have to be “realistically” drawn on the landscape. It was noted that locals supported WSA designation for the top of Sewemup Mesa and the top of the Palisade in the original plans, but did not support expansion of those areas when they include commonly used routes such as the east side of the Palisade up the draws. NCA designation with its congressional action, might afford the opportunity to revisit these boundary issues in a way that other non-Congressional action plans would not.

Uranium Claims: Concern was raised about how the NCA designation would affect uranium mining claims in the area. The importance of uranium to the local economy and national security was emphasized. It was suggested that more locals with actual claims be drawn into the conversation and some names were suggested along with other local ranchers and CDOW personnel that ought to be a part of the preliminary stakeholders’ conversation.

V: Mesa County Commissioners – 9/20/2010

The staff of NRLPI was asked to meet with the Mesa County Commissioners and the county manager to clarify what information they needed with regard to the NCA proposal in the Gateway Area. The commissioners expressed an interest in determining whether the community supported such a designation, and if so, then the staff of NRLPI should facilitate a collaborative process to get there. The commissioners emphasized the need for any legislation regarding wilderness to be carried by a legislator from the district it is in. The goal of any designation should be to protect and preserve historical uses of the land, but also understand new directions for the landscape. It was important to the commissioners that mining claims be protected and preserved in the process, and that the process maximize local input and involvement. The NCA could then become a sort of master planning document for that part of the county. The reason they were interested in the NCA designation is because it has been a successful land management strategy for other areas in the county, and given the series of issues surrounding Gateway, that part of the county might benefit from a master planning document. Several other planning tools such as an SRMA designation had already been considered for the area, but few conversations regarding an NCA designation for the area had taken place prior to this process. The commissioners encouraged the consideration of all possible management tools for the area such as NCA, NRA, SRMA, etc.

VI: Environmental Groups – 10/25/2010

A second individual stakeholders meeting was arranged with the conservation community in order to clarify their role in the process. Members of the Colorado Environmental Coalition and the wilderness society were in attendance. Although some of the conversation at this meeting concerned the Dominquez-Escalante NCA, most of the conversation was an opportunity to voice concerns over the NCA designation in Gateway and to clarify the proposal of the FOND

organization which would be presented at the first roundtable meeting. The issues were split between ensuring a fair process of proposal consideration and substantive issues regarding the landscape. Issues raised include the need to address roads, budgets, water rights, uranium, sensitive species, bird areas, natural heritage programs, cottonwood riparian areas and habitat preservation.

VII: OHV Community – 10/25/2010

A second meeting was also arranged with a member of the OHV community to clarify their counter proposal of National Recreation Area status for the Gateway area. This proposal would also be offered at the first roundtable meeting for consideration. The NRA, according to Jim Cooper of Pan Pacific Services, would become a rural economic development program. Several NRAs including the Hatfield McCoy NRA in West Virginia were cited as successful models of public- private partnerships that attract federal money and state licensing funds to develop the recreation resource and provide economic development for a rural part of the county. Although there are trails available in the area now, the designation as a National Recreation area would draw a larger group of recreationists that would supplement local incomes and provide tourism revenue throughout the county. Data from recent COHVCO studies was offered as proof of the economic multiplier effect of recreational tourism in the area, particularly tourism by OHV participants.

VIII: Quiet Users – 11/18/2010

21 Attendees representing hikers, COPMOBA, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Backcountry Horseman, Audubon Society, Colorado Mountain Club and interested individuals. As well as NRLPI staff – Dr. Tim Casey (moderator) and Ashley Mates (note taker)

Tim Casey-Moderator-(TC)_ Introduction. Information about the Gateway NCA meetings and the process thus far including the county commissioners and congressional delegation. Information about the county's role and maps created by BLM. Question we are asking: Would an NCA be the best for the area? We will create a roundtable with stakeholders before we go to the public meetings, get a better idea to give the commissioners. If there is an agreement, then we can move forward with the conversations. TC offered information about the previous focus group meetings and future meetings. This is phase 1. This is about you and your concerns/thoughts and ideas.

Participant (P)_ Will there be copies available of the findings?

TC_ It will be part of the report to the commissioners.

P_ Would like to send them the notes before.

TC_ This is not a BLM plan or idea. This idea to have these meetings is from the county.
Comments?

P_ Concerned about sensitive plants and concerned about the river. Unaweep seep, and want to see Sewemup to be a Wilderness Area.

TC_ Concerns about endanger species and more wilderness?

P_ Would this change the river flow?

TC_ To my understanding it doesn't have to but it could, depending on the legislation. It is assumed that they need to maintain river flow to keep the characteristics of the land however in the DENCA they agreed to let the state's in stream flow process govern the water allocation, in McInnis Canyons NCA they carved the Colorado River out of the NCA all together. Those decisions stemmed out conversations like this. Congress can choose to highlight it and create reserve water rights. And that could be part of the planning process. If it is important to you to improve those flows, make sure those concerns are raised. It could complicate the designation but it is part of the conversation. For the NCA process and RMP process there is no set designation.

P_ Sewemup Mesa, has been an WSA. No brainer for conflict, the area is well defined, defensible boundary, important riparian area on the south side. Good variety of native plants, difficult to access expect for the west end. The palisade is embedded in this area. The NCAs on the Western slope have wilderness in their core, no less than that here.

P_ As an issue in this area, we are working on is the calamity camp and the road down there is zone 4, is that USFS? For the BLM, they are short on money and manpower, and this is a long way from central interest, so it is not being managed very well and don't have the resources to do it. This is an opportunity to rewrite the management and prescribe more resources to the area. The planning process can be a start. There is so much area here for all the user groups, we can put it under a new management plan so that happen. It will be so different in a generation and there is so much to be protected especially from ourselves.

P_ Renewed interest in uranium mining, especially around calamity. Worried about sharing roads with huge trucks carrying uranium especially on 6.3. Designation would mean they would have to find another way. The roads are not designed to share with such large trucks.

TC_ Not always the case, sometimes the claims can be grandfathered in or the legislation can overwrite that entirely. It can be a mixed bag.

P_ It isn't just about the mines in the area, but the mines outside the area, do they have to use these roads.

TC_ The current management plan may already address some of that and that will come out early in 2011, but when you plan for designation, the management plan can change and it may come out differently.

P_ Designation means more money?

TC_ Typically that has been the case, and it gets it own line item in the budget and it becomes a "mini" field office. For example the DENCA now has its own ranger.

P_ No ranger right now.

TC_ This is another issue with funding, if it is a designated area, state or federal grants are available for project specific things so you may find more money.

P_ Concerns on road and mining, experience from working with oil/gas. Typically they do some maintenance /upgrade to the road, such as on Battlement Mesa. But if they don't, they put in their own road if they can't use the existing road. So it will be better to convince them to upgrade the existing roads so more don't pop up. One of the concerns is the endanger species in the area and effect of the fragmentation of new road. Current research is not available, at what point in fragmentation does the change happen. Many ways they can get lost in the shuffle but the impacts are not always visible. Make sure that it is brought up to the forefront.

P_ Follow up, again the riparian zones are critical. Want to maintain the characteristics, and whether that means duplicate roads or periphery. Try and maintaining the naturalness, this could be a proactive approach to the area.

P_ The cottonwood area is incredibly important to sensitive species.

P_ General concern about road and trails in the area and how that affects the area. Does the NCA address that?

TC_ It may, sorry to be so vague but this is new. NCAs are tailored to the area, for example the grazing in the DE-NCA. We could highlight these as a primary values like the riparian areas, and the fragmentation of roads/trails. It allows for focus and for the flexibility.

P_ I would like to have that in the discussion, it is habitat preservation, right up front. Have that point made in the management process. It isn't just about access all the time, it needs to be part of the main part of the conversation.

P_ We are in the process now of DENCA of the inventory of roads. If you look at hunting grounds on the east side of the Gunnison, crisscrossed with jeep roads and some of our responsibility is to reign in some of those road. If we did this, we would be able to address these issues.

P_ Is there a definition of road way and social trail? Is that in process?

TC_ It is part of the travel management process right now, but the NCA would go through a similar process. Right now it is broadly defined. The NCA could possibly define them differently.

P_ Is there an actual trail out there for mountain bike/hiker?

P_ Right outside the resort

P_ Worked outside of Glade Park and trail. We worked and shut down trails and tried to help disperse camping.

P_ We should build off of other NCAs and their experiences

P_ Have mixed feelings about disperse camping, look at the USFS. They found lots of issues with disperse camping like clean up, and the increase in impact.

P_ I feel like disperse camping should have designation areas and maybe for this area too. There is some citizen proposed wilderness areas that could better protected, like through zone 2, like the FOND citizen proposal.

P_ There needs to be a coordinated plan for this area. The NCA would keep it from becoming too fragmented. For example the topography makes for easy it easy to suggest boundaries for special areas.

TC_ The colors on the map are not necessarily where the boundaries are for the proposed the NCA. These boundaries could change and include more and less.

P_ It is a nice opportunity to persevere the wilderness up by glade park area

P_ Has there been any input about going down to McPhee Reservoir?

TC_ I don't know? Realistically would be less complicated to stop at the field office, but if you were looking at watershed areas like to the Bedrock and down to the San Miguel confluence, but the further you go out the more stakeholders you pull in, potentially the more conflict. If you wanted to go down there might more conflict.

P_ Is there rational reason to not look at it from a watershed perspective?

TC_ You would have to look at the political consequences of mixing jurisdictions.

P_ This probably this is the best for a management plan. I have been to most of these sites over the last 20 years, important especially for the Colorado Mountain Club. But, that comes second to the concerns about wildlife. I want an NCA. I want to protect the area first, even if that limits my access for as a recreational user.

TC_ It has been proposed to create this area NRA. Discussed difference between the SMRA, the NCA and the NRA. The Multiple use mandate means the BLM is suppose to balance everything like recreational area, energy development, wilderness etc. In an NRA or an SRMA the balance has to lean in favor of recreation. For example, the proposed SMRA around Bangs, or the special areas around the resort. Any designation is an opportunity to build partnerships. If the area becomes a SMRA, it may not necessarily come at the detriment to wilderness, but recreation comes first.

P_ Sometimes the BLM's clashes with the other players like the DOW. How do those things get addressed? I don't want to have these clashes built into the management plan.

TC_ In theory and practice they pull together co-operating agencies and try and work things out. You don't always have agreement, but the BLM tries to pull it all together nicely. The BLM's

goals/interest may not always match. So this could be its own unit as opposed to a unit within a bigger unit.

P_ Preservation of historical location.

TC_ An NCA designation helps or hurts?

P_ Helps. Brings eyes and interest

P_ Would the NCA create limits on use of airspace?

P_ Experience with helicopter outfit except for the Grand Canyon or DC, the rest is all open, very rare.

P_ You can do it but it is hard to do, for example around a military base there were some bald eagles and they got the military to fly around or higher.

P_ It would be pointless to designate the area if you have people flying over it all the time

P_ I want to see management guided by science and there is very little data. Need for more data.

P_ There is a need for more inventory like plants and animals. Need to inventory in special areas. We need to know what we do have and what we are missing.

TC_ An NCA could bring more people to look at it and bring more data.

P_ Could that be written into the legislation, write into the legislation for funding for research.

TC_ It wouldn't necessarily need to be written into the legislation but it has the possibility. You could find more support from other congressman.

P_ It could bring in more money

TC_ An issue that has been brought up, that an NCA could make this a "spot on the map" and bring more people to "love it to death." Need to think about next 10 to 20 years, and the forces that could change the landscape. Would the NCA help or hurt that?

P_ Resort is already a spot on map

P_ The resort is still small and the reason it has been preserved because nobody has really been up there. A lot of it has reverted to its natural state and people want to come back and will continue to grow.

P_ That is the elephant in the room for the speed and level of development all on private land, with favorable zoning. Could it be addressed into the legislation that the zoning be updated help reflect the character of the land so a giant hotel does not end up there.

TC_ Population growth in surrounding region is likely to happen. Does the NCA plan better or the RMP? There is no guarantee about the NCA. There is an opportunity to pull everybody together it could get passed. It has potential if everyone wants it to happen. Or is this premature?

P_ Does this make it more local or more national?

TC_ It is national management land now, and will stay that way. But the opportunity to find the community consent and write those concerns in the legislation. For example, the ranching and the river corridor in the DENCA.

P_ More likely for input?

TC_ Another round for an RMP, there is a possibility to clarify some areas and some boundaries. That being said, the RMP process is a very public process. The NCA, and the NRA are not your only path.

P_ Things are going to turn around and we want to jump on this before development does come back. Hendricks has done a handsome job with his development but there is the opportunity to do more development. The time is now.

TC_ I cant speak for Mr. Hendricks but I don't think that he is interested in crazy development down there either. We do plan to talk to the resort and see what they want. We won't try to manufacture agreement on designation, if it doesn't exist.

P_ The BLM is going to have stop the balance mandate, because there are areas that need to be protected, certain areas.

TC_ The parks department is about preservation whereas the BLM is multiuse. The legislature could give a little more leeway and guidance.

P_ Inventory issue, you need to show unique opportunities I can see with the inventory the scientific opportunity like the lack of grazing on Sewemup to create a baseline.

TC_ How many would like pursue further conversations. **[Show of hands: everyone in the room]**

What about the NRA? **[No hands raised by participants in favor of NRA]**

P_ What have the other groups wanted more NCA or NRA?

TC_ Mostly just the motorized users want the NRA, but other groups are interested in further conversations about an NCA and to try to flesh out a proposal.

P_ Suggestion about the process, in terms of a public meeting, instead of a free for all bring the fundamentals of a proposal and barebones, and then we can get more productive comments about whether they like it or not.

TC_ One of the ways we have talked about doing that is to bring together a round table for stakeholder and representatives and create a working group to help flesh out the boundaries and then we could bring a more concrete proposal to the public. Time is up, thank you for attending, stay involved in the process.

IX: Gateway Canyons Resort – 12/16/2010

Members of the NRLI Staff meet with 5 members of the staff and management of Gateway Canyons Resort to better understand the future plans of the resort for the landscape in the Gateway area. The Gateway Canyons Resort was supportive of the idea of an NCA designation because it would bring additional funds, greater and more predictable long-term planning, enhanced opportunities for public-private partnerships to develop the recreational opportunities and protections for resources they felt were important in the area including archeological, heritage and recreational resources. Recreational activities in the area from Gateway Canyons Resort include the need for places to hike and bike, some motorized tours and horseback tours, limited water activity including fishing. About half of the guests explore the area on their own, so there is a need for adequate information and signage to help those not from the area. The staff of Gateway Canyons emphasized the need to catalog and protect the petroglyphs in the area, which they thought would be more likely to happen if those cultural resources were in a designated NCA. The heritage of the area was very important to the resort, but there was a concern that too much uranium mining in the future might negatively affect recreation. One of the most important qualities of the area that needs to be preserved, according to the resort, is the visual resources. Any management plan into the future needs to carefully consider impacts to visual resource management in the area. In general, the resort staff was very supportive of the local involvement in the planning process, highlighting the need for the local community to help shape any future NCA designation. On balance, the resort staff supported NCA designation, qualifying that their support was dependant on the details of the NCA proposal as it emerged out of the stakeholder roundtable and other public input process. They expressed their belief that an NCA designation provides the best management tool for assuring the appropriate balance between traditional economic uses, such as ranching and mining, and recreation and preservation.

Appendix 2: Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting Notes

Meeting 1 - 2/3/2011

6:30-9:00 pm

Gateway Community Center

Attendees: Dan Antonelli, Al Sisson, John Williams, Leon Moores, Tom Derryberry, Kate Graham, Jeff Widen, Bill Chenoweth, Ed Colter, Kyle Turley, Jacque Bevan, Jean Moores, Linda Boulden, Elda Graham, Jan Potterveld, Steve Martin, Stanley Nunnally, Catherine Robertson (BLM), Kevin Duckett (CDOW), Ashley Mates (NRLPI Staff), Tim Casey (NRLPI Staff), John Redifer (NRLPI Staff)

Tim Casey: Introduction. Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute (NRLPI) was asked by the Mesa county commissioners to explore community interest/concerns about an NCA designation in the Gateway area. Process started in September, by asking stake holder groups about the issues surrounding the NCA. The original plan was to work out the issues in the stake holder groups and then hold large public meetings. It became obvious to NRLPI staff that if those issues were not worked out it could make it harder to have a large public meetings understand the complexity of the issues. Representatives from the various stakeholders groups were asked to form this Stakeholder roundtable for the purpose of working out some of those issues. Here is an opportunity to lay out the issues together, present potential proposals and we hope that all the cards get laid out on the table tonight. And then you can take everything back to your represented groups and then come back in and we will find out what the reactions are. In two weeks we can start to see about common ground and then we may have something to bring forward to the public. Main ground rules: we are willingly to listen to each other.

John Redifer: I will add that the purpose is not to come 100% commitment, it is to find agreements, disagreements and then take those to the public. We are not trying to find the exact solution but rather to see the wide variety of things here at the table. Remember as much as you want your solution to be adopt everyone else wants their solutions be adopted as well so we need to make sure that we listen to each other. "Representative" is to be used loosely but we recognize that the people here have worked with their groups for a long time and understand the issues here.

Stan Nunnally: Colorado Mountain Club

Steve Martin: Motorcycle associate, president of MTRA

Jan Potterveld: Backcountry Horseman

Elda Graham: Local, Gateway Community Club

Linda Boulden: Live out here have a ranch, cows permits, here to learn. Hope is that cows will be allowed in wilderness

Jean Moores: Land Owner

Jacque Bevan: Land Owner

Kevin Duckett: CDOW

Kyle Turley: DOE contractor

Ed Cotter: DOE contractor, program lead DOE leasing program

Bill Chenoweth: DOE geologist

Jeff Widen: been involved in several NCAs, The Wilderness Society

Kate Graham: Dolores river coalition, work on the northern end

Tom Derryberry: WSATVA, COVCO representative

Leone Moores: Worked in Uranium, lived here all my life

John Williams: Gateway Canyons Resort, represents the Hendricks family

Al Sisson: Gateway Canyons Resort/ Hendricks Family

Catherine Robertson: BLM, here as a resource, not a stake holder

Dan Antonelli: Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association (COPMOBA)

John Redifer: Tim is going to go through a laundry list of issues that came up, nowhere near comprehensive. We are here to find out the list, then give opportunity to add to the list, bring the presentation, point of clarification

Tim Casey: Some issues are:

- Question of the **public being aware of the NCA**, what it is or isn't. May be seen as a blessing or a curse
- **Boundaries:** NCA does it stop at the state line? BLM lands?, Other agency lands? Does it cross field offices? Does it cross county boundaries? Watershed boundaries?
- **Growth of population:** over use in the future. Driving force to come to the table for many groups, to be proactive

- **Wilderness:** two WSAs in the area now, resolving the status of wilderness W? or do they move into a new management scheme?, new additions? Improper designation? Fear of increase by some has been expressed? Rethink current boundaries of current WSAs? Citizen proposed wilderness?
- **Budgets:** NCA could be a new line item on a federal budget, more money. Other said it would suck resources from other places? Currently federal impasse on budget, could be hard to bring a new budget to Congress. Increase opportunity for public private partnership around the NCA, NCA could enhance that. NCA increase grants opportunities.
- **Change:** resistance to change
- **Participants and process:** some felt that the NCA decisions have already been made, others have said that it is the best chance for the community to talk through the landscape or other ways a designation could happen. Outside meddling from President or other representatives. Similar process of grassroots discussion happened before Dominguez-Escalante NCA designation.
- **Reduce risk:** Opportunity to create constraints on local agency. However, some are nervous about sending things to Congress
- **Education:** Heritage tourism, increase education about the traditional uses of the landscape in which local Gateway residents make their lively hood like the mining industry, cattle industry, and Gateway Canyons is very interested in increasing education component here. Interpretative signs: opportunity to respect public private boundaries
- Increase economic benefit to **tourism**
- **Uranium development:** claim holders? Public safety, increased traffic, wear and tear, user conflicts? Property rights?
- **Water**
- **Law enforcement:** Remoteness of the area
- NCA act as **a master plan of the area**
- **Need for recreation infrastructure:** land of multiple uses, NCA process generally leans toward multiple uses
- **Petroglyphs:** increased public awareness? Protection? Catalog?

- **Heritage:** Protect traditional uses. But not just the past use, but the present use of the landscape moving forward into the future. This isn't a museum it is a living landscape with continuous interaction between people and place.
- **Permanent resolution to the area:** bring clarity
- **Spot of the Map issue:** focus attention to the area always concerned about designation and it shows up on maps. Increased in traffic, gets discovered. Some say that that whether the designation comes or not Gateway canyons Resort is here and they might put a spot on a map. Be proactive about being there. Preserve, enhance and find benefits

Jan: Wildlife?

Tim: Includes hunting, fishing, watch wildlife, and unique geology, species of plants and animals, rare natural settings. The people we talked to want to protect and share these things. Part of this area is to learn about it.

Tom: can see some getting put into categories

Tim: It might be nice to consider grouping things but the group should do that, we didn't want to.

Kate: Should we add resort expansion?

Tim: I don't want to speak for the canyon. I know John might have a proposal that offers the Resort's thoughts on the NCA designation to present tonight

John: Yes. I do.

Steve: Can we get copies of the notes?

Tim: Yes we can do that. They will be sent out next week.

Tom: Can we move the dates around?

Tim: Yes we will have time to discuss that at the end of the meeting tonight

Steve: Is this area scheduled for travel management if so when?

Catherine: Yes, RMP draft will be out this fall, some will get it through Sub-RAC in the summer

Tom: So you are looking at 2012 before anything is concrete.

Catherine: Yes

Jan: So does that mean there is a new management plan created if a NCA?

Catherine: Yes but we give all of our information to the NCA process so it is not duplicated.

Tim: We have great hospitality from the people of Gateway. Thank you! About an hour left. We have three groups here to present briefly.

10 minute break

Steve Martin: I own and operate a motorcycle company in Grand Junction. Been here all my life, Dad grew up here. 1st proposal is a NRA: National Recreation Area. If you do some research but we have the largest concentration of NCAs in country. So why do the same thing again. The NRA provides some of the same protections but it adds recreation component. You'll see technical data from the OHV collation, independent studies. I have digital copies as well. It explains what happens when you add OHV recreation. We are not suggesting Moab Part II. But it did help Moab a lot. I would like you to keep an open mind, please read it and see it as something new. IF you have questions, let me know and I will find the answer to your questions. It is a thought that could encompass everyone in here. There is stuff on recreation, rudimentary map. I wanted to provide it so you can take it home, think about it, do some more research about it. I hope that it can become an idea that we can grasp around. I don't see any benefit from NCA, I don't see the economic benefit here or else were in the state. We see lots of NO NO NO and we want to change it to YES YES YES. It puts Gateway on the map to recreate. Questions?

Catherine: What would happen to the WSA?

Steve: We would want to hold them to their designation. Keep them as they are or modify them to the designation and maybe move the boundary around roads.

Tom: You have the boundaries already

Catherine: The BLM doesn't designate WSA

Tom: We would just move the boundaries to fit the roads

Catherine: So your not saying no or yes to wilderness but your are open to conversations. Just proposing a different kind of legislation

Steve: Yes exactly

Tom: The education process is tough around these issues. I feel like they are there and they are going to stay that way. I have never seen it change.

Jan: Do wilderness have their own legislation?

Catherine: They have their own process.

Tim: Often times it is packaged with a NCA because Congress has to act on them. It takes an act of Congress to change it. It is easier to package it.

John Redifer: A NRA designation would do the same thing.

Tom: Yes

John Redifer: We need to get our heads around an NRA v NCA. We need to understand the difference. In terms of homework it would be great if you could come back with it.

Tom: I have done some research like at Lake Powell, and Flaming Gorge, it usually happens because of water ways.

John Redifer: A NRA gives their main focus to recreation whereas in a NCA might have recreation but it is not given priority

Jan: Who does that?

Jeff: Neither it has an organic act that defines it. NCAs and NRAs are what the enabling legislation act what is. What is more important is what goes into the legislation than the name.

Steve: Yes you can do all that stuff in a NRA

Jeff: The acting body is determined by legislation, but some is determined by the management plan.

Stan: My observation is that extra stuff comes with ATVs like trailheads, parking, trailers, trucks?

Kate: Work with Dolores River Coalition. We have 4 full time staff members who do work from the federal level and work on the ground. I am excited to be here and hone in on what people want. It is exciting to direct the existing landscape. Dolores River Coalition joins together several organizations, but I focus on the northern area. We have our own boundaries that we have defined. Eastern: by the La Sale, North: Glade Park, South: Where it begins to open up? Focused on natural and cultural values, creeks and drainages, animals, and plants, rich history and iconic western landscape, world-class recreation and tourism: ie star gazing, boating, dinosaurs . Coming here, the landscape is going back in time.

Two different layers: primitive in areas, consider them wilderness. And then consider the rest for multiple uses, back country uses. Keeping the backcountry

Wilderness: Expansion of existing WSA: the green areas have been drawn in a certain way to include their uses. Yellow lines are a road or acting as a boundary: cherry stemmed and keeping the yellow lines as through areas.

Dolores Point's topography lends itself to motorized uses, concentrates it, and pulls it from the living landscape.

Mining Mesas (Calamity, Tenderfoot, etc): Transition the mining trails into motorized trails but we need to be aware of sensitive species. I am working to create an outline some parameters that work around the species. If it could be cleaned up, and be create recreation while protecting the area. If we could create some heritage sites and educate the public they do a better job of protecting the land.

Maverick: Same as it is now and go up that cliff face. Directs no motorized use. It makes boundaries a lot easier. Landscape boundaries helps direct usage.

John Williams: The Hendricks family is excited about a possibility of an NCA. The boundaries here [refers to hand out map produced by BLM for scoping process on RMP] are not holy to us but it is a good starting point. We like the NCA model for reasons because it allows the BLM to manage it a great way. We can keep the traditional uses of the land, like how you write the legislation to do lots of things. We like the budget and dedicated staff will help manage the area. The NCA would be a great benefit to Gateway Canyons and to the local community. It seems to me that an NRA doesn't provide a staff or budget. But the NCA can help protect the traditional uses of the land, we have been working to keep that as well. We like the idea multiple uses ideas and the wilderness areas. We are not for expanding wilderness. Eventually we will need to have manage shared spaces. We don't want to lock out any user groups. The BLM has some really interesting tools to manage the land without using wilderness. I am not totally negative against the NRA but it is hard to get my head around, everything I look at it, the emphasis is mostly on motorized use and waterways. Whereas I am looking for more mix uses. I think we can agree on 95% of this stuff. We need to get ahead of the people who are going to come here and make sure we manage for multiple use.

John: We can do all that while we protect the traditional uses of the land. This legislation should not effect water, grazing or access rights.

Tom: When I did my limited research about an NRA, the only motorized use, have to be licensed and titled.

John: In my experience the NRAs are hard to understand whereas we have some great examples of NCAs

Tim: Last thing we need to talk about is next couple of meetings.

Some Discussion about various member's schedules followed

Tim: March the 9th? 6:30-8:30 here. A homework reminder is to look at the proposals, think about issues, NCA, NRA and NCA with more wilderness. Come back ready to react. First part of the meeting to hash out the issues and then second part is what we can agree too.

Group Agreed to March 9th

John Redifer: We will get the email out and begin email discussions.

Kate: If you want to be a member FOND, you don't have to agree to the proposal but just committed to the process but we can help you stay informed. If you are interested see me after the meeting

Catherine: Hold in mind the 6th of April for the 3rd meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Meeting 2: 3-9-2011

6:30-9:00 pm

Gateway Community Center

Attendees: John Reems, Brain Meinhart, Jean Moores, Elda Graham, Linda Boulden, Jan Potterveld, Jacque Bevan, Steve Martin, Kyle Turley, Bill Chenoweth, Ed Cotter, Kate Graham, Tom Derryberry, Jeff Widen, Leon Moores, John Williams, Catherine Robertson, Dan Antonelli,

Guest: Art Cook, Earl Reams, Andrew Massey, Barb Sharrow, Ty Smith, Curtis Moore, Frank Filas, Jess Fulbright

Tim Casey: The first time we met was in February and we called the meeting together after the individual group stakeholder meetings. We are doing this for the Mesa County Commissioners who asked us to determine the community response to possible NCA designation for public lands around the Gateway area. Last time we met there were several proposals on the table: NCA with wilderness, NCA as is, and a NRA. We had a chance to think about the proposals, there was some back and forth in the email about the proposals, and letter from Jan and the Back Country Horseman and their proposal: which includes some additional wilderness but not as much as in the presentation from Kate. Tonight's meeting is to talk about all the proposals and discuss what is on the table. With this in mind, we will eventually need to decide whether or not there is a proposal on the table that we can agree to and take that proposal to the general public. What gets said tonight is to understand what is going on, and nothing is set in stone.

John Redifer Everyone at the table recognizes what they want, but our goal should be for everyone to recognize the needs of everyone else. We do have another proposal from Energy Fields.

Steve Martin: while we are talking of the top down proposal for an NCA, GJFO BLM office is working on the bottom up and is happening on the ground right now.

Catherine Robertson: Part of the Resource Management Plan, a draft will be available this fall. It will make allocation decisions about travel management. There will be several alternatives available with different mixes of decision making.

Jan Potterveld: Will there be public comment available?

Catherine Robertson: Absolutely.

Tim Casey: The neighboring BLM field office is also having a management plan process. The Sewem Up WSA has 10,000 acres in the BLM Uncompaghe Field Office.

Steve Martin: The data from the RMP gets merged into a NCA ?

Tim Casey: Right.

Kate Graham: My understanding that Mesa Field Office manages all of the Sewem Up WSA, instead of splitting into two

Catherine Robertson: Yes but there isn't much going on up there right now.

Tim Casey: We haven't gotten to the boundary figured out and we need to bring the concerns to the table.

Jean Moores: I thought that last meeting was to talk about the WSA and not bring new things to the table. I don't think it is necessary to add more, the BLM has done a good job thus far. I am going to talk about how is use to be: when I was a young, we never had a car and then one day my dad got a car. One day we drove to Grand Junction, we had a picnic at Lincoln Park. The lawn at the park was so nice but then they changed it. The lawn needed help, just like the scenery here has had help. I checked out the Save the Wilderness sites that claim the wilderness isn't being saved. The land had been protected, the BLM protects it now. I understand that Save the Wilderness sites are asking for donations to develop like build trails and trailheads signs and stuff. I still think that we should look at the Palisade WSA

Leon Moores: To piggy back on that we need to come up with something serious, instead of a wish list or a land grab for that organization or this organization. The Palisade WSA got expanded all the way around my house! I like it the way it is, and many people like it the way it is. We need to focus on the multiple use. There is a place for everything, there is nothing wrong with it now. We need to get back to the way we use to be, like Uranium. The building here was built and paid for by energy development and it went away and now it comes back.

Jacque Bevan: I am speaking from ranching and mining. For many of us, our families have been here for over a hundred years. We know what the history is, we don't wonder about that past. Many of us have been here before modern conveniences. We have been here since before the people knew this land was here. We have built and benefited this area. We have worked with the BLM and DOW on both public and private. It has been hard to deal with damages that has been dealt to us, is because of new people and new visitors to the area. We pay our dues and fees here like mining and cattle. The mining claims have been maintained and stayed active over the last 100 years. I disagree with both proposals. The NRA, its focus on recreation conflicts with the other influences here. There should be no more wilderness, they limit who can use them. There are many interests here that are deeply woven here. The BLM has done a great job managing the area. There has been tons of information by the RMP and our local BLM office may be out of the loop. Additional level of NCA, worried about another level of government here. And we don't know what we will get back. We need update and accurate maps of the area, limit signs needed. Second we must educated youth about the area and environment.

John Williams: If a NCA is created would that take the BLM out of the loop?

Catherine Robertson: It is actually below the BLM office. The person usually is someone who is familiar the area.

Jacque Bevan: I am worried about if we send something back to Congress that we won't get what we asked for.

Catherine Robertson: That is what is great about having Brain {staff member of Representative Tipton's office} here because he can talk more about that. There are all sorts of ways to highlight what we want but it doesn't always happen like that. We had some fallout from the DENCA.

____: How does that change. Can you change it?

Catherine Robertson: We have asked to go back and fix. If it isn't right the people must have the will to change it and fix it.

Jeff Widen: We work on Wilderness and NCA proposals around the country. We track legislation like this, the most successful are the ones that have been produced by groups like this. I would say fundamentally it get sent back the same way. The ones that don't have movement are the ones that don't have ground up support. You can maintain a good amount of control with a group like this. We should insist that we don't lose control.

John Williams: I hear that you like multiple use and your way of life. You have enjoyed the management of the BLM. In my mind, a NCA gives you added advantages you can craft what you need. If I am missing something please clarify. I hear that your way of life is part of the current management plan and you are happy with it. Wouldn't a NCA help that?

Jan Potterveld: And it could continue. We just need to understand the purpose of an NCA and what do we gain and what do we lose. It is still BLM, but it will have some new wrinkles and it might need some more definitions in it. Wilderness oughta be let to places that smell, act, look like wilderness. Why would it be helpful to have a NCA? What is different?

Catherine Robertson: NCA are each individually crafted with what is really important. The majority of the land is still multiple use and then some wilderness. It is tailored to the community and what people think is important. You need to figure out the boundaries and by what is important. There is mix of things and it is up to the legislation on what is important. For the BLM we get a line item, we work together with the NCA staff. We get more capability to manage with recreation and visitors. More boots on the ground.

Jan Potterveld: The NCA has some key advantages and do some things that you can do now. It is tailored made and some economic advantages. Does it preserve the cultural values?

Catherine Robertson: It depends on the legislation. I.E. the importance of Calamity Camp and heritage resources. I think that everyone recognized the mining history and the look of scenery.

Jan Potterveld: Will there still be travel Management?

Catherine Robertson: You will get that no matter what happens.

Jan Potterveld: It isn't that scary for the people who live here right?

Catherine Robertson: I would say that and you would say that, but the local people here don't say that. I would hope that the BLM gets that.

Kate Graham: I want to underscore. I understand that my proposal isn't coming from a local perspective but we are here to help protect this area. I get how important this area is.

Andrew Massey : I am a local here. This is a diverse area and I think we need clarify what we need to 'protect' this from. And sometimes I get the feeling that you think the protect is from me

Kate Graham: Absolutely not.

Andrew Massey: I look at my children but I understand why people want to come in and protect this area because it is so pretty. But we have a nation in need and we have resources here that can help protect this nation. I have worked hard to make my land. I couldn't believe the different layers of stuff that I didn't even know was there, like the biologists that came and took water samples from my creeks and the differences of opinion. Traditional use is even around my house and now we can't even drive our trucks to the rock quarry that has been there for years and years. I look what I

have had to do to stay in this area and I wonder about what my kids are going to do to stay in this area because they won't be able to if we lock up the natural resources that this area has. I am here to protect my kids' opportunity. The people who work this country are a different kind of breed. It is hard work to tend this land and there is not good reason to "protect" this area from good opportunity. I am concerned about the Wilderness areas they take in water and we are making parcels here. I don't think people understand what it takes to living out here, it is rare and rough and the people here are in danger.

Tom Derryberry: Leaving it as is (the RMP), how many years does that last?

Catherine Robertson: About 15 to 20 years is the lifespan of RMP.

Tom Derryberry: If you have an RMP you have to protect the way it is and if you let the NCA happen then you let outside influences make changes to this area.

Catherine Robertson: Well, I can only speak about the legislation I have done and it was clear what we want and what we didn't want. I fully agree that Uranium is going to come back and knew a year ago that we needed to be mindful.

Tom Derryberry: The thing I need clarification on is that you can change RMP.

Catherine Robertson: Absolutely.

Tom Derryberry: The point I am here to make is the RMP can make changes but if you go through an NCA process and goes into outside control.

Tim Casey: Are you talking about boundaries?

Tom Derryberry: Yes it is locked in. It costs more money, certain resources to maintain it. The main point is the area can stay this way with an NCA and it cannot change like an RMP

Jeff Widen: The concept of why go to on the process from RMP to RMP and give it some permanency by legislations. Legislate it they way you want to it to stay. We can settle this in a positive way through legislation.

Catherine Robertson: I would like to think that this area wouldn't change but the fact is, it has. You need to think about how to keep the values for the long haul. The challenge is to protect and honor what has happened here. We need to keep the real community here.

Tom Derryberry: What I am asking is the line be drawn to what you can lock in and what is possible if we don't.

Catherine Robertson: The gorilla in the room is Gateway Resort. I am worried about the increase of visitors and BLM not having the resources to maintain the management plan with the current resources.

Tom Derryberry: I am saying that the RMP can always be changed and this process will keep happening if we don't lock something in now.

John Redifer: There are two things I heard here: protect traditional uses. The BLM said that NCA can do that and there is some trust that the BLM can do that. The point that Jacque made is the extra attention that the area is getting it is hurting the traditional uses like gates being left open. If an NCA can help maintain the traditional uses and get more resources to help with the public would be good. A NCA could provide an opportunity to keep the traditional uses of the land while getting more resources it would be a good idea.

Tim Casey: What I want to propose is send out maps with current federal lands that are current of status. And on that map draw those lines of an NCA of what you would like and having some concrete to talk about it. It would give us the opportunity to carve out possible Uranium if you aren't sure about it being in the NCA. And my guess is we all have a different idea of what we are talking about it. And my second proposal is about the Uranium Mining and looks at those maps about where some current leases are and activity is. For example, I could deal with NCA and protect them outside sources and draw lines around the special places.

Steve Martin: There is some really big light at the end of table. Kate and I have had a couple of meetings after the first meeting. We have made our own process about this area and what gone over this about 300 times. We don't have to play by any bodies rules, we don't have to get locked into a specific designation. We don't have to call it NCA, we can call it Bob's place and look at the pieces and create what we want. One thing we talked about how Gateway Canyon Resort has changed the area and how it has affected my kids. My idea is to find out what the people on the ground want and we sit think about the theory and future about what we want. It was encouraging to me to know we don't have to get locked into something that is so hard line. It was also encouraging to know that Kate and I could be on different sides of the spectrum and we still sit down and talk about it.

John Reams: We are talking about how things change and maybe the NCA is too permanent. Maybe the RMP process is better because we can better address the changes that are going to happen that are going to happen. For example, rare earth minerals are here and we might need to extract them.

Tim Casey: We need to let the Energy Fuels talk about their proposals, get the maps to you all and we need to talk about our next meeting. It should be noted that the BLM is listening, Congress is listening, the County is listening, the DOW is listening have heard more about this community than they have dreamed of. I think we can find something that we can all agree on. We have reasons to keep coming to the table, especially when we start seeing differences.

Jeff Widen: I think the map idea has a lot of potential and the best ways to make progress is to get away from our positions and get on what is on the ground and talk about how we can protect what we want to protect. Once we get down to what in this area and that area.

Jean Moores: Wouldn't it make sense to make money from the land through the resources instead of take it away by extra management?

Frank Filas: First of all I would like to say that Energy Fuels believes we need to get along and co-exist together. I realized after looking at the North Dolores River Proposal, I needed to be here. You'll find maps of our claims, maps of past and other people's claims, and the mining belt. I also did some research about the other NCAs, they don't allow mining. We don't think that an NCA can happen with this much mining, it is just not the purpose of an NCA. We are here to voice our concerns and we can respect and understand where everyone is coming from. We can co-exist but we can't live in an NCA.

John Redifer: Point of clarification. You don't mind an NCA as long as the mining is carved out?

Frank Filas: Yes.

Tom Derryberry: Do you have other minerals outside the belt?

Frank Filas: It is vanadium and some others.

Bill Chenoweth: The belt is a concept from 1951, but the potential mining is all over.

Frank Filas: Correct but this is a good idea of where most of the mineral mining is.

Elda Graham: You know vanadium is a great resource and it is in high demand.

Kate Graham: Are there current restrictions that could limit the area around mining because I know that there are some sensitive areas that overlap these claims.

Catherine Robertson: I know that it is mining, it is complex and contain multiple agencies. Everybody gets involved.

Tim Casey: When is next time this group should meet? April 12th at 6:30 to 8:30 I'll get the maps out this week and make sure you mark your special places where you think should be highlighted to us outsiders.

Jess Fulbright: So what is the actual advantage of NCA? I don't think I heard the concerns that the locals brought up addressed tonight. Do you guys feel like that they have?

Jean Moores: No.

Several participants at once disagreed citing how an NCA would lock in the area as it is now, address the concerns with tailored legislation.

Meeting 3 –4/12/2011

Gateway Meeting Number 3

April 12, 2011

6:30-8:30

Attendees:

Stakeholders: Tom Derryberry, Jean Moores, John Williams, Dan Antonelli, Kate Graham, Steve Martin, Jan Potterveld, Stan Nunnally, Jacque Bevan, Leon Moores, Jeff Widen, Dick White, Linda Bolden, John Reams,

Consultants: Katie Stevens (BLM), Kyle Turley (DOE), Ed Cotter (DOE), Kevin Duckett (CDOW), Laurie Armstrong (BLM), Barb Sharrow (BLM)

Other attendees: Earl Reams, Al Sisson, Damien Nash (teacher @ Gateway School)

John Redifer: The purpose of these meetings were to pull together stakeholders and get everyone ideas on the table. I know some of you may be thinking that Tim and I have been driving the makeup, and the number. I recognize that we missed some people. We missed some people last time and added Energy Fuels and John Reams. We recognize now that Energy Fuels should be formally admitted to the table and into the process because they are clear stakeholder. I am asking that the group to allow Mr. White to sit there and be a part of these discussions.

Jacque Bevan: I think we would be remised if we didn't include him.

Group agrees.

Tim Casey: Last meeting we discussed what land are we talking about. With agreement from the group we decided to look at the maps. Everyone got a map, so you all could draw boundaries. If this makes to legislation, we recognize the legislation needs to have boundaries including the boundaries

of the WSA inside the proposed areas. We also asked that you highlight the areas that are important to you personally. The goal was to see what we have in common and how close we really are. We have this document camera, so we can throw the map on here and look at it on the wall and the person can explain where and what the map represents to them. I think it is important that any reactions to the maps should be in regards to clarify instead of react. We will have plenty of time to react but let's focus on clarifying tonight.

Steve Martin: I have a question, can the BLM actually sit at the table. We always have questions for them and it would be helpful for them to sit here.

Dick White: Is the Forest Services here?

Tim Casey: No, because our thought was to have just one federal land management. The DOW asked us to be here. Initially our original discussions didn't include USFS land.

Leon Moores: I think we should write them out because they are not here, and the BLM is.

Jacque Bevan: And there are lots of different offices that are in charge of this land.

Tim Casey: Let's hear from someone we haven't heard from, like Jan and the Backcountry horseman.

Jan Potterveld: My interest is in the preservation of trails that allow access to pack and saddle. There are lots of trails that are traditional horse trails and we want to preserve and keep those trails available. I've looked into the trail inventory and there are some trails that are particular. It doesn't matter particular as long as they are managed to do allow horse and pack trails. I can't necessarily get up there are talk about boundaries but I can talk the specific trails and areas important to me. <map 4> I am going to start up in the North. The first trail is multi-use, lots of ATV traffic. It is the old jeep creek trail. It is in the age bush pillows area, follows up through the road and goes out to the Granite Creek road. There are other connecting trails that connect to BLM 7101, 103 and 7100a to BLM. We would like to keep these open for multi-use. <map 5> Now we are talking about Sheep Creek road. <map 9> This road (Pickett Trail) isn't as maintained it could be, we would like to see a connector to get access to it. The trail backs into private land. <map 7> there are some nice trails up here but I can't speak to any of them. <map 8> I don't have anything to bring up anything in the Palisade Area. On Sinbad, on 7.2 road, you reach a point where it is all private land. There is some BLM road, there are some gates there that we respect. There is a nice trail along the Sinbad ridge. The second trail that follows a road, goes into UT and comes back to the network of trails that connect you into John Brown Road.

Jacque Bevan: The way you draw that you cross into private land. There are fences and signs. To come out of the "little forest" {refers to small parcel of Manti-LaSal Natl. Forest in Gateway area}, you should ask to come out onto the private land there. I would like to stress that you cannot connect to John Brown Canyon unless you talk to the private land owner to do so.

Steve Martin: What is the access like, because you need trucks and trails.

Jan Potterveld: You need a trailhead or some wide open space and somewhere to park. Some places the access is good but some trails are not sophisticated enough to have big groups.

Steve Martin: So do you need trails?

Jan Potterveld: It depends on the area, but we like to stay on the trail. But there are some places where we spread out so we don't leave any trails. We practice leave no trace.

Steve Martin: Katie, do they need to stay on the trail?

Katie Stevens: In some places like in Dominguez.

Tim Casey: You talk about moving from BLM to USFS land. Do you see any advantage to having one entity manage it?

Jan Potterveld: I think that the government decides which trails they manage.

John Redifer: So BLM, do you have an informal agreement to manage the trails together?

Barb Sharrow: We work really hard to make sure that the trails are seamless to the users. We make sure that we don't close a trail that the USFS uses and vice-a-versa

John Redifer: From our experience, the USFS and BLM did not work together on the Dominguez and it seemed hard to get two different federal agencies on the same legislation. It might be easier to exclude the USFS land.

Jacque Bevan: From my perspective, it could be a mess to include Forest Service land because I look at it being grazing from one state, but travel management from another. I am concerned about involving other states.

Steve Martin: It would be beneficial to not include it.

Tim Casey: You would have to bring a lot more to the table. You want to have a strong sense of local input. The wider you cast the net of landscape you bring in lots of local. I don't have any problem involving those other groups but recognize that they may have different opinions about what happens on the land.

Jan Potterveld: I forgot about this trail that is near paradox valley, it is back of Sinbad valley and trail. It is designed for saddle and pack.

Tommy Derryberry: I have to deal with the Utah people a lot for the ATV. I know that the mindsets over in Utah. That state line is a real barrier to get people talking to each other across. If you bring Utah into this you are creating a nightmare. I think that the BLM and USFS work together nicely.

Katie Stevens: The reason we tell you to go to them is because it is their decision.

Tim Casey: Is there anyone else?

Leon Moores: I would like to ask some questions about the map on the wall {Referring to DOE map brought in and posted on Wall for all to see lease tracks in area}. Is there a reason why it is just on the BLM area and not how it is actually on the land.

Tim Casey: The map was brought in by Kyle to show the energy tracks.

Leon Moores: Well I am talking about the area around palisade.

Tim Casey: Those lines are the lines for the WSA and Congress will need to act to change it.

Leon Moores: There is an end where there is no access and the private land all around. I would like to see it drawn it out.

Jean Moores: The Palisade WSA, move the boundaries up to the cliffs. Mining should stay mining. I recommend potentially three study areas. {shows her map}

Jeff Widen: I hear what you are saying. When you look at the far east of the palisade and the "study areas". What do you mean?

Jean Moores: It is just a cliff and you can't get up it. You can't climb up it. You can't be there, you can't walk it or climb.

Tim Casey: This area is wilderness because you can't get up there, but you don't want to call it wilderness?

Jean Moores: If you call it wilderness, you advertise that way. It is too dangerous to get there. It is wilderness but it should be left alone. This area around the mule trail should be hiking until the mining area. Around the palisade pull the boundaries because they can't control the roads and people on there. There are some areas where people camp.

Jacque Bevan: Some of the plus of pulling up the boundaries because you get off the county roads. And the county can't access it or maintain it and it is dangerous because they can't protect people from it. We just want to pull it up the ridges.

Kate Graham: Where is that third area there?

Jean Moores: I think it should be studied to see what is there.

Jeff Widen: In the areas of the east side of maverick canyon. That is where the old mines are?

Jean Moores: Yes.

Jacque Bevan: The Gateway Trail, there is some active mining there?

Jean Moores: I am talking about below the ridges.

Tom Derryberry: I have a question about the lower piece of the Montrose County. Is that a topical boundary?

Jean Moores: I just followed the rims.

Tim Casey: This 10,000 acres is part of the Uncomparghe field office but is part of the Sewem up WSA.

Tom Derryberry: is it topical?

Barb Sharrows: Yes.

Kate Graham: I know there is some copper just north of Sinbad.

John Williams: We are in a different situation. The BLM did a rec study of the area <map 1> but it was never finalized. This is our starting point. We are not wed to these boundaries but we should stay with the BLM and not co-mingle agencies and states. I asked the Rec guys at Gateway to make this map. This map shows where we do our activities from jeeping to hiking. There are no horses here and only because our horse trails primarily in forest service. This is how we use the land now. We want to preserve the heritage of the land. We don't think that this is exclusive rec. We want to preserve the historical uses of this land. We know that mining will be here. We are mostly generalized. We want mixed use.

Kate Graham: Is there more north?

Tim Casey: Some hiking, some jeeping.

Earl Reams: Those tracks are drawn from the 40-50s for the development of mining. They are still leased today, these are DOE leases. We have other leases we get from other properties.

Kate Graham: Do claims differ from DOE and other leases? The owner of claim gets to explore and claim it. The surface is managed by the BLM?

Barb Sharrow: The difference is huge. The AEC in the 40s withdrew certain lands for the DOE. Those lands get royalties from the minerals that get paid back to the government, but if it just on BLM land the lease are controlled by the 1872 mining act and there aren't any royalties.

Dick White: But there are surface regulations that we have to follow. There are lots of minerals like gold, alabaster vein, pot ash.

-Break-

Tim Casey: We were asked by the county commissioners to see what people thought about an NCA. As a result of the individual stake holders group, we need to come together as stakeholders before we go to the public. The difference between this process and the Dominguez NCA process is that in that process we had a map with boundaries with zones. We were hoping to create some common ground. I am trying to get a sense of what the concrete "something" is we are talking about. If we took this to the public, we have some general areas of wilderness, some general areas of recreation, some general areas of proposed NCA. But do we have some common ground, like certain values or similar uses. And we need to decide if we move further. Any common ground?

Steve Martin: Do not go into Utah.

Tim Casey: So that is some common ground.

Jacque Bevan: So, we are also leaving out the Manti- LaSal National Forest.

Jan Potterveld: No, I think you leave out the "little forest" but I think it follows the topography really well and is part of it.

Steve Martin: Stay out of the forest. There is no reason to go into there and mess it up because it already has a RMP. It is already being managed road less.

Jeff Widen: I think we can consider the USFS, but we don't have to have it part of the NCA.

Jacque Bevan: I don't think we should be designated at all. All you do is muddy the water. We are going bound our scope by including the forest and people who graze up there.

Leon Moores: We have had several meetings since the last gateway roundtable meeting. It became clear that we couldn't do an NCA because it isn't multi use. There is no mining, no timber cutting. I understood it to be no multiuse.

Tim Casey: But grazing?

Leon Moores: But it allowable. But it doesn't work for us locals.

Tim Casey: So timber is out.

Katie: Originally, the NCA does have to mean something so the commercial timbering probably wouldn't happen.

Tim Casey: So can you carve them out? Like the mining or the timber harvest.

Jan Potterveld: I don't know whether you write them in or write them out? Just because it hasn't been suitable before doesn't mean it can't be done. Does the NCA laws specifically exclude timber or mining?

Katie: Most, minerals have been excluded out

Jan Potterveld: Most, does that mean it can't?

John Redifer: Congress can do whatever it wants

Barb Sharrow: That is the first questions we always get asked, is there minerals there? And while Congress can do what they want, there is a cultural and tradition that NCAs don't have it.

Tim Casey: So if we think and NCA is still worth it, we need to know if you want to work it out with the forest service, Utah and everything or do we go the easier way to write it out. If that is the case, we need to be clearer about where those areas are.

Kate Graham: I am curious with the mining, areas like the Calamity Camp might interface with the historical sites with future mining. And to Leon is timber harvest a concern on the BLM land or in the Forest Service.

Leon Moores: It has been helpful to us in the past and will be helpful in the future. We need the resources.

Earl Reams: Calamity Camp sits on our lease area, we have made agreement with the BLM to exclude activities on lease track 26 because we know it is important.

Kate Graham: can we have an electronic version of the maps.

Earl Reams: Yes

Jan Potterveld; I think we have consensus around that we have wilderness areas around the top of Palisade, Sewemup Mesa with small boundaries, at the bottom of Sewemup there are some active mining areas.

Tim Casey; What I am trying to get at, there are some spaces that we can agree on. That Palisade and Sewemup have wilderness characteristics.

Dick White: I have seen lots of different maps with lots of different boundaries

Steve Martin: One of the things we talked about in the first meeting, people are going to come here. Are we doing justice that the map looks like a chess set. You end up with an unusable landscape. Everything I hear is that the local community isn't going to benefit. It is loud and clear. If we carve it up just because we think we are doing right thing. Every time I hear the locals do not want this.

Leon Moores: I think it is just a wish list on paper. The people don't know what is out there and what is out there. People already cut across the private land.

John Redifer: if the NCA would allow us to redraw the palisade boundaries would it help you? Because you already got the problems now and you can't do anything with it until you change the status quo.

Leon Moores: Maybe but I wouldn't feel good about what happen to Oscar. They have had some bad experiences with Dominguez. To me, we are losing the people that are in area. This is a wish list mostly for Gateway Canyons. I don't have any problems with that, but they want multi use. Which is what it is now? We want to protect it from people building on it.

John Redifer: So your distrust is after the legislation?

Steve Martin: I don't think it is fair to say that those fixes can happen without an NCA.

John Redifer: How many boundaries have been changed?

Jan Potterveld: It make sense to have a buffer it like an NCA

Tim Casey: So usually the wilderness is bundled.

Jeff Widen: No it can happen lots of different ways

Steve Martin: We Swiss cheese this landscape, you get the users on the ground we are talking about plots. I am trying to make a point of economic resources and think about what we can use. We are shrinking the useable ground.

Tim Casey: So is it fair to say that there is no agreement to take back to the commissioners. If there is no agreement here then there is no reason to go to the public if we can't even get something to agree on.

John Reams: It sounds like we agree on some of the wilderness. On the Palisade and Sewem up.

Leon Moores: What brought us to the table was the Palisade. And we were side swiped with the proposals and everything around it. We were willingly to give a little, but not the whole ship.

Jeff Widen: I think with Jean's presentation we started to get agreement, it is the beginning not the end. Leon's point is taken, we like to propose a lot of wilderness. It is a proposal not a ending point, it is a proposal. We don't want to shove anything down any throats. We are only at the beginning.

Tim Casey: At this point people are not interested in an NCA but maybe interest in wilderness areas?

Kate Graham: I don't want to have meetings to just have meetings, but I want to re-present my maps with the thought provoking issues that got brought up tonight

Tim Casey: Well every time I hear about NCA, I get a ton of reasons why we shouldn't do it and it keeps turning into a discussion about wilderness. So if that is what I need to report out, that's fine. If I am hearing only about wilderness and the group has backed off of an NCA, that's what I will report back.

Jacque Bevan: We need the official map.

Tim Casey: I gave you the BLM map, the PDF I sent you is as official as it gets

Dick White: The Urivan mineral belt is a 1953 estimate of where the uranium is. There is brown areas are exploration is in a potential. We need to look at geology.

Tim Casey: Do we need to schedule another meeting?

Jeff Widen: Personally I do think we need another meeting or two. At some point we need to get more specific.

Tom Derrberry: if we talk about an NCA, it is going to be tough to have the minerals in it. But it was a hassle. It is tough to get through congress. I think if you start carving it up it is going to be a nightmare. Maybe it is a special recreation area.

Jan Potterveld: I want to meet again and redraw the stuff for the next meeting to include the other potential WSA. We have an opportunity to shrink away from other mineral leases. That is the last chance to propose an NCA.

John Reams: An NCA isn't going to work here from what I am hearing.

Jacque Bevan: I think we need to have another meeting because Kate and them {environmentalists} are not going away.

Leon Moores: I would like to focus on what are the benefits of an NCA. The timber and mining should be left out, so we need to look at the areas around the wilderness.

Damien Nash: I talk to the next generation about things like this. Is it okay if they come and sit at the table?

Group agrees

Meeting adjourns

Meeting 4 – 5/25/2011

Attendees: Kate Graham, John Williams, Jan Potterveld, Leon Moores, Tom Derryberry, Steve Martin, Catherine Robertson, Brain Meinhart, Jean Moores, Craig Meis, JacqueBevan, Jeff Widen, Andrew Massey, Elda Graham, John Hess, Jess Fulbright, Bill Chenoweth, Dick Davevault, Dan Antonelli, John Redifer, Tim Casey

Tim Casey: To start out I thought it would be worth it to discuss and do a check with any progress since the last meeting. I sent a list of issues to all via e-mail before this meeting, and brought them here today. This list of issues was compiled at the previous stakeholders meetings. We discussed this list at the first meeting. So it has been compiled by you and then confirmed by the group. We have talk about some of the issues on the list, we would like to bring some closure to these issues.

JacqueBevan: I talked to John Reidifer about the grazing leases after the last meeting. Here is a map of all the grazing allotments. As you can see grazing is happening here. Some are seasonal but there is grazing happening every season, 365 days a year. I also have a copy of the allotment dates.

John Williams: Would an NCA impact the grazing rights?

Catherine Robertson: They are given and would be protected in the process.

Steve Martin: I would like to ask Mr. Massey, how has an NCA changed you grazing allotment?

Andrew Massey: I think it has changed, we flushed it out at a smaller previous meeting. It has changed it to the negative because it is no longer a priority use, it is an allowed use. The difference to me, and increase traffic, and what we are finding out that the cows are affected, having to do different things and create strategies, causes a lot of impact, new fence lines, gates being left open. Everyone comes through and sees the health of the land that we produce but they don't know where it comes from.

Tim Casey: Isn't that assessment a little early? Isn't the Dominquez Escalante NCA RMP there still being developed? Wouldn't that question be served by asking the Gore family about their grazing experience in McGinnis Canyons NCA which has been established for 10 years already?

Kate Graham: I think that it is a good idea to look at McGinnis but to speak more directly to the DENCA. I know part of the importance of the DENCA is the living landscape and the cultural heritage. The NCA can write in a focus. Is there a way to make sure that grazing is a unique value.

Tim Casey: Isn't the grazing a highlighted use in the DENCA?

Catherine Robertson: I think it was .

Jeff Widen: I have the actual legislation here. Generally it goes into the finding and purpose sections. The legislation highlights the paleontology, hiking, cultural values and the grazing. Grazing was called out in the legislation. In this legislation it also says to protect the uses in the previous section.

Catherine Robertson: At the DENCA advisory council, there was giving a specific spot permitted for grazing.

John Williams: With all due respect, I want to better understand how it is actually impacted. I hear that it is impacted but what is it? Is there a way to write the legislation in a way to make the impact less?

Leon Moores: It has been 15 years ago there was an outhouse put out at the Unaweep Seep pullout. But then two years later, there were lots of complaints because we were ruining the area because the gates kept getting left open. I think it depends on the caliber of the people recreating.

John Redifer: What I am hearing is...The question was "has the legislation resulted in a decrease of allotments?" And the answer is no. What we are talking about here is the dot of the map syndrome and how do we mitigate the damage more use would bring.

Leon Moores: We have always had people come out here and recreate. And the people who have always been here they have respect for the area. It is the people who come out for a specific event who mess things up

Tim Casey: Well NCA or not, don't you think that those people are going to come here anyway?

Kate Graham: I think that your right and people are going to come, but it needs to be counter balanced. And an NCA is supposed to protect the wildlife and plants. For example, a story that Leon pointed out was the butterfly and the cattle. The cows were moved and then the butterflies moved too because they were depending on the cow pie to cocoon. I think that more funding would help provide more information, like the butterfly story, to the public better understand the value of this area.

John Redifer: That is what I am hearing as well. I am hearing from Andrew that these are not necessarily a problem of the NCA, but as a growing population in general.

Craig Meis: We recognize that the NCA may help protect the area while recognize the specific area interests. This area might get loved to death if we don't have a plan in place. We can create that plan as a community and make those a priority. Or we can have it done for us. We want to protect the historical uses and recognize that other uses are coming and we need to direct them appropriately and plan for them now.

Jeff Widen: One of things that everyone agreed on in the McGinnis NCA is that grazing is important value to the land. We worked together with the Gores and it has been awhile but I thought it was working very well. I don't think anyone here wants to impede grazing. In the report, we all recognize that grazing is important part of the land. We all want grazing to continue as the way it was.

Steve Martin: I think we have a unique perspective that there is a family here that grazed before the BLM was here, then they had to deal with the BLM and now they have to deal with a new designation. This is his livelihood and I think we need to know does this make it harder, easier or made it the same?

Catherine Robertson: I encourage the graze holder's to contact Warren Gore. My impression is that is working well for him.

Jean Moores: I called him 3 times but he never got back

Tom Derryberry: In the NCA documentary, Warren mentioned that it was working, but it was a hard at the beginning. Privately, he complained about some of the access points that the Wilderness

created. They had to make some changes, but it was harder. They worked it out and made the changes. He did go over how it affected his operation.

Jan Potterveld: My impression was his comments were positive.

Tom Derryberry: He did that on purpose.

Andrew Massey: I think there are lean years and rich years in the cow business, and in the lean years needs some extra income. The resources that are here do provide that extra income. We have other areas where we can cut wood for example.

Tim Casey: That log cutting happens on BLM land?

Andrew Massey: Yes, and we have others who come to work and help us timbering or mining. That is the point I want to make, the cow business is difficult to gage and we use the rest of the area to get use through the lean years.

Tim Casey: So we can agree that grazing is an important value at the table. And we need do some more research from the Gores about the impacts in Mesa County on grazing.

Craig Meis: Can't some of those other uses permitted be written in to the NCA legislation?

Catherine Robertson: Yes, Congress can do what it wants, but commercial uses do not typically make it into an NCA. It becomes a boundary question. Those uses can be used to help create the boundaries. For example, where do you want to cut posts, where do you want to do those commercial uses.

Craig Meis: So those things should be left out?

Catherine Robertson: Those boundaries are not up to me, but we can identify those uses and give it to the congressional delegation to hopefully use it to leave the commercial activities out of the NCA.

Kate Graham: I think we have been discussing pulling out the mining out of the landscape. I would like to see if including timbering could be included in the unique values of the NCA because they are a part of the heritage of this area. It is part of what makes it unique.

Brain Meinhart: It is preferable to exclude those areas instead include them. It is a management questions and we can hash that all here but it still has to pass through Congress. It can change and there are people who have different viewpoints.

Tim Casey: So if you draw the boundaries for example, without the mining claims, then the uranium mining can continue under the existing BLM office?

Brain Meinhart: I can tell you right now that if there is commercial development for mining, I can tell you it would never make it through Congress.

Jeff Widen: I agree with Brain. I think that if there are isolated claims or private land you include them BUT if there is large commercial activities, those are not compatible with NCA it is best to exclude them .

JacqueBevan: So the boundaries are easy because there are large mining areas.

Jess Fulbright: We don't find that an NCA is compatible with our mining. There is too much potential for mining. We can support the Sewmup Mesa and the Palisade as wilderness because we can't mine it. If you look at this map, why would you want to create a patch work of NCA with all the mining claims there.

Steve Martin: Well that is what came out of the last meeting with the other BLM staff, that there isn't an NCA with mining claims and it needs to be a continuous piece of land.

Jean Moores: The timber is at the top of niche.

Tim Casey: Because this was an issue at the last meeting, we asked the BLM to give us a map of federally recognized mining claims. We have a sense here of the region and what the BLM recognizes. If you move South past the Mesa field office line, you can see the mining claims become more of a problem.

Jeff Fullbright: That is part of the Urvan mineral belt. Just because there aren't active claims doesn't mean that there are not minerals there. Some of it is not economically feasible.

Elda Graham: There are other minerals there that Energy Fuels is not interested in but there are others who may be.

JacqueBevan: I heard too that Energy Fuels are not going to mine alabaster, but you may or someone else might.

John Redifer: So if the BLM was a single use office then yes I understand your point but there are other uses.

Jess Fullbright: We just do not think from our perspective, and our potential activity is not going to fit inside an NCA, so it is not important.

John Redifer: So what happening here is that there are lots of different uses. So you need a plan to make sure that we account for all uses. So the question is whether an NCA with additional funding would be a better option to create that plan. Or do you want to leave it alone and hope that it works out without additional resources?

Jess Fullbright: From my perspective, I want the status quo. I don't know how you create an NCA with a mining district?

Andrew Massey: An NCA might control the recreational uses but it seems like the wrong tool. I don't know if there is a better tool. Is there a better tool? I don't know if the funding is real, or will continue to be real with the way our government is going on.

Tim Casey: You bring up a good point about the budgets. So where does that money come from? Currently, it comes from field office budget. If you go with the status quo, you have to compete with the rest of the field office But if you have an NCA you create a pot of money for this area specifically. Congress may be stingy but nevertheless you may be able to target the resources.

Steve Martin: Isn't the general pool of money based on population, so if you have more population you can get more money?

Tim Casey: No it doesn't work like that. Money allocation is not proportional like congressional districts.

Elda Graham: What about production tax of minerals vs. sales tax going back.

John Reidfer: If you carve out those areas, then the money still comes in.

Leon Moores: I took a long ride and I looked at who actually uses it. There are few hunters, backpackers. There are lots of people who go up there and take short walks. But if you want people to use them, you have to make them more accessible. People say, "Some of those areas are over grazed", but I don't think they are. I don't think more money is going to help this country on the

palisade side. I think we need to justify the users and make legislation based on the actual uses and not for the people we want to see use it.

John Redifer: Don't confuse carving out with not allowing.

Tim Casey: There is still a lot of area that is brown on the map {BLM land without mineral leases is identified as brown on the map} that still suits an NCA.

Jan Potterveld: That is what I think, so you move away from the mining but there is still lots of land that could fit an NCA.

Kate Graham: So I have some maps. I just want to show how this idea has progressed. The first map is my big dreamy {displayed map shown at first meeting}. The second map, I took some of the consensus from the earlier meetings. I changed some of the proposed wilderness.

Leon Moores: I think we try and put things on a map just because it is BLM land, like that sliver of Unaweep.

John William: I feel like we are missing a whole bunch of uses. And we keep going back and forth between the wilderness and mining interests. And it seems like, if it conflicts with the mining we can't use it, if it conflicts with wilderness we can't touch it. I feel like there is a lot of other uses that are not being represented in this conservation.

Jess Fulbright: I don't agree with that because we are doing multiuse now.

Kate Graham: But there are other interests that are not being addressed and may want a different experience.

Jess Fullbright: I disagree we are getting along just fine now.

Jeff Widen: If you move away from this area and go upstream on the Dolores River, with some similar issues and user conflicts. Over a lot of meetings we came to the agreement that an NCA was the best thing to do in that area. Now we didn't start by asking if an NCA should be considered, we came to an NCA later in the process. It is important to get away from the value judgments and look at the land and look on specific areas on maps and what is there. If we look at the whole landscape, I think it can be done.

Steve Martin: This group was started differently. It was tasked from the top down, is an NCA feasible.

Tim Casey: You're right Steve. I tried to help prepare you with that list of issues. For the overall area, would an NCA, without getting into the details, help with these issues? I am still unclear from your responses whether an NCA actually help these issues. I hear different things. It would seem to me worth asking whether a designation would help for each individual issue area. For example, budget: to get more money target to this area. Does it help or hurt?

JacqueBevan: On the budget, does an NCA give you additional funding?

Catherine Robertson: Yes

Steve Martin: Does the GJ Field Office get less money if they lose land under their management. So if you get 5 dollars now you will still get 5 dollars if there is an NCA?

Catherine Robertson: There is a little bit of shifting but it is not like we are decreasing. Overall there is an increase with a special designation.

Kate Graham: In dealing with the human problem, that is currently the way it works, the burden financially that is the burden of the landowner or private individual. Does an NCA help the private people who are interfacing with the public?

Catherine Robertson: No. We can't give money to private people to private land owners.

Kate Graham: What if it is on public land

Catherine Robertson: We can help a little bit but there is some responsibility to the private individual.

Jean Moores: I want to go back to the first meeting. We talked about whether it should be written in stone forever or come back in 20 years to revisit the plan.

Jan Potterveld: So what is the agreement on the budget? I think it will help

Jess Fullbright: I want to point out that the extra money is not income but an expense.

Andrew Massey: A lot of the land has benefit as is. A lot of the improvement has come from the mining industry. I keep hearing that we need to do something about all the people coming here. Everyone has as much of a right to the land as I do. I have benefited and other people have benefited.

Tim Casey: I want to pull us to the point. When Jan created a map of the horse backing trail, they weren't trails just for horseback riding and they weren't going over mine roads.

Steve Martin: I think NCA creates problems, and then that costs money and you have to find money to pay for it. I don't think you want to cause your own problem. Creating an NCA will bring more attention to the area. And an RMP process is another tool in the toolbox.

Kate Graham: I think the funds to supplement trail management can help educate them as tourists. We need to be mindful of what is going to come. It creates a deeper element of the land. People who are connected to the land are less likely to hurt it.

Tim Casey: I think you have jumped down to another issue on the list here. The educational aspect of this land. And some of those educational aspects cost money. So does an NCA help Jeanette funds and help educate people to help them understand the heritage of the area?

Steve Martin: Catherine has a budget and who is to say that it isn't adequate?

Tim Casey: In the status quo, we recognize that respect from private land. And it is clear that the current status quo isn't addressing those issues.

Steve Martin: So who is to say that Catherine doesn't have money in her budget to do that now?

John Williams: John Hendrix is creating a TV show and there is going to be national and international exposure to this area. And I think an NCA will help people plan for the future when people are going to come here. They are going to come. I think we have an opportunity to stamp the heritage on the ground and an NCA will do it.

Jean Moores: They are just going to have to deal with us and an NCA will eliminate our heritage.

Leon Moores: I don't have a problem with people recreating as long as they are not on our land.

Jess Fullbright: I don't see how that isn't happening we are using the land with the traffic now

Tom Derryberry: I think we are going to shorten the NCA if you want to carve out the multi-use. You are looking at a small NCA or you will make it look like swiss cheese. If you try and put in an NCA, in 10 or 15 years the government will come in and change the area if they need the minerals and national security says they will come in and change it. So your NCA gets blown apart. You have to take out the mining claims and the mineral belt.

John Hess: Yes the government can change. If we are ever are in a place where all the other stock piles of uranium are used up we have other problems that an NCA isn't going to do anything.

Tom Derryberry: You have to take out the entire mineral belt.

Tim Casey: So you're suggesting that there isn't a lot of BLM land there between the green and the red. {green represents current mining claims, red represents past mining claims on BLM map common to the group}

Tom Derryberry: Just because there isn't existing claims here doesn't mean we don't need the mineral in that area.

Tim Casey: Isn't the mineral belt a concept from the 1950s that is changing?

Bill Chenoweth: Yes but it is expanding.

Jess Fullbright: I guess we didn't realize that we were talking about the area up north.

Tom Derryberry: But you are still dealing with Swiss cheese. And the locals don't like it, and Gateway wants it but you are dealing with access problems. It is already managed from multi use. I think it becomes a nightmare. I have been watching the DENCA and it has changed and the people here don't need to deal with what they get stuck with. The BLM has a management process that is working. Maybe an NCA can go north but I don't want to see any access and use changed. And if it makes its way through congress it will get changed.

Elda Graham: I have a question, what happened to the bill?

Jeff Widen: It is still pending, the chances of that bill passing are not strong. It will probably won't happen. There seems to be some agreement on some things, like some wilderness areas, like the current WSA and some of Maverick Canyon. And the notions of the WSAs need to be changed and adjusted. I think there are agreement that heavily mined areas shouldn't be in an NCA, grazing shouldn't be infringed upon on. An NCA hasn't gotten agreement. It causes me to think, that maybe we need more dialogue. I think that the opinions should be respect and both valid but if we can still continue discussion.

Jacque Bevan: I think that maybe we need another tool.

Tim Casey: So there is some agreement something needs to be done.

Steve Martin: But Catherine has already said that travel management and the RMP process will happen if we do nothing.

Andrew Massey: When we first considered this NCA, and come to our (local) stand point and an NCA will not work. It is not multi use: timber, mining, resources management. We cannot support something that does away with resources. If there is another tool to deal with the perceived threat but it isn't an NCA

Jan Potterveld: So if we take out the resources we still have a lot of land that can be an NCA

Leon Moores: What is wrong with multiuse?

Jan Potterveld: Nothing but that isn't what we are talking about.

Leon Moores: We have already have multi use.

Jan Potterveld: So what can an NCA bring that the RMP process?

Leon Moores: I see it now, new signs that the trail ends where a tree comes down.

Tim Casey: So do we need to wait until the RMP process to come out with the alternatives? We may assume that the RMP process will keep the status quo, but we need to realize that there are alternatives. I sense that the delay in this NCA process is because we are unsure with our alternatives and we want to wait and see what could happen.

Catherine Robertson: The RMP process is open and public, it should be done in 5 years, but I am not a betting person about time lines.

Tim Casey: We were brought here by the commissioners to ask the question about whether an NCA is an idea that has local support, and to determine the local stakeholders issues that need to be addressed.

Craig Meis: We know that the NCA is a tool in the toolbox and we have to get something in place that we can protect the values and uses. There is attention to the area, I just got back from DC and I can tell you it is coming. We need to have a plan, and we need a way to pay for it and plan for it.

Steve Martin: Well look at Moab. It is changed and without an NCA.

Tom Derryberry: I agree with Craig but there isn't any NCA with mining.

John Redifer: We know from the past you draw the boundary around it

Tom Derryberry: Then you got swiss cheese and there are huge chunks that aren't going to work .

Jeff Widen: We will not solve this tonight and we conclude as a group with a report with agreement points and continue to in an informal way meet and discuss what we have agreed on and refine the agreement and in that process and have the continuing dialogue about the NCA but using the agreements as a vehicle to move forward.

Jess Fullbright: For my report to Energy Fuels, is salt wash excluded?

Tim Casey: No, people seem to agree that existing claims should be honored but there isn't much agreement after that.

Leon Moores: Yes, but there is mining that could happen because some leases have expired.

Kate Graham: So I think there is agreement on active claims.

Tim Casey: We are done here. What we will do, we will give you minutes and then write a report to the commissioners from August 2010 all the way to May 2011. Which will include minutes and sense of agreement points. But that will conclude our part of this process. We don't have anything concrete to move to a public meeting at this point.

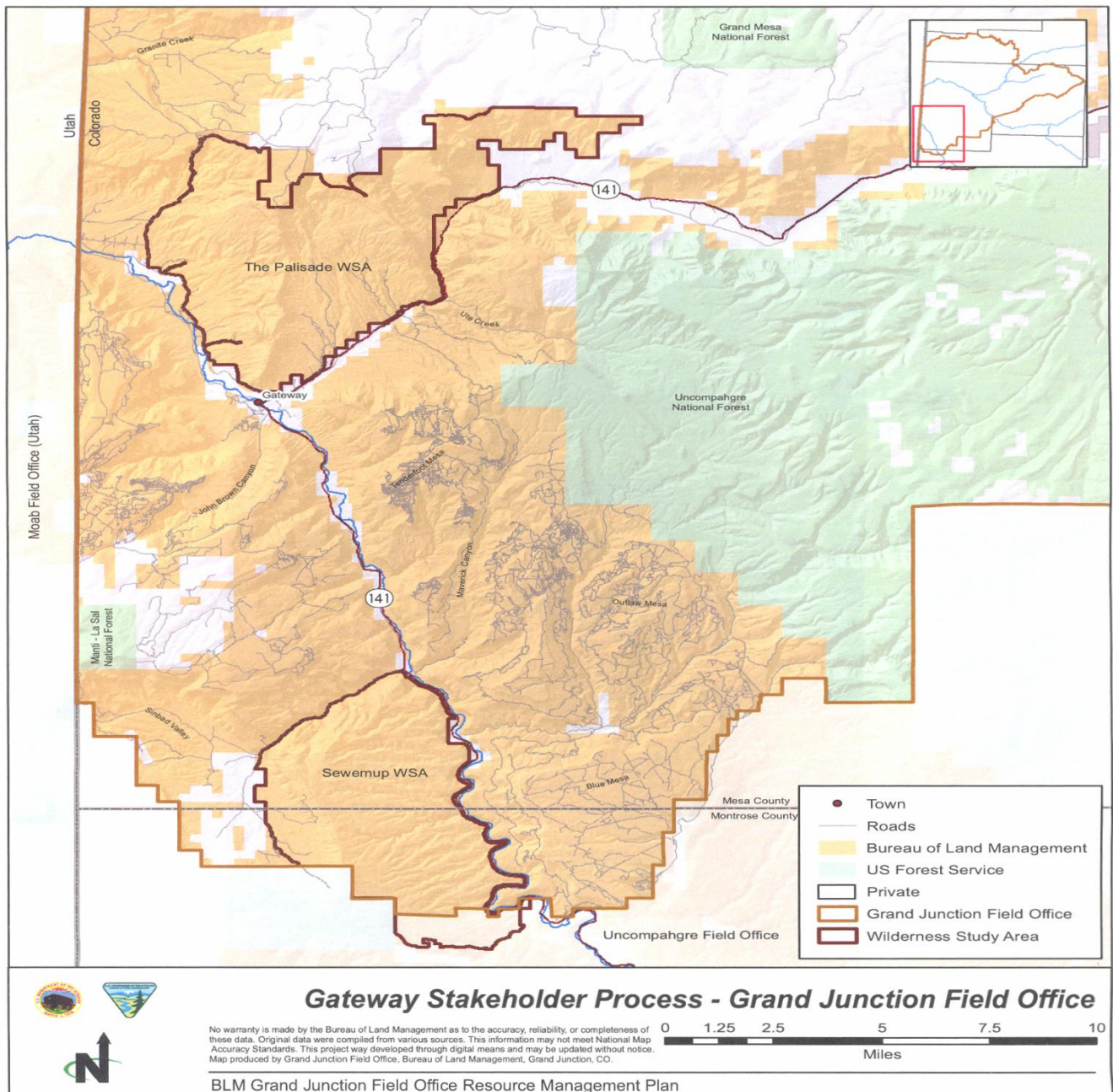
Jan Potterveld: Will you send a draft?

Tim Casey: Yes, and we will try and include you as much as possible.

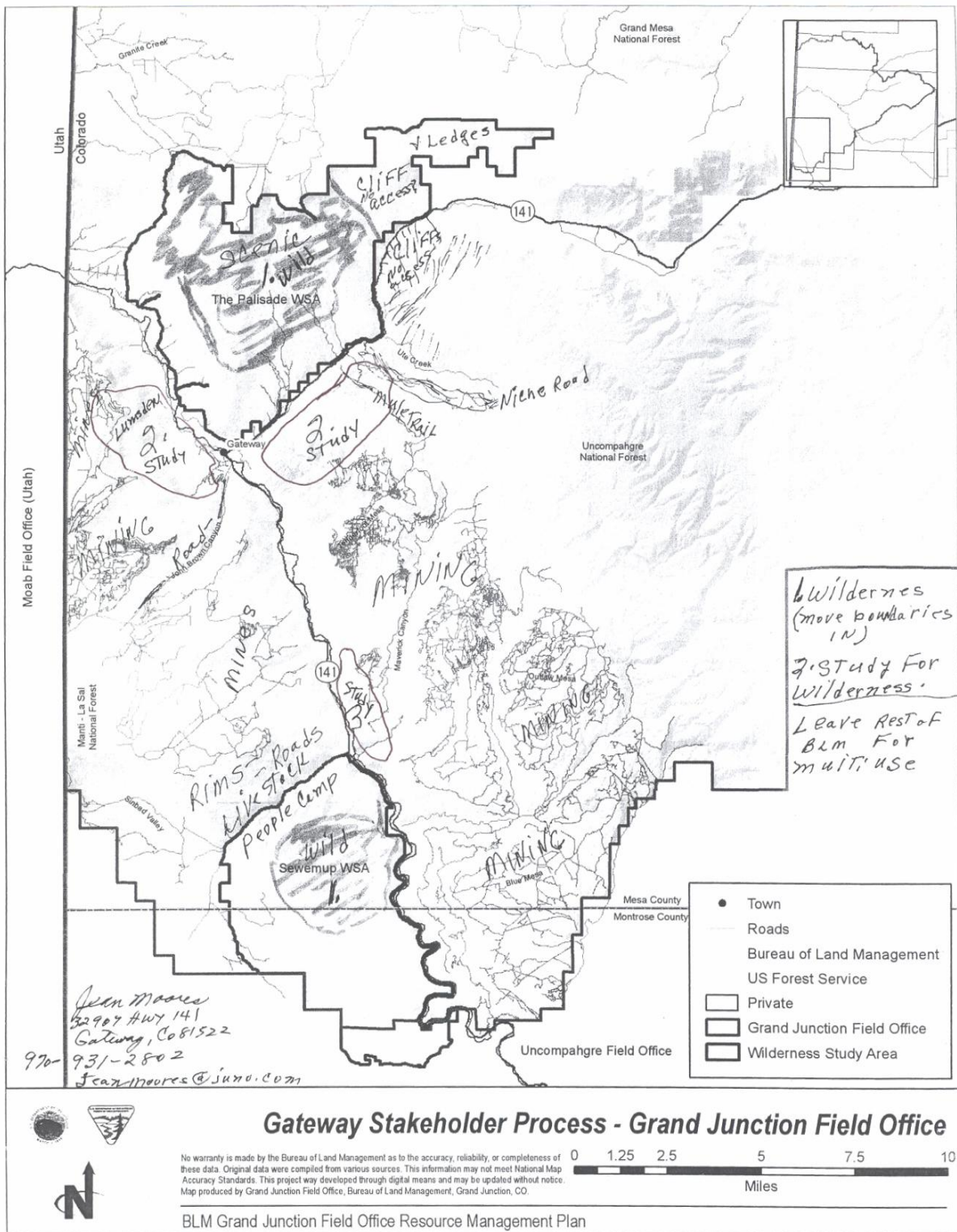
Appendix 3: Maps and Handouts

Several maps were presented by various participants throughout the planning process, these maps have been gathered here for reference.

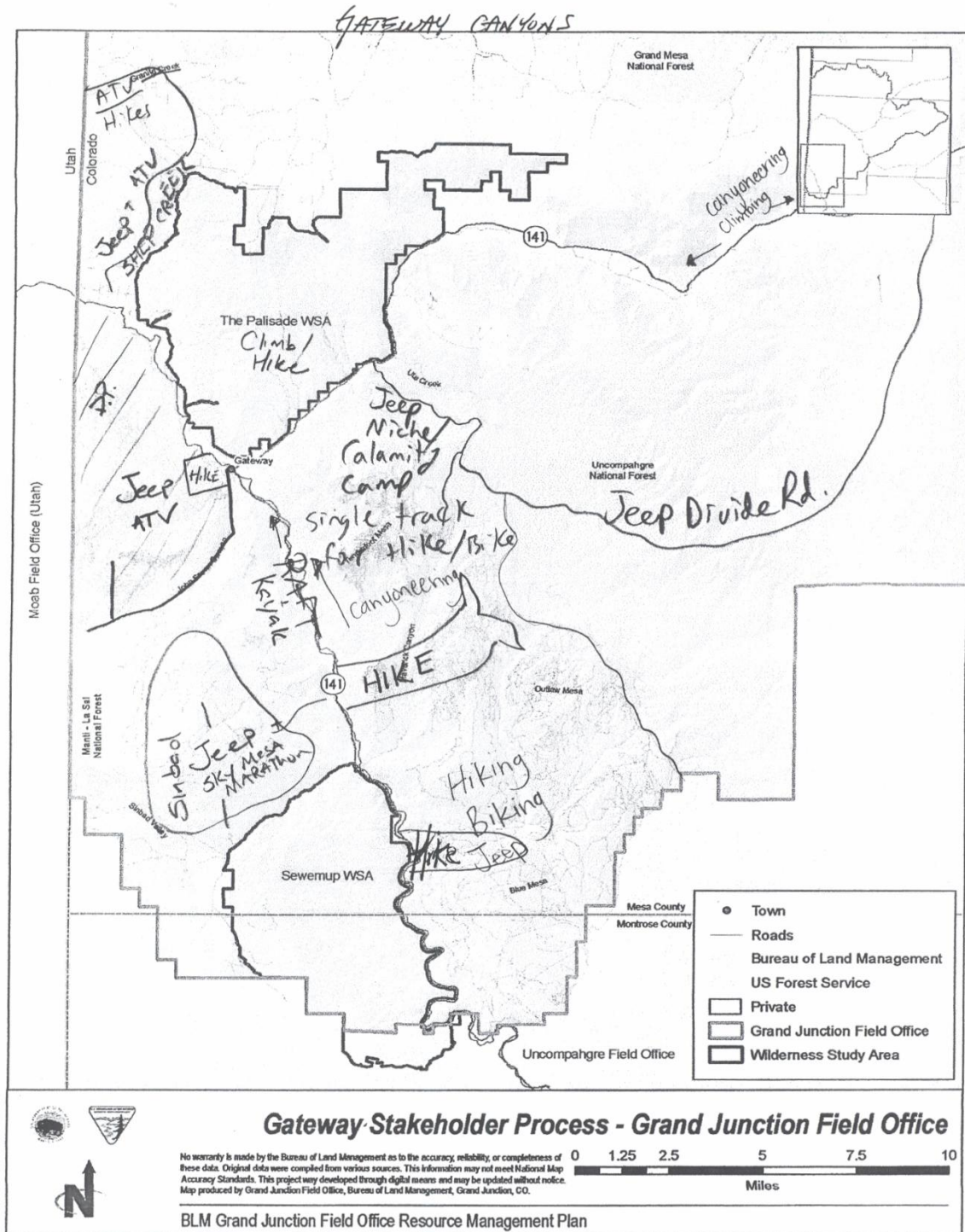
Map 1: Base map of Gateway proposed NCA area – given to participants to sketch boundaries and special areas of interest.



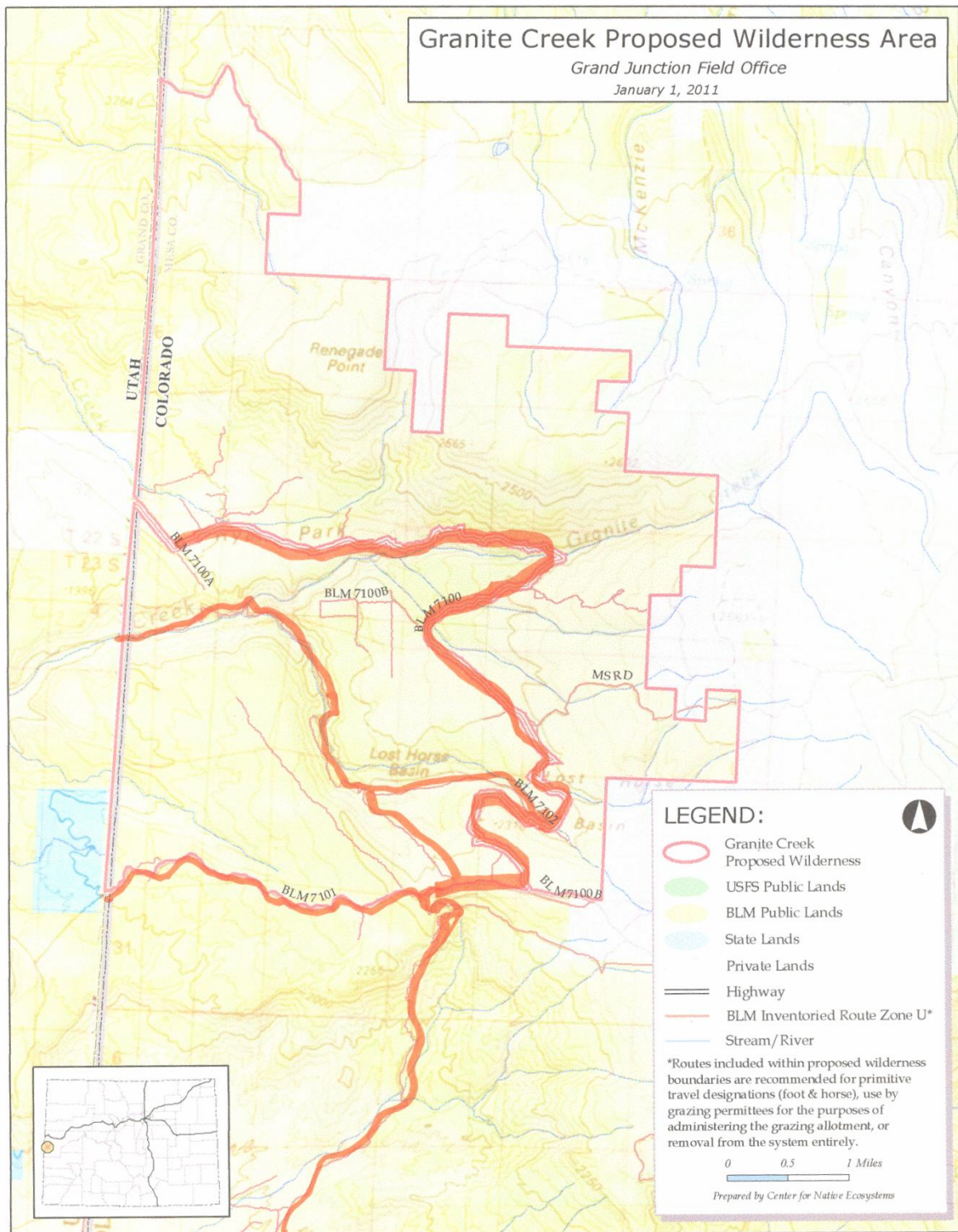
Map 2: Jean Moores, community resident, special places and boundaries of NCA



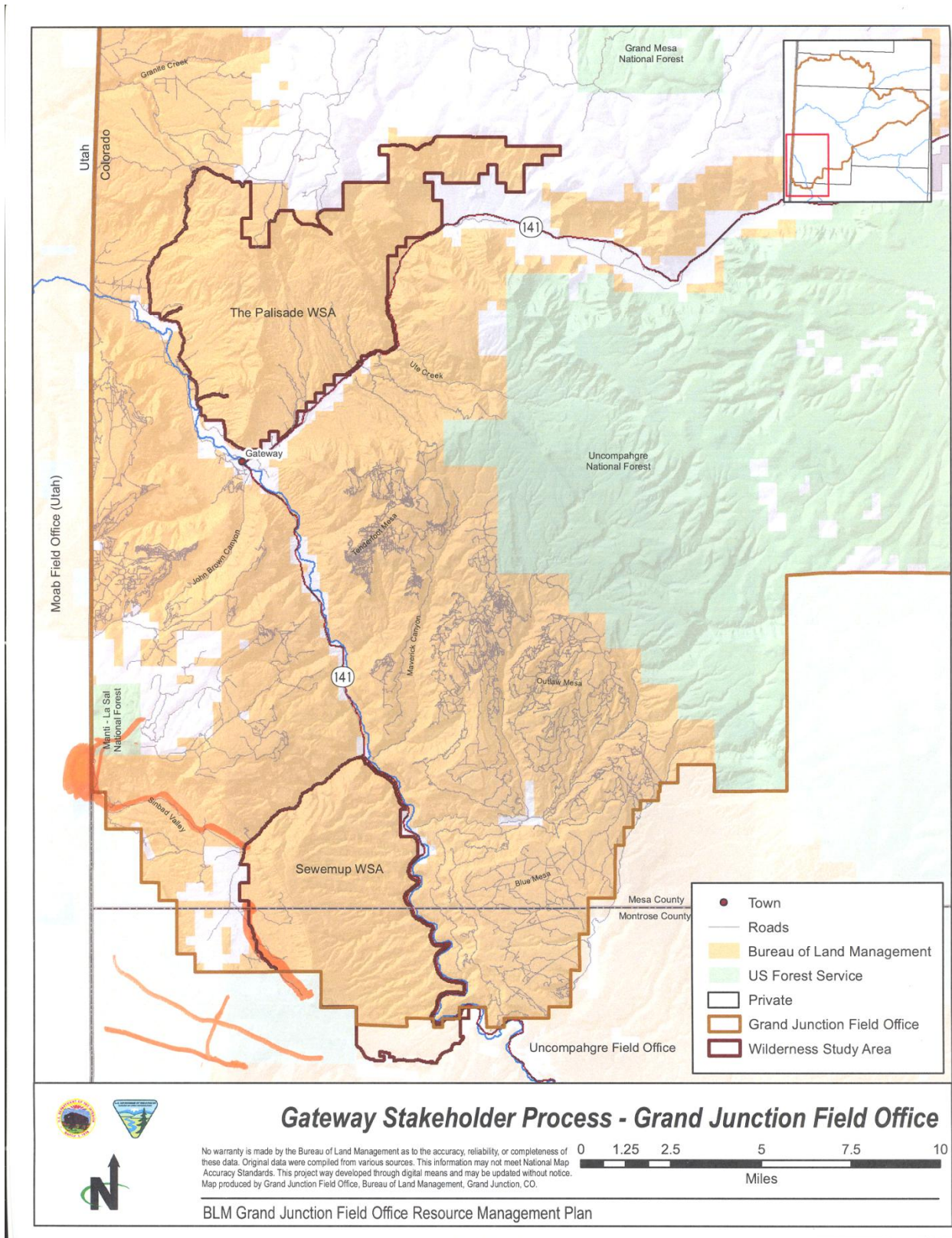
Map 3: Gateway Canyons Resort, Recreational Use Map



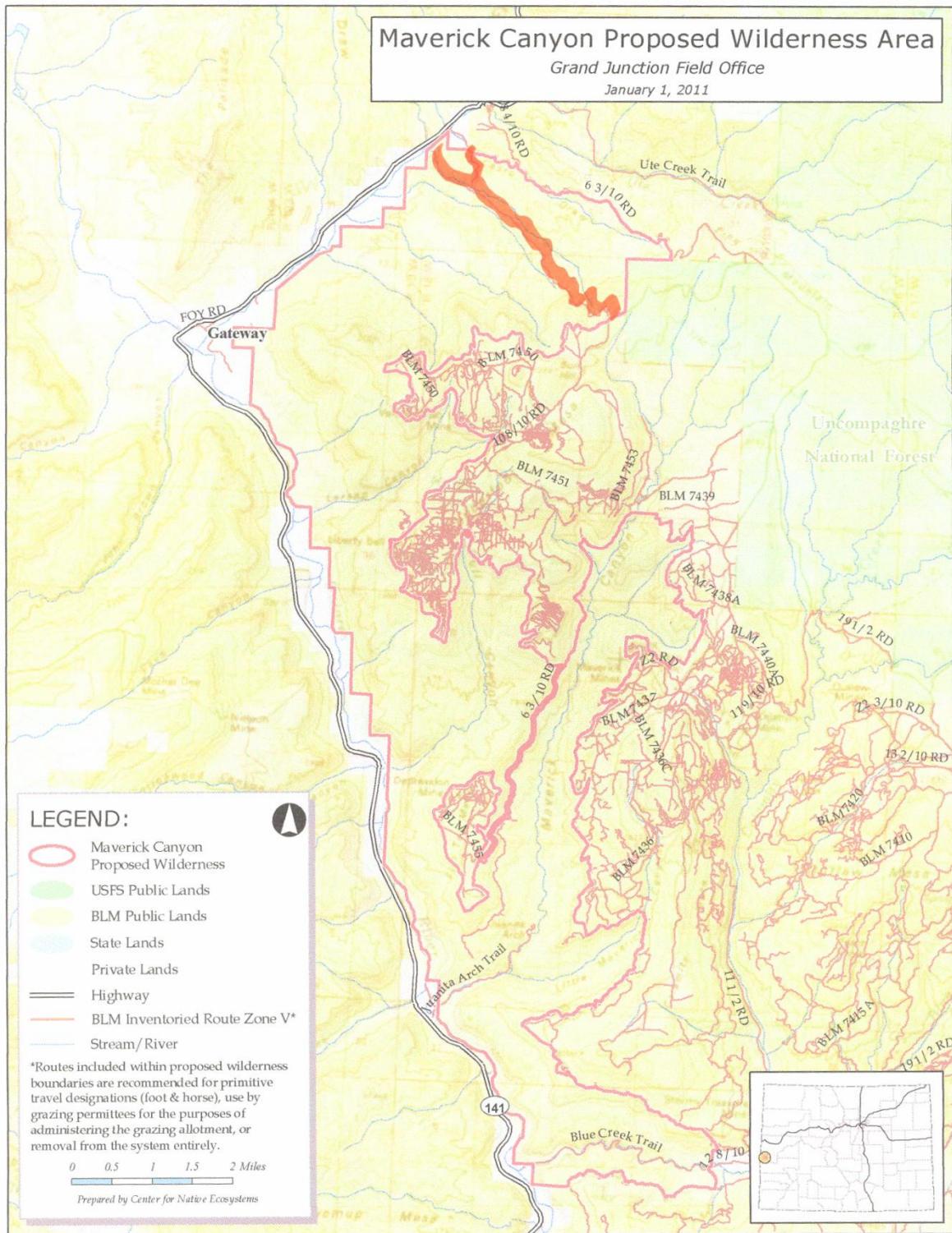
Map 4: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 1 – Granite Creek



Map 5: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 2 – John Brown Canyon area



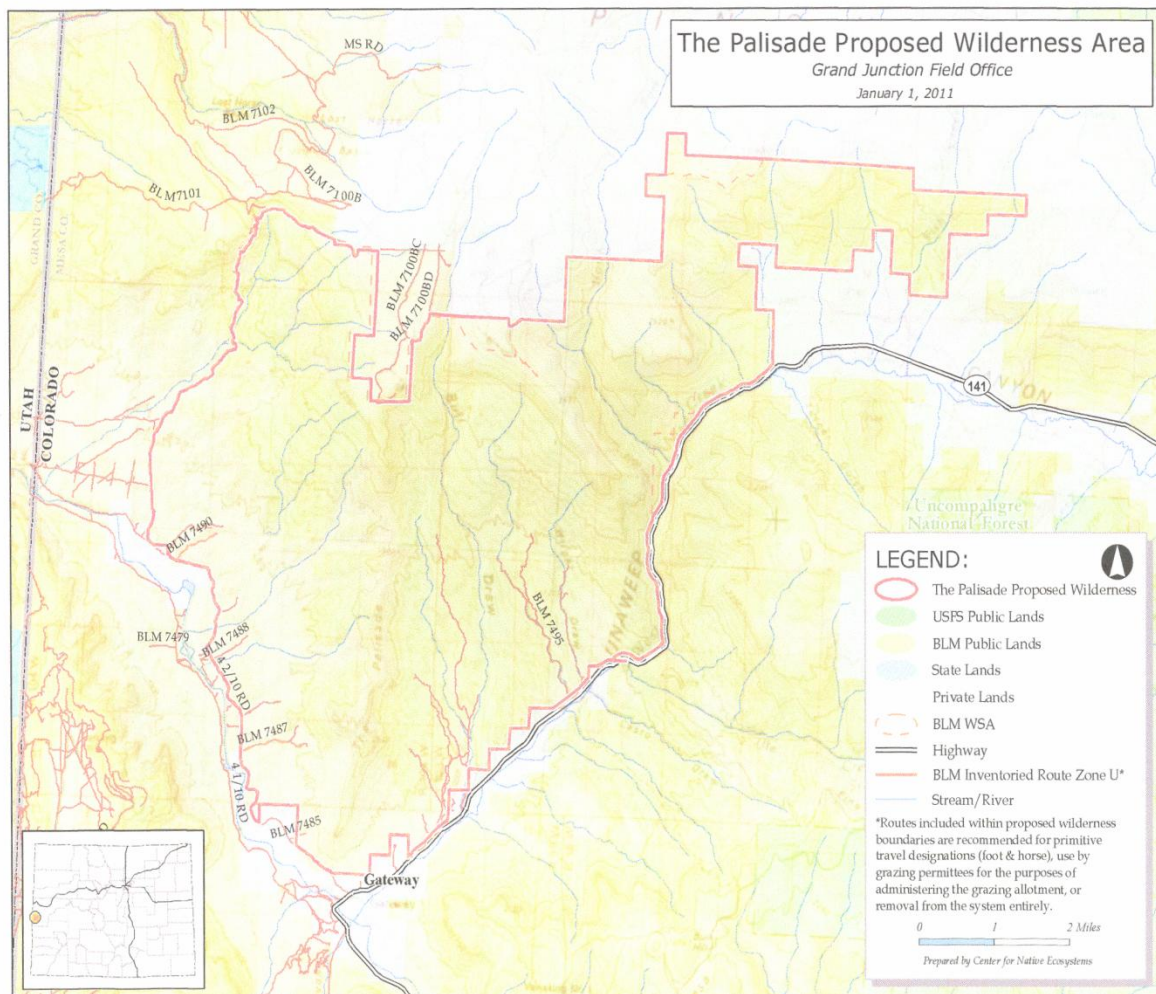
Map 6: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 3 – Maverick Canyon



Map 7: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 4 – Unaweep Canyon



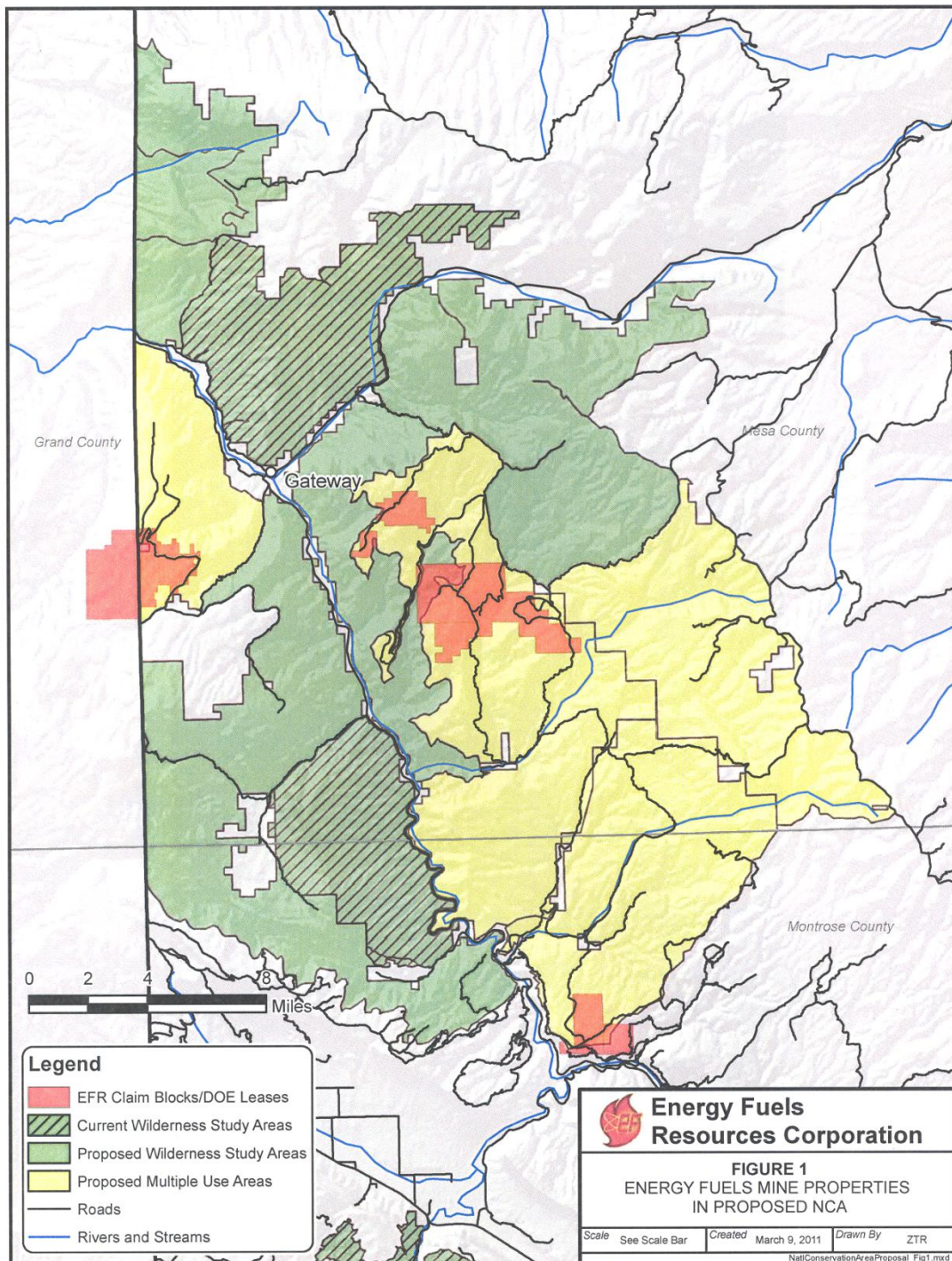
Map 8: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 5 – Palisade WSA



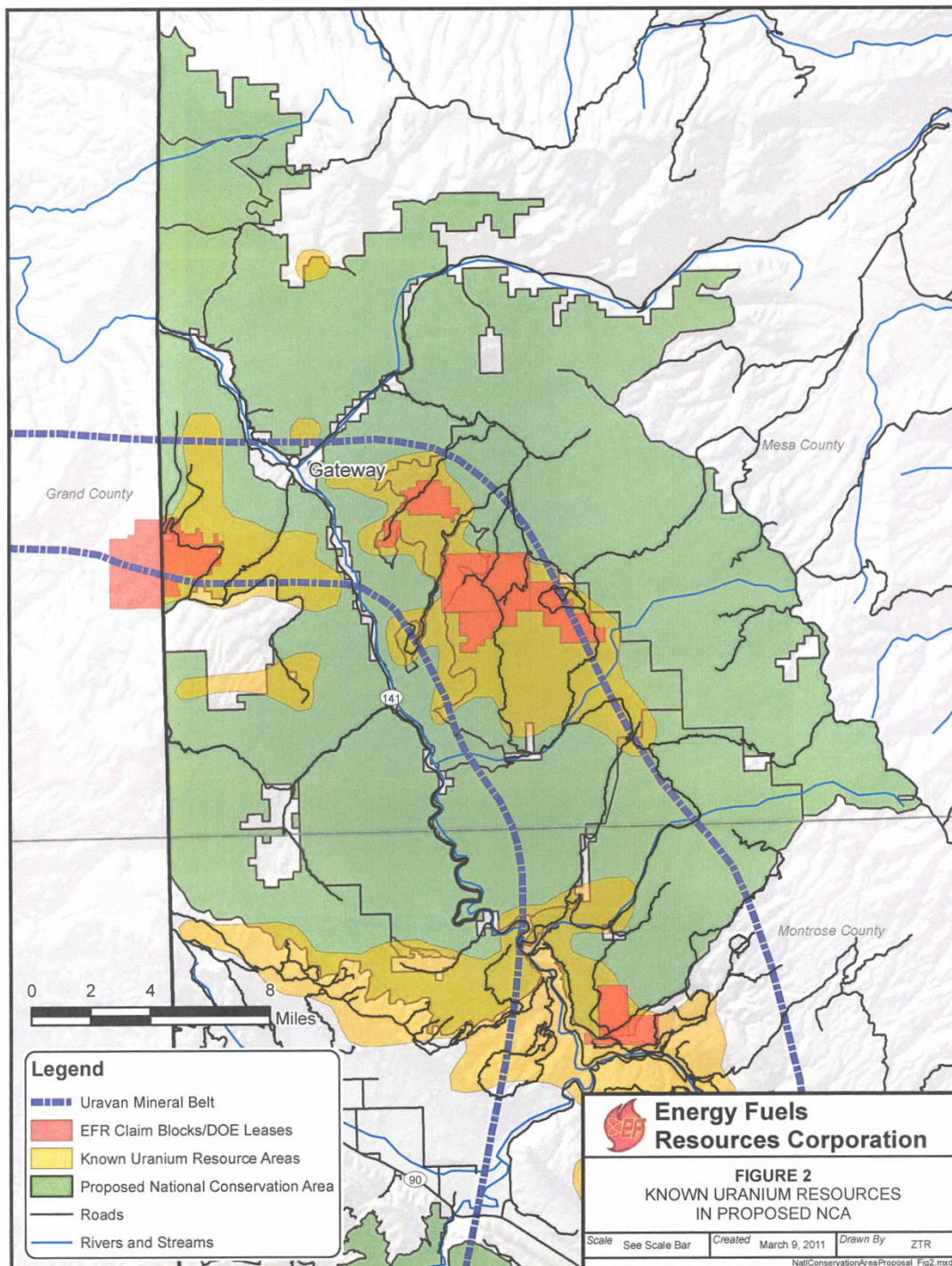
Map 9: Back Country Horseman, Important trails map 6 – Sagebrush Pillows Area



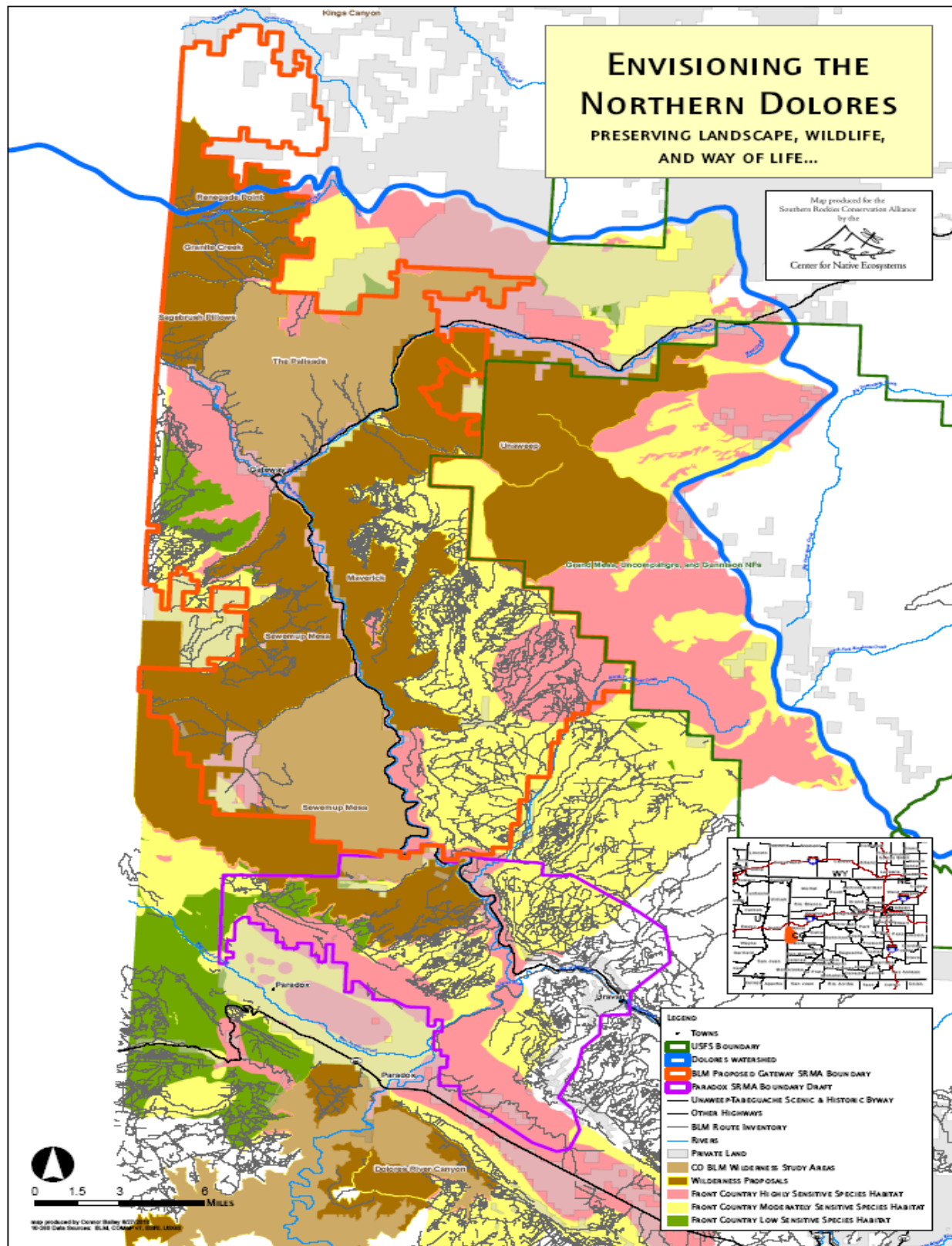
Map 10: Energy Fuels Uranium Existing Lease Areas



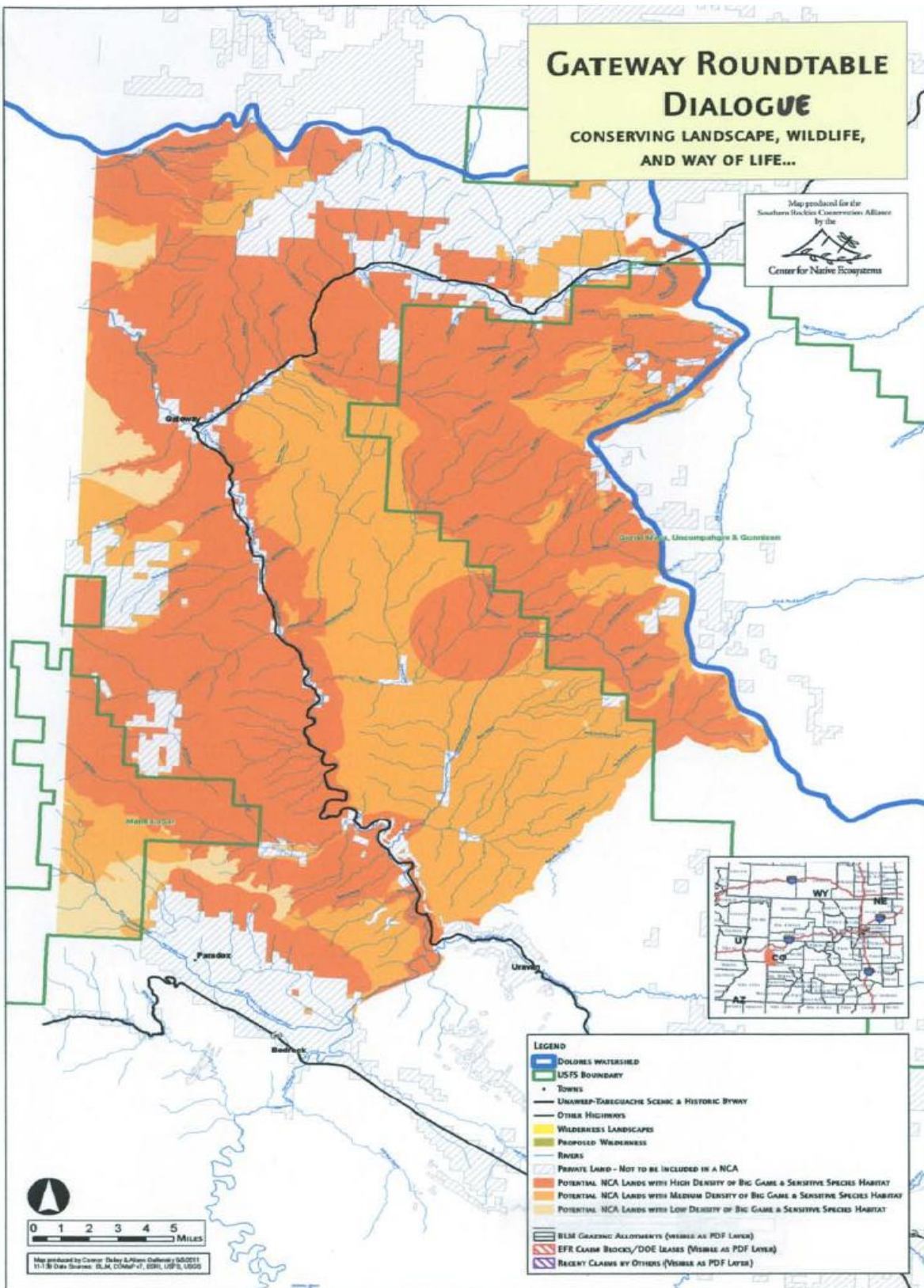
Map 11: Energy Fuels Known Uranium Deposits

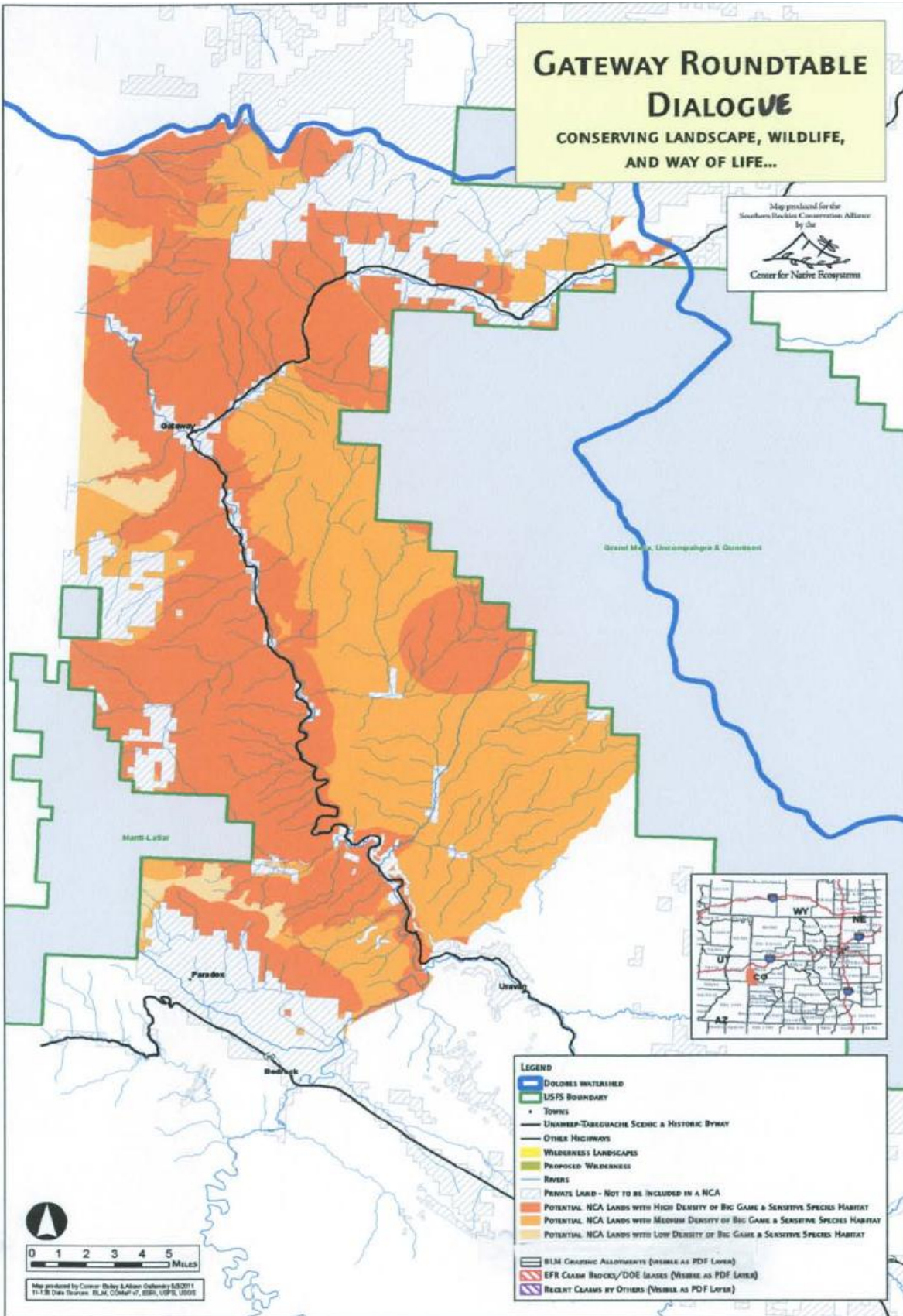


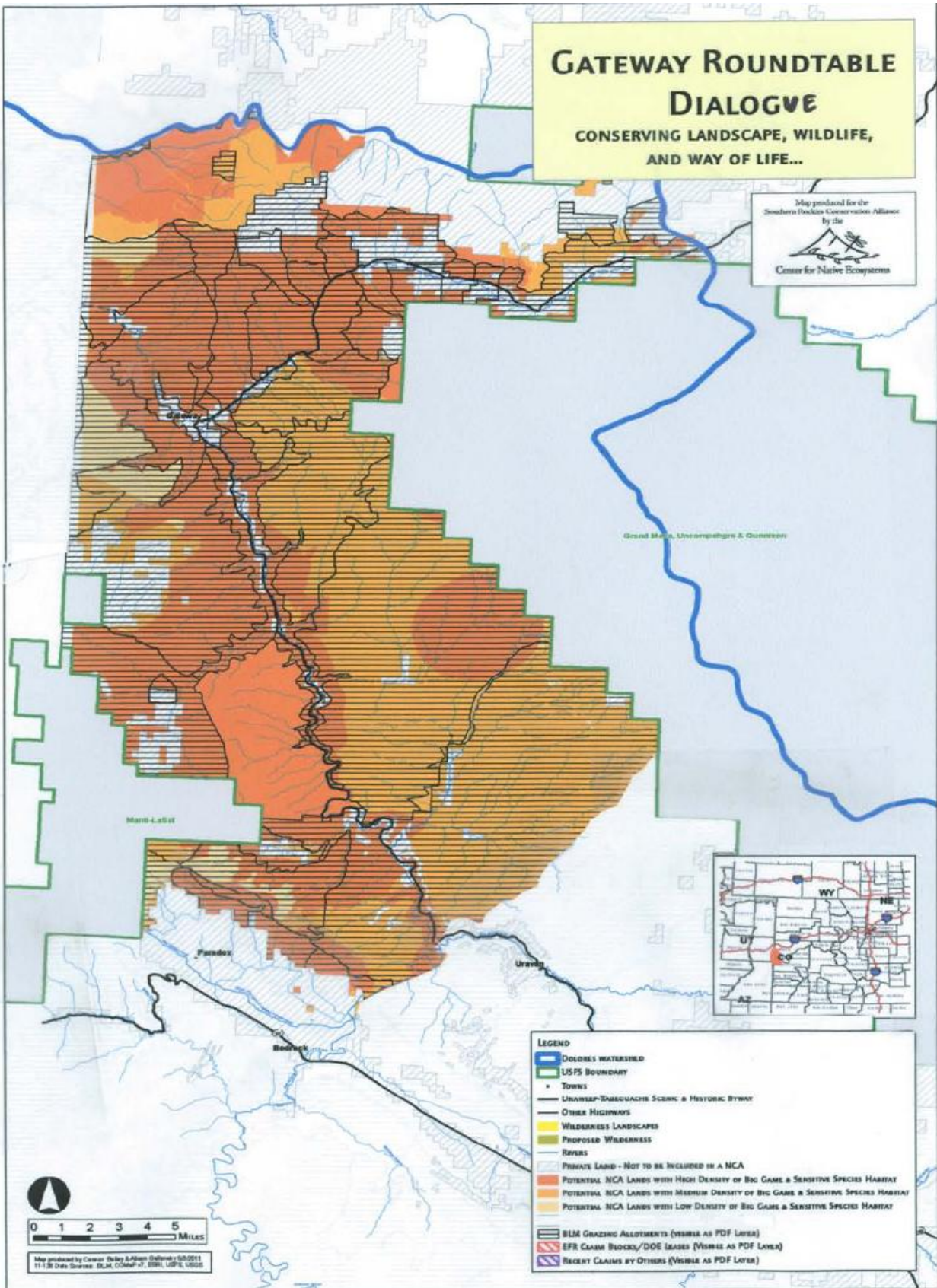
Map 12: Dolores River Coalition Proposal Map – Roundtable Meeting 1

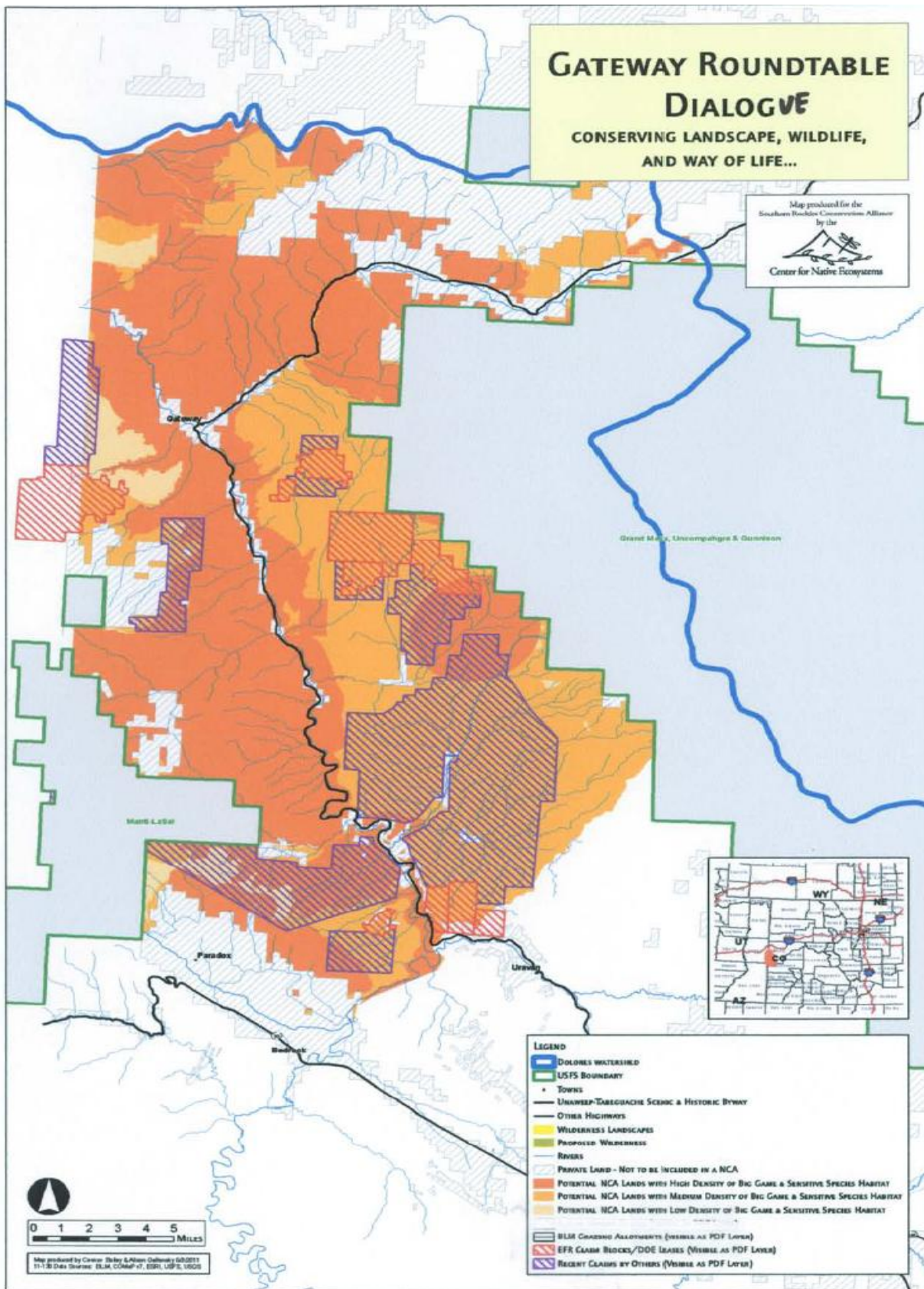


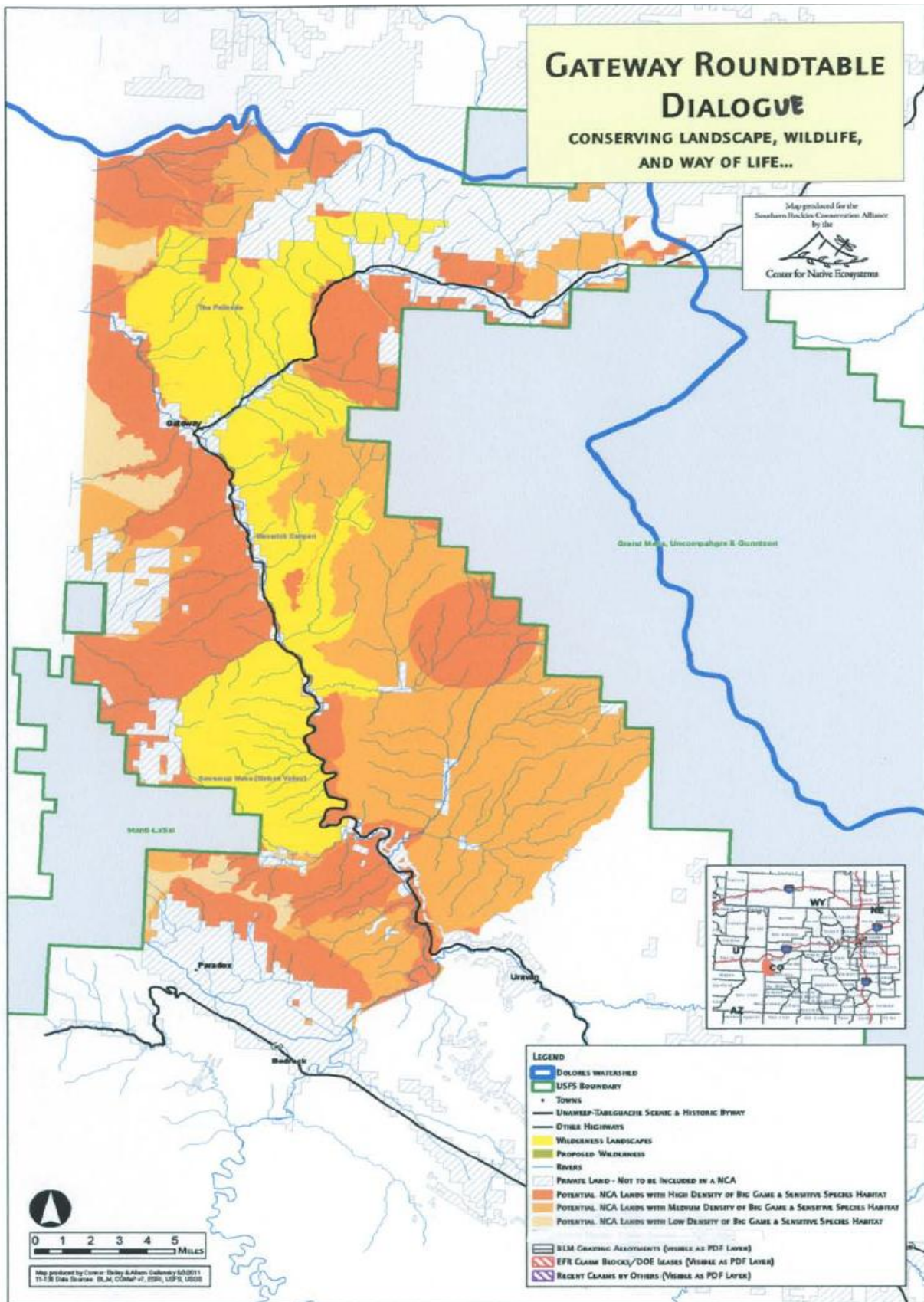
Map 13: Dolores River Coalition Revised Map – Meeting 4 (next 6 pages)

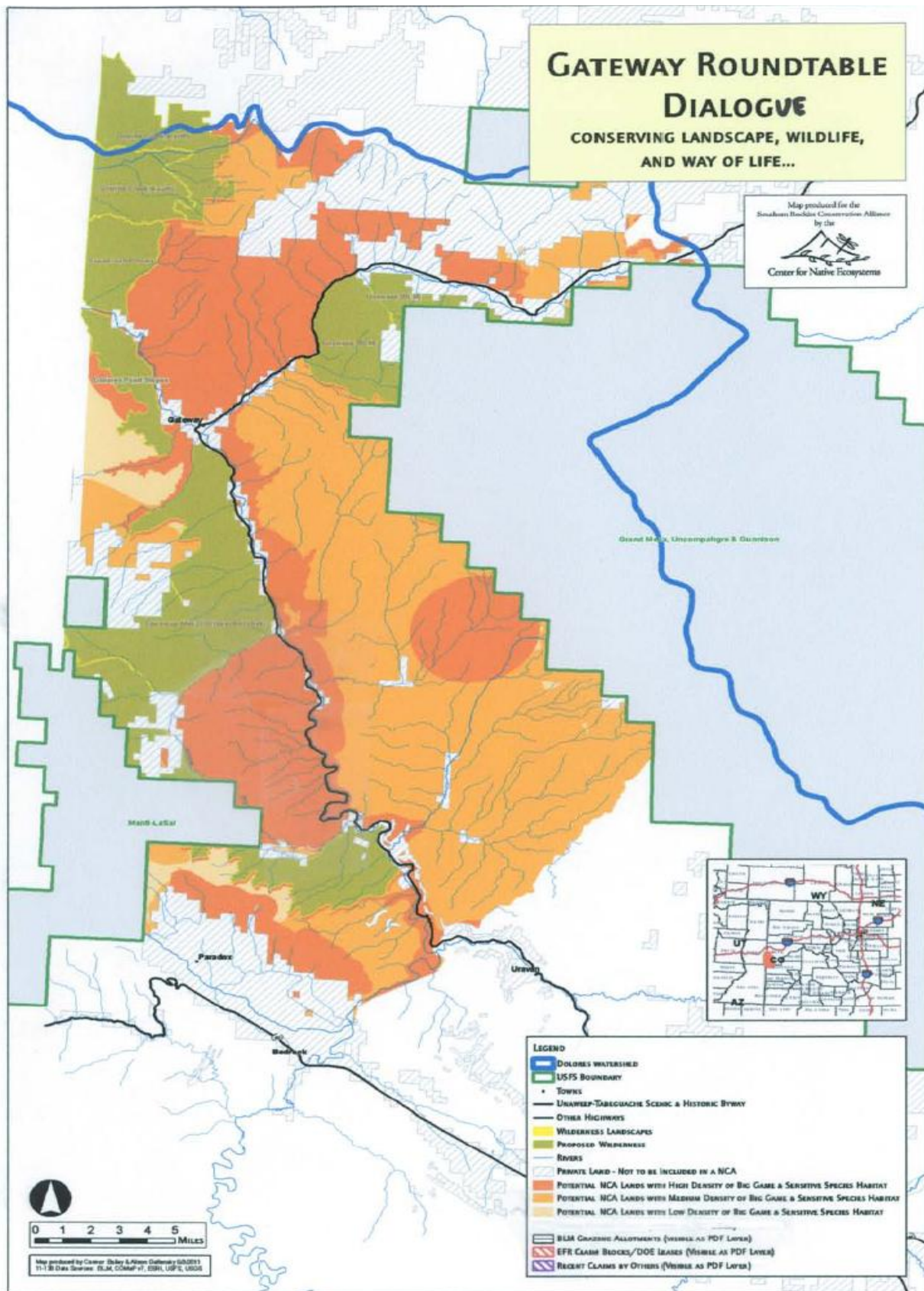




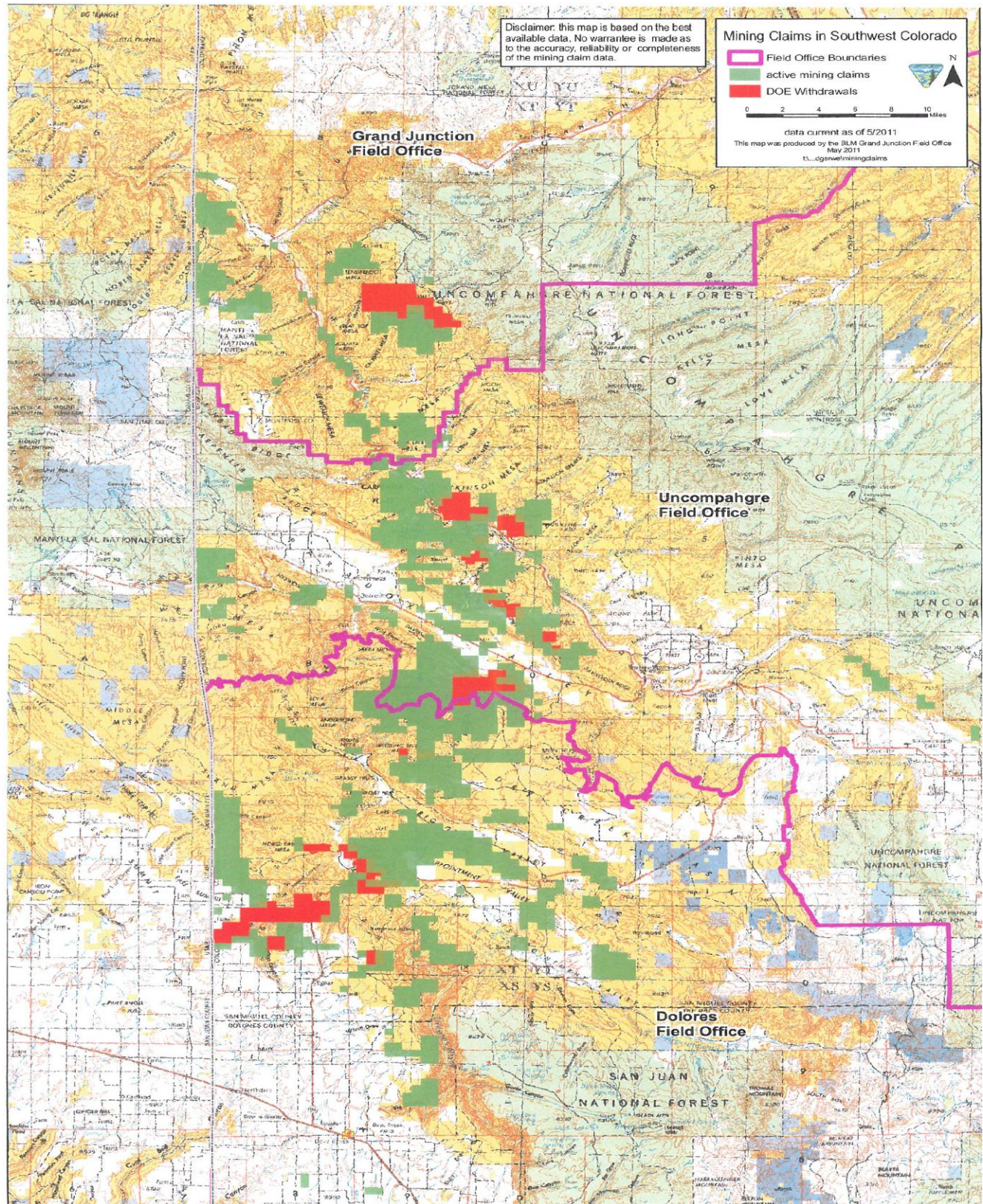




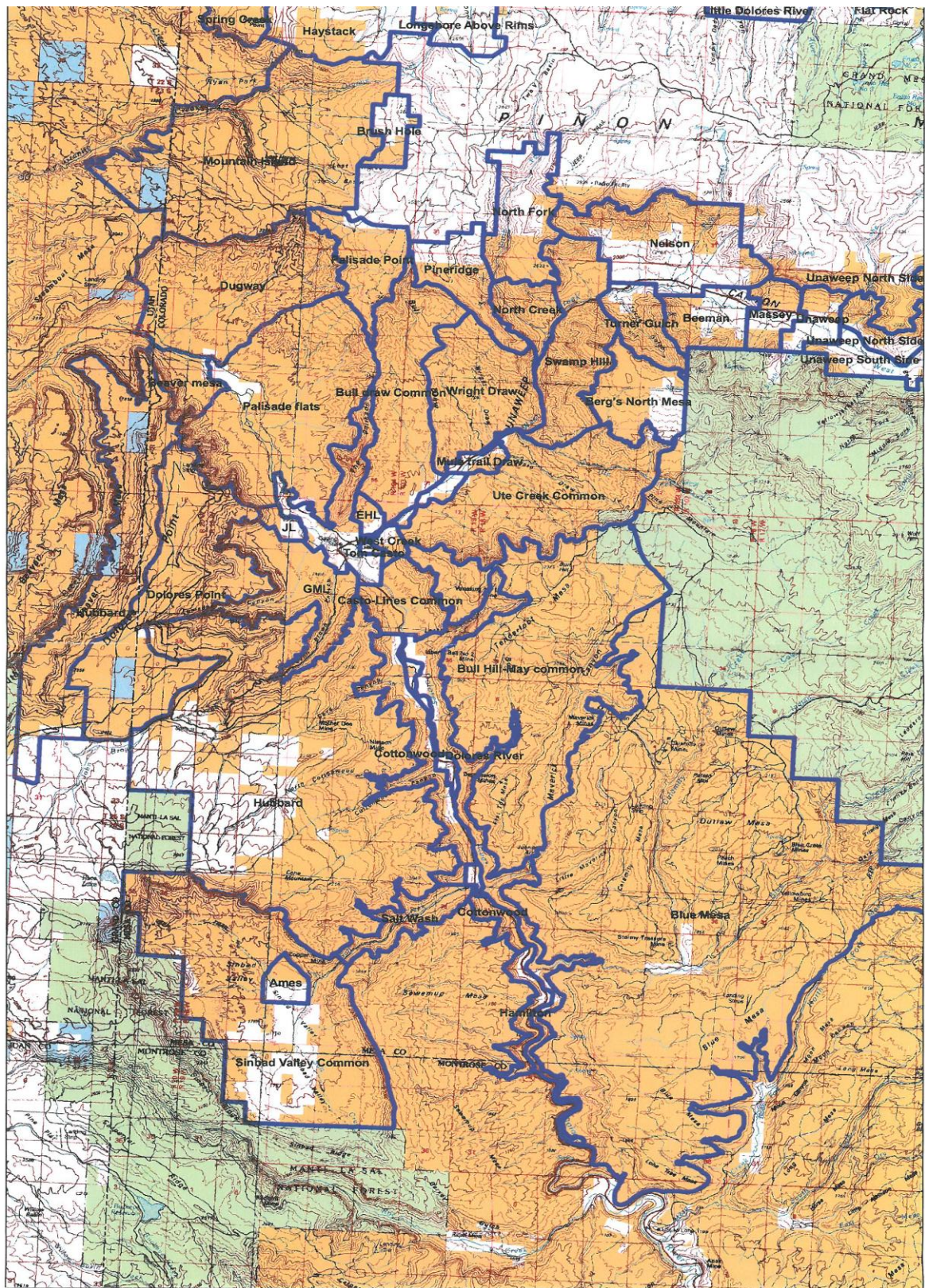




Map 14: Mineral Claims on BLM Land in Western Colorado



Map 15: Grazing Permits in Gateway NCA Proposal area





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