

Rock Springs RMP Revision Open House

August 24, 2016



Public Scoping



Public Scoping

- Scoping initiated February 1, 2011
- Scoping closed April 4, 2011
- Four scoping meetings, 98 submissions and 666 unique comments
- Scoping re-opened for wild Horse Consent Decree August 16, 2013
- Closed September 16, 2013
- Two scoping meetings, 15,013 submissions and 734 unique comments

Final Scoping Report
for the
Rock Springs
Resource Management Plan Revision



January 2012

BLM

Wyoming High Desert District - Rock Springs Field Office



Issues Identified for Resolution in the RMP Revision

- Fluid Minerals (17%)
 - Master Leasing Plans
 - Fluid mineral stipulations
- Fish and Wildlife (12%)
 - Identification of migration corridors
 - Protections to enhance hunting
- General (10%)
 - Multiple use mandate
 - Healthy rangelands
 - Implementation funding
 - Science based decision making
- Special Designations (8%)
 - What special designations will be made
 - Protections for special designations
- Special Status Species (8%)
 - Protection for Greater Sage-Grouse
- Wilderness, WSAs, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (5%)
 - Wilderness characteristics present
 - Secretarial Order 3310
- Planning Process (5%)
 - Open and transparent planning
 - Unique authority for Cooperating Agencies
- Travel and Transportation Management (4%)
 - Public access
 - New trails or routes
- Wild Horses
 - Protections for horses
 - Removal of other uses
 - Consent Decree

Project History, Current Status and Path Forward



History

- Feb. 1, 2011: NOI Issued
- Sept. 14, 2011 to Dec. 19, 2012: Seven Workshops with Cooperators to develop Alternatives B & C
- Aug. 16, 2013: NOI to re-open scoping period for Wild Horse Management
- Jan. 29, 2014: Hold announced for Greater Sage-Grouse amendment
- Jan. 26, 2015: Resumption of the RMP Revision
 - Work delayed until October 2015 for ROD on Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment



RS-RMP Path Forward

- Alternative D Process
 - BLM will develop a preliminary Alternative D
 - Cooperators will comment on preliminary Alternative D
 - BLM will resolve comments and report back to Cooperators
 - Will meet with Cooperators to resolve any outstanding comments
 - Field Manager will select the preferred alternative after impact analysis of all alternatives



Timeline

- 2nd Quarter 2016 – Draft Alternative D
- 4th Quarter 2016 – Finalize Alternative D
- 4th Quarter 2016 – Finalize impact analysis
- 4th Quarter 2016 – Select the Preferred Alternative
- 3rd Quarter 2017 – Publish Draft EIS/RMP



Incorporation of the Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment Actions Into The Rock Springs Revision



Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment

- ROD issued in September 2015
- Actions have been incorporated into the No Action alternative A of the RMP revision
- Impact analysis based on this new alternative A
- Fluid Minerals Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario revised



Rock Springs Comprehensive Travel & Transportation Management Plan (CTTMP)



The Objectives of CTTMP are to:

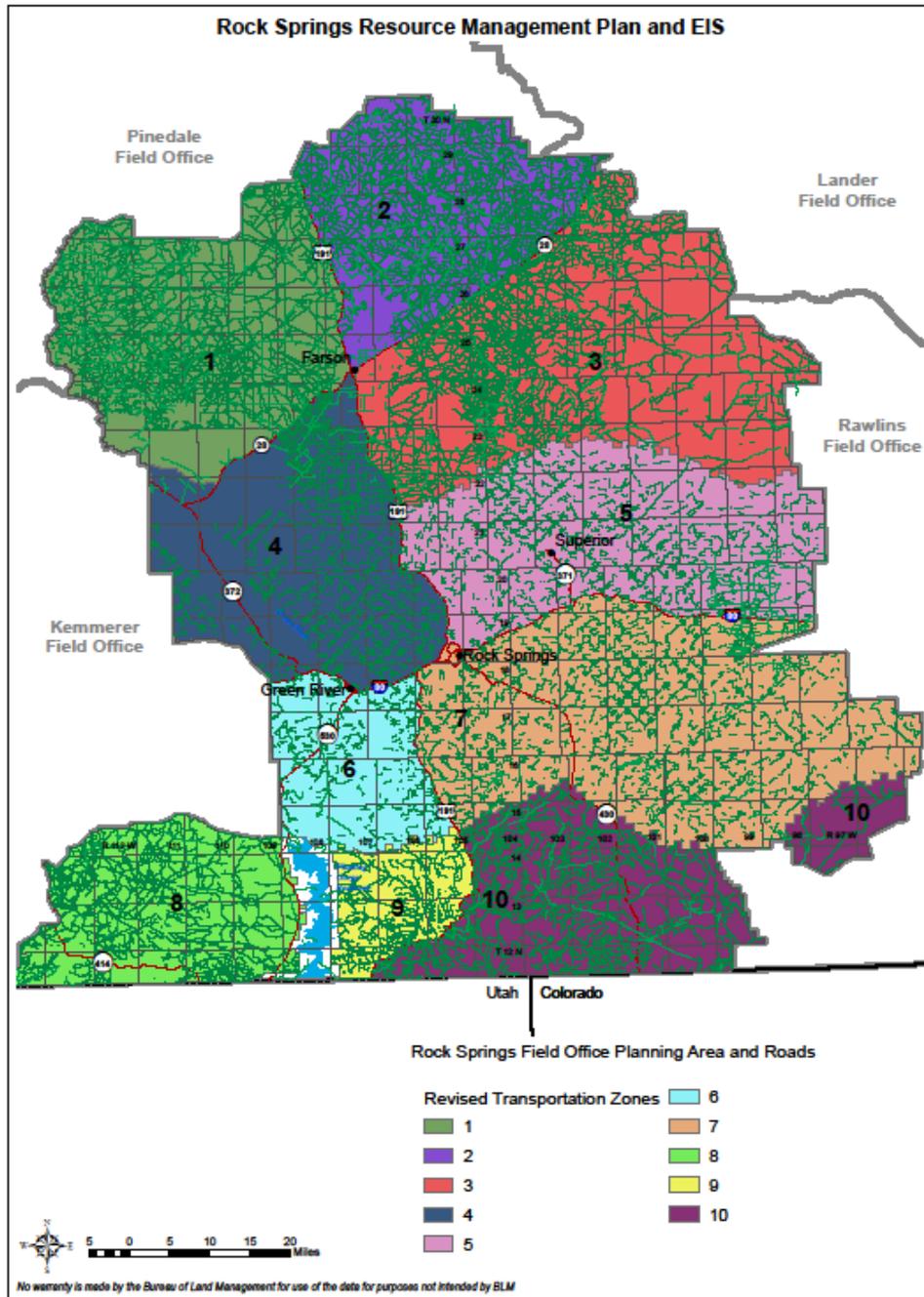
- Establish a long-term, sustainable, multi-modal transportation system of open areas, roads, primitive roads, and trails that addresses public and administrative access needs to and across BLM-managed lands and related waters.
- Support the agency's mission and land use planning goals and objectives to provide for resource management, public and administrative access, transportation needs and promote sustainable landscapes for future generations.
- Manage travel and transportation on the public lands and related waters in accordance with law, Executive Order, proclamation, regulation, and policy.



CTTMP

- Provides the backbone for the identification of the travel network and the administration of the BLM's transportation systems. TTM planning involves decisions at the Land Use Planning stage in association with a Resource Management Plan (RMP), and at the implementation level within a Travel Management Plan (TMP) or other decision document.





Travel Management Statistics

- 18,539 miles
- 33,919 segments
- 3.5 work years of effort to date



Linear Transportation Features

- **Road:** A linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 20)
- **Primitive Road:** A linear route managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. These routes do not normally meet any BLM road design standards.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 20)
- **Trail:** A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 21)



Linear Transportation Features

- **Transportation Linear Disturbance:** Routes (unauthorized) that are not part of the designated transportation network and usually identified for decommissioning and restoration.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 22)
- **Primitive Route:** Any transportation linear feature located within a WSA or lands with wilderness characteristics designated for protection by a land use plan and not meeting the wilderness inventory road definition.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 22)
- **Temporary Route:** Short-term roads, primitive roads or trails authorized or acquired for the development, construction or staging of a project or event that has a finite lifespan.
 - BLM Handbook H-8342-1 (Section V.C – page 21 - 22)



Temporary Routes

- Includes fluid mineral access routes
 - Field development has a finite duration
- May include crown-and-ditch roads
- Opposition to identifying these features as Temporary Routes



Not a Transportation Feature

- Includes fluid mineral pipelines
 - Installation of a pipeline was not for transportation
 - Companies are concerned with vehicle travel over pipelines
- Opposition to identifying these features as Not a Transportation Feature
 - Often accompanied by a two-track to service the pipeline
 - Did the two-track pre-date the pipeline?



Mule Deer Migration Routes

Preliminary information, subject to
change



Mule Deer Migration Routes

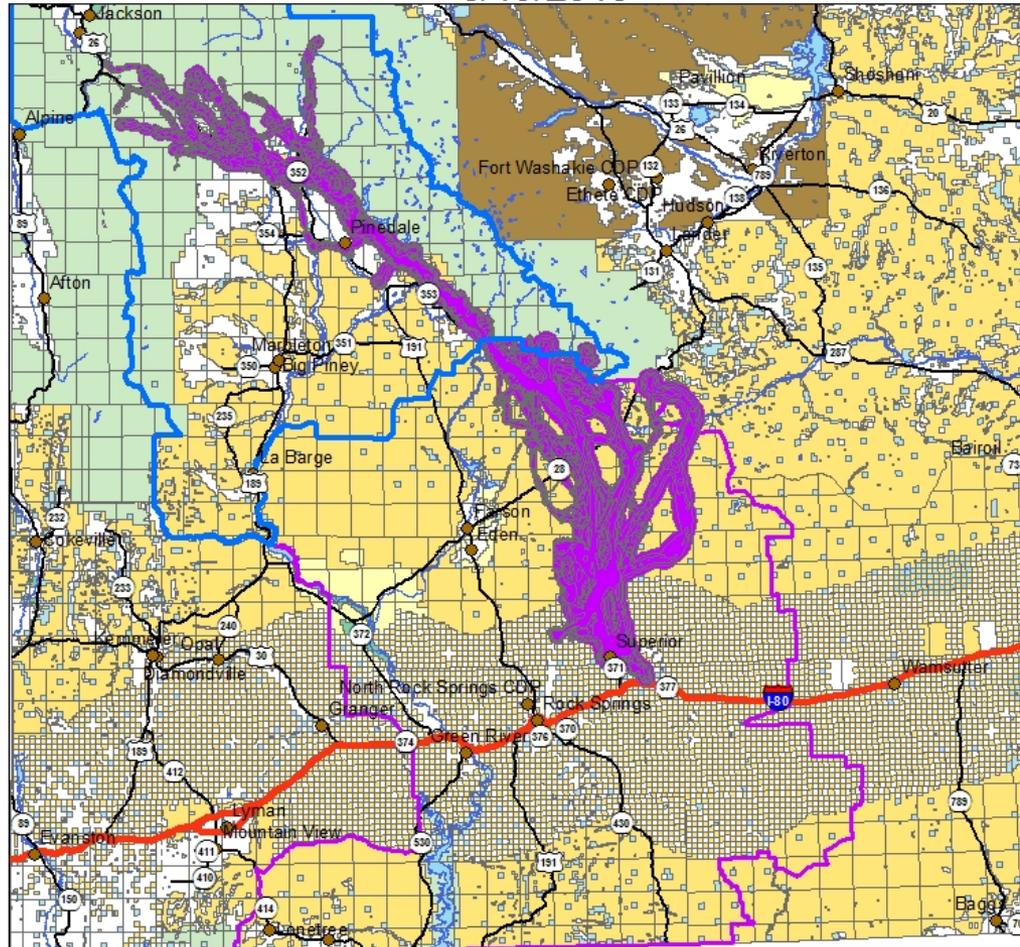
- In 2009, BLM partnered with WGFD for a collaring study
 - 40 mule deer in the Red Desert Area
 - In subsequent years WLCI extended study
 - Led to the 2014 Red Desert to Hoback Mule Deer Migration Assessment
 - Mapped 150 mile migration path, including stop-over habitats
 - Spans the Rock Springs and Pinedale Field Offices



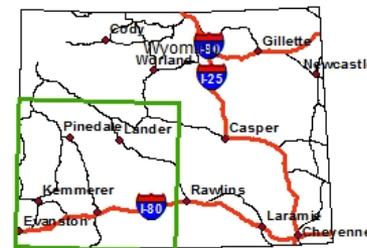


Red Desert to Hoback Mule Deer Migration Route

8/19/2015



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Pinedale Field Office | | Bureau of Reclamation |
| | Rock Springs Field Office | | Fish & Wildlife |
| | Red Desert to Hoback | | Forest Service |
| | Interstate | | Private |
| | Highway | | State |
| | Bureau of Indian Affairs | | Water |
| | Bureau of Land Management | | |



Projection: UTM NAD83 Zone 12N

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Mule Deer Migration Routes

- Pinedale Field Office RMP, revised in 2008
 - Provides protections for migration routes
 - **78,600 acres of migration routes, 60,500 are closed to oil and gas leasing**
 - **26,000 acres of stopover habitat, 25,000 are closed to oil and gas leasing**

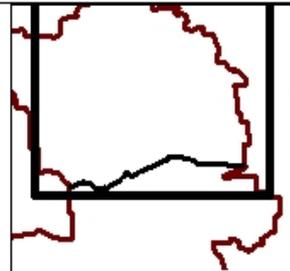
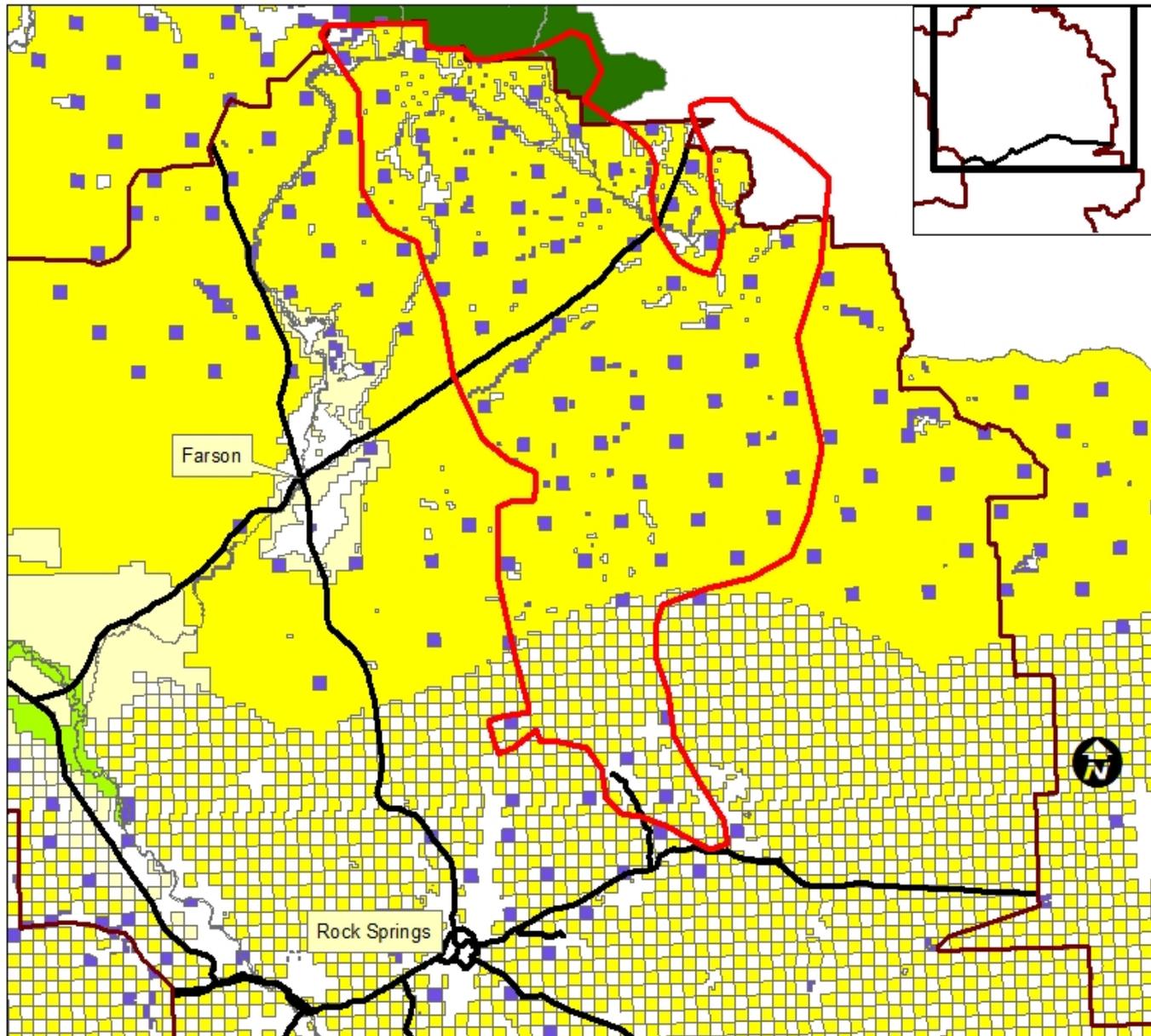


Mule Deer Migration Routes

- **Rock Springs Field Office RMP, currently undergoing revision**
 - **Current RMP does not provide specific management actions for protection of migration routes, However,**
 - **Much of the Red Desert to Hoback route in the Field office area is overlapped by existing restrictions and seasonal closures, including sage-grouse priority habitat**
 - **Much of the route also lies within the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan of 2006**
 - **Serves as a Master Leasing Plan that restricts mineral leasing in areas of critical wildlife habitats**



Red Desert To Hoback Migration Route area within the RSFO



Legend

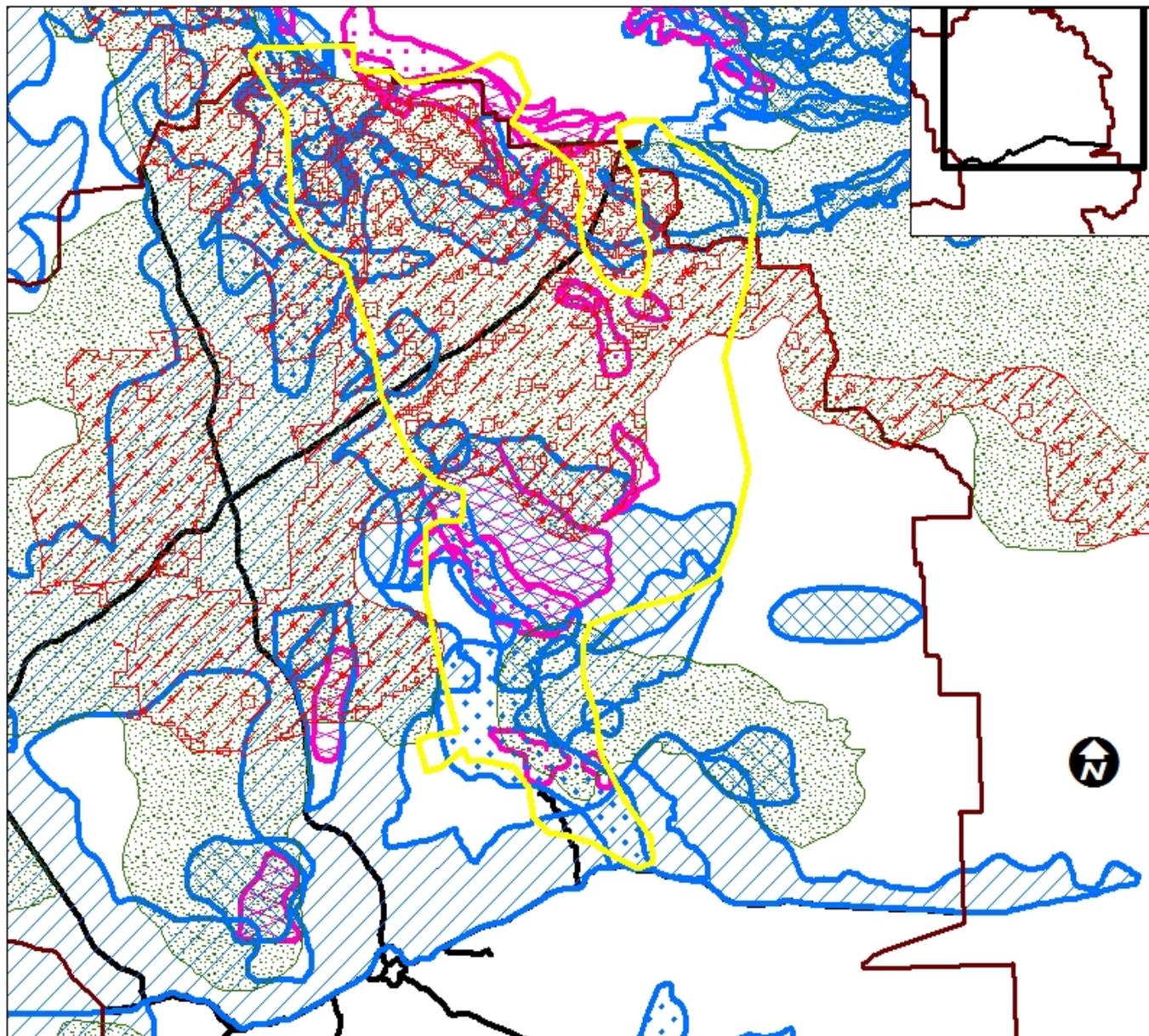
- RSFO Boundary
- Rock_Springs_FO_Ownership SURFACE**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish & Wildlife
- Forest Service
- Private
- State
- Migration Route area



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Red Desert To Hoback Migration Route area within the RSFO



Legend

- Wyoming_SFA
- Wyoming_PHMA
- RSFO Boundary
- Antelope Crucial Winter Range
- Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range
- Mule Deer Parturition Area
- Elk Crucial Winter Range
- Elk Parturition Area
- Moose Crucial Winter Range
- Migration Route area



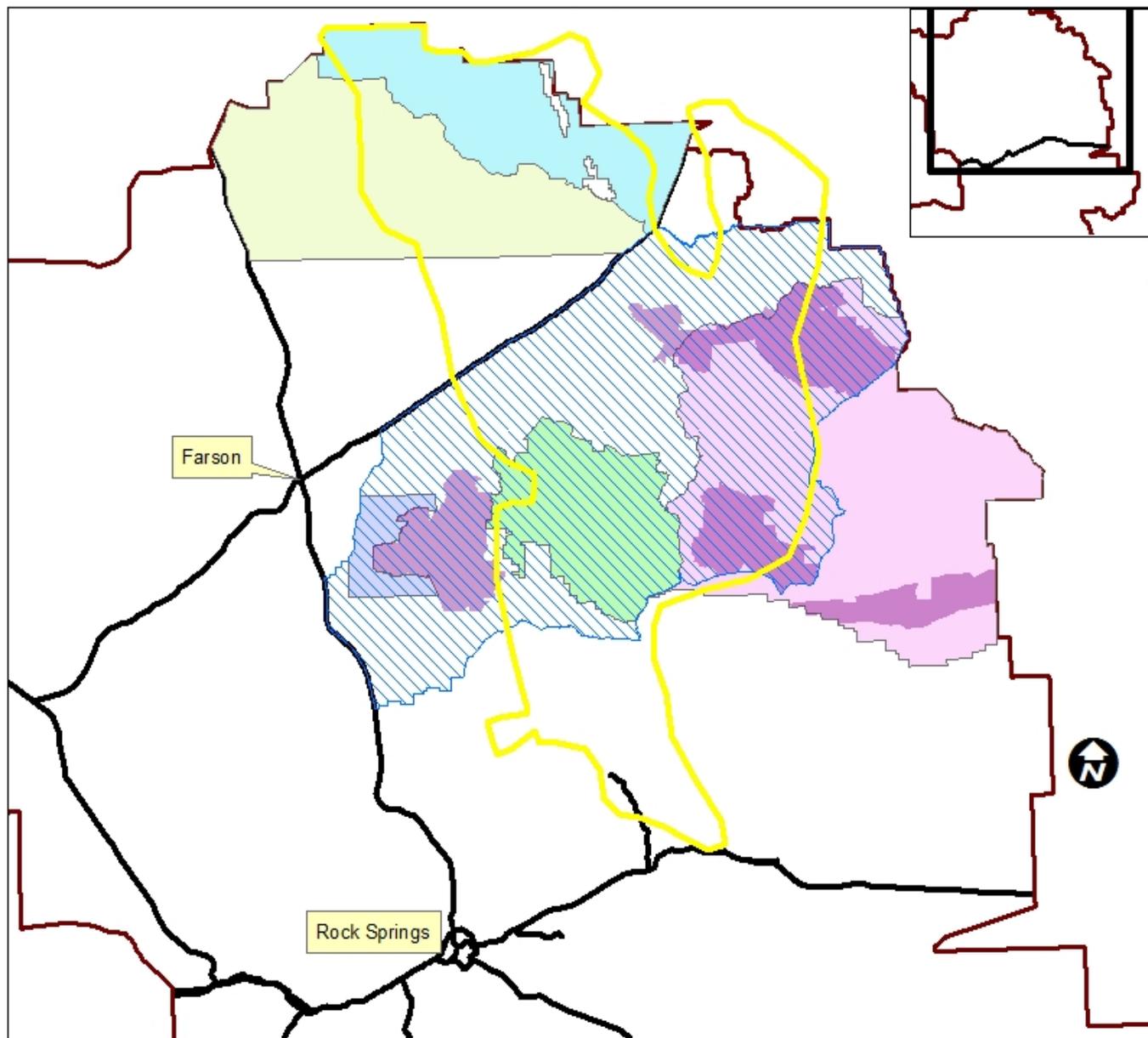
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5 2.5 0 5 Miles



Red Desert To Hoback Migration Route area within the RSFO



Legend

- Jack Morrow Hills Boundary
- RSFO_WSA
- RSFO_SMA**
- NAME**
- Red Desert Watershed
- Steamboat Mountain
- West Sand Dunes Archaeological District
- Wind River Special Recreation Area East
- Wind River Special Recreation Area West
- RSFO Boundary
- Highways_Clip
- Migration Route area



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Mule Deer Migration Routes

- Alternatives cover a wide range of management options for migration routes
- Also reviewing a proposal from WGFD regarding management of migration routes



Wild Horses

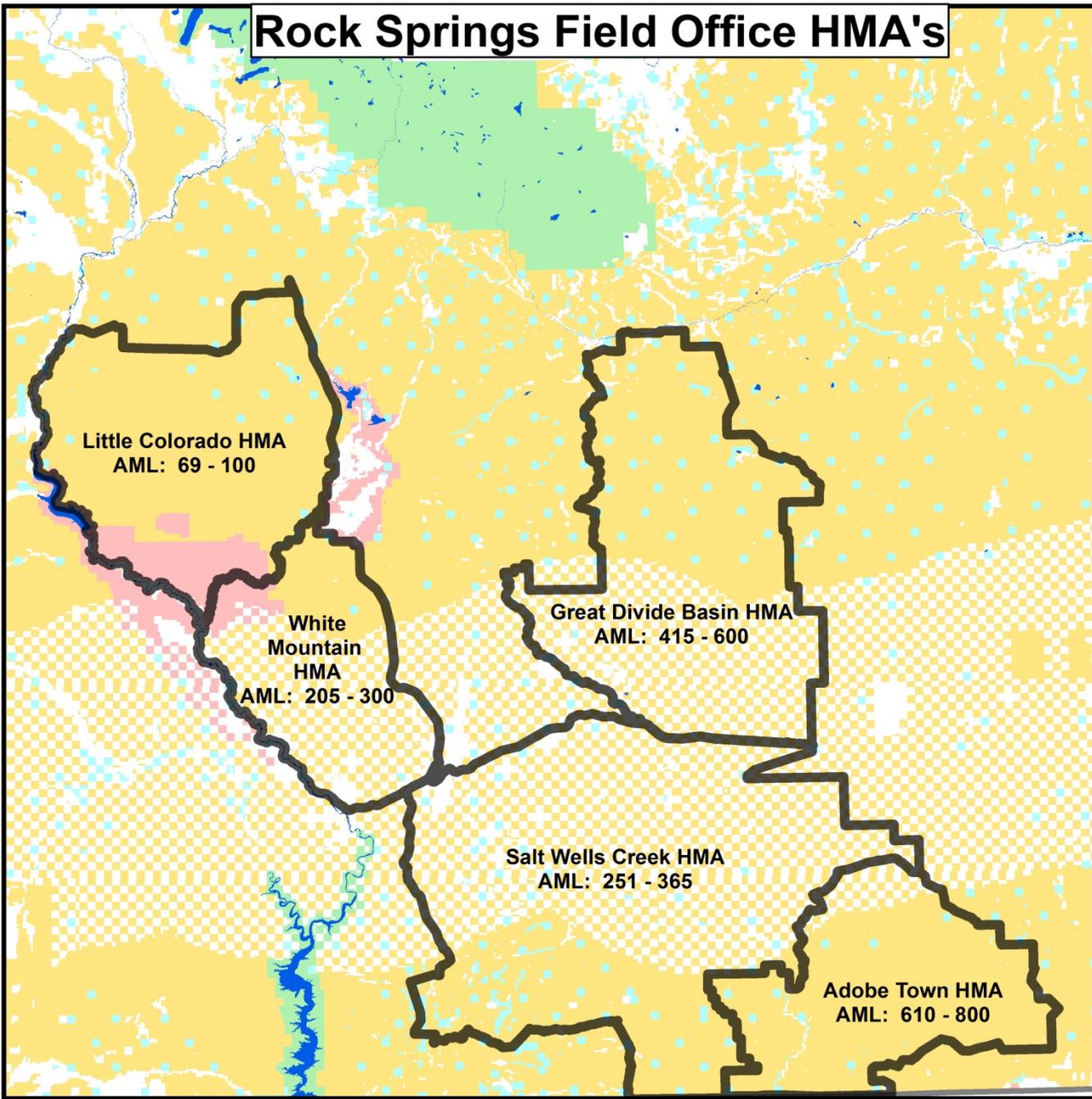


Wild Horses

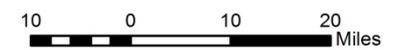
- Checkerboard
- Consent Decree
- Reproductive control study



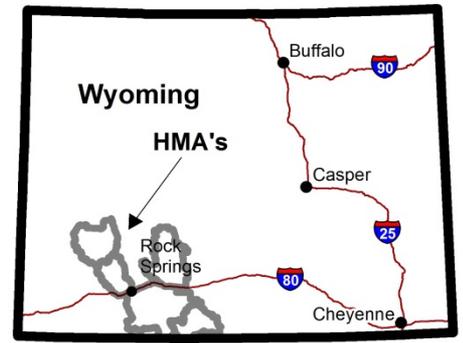
Rock Springs Field Office HMA's



- Rock Springs Field Office HMA's
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Forest Service
- Private
- State
- Water



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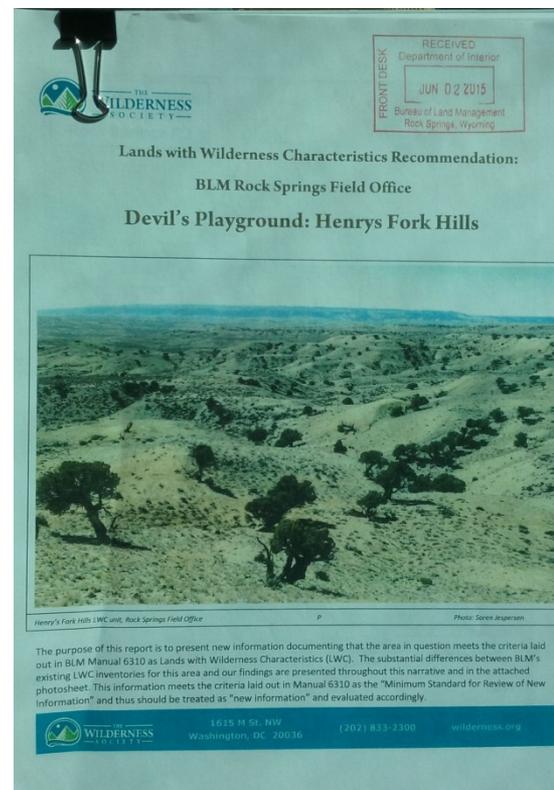


Public and Non-Governmental Organizations



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Procedures in BLM Manuals 6310 and 6320
- Various wilderness groups submitted updated inventories
 - 2013: four updates
 - 2015: fifteen updates
 - 2016: one + updates



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Cooperating Agencies expressed concern about these new areas



Other Citizen Proposals

- Continue to receive citizen proposals for consideration in the RMP revision
 - Greater Little Mountain Coalition
 - Little Mountain Priority Conservation Area
 - Jack Morrow Hills Priority Conservation Area
 - Adobe Town Priority Conservation Area
 - Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
 - Sportsman Backcountry Conservation Area
- Cooperating Agencies expressed concern about meeting with these groups after public scoping has ended

