



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, Colorado 81323



In Reply Refer to:  
9210 (S01000)  
February 22, 2016

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE: March 14, 2016

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is accepting comments on a Draft Environmental Assessment to manage some naturally ignited unplanned ignitions for multiple resource benefits. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as a property owner within the project area or you may have an interest in the associated activities.

The BLM has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment to analyze the proposed action and alternatives to that action:

- What:** Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients Fire Management Planning
- Where:** The entirety of the Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients is the project area; the proposed action is identified as allowable on portions of the Tres Rios Field Office (see attached map).
- Disturbance:** Up to 1,000 acres per year of naturally ignited unplanned ignition managed to meet resource objectives as identified in the Tres Rios Field Office RMP, up to 10,000 acres over the life of the EA.
- When:** After the analysis of the EA is incorporated into a Fire Management Plan, the proposed action could take place as early as summer of 2016 and would continue for ten years.

The EA is available for review at: [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup\\_register.do](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do)

Search for "Fire Management Planning" under Tres Rios Field Office to view the Draft EA.

The purpose of and need for this action is to manage naturally ignited unplanned ignitions to achieve a balance of suppression, the protection of life, property, and natural resources, and the management of unplanned ignitions for resource benefit, to regulate fuels, and maintain healthy ecosystems and vegetation conditions in areas where fire had a historic role in the ecosystem. As a result of this analysis, the Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients Fire Management Plan (FMP) will be updated in order to be compliant with this analysis.

The need for this EA is driven by fire policy as well as a recent update of the Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). While the CANM RMP has not changed with regards to fire and fuels management since its approval in June, 2010, an EA was never completed analyzing the allowable uses of fire and fuels management. As such, both TRFO and CANM are analyzed by this EA.

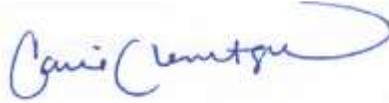
Comment regarding the project should be submitted via email or hard copy by March 14, 2016 to:

BLM Tres Rios Field Office  
Attn: Brad Pietruszka  
29211 Highway 184,  
Dolores, CO 81323  
or [bpietruszka@blm.gov](mailto:bpietruszka@blm.gov).

If you have questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please contact Brad Pietruszka, Southwest District Fuels Program Manager, at (970) 882-6820.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personally identifiable information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sincerely,

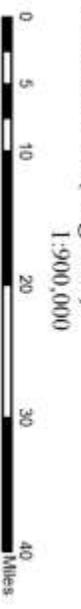
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Connie Clementson", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Connie Clementson  
Field Manager - Tres Rios Field Office

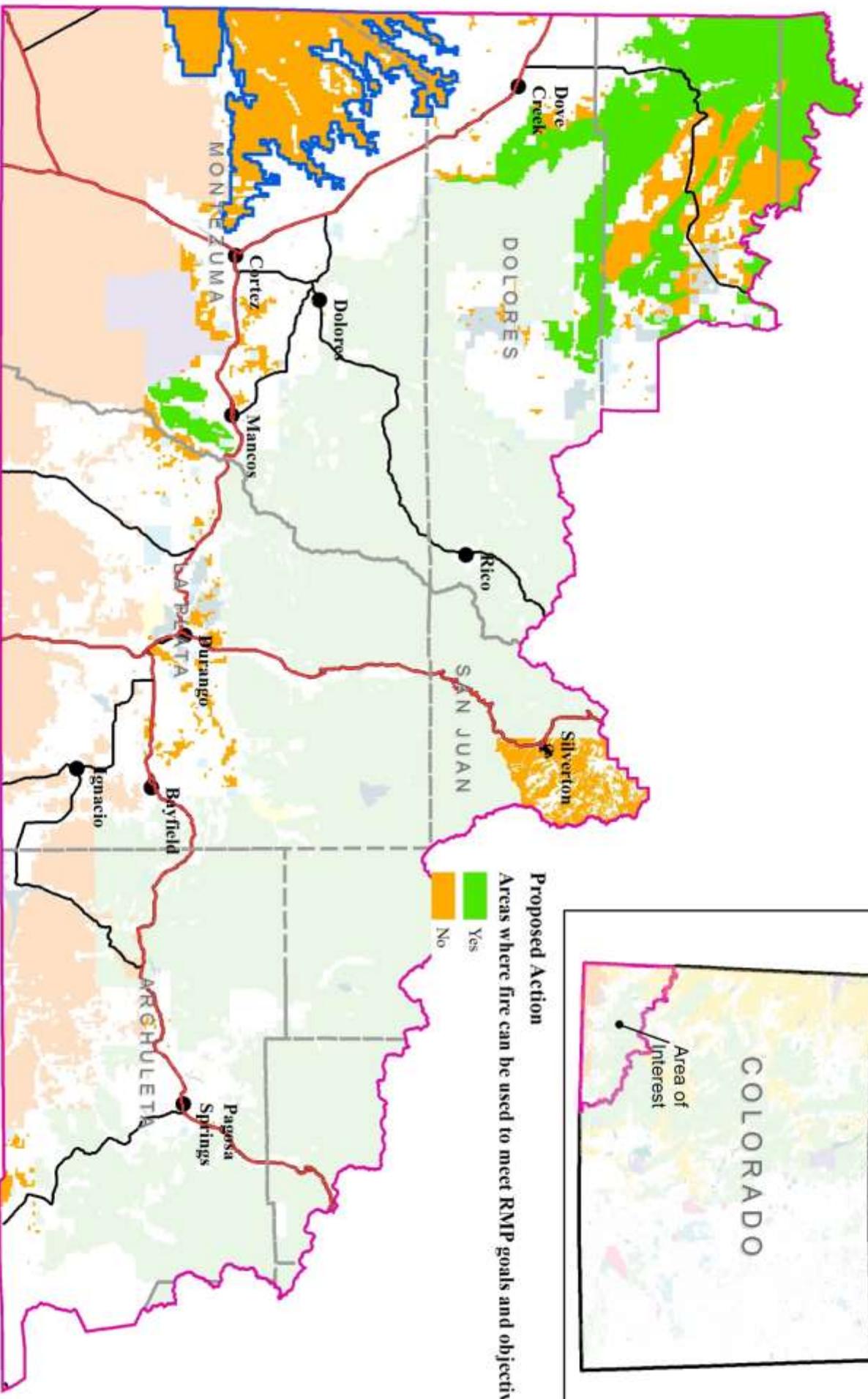
Enclosure – map



**Figure 2.1: Tres Rios Field Office and  
 Canyons of the Ancients National Monument  
 Proposed Action Area (in green)**



1:900,000



**Proposed Action**

Areas where fire can be used to meet RMP goals and objectives

- Yes
- No

Area	Acres
Use of fire not emphasized to meet RMP goals and objectives	371,353.4
Use of fire emphasized to meet RMP goals and objectives	304,450.6

