



GARFIELD COUNTY

GREATER SAGE GROUSE UPDATE

TOM JANKOVSKY, GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER

FRED JARMAN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Energy Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2015

6:00 pm

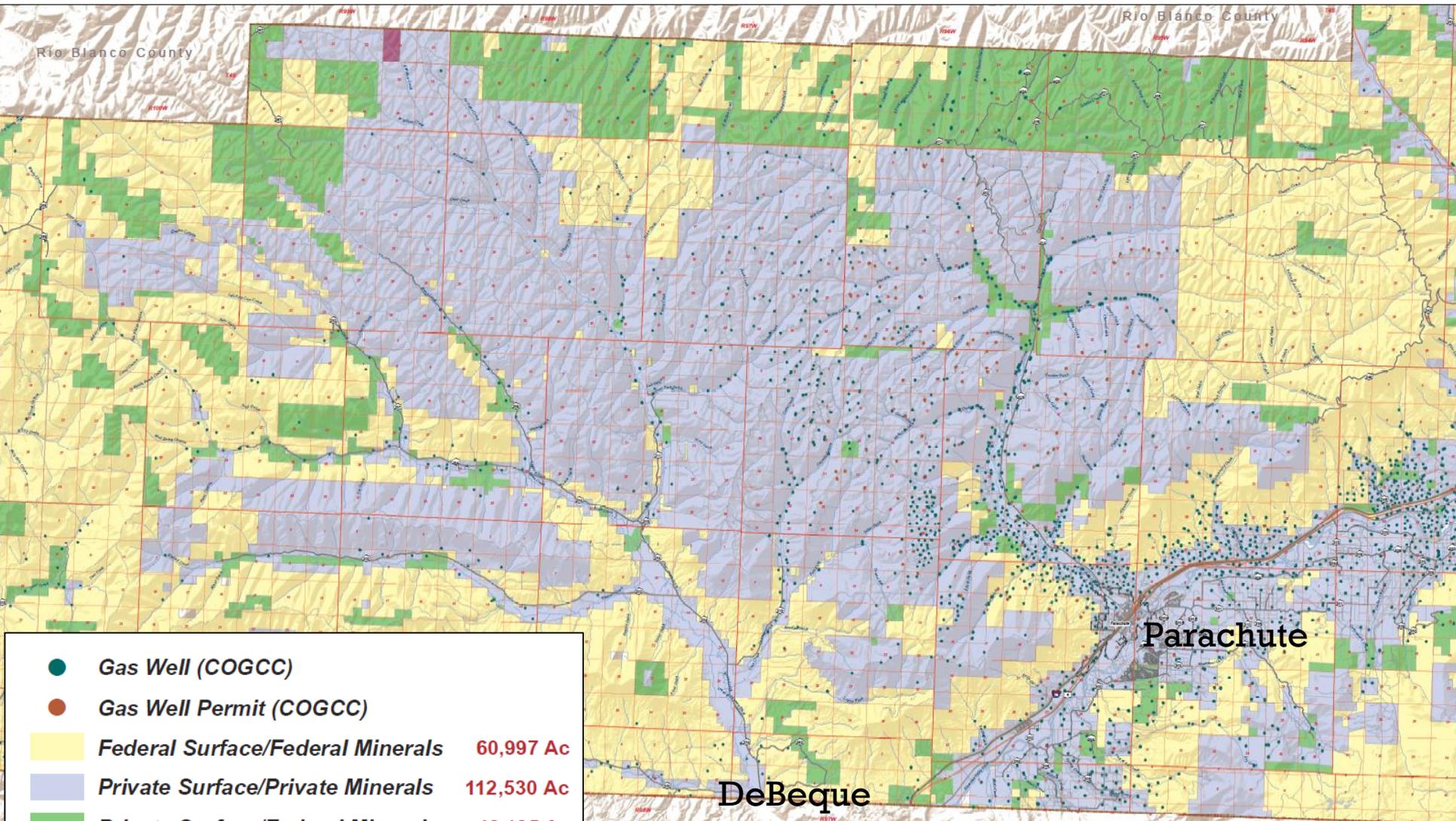
INTRODUCTION / UPDATE

Last Presented to EAB on 11/07/13...almost 2 years ago exactly...since then much has occurred, but most notably:

- 1) The BLM signed the Record of Decision (ROD) on 09/15 that implements the provisions in the Final EIS for the Resource Management Plan Amendments
- 2) On 09/22 – FWS did not list the GSG making a finding of “not warranted” based on the effectiveness of the regional BLM plans (RMPA / FEIS)



CURRENT LAND OWNERSHIP IN GSG COUNTRY



● Gas Well (COGCC)

● Gas Well Permit (COGCC)

Federal Surface/Federal Minerals 60,997 Ac

Private Surface/Private Minerals 112,530 Ac

Private Surface/Federal Minerals 46,125 Ac

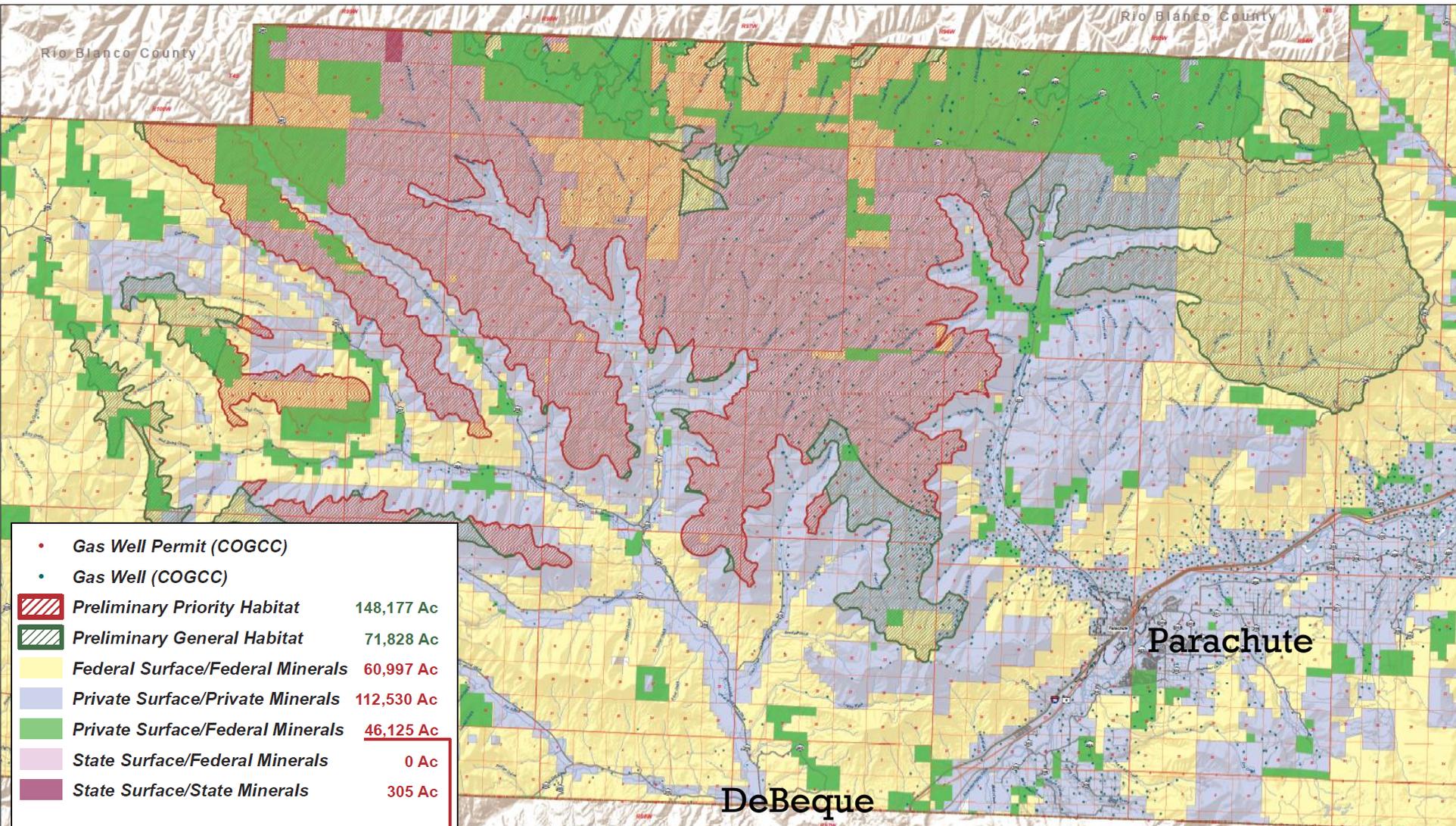
State Surface/Federal Minerals 0 Ac

State Surface/State Minerals 305 Ac



SAGE GROUSE HABITAT

(ACCORDING TO BLM / CPW)



- Gas Well Permit (COGCC)
- Gas Well (COGCC)
- Preliminary Priority Habitat 148,177 Ac
- Preliminary General Habitat 71,828 Ac
- Federal Surface/Federal Minerals 60,997 Ac
- Private Surface/Private Minerals 112,530 Ac
- Private Surface/Federal Minerals 46,125 Ac
- State Surface/Federal Minerals 0 Ac
- State Surface/State Minerals 305 Ac

Of Split Estate Lands:
657 acres lie within Preliminary General Habitat
45,468 acres lie within Preliminary Priority Habitat



INTRODUCTION / UPDATE

Garfield County's involvement has largely been focused on tailored conservation policies and accurate habitat mapping:

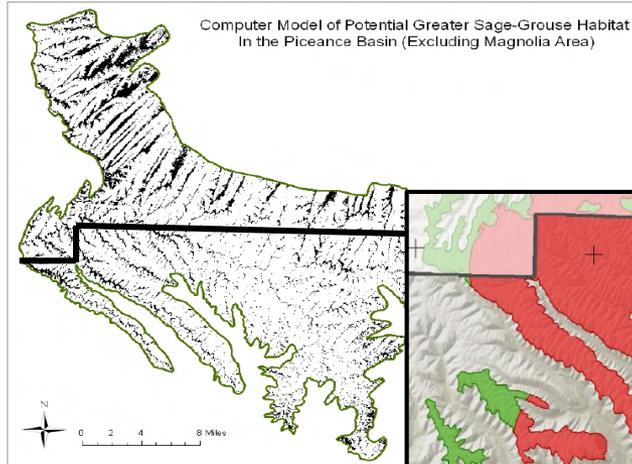
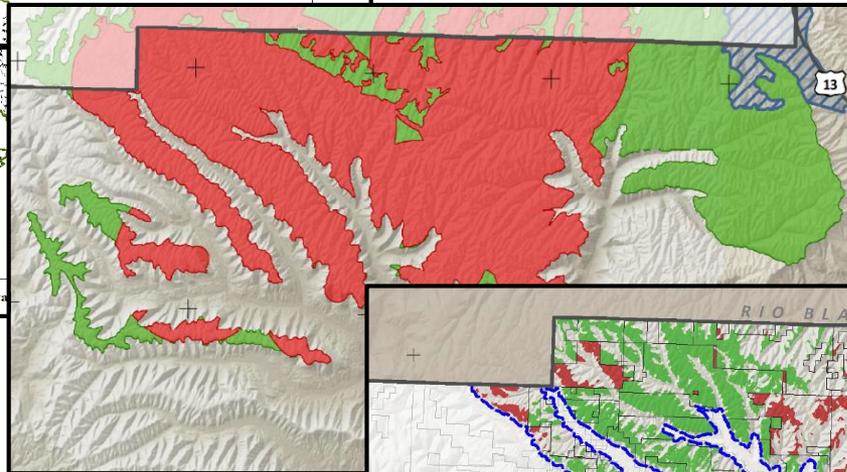
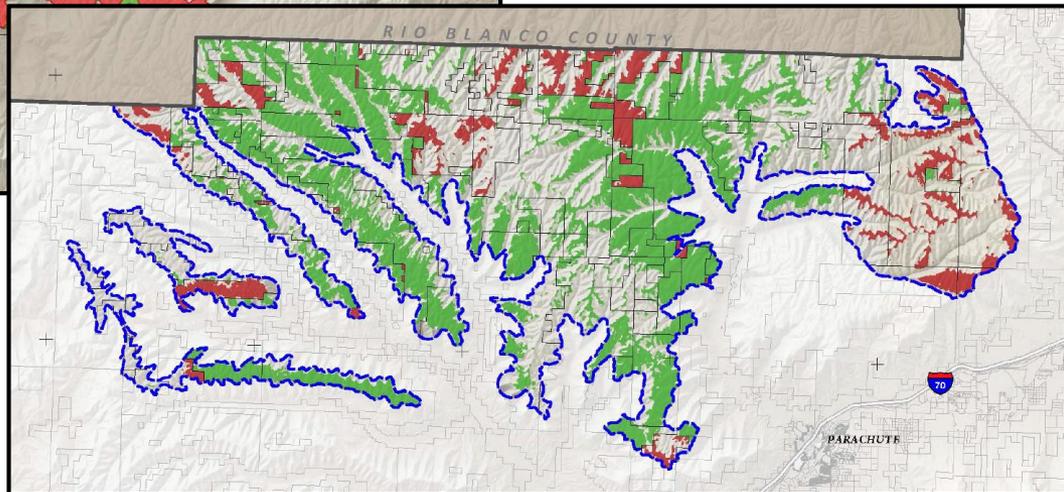


Figure F-1. Computer Model of Potential Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat



BLM Plan



Garco Plan

PPR Plan

GARFIELD COUNTY ACTIVITY UPDATE

Notable Garfield County efforts since we met:

- 1) Updated the Garfield County Conservation Plan – Nov, 2014
 - a) Habitat Mapping revisions – Management Map
 - b) Predation Polices

- 2) Submitted mapping to the Berryman Institute's Journal of Human-Wildlife Interactions for publication – (2nd Peer review)



*GARFIELD COUNTY
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE
CONSERVATION PLAN*

*Adopted: March 18, 2013 (via Resolution 2013-23)
First Amendment to Plan: November 17, 2014
(via Resolution 2014-67)*



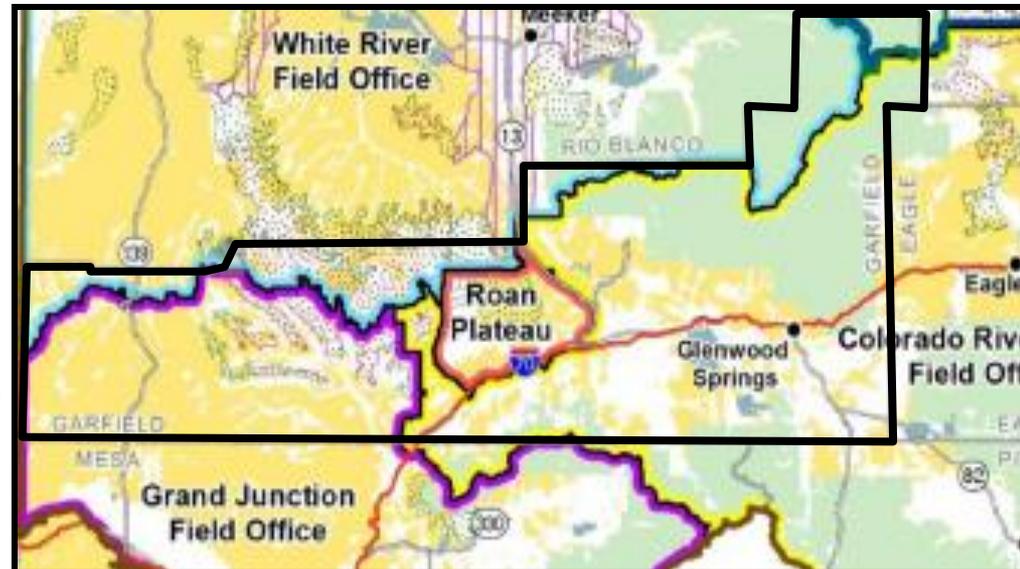
GARFIELD COUNTY ACTIVITY UPDATE

- 3) Participated in the 'Data Quality Act Challenge' via WEA
- 4) Formally protested the BLM's Final EIS / RMPA
- 5) Submitted a FOIA request of BLM & FWS to obtain information related to last minute "national language" from DC
- 6) Habitat Maps in the adopted BLM Amended RMP remain as they were in the Draft and Final EIS
- 7) County supporting AGNC DOLA grant to refine mapping of GSG habitat in NW Colorado with CPW



BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS...

- 1) BLM hosted a meeting on 10/28 with Cooperating Agencies to present the key pieces of RMPA
- 2) Garfield County GSG management will be managed in 4 separate field offices / planning area RMPs
 - a) Colorado River Valley Field Office
 - b) Roan Plateau
 - c) White River Field Office
 - d) Grand Junction Field Office
- 3) Key Policy Management Areas:
 - a) Travel & Transportation
 - b) Range Management
 - c) Wild Horse Management
 - d) Lands & Realty
 - e) **Fluid Minerals (Unleased)**
 - f) **Fluid Minerals (Leased)**

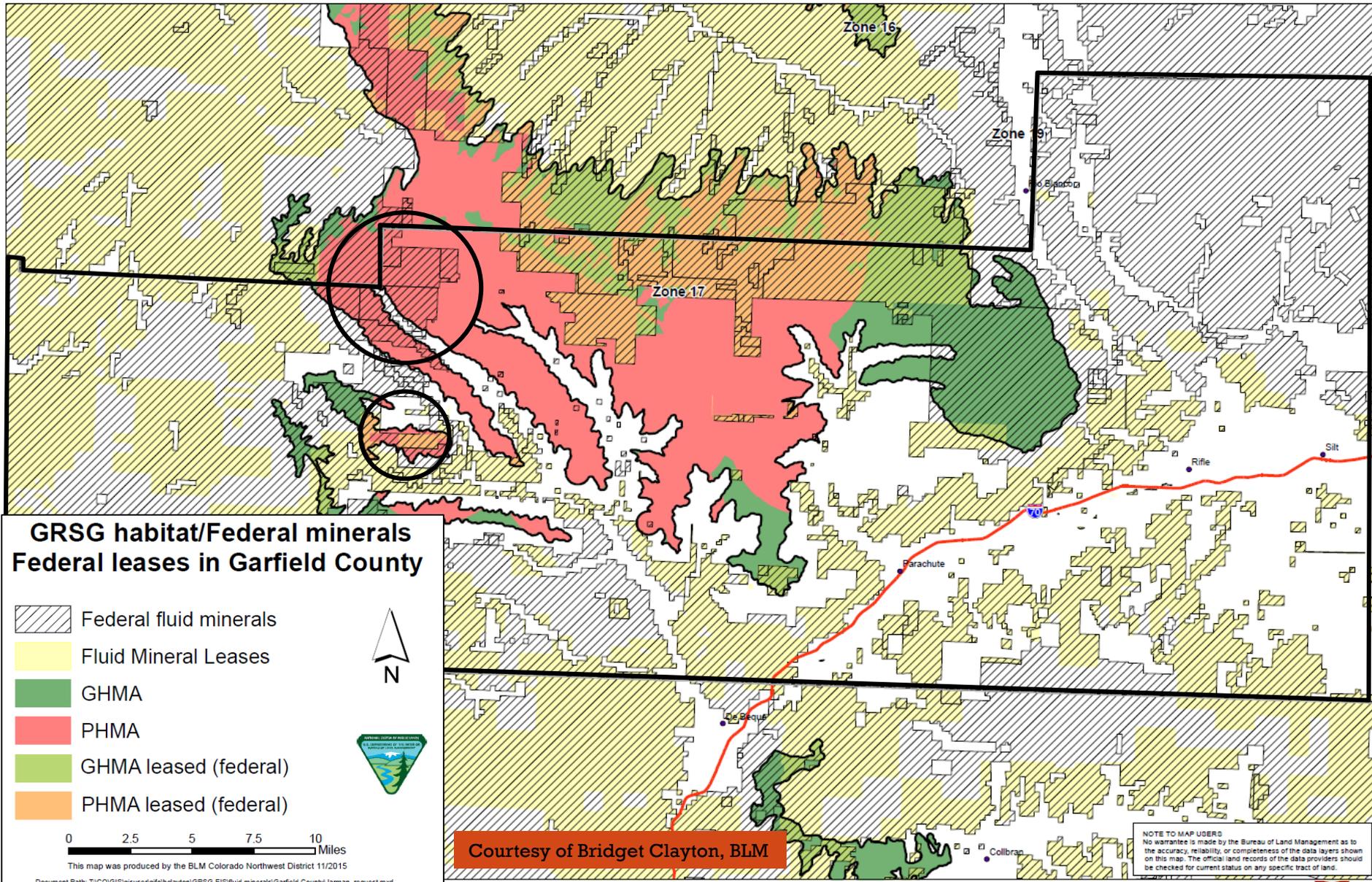


BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS: UNLEASED FLUID MINERALS

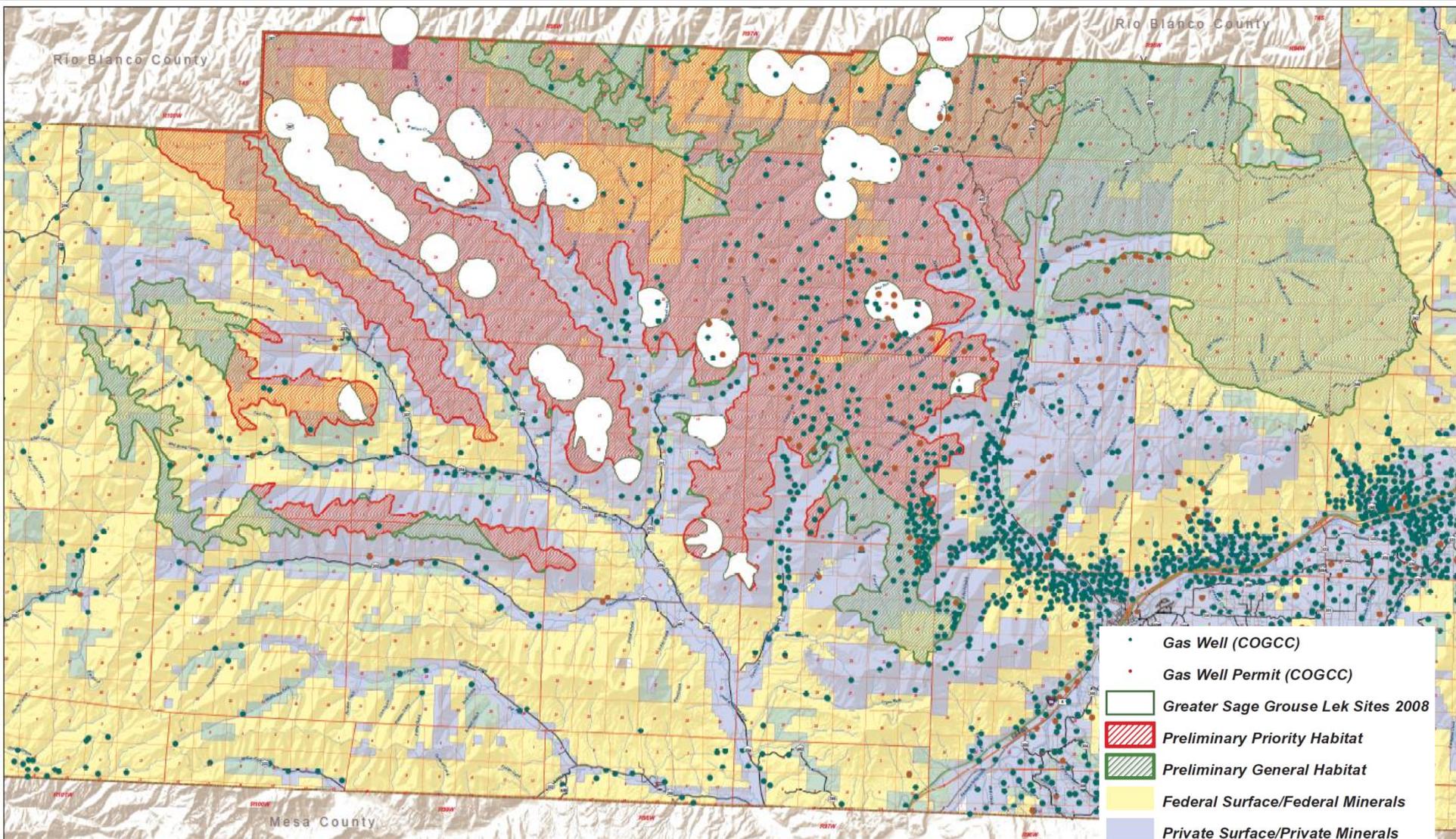
- 1) No new leasing w/in 1 mile of active lek
- 2) PHMA: No Surface Occupancy (NSO), no waivers or modifications with Exceptions granted only by unanimous panel decision of BLM, CPW and FWS based on criteria
- 3) GHMA: NSO w/in 2 miles of active lek (waivers, modifications and exceptions based on criteria)
- 4) Timing Limitations – Prohibits surface occupancy or disturbance in PHMA w/in 4 miles of a lek during lekking, nesting, and early brood-rearing (March 1 to July 15)
- 5) Most lands in Garco have been leased; however, they do expire...
- 6) No known GSG leks in GHMA...such as the Roan Plateau



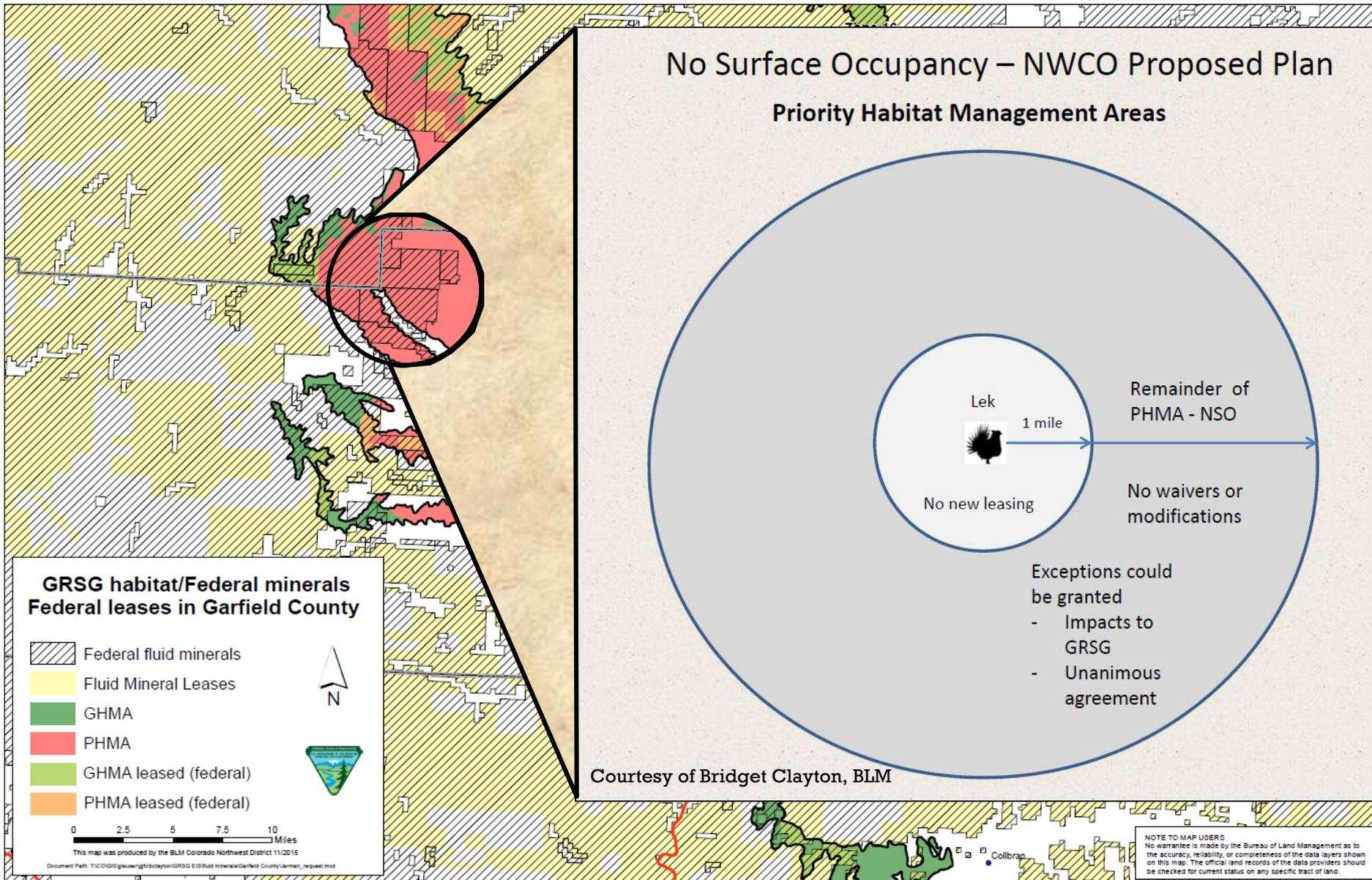
BLM MAP OF UNLEASED FLUID MINERALS



2008 SAGE GROUSE LEK SITES



BLM MAP OF UNLEASED FLUID MINERALS



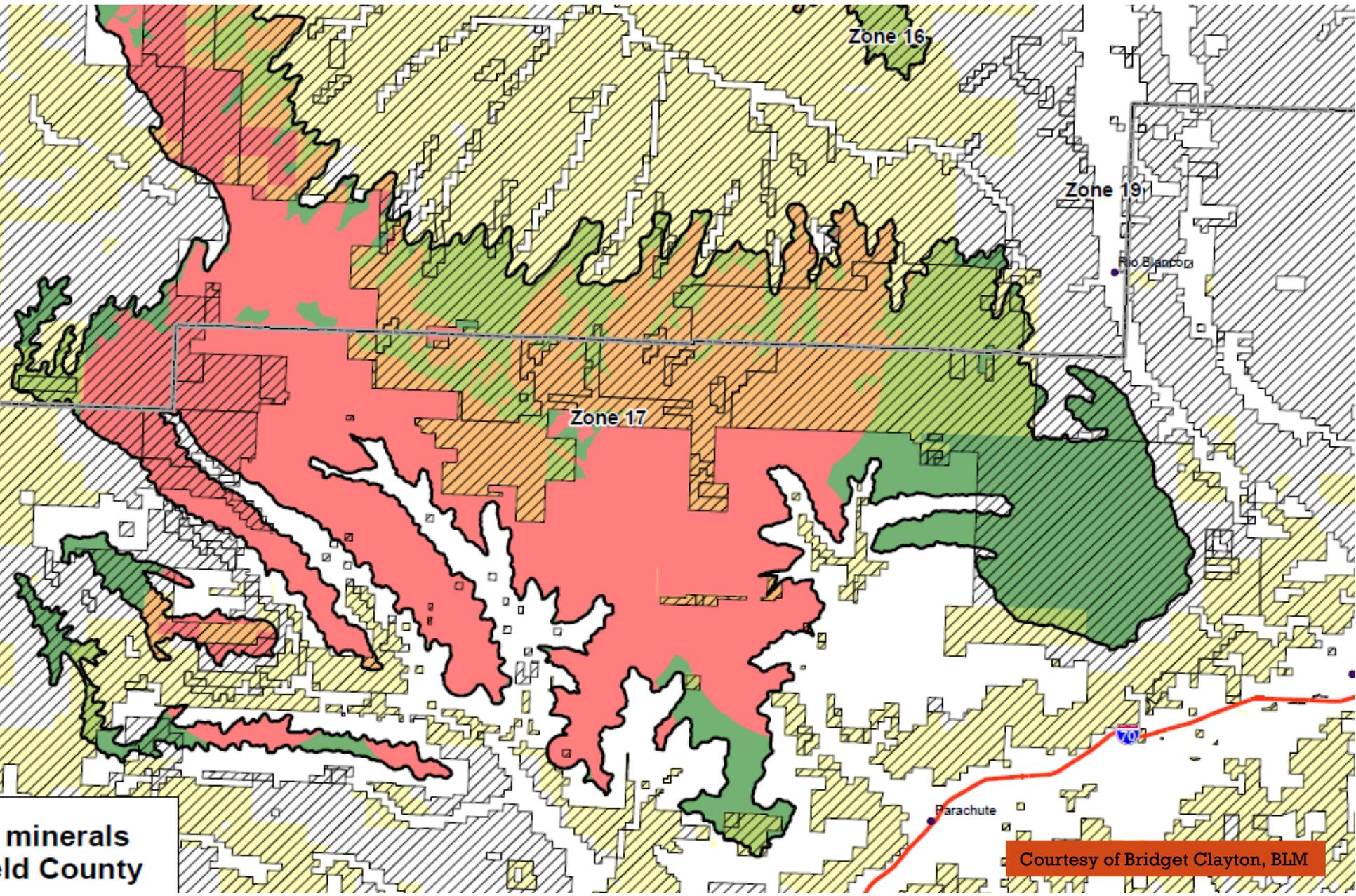
BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS: LEASED FLUID MINERALS

BLM's approach to recognize "Valid Existing Leases"

- 1) Most of Garfield County has been leased
- 2) BLM work with Lessees to **Avoid, Reduce and Mitigate** adverse impacts to extent compatible with Lessee's right to drill in an APD
- 3) Activity "precluded" w/in 1 mile of active lek; however:
 - a) If this restriction proves "infeasible or uneconomic" or if
 - b) the disturbance activity exceeds **1 disturbance per 640** and /or
 - c) exceeds the **3% disturbance cap**, then mitigation is required (Appendix F)
- 4) In PHMA and w/in 4 miles of active lek:
 - a) BLM will use specific criteria to guide development to reduce impacts to GSG;
 - b) Timing restrictions apply (March 1 to July 15), could be adjusted with CPW



BLM MAP OF LEASED FLUID MINERALS



minerals
Old County

Courtesy of Bridget Clayton, BLM

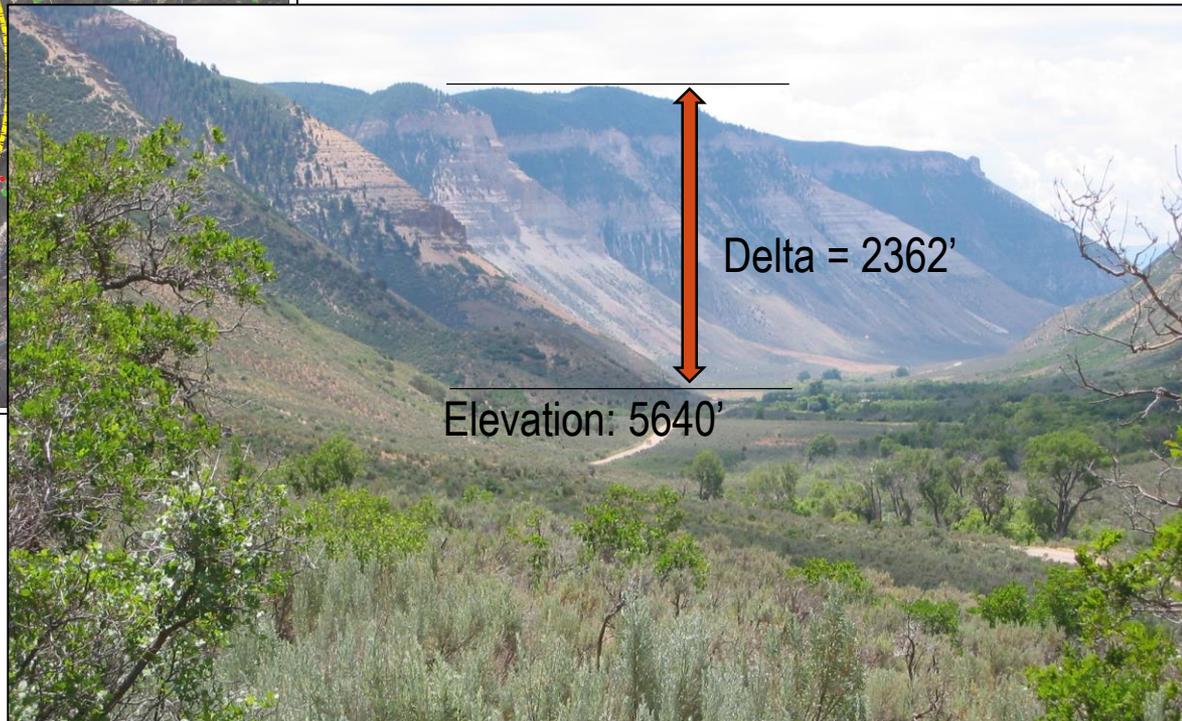
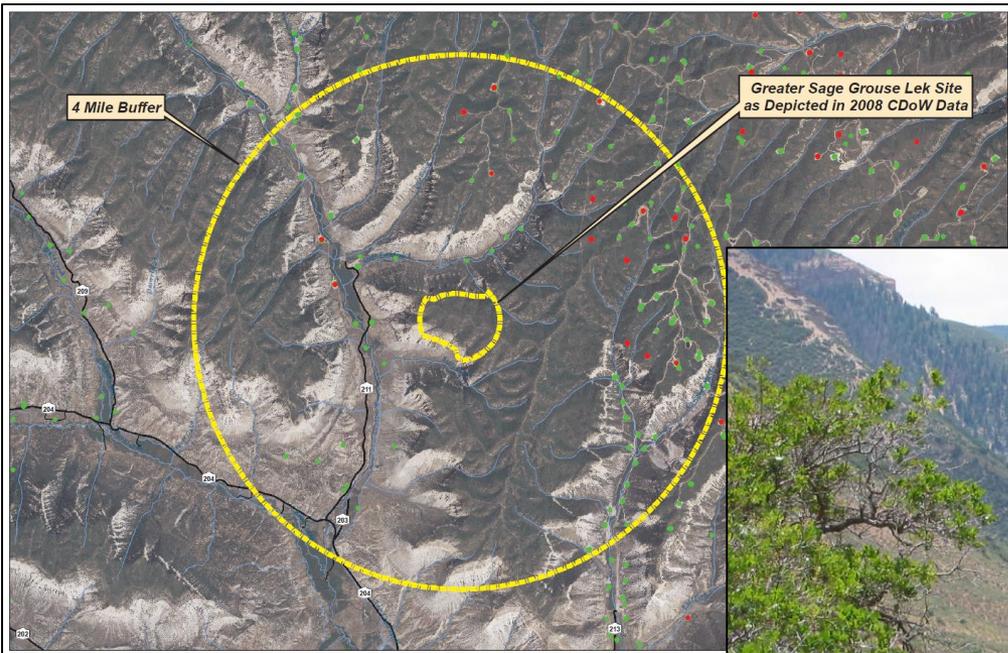
SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- 1) Location of proposed lease activities in relation to critical GRSG habitat areas as identified by factors, including, but not limited to, average male lek attendance and/or important seasonal habitat;
- 2) An evaluation of the potential threats from proposed lease activities that may affect the local population as compared to benefits that could be accomplished through compensatory or off-site mitigation;
- 3) The Tom J / Garfield County Criteria: An evaluation of the proposed lease activities, including design features, in relation to the site-specific terrain and habitat features. For example, within 4 miles from a lek, local terrain features such as ridges and ravines may reduce the habitat importance and shield nearby habitat from disruptive factors. This is particularly likely in Colorado MZ 17, which has an atypical GRSG habitat featuring benches with GRSG habitat interspersed with steep ravines...Clear Creek example.



INTRODUCTION / UPDATE

Garfield County's involvement has helped shape the BLM decisions based on our efforts such as highlighting terrain in PPR:



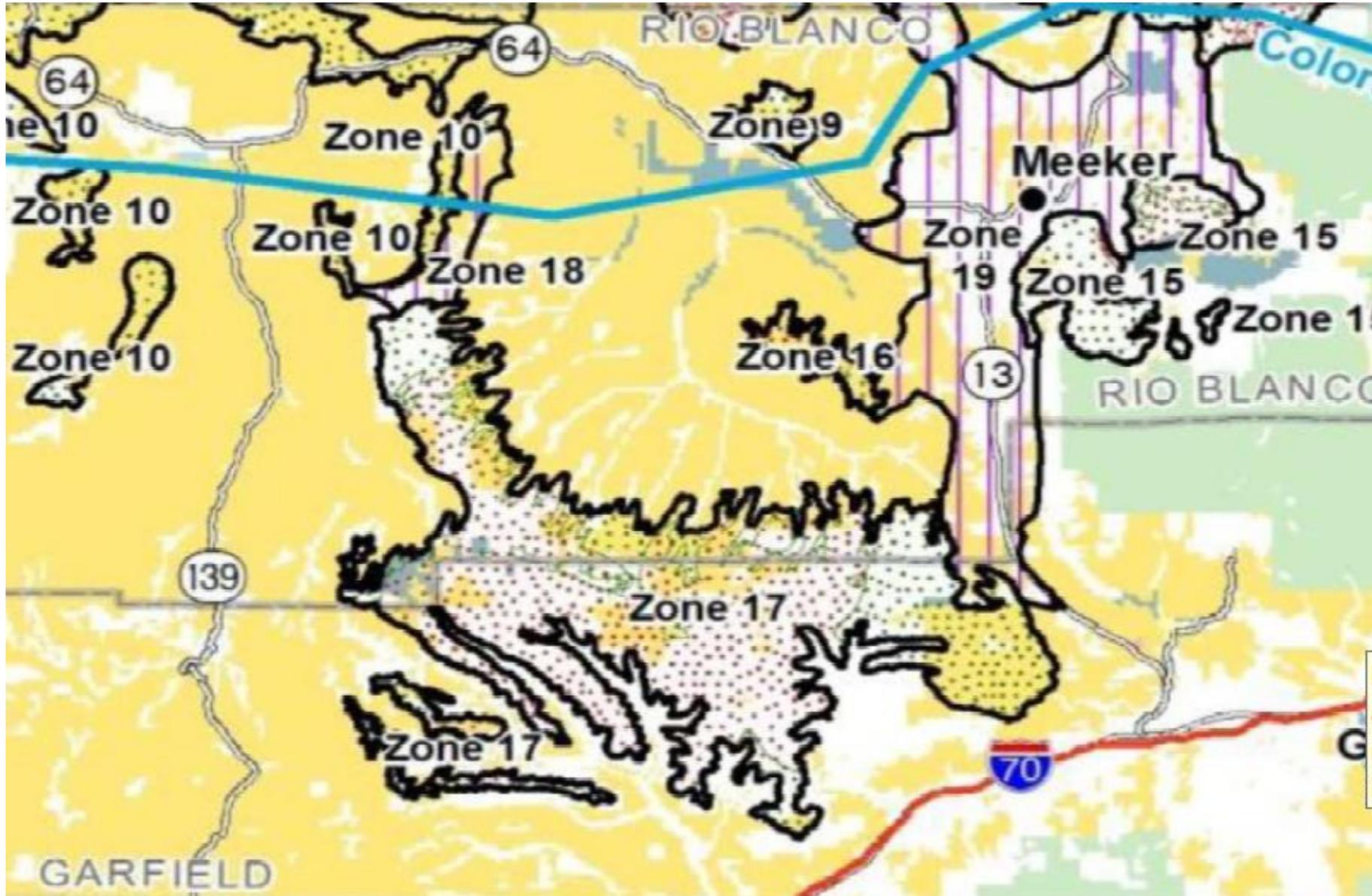
BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS: DISTURBANCE CAP PROGRAM

- 1) Applies in Management Zone 17: Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties (PPR population)
- 2) Only applies to disturbances in Priority Habitat Management Areas on:
 - a) BLM
 - b) Split-estate (private surface with federal minerals)
 - c) Private Land
- 3) Zone 17 by the Numbers:

1) Total Acres in Zone:	353,297
2) Total Acres in PHMA:	212,555
3) 3% Cap of Acres in PHMA:	6377
4) <u>BLM Disturbance Inventory:</u>	<u>4,523 (or 2.13%)</u>
5) Acres left under cap:	1,853
- 4) BLM will track disturbance and reclamation via a national database (SDARTT)



MANAGEMENT ZONES: ZONE 17



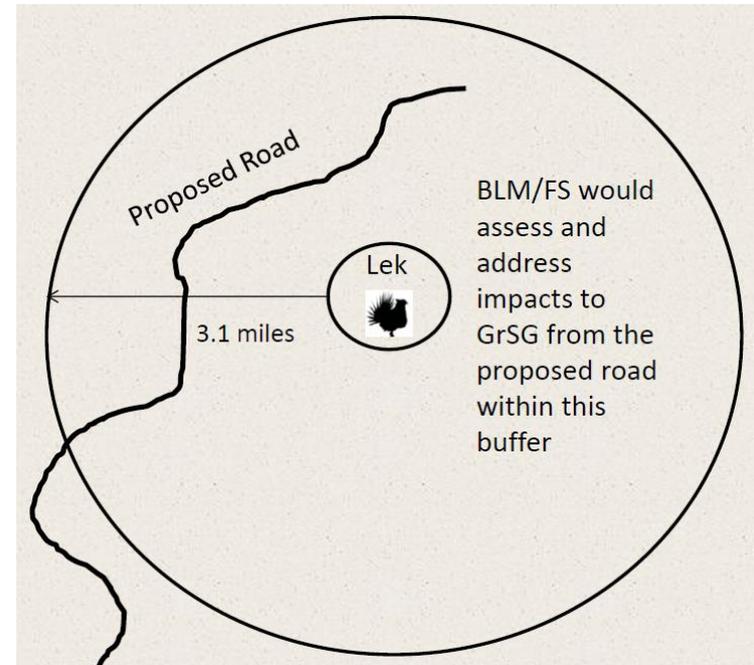
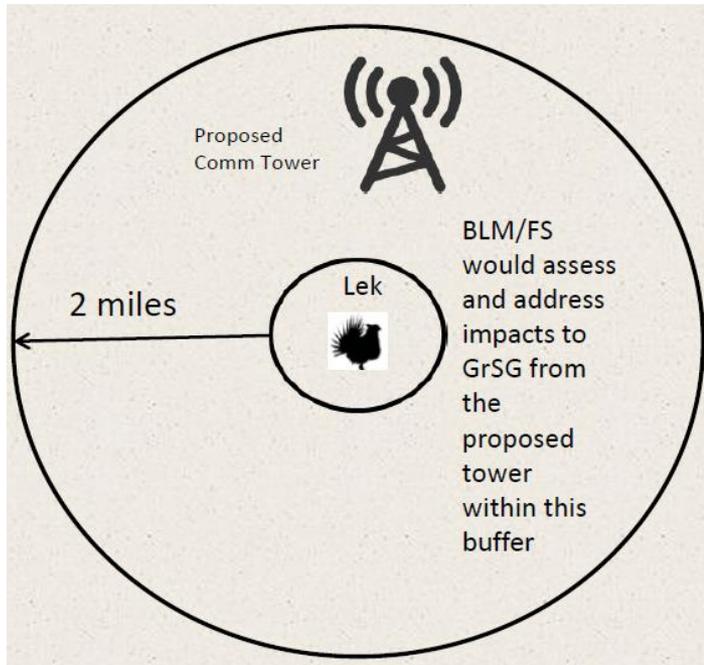
BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS: 1 PER 640 ACRES “DISTURBANCE DENSITY” (THINK ACTIVE DISRUPTIONS...)

- 1) Applies to *energy and mining facilities* on BLM and Split-estate lands in PHMA in Zone 17: Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties (PPR population)
- 2) The Disturbances counted / considered are “active” *energy and mining facilities* on BLM and Split-estate lands in PHMA (not on fee/fee)
- 3) Disturbance Density is calculated by:
 - 1) Total acres in PHMA that fall on BLM and Split-estate divided by 640.
 - 2) For Garco: 106,465 acres ÷ 640 = 166 active disturbances
- 4) While the “Cap” monitors and tally total acres disturbed on all lands (public and private) in PHMA for a variety of uses, the disturbance density (1:640) only looks at how many disturbances on BLM and Split-estate lands in Zone 17.

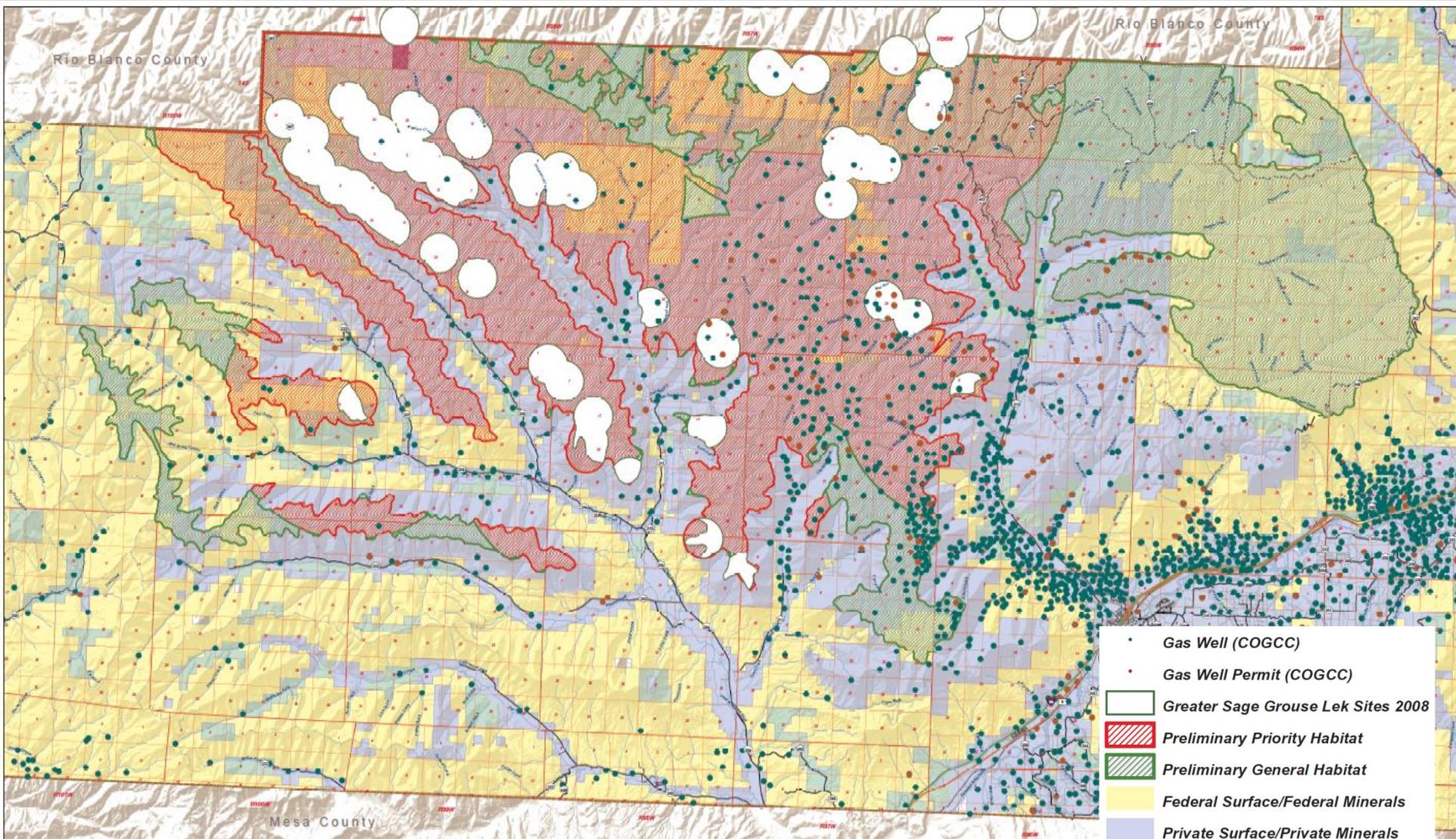


LEK BUFFERS

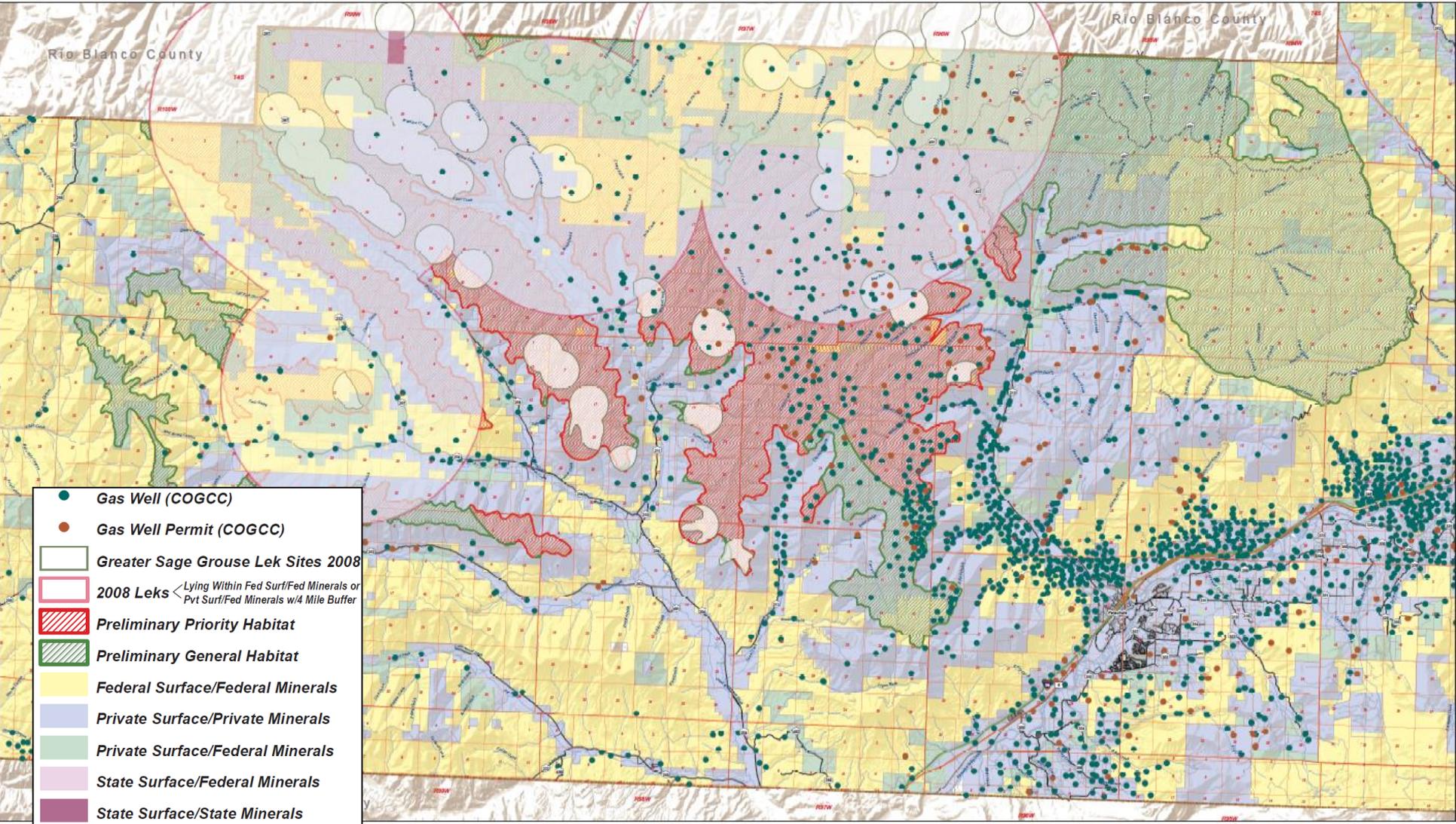
- Much of the approach to the BLM's conservation is geared towards protection of impacts to active leks, thus lek buffers
- CPW will provide the updated lek locations to BLM
- BLM RMPA: Appendix B in Plan provides guidance on how BLM will evaluate activity within established lek buffers: For example (as provided by BLM):



2008 SAGE GROUSE LEK SITES



4-MILE BUFFER AS IT APPLIED TO BLM & SPLIT ESTATE



BLM RMPA HIGHLIGHTS: MAP CHANGES TO RMPA?

- Only BLM, CPW or FWS can provide info to change / update maps based on best available scientific information on case-by-case basis.
- This could be done via either:
 - a) Plan Maintenance; or
 - b) Plan Amendment
- Garfield County continues to improve upon its suitable habitat mapping and will ultimately publish
- CPW's Dr. Brett Walker recently published his work (including mapping) on GSG in the PPR
- CPW continues to indicate their initial mapping provided to BLM was for consultation purposes and not as BLM has used it with specific policy implementation



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NW COLORADO GRANT

- Rep Rankin – Federal Lands Coordination Bill passed in 2015 Session
- DOLA to administer Grant: \$1M per year for three years
- AGNC to apply for Grant to map NW Colorado GSG habitat at finer scale with CPW
- Financial Match Commitments: (DOLA Required \$45,000)
 - Moffatt County: \$15,000
 - Garfield County: \$15,000
 - Rio Blanco County: \$15,000
 - Southwestern Energy: \$5,000
 - Chevron: \$5,000
 - Transwest: \$15,000
 - \$70,000
- Additional matching funds are welcome to make the project even better
- Presenting to DOLA Grant Committee on November 17th in Grand Junction.
- Grant has wide support: Congressional support, Governor's Office & CPW





THANK YOU

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Special Note: Special thanks to Bridget Clayton, NW District BLM, for assistance in slide information