U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Tres Rios Field Office

Purpose of the ACEC Environmental Assessment

- Of the 22 potential ACECs, only 4 were brought forward in the Draft RMP and listed in the Federal Register Notice, Dec 14, 2007:
  - Anasazi Culture
  - Gypsum Valley
  - Grassy Hills
  - Silvey's Pocket
- Correct a procedural error RMP revision process
- Consider whether to formally designate up to 18 area as ACECs

ACEC Overview

Lands where special management attention is needed to Protect & prevent irreparable damage to --

- important historic, cultural, or scenic values;
- fish and wildlife resources;
- natural systems or processes;
- or to protect life and safety from natural hazards

The significance of these values and resources must be substantial in order to satisfy the importance criteria

Relevance Criteria

An area meets the relevance criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

- ✓ a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value
- ✓ a fish and wildlife resource (T,E&S species or habitat)
- ✓ a natural process or system (including but not limited to areas supporting rare, endemic, relict, or endangered plant species, or rare geological features)
- ✓ natural hazards (areas of avalanche, unstable soils, rockfall, etc.)

Evaluation Process for Relevance –

Nature Serve Conservation Status rankings

CNH Statewide Conservation Status Rankings

Nominated if –
plant species, fish species, wildlife species or plant communities = G1(critically imperiled), G2 (imperiled) or S1 or S2,

or were federally listed,
proposed or candidate (ESA)

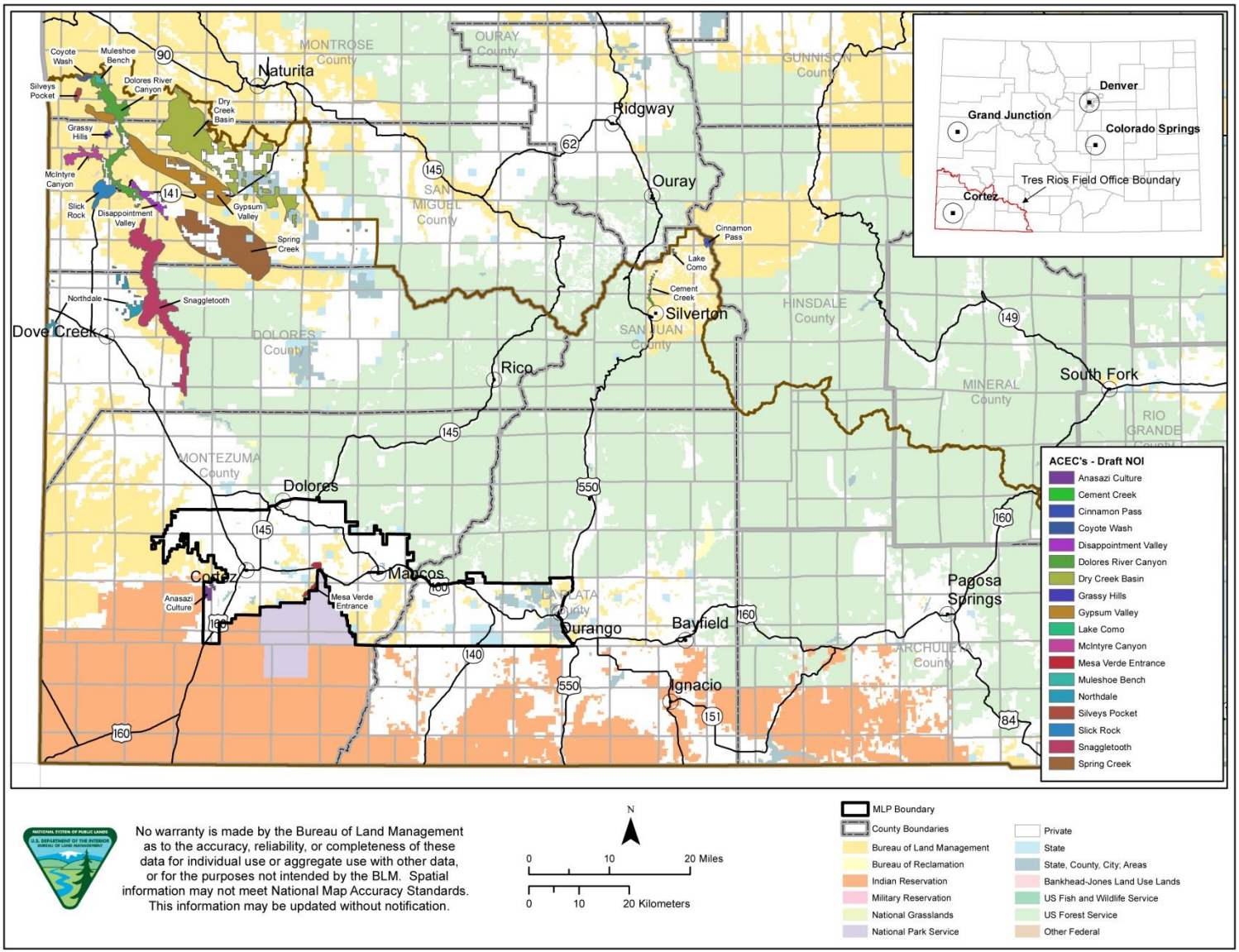
Or other significant value = scenic, etc.

Importance Criteria

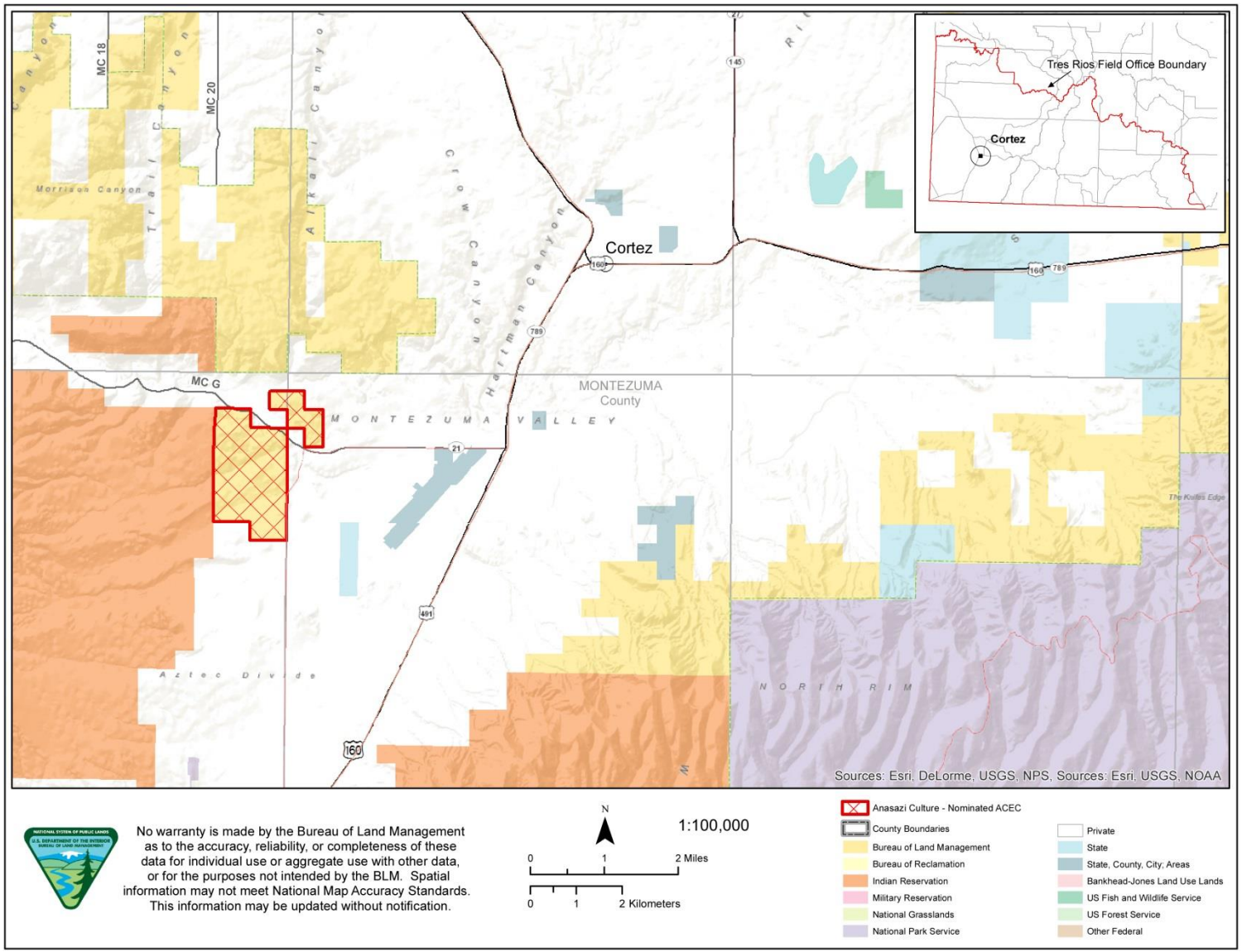
An area meets the importance criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

- ✓ has more than locally significant qualities
- ✓ has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, irreplaceable, rare, unique, etc.
- ✓ has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- ✓ has qualities which warrant concern about safety and public welfare
- ✓ poses a significant threat to human life and safety, or to property

Tres Rios Field Office ACECs



Anasazi Culture



Anasazi Culture (designated) – 1200 acres

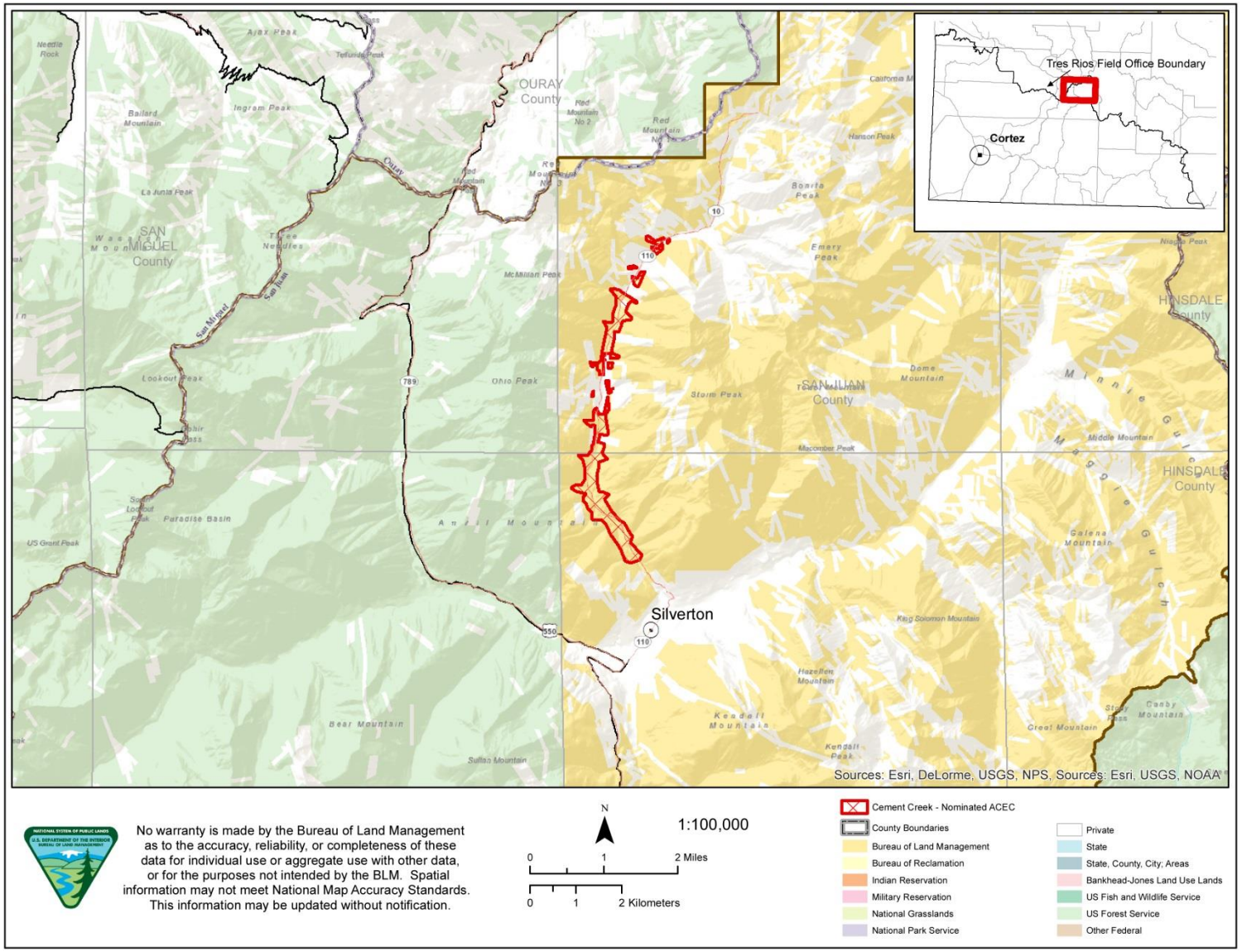
Relevance

Significant cultural values -Ancestral Puebloan Short stem penstemon (S2), Naturita milkvetch (G2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity, fragility and uniqueness and makes them vulnerable to adverse change

Cement Creek



Cement Creek – 450 acres

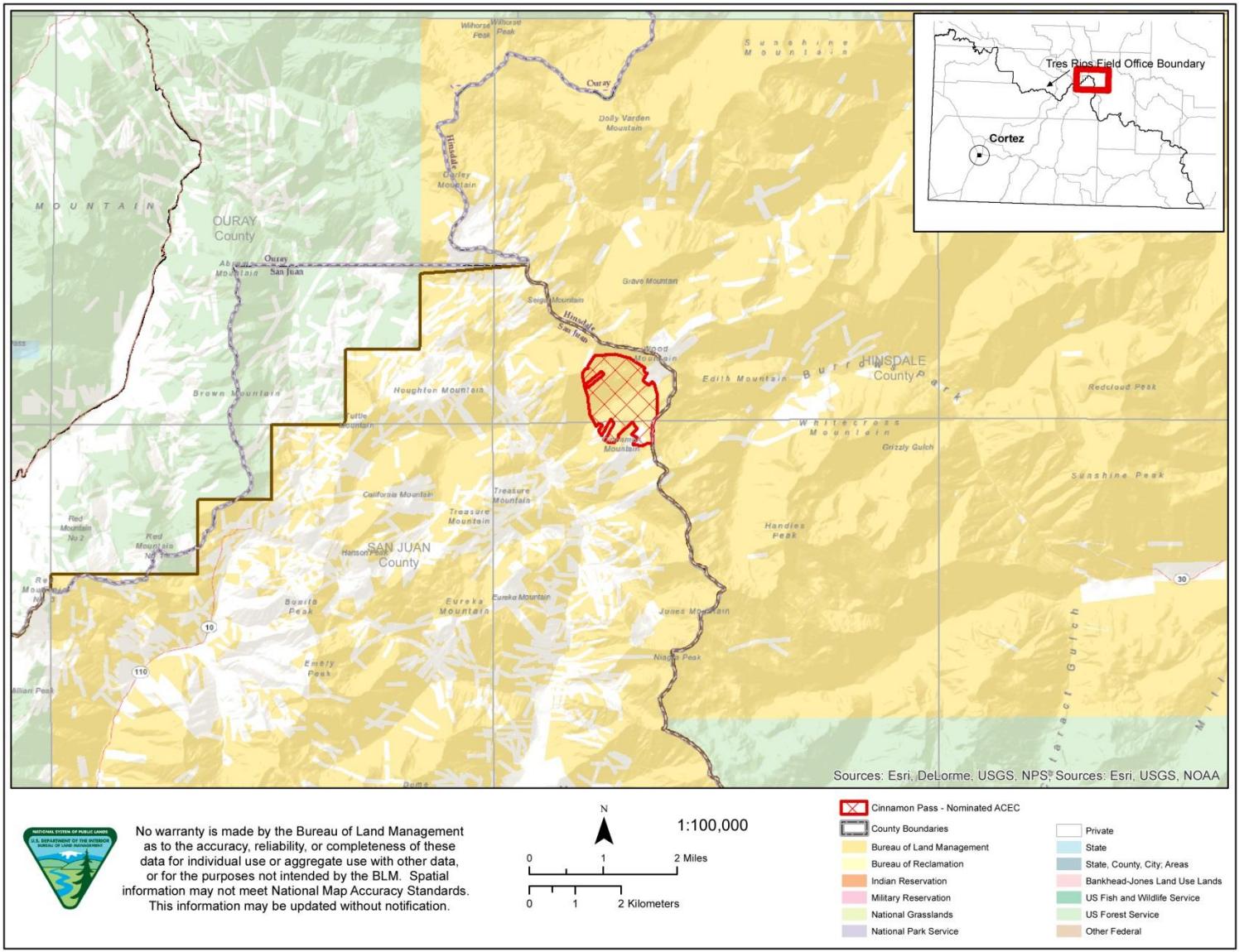
Relevance

Engelmann spruce/resin/birch/water sedge/sphagnum woodlands (G2) aka Iron Fen
Short stem penstemon (S2), Naturita milkvetch (G2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and relic status makes them unique and vulnerable to adverse change

Cinnamon Pass



Cinnamon Pass – 560 acres

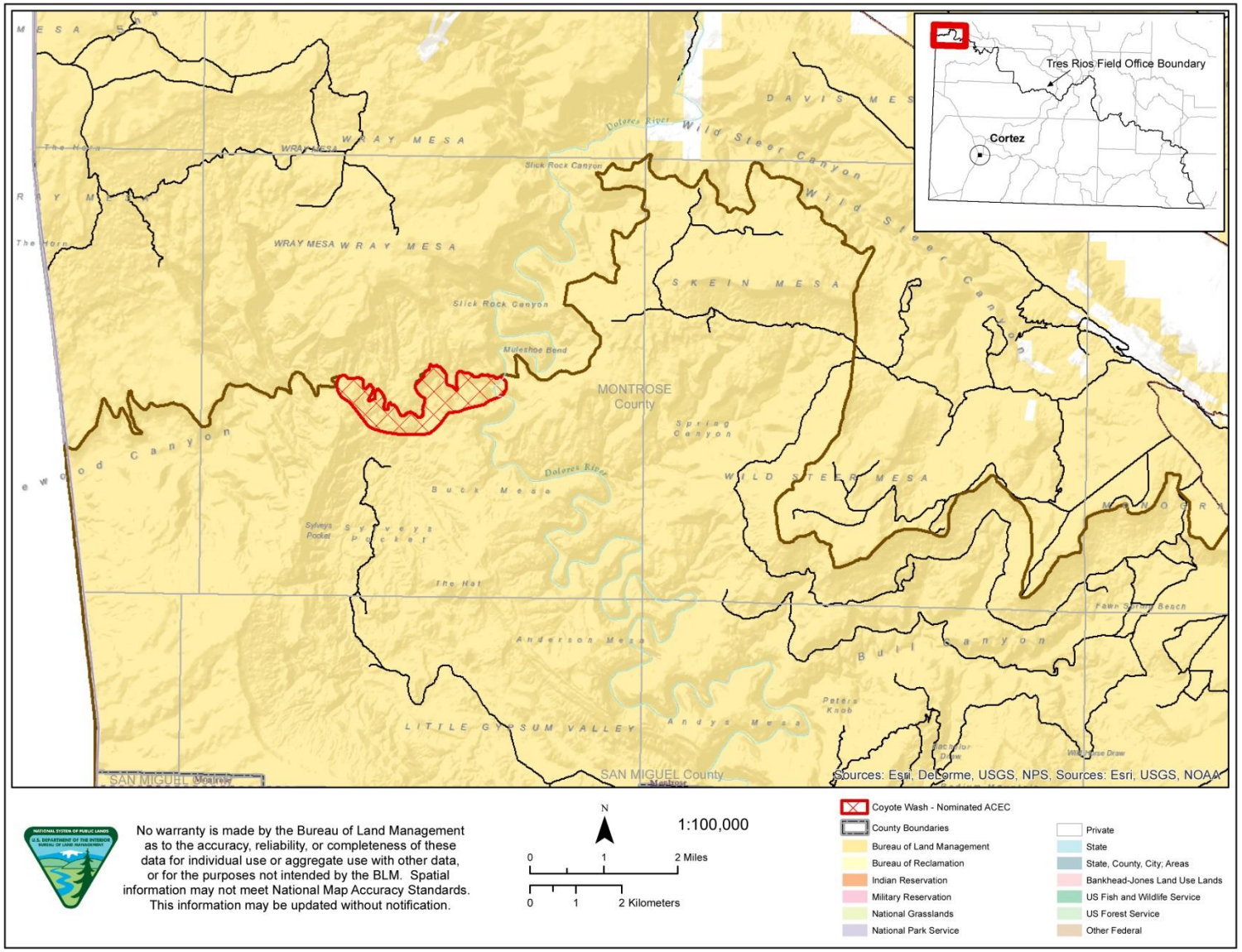
Relevance

Native sedge (S1)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity making it unique and vulnerable to adverse change

Coyote Wash


Tres Rios Field Office Boundary
Cortez
WRAY MESA
SKEIN MESA
WILD STEER MESA
DAVIS MESA
Slick Rock Canyon
Wild Steer Canyon
Dolores River
Muleshoe Bend
MONTROSE County
Spring Canyon
Buck Mesa
Sylways Pocket
The Hat
Anderson Mesa
LITTLE GYPSUM VALLEY
Andys Mesa
Peters Knob
Bull Canyon
SAN MIGUEL County
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.
N
1:100,000
0 1 2 Miles
0 1 2 Kilometers
Coyote Wash - Nominated ACEC
County Boundaries
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Indian Reservation
Military Reservation
National Grasslands
National Park Service
Private
State
State, County, City, Areas
Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Other Federal

Coyote Wash – 840 acres

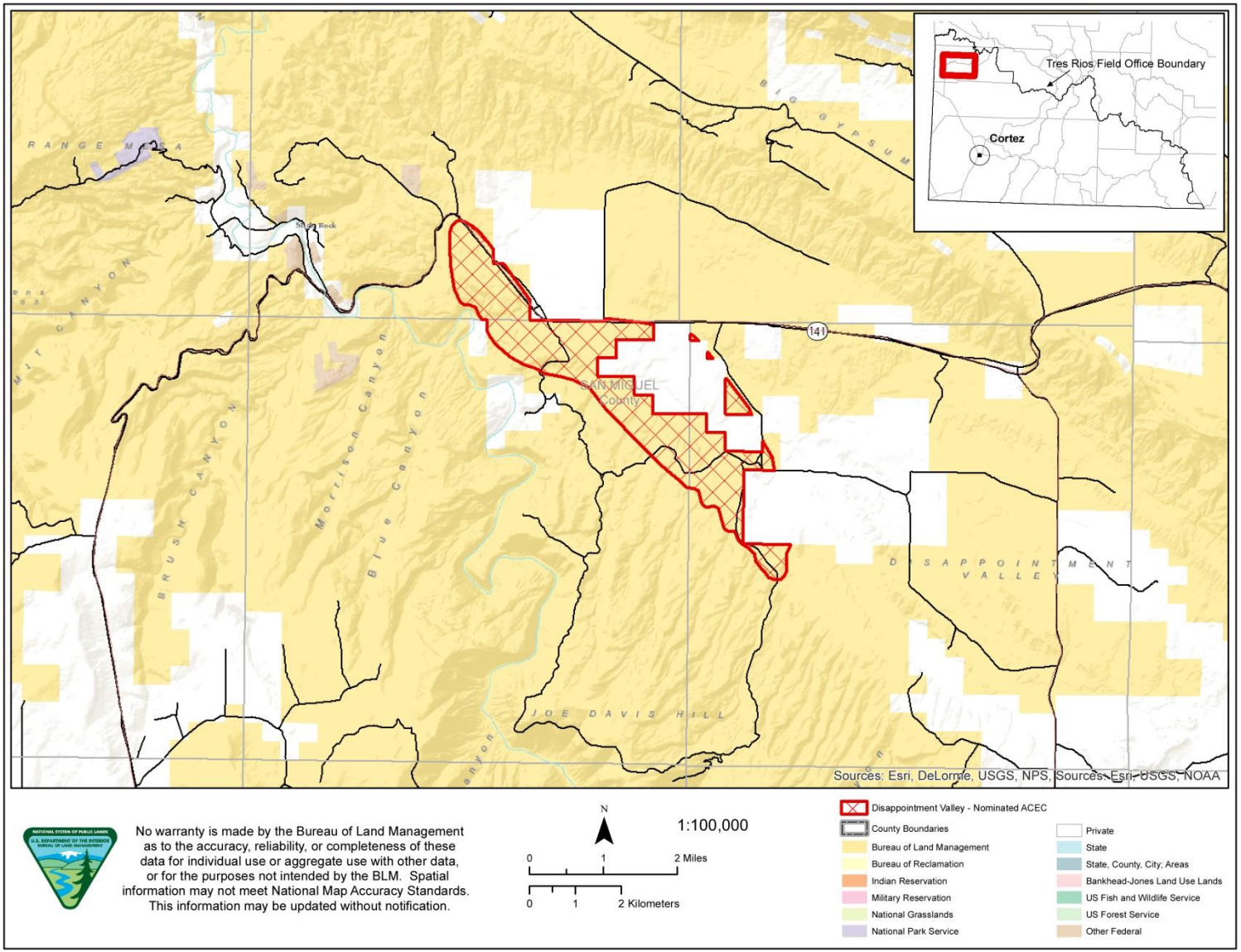
Relevance

Kachina daisy (S1), Eastwood's monkeyflower (S1), Stream orchid (S2), Needle-and-thread (S2)
Spotted bat (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity gives qualities that make them unique, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Disappointment Valley



Disappointment Valley – 2,700 acres

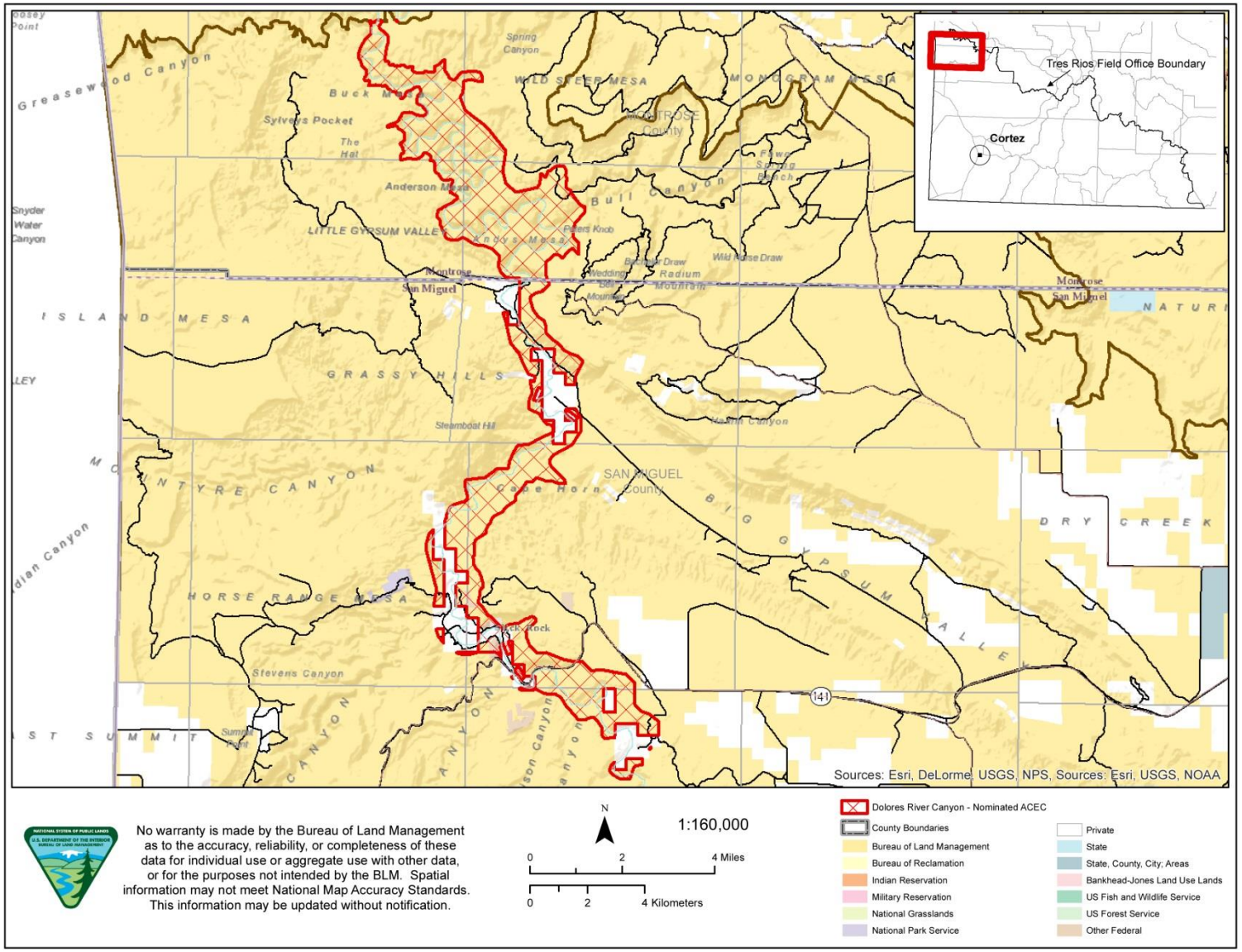
Relevance

Gypsum Valley cat-eye and Naturita milkvetch (G2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and designation on State Director's sensitive species list giving them special worth, meaning, & distinctiveness

Dolores River Canyon



Dolores River Canyon – 12,000 acres Slickrock - Bedrock

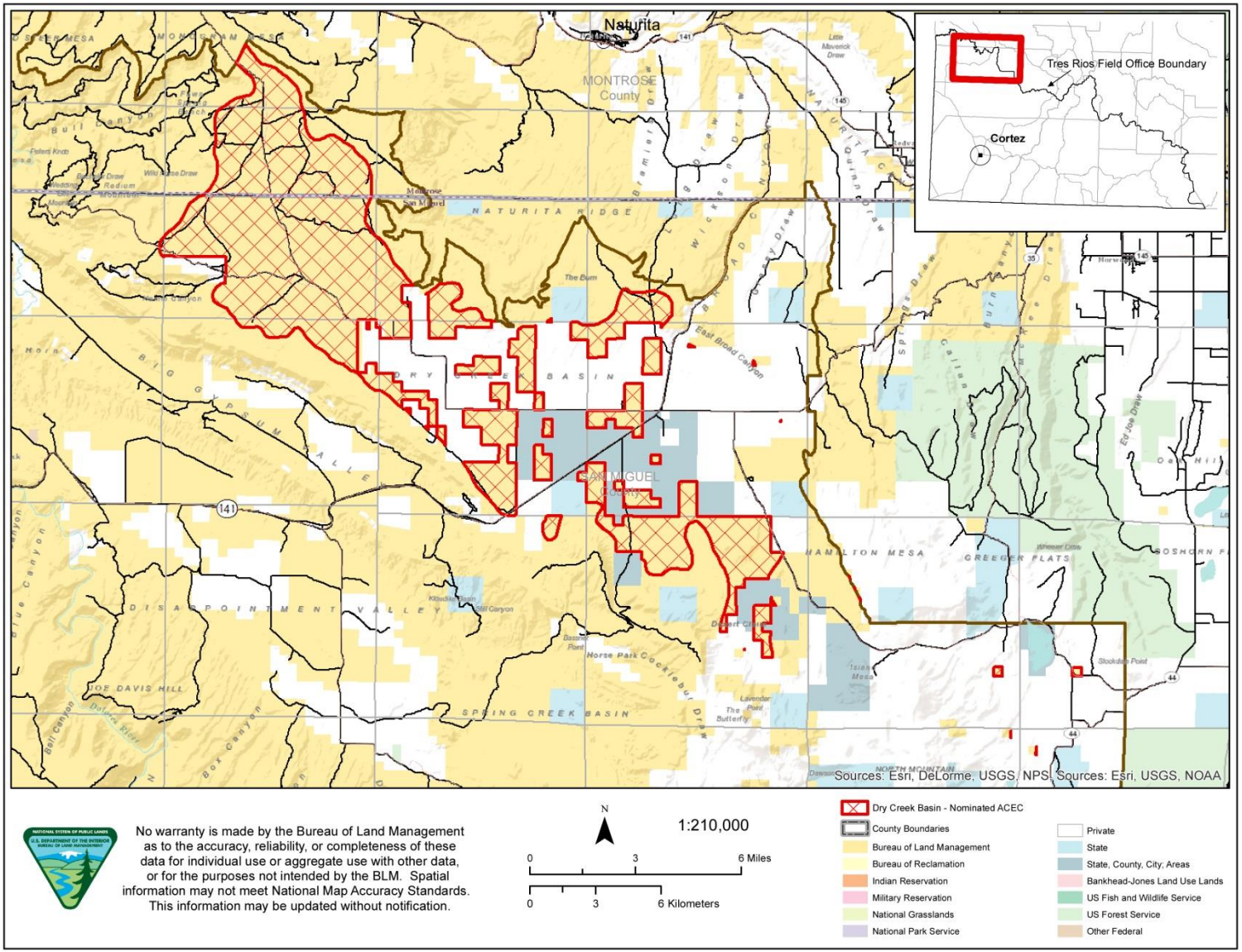
Relevance

Wild privet (G1), Mancos columbine (G5), Naturita milkvetch (G2), Monkeyflower (S1), and Stream orchid (G2)
Canyon tree frog, peregrine falcon (G2), flannel-mouth sucker, round-tail chub (G2), Yuma skipper (S2)
Scenic value (extreme topography, diverse sedimentary geology)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and relic status makes them unique and vulnerable to adverse change; extreme size and depth of canyon, diverse geology

Dry Creek Basin



Dry Creek Basin – 35,000 acres

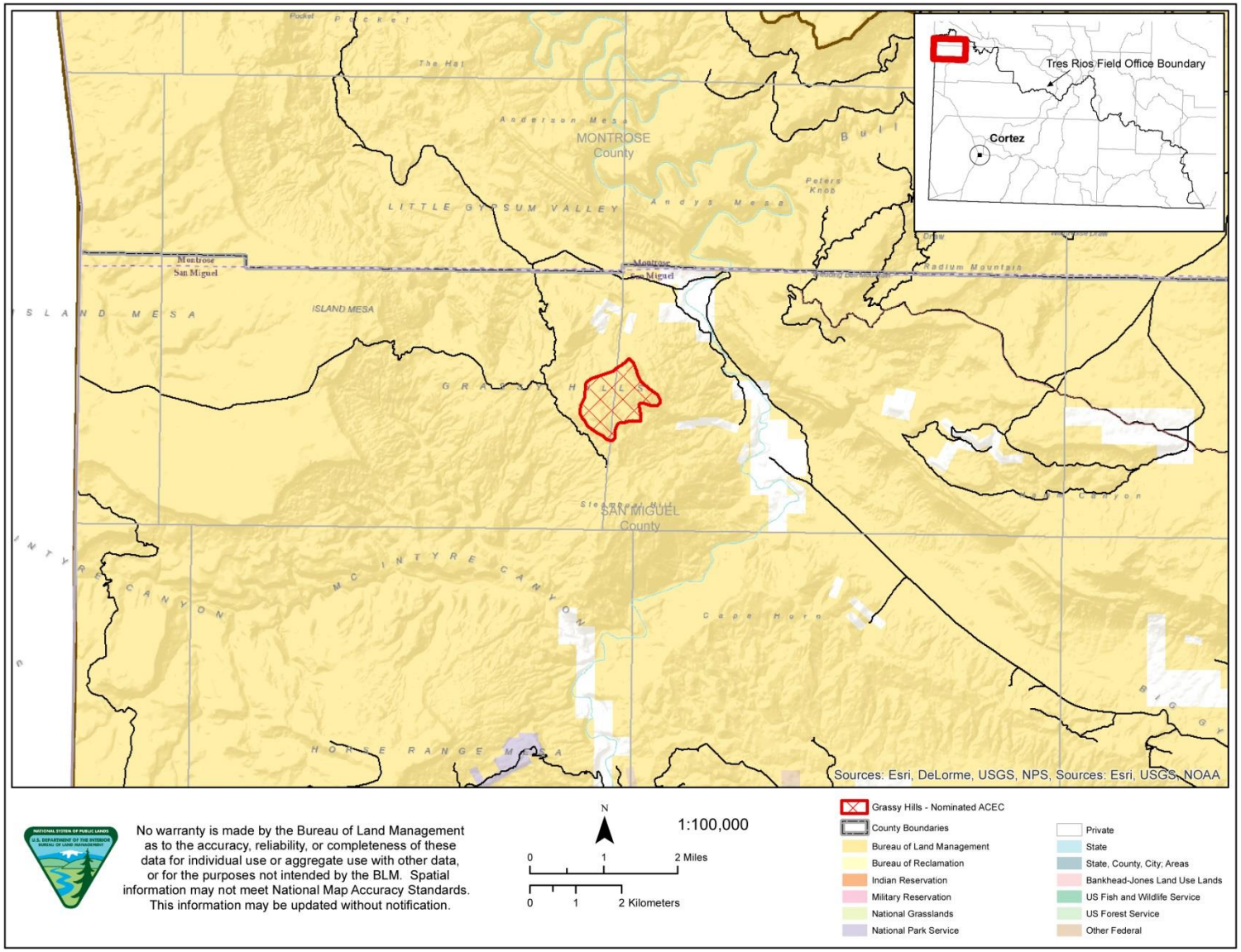
Relevance

Gunnison Sage-grouse (threatened species)(G1)
Gypsum Valley cat-eye (G2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity which makes them sensitive, rare, unique, threatened and vulnerable to adverse change as well as special worth, distinctiveness and cause for concern

Grassy Hills



Grassy Hills – 450 acres

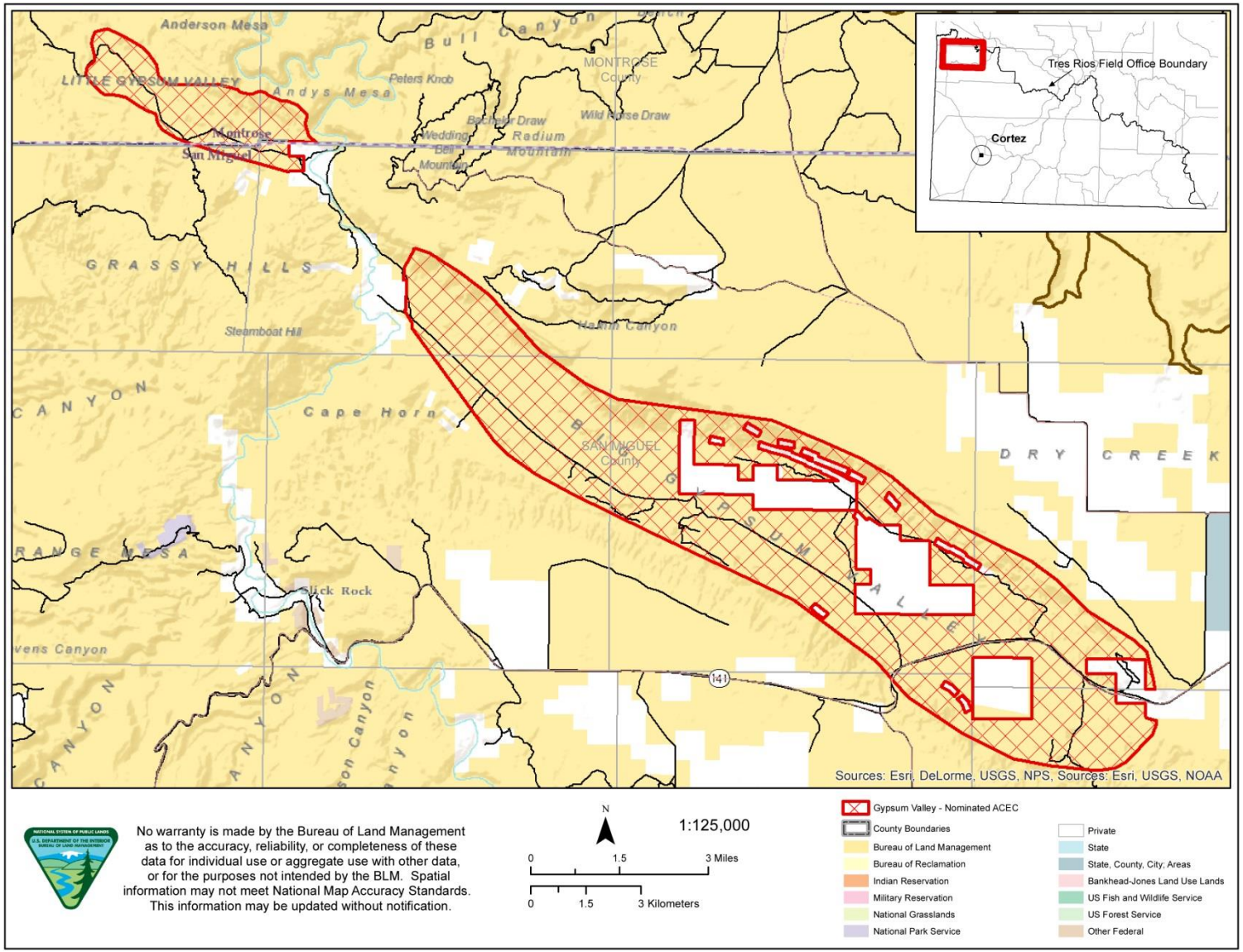
Relevance

Needle-and-thread (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity gives it qualities status that makes them rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Gypsum Valley



Gypsum Valley – 13,200 acres (designated)

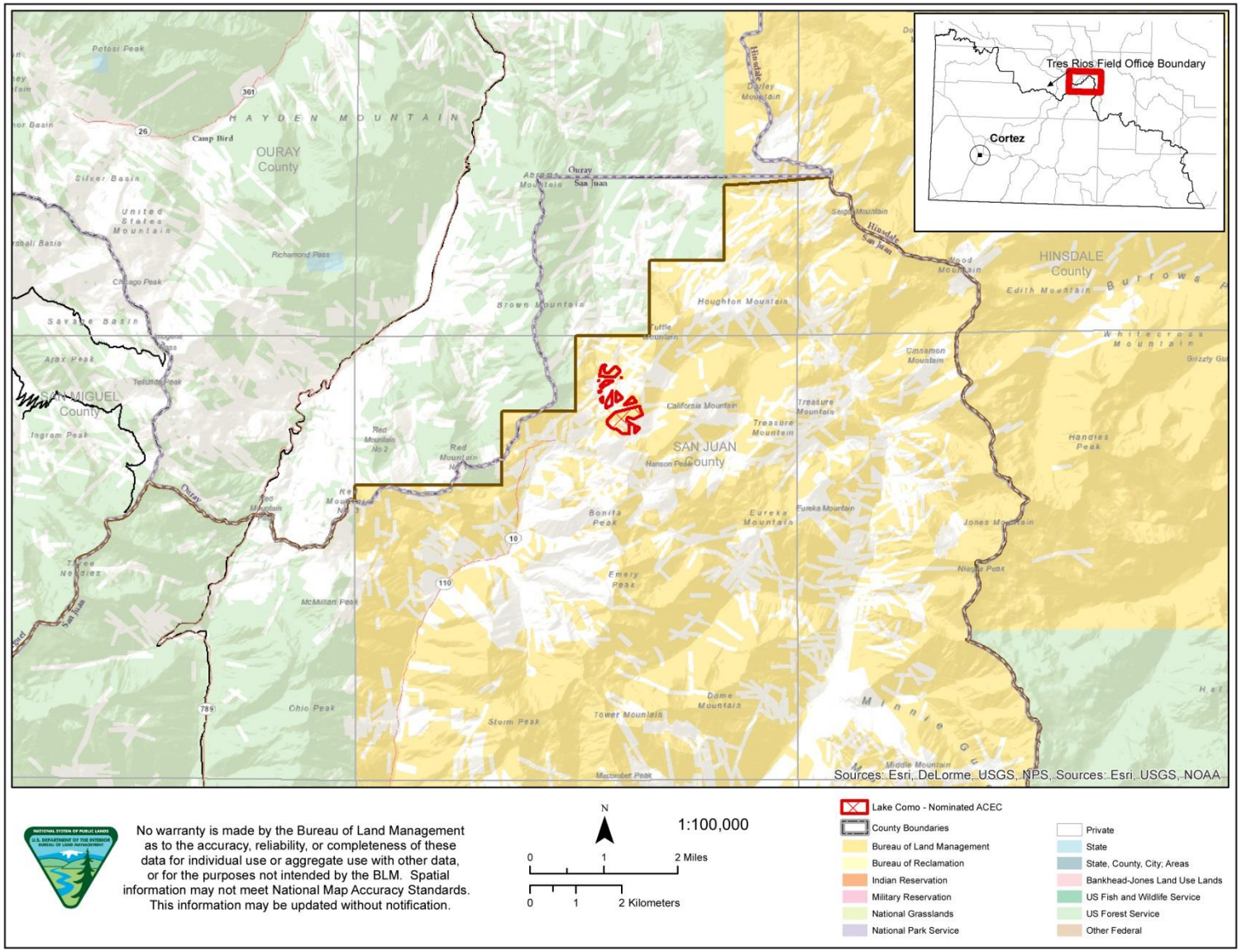
Relevance

Gypsum valley cat-eye(G2), Lecanora (G1), Nodule cracked lichen(S1), mariposa lily (S2), Nealley dropseed (S1), Naturita milkvetch (G2), Short stem penstemon (S2)
Unique gypsum outcrops

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and high risk of global extinction and makes them unique and vulnerable to adverse change

Lake Como


Tres Rios Field Office Boundary
Cortez
HAYDEN MOUNTAIN
OURAY County
SAN MIGUEL County
SAN JUAN County
HINSDALE County
Lake Como
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.
N
1:100,000
0 1 2 Miles
0 1 2 Kilometers
Lake Como - Nominated ACEC
County Boundaries
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Indian Reservation
Military Reservation
National Grasslands
National Park Service
Private
State
State, County, City; Areas
Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Other Federal

Lake Como – 100 acres

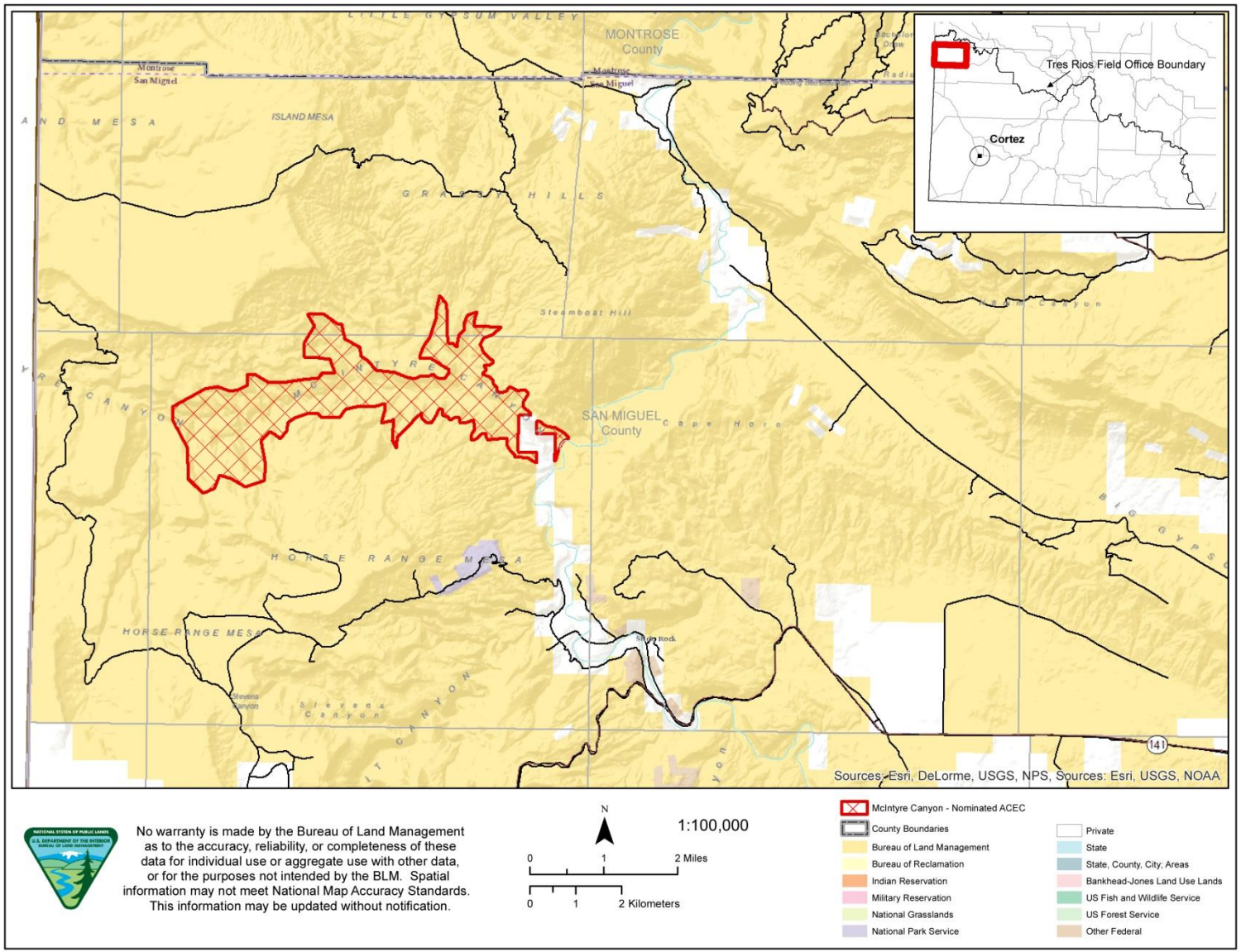
Relevance

Rocky Mountain draba (G2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity gives it qualities that makes it sensitive unique, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

McIntyre Canyon



McIntyre Canyon – 3,000 acres

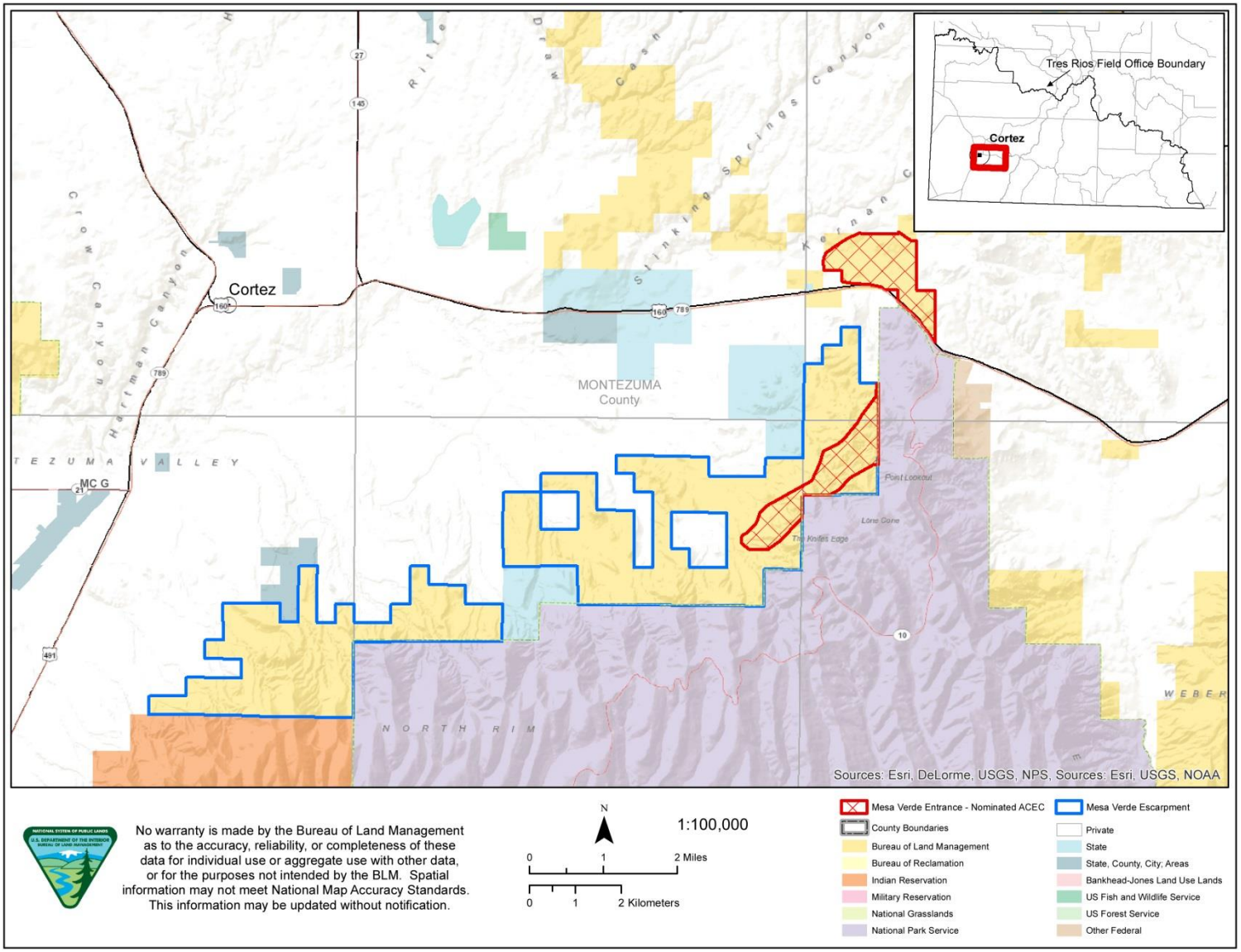
Relevance

Eastwood's monkeyflower (S1), Naturita milkvetch (G2), Mancos milkvetch (G2), pinyon/needle-and-thread woodlands (G2)
Scenic value

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity that makes them fragile, sensitive, rare and vulnerable to adverse change
The scenic value is locally significant qualities due to the size and depth of the canyon giving it special worth and distinctiveness

Mesa Verde Entrance



Mesa Verde Entrance – 1,300 acres

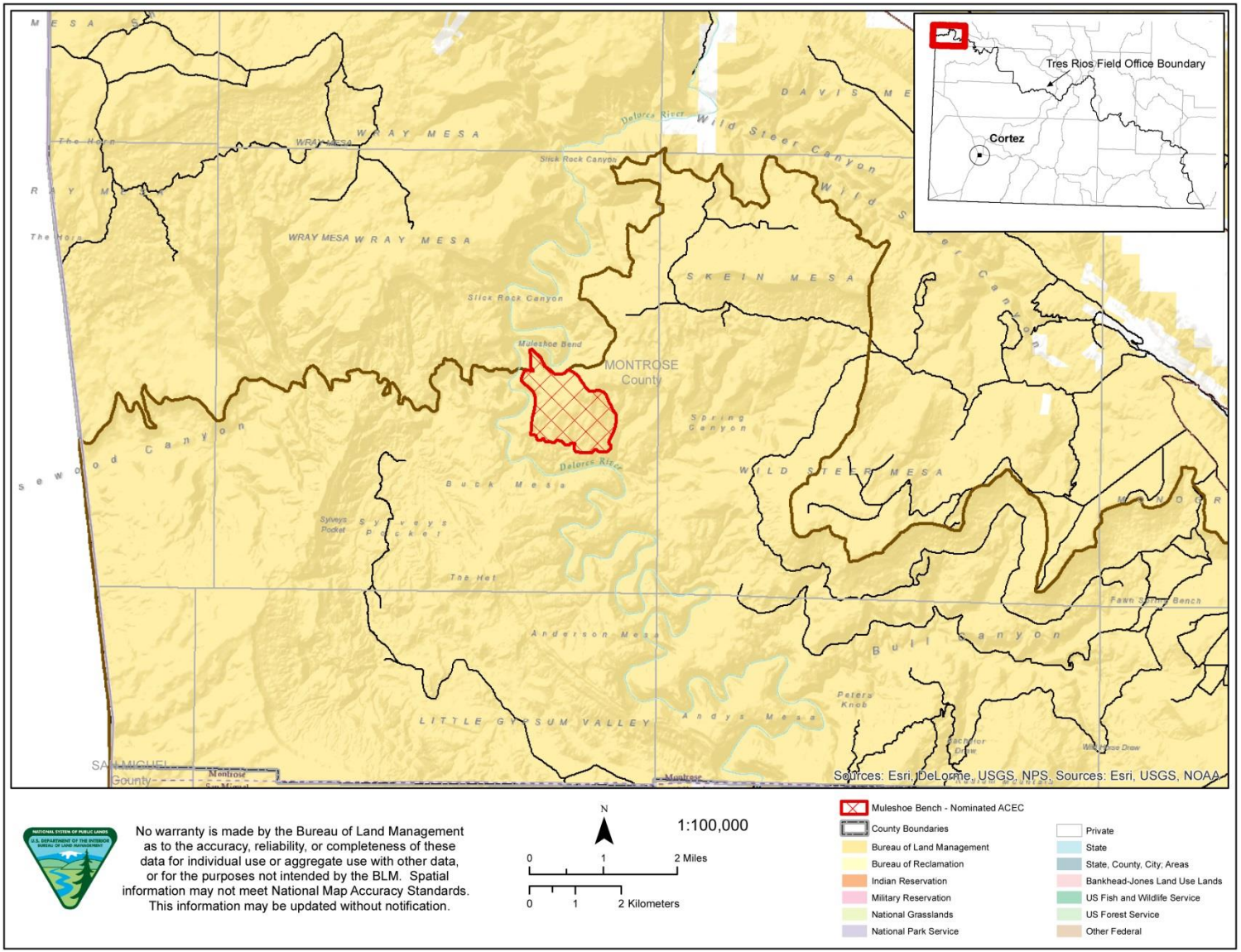
Relevance

Gray Townsend daisy (G2), large-flowered wild hollyhock (S1), San Juan gilia (S2), short-stem penstemon (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them sensitive, unique and vulnerable to adverse change

Mule Shoe Bench



Mule Shoe Bench – 700 acres

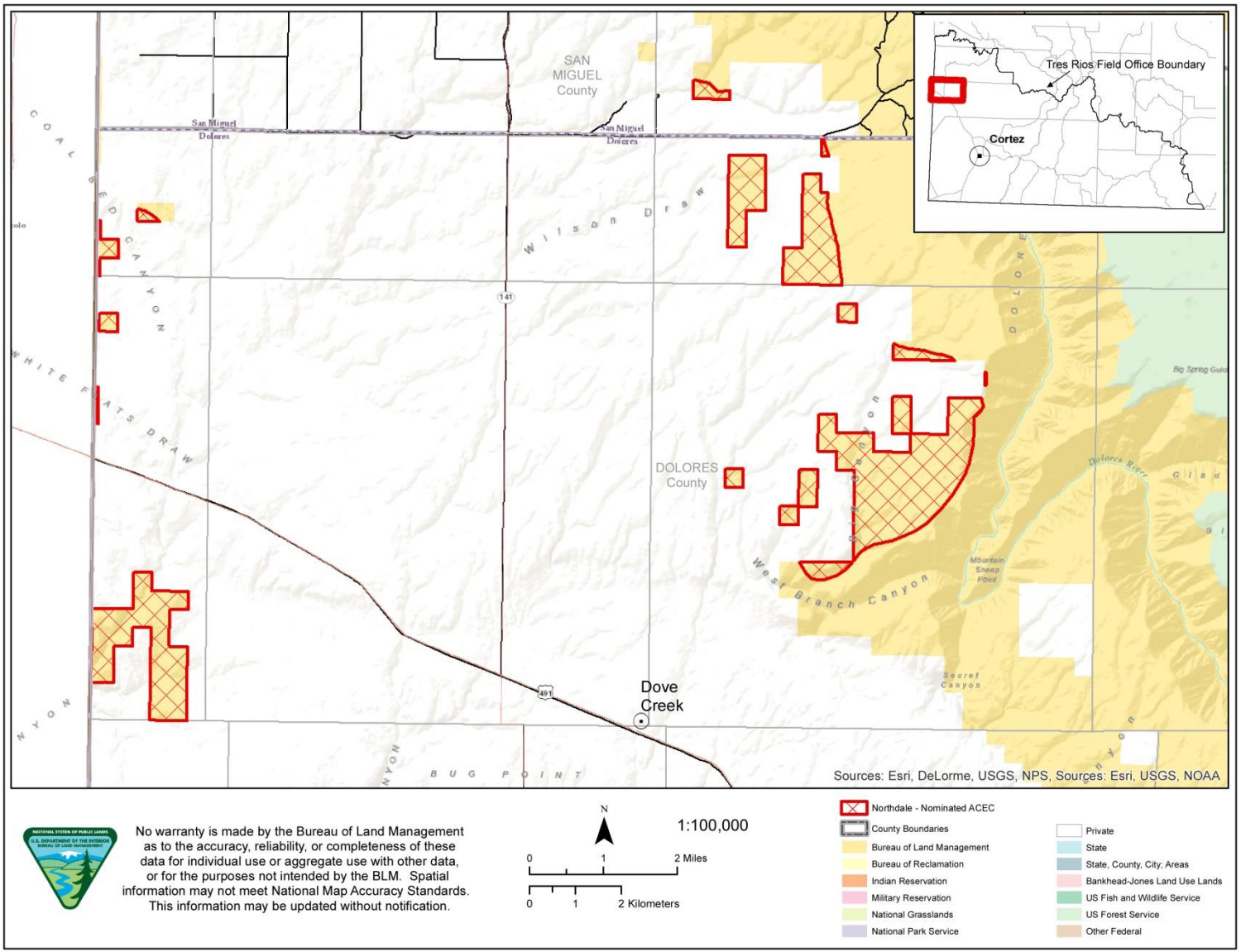
Relevance

Needle-and-thread (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them unique, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Northdale


SAN MIGUEL County
San Miguel
Dolores
Wilson Draw
COAL BED CANYON
WHITE FLATS DRAW
141
DOLORES County
Dolores River
West Branch Canyon
Mountain Sheep Point
Secret Canyon
491
Dove Creek
BUG POINT
Tres Rios Field Office Boundary
Cortez
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.
N
1:100,000
0 1 2 Miles
0 1 2 Kilometers
Northdale - Nominated ACEC
County Boundaries
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Indian Reservation
Military Reservation
National Grasslands
National Park Service
Private
State
State, County, City; Areas
Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Other Federal

Northdale – 4,000 acres

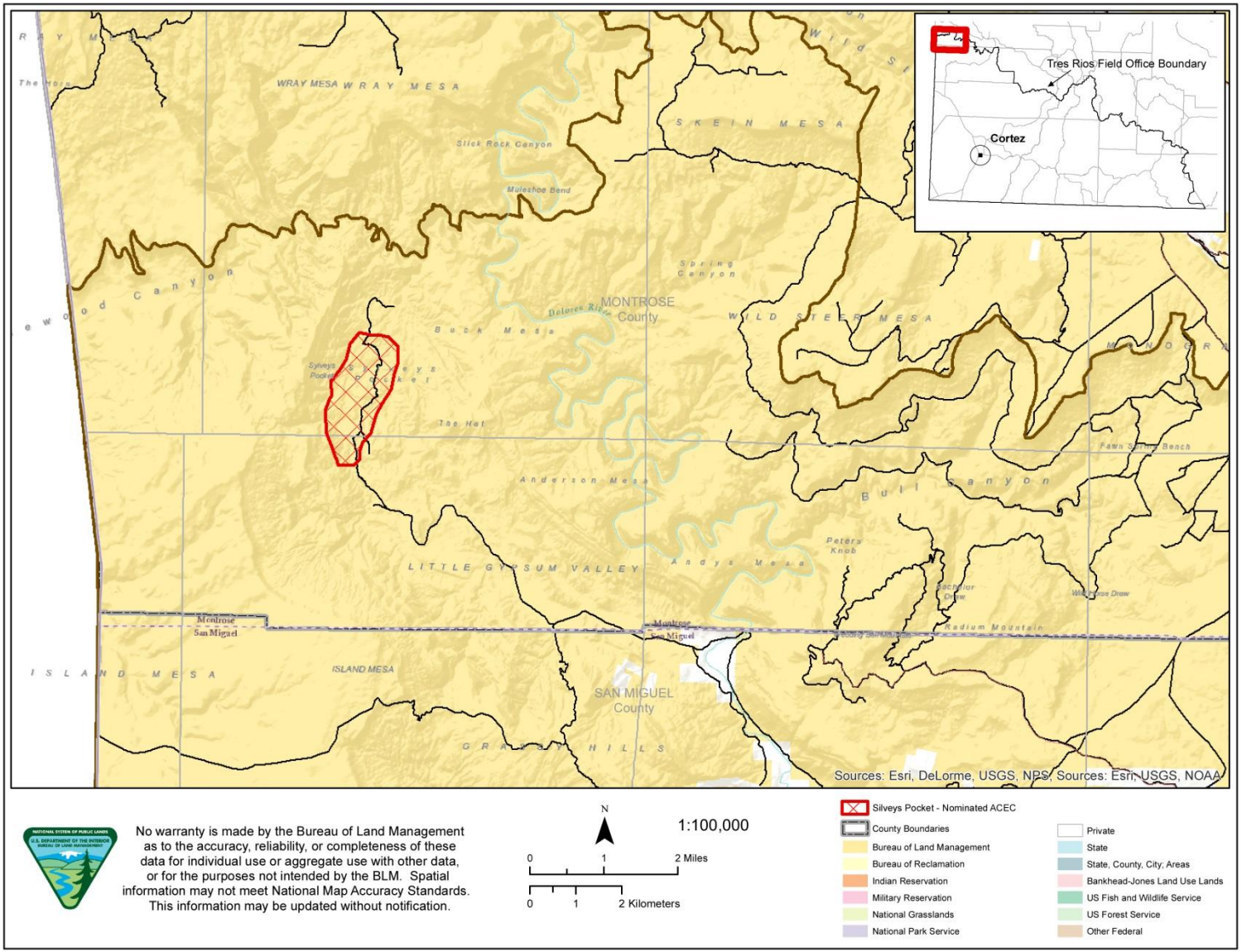
Relevance

Gunnison Sage-grouse (threatened)(G1)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes it sensitive, rare, unique, threatened and vulnerable to adverse change

Silvey's Pocket



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

N

1:100,000

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 Kilometers

- Silveys Pocket - Nominated ACEC
- County Boundaries
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Indian Reservation
- Military Reservation
- National Grasslands
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State, County, City; Areas
- Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal

Silvey's Pocket – 700 acres

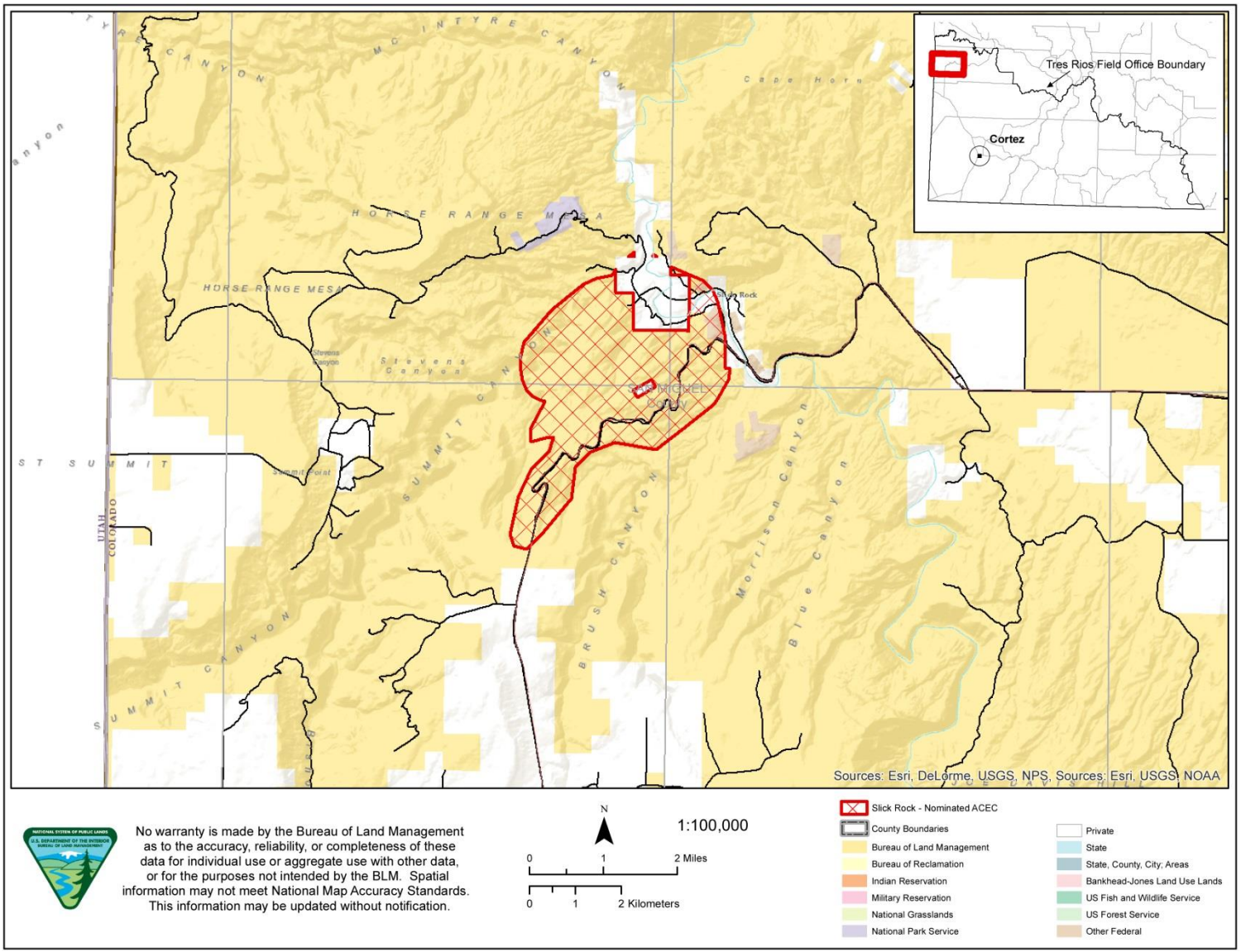
Relevance

Naturita milkvetch (G2), Indian breadroot (S2), needle-and-thread (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them sensitive, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Slick Rock


Tres Rios Field Office Boundary
Cortez
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.
N
1:100,000
0 1 2 Miles
0 1 2 Kilometers
Slick Rock - Nominated ACEC
County Boundaries
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Indian Reservation
Military Reservation
National Grasslands
National Park Service
Private
State
State, County, City; Areas
Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Other Federal

Slick Rock – 3,600 acres

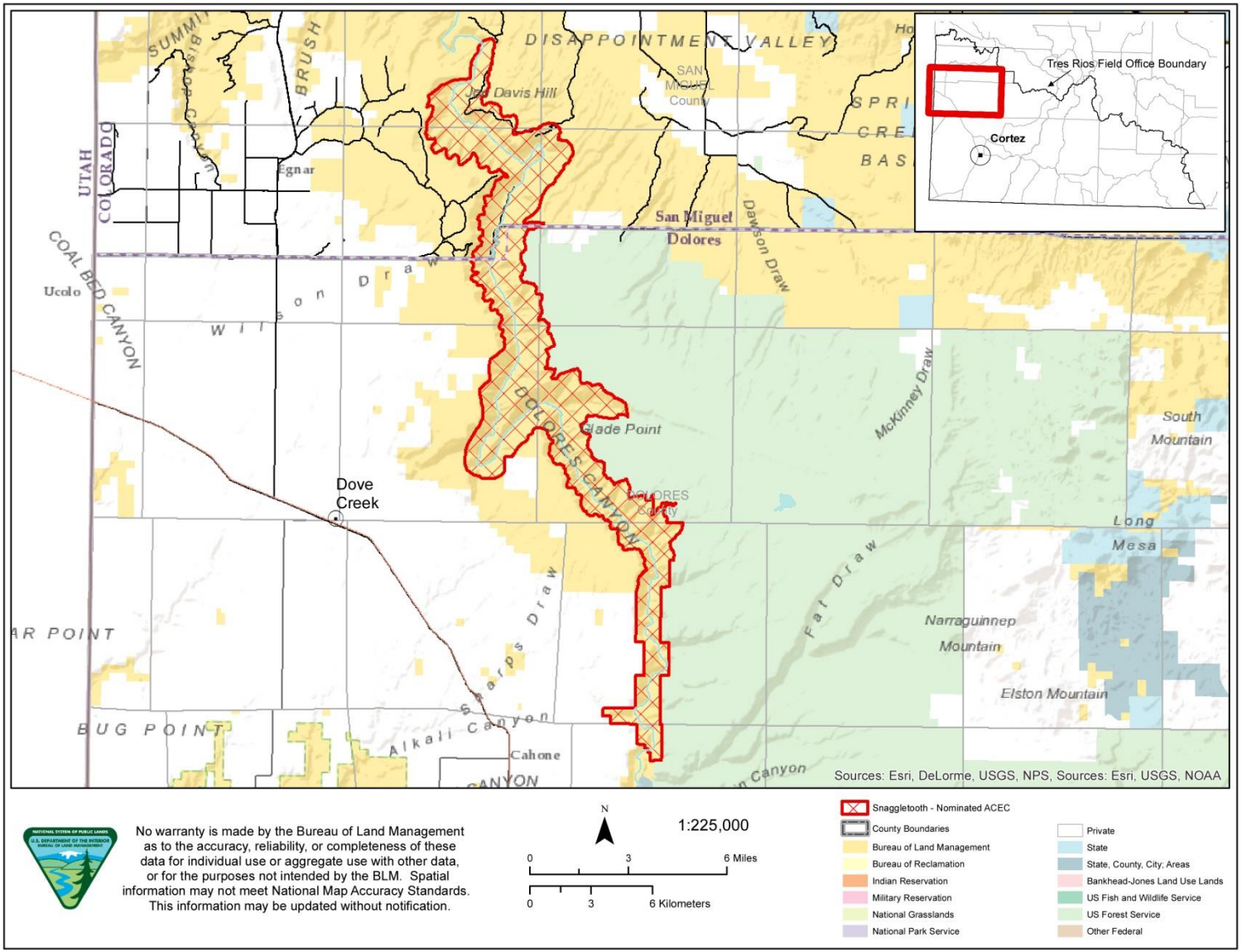
Relevance

Short stem penstemon (S2), Naturita milkvetch (G2), Needle-and-thread (S2)
Canyon tree frog

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them sensitive, unique, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Snaggletooth



Snaggletooth – 24,000 acres Bradfield to River mile125

Relevance

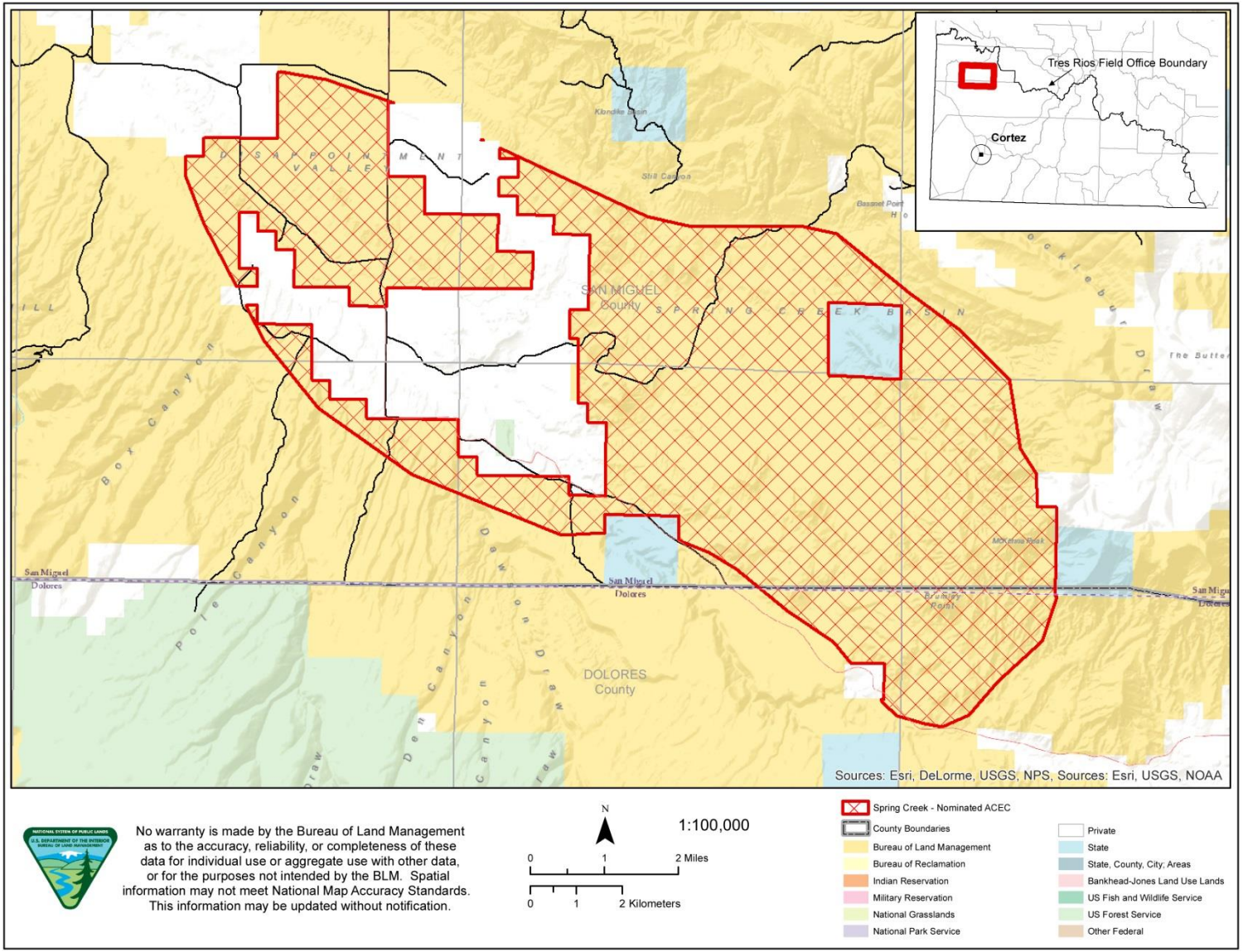
Roundtail chub (G2), flannelmouth sucker and bluehead sucker, peregrine falcon (G2)
Scenic value – diverse and extreme topography and geology

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them fragile, sensitive, rare and vulnerable to adverse change; 3 fish species for worth, meaning, distinctiveness and cause for concern and as a sensitive species

Scenic value locally significant due to large size and extreme depth and diverse colorful geology giving it worth and distinctiveness

Spring Creek Basin



Spring Creek Basin – 25,500 acres

Relevance

Gypsum Valley cat-eye (G1), pygmy sagebrush (S1), flex-stemmed mariposa lily (S2)

Importance

Have more than locally significant qualities due to rarity and makes them sensitive, unique, rare and vulnerable to adverse change

Determination of ACECs

- ✓ Determine if the nominated areas have values, resources, systems or process that meet relevance and importance criteria

- ✓ Determine if ***'special management attention'*** is required to protect the relevance values, resource, systems or processes

Special Management Attention (pg. U-2)

Potential ACECs may warrant additional direction if --

- ✓ more ground disturbing management activities increasing establishment of invasive plants
- ✓ 3 or more occurrences of G1 or S1 ranking are vulnerable to disturbance and extinction
- ✓ contain world-renowned archeology resources and/or very high densities
- ✓ Relatively flat and gentle topography and receive disturbance by management activities

Special Management Attention (pg. U-3)

Potential ACECs may are less likely to warrant additional direction if --

- ✓ Occur in remote locations
- ✓ Have few roads within and adjacent to them
- ✓ Associated with steep slopes and/or rugged topography
- ✓ Less likely to be disturbed by management actions
- ✓ Occur in other special designations that have special management prescriptions that protect R&I, including NSO, etc
  - ✓ Dolores River Canyon WSA or Dolores River Canyon area
  - ✓ Spring Creek Horse Management Area, etc.

Next Steps

- Scoping - March 11, 2016 extended to May 4, 2016
- Comments received will assist in identification and development of key issues / alternatives
- Each area will be analyzed and, what, if any additional management prescriptions are necessary to protect the relevance and importance values
- Preliminary EA will be issued for a 30-day public review and comment
- The final EA including a decision will be posted

Public Comments

Send comments to:

Email: BLM_CO_TRFO_ACEC@blm.gov
Fax: (970) 240-5367
Mail: BLM – Attention ACEC Amendment
2465 S. Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401

For more information:
http://on.doi.gov/1SXsHWF