

# 2019 BLM Instream Flow Recommendations



Iowa Gulch near Leadville

# Streams in Water Division 2



Arkansas  
River

# East Fork Arkansas River

Lake County



# East Fork Arkansas River Location



Climax Mine

Lower Terminus:  
Confluence With  
Chalk Creek

Upper Terminus:  
Headwaters

Leadville

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

# East Fork Arkansas River



## Natural Environment:

### Fishery:

- Brook trout

### Water Quality:

- Consistently cold stream temperatures
- Ideal pH for salmonids
- Low TDS
- Some heavy metals from historic mining

### Riparian community:

- Spruce, willow, river birch



# East Fork Arkansas River

Proposed Flow Rates:

7.0 cfs May 1 – Jul 31

2.8 cfs Aug 1 – Sep 30

1.2 cfs Oct 1 – Apr 30



# East Fork Arkansas River



## Water Availability:

- Snowmelt hydrograph
- At top of watershed
- Existing ISF right located downstream, starting at Chalk Creek -- 15 cfs, year round
- Gage data available downstream

## Water Rights:

- None

# East Fork Arkansas River



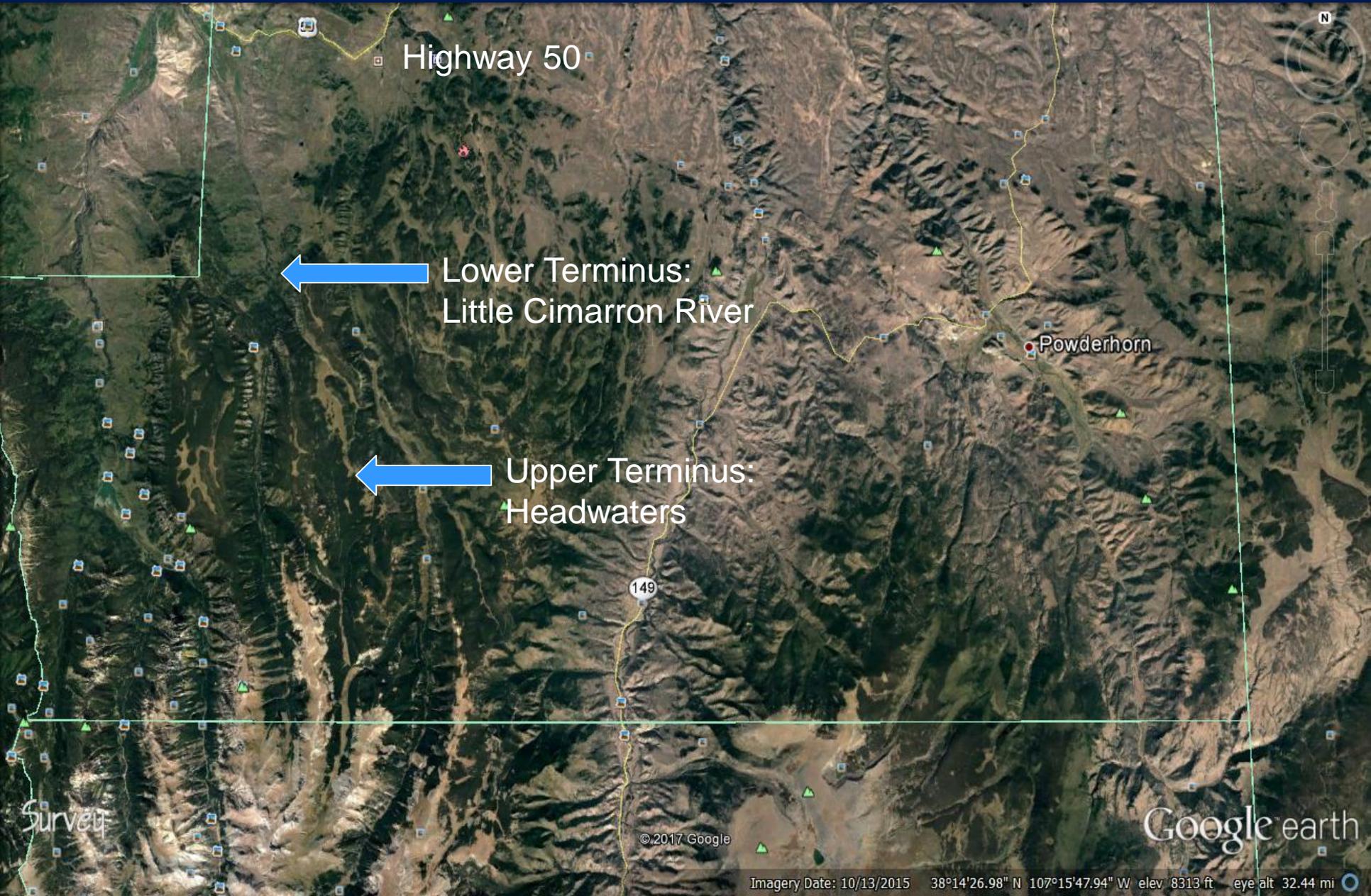
## Stakeholders:

- Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District
- Lake County
- Private land owners along reach
- US Forest Service
- Climax Molybdenum Mine

# Iowa Gulch Lake County



# Iowa Gulch Location



Highway 50

Lower Terminus:  
Little Cimarron River

Upper Terminus:  
Headwaters

Powderhorn

149

Survey

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/13/2015 38°14'26.98" N 107°15'47.94" W elev 8313 ft eye alt 32.44 mi

# Iowa Gulch



**Leadville**

Lower Terminus:  
Iowa Gulch Intake

Upper Terminus:  
Headwaters

# Iowa Gulch



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: brook trout
- Macros: mayfly
- Riparian community: willow, grasses, sedges

# Iowa Gulch



**Proposed Flow Rates:**  
3.5 cfs May 1 – Jun 30  
1.5 cfs Jul 1 – Sep 15  
0.6 cfs Sep 16 – Apr 30

# Iowa Gulch



## Water Availability:

- Snowmelt driven
- At top of watershed
- Gage data is not available

## Water Rights:

- None

## Water Quality:

- Some influence from historic mining

# Iowa Gulch



## Stakeholders:

- Private landowners along creek
- Lake County
- US Forest Service

# Streams in Water Division 6



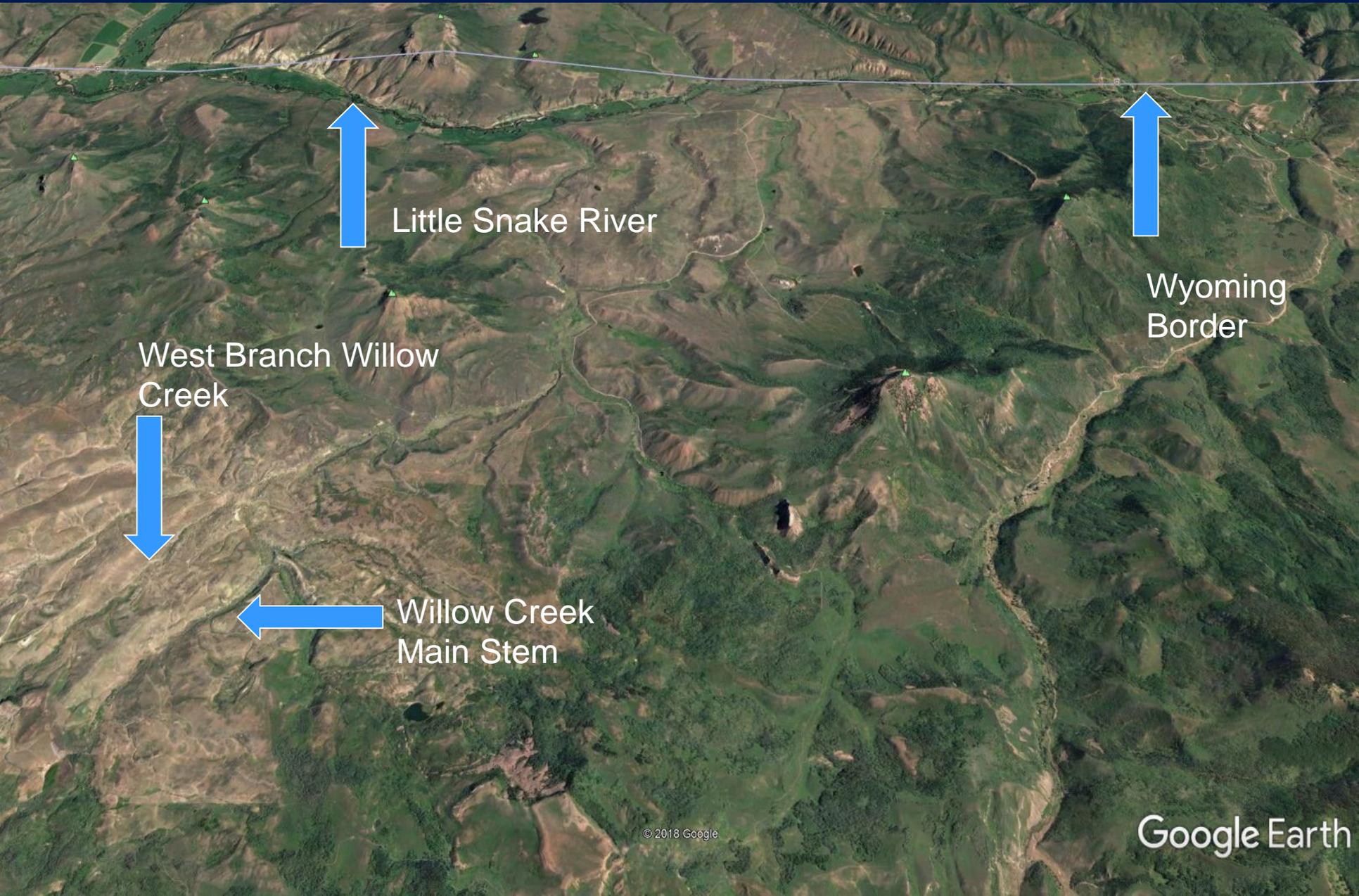
Yampa River near Maybell

# Willow Creek

## Routt County



# Willow Creek Location



Little Snake River

Wyoming  
Border

West Branch Willow  
Creek

Willow Creek  
Main Stem

# Willow Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: speckled dace, mountain sucker, creek chub, fathead minnow
- Macros: mayfly, caddisfly and other species typical of cool to warm water
- Riparian community: alder, willow, sedges, rushes

# Willow Creek

## Proposed Flow Rates:

### Main Stem

1.05 cfs Apr 1 -- Oct 31

0.7 cfs Nov 1 – Mar 31

### West Branch

0.65 cfs Apr 1 – Oct 31

0.45 cfs Nov 1 – Mar 31

# Willow Creek



## Water Availability:

- In headwaters of watershed
- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- No gage data available
- Main stem can be affected by diversions, return flows

## Water Rights:

- Main stem:
  - Pine Scope Ditch 1 - 5.0 cfs
  - Pine Scope Ditch 2 - 3.0 cfs
- West Branch: None

# Willow Creek



## Stakeholders:

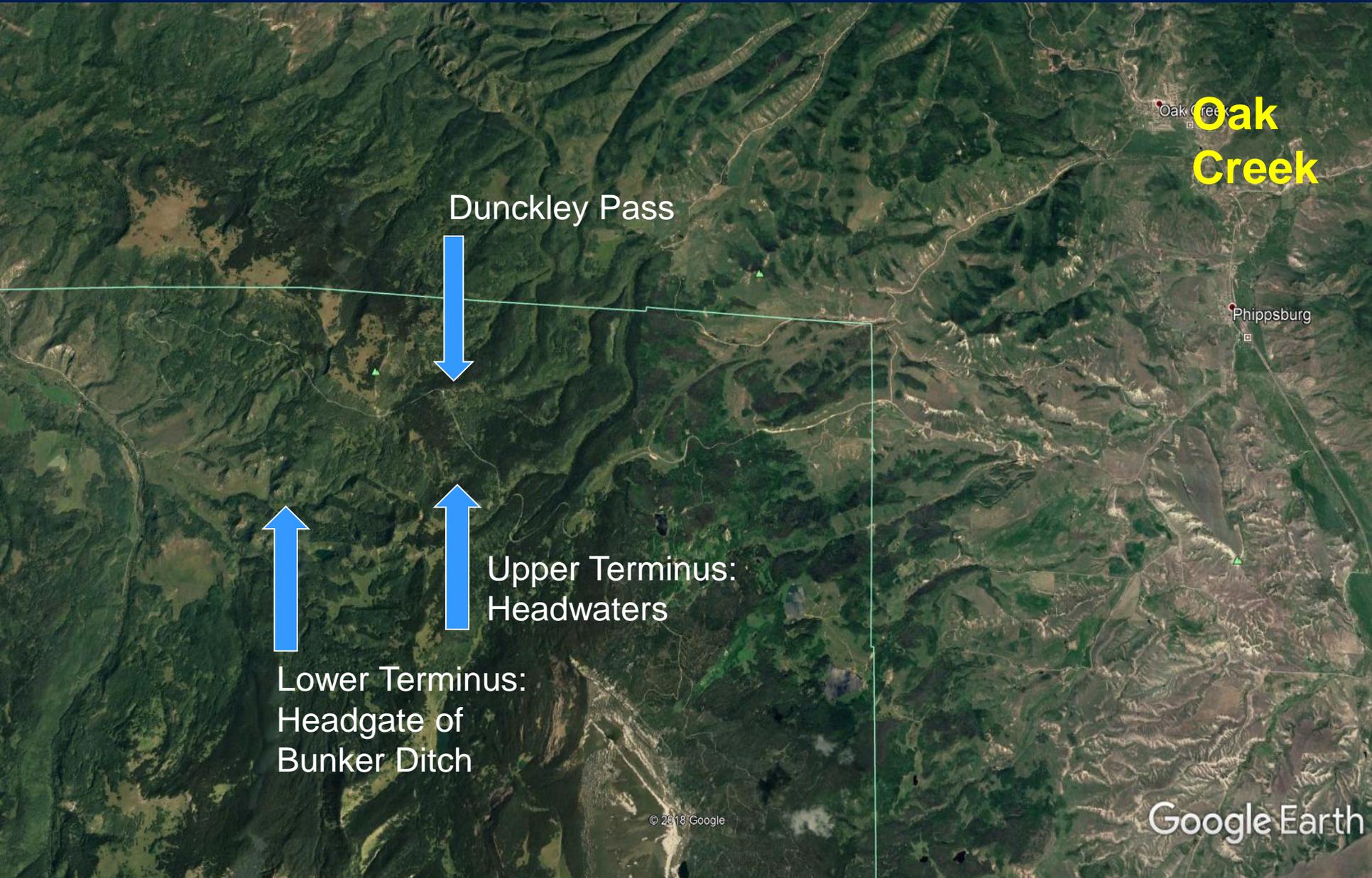
- Routt County
- Three Forks Ranch  
– lands owned by the ranch surround the BLM parcels

# Sunbutter Creek

## Rio Blanco County



# Sunbutter Creek Location



Dunckley Pass



Upper Terminus:  
Headwaters



Lower Terminus:  
Headgate of  
Bunker Ditch



Oak  
Creek

Phippsburg

# Sunbutter Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: Colorado River Cutthroat Trout – genetic testing underway
- Macros: stonefly and caddisfly
- Riparian Community: alder, maple, spruce dogwood

# Sunbutter Creek



**Proposed Flow Rates:**  
**1.75 cfs May 1 – Jul 1**  
**0.7 cfs Aug 1 – Nov 30**  
**0.4 cfs Dec 1 – Apr 30**

# Sunbutter Creek



## Water Availability:

- Snowmelt driven
- Reliable base flow provided by spring discharge
- Gage data not available
- Downstream diversion data available

## Water Rights:

- None

# Sunbutter Creek

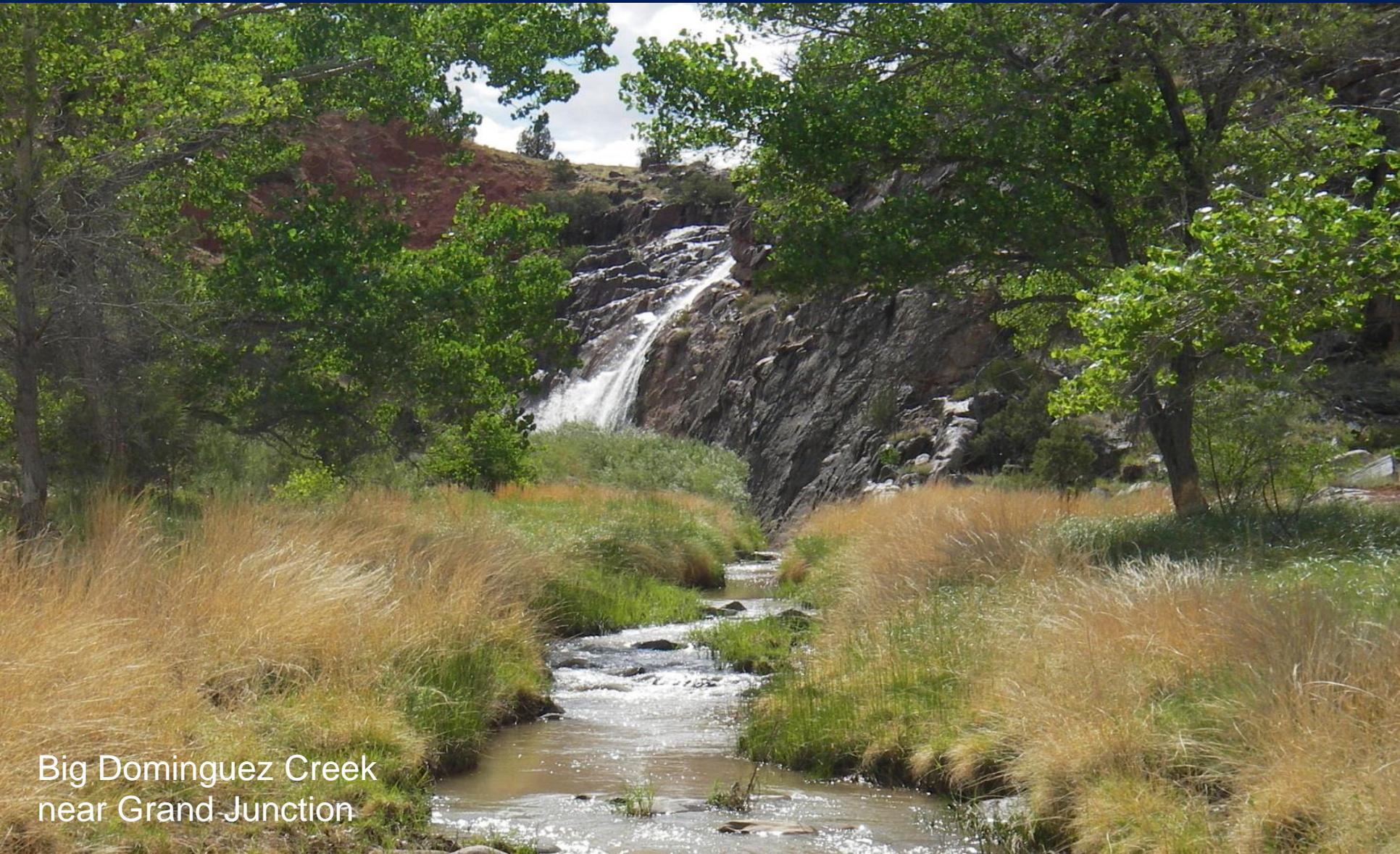


## Stakeholders:

- Rio Blanco County
- U.S. Forest Service
- Cross Mountain Ranch – owns lands at end of reach

# Questions for BLM?

Contact Roy Smith at [r20smith@blm.gov](mailto:r20smith@blm.gov) or 303-239-3940



Big Dominguez Creek  
near Grand Junction