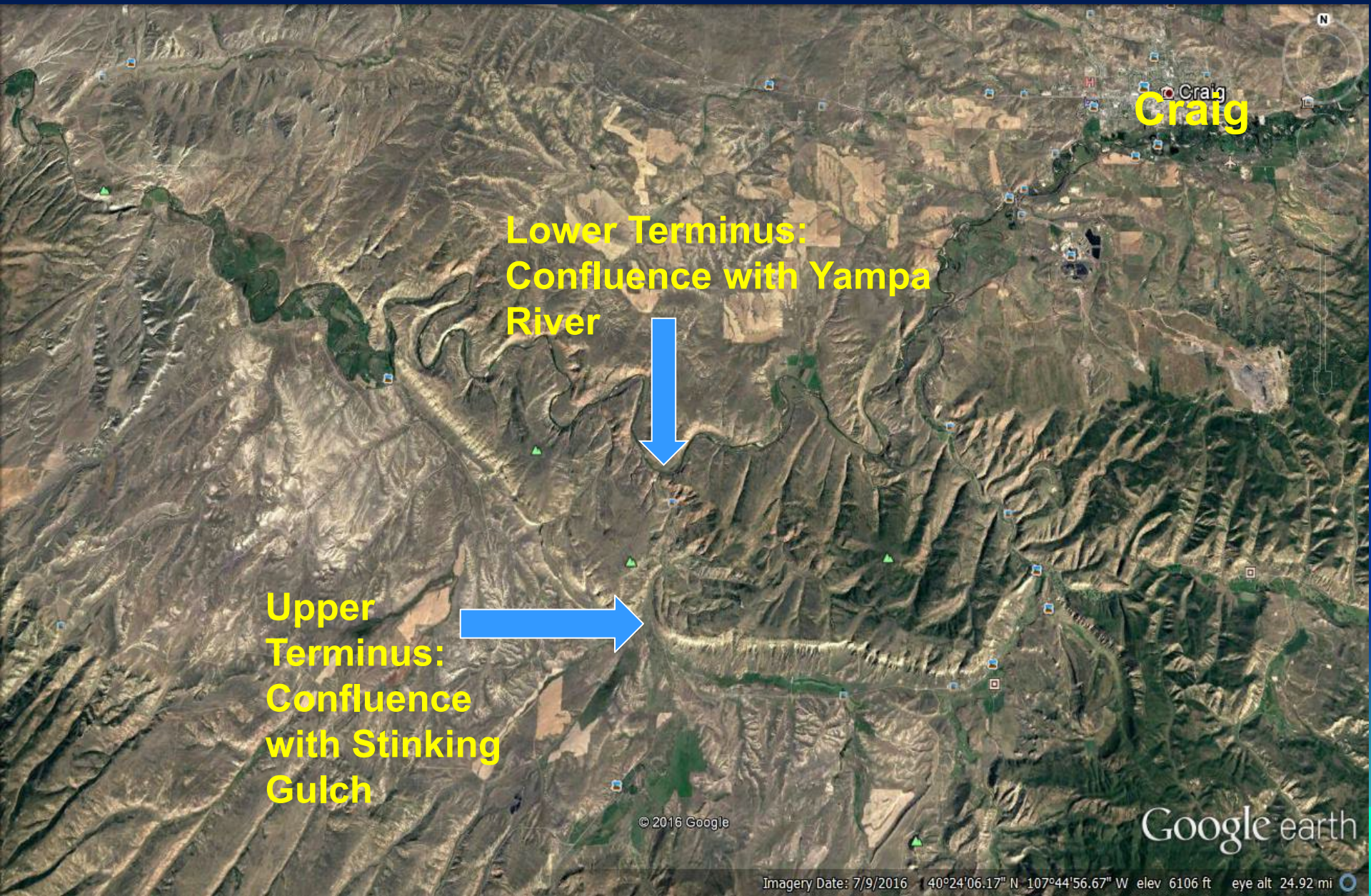
2024 BLM Instream Flow Recommendations

Burrows Creek – Headwaters of the Animas River watershed.

Streams in Water Division 6

Milk Creek

Milk Creek Location



Milk Creek

Riparian community: willow, sedges, and rushes with remnant cottonwoods on an upward trend

Natural Environment:

Fishery:

- Native – flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, roundtail chub, speckled dace
- Non-native – redside shiners, black bullhead, Johnny darter, plains killifish, bluegill sunfish
- CPW is stocking bluehead suckers to benefit Yampa River population

Milk Creek

Proposed ISF Flow Rates:
Stream channel modeling is in progress using SEFA (System for Environmental Flows Analysis)

Milk Creek

Water Availability:

- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- Low but reliable base flows
- At bottom of very large watershed
- Gage data is available

Water Rights:

- Very large number of upstream water rights
- No water rights within reach

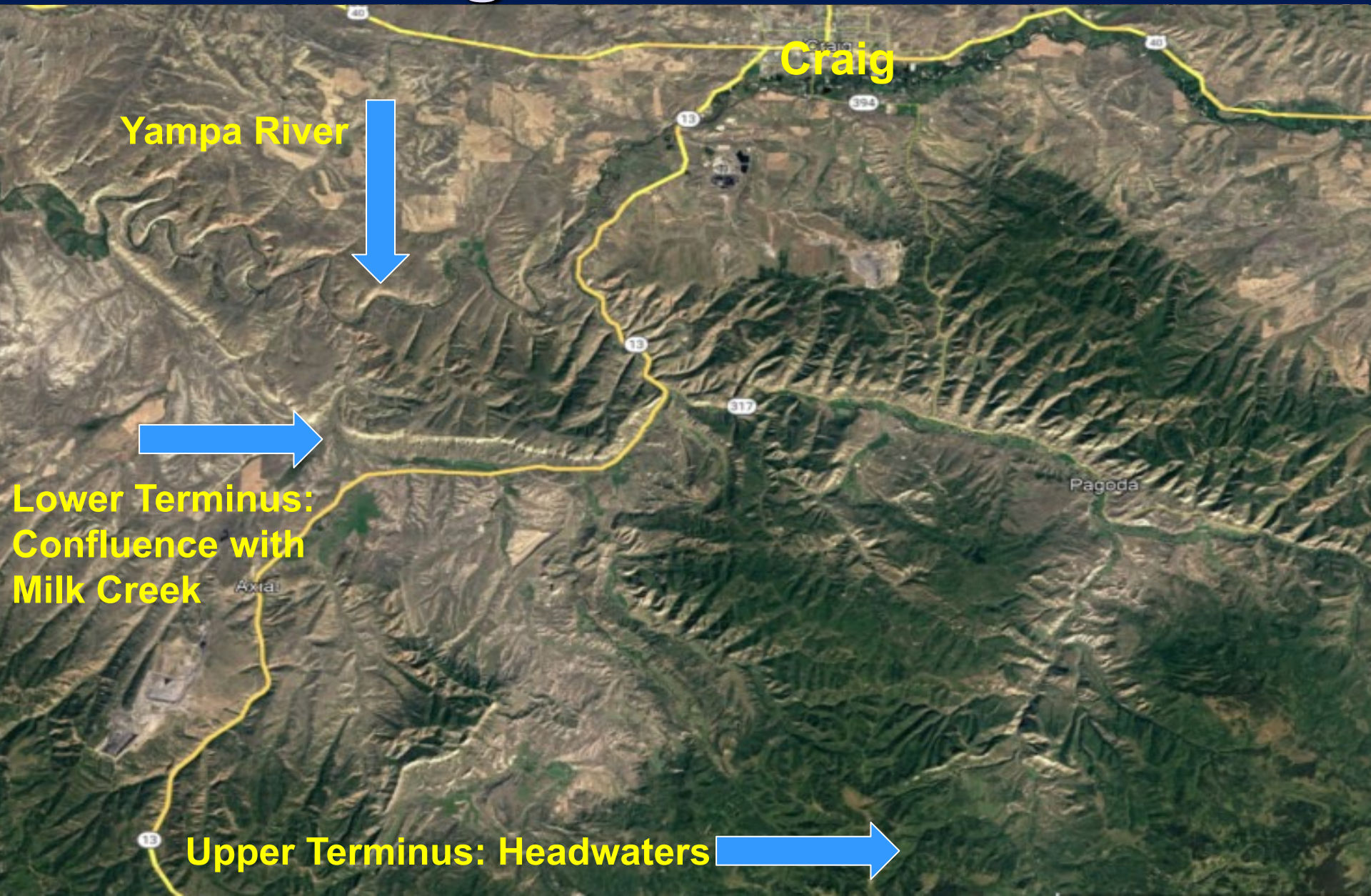
Milk Creek

Stakeholders:

- Water rights owners within watershed
- Private landowners along reach
- Colowyo Coal Company (Tri-State)
- Moffat County
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Stinking Gulch

Stinking Gulch - Location



Stinking Gulch

Natural Environment:

Fishery:

- Native – flannelmouth sucker, speckled dace
- Non-native – Creek Chub, Red-Sided Shiner, White Sucker

Amphibians:

- Northern Leopard Frogs

Riparian:

- Sedges, Rushes, Grasses

Stinking Gulch is a key contributor to base flow in Milk Creek.

Stinking Gulch

Preliminary ISF Rates:

- 1.55 cfs Apr 1 to June 30
- 1.0 cfs Jul 1 to Sep 30
- 0.85 cfs Oct 1 to Mar 31

Subject to additional data collection, modeling and water availability analysis during 2024.

Stinking Gulch

Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- No gage data available

Water Rights:

- McCleery Ditch No. 1 (0.2 cfs absolute, 2.8 cfs conditional) is within the proposed reach.

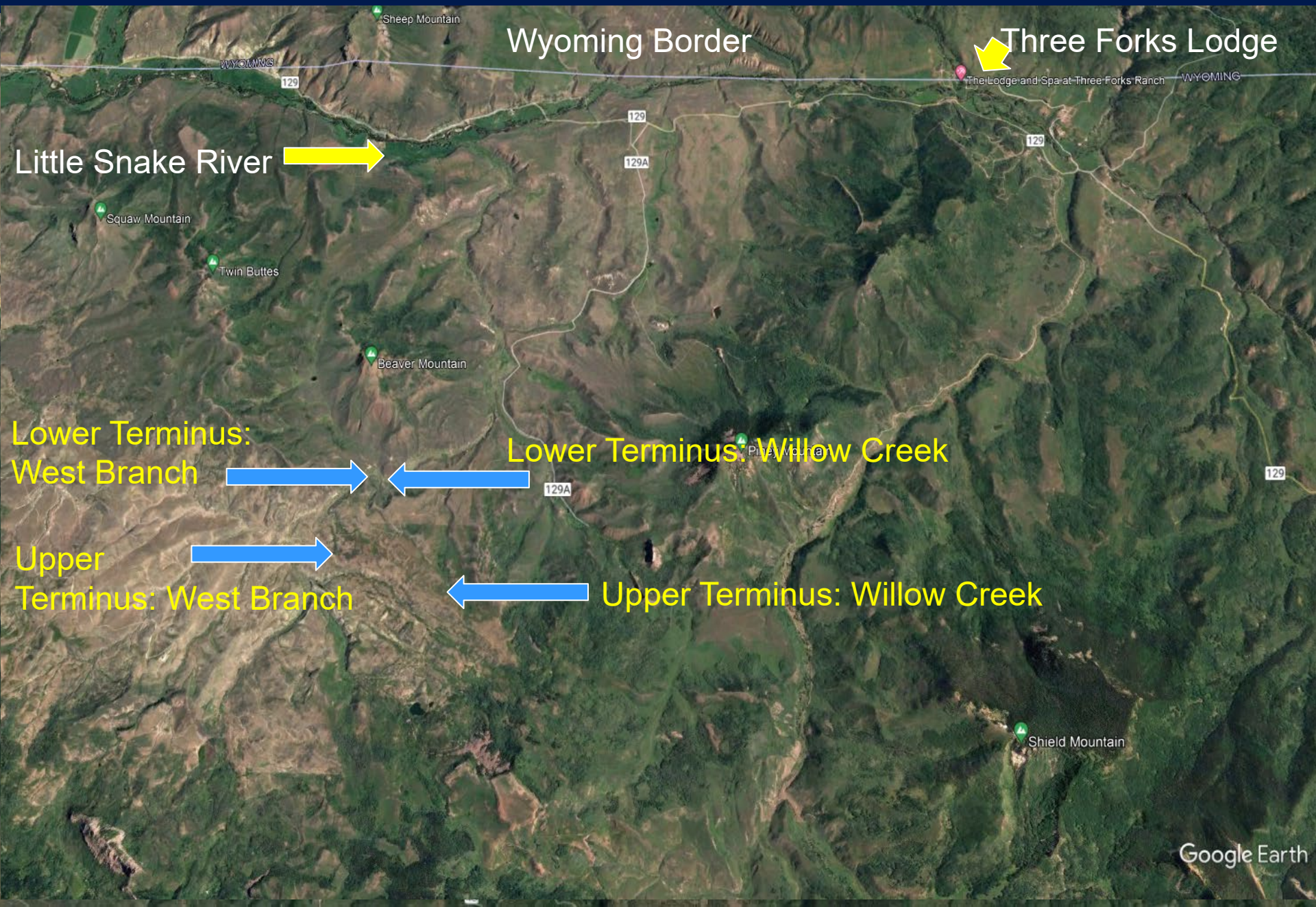
Stinking Gulch

Stakeholders:

- Moffat County
- Colowyo Coal Company (Tri-State)
- Land and water right owners along the creek.

Willow Creek &
West Branch Willow Creek

Willow Creek & West Branch - Location



Willow Creek & West Branch

Natural Environment:

- Fishery: speckled dace, mountain sucker, creek chub, fathead minnow.
- Riparian community: willow, alder, sedges, rushes.
- Macros: mayfly, caddisfly.

Willow Creek & West Branch

Preliminary ISF Rates:

Willow Creek:

1.05 cfs Apr 1 to Jun 30

0.7 cfs Jul 1 to Mar 31

West Branch Willow Creek

0.65 cfs Apr 1 to Jun 30

0.45 cfs Jul 1 to Mar 31

Willow Creek & West Branch

Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- No gage data available

Water Rights:

- Pine Scope Ditch 1 (5.0 cfs) and Pine Scope Ditch 2 (3.0) cfs are on Willow Creek.
- Lake Fork Ditch (4 cfs) is upstream from proposed reach on Willow Creek.

Willow Creek & West Branch

Stakeholders:

- Three Forks Ranch
- Routt County
- Private land and water right owners along the creek

Streams in Water Division 7

Burrows Creek

Burrows Creek Location

Burrows Creek

Natural Environment:

- Riparian: Willows, sedges, grasses.
- Fen complexes in the stream corridor.
- Macroinvertebrates tolerant of heavy metals from natural sources and acid mine drainage.

Burrows Creek

Proposed ISF Flow Rates: Data collection and modeling to be completed during 2024 field season.

Burrows Creek

Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- Low but reliable base flows
- Gage data is not available

Water Rights:

- BLM purchased Mineral Point Ditch, the only water right, and has rerouted the water back to the creek.

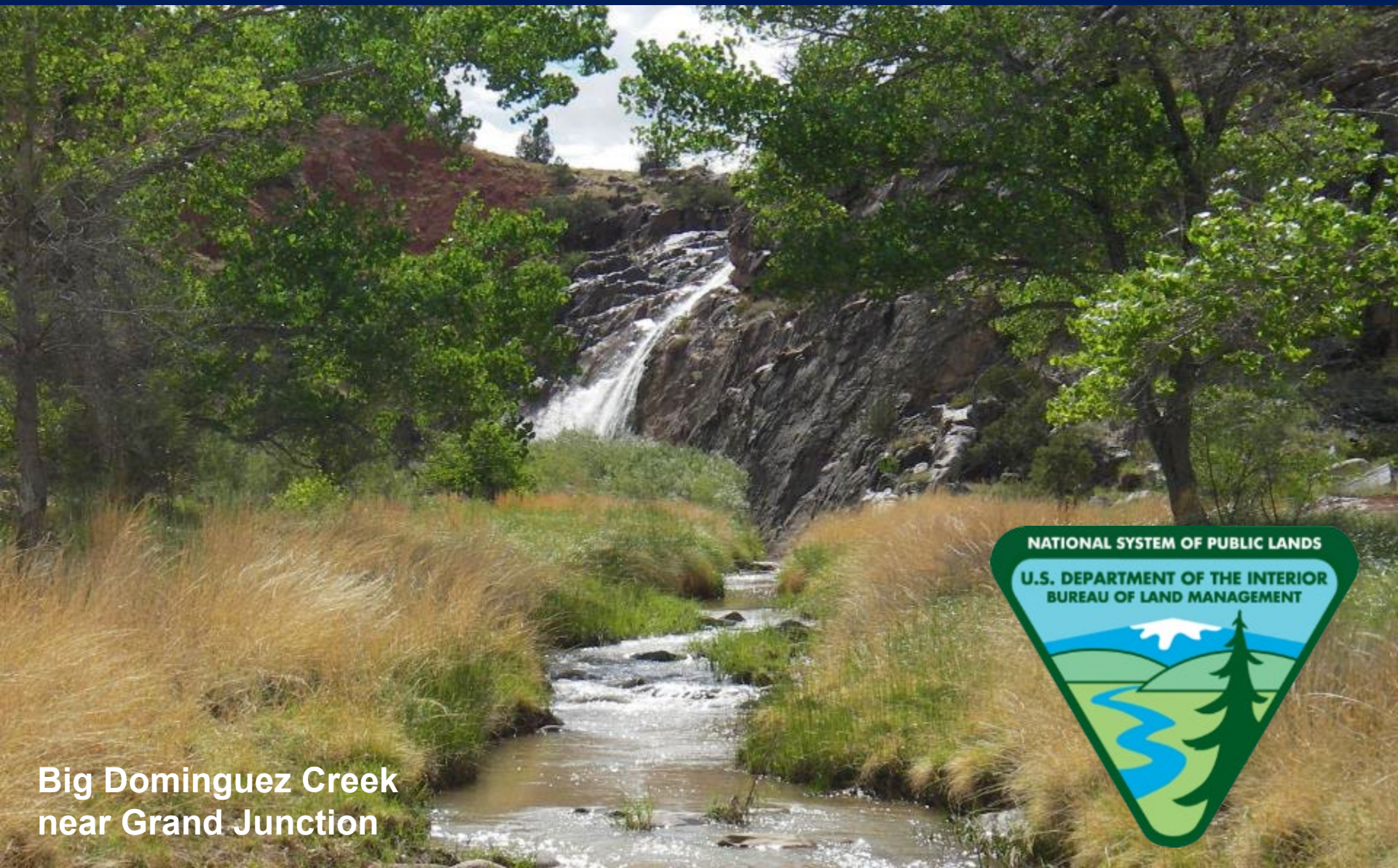
Burrows Creek

Stakeholders:

- Bonita Peak Citizen Advisory Group
- Mining claim owners
- Southwestern Water Conservation District
- San Juan County
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Questions for BLM?

Contact Roy Smith at r20smith@blm.gov or 303-239-3940



Big Dominguez Creek near Grand Junction