

**SUMMARY REPORT:  
THE 2007-2009 CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR  
THE SAN JUAN RIVER HEADWATERS PROJECT  
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

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# INTRODUCTION

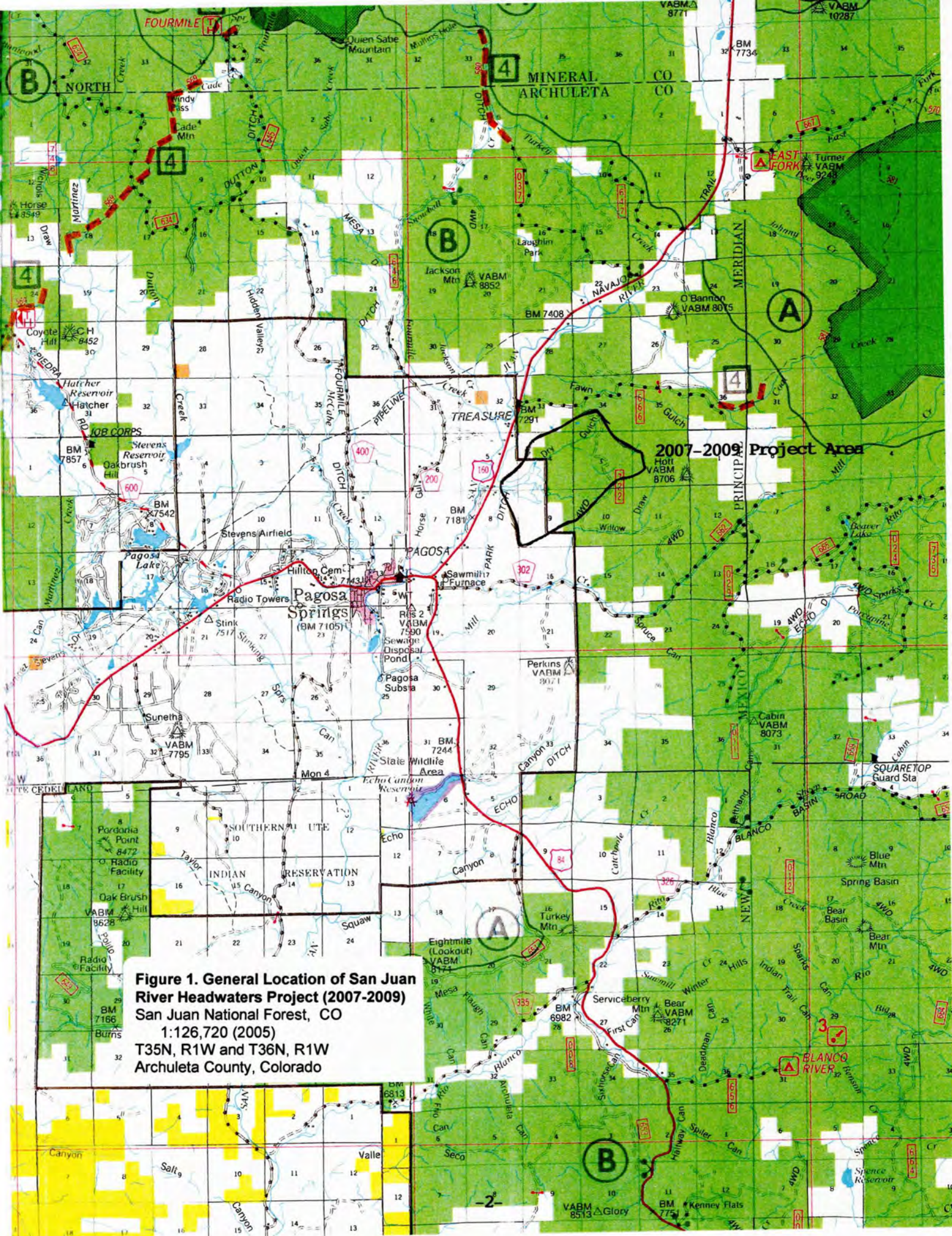
The cultural resources survey for the proposed San Juan River Headwaters Project was conducted by personnel of La Plata Archaeological Consultants between September 13, 2007 and July 10, 2009. The field work was conducted by Leslie Sesler, Greg Hovezak, and Steven Fuller of La Plata; Fuller has also served as Principal Investigator for the project. The survey was initiated in response to a planned 650-acre reservoir that would have inundated areas of fee lands while also extending upstream onto the San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Ranger District. The proposed dam and majority of the originally proposed reservoir pool was located on two fee parcels, then known as the Running Iron Ranch and the adjacent Laverty property. Approximately 769 acres were included in these fee parcels which were designated as Task 1 during the original cultural survey. The upper end of the originally proposed reservoir extended onto San Juan National Forest lands and about 488 acres were proposed for a land exchange and designated as Task 2 during the original cultural survey. Work was also planned, though not completed, on the upper watershed to the east of the proposed reservoir, also on San Juan National Forest lands. Task 3, the upper watershed, included about 918 acres that was tentatively to be subjected to a Special Use Permit requested for the project to protect the reservoir's water quality. Altogether, the 2007-2009 project area included approximately 2175 acres. The 2007-2009 cultural survey was requested by Mr. Dan Merriman of Harris Water Engineers, who was working on behalf of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

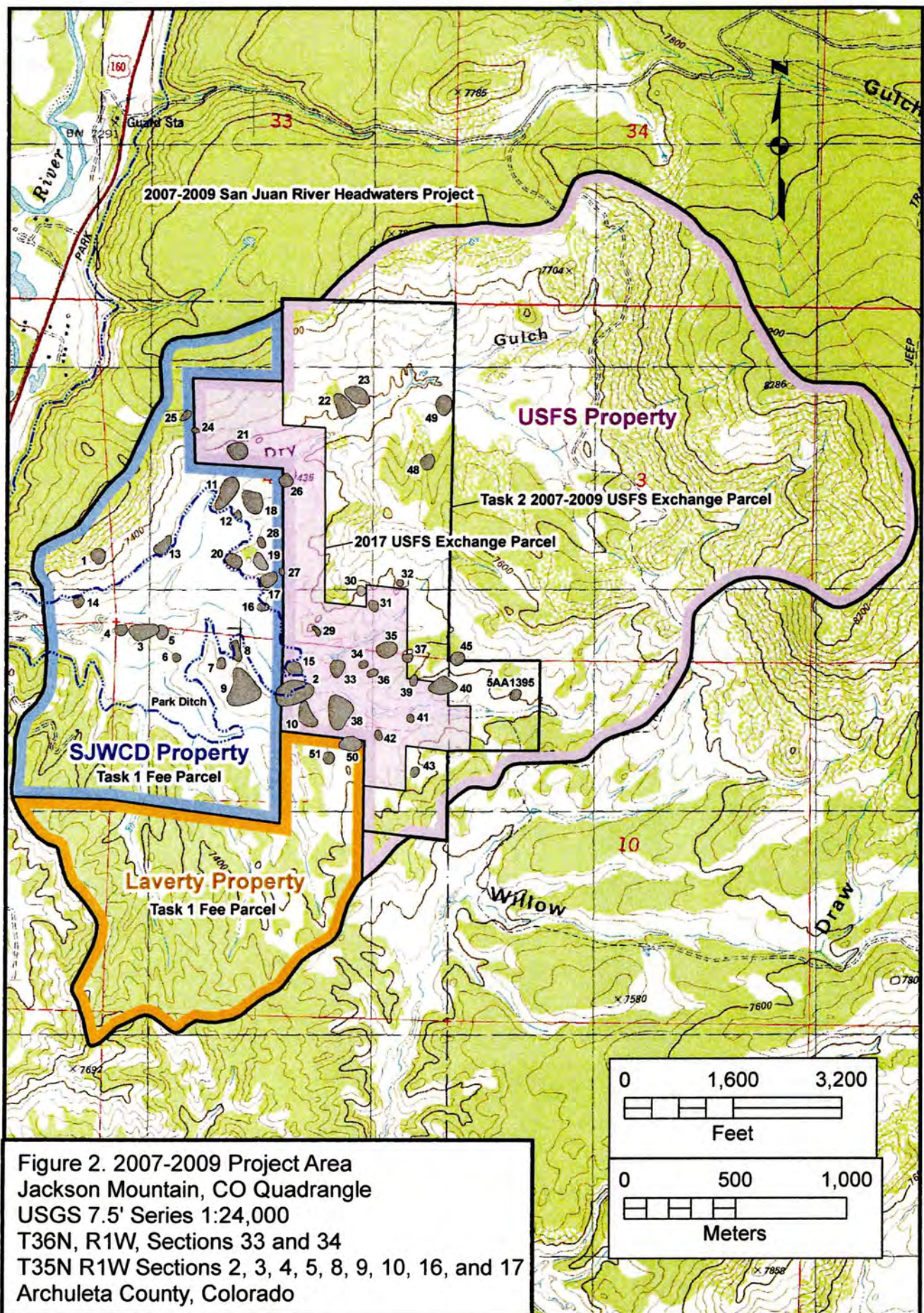
The proposed reservoir is located about two miles northeast of the town of Pagosa Springs and east of the San Juan River (Figure 1). The project is within Township 35 North, Range 1 West, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10, and Township 36 North, Range 1 West, Sections 33 and 34, Archuleta County, Colorado and can be found on the USGS Jackson Mountain, Colorado 7.5' 1984 quadrangle map (Figure 2). The project is centered on a small basin that is formed by Dry Gulch and its tributaries. The originally proposed reservoir was to have involved a dam located at a constriction where Dry Gulch enters the San Juan River valley, and would have inundated the basin of Dry Gulch and numerous unnamed tributary drainages. The maximum pool elevation for the reservoir was originally 7400 feet elevation in 2007-2009. The current flood pool elevation is 7355 feet.

## Project Background and History

La Plata Archaeological was first contacted by personnel of Harris Water Engineering in early 2007 to discuss project needs and possible strategies for proceeding. It was decided that conducting a file search of previously conducted cultural resource studies and then a brief reconnaissance in the Dry Creek Basin would provide information that could guide further, more intensive studies. That work was completed in September-October, 2007. In 2008 and 2009, La Plata proceeded, under a contract issued by the SJWCD/PAWSD boards, to conduct Class III cultural resource surveys in the three task areas which encompassed the overall project area. Fieldwork was nearing completion in June, 2009, when a shut-down order was issued, presumably due to issues related to the project's plan or status. Though much of the field studies had been completed at that point, there was no substantial progress on the reporting of the work to the Forest Service or other involved agencies. A time line of the project events is shown below:

*April 20, 2007:* Submitted a proposal to SJWCD/PAWSD for conducting a records search and reconnaissance survey of the project area. Submitted revised proposal April 23.





*May 8, 2007:* Boards approved our proposal

*Sept. 13, 2007:* Initiated contact with USFS concerning our plan to conduct a records search and reconnaissance. Contact was initiated with Kevin Khung (Pagosa District Ranger) because district archaeologist position was vacant at that time.

*Sept. 14-Oct. 4, 2007:* Conducted records search and reconnaissance.

*October 23, 2007:* Letter report describing results of reconnaissance submitted to Harris Water Engineering, San Juan Water Conservancy District, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, San Juan National Forest. Pagosa Ranger District, and Western Land Group.

*December 3, 2007:* Submitted cost proposal to Harris Water for Class III (intensive) survey of project area.

*Feb. 27, 2008:* PAWSD/SJWCD boards approved Class III proposal and the formation of a technical team (including us) organized by Harris Water to plan further project work

*July 29, 2008:* Technical Team meeting in Pagosa.

*November 3, 2008:* Started Class III survey of reservoir project area, including USFS and fee lands. Worked till November 27 when snowed out.

*December 23, 2008:* Submitted preliminary report on 2008 Class III work to Harris Water.

*April 3, 2009:* Returned to field on Class III survey, once area dried out in spring.

*June 4, 2009:* Received shut-down instructions from Harris Water.

*June 15, 2009:* Submitted invoice and brief summary of task completion status to Harris Water.

*July 7-10, 2009:* Returned to conduct Class III field work in Dry Gulch project area. Based on several email exchanges with Carrie Weiss of PAWSD, we were asked to return to the field to complete a portion of the Lavery property.

*July 13, 2009:* Submitted status report to PAWSD and Harris Water summarizing the cultural resource results of our 2008-2009 Class III survey. No further work was conducted between 2009 and 2017.

## **RESULTS OF THE 2007-2009 CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS**

The archaeological inventory of the Task 1 (fee land) and Task 2 (original 2007-2009 Forest Service exchange parcel) areas of the San Juan River headwaters Project resulted in the identification and documentation of 50 archaeological sites and 65 isolated finds. Work was also initiated in the Task 3 area (upper SJNF watershed) and four archaeological sites were observed there, but no recording was accomplished prior to project termination. The following discussions will only address the 50 sites recorded in the Task 1 and Task 2 areas. All but two of the 50

recorded cultural resources are newly documented sites. The 50 sites have 55 components (components represent separate occupations of the same site), with about half of these (n=26) being artifact scatters or artifact scatters with features of unknown cultural affiliation. Twenty-two components are associated with the Archaic period, including Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. Three of the sites have components dating to the late prehistoric period, one site is associated with the Anasazi Pueblo II or Pueblo III period, and one site is of Ute cultural affiliation. The four historic components include a possible early homestead, an associated trash dump, a trash scatter, and the Park Ditch, an historic irrigation ditch constructed in the early 1890s. Of the 50 sites, 4 are recommended as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and 27 sites are undetermined and need additional data before a National Register eligibility recommendation can be made. The remaining 19 sites are recommended as nonsignificant or non-contributing cultural resources that do not meet National Register eligibility criteria.

The site number, cultural affiliation, inferred date range, and site type are provided in Table 1. Table 1 also shows National Register eligibility recommendations, task area (land status), and the site elevation, locating the site either within or outside of the currently planned reservoir flood pool (7355 ft). The locations of the 50 recorded sites are shown on Figure 2. Also shown on Figure 2 are the three task areas defined for the project in 2007, including Task 1, the fee parcels; Task 2, the original SJNF exchange parcel; and Task 3, the SJNF upper watershed zone. Note that a portion of the Task 2 area is highlighted to show the boundary of the *current* 190 acre SJNF exchange parcel.

Table 1. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Archeological Site Data, Task 1 and Task 2 Areas (2007-2009 field surveys)

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Possible Date Range	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	Task Area <sup>2</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>3</sup>
Temp #1	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7440	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #2	Archaic Historic	1000 B.C. - A.D. 100 Late 1800s-early 1900s	Scatter with features, camp Habitation	7320	Task 1 /Task 2	E E
Temp #3	Archaic	1800 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter, camp	7280	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #4	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Scatter with feature, camp	7280	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #5	Archaic	3500 - 800 B.C.	Artifact scatter	7280	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #6	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 1	NE
Temp #7	Archaic Late Prehistoric	6000 B.C. A.D. 100 A.D. 100-1100	Artifact scatter Artifact scatter	7280	Task 1	Undetermined Undetermined
Temp #8	Archaic	1800 - 800 B.C.	Scatter with feature, camp	7280	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #9	Archaic Archaic	4000-1800 B.C. 1800 B.C. - A.D. 1	Artifact scatter, camp	7280	Task 1	Undetermined Undetermined
Temp #10	Unknown Historic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850 Late 1800s-early 1900s	Scatter with feature, camp Habitation	7320	Task 2	NE NE
Temp #11	Archaic	6000 - 2000 B.C.	Scatter with feature	7320	Task 1	E
Temp #12	Archaic	1800 - 800 B.C.	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 1	NE
Temp #13	Archaic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #14	Archaic	1800 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 1	NE

Table 1. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Archeological Site Data, Task 1 and Task 2 Areas (2007-2009 field surveys)

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Possible Date Range	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	Task Area <sup>2</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>3</sup>
Temp #15	Unknown Historic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850 late 1800s-early 1900s	Scatter with feature Trash scatter	7320	Task 2	NE NE
Temp #16	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 1	NE
Temp #17	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #18	Archaic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Scatter with features, camp	7340	Task 1	E
Temp #19	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #20	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #21	Archaic	4400 - 2700 B.C.	Artifact scatter, camp	7360	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #22	Archaic	1800 B.C. - A.D. 1	Scatter with feature	7420	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #23	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7420	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #24	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7480	Task 1 /Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #25	Late prehistoric	A.D. 100 - 1000	Artifact scatter	7500	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #26	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7430	Task 1 /Task 2	NE
Temp #27	Archaic	1000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter, camp	7360	Task 1 /Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #28	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Task 1	Undetermined
Temp #29	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7360	Task 2	NE
Temp #30	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7400	Task 2	NE
Temp #31	Archaic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter	7380	Task 2	NE
Temp #32	Archaic	6000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Scatter with feature	7400	Task 2	NE
Temp #33	Archaic	1800 B.C. - A.D. 1	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #34	Archaic	4400 - 2700 B.C.	Artifact scatter	7360	Task 2	NE
Temp #35	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7360	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #36	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 2	NE
Temp #37	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter, camp	7380	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #38	Archaic	4400 - 2700 B.C. 1800 B.C. - A.D. 1	Scatter with feature, camp	7340	Task 2	E
Temp #39	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7400	Task 2	NE
Temp #40	Pueblo II-III	A.D. 900 - 1300	Artifact scatter	7360	Task 2	NE
Temp #41	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Scatter with feature	7340	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #42	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7320	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #43	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7380	Task 2	Undetermined
Temp #45	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7420	Task 2	NE
Temp #48	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7480	Task 2	NE
Temp #49	Archaic	1000 B.C. - A.D. 100	Artifact scatter, camp	7440	Task 2	Undetermined

Table 1. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Archeological Site Data, Task 1 and Task 2 Areas (2007-2009 field surveys)

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Possible Date Range	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	Task Area <sup>2</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>3</sup>
Temp #50	Late prehistoric	A.D. 100 - 1100	Artifact scatter	7360	Task1 /Task 2	NE
Temp #51	Unknown	6000 B.C. - A.D. 1850	Artifact scatter	7360	Task 1	NE
5AA1395	Ute	A.D. 1300 - 1850	Artifact scatter	7420	Task 2	Undetermined
Park Ditch 5AA3419	Historic	A.D. 1895-present	Linear feature, irrigation ditch	7290- 7320	Task1 /Task 2	Undetermined

**Notes:**

- 1) Maximum flood elevation of current reservoir is 7355 ft. All sites at elevation of 7370 ft or less could possibly be impacted by current plans. Other sites above flood pool *may* also be impacted by ancillary use areas.
- 2) Task 1 area indicates fee ownership; Task 2 area indicates SJNF ownership. Task 1/Task 2 sites *appear* to straddle property boundary
- 3) E = National Register Eligible; NE = Not eligible; Undetermined = needs further data to make recommendation

A sampling strategy for the cultural resource survey was devised prior to the 2007-2009 fieldwork that maximized the efficiency of the survey while still being likely to identify all visible cultural properties. In short, the irrigated wet meadows below the Park Ditch within the Running Iron Ranch, terrain exceeding 30 percent slopes, and areas covered with dense scrub oak vegetation were eliminated from intensive survey, as cultural resources were not likely to be present or to be visible in these areas. Open grassland, scrubland, and open pine forest received Class III 100 percent cultural resources survey via pedestrian transects spaced at approximate 15-m intervals. Other areas with greater than 30% slopes, denser montane vegetation, or poor surface visibility, such as pine forests with needle- and duff-covered ground, received a less intensive survey, with pedestrian transects spaced at approximate 30 to 50 m intervals. Estimates for the survey acreage are approximately 66 percent of the Task 1 and Task 2 project areas being intensively surveyed (930 acres) and approximately 34 percent receiving less intensive survey (427 acres) via more widely spaced transects. The Task 3 area *would have* been sampled at a lower intensity due to steep slopes and heavy oak brush vegetation. A summary of the work and results is presented below for individual task areas, also including the current SJNF exchange area.

## Cultural Resources in the Task 1 Area (Fee Parcels)

A total of 20 archaeological sites were encountered and recorded which are wholly within the Task 1 (Fee Parcels) survey area. Another six sites appear to straddle the boundary between fee land and San Juan National Forest land and those sites are included with the following section summarizing the Task 2 survey area. As summarized on Table 1, the 20 sites include 22 separate temporal components which were assigned in the field to four general cultural-temporal affiliations, including Unknown, Archaic Period, Late Prehistoric, and Historic Period. Nine of the sites are Unknown, eleven are assigned to Archaic Period (based mostly on associated projectile point styles), two sites appear to date to the Late Prehistoric period, and no historic site components were encountered wholly on fee lands.

The site types assigned to the 22 site components (Table 1) include artifact scatters and artifact scatters with cultural features implying that the site may represent longer-term use such as

a camp. Of the 22 components, 15 represent artifact scatters and 7 are scatters with features (camps).

Each site was evaluated in the field with regard to their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic places, using established criteria defined by law and regulation. It should be noted that these are recommendations of National Register eligibility; the actual determination is made through consultation between the involved Federal agency and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. Sites are assigned to three categories of eligibility: Eligible, Not Eligible, and Undetermined. The latter implies that further data are required before a recommendation can be made and those sites may end up being considered either eligible or not eligible. Of the 20 sites encountered and recorded in the Task 1 area, 2 are recommended as eligible; 5 are recommended as not eligible, and the remaining 13 are recommended as undetermined. Figure 3 shows the location of the 20 sites located in the Task 1 area, color coded by National Register eligibility.

**Management Implications for Project Planning:** Federal actions require consideration of the effects on sites eligible for National Register nomination or *potentially* eligible for National Register nomination. Mitigation of adverse effects to such sites may include physical avoidance or protection as well as collection of relevant data representative of the site's use and history, otherwise known as data recovery. Of the 20 sites within the Task 1 area, 19 are located at an elevation below the maximum flood pool (plus an arbitrary buffer of 15 vertical feet, thus 7370 ft). Of those 19 sites, 2 are recommended as National Register eligible, 5 are recommended as not eligible, and 11 are undetermined. Table 2 summarizes management issues expected for these 20 sites. The two sites recommended as National Register eligible may require some form of data recovery as a form of impact mitigation. The 11 undetermined sites may require limited additional data, through test excavations, just to reach a determine of National Register eligibility.

Table 2. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Management Issues: Task 1 Archeological Sites

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>2</sup>	Management Issues <sup>3</sup>
Temp #1	Unknown	Artifact scatter, camp	7440	Undetermined	Site is 95 ft above max flood pool. No impacts expected.
Temp #3	Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	7280	Undetermined	Site has large surface area with four defined artifact concentrations and large surface artifact assemblage. Needs comprehensive testing, probably shovel tests or 1- by 1-m test units, to determine if buried cultural deposits are present, and if further research potential exists.
Temp #4	Unknown	Scatter with feature, camp	7280	Undetermined	Site has moderate surface area, moderate number of surface artifacts, and possible thermal feature. Needs trowel testing of the possible feature and comprehensive testing, probably shovel tests or 1- by 1-m test units, to determine if buried cultural deposits are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #5	Archaic	Artifact scatter	7280	Undetermined	Site has moderate surface area with one artifact concentration and moderate number of artifacts. Needs comprehensive testing, probably involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m test units, to determine if buried cultural deposits are present and if further research potential exists.

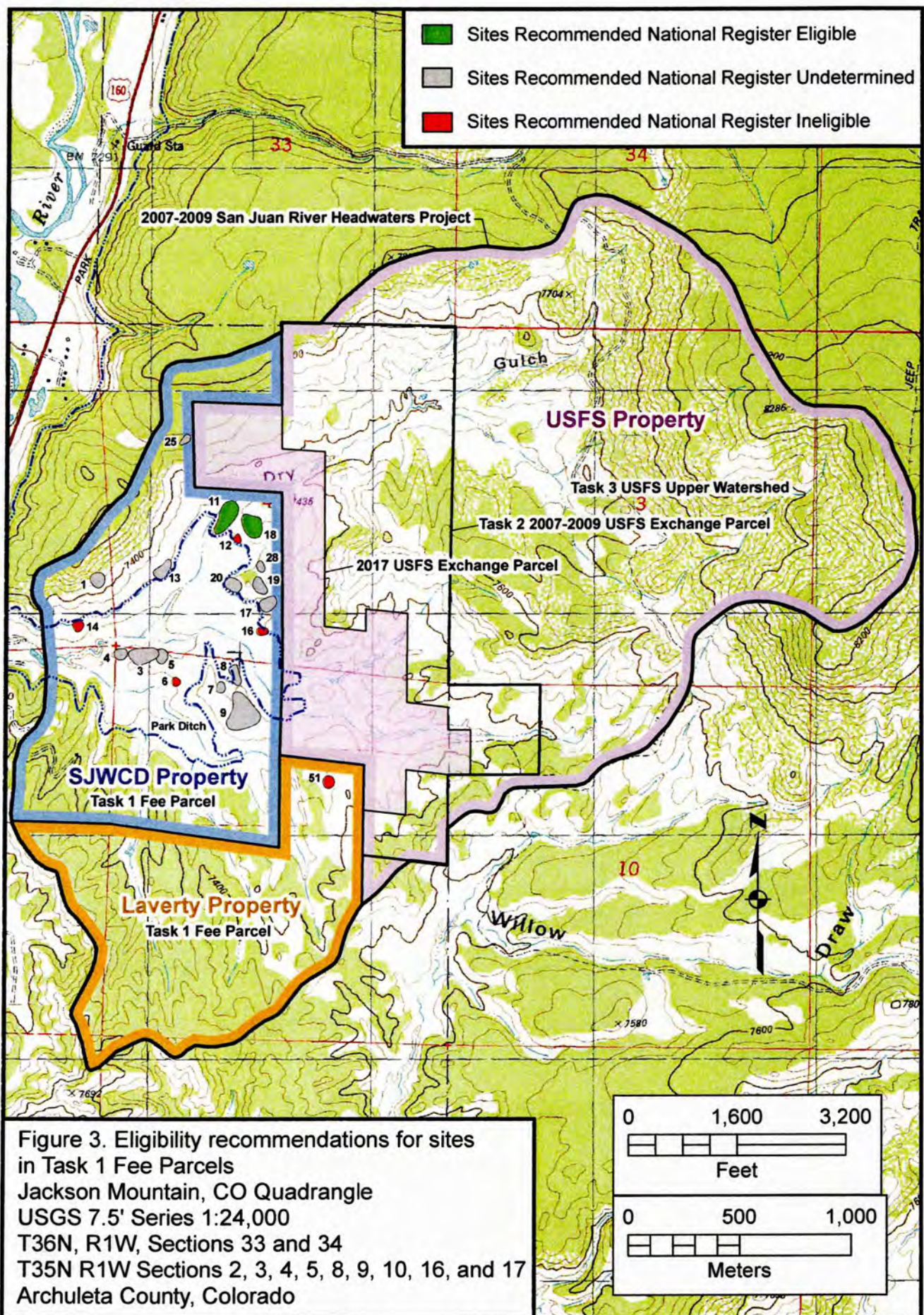


Table 2. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Management Issues: Task 1  
Archeological Sites

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>2</sup>	Management Issues <sup>3</sup>
Temp #6	Unknown	Artifact scatter	7320	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #7	Archaic Late Prehistoric	Artifact scatter Artifact scatter	7280	Undetermined Undetermined	Site has small surface area and moderate number of artifacts. Limited testing on ridge top, either auger testing or shovel tests are needed to determine sediment depth and if buried cultural remains are present.
Temp #8	Archaic	Scatter with feature, camp	7280	Undetermined	Site has moderate surface area, possible slab features, and large number of surface artifacts. Testing of features is needed to determine if upright slabs are cultural or natural. Auger testing or shovel testing may suffice, as sediments appear shallow in most areas.
Temp #9	Archaic Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	7280	Undetermined Undetermined	The site has very large surface area and large artifact assemblage numbering over 300 items, with 5 defined concentrations probably representing discrete use episodes. Needs comprehensive testing, probably combination of shovel tests and 1- by 1-m test units, to determine if buried cultural deposits are present, and if further research potential exists.
Temp #11	Archaic	Scatter with feature	7320	E	The site appears to represent a camp that is likely the product of several different episodes of use and has moderate potential to yield additional information through data recovery (mitigation) efforts.
Temp #12	Archaic	Artifact scatter	7320	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #13	Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Undetermined	Site has moderate surface area with one artifact concentration and moderate-sized artifact assemblage. Needs testing on ridge tops and within intervening alluvial fan, probably involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m test units, to determine if buried cultural deposits are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #14	Archaic	Artifact scatter	7320	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #16	Unknown	Artifact scatter	7320	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #17	Unknown	Artifact scatter	7320	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and artifact assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed on ridge top and alluvial fans to determine if buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #18	Archaic	Scatter with features, camp	7340	E	The site appears to represent a camp that is likely the product of several different episodes of use and has moderate potential to yield additional information through data recovery (mitigation) efforts.
Temp #19	Unknown	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and artifact assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed on ridge top to determine if buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #20	Unknown	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and artifact assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed on ridge top and north slope to determine if buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.

Table 2. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey Management Issues: Task 1  
Archeological Sites

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type/Function	Elev. (ft) <sup>1</sup>	NR Eligibility <sup>2</sup>	Management Issues <sup>3</sup>
Temp #25	Late prehistoric	Artifact scatter	7500	Undetermined	The site's assemblage is small and appears to be focused on lithic reduction and biface manufacture, possibly with evidence of retooling. The bench on which the site is situated has some evidence for residual sediments of moderate depth, with the potential for buried cultural deposits to exist. Shovel and auger testing is necessary to ensure that cultural deposits or features are not buried by residual sediments before a recommendation of National Register eligibility can be made.
Temp #28	Unknown	Artifact scatter, camp	7320	Undetermined	Site has small surface area and low number of artifacts. Limited testing, either auger testing or shovel tests, is needed to determine sediment depth and if buried cultural remains are present.
Temp #51	Unknown	Artifact scatter	7360	NE	No further protection recommended

**Notes:**

- 1) Maximum flood elevation of current reservoir is 7355 ft. All sites at elevation of 7370 ft or less possibly to be impacted by current plans. Other sites above flood pool *may* also be impacted by ancillary use areas
- 2) E = National Register Eligible; NE = Not Eligible; Undetermined = needs further data to make recommendation
- 3) These assume Federal Agency/SHPO concurrence with National Register recommendations

## Cultural Resources in the Task 2 Area (SJNF Land Exchange)

The original land exchange envisioned in 2007-2009 covered an area of about 488 acres (see Figure 1). The current exchange proposal is a subdivision of that original parcel and covers 190 acres. All of the original Task 2 area (original exchange parcel) will be discussed followed by a focus on the current SJNF exchange area.

A total of 30 archaeological sites were encountered and recorded which are wholly or partially within the Task 2 (original SJNF exchange area) survey area. Six of these sites appear to straddle the boundary between fee land and San Juan National Forest land with the remaining 24 sites wholly on SJNF lands. As summarized on Table 1, the 30 sites include 33 separate temporal components which were assigned in the field to four general cultural-temporal affiliations, including Unknown, Archaic Period, Late Prehistoric, and Historic Period. Seventeen of the sites are Unknown, 11 are assigned to Archaic Period (based mostly on associated projectile point styles), 1 site appears to date to the Late Prehistoric period, and 4 historic site components were encountered in this task area.

The site types assigned to the 33 site components (Table 1) include artifact scatters, artifact scatters with cultural features (implying that the site may represent longer-term use such as a camp), and various historic site types include habitations, a trash dump, and an irrigation ditch. Of the 33 components, 24 are artifact scatters, 5 are scatters with features (camps), 2 are historic habitations, 1 is an historic trash dump, and 1 is an in-use historic irrigation ditch.

Each site was evaluated in the field with regard to their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic places, using established criteria defined by law and regulation, as described earlier for the Task 1 sites. Of the 30 sites encountered and recorded wholly or partially

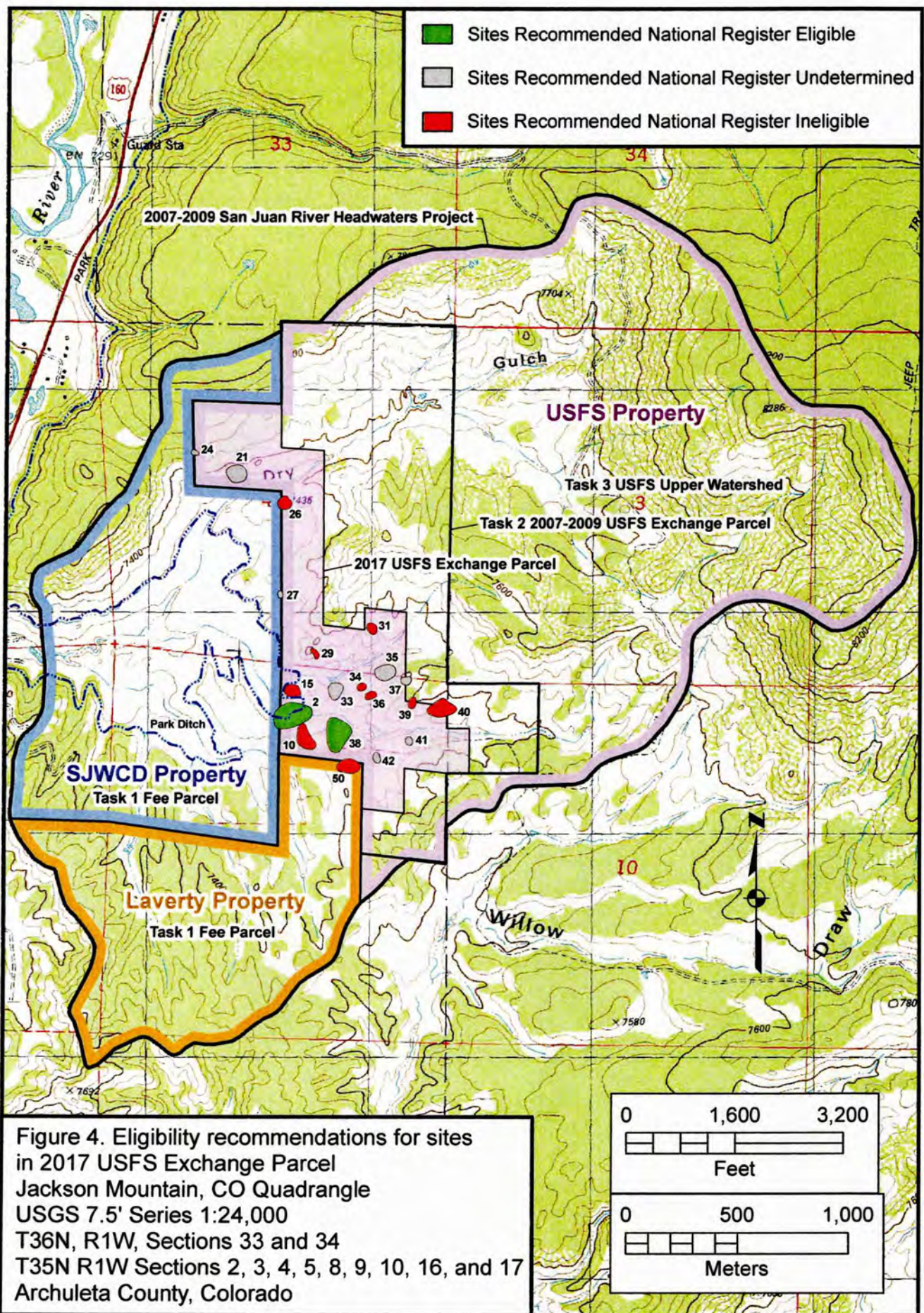
in the Task 2 area, 2 are recommended as eligible; 14 are recommended as not eligible; and the remaining 14 are recommended as undetermined.

**Management Implications for Project Planning: Focus on Current SJNF Exchange Area.** As shown on Figures 2 and 4, the reduction in size of the proposed SJNF exchange area leaves 21 sites within the current 190 acre exchange area with 9 sites no longer included in the exchange area. Those nine sites should not be of any concern going forward with this project.

Of the 21 sites that remain wholly or partially in the proposed exchange area, 2 are recommended as National Register eligible, 10 are recommended as not eligible, and 9 are of undetermined eligibility. As all 11 eligible or potentially eligible sites would lose Federal protection should the exchange proceed, they would all be considered to be adversely impacted by that action. Figure 4 shows the location of the 21 sites located in the current exchange area, color coded by National Register eligibility. Table 2 summarizes management issues expected for these 21 sites.

Table 3. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey  
Management Issues: Current SJNF Exchange Area

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type/Function	NR Eligibility <sup>1</sup>	Management Issues <sup>2</sup>
Temp #2	Archaic Historic	Scatter with features, camp Habitation	E E	The site is a lithic scatter with two possible thermal features of probable Archaic cultural affiliation, along with the remains of a historic habitation that dates to the late 1800s. The prehistoric component of the site appears to represent a short-term camp dating to the late Archaic period. It is likely that additional cultural deposits could be present on the ridge, and the two thermal features identified from surface remains may also contain cultural fill. Both components of the site have moderate potential to yield additional information through data recovery (mitigation) efforts.
Temp #10	Unknown Historic	Scatter with feature, camp Habitation	NE NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #15	Unknown Historic	Scatter with feature Trash scatter	NE NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #21	Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and artifact assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed along top of slope to determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #24	Unknown	Artifact scatter	Undetermined	The site's assemblage and size is small. The bench on which the site is situated has some evidence for residual sediments of moderate depth; several artifacts were found on the backdirt piles of animal burrows, suggesting that these items were brought to the surface by bioturbation, and that buried cultural deposits could be present. Also, ground visibility is poor and additional cultural remains could be obscured by vegetation and tree duff. Auger and/or shovel testing is necessary to ensure that cultural deposits or features are not buried by residual sediments on the bench before a recommendation of National Register eligibility can be made.
Temp #26	Unknown	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended



**Table 3. San Juan River Headwaters Project Cultural Resources Survey  
Management Issues: Current SJNF Exchange Area**

Site No.	Cultural Affiliation	Site Type/Function	NR Eligibility <sup>1</sup>	Management Issues <sup>2</sup>
Temp #27	Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	Undetermined	Site has small surface area and moderate to large-sized surface assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed on ridge slope and alluvial fan at base of slope, determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #29	Unknown	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #31	Archaic	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #33	Archaic	Artifact scatter, camp	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and moderate-to-large artifact assemblage. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed on ridge saddle and south slope to determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #34	Archaic	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #35	Unknown	Artifact scatter	Undetermined	Moderate-sized surface area and small artifact assemblage. Much of area is obscured by vegetation. Testing, involving shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed to determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #36	Unknown	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #37	Unknown	Artifact scatter, camp	Undetermined	Small-sized surface area and small artifact assemblage. Much of ridge slope is obscured by vegetation. Testing, involving auger or shovel tests, is needed to determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #38	Archaic	Scatter with feature, camp	E	The site appears to represent a short-term camp, possibly having several episodes of use dating to both the Early/Middle and Late Archaic periods, based on the projectile points styles present and the large site area with multiple concentrations. It is likely that additional cultural deposits are present beneath or within the residual and alluvial sediments on the ridge. The site has moderate potential to yield additional information through data recovery (mitigation) efforts.
Temp #39	Unknown	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #40	Pueblo II-III	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Temp #41	Unknown	Scatter with feature	Undetermined	Small-sized surface area, small artifact assemblage, and one possible thermal feature. Testing within and immediately around feature, involving trowel or shovel tests or 1- by 1-m units, is needed to determine if cultural fill or a pit feature is present.
Temp #42	Unknown	Artifact scatter	Undetermined	Small-sized surface area and small artifact assemblage. Testing, involving auger or shovel tests, is needed to determine sediment depth, whether buried cultural remains are present and if further research potential exists.
Temp #50	Late prehistoric	Artifact scatter	NE	No further protection recommended
Park Ditch 5AA3419	Historic	Linear feature, irrigation ditch	Undetermined	Archival research and further examination of ditch-associated features would be necessary to determine if this segment of ditch could contribute to the overall ditch's eligibility.

**Notes:**

1) E = National Register Eligible; NE = Not eligible; Undetermined = needs further data to make recommendation

2) These assume Federal Agency/SHPO concurrence with National Register recommendations

## SUMMARY

Between 2007 and 2009, La Plata Archaeological Consultants conducted cultural resource surveys for the San Juan River Headwaters Project. Class III cultural resource surveys were to be conducted in three task areas defined as: Task 1 (Fee Parcels); Task 2 (SJNF Exchange area); and Task 3 (Upper SJNF Watershed). Requested field studies were completed in the Task 1 and Task 2 areas but work was halted just after work was initiated in the Task 3 area. A total of 1257 acres was examined in the Task 1 and Task 2 areas, resulting in the recording of 48 new archaeological sites and 2 previously recorded sites. At least four sites are known to exist in the Task 3 area but those were not recorded, mapped, or plotted.

The fifty sites include mostly lithic artifact scatters of either unknown cultural-temporal affiliation or associated with the Archaic period use of the area. A few historic and late prehistoric period sites were also encountered. Although the sites are small and mostly ephemeral, a few appear to meet the criteria for National Register eligibility and many show the *potential* to meet such criteria. We have identified management issues that may need to be considered during project planning for those latter two classes of sites (Tables 2 and 3).

One issue that needs to be emphasized is that the work conducted in 2007-2009 was intended to meet the standards in place at that time for conducting cultural resource surveys on SJNF lands. Standards, policies, and procedures have evolved over the intervening 10 years and it is likely that the work summarized in this report will fail to *fully* comply with 2017 Forest Service Regional Office or Colorado State Historic Preservation Office expectations and requirements.

### Future Considerations

As noted previously, this work was conducted starting ten years ago and was subsequently suspended at the direction of the SJWCD Board prior to completion of the originally contracted tasks. There has been no communication between La Plata Archaeological Consultants and the San Juan National Forest concerning this project since the work was suspended in 2009. There have been personnel changes at the Forest and at least one major procedural change that has been implemented since then. The latter is the issuance of a new "Operating Plan" manual which specifically guides cultural resource survey work to be conducted on Forest lands in Region 2. Having reviewed the plan, originally distributed in 2012, it is clear that some requirements are new and were not addressed during the 2007-2009 work conducted for the San Juan River Headwaters Project.

Once the Forest Service has determined the exchange proposal from SJWCD as worthy of processing, the first step necessary for complying with cultural resource requirements should be to consult directly with the Pagosa Ranger District Heritage Program Manager to determine what, exactly, they will require going forward. It is likely that they will refer to the 2012 Operating Plan manual, unless it has been superceded by later guidance. If so, then further field studies would be necessary at that point to collect the data needed to prepare and submit an acceptable cultural resource survey report, meeting USFS Region 2 guidelines, as well as Colorado SHPO guidelines. Only once those additional requirements are clarified and the additional data are collected can such a survey report be submitted for review.

Upon approval of a cultural resource survey report for the project, there are a variety of additional phases of work that *may* be required in accordance with Federal laws and regulations.

Based on the 2007-2009 preliminary work, we can assume that some historic properties that are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will be adversely affected by the project proposal. The Forest Service and Colorado SHPO will *likely* require that such adverse effects to those properties (or cultural resources) be mitigated through data recovery (further subsurface testing and/or full excavation). The various tasks associated with data recovery would first include preparation of a data recovery plan that would need to be reviewed by the Forest Service, Colorado SHPO, and interested Native American groups. Upon approval of the plan, implementation of the data recovery plan could commence, followed by preparation of a detailed report on the data recovery results.