

YAMPA RIVER GUIDE: CRAIG TO JUNIPER CANYON

START

CRAIG, COLORADO

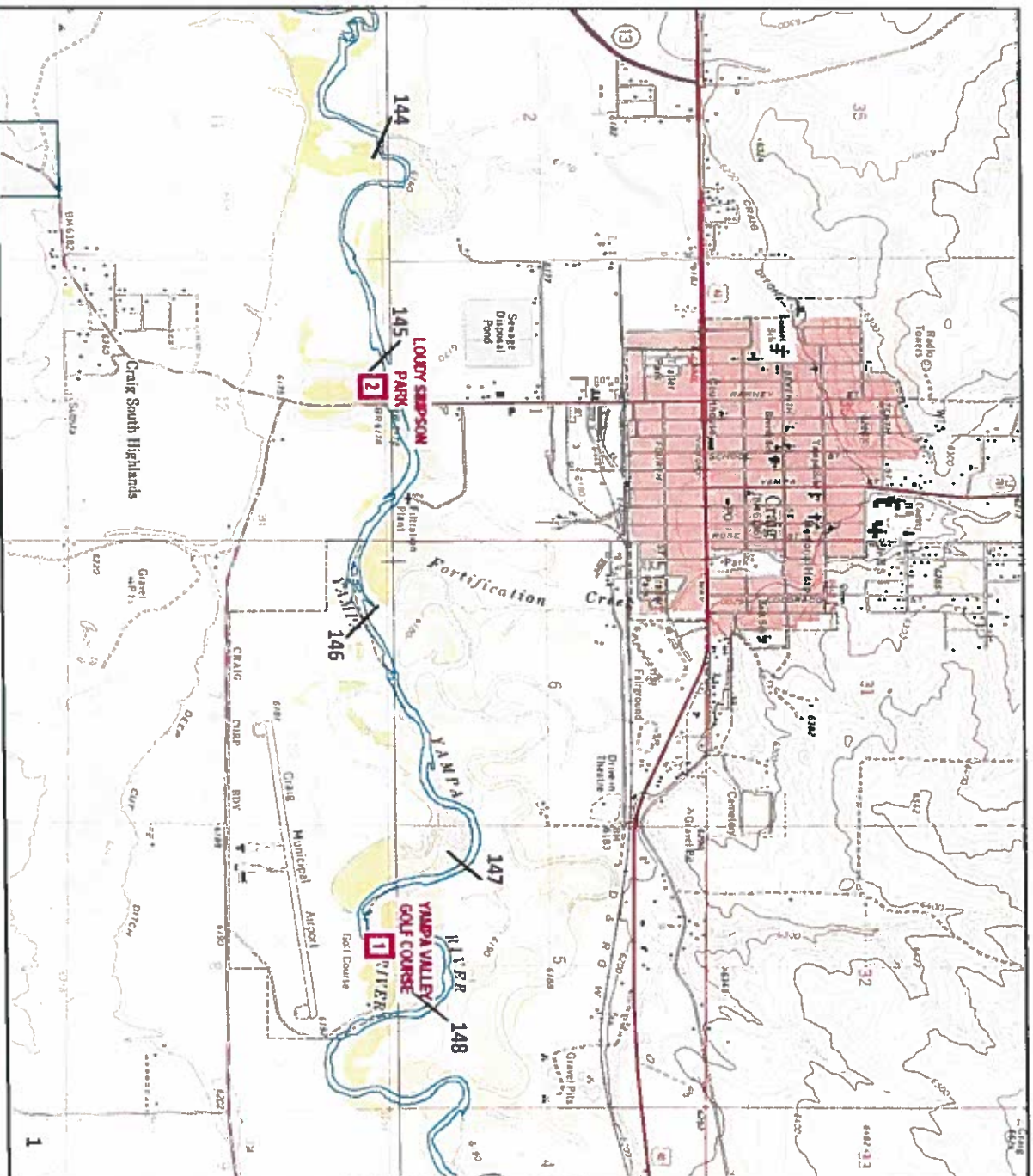
The town of Craig was founded by William H. Tucker and named for one of the town's financial backers, Rev. William Bayard Craig in 1889.

Craig is located in Moffat County, which was known as Routt County until 1911. The county was named for David H. Moffat, a Colorado tycoon who died in 1911.

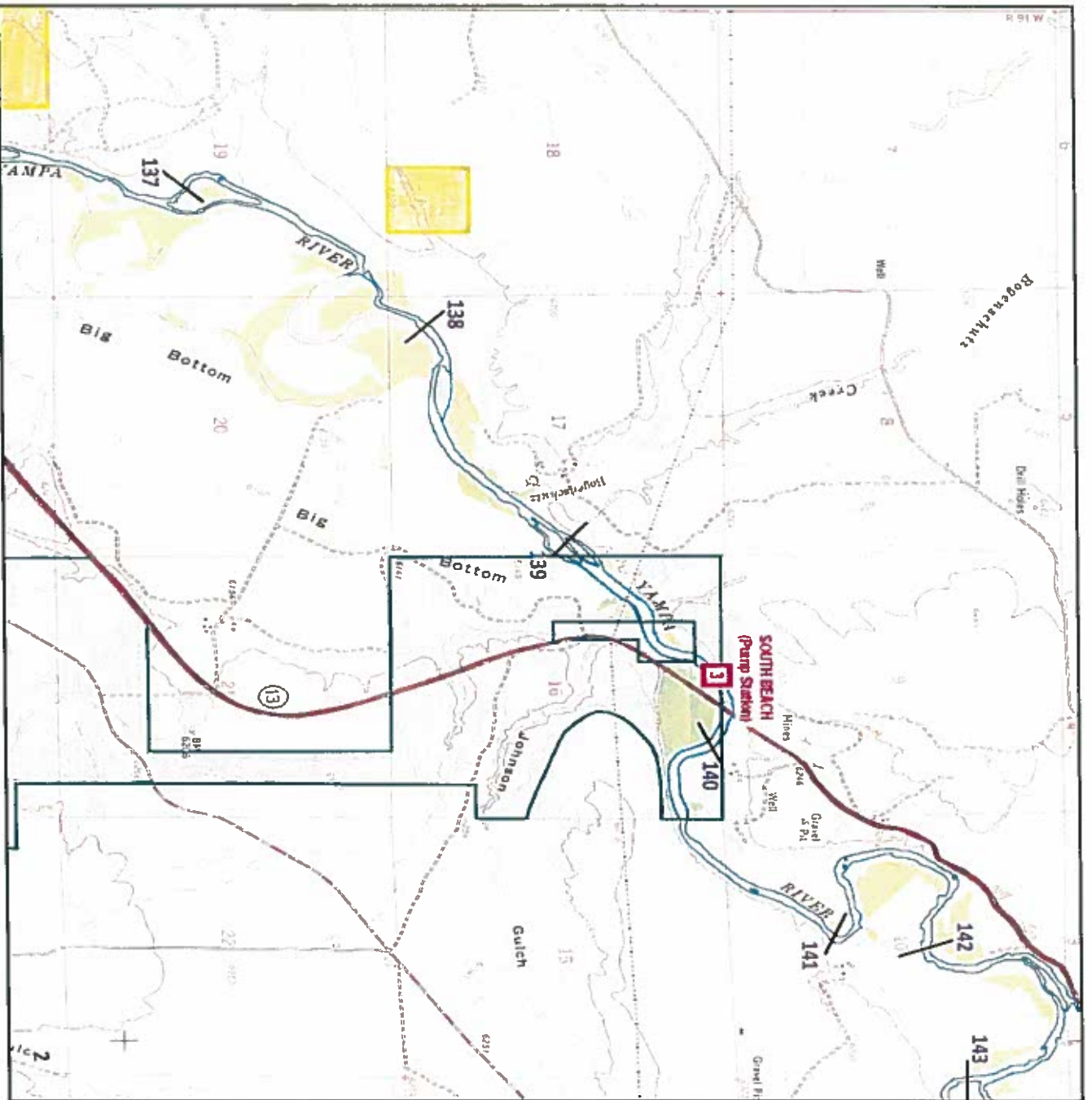
The Federal definition of a "frontier" is 6 people per square mile - in Moffat County, there are 2.56 people per square mile!

YAMPA VALLEY GOLF COURSE

The Yampa Valley Golf Course is the oldest 18-hole facility in the Yampa Valley. The course first opened in 1968 and was originally a nine-hole course. As the town of Craig grew, volunteers from the Colowyo coal mine brought in the same heavy equipment used in their strip mine operation to carve out the back nine in 1986.



Craig, Colorado was the former stomping grounds of the infamous Wild Bunch outlaws.



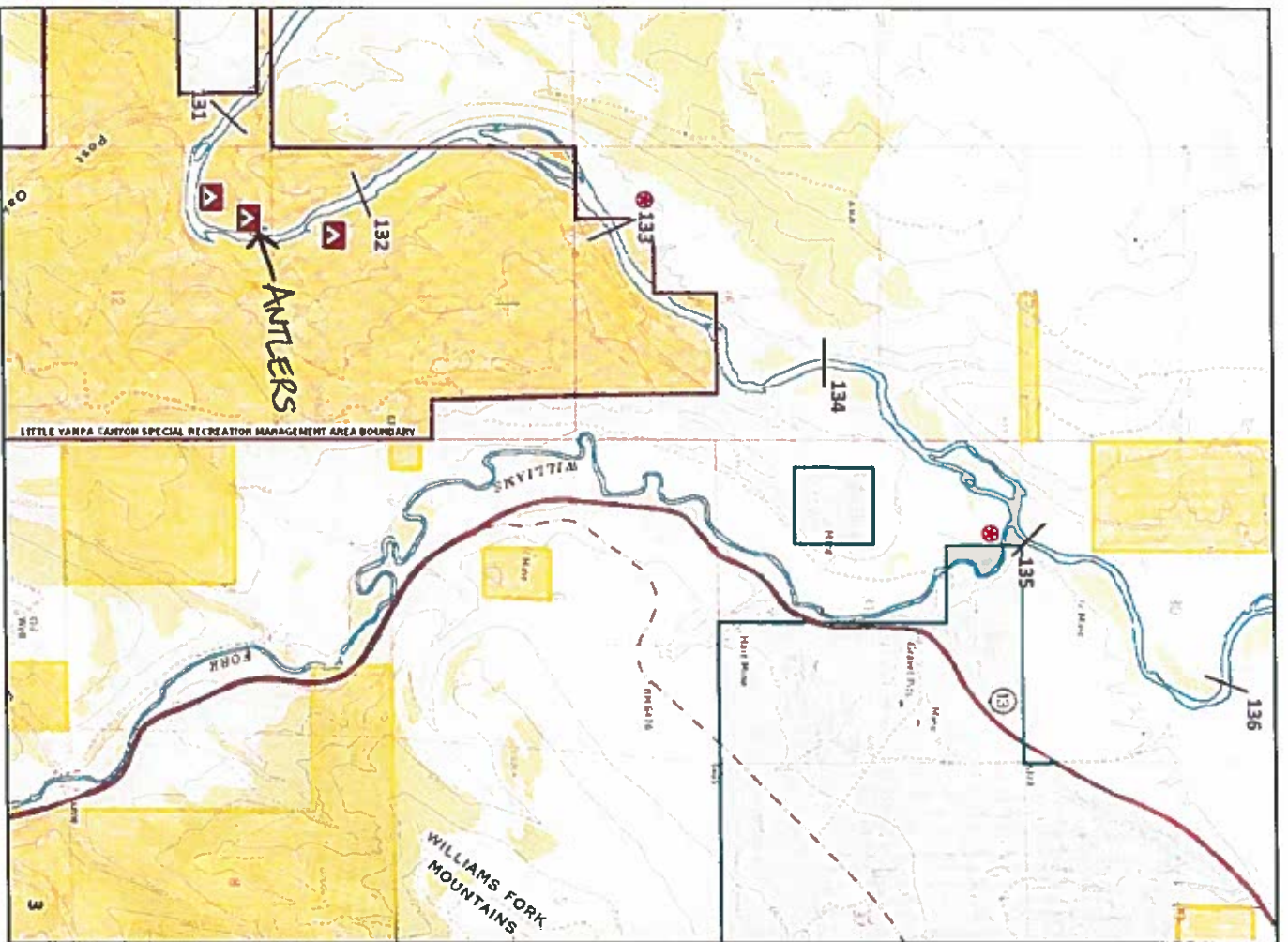
TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION

The large power station to the east is located here because of its proximity to the numerous coal mines in the area. The Craig station burns about 5 million tons of coal annually to generate electricity throughout the west. The station produces enough electricity to meet the power requirements of more than 1.25 million residential customers.

The Craig station receives their coal from the Trapper Mine. The Trapper Mine's award-winning reclamation has helped reestablish the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

DID YOU KNOW?

- About 50% of the electricity produced in the U.S. is generated by the burning of coal.
- Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in the U.S. and the world.
- The U.S. has about 1/4 of the earth's known coal reserves.
- A typical mine requires an initial investment of over \$800 million.



❖ WILLIAMS FORK RIVER

In 1825 Albert Boone and William Sherley Williams (old Bill Williams), trapped the Williams Fork River and Bear River (the Yampa River was known as the Bear River in the late 1800s).

Old Bill was a trader, trapper, and scout along the old Santa Fe Trail and had an uncanny way with American Indians. His trek as a free trader and trapper in the Far West marked him a *hero of American Adventure*. A river, and a mountain and its town have been named for him.

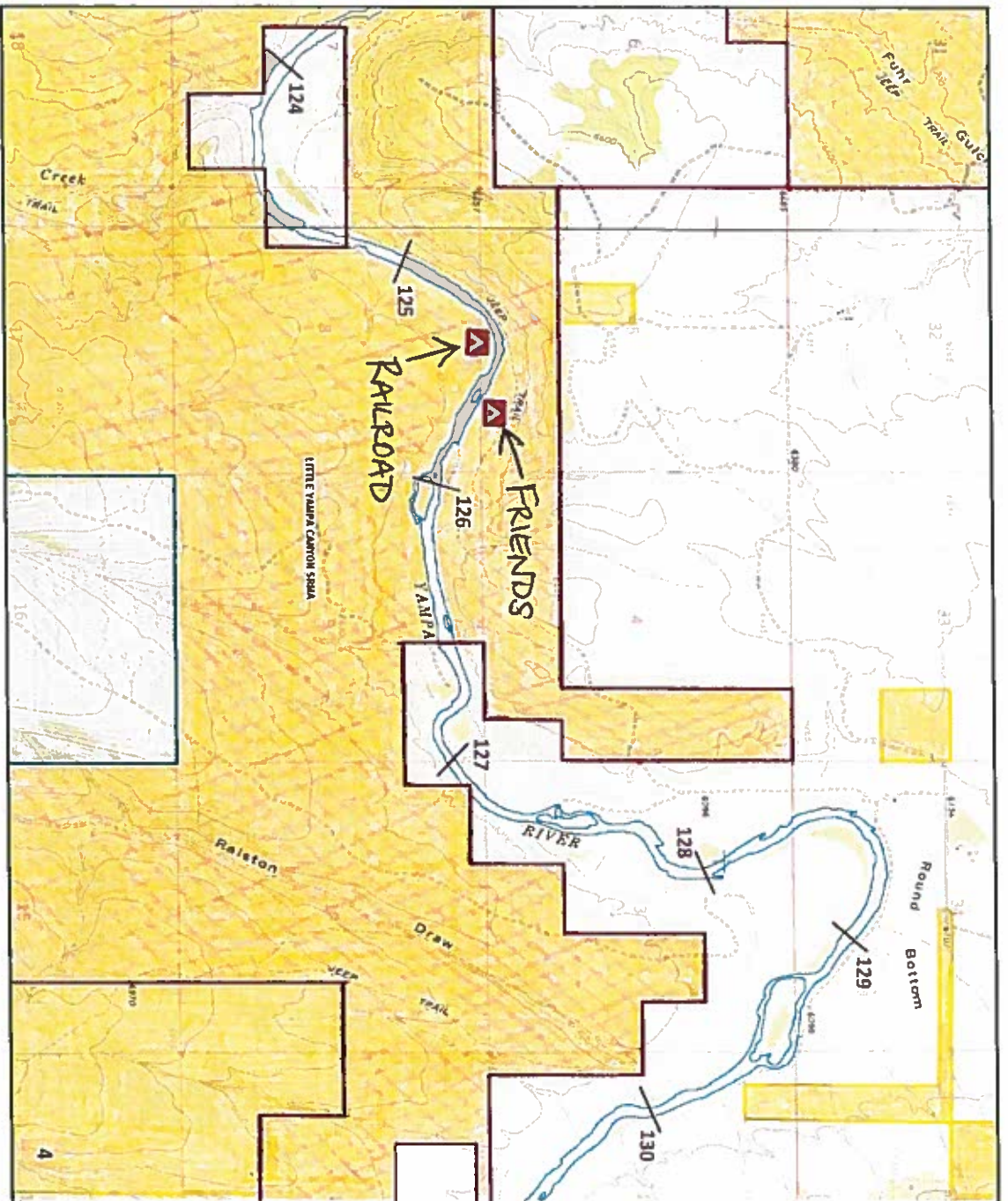
YAMPA RIVER

The Yampa is the major tributary of the Green River, which is the major source of water for the Colorado River. It is the last, the largest, and the longest remaining tributary of the Colorado River that supports rare plant communities and four endangered fish species. The Yampa River is one of the most hydrologically and biologically intact rivers in the West, making it eligible for Wild and Scenic Rivers listing. The river is featured in National Geographic's "Wild and Scenic Rivers" book.

❖ The 27 mile segment of the river (Mile 133 to 106) through the Little Yampa Canyon has attained statewide and regional significance for its flatwater boating opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Yampa River was named after the Yampa plant (*Perideridia gairdneri*) or "wild carrot," which was considered a food plant for the Native Americans who lived in the area.



**ENDANGERED FISH OF THE
YAMPA RIVER**

The humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker have lived millions of years in the Colorado River system and nowhere else in the world. These fish are now endangered or threatened because of human impact on their habitat over the past 100 years. The two greatest impacts have been water development and the introduction of non-native fish.

"On the opposite side of the pool, the fins and tails of numerous fish could be seen above the water. The striking of their tails had caused the noise we had heard. The 'bony tail' were spawning. We had hooks and lines in our packs, and caught all we cared to use that evening." – Explorers Ellsworth and Emery Kolb, August 1914 National Geographic.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 40 species of non-native fish have been introduced in the upper Colorado River basin. Historically, there were only 14 fish species until the late 1800s.



Humpback chub
Endangered under Colorado law since 1976



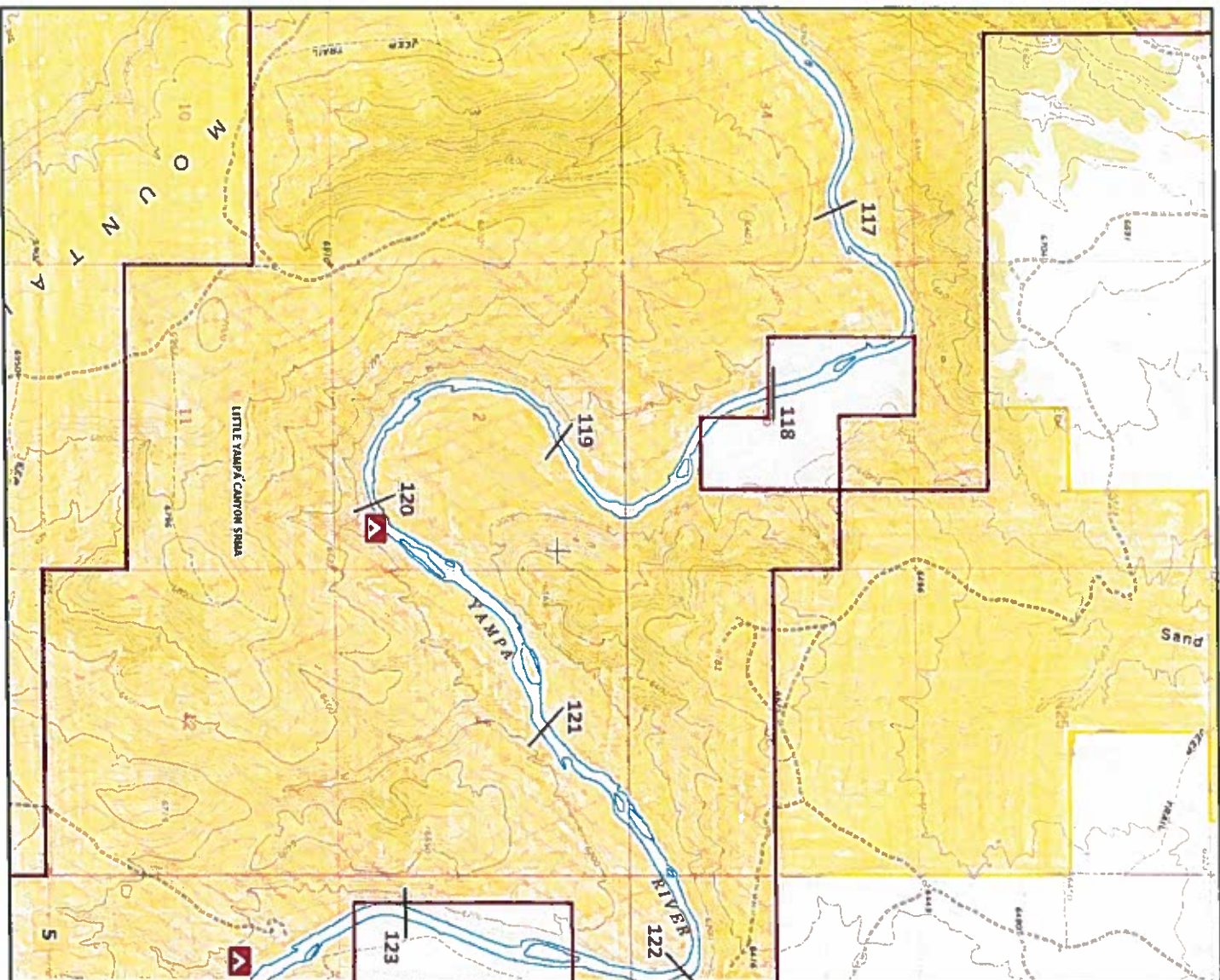
Bonytail
Endangered under Colorado law since 1976



Colorado pikeminnow
Threatened under Colorado law since 1998



Razorback sucker
Endangered under Colorado law since 1979



YAMPA RIVER

The Yampa River through the Little Yampa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area is eligible for Wild and Scenic River Status.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Yampa River provides a great opportunity for bass, pike, and trout fishing. As of 2008, from the headwaters of Yampa River to Green River, there were no bag and possession limit for channel catfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, green sunfish, bluegill, bullhead, yellow perch and crappie.

Remember to always check with the Division of Wildlife for current rules and regulations on fishing.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

The Little Yampa Canyon provides a great opportunity for wildlife viewing. In fact, Axial Basin, which is part of the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA is listed as a Wildlife Viewing Area. Keep a look out for bald eagles, golden eagles and other raptor species by the river. Deer and pronghorn are also year round residents of the area while elk can be seen during late fall.

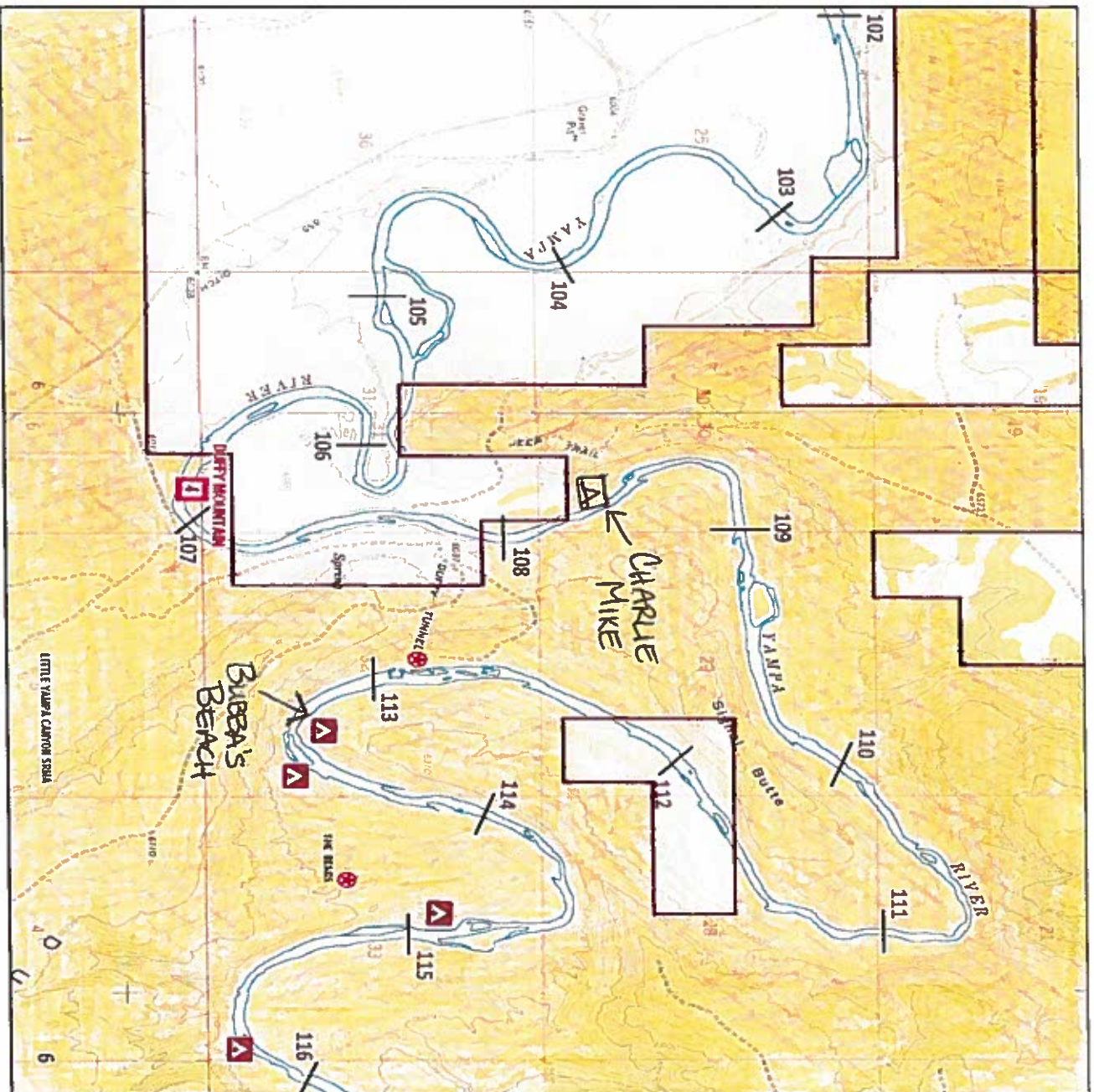
DID YOU KNOW?

Colorado has 950 species of wildlife... more than any other state!

For more information on Colorado wildlife visit:



<http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlife.asp>



⊕ THE DUFFY TUNNEL

"There was completed this summer one of the best irrigation projects that has been carried out in Routt county." – Routt County Republican Newspaper, Hayden, CO 1910.

The Duffy Tunnel is an example of the difficulty facing this kind of an undertaking in the early days. 35 pounds of dynamite per charge were used to break the rock in the mountain. Four horse teams kept laborers supplied with powder, which was hauled from Meeker, fifty miles away. It took \$4000 worth of powder alone to dig the tunnel.

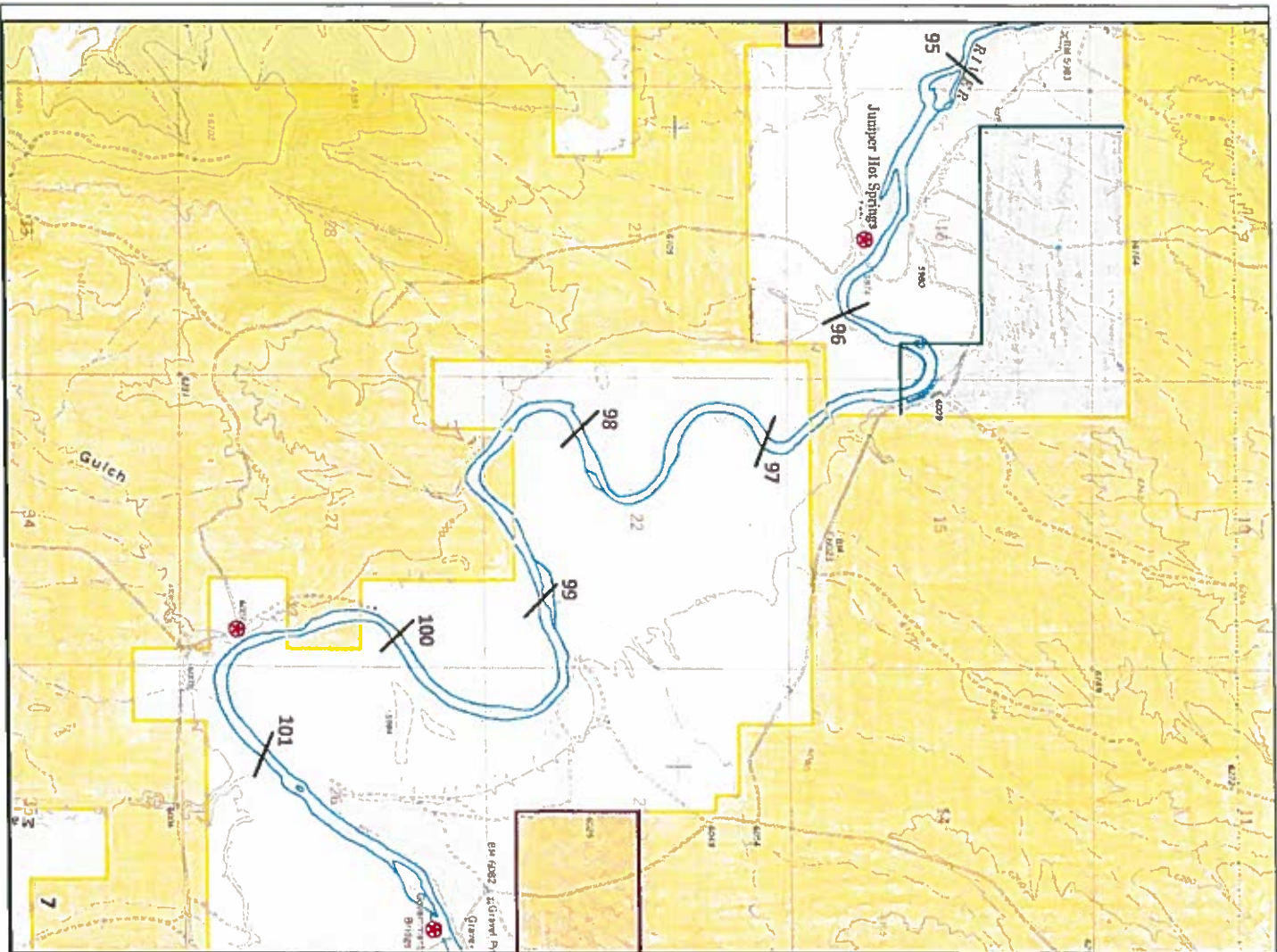
The 7-foot tunnel extends 2200 feet under the mountain and took 7 years to complete. During its time, the tunnel irrigated some 1800 acres.

The Duffy Tunnel is eligible to the National Register of Historic Properties.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 95 percent of the Yampa River that flows through Routt county is on private land, while 51 percent of the river in Moffat county is on public lands. The watershed has historically provided the lifeline for farming and ranching in the Yampa Valley.

⊕ The Bends. At this point, the river arcs four miles to cover a half mile as the crow flies. Then arcs a mile and a half to cover a hundred yards. You travel every direction in 14 miles but only cover 4 miles from east to west.



GOVERNMENT BRIDGE

The Government Bridge was the first bridge built in the area for the army to carry supplies to Meeker in order to control the Ute Indians during the late 1800s. The bridge was on a major route from north to south and provided a way to avoid the heavy snows further east.

During 1884, the Ward family opened a road house and saloon on their homestead at Government Bridge. The Bridge quickly became a favorite spot for everyone traveling north or south in the territory.

The Bridge also proved to be the demise for one Ward family member. Clover, the son of Joe and Hattie (Old Hat), hit a plank on the bridge while riding his bike in a pair of heavy irrigating boots. He fell into the river and drowned and his body was not found until a few months later.

FLUME

Looking up the gully to the south are the remains of an old irrigation flume.

JUNIPER HOT SPRINGS

As you approach the bridge near Juniper Hot Springs, look for the remains of the cable trolley. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, a cable trolley across the Yampa River brought people and mail to the hot springs while freight teams forded the river with supplies.

The springs were first known to the Ute Indians as the "Healing Waters" long before white settlers came. Local legend has it that in 1870 a white man noticed two Indian moccasins beside what looked like a large hole used by badgers. When he peered in the hole, he found a tunnel leading to the springs and from that point on the springs became well known.

The Juniper Hot Springs, with a temperature of about 102°F is only one of three known springs to contain more than six minerals (Juniper has 24), the other two are in Europe.

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END OF TRIP

Due to Class III rapids, open canoeists and inexperienced boaters should not travel over the diversion dam located in Juniper Canyon, and should portage at the Juniper Canyon Access Site.

PLEASE REPORT ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY ON PUBLIC LANDS TO:

Bureau of Land Management
 Little Snake Field Office
 455 Emerson St.
 Craig, CO 81625
 970-826-5000

LEGEND

-  Public Land
-  Little Yampa Canyon SRMA
-  State Land
-  Private Property

