



Colorado State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting

Action Minutes with Recommendations

April 29, 2025

95 Attendees (Including 21 USDA staff)

**See final presentation slides for details*

- 8:01 Liz With: Introductions
- 8:02 Clint Evans, State Conservationist, NRCS Current Status, Welcoming remarks
- 8:10 Amber Freouf, Programs Update/Summary for Fiscal Year 2024
- 8:21 FSA Update, Cory Pelton, Colorado Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) statistics:
- In 2025, 4k acres are expiring
 - Forecast for FY26: 400k acres expiring
 - Forecast for FY27: 25k acres
- 8:25 Eugene Backhaus, Contract Management Options for CRP
- **Recommendation for consideration:** Proposed contract management activities for CRP contracts should include: interseeding, prescribed burning, residue management, shallow/light/strip tillage, thinning trees, interplanting trees and prescribed grazing (July 15th to March 15th as recommended at previous STAC).
 - **FOR: 11**
 - **AGAINST: 0**
 - **Recommended**
 - **Recommendation from the STAC:** Should proposed contract management activities for CRP contracts include **haying**?
 - **FOR: 4**
 - **AGAINST: 6**
 - **Not Recommended**- however, there was interest and thus NRCS will ask the Wildlife Subcommittee to potentially review for future discussion and consideration.
- 8:56 Ray Aberle, Spring Quarter CPW & Wildlife Workgroup Updates
- 9:17 Matt Collins, Western Landowners Alliance (WLA), Stewards of the Working Wild a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- 9:20 Avery Shawler, Western Landowners Alliance (WLA), Building Trust guide

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9:30 NRCS Stewards of the Working Wild a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

9:35 BREAK TIME

9:45 Eric Gostenik, Joaquin Gonzalez, Fodder Systems for Livestock

10:00 Using Soil Survey, B.J. Shoup, Andy Steinert

10:14 Emma Hardman, Colorado Department of Agriculture, (CDA) Project Updates.

10:18 Beth Hayes, Backyard Chicken update

10: 29 Amber Freouf

10:36 Rob Murphy, Source Water Protection (SWP)

- **Recommendation for consideration:** Add all proposed watersheds as recommended by the SWP Subcommittee?

- **FOR:** 6
- **AGAINST:** 0
- Recommended

- **Recommendation for consideration:** Accept the recommended list of SWP practices as recommended by SWP (including CEMA activities)?

Practice
Conservation Cover
Conservation Crop Rotation
Cover Crop
Forage and biomass planting to reduce soil erosion or increase organic matter to build soil health
Forest Stand Improvement
Herbaceous Weed Treatment
Herbaceous weed control (inadequate structure and comp) for desired plant communities/habitats
Herbaceous weed control (plant pest pressures) for desired plant communities/habitats
Herbaceous weed control for desired plant communities/habitats consistent with the ecological site
Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site
Irrigation Water Management
Nutrient Management
Pest Management Conservation System
Prescribed Grazing
Range Planting
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
Riparian Forest Buffer
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Well Decommissioning
Woody Residue Treatment

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- **FOR: 6**
- **AGAINST: 0**
- Recommended

➤ **Recommendation for consideration:** Change NWQI watersheds as recommended by the SWP Subcommittee? (Specifically, the vote was to keep Plum Creek, remove Limestone Creek, add Outlet Big Sandy Creek (HUC 11022211904).)

- **FOR: 6**
- **AGAINST: 0**
- Recommended

11:01 Brian Domonkos, Snow & Water Forecasting

11:11 Erik Wardle & Phil Brink Edge of Field Monitoring Program, Nutrient Management

11:25 Amy Kreman, Colorado Master Irrigator Project Update

11:43 Amber Freouf, Water Management Entities (WME) Opportunities

11:50 Bill Ketterhagen, Informing Project Planning & Implementation

12:04 End of meeting



Colorado State Technical Advisory Committee Agenda

April 29, 2025

- 8:00 am Welcome Agenda Updates/ Changes/ Additions (Liz With, NRCS)
- 8:05 am **Federal Agency Updates (60 minutes)**
 NRCS Status Update & Looking Forward (Clint Evans, NRCS) *20 min*
 FY2024 Programs Summary (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *20 min*
 FSA & CRP Updates (Corey Pelton or Hunter Cleaveland, FSA) *20 min*
- 9:05 am **Predator Deconfliction Project (40 minutes)**
 CPW Updates (Ray Aberle, CPW) *10 min*
 2024 Lessons Learned (Ray Aberle, CPW & ~~Dustin Shifflett, CDA~~) *10 min*
 WLA Building Trust (Matt Collins, WLA) *10 min*
 NRCS Project Updates (Amber Freouf & Marissa Markus, NRCS) *10 min*
- 9:50 am **Break**
- 10:00 am **Urban & Non-Traditional Agriculture (40 minutes)**
 Eleusis Fodder Systems (Eric Gostenik & Joaquin Gonzalez) *10 min*
 Using Soil Survey (Andy Steinert & BJ Shoup, NRCS) *10 min*
 CDA Project Updates (Emma Hardiman, CDA- CSCB) *10 min*
 Backyard Chicken Challenges (Beth Hayes, CSU Extension) *10 min*
- 10:40 am **Irrigation, Drought, and Agriculture (70 minutes)**
 FB 201818 Source Water Protection & NWQI Report (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *10 min*
 SWP Subcommittee- Potential Changes Listening Session? (Rob Murphy, CDPHE) *10 min*
 Colorado Snow and Water Forecasting (Brian Domonkos, NRCS) *10 min*
 Edge of Field Monitoring (Erik Wardle, CSU & Phil Brink, CCA) *10 min*
 Master Irrigator Updates (Amy Kreman, CSU) *10 min*
 WME Opportunities (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *10 min*
 Informing Project Planning & Implementation (Bill Ketterhagen, TFT) *10 min*
- 11:50 am **General Partner Updates & Discussion**
- 12:00 pm **Closing Comments** (Clint Evans, NRCS)
- ~~12:10 pm Tentative FSA Recommendation Work Session (All welcome)~~

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Meeting Summary

Colorado USDA State Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting title

Attended participants 95 (21 staff)

Start time 4/29/25, 7:38:49 AM

End time 4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM

Meeting duration 4h 28m 55s

Average attendance time 1h 58m 48s

2. Participants

Name	First Join	Last Leave	In-Meeting Duration	Email	Role	Staff
With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:51:17 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 13m 24s	elizabeth.with@usda.gov	Organizer	Y
Hunt, Lisa - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:38:50 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 28m 54s	Lisa.Hunt@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:43:00 AM	4/29/25, 8:57:53 AM	1h 14m 52s		Presenter	N
jim cecil (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:49:32 AM	4/29/25, 9:11:23 AM	55m 6s		Presenter	N
Duran, James - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:49:38 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 9m 47s	james.duran@usda.gov	Presenter	N
Basiliere, Shaun - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:50:10 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 17m 34s	shaun.basiliere@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Woods, Woody - FPAC-FSA, CO	4/29/25, 7:51:58 AM	4/29/25, 9:25:19 AM	1h 33m 20s	woody.woods@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Pelton, Corey - FPAC-FSA, CO	4/29/25, 7:52:32 AM	4/29/25, 11:34:53 AM	3h 42m 20s	corey.pelton@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Brandner, Kindra - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:53:51 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:44 PM	4h 13m 52s	kindra.brandner@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Troyer, Michael - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:55:25 AM	4/29/25, 11:42:43 AM	3h 36m 21s	Michael.Troyer@usda.gov	Presenter	Y

Naranjo, Patrick - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:55:30 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:44 PM	4h 12m 14s	patrick.naranjo@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Cindy Lair CDA (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:55:50 AM	4/29/25, 8:15:10 AM	19m 19s		Presenter	N
Simmons, Clifton - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:55:55 AM	4/29/25, 12:04:45 PM	4h 8m 49s	Clifton.Simmons@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Pawnee Buttes Seed (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:55:57 AM	4/29/25, 11:44:03 AM	3h 48m 5s		Presenter	N
Rapp, Bailey - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:55:58 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 7m 40s	bailey.rapp@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Susan (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:56:33 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 11m 11s		Presenter	N
Matt Smith PLJV (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:58:03 AM	4/29/25, 9:35:20 AM	1h 37m 17s		Presenter	N
Steinert, Andy - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:58:03 AM	4/29/25, 10:57:24 AM	2h 59m 20s	andy.steinert@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Susan Lohr (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:58:08 AM	4/29/25, 7:58:32 AM	24s		Presenter	N
Koch, Renee - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:58:17 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 9m 27s	renee.koch@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Domonkos, Brian - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:58:18 AM	4/29/25, 12:01:52 PM	4h 3m 34s	brian.domonkos@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Robbins, Kirsten - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:58:53 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 8m 51s	kirsten.robbs@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Miller, Justin	4/29/25, 7:59:16 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 8m 28s	justin.miller@5rcattle.com	Presenter	N
Cochran, Brett - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:59:27 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 8m 17s	Brett.Cochran@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Rich Schultheis - PLJV (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:59:40 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:44 PM	3h 26m 48s		Presenter	N
Trimboli, Laura - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 7:59:44 AM	4/29/25, 9:36:23 AM	1h 23m 16s	Laura.Trimboli@usda.gov	Presenter	Y

Emma Hardiman - CDA (Unverified)	4/29/25, 7:59:54 AM	4/29/25, 8:14:28 AM	14m 34s		Presenter	N
Seth Gallagher	4/29/25, 8:00:11 AM	4/29/25, 9:35:20 AM	1h 35m 8s	Seth.Gallagher@NFWF.ORG	Presenter	N
Emily Chavez- Bird Conservancy (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:00:13 AM	4/29/25, 9:40:53 AM	1h 40m 40s		Presenter	N
Rachel - State Land Board (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:00:20 AM	4/29/25, 8:04:10 AM	3m 49s		Presenter	N
Knupp, Patty - FPAC- NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 8:00:22 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:44 PM	4h 7m 21s	patty.knupp@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Bill Ketterhagen	4/29/25, 8:00:29 AM	4/29/25, 12:06:59 PM	4h 6m 29s	bill@thefreshwatertrust.org	Presenter	N
Perrin, Rebecca (External)	4/29/25, 8:00:36 AM	4/29/25, 9:02:19 AM	1h 1m 42s	Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov	Presenter	N
Anderson,David	4/29/25, 8:01:12 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	3h 36m 41s	David.Anderson@ColoState.EDU	Presenter	N
Ismert, Peter (External)	4/29/25, 8:01:18 AM	4/29/25, 11:28:56 AM	3h 27m 38s	Ismert.Peter@epa.gov	Presenter	N
Girija Kulkarni	4/29/25, 8:01:23 AM	4/29/25, 9:59:08 AM	1h 57m 44s	Girija@ccalt.org	Presenter	N
Rachel - State Land Board (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:01:28 AM	4/29/25, 8:19:28 AM	18m		Presenter	N
Brendan Boepple	4/29/25, 8:02:26 AM	4/29/25, 8:47:10 AM	44m 44s	Brendan@ccalt.org	Presenter	N
Ahmed Hashem	4/29/25, 8:03:05 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 3m 12s	ahashem@agroptics.com	Presenter	N
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:03:15 AM	4/29/25, 8:06:57 AM	3m 41s		Presenter	N
Ray Aberle-CPW (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:03:15 AM	4/29/25, 10:03:39 AM	1h 56m 17s		Presenter	N
Markus, Marissa - FPAC- NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 8:03:40 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	4h 4m 4s	Marissa.Markus@usda.gov	Presenter	Y

Eskew, Stacey - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 8:03:49 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:43 PM	4h 3m 54s	stacey.eskew@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Rakel (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:04:24 AM	4/29/25, 8:57:39 AM	53m 14s		Presenter	N
Forehand, Sean - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 8:06:06 AM	4/29/25, 8:15:09 AM	9m 2s	sean.forehand@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
17196860020 (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:06:36 AM	4/29/25, 8:52:09 AM	45m 33s		Attendee	N
Phil Brink (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:06:47 AM	4/29/25, 10:03:40 AM	1h 56m 53s		Presenter	N
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:07:03 AM	4/29/25, 9:30:26 AM	1h 23m 22s		Presenter	N
Mercedes Talvitie	4/29/25, 8:07:42 AM	4/29/25, 8:54:24 AM	45m 29s	mercedes.talvitie@marbleseed.org	Presenter	N
Casey Davenhill (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:08:07 AM	4/29/25, 9:55:25 AM	1h 47m 17s		Presenter	N
R.Murphy WQCD (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:12:27 AM	4/29/25, 9:19:02 AM	1h 6m 34s		Presenter	N
Emma Hardiman - CDA (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:15:04 AM	4/29/25, 11:50:32 AM	3h 35m 28s		Presenter	N
Cindy Lair (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:15:27 AM	4/29/25, 9:30:06 AM	1h 14m 38s		Presenter	N
Bob Warner (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:19:47 AM	4/29/25, 9:41:28 AM	1h 21m 40s		Presenter	N
Matt C (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:22:39 AM	4/29/25, 9:35:22 AM	1h 12m 42s		Presenter	N
McGovern, Theresa - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 8:23:50 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	3h 43m 55s	Theresa.McGovern@usda.gov	Presenter	N
Ray Aberle - CPW (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:25:43 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	3h 42m 1s		Presenter	N
Peterson, Kristina - FPAC-NRCS, OR	4/29/25, 8:30:28 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:44 PM	3h 37m 16s	Kristina.Peterson@usda.gov	Presenter	N

Reon McBride	4/29/25, 8:30:39 AM	4/29/25, 11:58:17 AM	3h 27m 38s	reon.mcbride@republicanriver.onmicro soft.com	Presenter	N
Panjabi,Susan	4/29/25, 8:33:22 AM	4/29/25, 9:27:29 AM	51m 30s	SUSAN.PANJABI@colostate.edu	Presenter	N
Rachel Turner -SLB (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:39:52 AM	4/29/25, 8:46:00 AM	6m 8s		Presenter	N
19707651485 (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:46:04 AM	4/29/25, 8:48:16 AM	2m 11s		Attendee	N
19706301128 (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:53:12 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	1h 21m 49s		Attendee	N
Eleusis (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:57:39 AM	4/29/25, 9:03:34 AM	5m 54s		Presenter	N
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25, 8:59:51 AM	4/29/25, 9:00:40 AM	48s		Presenter	N
Avery Shawler - WLA (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:00:23 AM	4/29/25, 9:35:38 AM	35m 15s		Presenter	N
Barrett, Dominic (External)	4/29/25, 9:02:10 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	3h 5m 34s	dominic_barrett@fws.gov	Presenter	N
Eric G (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:03:03 AM	4/29/25, 9:09:38 AM	6m 35s		Presenter	N
Eleusis (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:04:39 AM	4/29/25, 9:05:12 AM	32s		Presenter	N
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:07:14 AM	4/29/25, 9:08:36 AM	1m 21s		Presenter	N
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:08:59 AM	4/29/25, 10:05:42 AM	56m 42s		Presenter	N
Erica Hansen - IWJV (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:11:01 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:42 PM	2h 56m 41s		Presenter	N
Robert Murphy WQCD (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:18:59 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	2h 48m 45s		Presenter	N
Patrick O'Neill (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:27:06 AM	4/29/25, 9:35:21 AM	8m 14s		Presenter	N

Hayes,Beth	4/29/25, 9:34:39 AM	4/29/25, 10:32:46 AM	58m 7s	Beth.Hayes@colostate.edu	Presenter	N
Matt Smith PLJV (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:41:12 AM	4/29/25, 10:32:30 AM	51m 17s		Presenter	N
Cindy Lair (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:42:02 AM	4/29/25, 11:42:29 AM	2h 27s		Presenter	N
Patrick O'Neill (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:48:26 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	2h 19m 18s		Presenter	N
Stambaugh, Rex - FPAC- NRCS, CO	4/29/25, 9:52:13 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	2h 15m 31s	rex.stambaugh@usda.gov	Presenter	Y
Francisca Maiza	4/29/25, 9:52:52 AM	4/29/25, 10:12:15 AM	19m 23s	fmaiza@smpmanagers.com	Presenter	N
17202444629 (Unverified)	4/29/25, 9:56:00 AM	4/29/25, 10:00:08 AM	4m 8s		Attendee	N
Wardle,Erik	4/29/25, 10:01:58 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	2h 5m 46s	Erik.Wardle@colostate.edu	Presenter	N
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:04:36 AM	4/29/25, 10:08:01 AM	3m 24s		Presenter	N
Phil Brink (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:05:09 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	2h 2m 35s		Presenter	N
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:05:54 AM	4/29/25, 10:07:42 AM	1m 48s		Presenter	N
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:08:14 AM	4/29/25, 10:09:12 AM	57s		Presenter	N
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:08:52 AM	4/29/25, 10:33:21 AM	24m 28s		Presenter	N
Tony Orlando	4/29/25, 10:21:58 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:43 PM	1h 45m 45s	T.Orlando@thefreshwatertrust.org	Presenter	N
Greg Peterson (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:25:22 AM	4/29/25, 11:48:56 AM	1h 23m 33s		Presenter	N
Matt Smith PLJV (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:32:26 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	1h 35m 18s		Presenter	N

Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:33:52 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	1h 33m 52s		Presenter	N
Tommy Raye (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:36:34 AM	4/29/25, 12:04:49 PM	1h 28m 15s		Presenter	N
Kremen,Amy	4/29/25, 10:41:56 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:41 PM	1h 25m 44s	Amy.Kremen@colostate.edu	Presenter	N
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25, 10:42:02 AM	4/29/25, 11:17:11 AM	35m 8s		Presenter	N
Bob Warner (Unverified)	4/29/25, 11:31:08 AM	4/29/25, 12:07:45 PM	36m 37s		Presenter	N

3. In-Meeting Activities

Name	Join Time	Leave Time	Duration	Email	Role
With, Elizabeth - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:45:08	53m 51s	elizabeth.with@usda.gov	Organizer
With, Elizabeth - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 19m 33s	elizabeth.with@usda.gov	Organizer
Hunt, Lisa - FPAC-NRCS,	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 28m 54s	Lisa.Hunt@usda.gov	Presenter
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:57:53	1h 14m 52s		Presenter
jim cecil (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:43:37	54m 4s		Presenter
jim cecil (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:11:23	1m 2s		Presenter
Duran, James - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 7:50:38	59s	james.duran@usda.gov	Presenter
Duran, James - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 8m 48s	james.duran@usda.gov	Presenter
Basiliere, Shaun - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 17m 34s	shaun.basiliere@usda.gov	Presenter
Woods, Woody - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:25:19	1h 33m 20s	woody.woods@usda.gov	Presenter
Pelton, Corey - FPAC-FSA,	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 42m 20s	corey.pelton@usda.gov	Presenter
Brandner, Kindra - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 13m 52s	kindra.brandner@usda.gov	Presenter
Troyer, Michael - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 7:56:24	59s	Michael.Troyer@usda.gov	Presenter
Troyer, Michael - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 7:58:10	43s	Michael.Troyer@usda.gov	Presenter
Troyer, Michael - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 34m 39s	Michael.Troyer@usda.gov	Presenter
Naranjo, Patrick - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 12m 14s	patrick.naranjo@usda.gov	Presenter
Cindy Lair CDA	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:15:10	19m 19s		Presenter
Simmons, Clifton - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 8m 49s	Clifton.Simmons@usda.gov	Presenter
Pawnee Buttes Seed	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 48m 5s		Presenter
Rapp, Bailey - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 37m 40s	bailey.rapp@usda.gov	Presenter

Rapp, Bailey - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 30m	bailey.rapp@usda.gov	Presenter
Susan (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 11m 11s		Presenter
Matt Smith PLJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:20	1h 37m 17s		Presenter
Steinert, Andy - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 59m 20s	andy.steinert@usda.gov	Presenter
Susan Lohr (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 7:58:32	24s		Presenter
Koch, Renee - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 9m 27s	renee.koch@usda.gov	Presenter
Domonkos, Brian - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 3m 34s	brian.domonkos@usda.gov	Presenter
Robbins, Kirsten - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 8m 51s	kirsten.robbs@usda.gov	Presenter
Miller, Justin	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 8m 28s	justin.miller@5rcattle.com	Presenter
Cochran, Brett - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 8m 17s	Brett.Cochran@usda.gov	Presenter
Rich Schultheis - PLJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 57m 22s		Presenter
Rich Schultheis - PLJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	29m 26s		Presenter
Trimboli, Laura - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:42:47	43m 3s	Laura.Trimboli@usda.gov	Presenter
Trimboli, Laura - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:36:23	40m 13s	Laura.Trimboli@usda.gov	Presenter
Emma Hardiman - CDA	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:14:28	14m 34s		Presenter
Seth Gallagher	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:20	1h 35m 8s	Seth.Gallagher@NFWF.ORG	Presenter
Emily Chavez- Bird	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:40:53			
Conservancy (Unverified)	8:00:13 AM	AM	1h 40m 40s		Presenter
Rachel - State Land Board	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:04:10	3m 49s		Presenter
Knupp, Patty - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 7m 21s	patty.knupp@usda.gov	Presenter
Bill Ketterhagen	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 6m 29s	bill@thefreshwatertrust.org	Presenter
Perrin, Rebecca	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:02:19	1h 1m 42s	Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov	Presenter
Anderson,David	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:43:19			
	8:01:12 AM	AM	42m 6s	David.Anderson@ColoState.EDU	Presenter
Anderson,David	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:24			
	9:04:04 AM	AM	31m 20s	David.Anderson@ColoState.EDU	Presenter
Anderson,David	4/29/25,	4/29/25,			
	9:44:29 AM	12:07:45 PM	2h 23m 15s	David.Anderson@ColoState.EDU	Presenter
Ismert, Peter (External)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 27m 38s	Ismert.Peter@epa.gov	Presenter
Girija Kulkarni	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:59:08	1h 57m 44s	Girija@ccalt.org	Presenter
Rachel - State Land Board	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:19:28	18m		Presenter
Brendan Boepple	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:47:10	44m 44s	Brendan@ccalt.org	Presenter
Ahmed Hashem	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 58m 58s	ahashem@agroptics.com	Presenter

Ahmed Hashem	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4m 14s	ahashem@agroptics.com	Presenter
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:06:57	3m 41s		Presenter
Ray Aberle-CPW	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:25:45	22m 29s		Presenter
Ray Aberle-CPW	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 33m 48s		Presenter
Markus, Marissa - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 4m 4s	Marissa.Markus@usda.gov	Presenter
Eskew, Stacey - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4h 3m 54s	stacey.eskew@usda.gov	Presenter
Rakel (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:57:39	53m 14s		Presenter
Forehand, Sean - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:15:09	9m 2s	sean.forehand@usda.gov	Presenter
17196860020	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:52:09	45m 33s		Attendee
Phil Brink (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 56m 53s		Presenter
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:30:26	1h 23m 22s		Presenter
Mercedes Talvitie	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:27:58			
	8:07:42 AM	AM	20m 16s	mercedes.talvitie@marbleseed.org	Presenter
Mercedes Talvitie	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:54:24			
	8:29:11 AM	AM	25m 13s	mercedes.talvitie@marbleseed.org	Presenter
Casey Davenhill	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:55:25	1h 47m 17s		Presenter
R.Murphy WQCD	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:19:02	1h 6m 34s		Presenter
Emma Hardiman - CDA	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 35m 28s		Presenter
Cindy Lair (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:30:06	1h 14m 38s		Presenter
Bob Warner (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:41:28	1h 21m 40s		Presenter
Matt C (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:22	1h 12m 42s		Presenter
McGovern, Theresa - FPAC-NRCS, CO	4/29/25,	4/29/25,			
	8:23:50 AM	12:07:45 PM	3h 43m 55s	Theresa.McGovern@usda.gov	Presenter
Ray Aberle - CPW	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 42m 1s		Presenter
Peterson, Kristina - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 37m 16s	Kristina.Peterson@usda.gov	Presenter
Reon McBride	4/29/25,	4/29/25,		reon.mcbride@republicanriver.onmicro	
	8:30:39 AM	11:58:17 AM	3h 27m 38s	soft.com	Presenter
Panjabi,Susan	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:34:34			
	8:33:22 AM	AM	1m 12s	SUSAN.PANJABI@colostate.edu	Presenter
Panjabi,Susan	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:27:29			
	8:37:11 AM	AM	50m 18s	SUSAN.PANJABI@colostate.edu	Presenter
Rachel Turner -SLB	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:46:00	6m 8s		Presenter
19707651485	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:48:16	2m 11s		Attendee

19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 8:58:03	4m 50s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:15:56	4m 4s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:57:35	4m 18s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	14m 47s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	7m 27s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	24m 16s		Attendee
19706301128	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	22m 7s		Attendee
Eleusis (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:03:34	5m 54s		Presenter
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:00:40	48s		Presenter
Avery Shawler - WLA	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:38	35m 15s		Presenter
Barrett, Dominic	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3h 5m 34s	dominic_barrett@fws.gov	Presenter
Eric G (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:09:38	6m 35s		Presenter
Eleusis (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:05:12	32s		Presenter
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:08:36	1m 21s		Presenter
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	56m 42s		Presenter
Erica Hansen - IWJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 56m 41s		Presenter
Robert Murphy WQCD	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 48m 45s		Presenter
Patrick O'Neill	4/29/25,	4/29/25, 9:35:21	8m 14s		Presenter
Hayes,Beth	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	58m 7s	Beth.Hayes@colostate.edu	Presenter
Matt Smith PLJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	51m 17s		Presenter
Cindy Lair (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 27s		Presenter
Patrick O'Neill	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 19m 18s		Presenter
Stambaugh, Rex - FPAC-	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 15m 31s	rex.stambaugh@usda.gov	Presenter
Francisca Maiza	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	19m 23s	fmaiza@smpmanagers.com	Presenter
17202444629	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	4m 8s		Attendee
Wardle,Erik	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 5m 46s	Erik.Wardle@colostate.edu	Presenter
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	3m 24s		Presenter
Phil Brink (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	2h 2m 35s		Presenter
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1m 48s		Presenter
Joaquin (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	57s		Presenter
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	24m 28s		Presenter
	4/29/25,	4/29/25,			
Tony Orlando	10:21:58 AM	12:07:43 PM	1h 45m 45s	T.Orlando@thefreshwatertrust.org	Presenter

Greg Peterson	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 23m 33s		Presenter
Matt Smith PLJV	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 35m 18s		Presenter
Eric Gostenik (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 33m 52s		Presenter
Tommy Raye (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 28m 15s		Presenter
Kremen,Amy	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	1h 25m 44s	Amy.Kremen@colostate.edu	Presenter
Kenan Diker (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	35m 8s		Presenter
Bob Warner (Unverified)	4/29/25,	4/29/25,	36m 37s		Presenter



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Colorado USDA State Technical Advisory Committee

April 29, 2025

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Colorado State Technical Advisory Committee Agenda

April 29, 2025

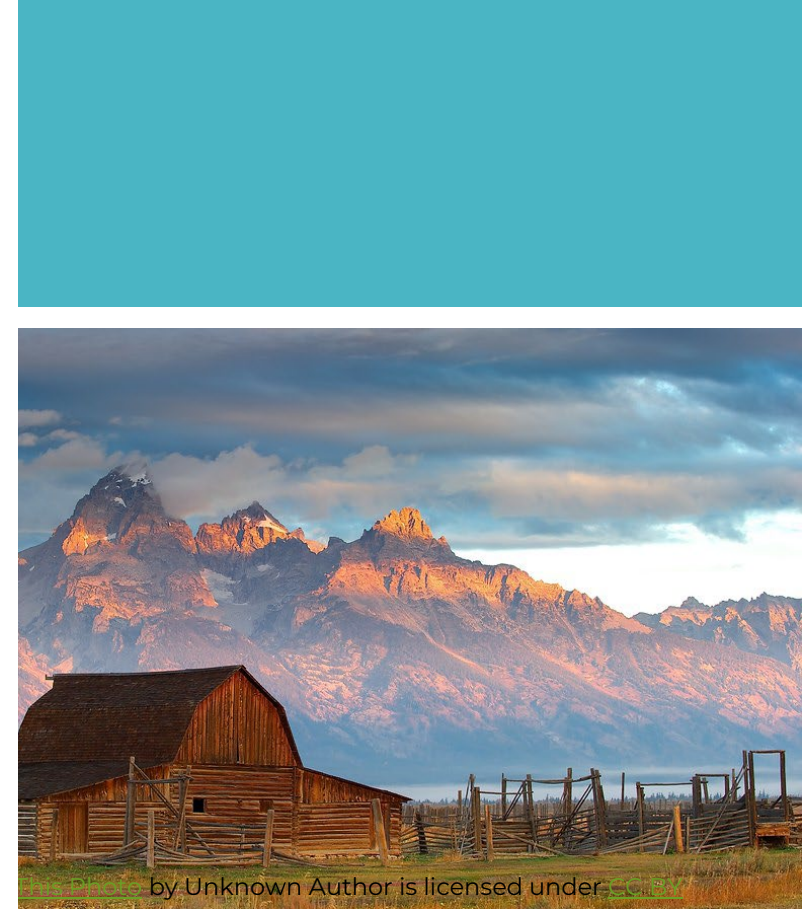
- 8:00 am Welcome Agenda Updates/ Changes/ Additions (Liz With, NRCS)
- 8:05 am **Federal Agency Updates (60 minutes)**
NRCS Status Update & Looking Forward (Clint Evans, NRCS) *20 min*
FY2024 Programs Summary (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *20 min*
FSA & CRP Updates (Corey Pelton or Hunter Cleaveland, FSA) *20 min*
- 9:05 am **Predator Deconfliction Project (40 minutes)**
CPW Updates (Ray Aberle, CPW) *10 min*
2024 Lessons Learned (Ray Aberle, CPW & Dustin Shifflett, CDA) *10 min*
WLA Building Trust (Matt Collins, WLA) *10 min*
NRCS Project Updates (Amber Freouf & Marissa Markus, NRCS) *10 min*
- 9:50 am **Break**



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



- 10:00 am **Urban & Non-Traditional Agriculture (40 minutes)**
Eleusis Fodder Systems (Eric Gostenik & Joaquin Gonzalez) *10 min*
Using Soil Survey (Andy Steinert & BJ Shoup, NRCS) *10 min*
CDA Project Updates (Emma Hardiman, CDA- CSCB) *10 min*
Backyard Chicken Challenges (Beth Hayes, CSU Extension) *10 min*
- 10:40 am **Irrigation, Drought, and Agriculture (70 minutes)**
FB 201818 Source Water Protection & NWQI Report (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *10 min*
SWP Subcommittee- Potential Changes Listening Session? (Rob Murphy, CDPHE) *10 min*
Colorado Snow and Water Forecasting (Brian Domonkos, NRCS) *10 min*
Edge of Field Monitoring (Erik Wardle, CSU & Phil Brink, CCA) *10 min*
Master Irrigator Updates (Amy Kreman, CSU) *10 min*
WME Opportunities (Amber Freouf, NRCS) *10 min*
Informing Project Planning & Implementation (Bill Ketterhagen, TFT) *10 min*
- 11:50 am **General Partner Updates & Discussion**
12:00 pm **Closing Comments** (Clint Evans, NRCS)
12:10 pm **Tentative FSA Recommendation Work Session** (All welcome)





NRCS Status & Looking Forward

Clint Evans



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Program Update Fiscal Year 2024



Amber Freouf
Assistant State Conservationist Programs



Programs Team

- Kindra Brandner Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Manager Wray, CO
- Stacey Eskew Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Manager Center, CO
- Patrick Naranjo Program Manager Center, CO
- Marissa Markus Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Manager Gunnison, CO
- Laura Trimboli Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Manager Durango, CO
- Renee Koch Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Sterling, CO
- Kirsten Robbins Business Tool Coordinator Grand Junction, CO
- Shaun Basiliere Program Analyst Ft Collins, CO
- Cathy Utecht Programs Support Specialist Lakewood, CO
- Amber Freouf Assistant State Conservationist-Programs Lakewood, CO



Fiscal Year 2024 Recap



Obligations Across Programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Obligated 457 contracts
 - \$52.9M
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
 - Obligated 177 contracts
 - \$18.2M
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - Obligated 8 contracts
 - \$8.4M
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - Obligated \$1.1M Classic agreements
 - Obligated \$4.5M AFA agreements



Colorado Top Resource Concerns

Ag Land (Cropland, Rangeland, Pastureland)	Non-Industrial Private Forestland
Degraded Plant Condition	Wind and Water Erosion
Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss	Degraded Plant Condition
Field Pesticide Loss	Fire Management
Livestock Production Limitations	Pest Pressure
Soil Quality Limitations	Soil Quality Limitations
Source Water Depletion	Source Water Depletion
Pest Pressure	Terrestrial Habitat
Wind & Water Erosion	Weather Resilience

Top Conservation Practices Planned

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Cover Crop
 - Woody Residue
 - Fence/ Livestock Watering Facility
 - Pumping Plant/ Structure for water control
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Improving Nutrient Uptake Efficiency and Reducing Risk of Nutrient Losses
 - Reduce Risk of Pesticides in Water and Air by Utilizing Integrated Pest Management Techniques
 - Reduced Tillage to Reduce Soil Erosion
 - Leaving Tall Crop Residue for Wildlife
 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment to Create Plant Communities Consistent with the Ecological Site





Project Success Stories from Fiscal Year 2024



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



Migratory greater sandhill cranes resting on the Dow Lane South parcel (Photograph by Amy Kester).

- Acquired 1,461 ac of agricultural land mostly irrigated cropland
- \$1,060,400 federal share
- Located in Costilla County
- Colorado Open Lands Land Trust

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



- Acquired 203 ac of agricultural rangeland
- Gunnison Sage Grouse
- \$318,750 federal share
- Located in Gunnison County
- Colorado West Land Trust

Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



- Partnered with Southern Ute Tribe Ignacio, CO
- Address Plant Pest Pressure on rangeland by implementing herbaceous weed treatment
- 124,241 acres
- \$2.3M obligated
- First within the nation

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



- Locally Driven by Producers
 - Sedwick and Phillips County within South Platte Valley
 - Center Pivots beyond lifespan and maintenance (salinity)
 - Inefficient Irrigation water use
- ACT NOW process with team effort in planning
 - 11 contracts to address 16 pivots \$968,000 approx. 2,000 ac
- Within 3 months from obligation
 - 11 of the 16 pivots were installed
 - 8 of the 11 contracts were complete
- Within 1 year of obligation
 - Final 5 pivots installed
 - All contracts completed

Lead to the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Workgroup Targeted Proposals

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



- Acequia Phase II San Luis, CO
- Partnered with Colorado Open Lands to provide both Land Management and Easement Activities
- Addresses Inefficient Water Use, Aquatic Habitat
- Placing structures of water control into the Acequia “community ditches” over 100 years old



Fiscal Year 2025 Highlights



What is happening now

- Currently obligating in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- June 1, 2025: Obligation deadline

New for Fiscal Year 2025

- Big Game Initiative for EQIP and ACEP
- Targeted Conservation Proposals coming from Local Workgroup Meetings

Locally Lead Conservation

I consider the soil conservation districts movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture. – Hugh Hammond Bennett



Thank you

Amber Freouf

amber.freouf@usda.gov

719-469-9663





United States Department of Agriculture

Contract Management Options in Colorado CRP

Eugene Backhaus
State Resource Conservationist



Policy Requirements

- 2-CRP requires NRCS STC and FSA SED conduct annual review of CRP management activities
- STC gets input from STAC
- Recommendation to SED by May 31st



Current Status

- Review of allowed contract management activities
- CO Notice CRP-97 was last review
- Acceptable practices were:
 - Interseeding
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Residue Management
 - Shallow/Light/Strip Tillage
 - Thinning – Trees
 - Interplanting



Proposed Status


- Proposed contract management activities to include:
 - Interseeding
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Residue Management
 - Shallow/Light/Strip Tillage
 - Thinning – Trees
 - Interplanting – Trees
 - Prescribed Grazing



Next Steps for Allowing

- Vote from STAC on allowed management activities
- Concurrence with all or some
- Additional options or recommendations





Spring Quarter NRCS STAC CPW & Wildlife Workgroup Updates

4/29/2025

Photo: Upland Bird SAFE

CPW Statewide Habitat Conservation and Connectivity Plan (HCCP)



State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)



Photo: Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE

CPW Habitat Unit



CPW Wetlands Grant



Acres Impacted

	Grassland	Shrubland	Forest	Wetland	Total
Technical Assistance	16,201	2,262	384	3,982	22,829
Obligated Acres	512	0	45	2	559
Totals by Habitat	16,713	2,262	429	3,984	23,388

Other Impact Metrics

	In-channel river work (LnFt)	Fence improvements (LnFt)
Technical Assistance	10,318	19,991
Obligated	1,100	4,013
Totals	11,418	24,004

NOTE: Given the timing of NRCS contract obligations, most obligated acres will be reflected during the April-June 2025 quarter.



Emma Califf building a Zeedyk structure at a restoration workshop.
Photo: Patty Knupp

Partner Wildlife Biologist Program

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies & Pheasants Forever



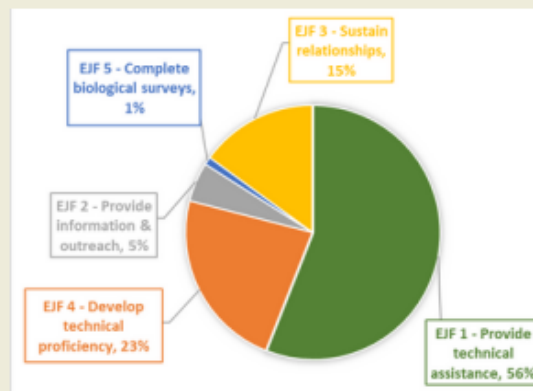
Picture: Grazing and Sharp-tailed Grouse. Moffat County.

Essential Job Functions & Outreach

The essential job functions (EJF) were written and defined by representatives from partnering organizations and act as a directive for how the biologist's time is allocated. Typically, new employees spend less time on delivering and supporting habitat projects (EJF #1) and considerably more time on developing technical proficiency (EJF #4). Developing and sustaining working relationships with resource professionals and private landowners (EJF #3) is always a portion of their time. As biologists become more comfortable with their position, they lead more projects and share conservation knowledge through trainings and workshops (EJF #2). They offer their services to CPW and USFWS staff to assist with wildlife surveys, as opportunity allows (EJF #5).

WHB Location	Total Landowner Visits	Outreach Events	Estimated # of People Reached
Alamosa	26	2	61
Fort Morgan	74	6	561
Greeley	14	5	142
Gunnison	10	0	10
Montrose	28	6	138
Rocky Ford	28	2	3,856 ^a
Sterling	31	0	31
Walsenburg	21	5	156
Woodland Park	37	0	37
TOTALS	269	26	4,991

EJF % of Time

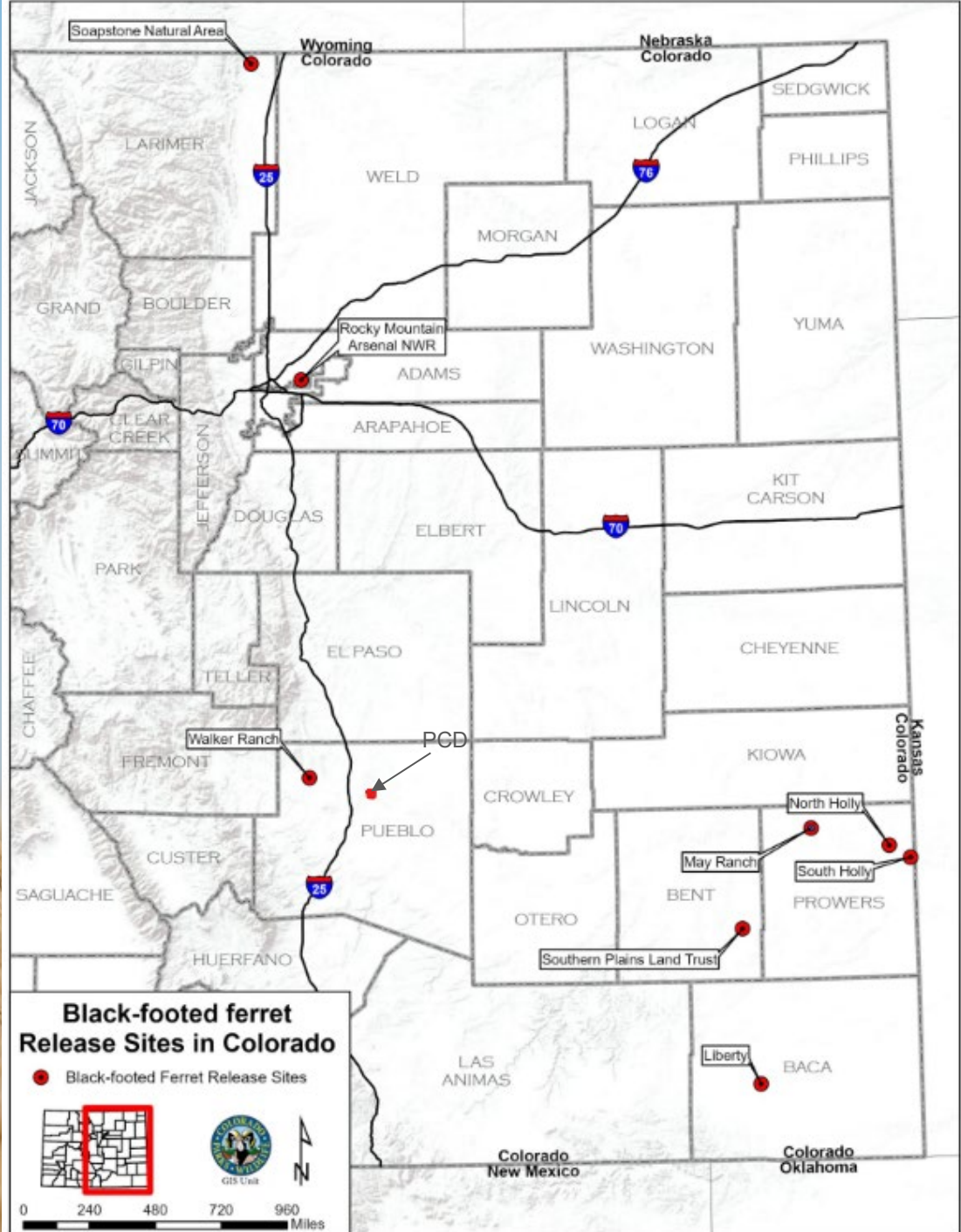


Wildflood Fund Pool


An aerial photograph showing a dark, winding river or stream meandering through a vast, green wet meadow. The river has several sharp turns and loops, creating a complex pattern. The meadow is covered in dense green grass and scattered clumps of shrubs or small trees. The overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

Wet Meadow - Flood Irrigation

Black-footed Ferret Special Effort



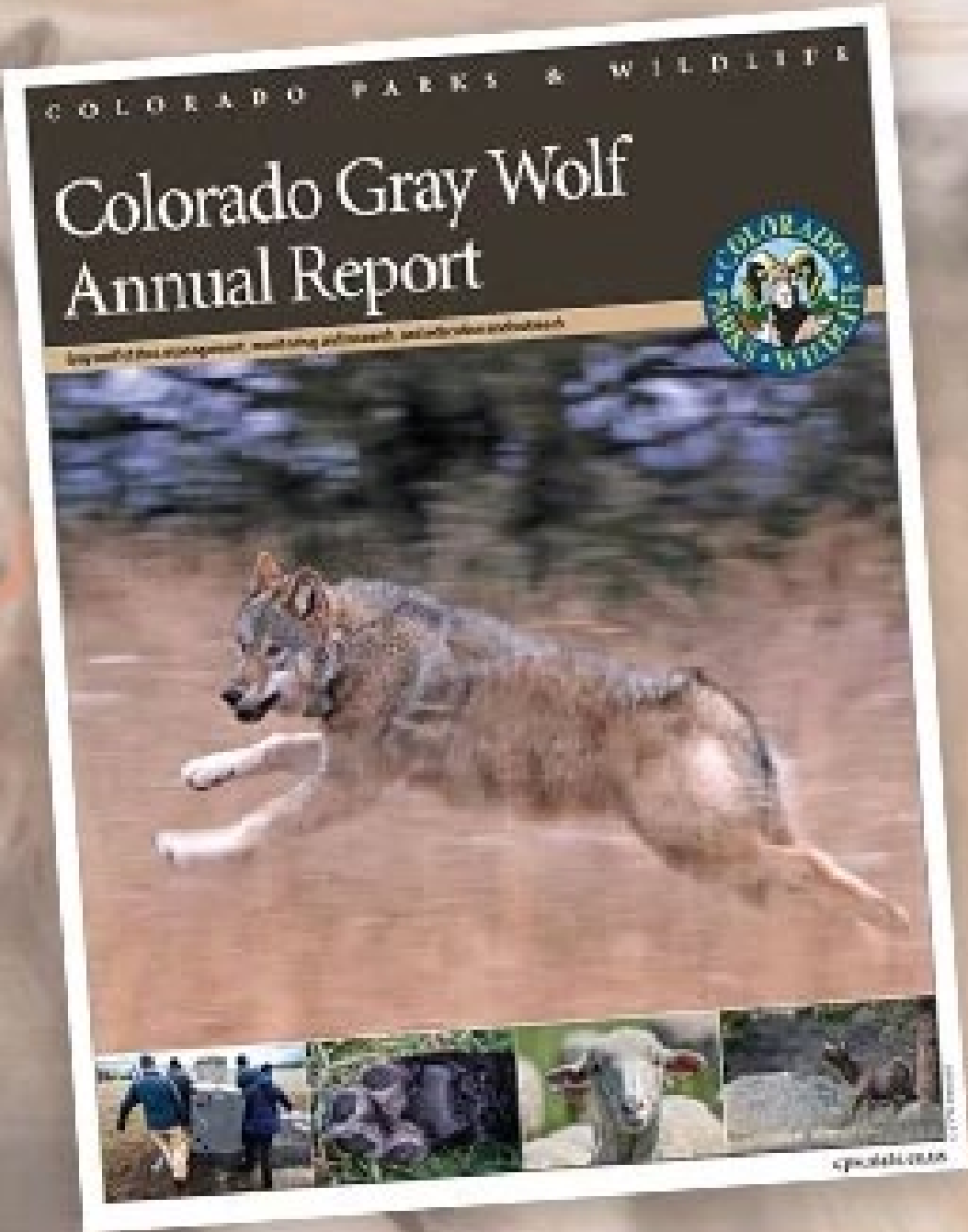
EQIP Funded Ferret Release Site

A photograph of a field filled with numerous yellow and orange flowers, likely Gaillardia, growing amidst tall green grass and other vegetation. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

Other Efforts:

EQIP Pollinator Planting

Gray Wolf Restoration





2024 Lessons Learned

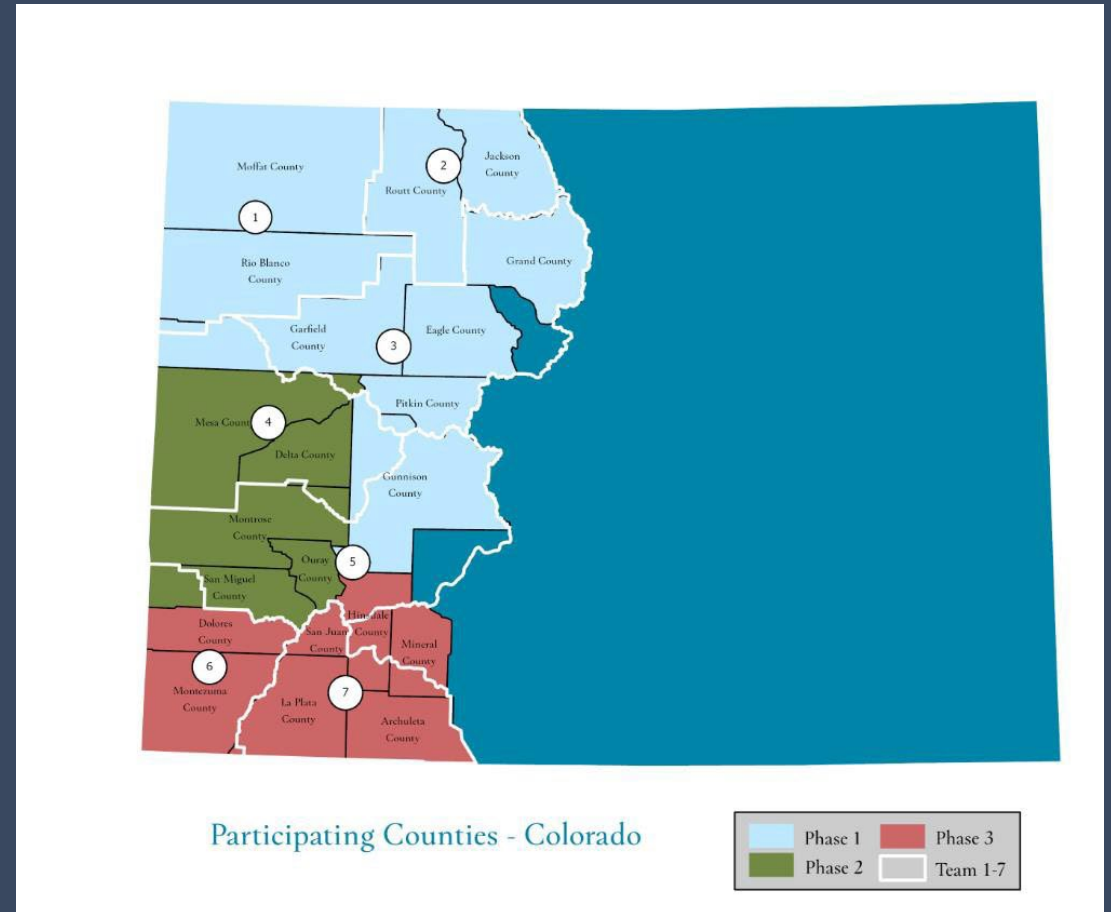
Ray Aberle & Dustin Shifflett



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“Stewards of the Working Wild” RCPP Project

- Financial assistance from NRCS for select practices and scenarios
 - Financial Assistance in the amount of \$2.5M (2024-2028)
 - Practices- *range riding, fence, carcass management, deterrent devices, and grazing management*
- Timeline
 - 117 Applications totaling \$18 million in asks
 - Pre-approvals complete. 10 Projects to be contracted by June 1st
 - Act Now EQIP signups to be held to support additional contracts



BUILDING TRUST

**+ A GUIDE FOR AGENCIES
WORKING WITH PRODUCERS
TO REDUCE WILDLIFE CONFLICTS**



Avery Shawler, PhD
Working Wild Challenge Coordinator



Background

- Trust is vital for working through wildlife conflict
 - Many wildlife agencies and producers lack trust
- PhD social science research in NW Wyoming
 - Positive working relationships between wildlife agencies & producers were crucial for mitigating wolf-livestock conflict
- Goal of this project
 - Gather trust-building recommendations from a broader scope of people with experience working through wildlife conflict
- Reminder, this guide is:
 - for wildlife agencies *and* others
 - not intended to criticize agencies, but rather serve as a practical reference offering summarized recommendations



Data collection



What can **agency/organization field staff** do to build trust with producers while working through wildlife conflict? Do you have successful examples to share? *

Long answer text

What can **agency/organization leadership** do to support trust-building with producers while working through wildlife conflict? Do you have successful examples to share? *

Long answer text

Gathered recommendations from:

- producers
- agency staff
- researchers
- NGO staff
- other professionals

Collected data through:

- PhD research
 - interviews with producers and agency staff
- Facilitated discussions
 - Conflict Reduction Consortium
 - Practitioners' Call (WLA-convened producer group)
- online survey
- individual conversations/interviews

Data analysis – thematic analysis



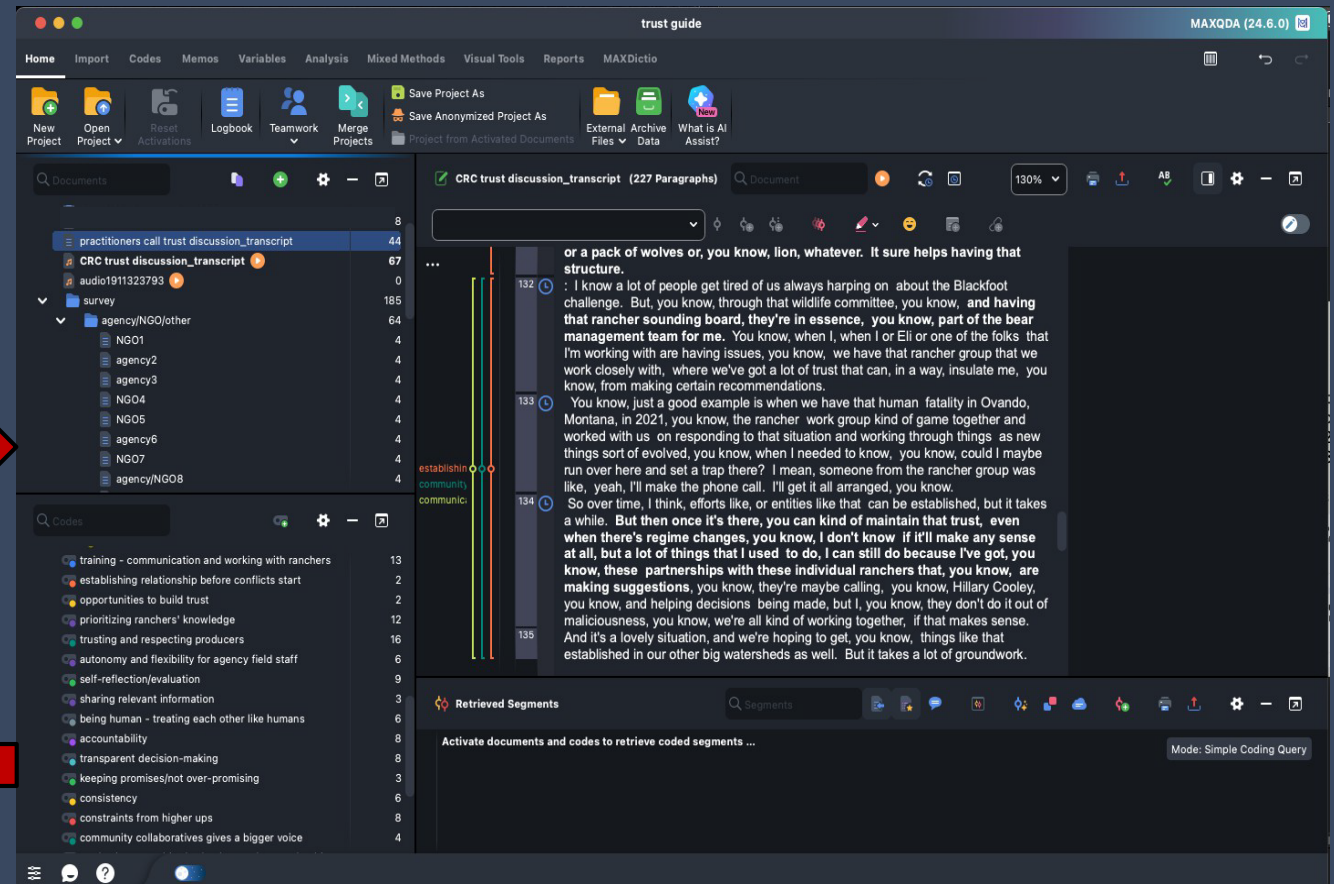
Transcribed
conversations and
compiled survey text



Coded text to identify
emergent themes



Summarized
recommendations from
emergent themes



A total of 40 recommendations

24 for field staff

Engage in honest communication and actions

- Have difficult conversations.
- Fulfill commitments and only make realistic promises.
- Be consistent in agency responses and action.
- Follow standards expected of producers.

Increase responsiveness and accessibility

- Respond to conflicts quickly.
- Provide accessible contact information.

Share information openly

- Use multiple communication platforms.
- Supply timely and consistent updates.
- Follow clear decision-making guidelines.
- Proactively share information.

Value and integrate local knowledge

- Understand the context and constraints of producers.
- Engage producers in two-way discussions.
- Incorporate producer insights into agency data.
- Collaborate with producers.

Build connection through meaningful interactions

- Connect with producers before conflicts arise.
- Show up in person.
- Check in with informal visits.
- Engage with the local community.

Practice conflict communication skills

- Listen actively.
- Approach conflict with empathy.
- Be direct about your values and intentions.
- Acknowledge and be accountable for mistakes.
- Admit when you don't have all the answers.
- Check your blind spots.

16 for agency leadership

Agency Leadership Recommendations

Embed relationship-building into agency practices

- Incorporate relationship-building into staff evaluations.
- Integrate producer relationships into conflict mitigation success metrics.
- Plan in-person meetings between agency leadership and producers.
- Hire or partner with people with relationship-building skills.
- Improve inter- and intra-agency communication and coordination.

Foster understanding and respect for producers

- Promote a public service mindset.
- Increase awareness of economic realities.
- Provide learning opportunities for working lands conservation.
- Recognize producers' contributions to wildlife conservation.

Support field staff in building relationships with producers

- Trust and empower field staff working with producers.
- Provide staff training.
- Establish support channels within the agency.
- Strengthen staff capacity and well-being.

Increase accountability through evaluations

- Establish pathways for producer input.
- Partner with third-party mediators.
- Develop assessments for evaluating producer relationships.



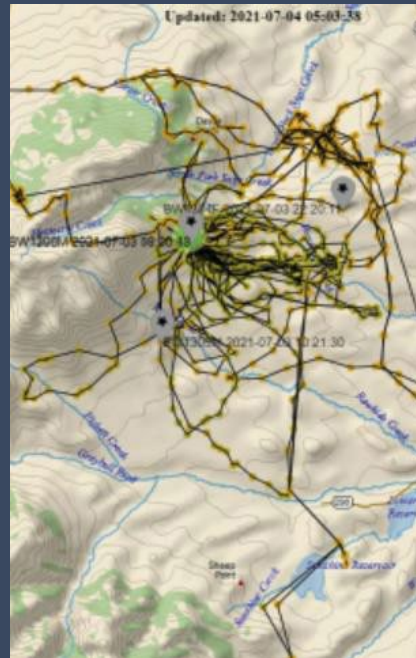
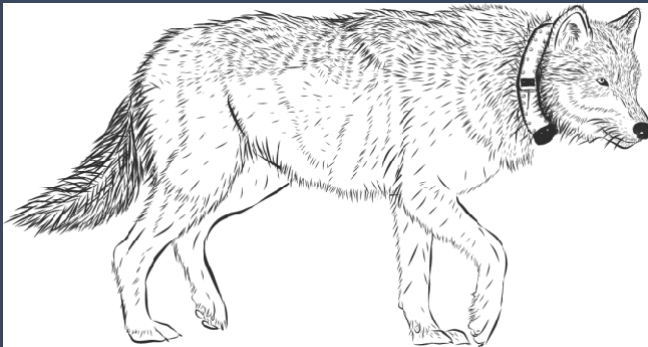
While the recommendations are separated by field staff and agency leadership, they are significantly interconnected and staff at all levels can benefit from reading both sections

A group of approximately 20 people are gathered in a dirt yard in front of a large, weathered wooden barn. The group is arranged in a loose circle, with many people looking towards the center where a few individuals are standing. The barn has a high, open-sided structure with wooden beams and rafters. In the background, there are other farm structures, including a red metal frame and a green metal tank. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "Sharing a couple examples from the guide" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Sharing a couple examples
from the guide

Proactively sharing information with producers

Example: sharing wolf location data



“We’ll let them know that they’re gonna have a pack around them, but we generally don’t give them the exact den location. But [we] at least keep them a little bit informed. You keep good relationships that way. People want to know that they aren’t being kept in the dark and that the information you gather about animals on their property is shared with them.

Early on [producers] really wanted to know where everything was at. Now, they’re pretty good. ... As long as we’re staying on top of it and staying there monitoring and somewhat keeping them in the loop, they’re usually pretty happy.”

– Carnivore biologist

Valuing and integrating local knowledge

“Treat us earnestly and [do] not have those automatic responses of, ‘Oh no, that’s not what you saw,’ or, ‘No, according to our population information, there couldn’t be anything there.’ Even if they don’t believe us, take us seriously and know that we’re not lying or that we’re not out just looking for attention. ... We wouldn’t be reaching out to them if we didn’t have an encounter. ... Don’t chastise us when our observation doesn’t match their data.”

– Tribal rancher from AZ

Example: producers are often dismissed when reporting wildlife sightings

Use these opportunities to collaborate with producers and treat them as partners



Building connection through meaningful interactions

1. Connecting with producers before conflicts arise
2. Show up in person
3. Check in with informal visits
4. Engage with the local community



“For people that first get the job to start doing this kind of work, you know, they really have to get out there and ... get to know people and drink coffee with folks and find out what they’re thinking and what they know.”

– state wildlife biologist

“Oftentimes, I’ll be out doing something, and I’ll stop and talk to them [producers] for an hour. ... It’s just getting stuff out there so you’re not hiding things, and we’ll just deal with this stuff together. That’s where I see it being really positive.”

– state wolf biologist



Increasing responsiveness & accessibility

“The reason that we have a fairly positive working relationship ... is the fact that they know that we’re available 24/7. If they call us, we will respond. That’s the key to having a high density of large carnivores and people in the landscape. Somebody has to be available to deal with that. ...

I think that plays into the mindset, too, that ‘I don’t have control over this, but I have outlets and other professionals that I can call when I need help.’ And that’s a big deal.”

– Wyoming large carnivore biologist

Increasing staff capacity to support trust-building

For many recommendations, field staff need to have enough support and capacity to to build relationships with producers

- Prioritize hiring people with relationship-building skills or connections to the community
- Provide training and support to staff
- Hire additional staff to boost capacity
- Work with groups with good producer relationships

Short version – 4 page brief

- Each recommendation is 1 sentence
- To be used as a quick reference
- Linked to full version

BUILDING TRUST

+ A GUIDE FOR AGENCIES
WORKING WITH PRODUCERS
TO REDUCE WILDLIFE CONFLICTS



Wildlife conflict on working lands can strain relationships between livestock producers and wildlife agencies, making trust crucial for conflict resolution and effective resource management. These recommendations, based on input from producers, agency staff, and experts across the western U.S., aim to help agencies and other groups build trust with producers while managing wildlife conflict. Recommendations are organized for agency field staff and leadership, but are relevant across roles. To access the full guide, scan the QR code at the end of this document or click on this link:

wla.social/building-trust

"Oftentimes, I'll be out doing something, and I'll stop and talk to them [producers] for an hour. ... It's just getting stuff out there so you're not hiding things, and we'll just deal with this stuff together. That's where I see it being really positive."
– Wolf biologist

Field Staff Recommendations

Engage in honest communication and actions

- Have difficult conversations.
- Fulfill commitments and only make realistic promises.
- Be consistent in agency responses and action.
- Follow standards expected of producers.

Increase responsiveness and accessibility

- Respond to conflicts quickly.
- Provide accessible contact information.

Share information openly

- Use multiple communication platforms.
- Supply timely and consistent updates.
- Follow clear decision-making guidelines.
- Proactively share information.

Value and integrate local knowledge

- Understand the context and constraints of producers.
- Engage producers in two-way discussions.
- Incorporate producer insights into agency data.
- Collaborate with producers.

Build connection through meaningful interactions

- Connect with producers before conflicts arise.
- Show up in person.
- Check in with informal visits.
- Engage with the local community.

Practice conflict communication skills

- Listen actively.
- Approach conflict with empathy.
- Be direct about your values and intentions.
- Acknowledge and be accountable for mistakes.
- Admit when you don't have all the answers.
- Check your blind spots.

"An agency got in touch with me to go to a range riding workshop. I told them, 'We're interested, but we don't want to be talked at. We want to have a conversation about what we already do and not be talked at like we don't know anything. We have the experience on the ground. We have folks riding.'"
– Rancher in Colorado

"Treat us earnestly and [do] not have those automatic responses of, 'Oh no, that's not what you saw,' or, 'No, according to our population information, there couldn't be anything there.' Even if they don't believe us, take us seriously and know that we're not lying or that we're not just looking for attention. ... We wouldn't be reaching out to them if we didn't have an encounter. ... Don't chastise us when our observation doesn't match their data."
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- Establish pathways for producer input.
- Partner with third-party mediators.
- Develop assessments for evaluating producer relationships.

"I found about four agency folks that would ask me questions about what was going on. The rest of them just knew what was going on because they'd read the book. They didn't bother to come out and interview people. They didn't bother to get details specific to the area - they had a lot of stuff to change about me."
– Rancher in Idaho





"Agencies need to work well with each other to show their commitment to ranchers and farmers. We do not want to get caught in the bickering between agencies arguing which agency should be stepping up to help with conflict prevention/reduction/ implementation and support."
– Montana rancher

Evaluation Questions

These questions can be asked within the agency, by external partner organizations, and producers:

- How are staff engaging in honest communication and actions with producers?
- How responsive and accessible are staff to producers?
- How are staff sharing information with producers?
- How are staff valuing and integrating local knowledge?
- How are staff building meaningful connections with producers?
- How are staff practicing conflict communication skills?
- How is agency leadership embedding relationship-building into agency practices?
- How is agency leadership fostering respect and understanding for producers?
- How is agency leadership supporting field staff working with producers?
- How is agency leadership evaluating agency-producer relationships?

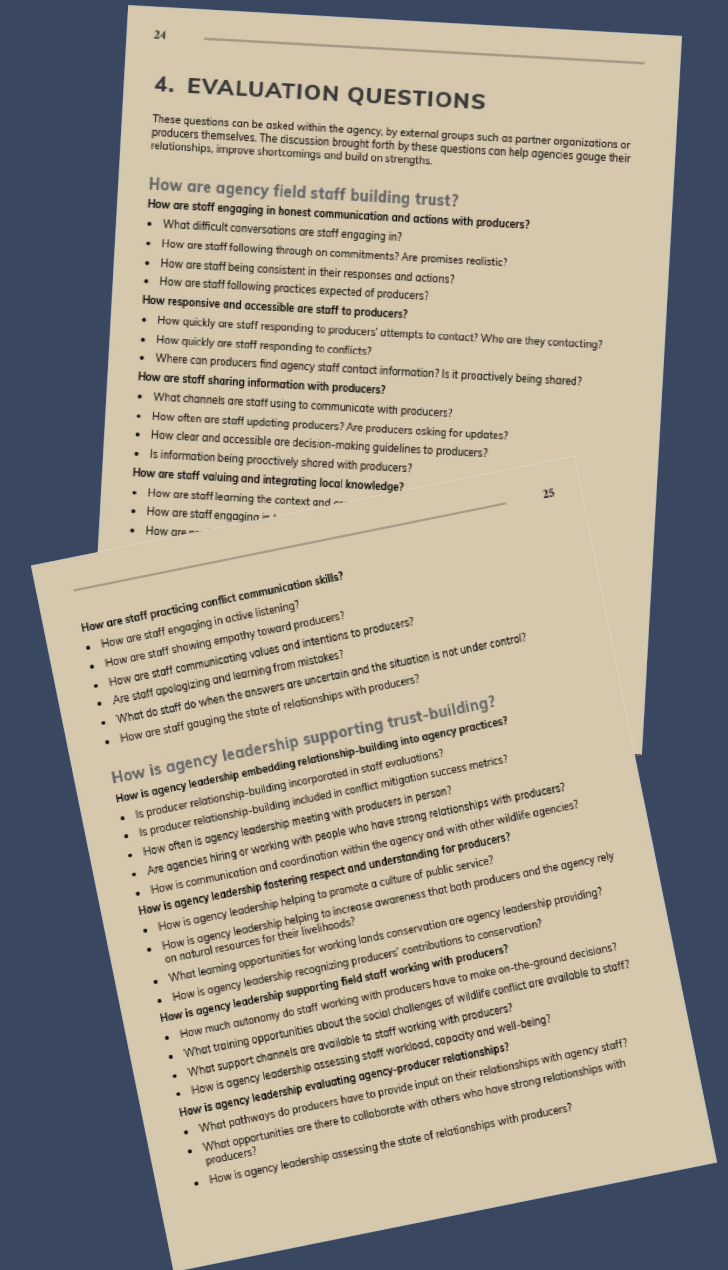
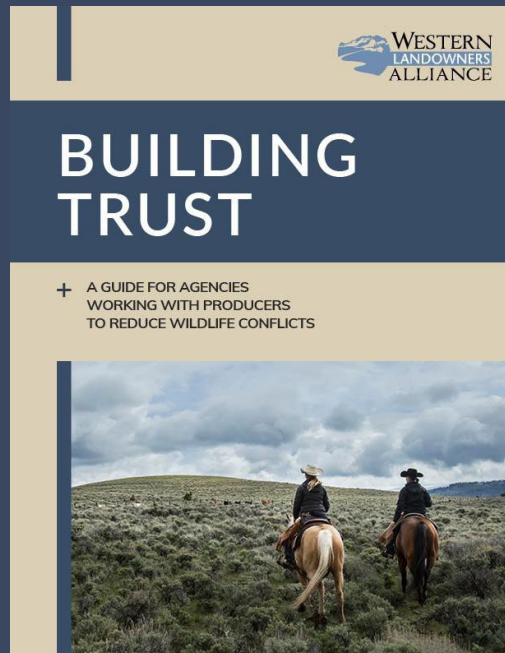


Read the full text and find additional resources at wla.social/building-trust
Or just scan this code with your smartphone



Full version

- 28 pages
- Introduction
- In-depth recommendations
- Case studies
- Evaluation Questions
- References



Thank you!

To access the guide, visit this link:
<http://wla.social/building-trust>
Or scan this QR code:



Feel free to reach out with questions:

Avery Shawler

avery@westernlandowners.org

802.377.5066

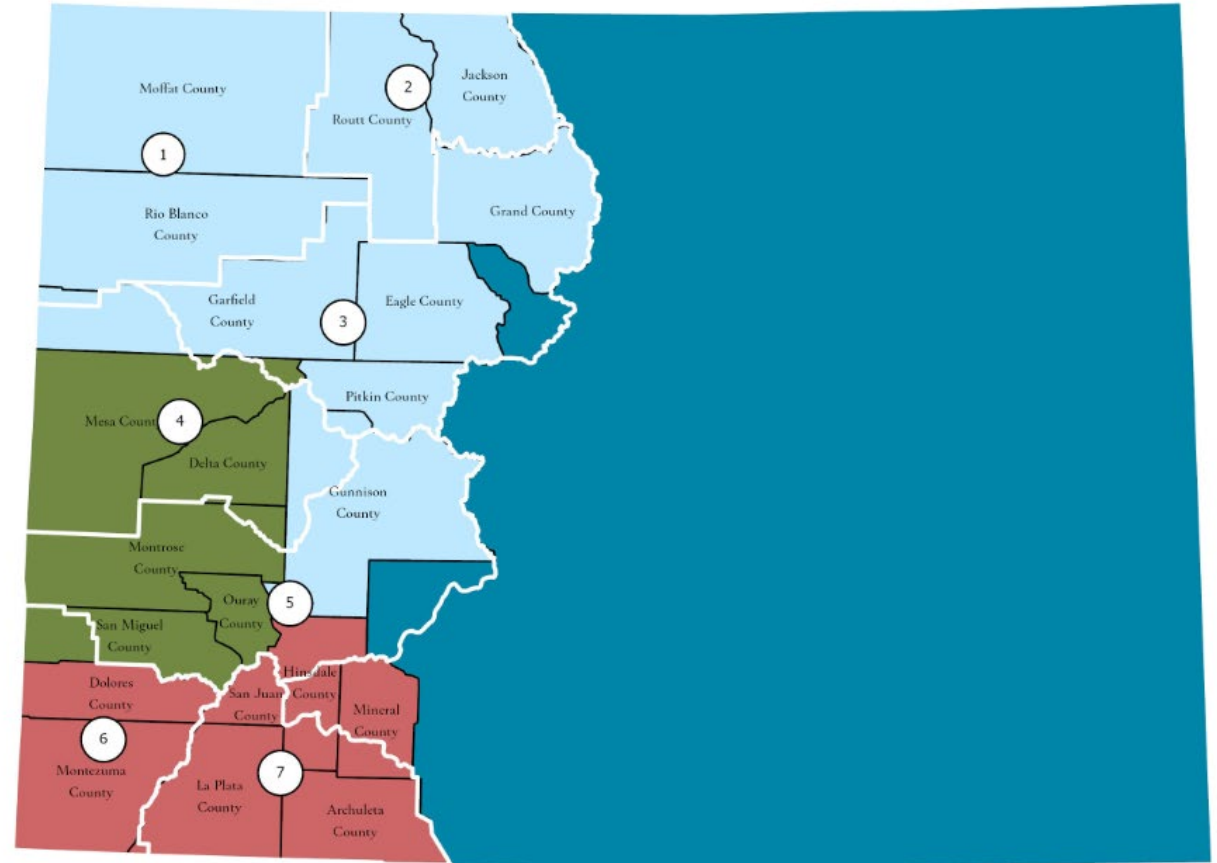


3186_ STEWARDED THE WORKING WILD IN MT, CO, AND OR

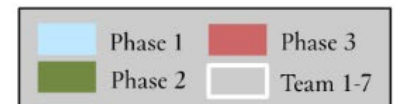
Natural Resources Conservation Service's
RCPP Program

RCPP PROJECT BACKGROUND

- This project and the project funding was developed in partnership **across states, agencies, non-profits, and diverse landowners**
- The project goal is to reduce risk on the range by implementing non-lethal practices to minimize carnivore-livestock conflicts
- This involves **voluntary participation** from producers, just like our other programs.
 - Eligible activities- *structural and management practices; upland wildlife habitat management; fence; carcass management; in some approved instances, prescribed grazing*

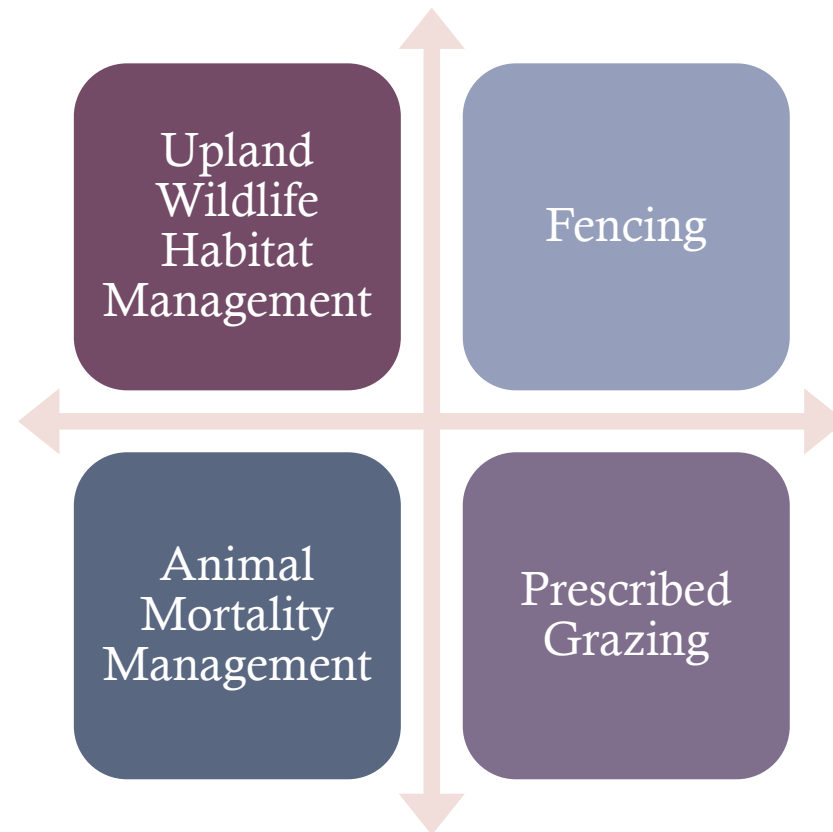


Participating Counties - Colorado



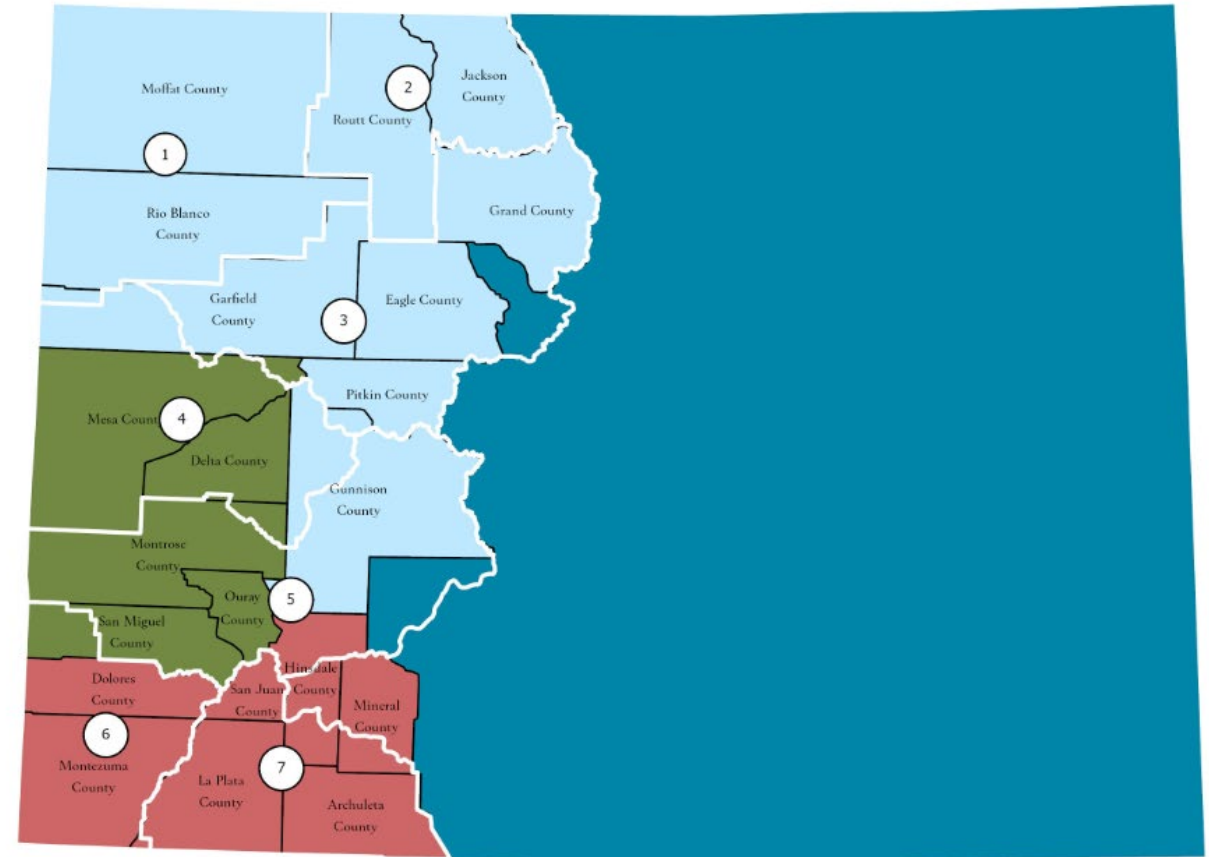


PRIMARY AND SUPPORTING PRACTICES



RCPD PROJECT PROGRESS

- Timeline
 - Opened the announcement **January 10th**
 - Application deadline **February 7th**
 - Contract obligation deadline **June 1st**
 - 10 applications preapproved
 - 3 contracts obligated
 - 4 contracts ready for landowner signature
 - 3 contracts finalizing planning
- Financial assistance from NRCS for select practices and scenarios
 - Financial Assistance available in the amount of \$2.5M (2025-2028)
 - \$2,045,415.4 preapproved
 - ~\$400,000 obligated
 - ~\$1.6M pending obligation



Participating Counties - Colorado





QUESTIONS? AND MANY THANKS!

WLA- Matt Collins

Matt@westernlandowners.org

NRCS- Marissa Markus

Marissa.markus@usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



BREAK

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



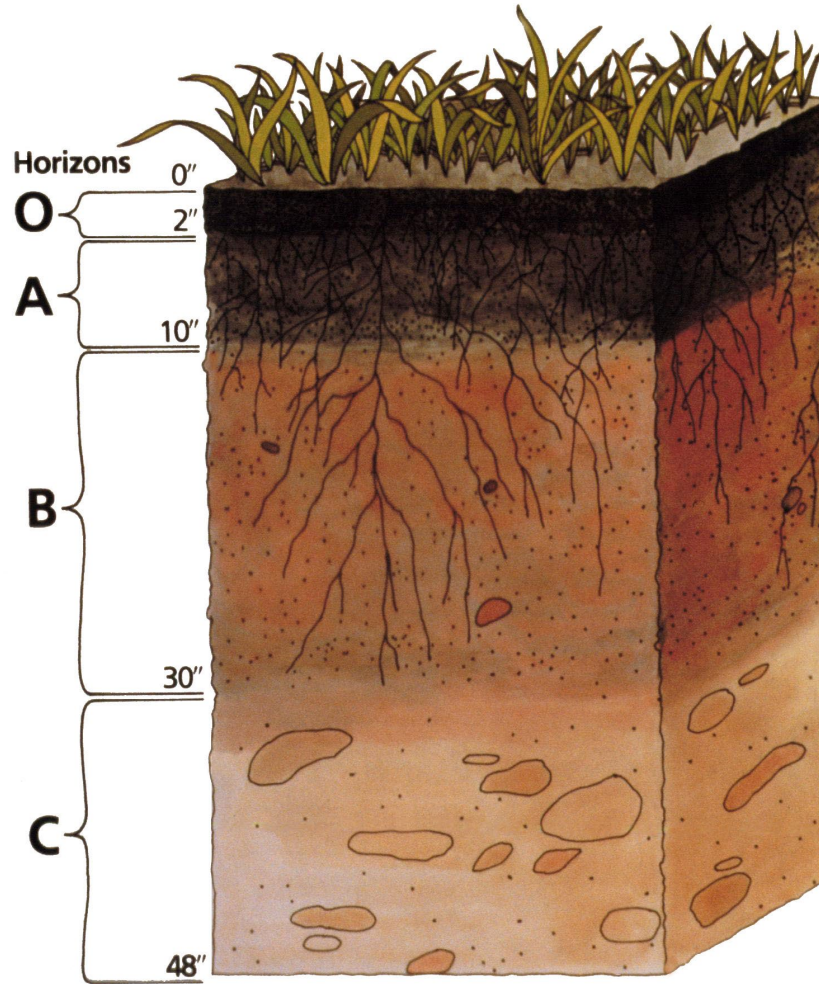
Eleusis Fodder Systems

Eric Gostenik & Joaquin Gonzales



Using Soil Survey

BJ Shoup & Andy Steinert



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Photo by Tatum Chase



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Project Update

April 29, 2025



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

ag.colorado.gov

NRCS Partnership

- Training with & supporting NRCS Urban Conservationist, Maria Bumgarner, through field visits & EQIP application submissions
- Urban Agriculture Field Day - April 1st 2025
- Learning more about NRCS programs and sharing opportunities to engage throughout my work





COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

ag.colorado.gov

CDA Program Development

- Winter Conference Season
 - CACD/CSCB Annual Meeting
 - Mile High Farmers Summit
 - NACD Annual Meeting - SLC
 - CFVGA Annual Meeting
- Gearing up for May 1st Event - Growing Urban Ag in Colorado
- Strategic Plan Development
- Looking Toward the Future: Regional Workshops





COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Photo by Flip Dalfonso

Questions? Thank You!

Urban Ag – Backyard Chicken

Presented by: Beth Hayes, Pueblo CSUE Agriculture, Natural Resources & Small Acreage Specialist



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Chickens 101

- Omnivores
 - No: Beans, potatoes, avocados, dairy, chocolate, apple seeds
- Average life span 5-14 years (breed, health, predators)
- Dusty
- Noisy
- Free loaders
- Every county, HOA and metro district has different poultry rules & zoning codes
- There are more chickens on the planet than people



Chicks vs. Hens

- **Chicks**

- Temperature Control
- Overcrowding
- Dust, Smells
- A lot more hands-on care for first 6-8 weeks of life

- **Hens**

- Eggs 5-6 months of age
- Seasonality
- Molting
- Personality & Pecking Order

- **Roosters**

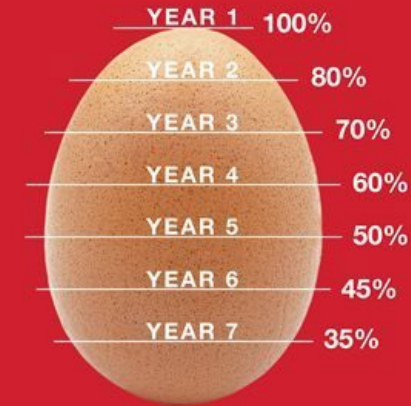
- Not all roosters know their jobs
- Many counties have noise ordinances inside city limits restricting roosters

- Many breeds you can't sex until about 6-8 weeks of age or longer

- All chickens have combs and wattles (size of those change with breed)

Egg goals for your backyard chickens

Egg counts may naturally change as hens get older.



High-producing, well-fed backyard hens can lay up to **250 eggs** in the first year

Feed a Purina® complete layer feed to help hens lay strong and stay strong.

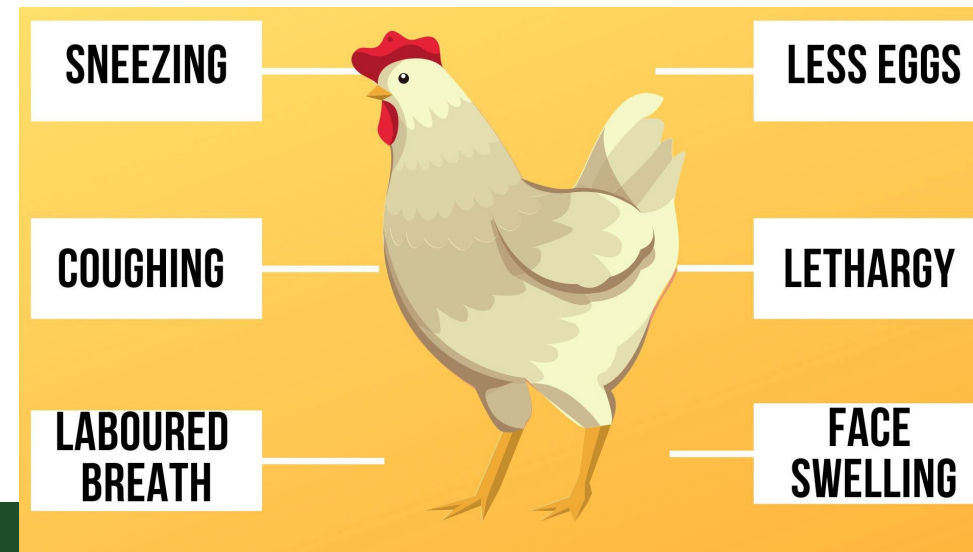
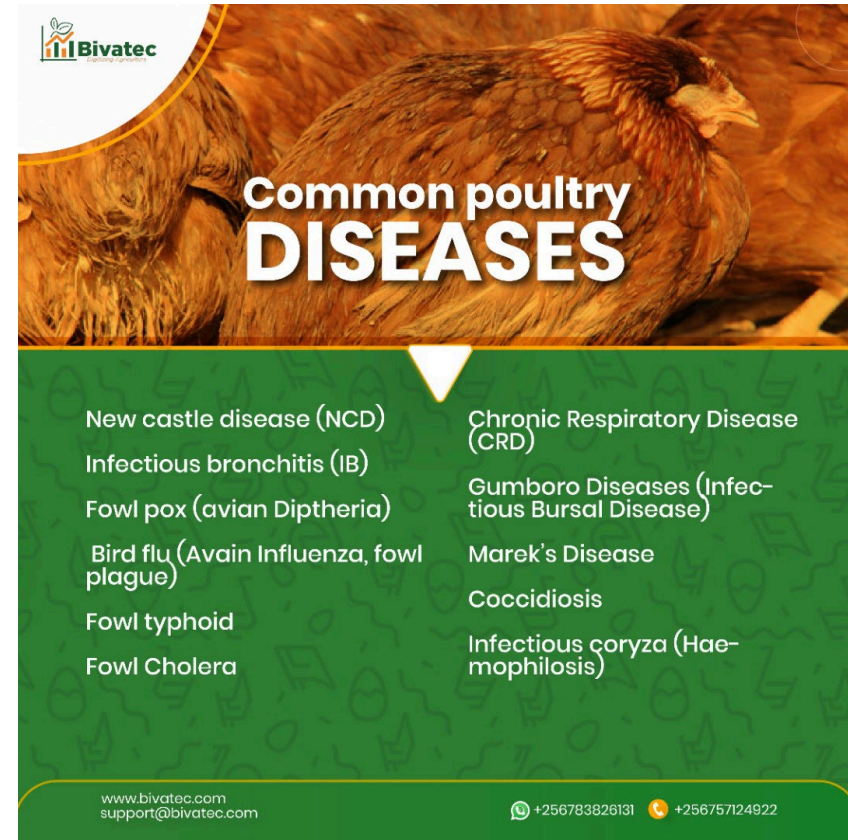


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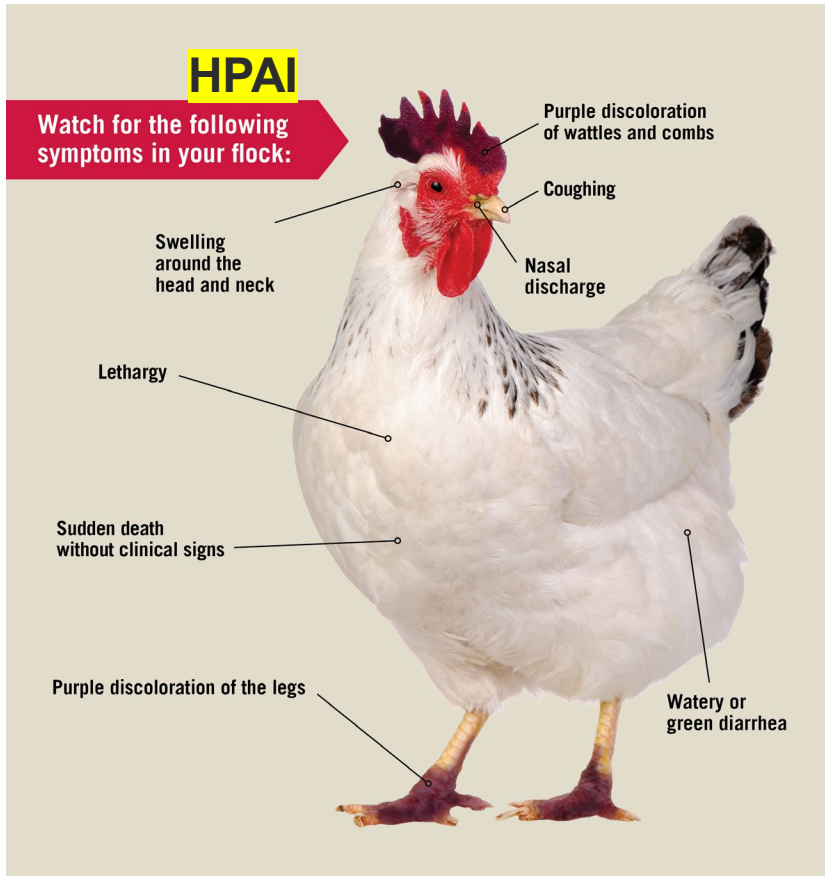
Wattle

Diseases

- **HPAI – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**
 - Virus
 - Spread by wild birds
 - Purple combs
 - No treatment
 - Vaccine in the works
 - Zoonotic
- **Bumblefoot**
 - Bacterial infection with abscess on the bottom of the foot
 - Wrong perches (size, rough)
 - Poor hygiene, Vitamin A loss
 - Obesity
- **Fowl Pox**
 - Viral disease causing lesions on the skin or membranes of the respiratory tract
 - No cure but there is a vaccine
- **Marek's Disease**
 - Viral disease caused by herpesvirus – not zoonotic
 - Causes tumors and paralysis
 - High mortality rates, vaccine but not cure
- **Respiratory Issues**



Diseases Cont.



Resources CSUE

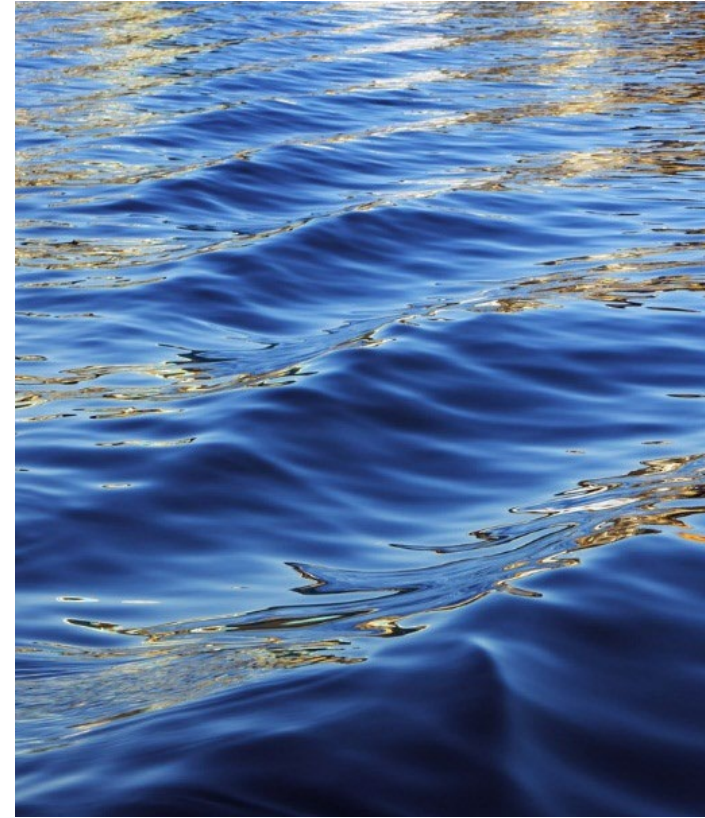
- CSU Extension Veterinary Specialist – Dr. Kathy Whitman
 - Kathy.Whitman@colostate.edu
- Colorado Avian Health Program
 - <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/vdl/colorado-avian-health-program/#:~:text=You%20can%20contact%20us%20at,commercial%20and%20backyard%20poultry%20producers.>
- Ailments of Chickens – CSUE Fact Sheet
 - <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/ailments-of-chickens-2-505/>
- Avian Flu – CSUE Fact Sheet
 - <https://extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Avian-Health-Deliverable-Draft98.pdf>
- Raising Poultry the Organic Way – Disease Control & Feeding
 - <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/raising-poultry-the-organic-way-disease-control-and-feeding-2-507/>
- Raising Poultry the Organic Way – Mang & Production
 - <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/raising-poultry-the-organic-way-management-and-production-2-508/>





Farm Bill 2018 Source Water Protection and National Water Quality Initiative Report

Amber Freouf – Assistant State Conservationist – Programs





Source Water Report



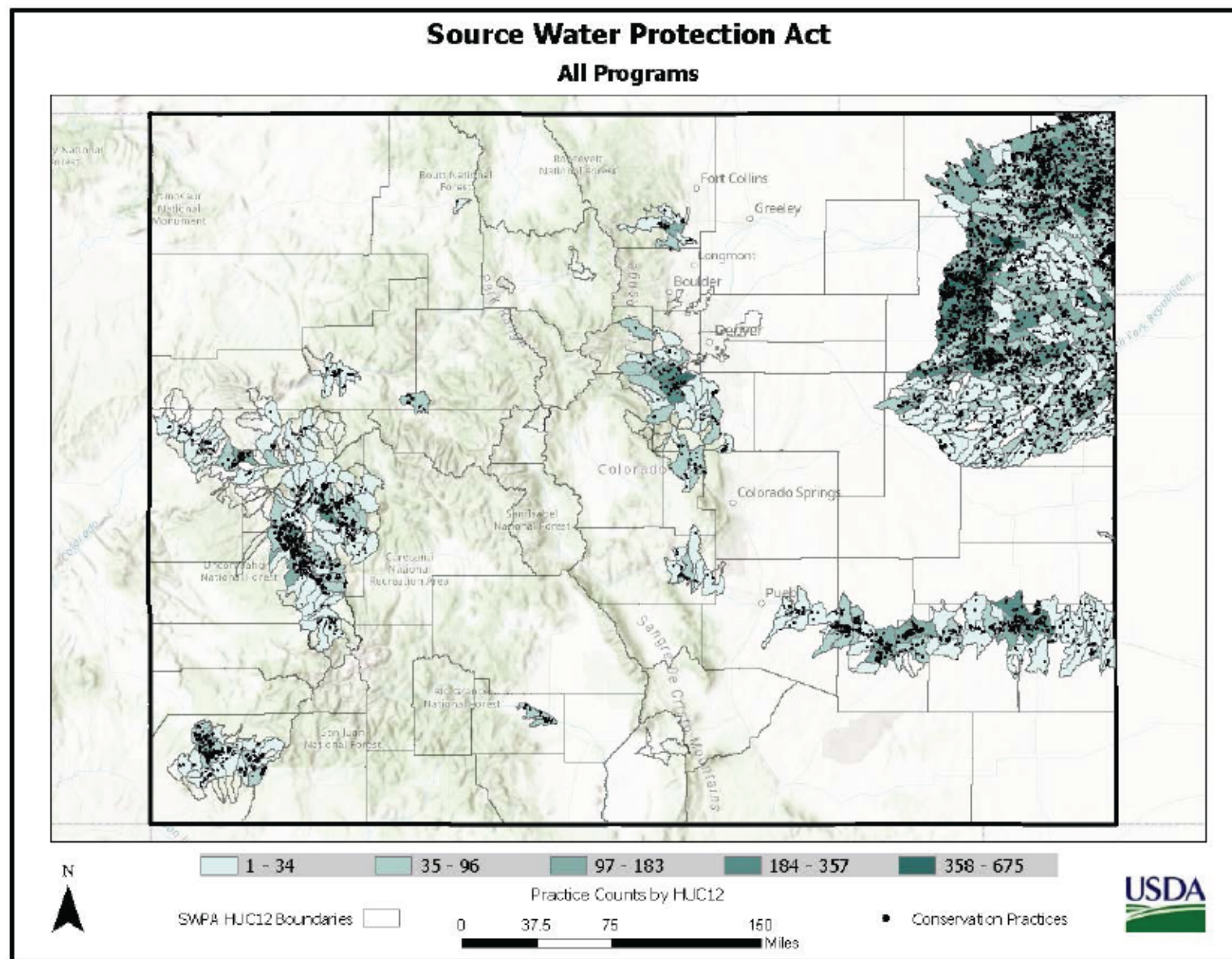
Source Water Defined

Refers to sources of water (rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater) that provide water to public drinking water supplies and private wells.

2018 Farm Bill enabled the protection of drinking water

- Policy directs states to:
 - Allocate 10% of funding across all programs to be used to encourage practices that relate to water quality and quantity that protect source waters
 - Work with State Technical Committee to identify high priority areas
 - Work with State Technical Committee to identify practices that address water quality and quantity concerns while addressing threats to community water systems
 - Offer producers increased incentives and higher payment rates for identified practices

NRCS in Colorado and SWP



Over 28% of obligated funds for Farm Bill 2018 was dedicated to Source Water

Colorado Source Water Protection Scorecard			
Financial Assistance (FA) Program	2018 Farm Bill	Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	TOTAL
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - CSP helps ag producers build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation.	\$3,410,250	\$6,632,500	
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- EQIP offers farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners financial, cost-share assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural lands.	\$52,608,831	\$28,340,008	
Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)- ALE helps private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.	\$10,716,125	-	
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on (RCPP) agricultural land.	-	\$55,933,590	
	\$66,735,206	\$90,906,098	

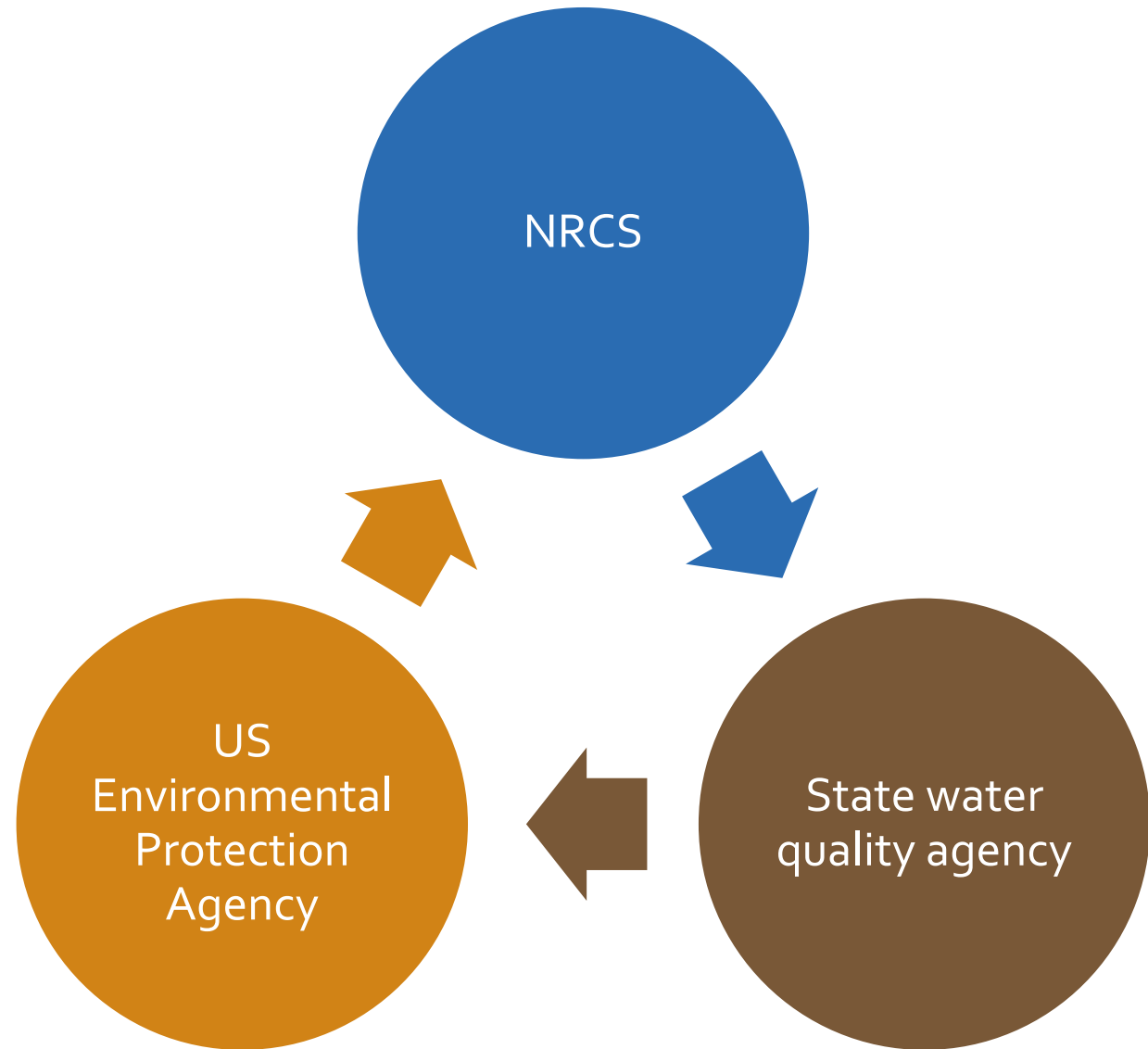


National Water Quality Incentives Report



Accomplishing Work

- Identify and address impaired water bodies
- NRCS provide targeted funding for financial and technical assistance to small watersheds
- Partners provide additional resources in watershed planning, implementation, outreach and monitoring to track water quality improvements over time





National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

Provides voluntary on-farm conservation investments with focused water quality monitoring and resource assessments to deliver clean water .



Conservation Practices

Promote Soil Health

Reduce erosion

Lessen nutrient runoff



Thank you

Amber Freouf
amber.freouf@usda.gov
719-469-9663





NRCS Colorado

Farm Bill Source Water Protection Program

STAC Meeting

April 29, 2025

Agenda

1. Program Accomplishments
2. FY26 Stakeholder Input
3. SWP FY26 Local Priority Area Recommendations
4. SWP FY26 Eligible Conservation Practices
5. NWQI FY26 Recommendations
6. Open Discussion, Questions

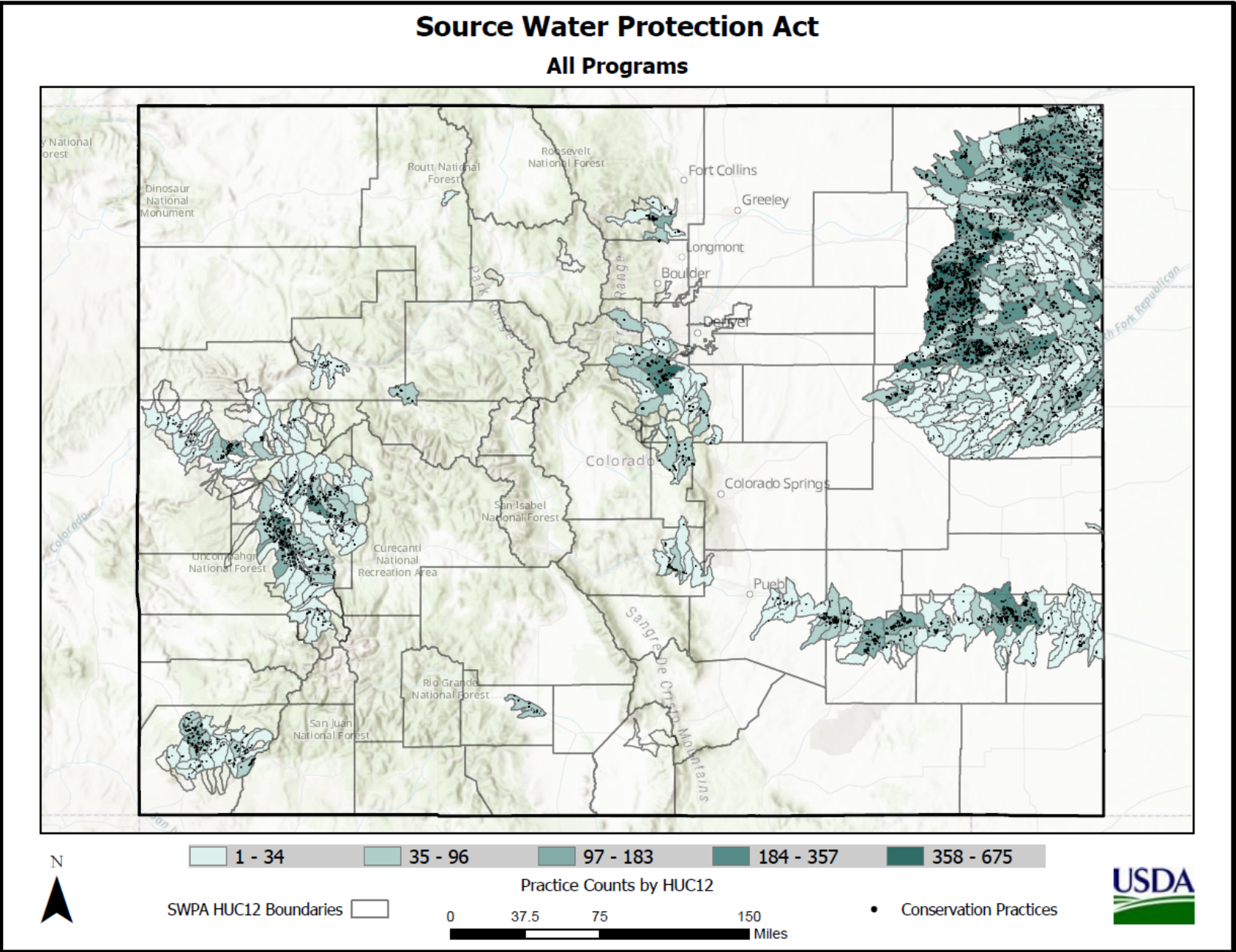
1. Program Accomplishments

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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	<i>RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.</i>	\$ -	\$ 55,933,590
Total		\$ 66,735,206	\$ 90,906,098

- **28%** of funding from 2019 to 2024 has been dedicated to SWP projects in Colorado
- **\$158 Million** devoted to SWP from Farm Bill (FB) and Inflation Reduction Act

****All data in this report is provisional data and subject to revision.****

1. Program Accomplishments



27,267 total practices have been planned and/ or installed as of April 2025

Conservation Pratices With Higher SWP Payment Rates to Encourage Implementation
Herbaceous Weed Control
Conservation Cover
Conservation Crop Rotation
Residue and Tillage Management – No Till
Cover Crop
Well Decommissioning
Woody Residue Treatment
Riparian Forest Buffer
Filter Strip
Irrigation Water Management
Forage and Biomass Planting
Prescribed Grazing
Range Planting
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Nutrient Management
Pest Management Conservation System
Forest Stand Improvement
Wetland Creation



****All data in this report is provisional data and subject to revision.****

2. Stakeholder Input

- Public Stakeholder Meeting held April 15th
 - Numerous Stakeholders requested additional meetings and provided input
 - Northern Water, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, other NOCO entities
 - Upper Gunnison River Conservancy District, and their stakeholders
 - Denver Water
 - Colorado Springs Utilities
 - CDPHE WQCD - Drinking Water and Clean Water Programs
 - BLM
- We are currently able to incorporate all stakeholder proposed additional LPAs and remain underneath the 20% state acreage threshold.
- We would still propose eliminating HUCs that have not seen any program participation since inception in 2019, to have flexibility in adding HUCs in future years should the need arise.

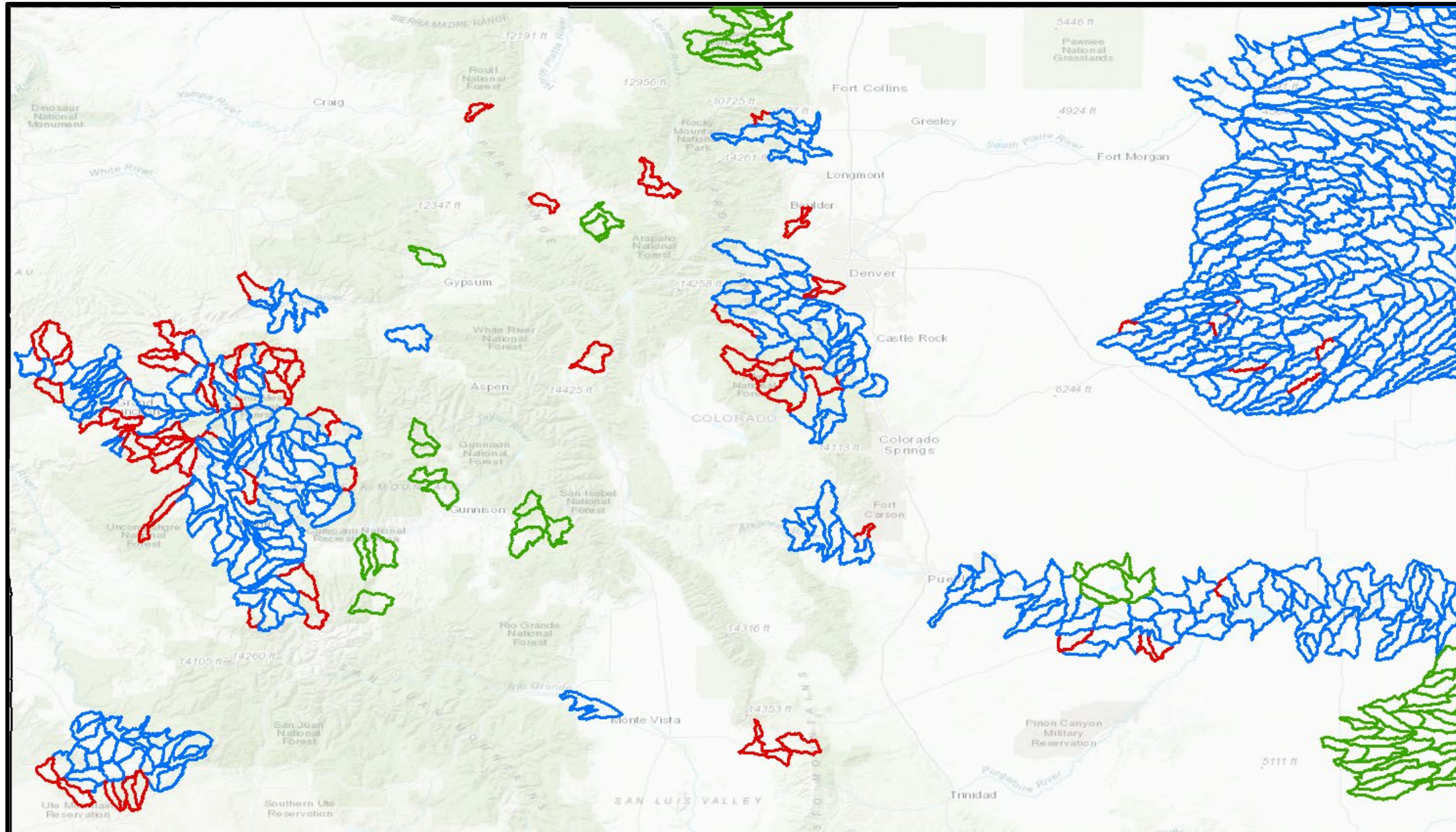
3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

-Keep

-Add

-No
Participation
(FY18-24)

Current Calculations
12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State



3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

Subcommittee Recommendation:

- Add Recommended HUCs that fit with program requirements (eligible lands).
- Based on stakeholder input, no immediate need to remove HUCs without participation.
- Consider removal of areas without eligible SWP projects funded between FY18-25. Engage Stakeholders in removal process next year.
- Removals should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

-Keep

-Add

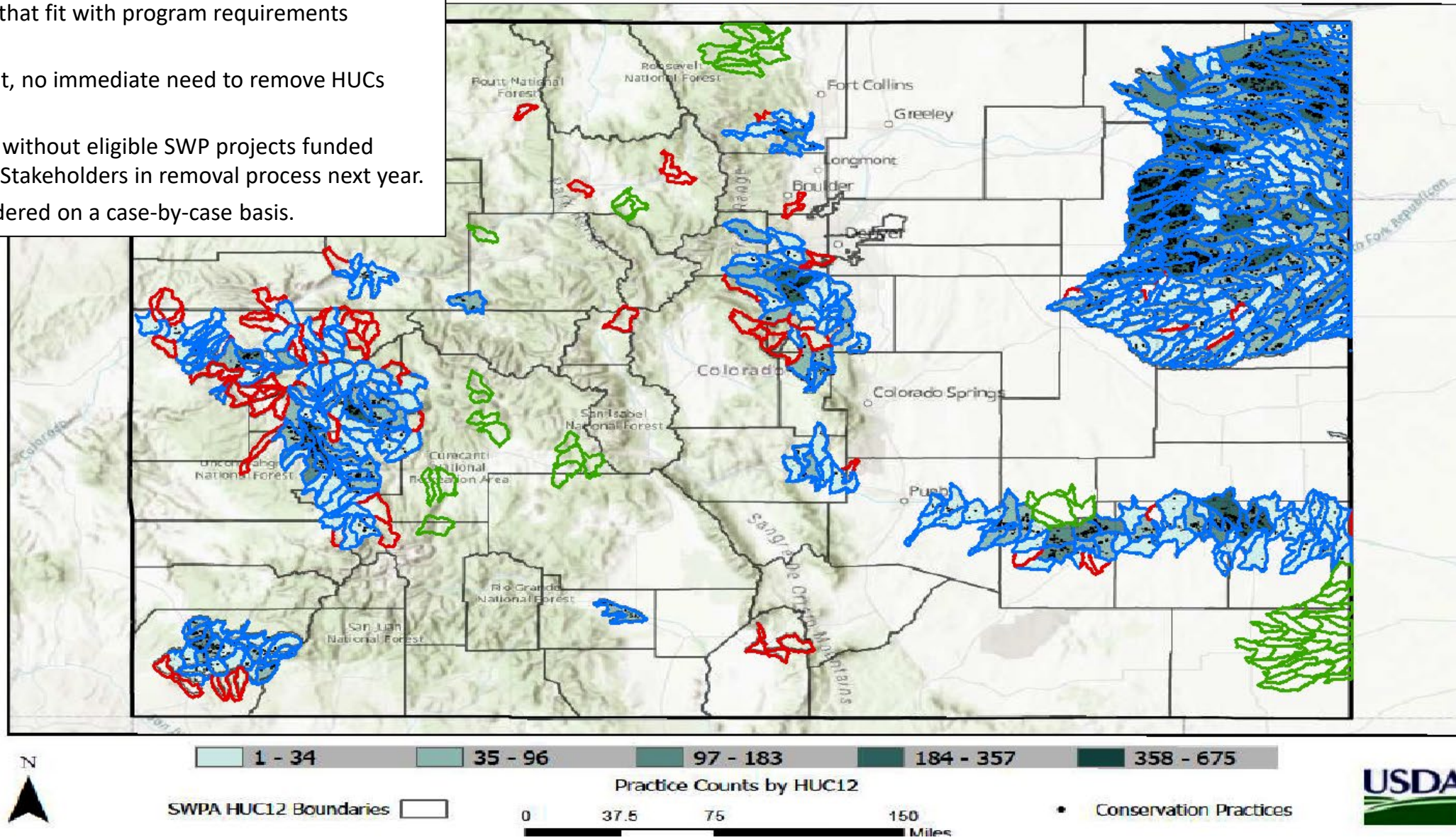
-No
Participation
(FY18-24)

Current Calculations

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19.4% of State

Source Water Protection Act All Programs

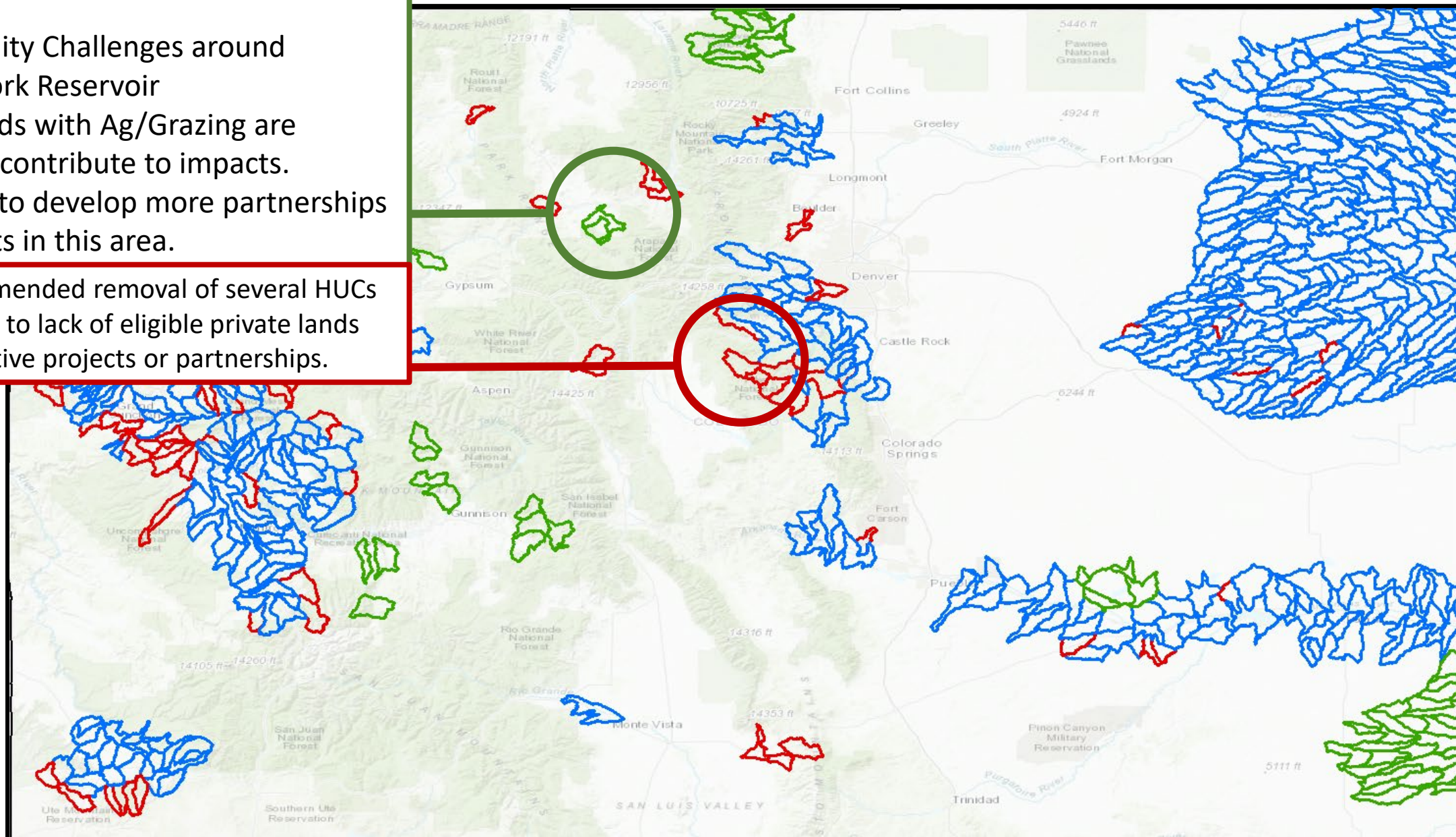


3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

Denver Water

- Water Quality Challenges around Williams Fork Reservoir
- Private Lands with Ag/Grazing are thought to contribute to impacts.
- Would like to develop more partnerships and projects in this area.

DW also recommended removal of several HUCs in this area, due to lack of eligible private lands and no prospective projects or partnerships.



-Keep

-Add

-No
Participation

12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State

3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

Upper Gunnison River Cons. Dist. & Partners

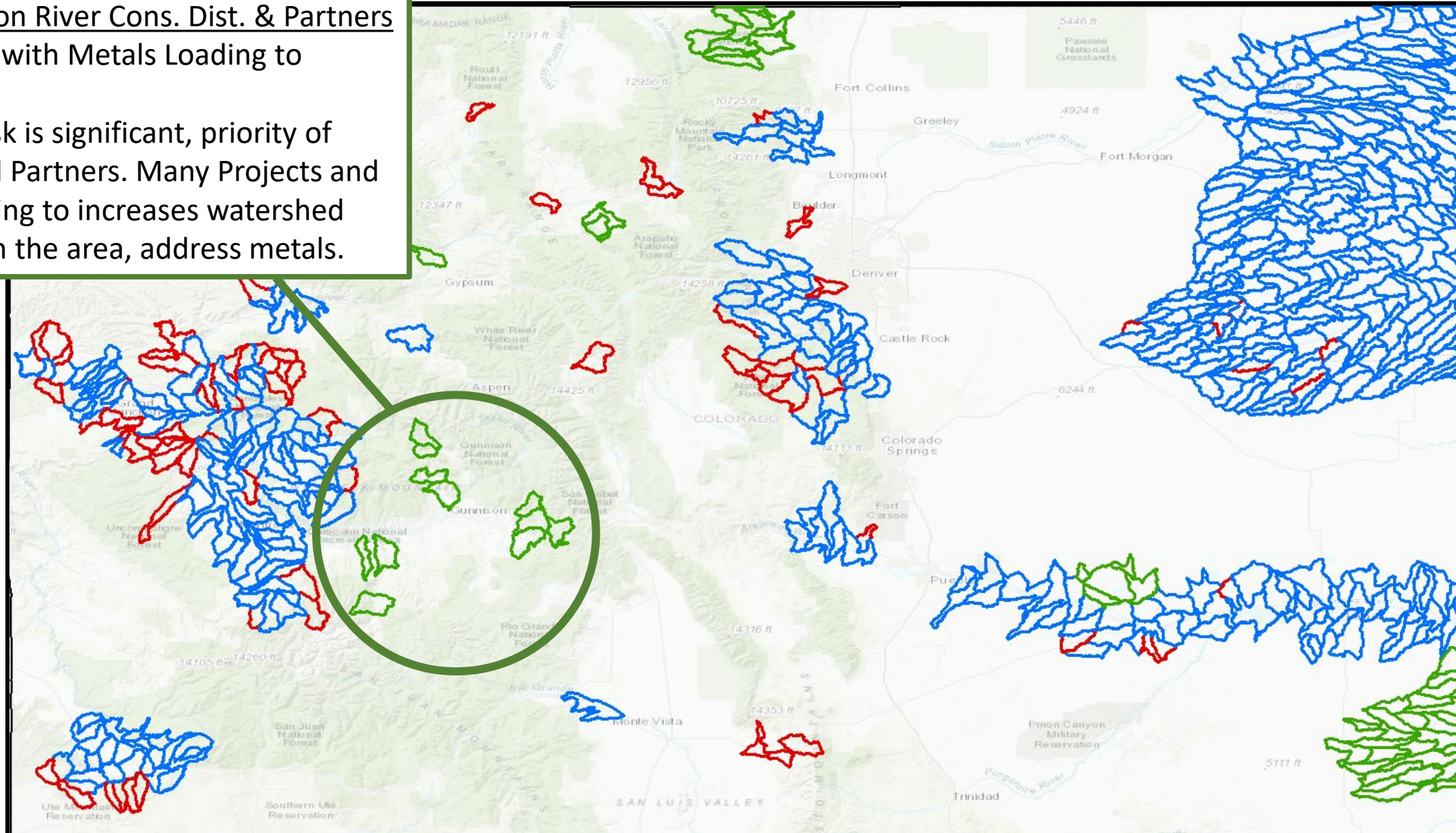
- Challenges with Metals Loading to Streams
- Wildfire Risk is significant, priority of District and Partners. Many Projects and Plans ongoing to increase watershed resiliency in the area, address metals.

-Keep

-Add

-No
Participation

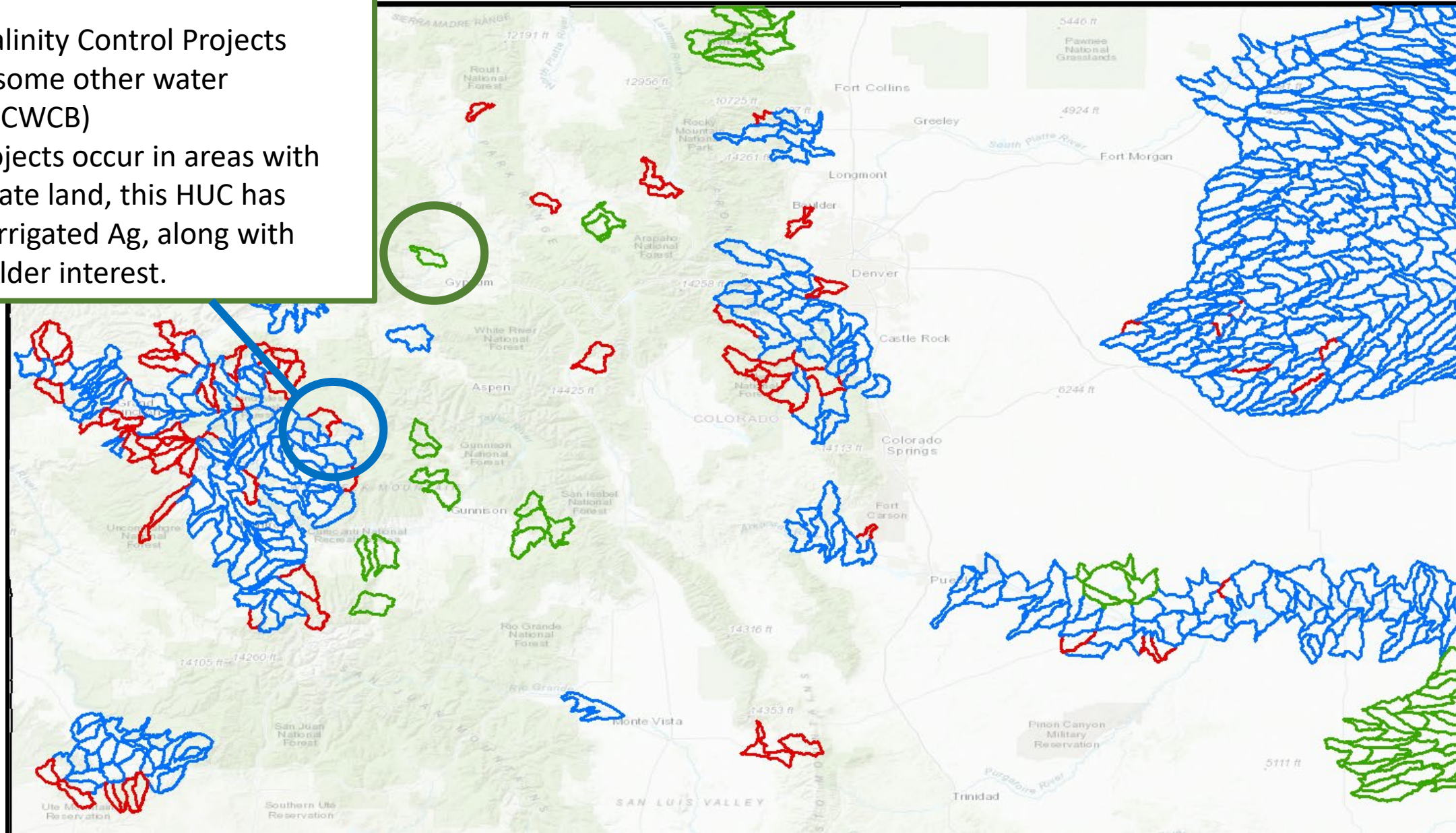
12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State



3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

BLM

- Investing in Salinity Control Projects
- Overlap with some other water stakeholders (CWCB)
- Most BLM projects occur in areas with very little private land, this HUC has private land, irrigated Ag, along with other stakeholder interest.



-Keep

-Add

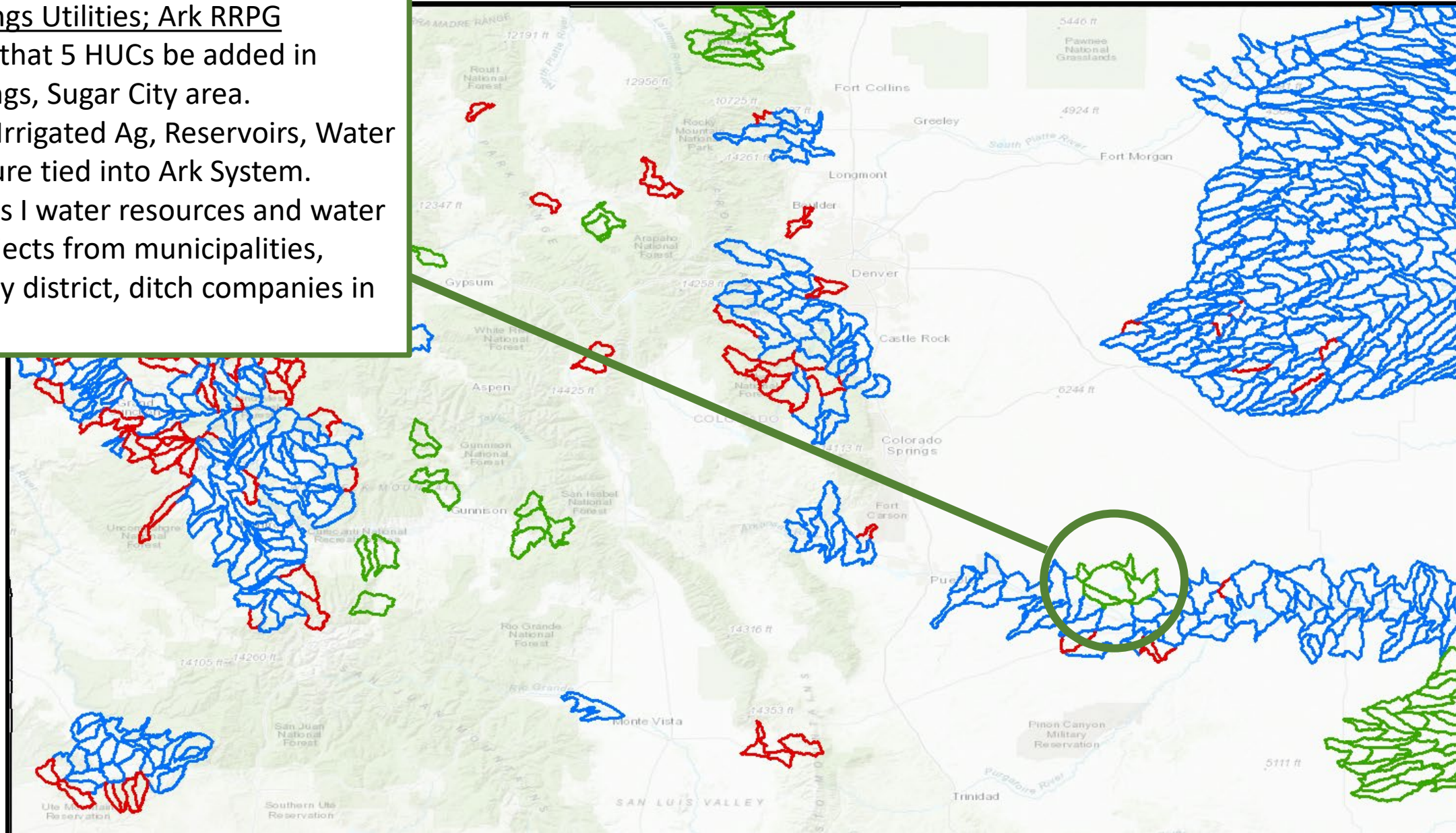
-No
Participation

12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State

3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

Colorado Springs Utilities; Ark RRP

- Requested that 5 HUCs be added in Olney Springs, Sugar City area.
- Significant Irrigated Ag, Reservoirs, Water Infrastructure tied into Ark System.
- Investments in water resources and water quality projects from municipalities, conservancy district, ditch companies in the area.



-Keep

-Add

-No
Participation

12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State

3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

WQCD Source Water Protection Program

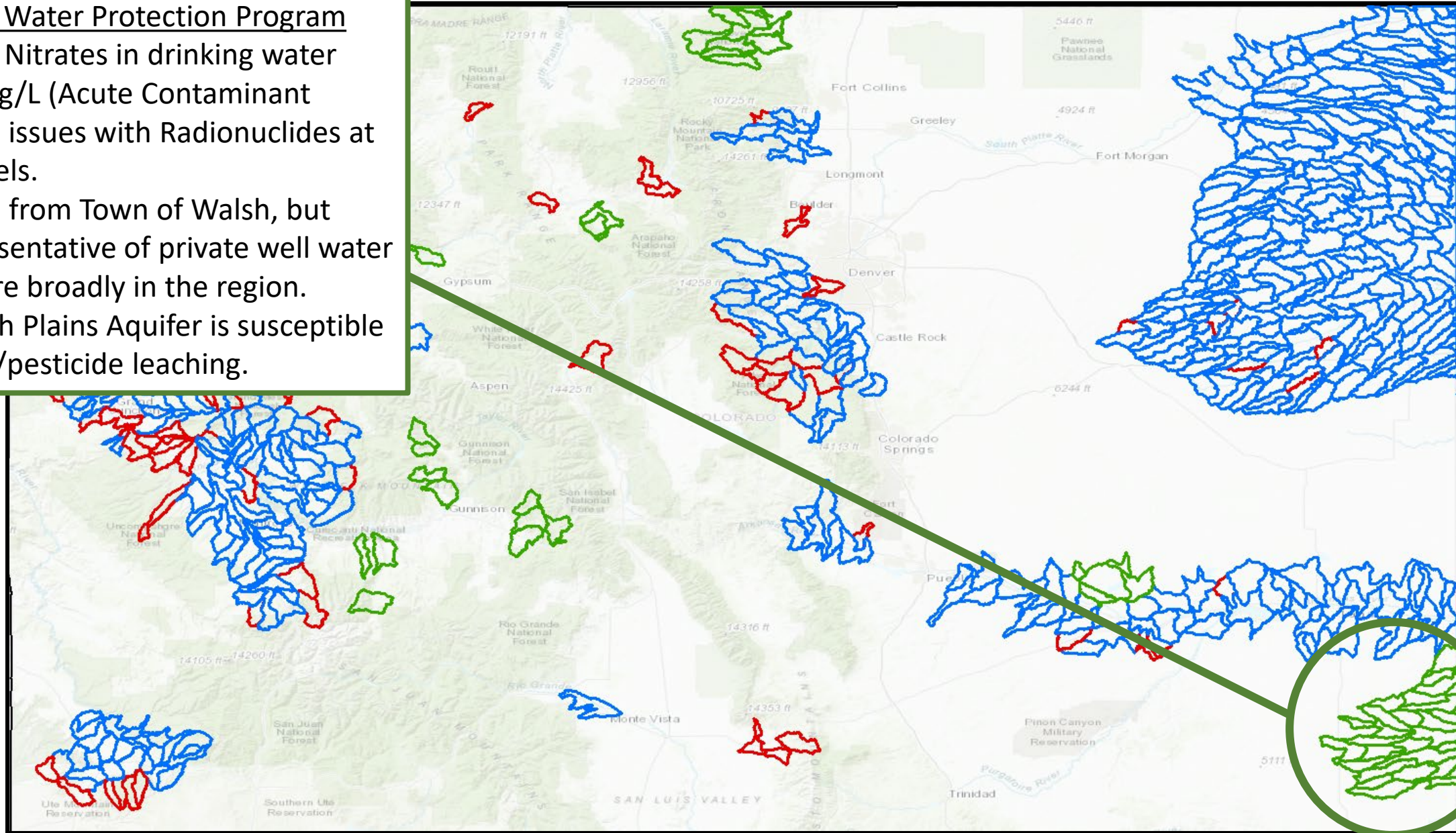
- Issues with Nitrates in drinking water above 10mg/L (Acute Contaminant Level). Also issues with Radionuclides at chronic levels.
- Water Data from Town of Walsh, but likely representative of private well water quality more broadly in the region.
- Area of High Plains Aquifer is susceptible to nutrient/pesticide leaching.

-Keep

-Add

-No
Participation

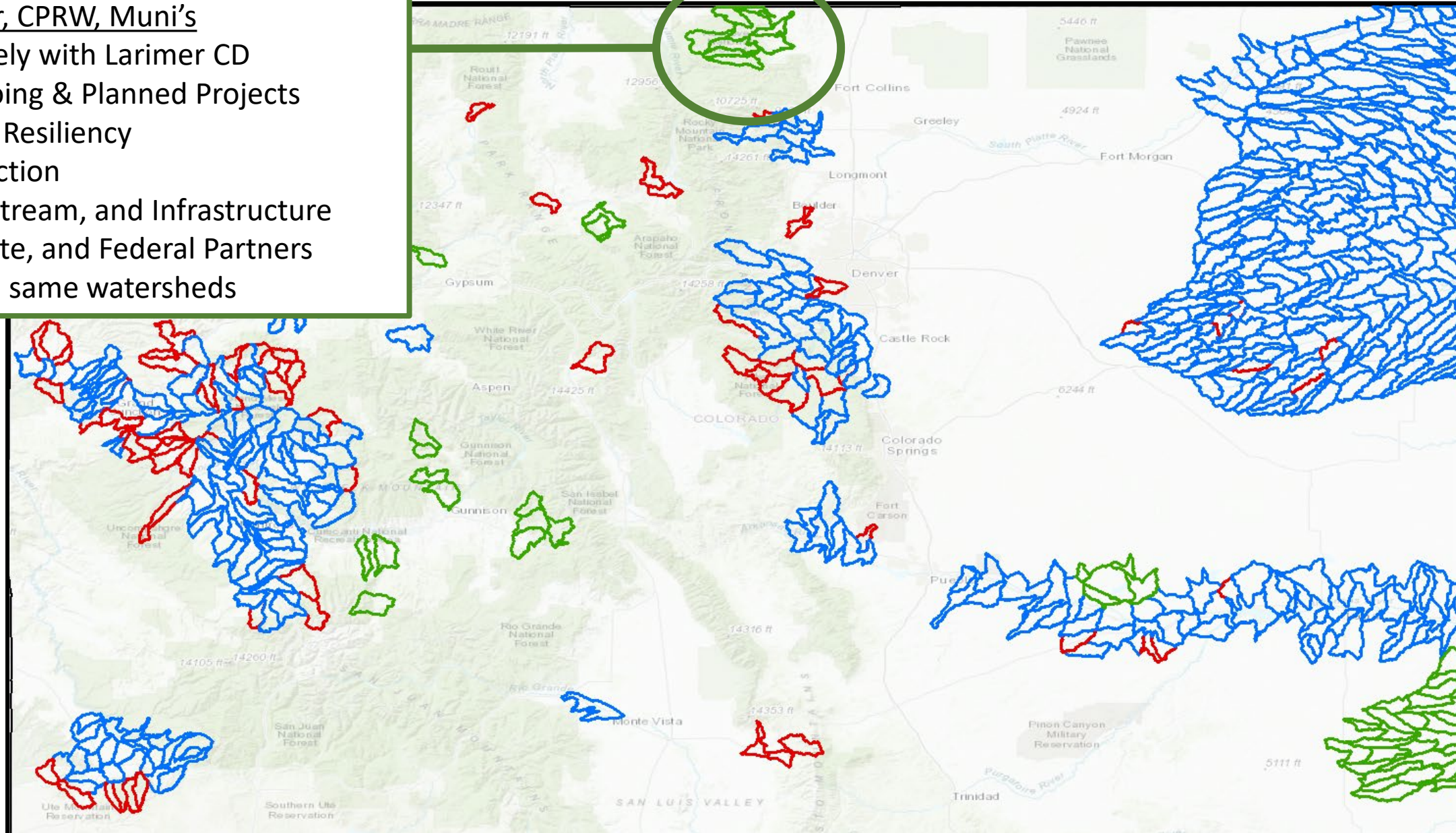
12,909,115 Acres
19.4% of State



3. Local Priority Area Recommendations

Norther Water, CPRW, Muni's

- Works closely with Larimer CD
- Many Ongoing & Planned Projects
- Watershed Resiliency
- Fuels Reduction
- Upland, Instream, and Infrastructure
- Private, State, and Federal Partners investing in same watersheds



3. Local Priority Area Recommendations – Upper Poudre

Highlight: Successful Partnerships Working Across Boundaries

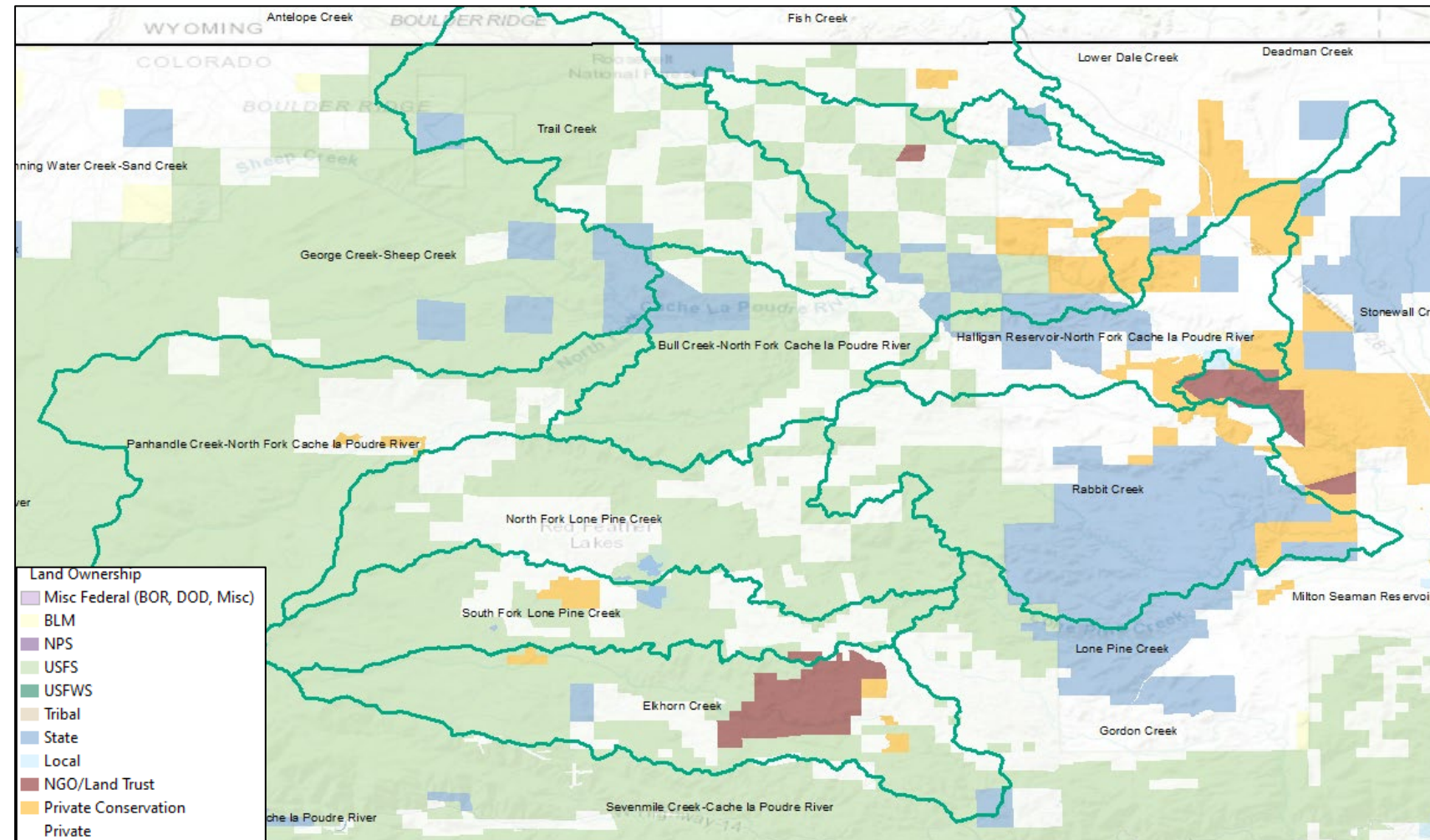
- Checkerboard of Landownership
- Landscape Scale Resource Management Across Boundaries
- Thousands of Acres of Private Land Conservation Projects since 2018.
- Supporting the Black Diamond Planning Area
- Planning Area and Supporting USFS by connecting PODs between USFS parcels and across private lands

Northern Colorado On-The-Ground Partners:

Larimer CD, CPRW, Northern Water, USFS, CSFS, Muni's, CPW

Funding Partners Leveraging Equip Dollars

- *CO Parks and Wildlife
- *CO State Forest Service
- *CDPHE WQCD
- *CO Strategic Wildfire Action Program Grants
- *Community Wildfire Defense Grants
- *City of Fort Collins
- *Northern Water – LCD Annual Agreements
- *Loveland Utilities
- *Peaks to People
- *Nature Conservancy



4. SWP Eligible Conservation Practices

Current Practice List 2019 to 2025 Planned and Implemented

Practice	Count
Conservation Cover	1486
Conservation Crop Rotation	4543
Cover Crop	1644
Forage and biomass planting to reduce soil erosion or increase organic matter to build soil health	1
Forest Stand Improvement	731
Herbaceous Weed Treatment	1839
Herbaceous weed control (inadequate structure and comp) for desired plant communities/habitats	3
Herbaceous weed control (plant pest pressures) for desired plant communities/habitats	17
Herbaceous weed control for desired plant communities/habitats consistent with the ecological site	1
Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site	62
Irrigation Water Management	3753
Nutrient Management	5000
Pest Management Conservation System	2221
Prescribed Grazing	3460
Range Planting	164
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	1532
Riparian Forest Buffer	18
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	37
Well Decommissioning	20
Woody Residue Treatment	735

Consideration for Addition

Conservation Evaluation & Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

5. NWQI Planning & Implementation Watersheds in CO

Special Thanks to Kenan Diker, CDPHE WQCD Non-Point Source Program

Current Planning Watersheds (Chatfield Reservoir area)

101900020503 Middle East Plum Creek Colorado

101900020502 Upper East Plum Creek

Current Implementation Watersheds (Lower Arkansas Basin)

Graveyard Creek 110200091003

Limestone Creek 110200091002



BMP Implementation Results in Water Quality Improvement in Graveyard Creek

Waterbody Protected

The Arkansas River system in Colorado is highly susceptible to water quality impacts from pollutants due to the composition of its underlying bedrock and regional agricultural activities. Graveyard Creek, a part of the segment of the Arkansas River classified as COARLA02a_B, is affected by selenium (Se) and sulfate. In 2016, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) added this segment to the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list of impaired waters due to sulfate impairment. In 2023, WQCC also added Se to the impaired waters list. Throughout the years, voluntary restoration efforts, supported by the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and private stakeholders, resulted in the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the area. Monitoring data collected between 2016 and 2023 show that these efforts successfully reduced Se loading from irrigated cropland in the area. Furthermore, other pollutant loadings, such as nutrients, were also improved. However, no improvements have been observed for sulfate levels thus far. Continued installation of BMPs is needed to further reduce pollutant levels and attain water quality standards.

Recommendations:

1. Keep Plum Creek watersheds, plans still need to be completed
2. Remove Limestone Creek (Lack of participation)
3. Add 'Outlet Big Sandy Creek'; HUC 110200110904 to align with CDPHE WQCD Non Point Source Program Priorities and Actions

Note: WQCD Non-Point Source Program and EPA are about to publish their success story for Graveyard Creek NWQI Projects! Stay Tuned for Release.

Thank You!

➤ Comments & Questions



Colorado Snow & Water Forecasting

Brian Domonkos





Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA)

Phil Brink, Brink, Inc., Consulting Coordinator, CCA Ag Water NetWORK



Why is Edge-of Field Monitoring Important?

Regulation 85 - Nutrient Management Control Regulation (N & P)

Includes nonpoint sources (ie. Agriculture)

Provides for voluntary management of Nonpoint Sources of pollution by encouraging the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Carrot and Stick: the WQCC may adopt regulations on nonpoint sources if BMPs are not effective in reducing nutrient loads and protecting classified uses.

Edge-of-Field Monitoring can measure BMP effectiveness.

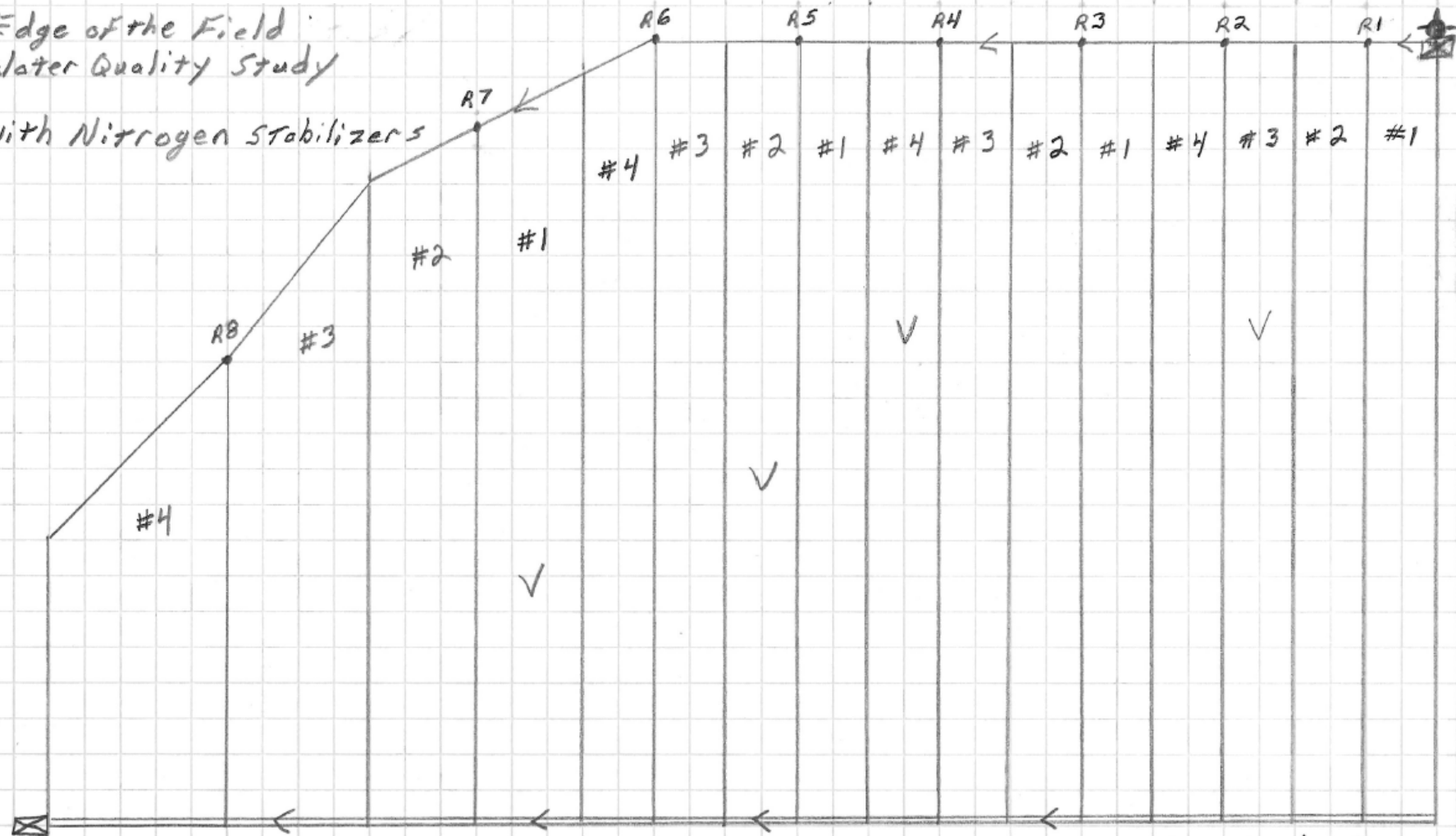




2025

Edge of the Field Water Quality Study

with Nitrogen Stabilizers



1 - N Power @ 385.5 lbs / 36.2 gals = 104 units

2 - N Power @ 474 lbs / 44.5 gals = 127.9 units

3 - Tripple N w/ Puric @ 385.5 lbs / 36.2 gals = 104 units

4 - 32-0-0 @ 400 lbs / 36.2 gals = 128 units

R = Irrigation Riser

= Day Set of Irrigation

> = Direction of
Water Flow

⊙ Inlet to Irrigation
System

⊠ Water Quality
Sampler



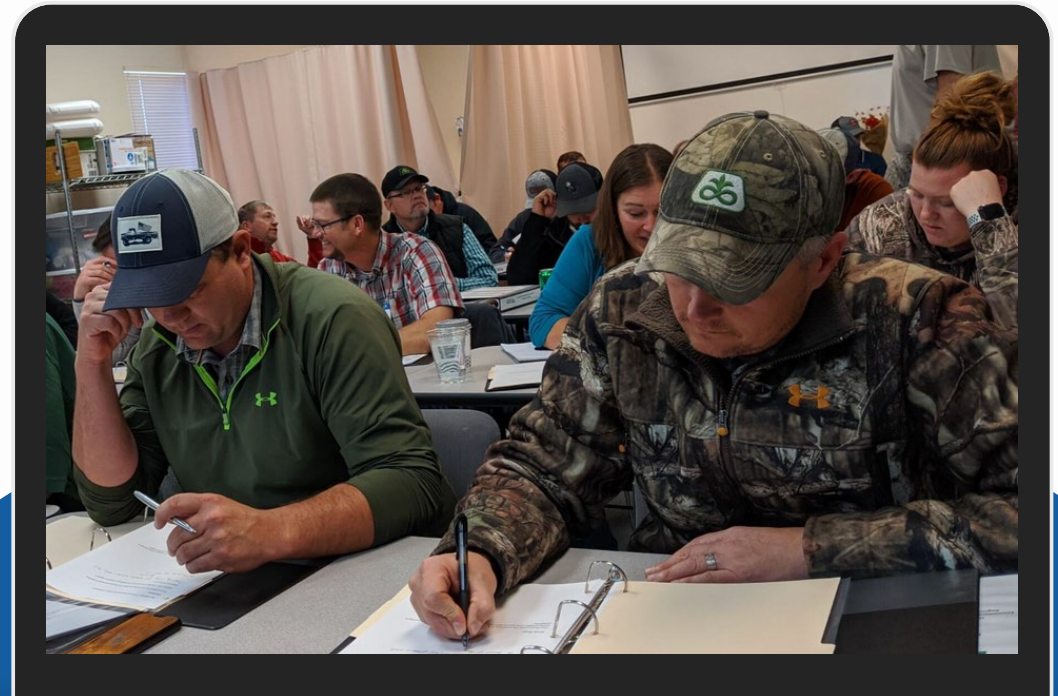


IRRIGATION INNOVATION
CONSORTIUM

Master Irrigator & TAPS Outreach and Education

Amy Kremen
amy.kremen@colostate.edu

NRCS-CO State Technical Committee Mtg.
April 29, 2025



Objectives

NRCS Multi-state contribution agreement (2023–2028)

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas

Strengthen and
expand Master Irrigator
and TAPS programs

Technology testing,
demonstration, and
data integration

Strategic
partnerships and
communication



Master Irrigator

“All things water management” training

Annual course with 24+ hours of instruction

Producer-led advisory committee

Local adaptation for curriculum & recruitment

Incentives to support operation goals

Goal: Equipping producers to pursue conservation- and profit-oriented management



TAPS

Testing Ag Performance Solutions

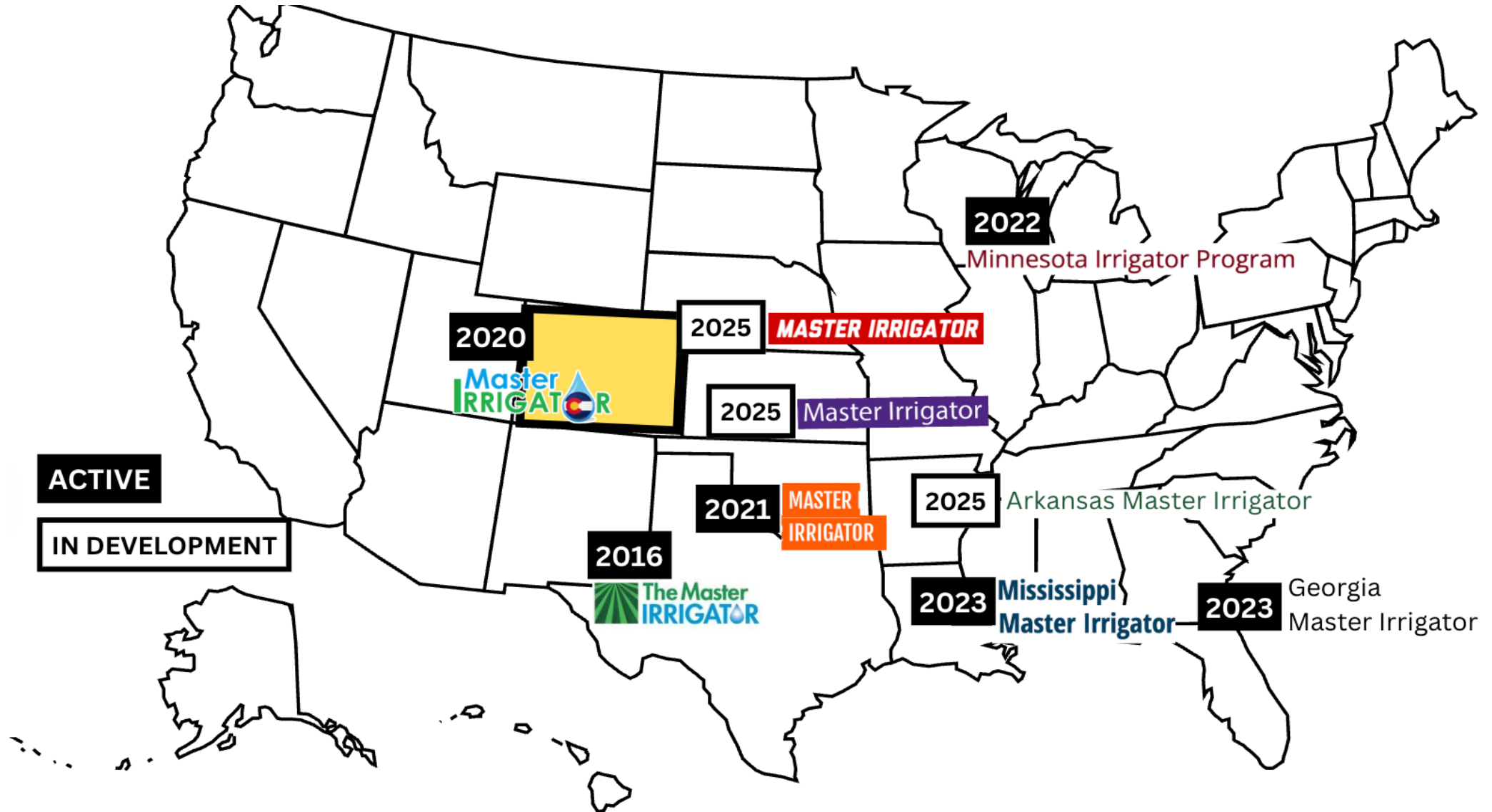
Fun farm management competition
Celebrates profitability & input-use efficiency
Risk free testing of strategies and tech
Leverages university research farms

Goal: Convey dynamic decision making value:
agronomic, marketing, tech use

Controlling costs, managing risk, and
boosting profit with SMART input use



Training ~300+ producers annually, Master Irrigator is estimated to have influenced >1M acres



TX Master Irrigator study (2016-2019 cohorts reached 3 years later:

92% adopted 1 or more practice (avg 2.4 practices/operation)

56% reduced water use, 82% improved water use efficiency

Project highlights – Master Irrigator



Multi-state Master Irrigator meeting, Aug 2024, Paulman Farms - Sutherland, Nebraska

- EQIP ranking in CO, OK >> support of other programs' discussions with NRCS
- CO statewide expansion and enhanced post-program support for implementation
- NE Master Irrigator design summits
- Multi-state Master Irrigator cooperation (virtual and in-person meetings) and discussion
 - Curriculum and content sharing
 - Create common certification standard?
 - New irrigation management practice standard for water quantity?
 - Extend reach of tech partners & engage new partners
 - Groundwater + ag dependent regions + MN. Interest from California, Arizona

TAPS quick stats:

2024

6 active competitions with 326 participants on 141 teams

2025: 10 competitions active with 342 participants on 209 teams

UNL-TAPS 2022 study:

75% adopted new ag tech

86% adopted new ag management practices

01

New in 2024

- KSU-TAPS (Colby)
- UNL-TAPS continuous corn soybean competitions, insecticide and cover crop termination decisions
- CSU-TAPS limited irrigation track

02

New in 2025

- KSU-TAPS (Garden City)
- KSU-TAPS forage sorghum/corn water allocation (Colby)
- UNL-TAPS Food Grade Corn Competition and Corn/ N Source competitions
- Reactivation of OSU-TAPS

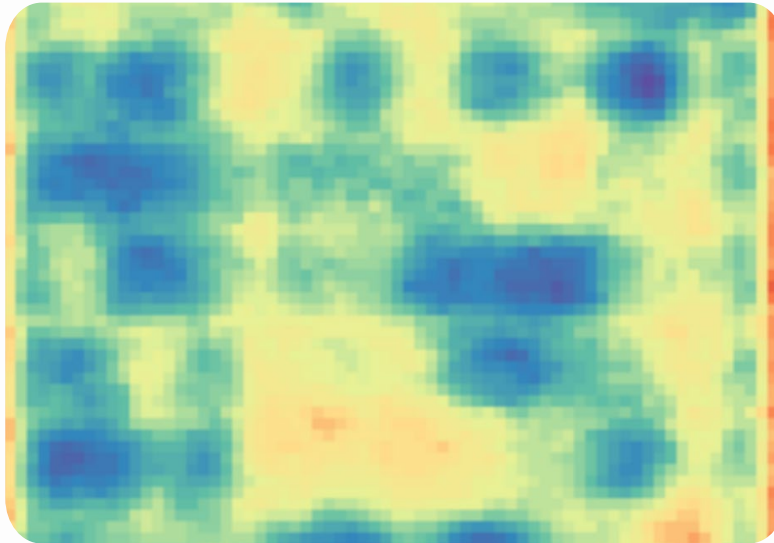
03

2024 New competition portal launched
2025 Improvements, training/use by new TAPS beyond the High Plains (Maryland, Alabama)

Technology



Testing



Demonstration



Integration



Example strategic partnerships



\$270,000 contribution in 2024-2025

General support & key sourcing region water stewardship pilot development

Beef sector + Master Irrigator in KS Supporting smart water management for key feed sourcing regions

USDA-ARS:

limited irrigation and system N loss research, harvest support



Interactive education designed to support a 40-year farm career:

student > early years > mid-career > legacy

*(This outreach & training also serves interests and needs of other ag sector audiences
e.g. tech, public agency, large meetings like the 8-state Ogallala Summit, etc.)*

Collaborative Learning

Build knowledge
alongside peers,
researchers, and
industry leaders.

Low-Risk Innovation

Test bold ideas
without risking
your bottom line.

Data-Driven Decisions

Use evidence,
not guesswork, to
guide management
and input use.

Learn by Doing

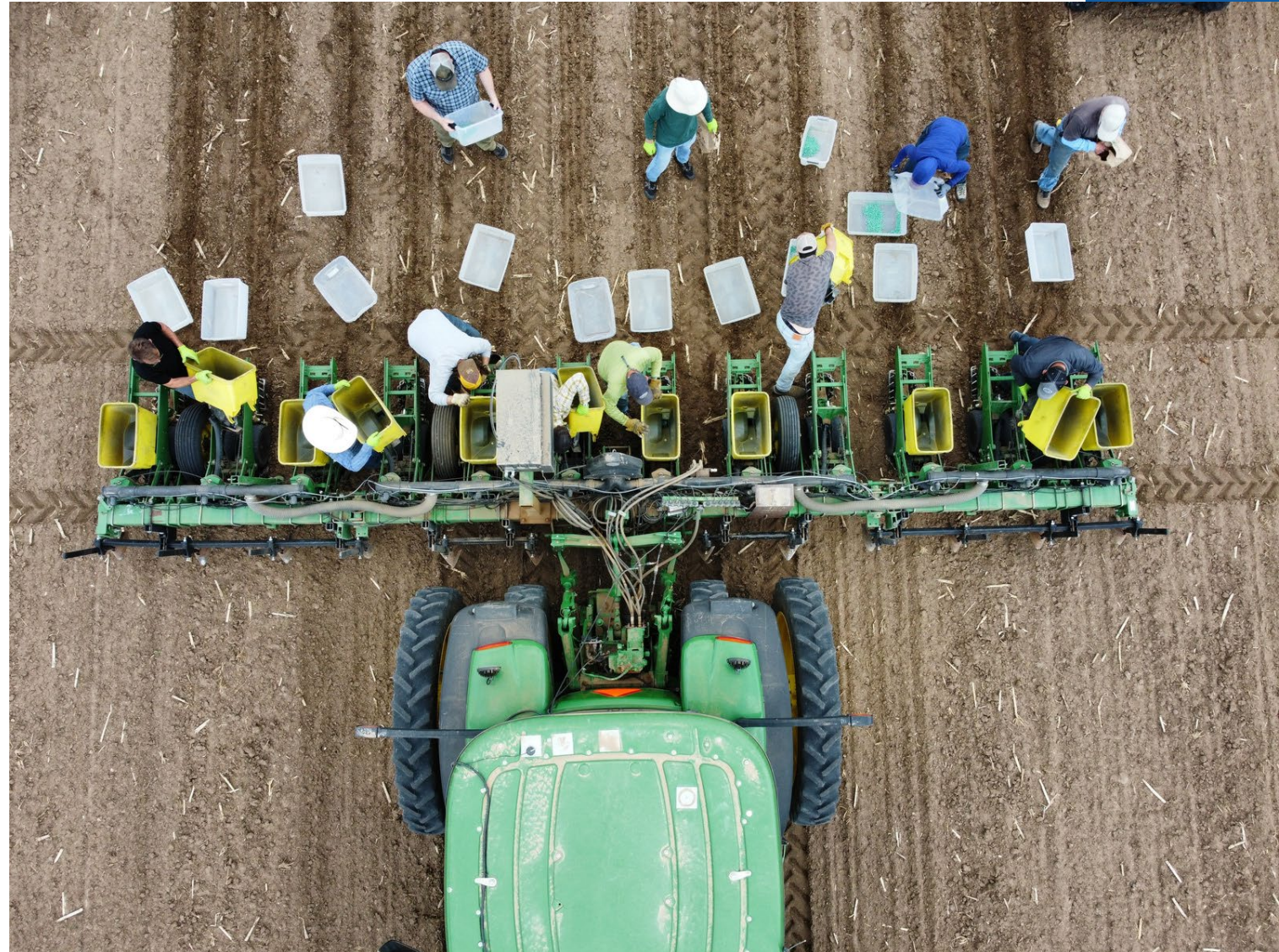
Make decisions
that matter, with
insights that last
and boost profit.

Whole-Farm Systems Thinking

Balance agronomy,
economic, tech,
and sustainability-
together.

On we grow...

- ▶▶▶ Templates, resources for new programs
- ▶▶▶ Teaching opportunities
- ▶▶▶ Research
- ▶▶▶ Supporting partner relationships (new & old)



THANK YOU!



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



IRRIGATION INNOVATION
CONSORTIUM



Amy Kremen

Associate Director

Irrigation Innovation Consortium

(970) 821-6119

amy.kremen@colostate.edu

Producer testimonials



TAPS
TESTING AG PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS

**Master
IRRIGATOR**



**Producer-centered education
with proven impact**

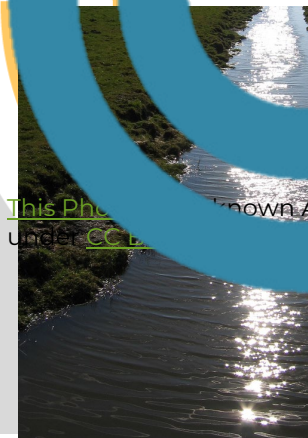
**Prioritizing
precision management
for efficiency & profitability**



United States Department of Agriculture



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Water Management Entities USDA-
NRCS Farm Bill Opportunities

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Water Management Entities (WMEs)

A state, irrigation district, ground water management district, acequia, land grant-merced, or similar entity with responsibilities related to irrigation water delivery or management. These may be public or semi-public agencies or organizations with the purpose of assisting individual agricultural producers.



WMEs may be considered eligible for an EQIP contract if **all** the following criteria can be met:

- WME is a public or semi-public agency or organization
- WME's purpose is to assist private agricultural producers with managing water distribution or conservation systems
- Water conservation or irrigation practices support a water conservation project that will effectively conserve water, provide fish and wildlife habitat, or provide for drought-related environmental mitigation

WME Land Eligibility

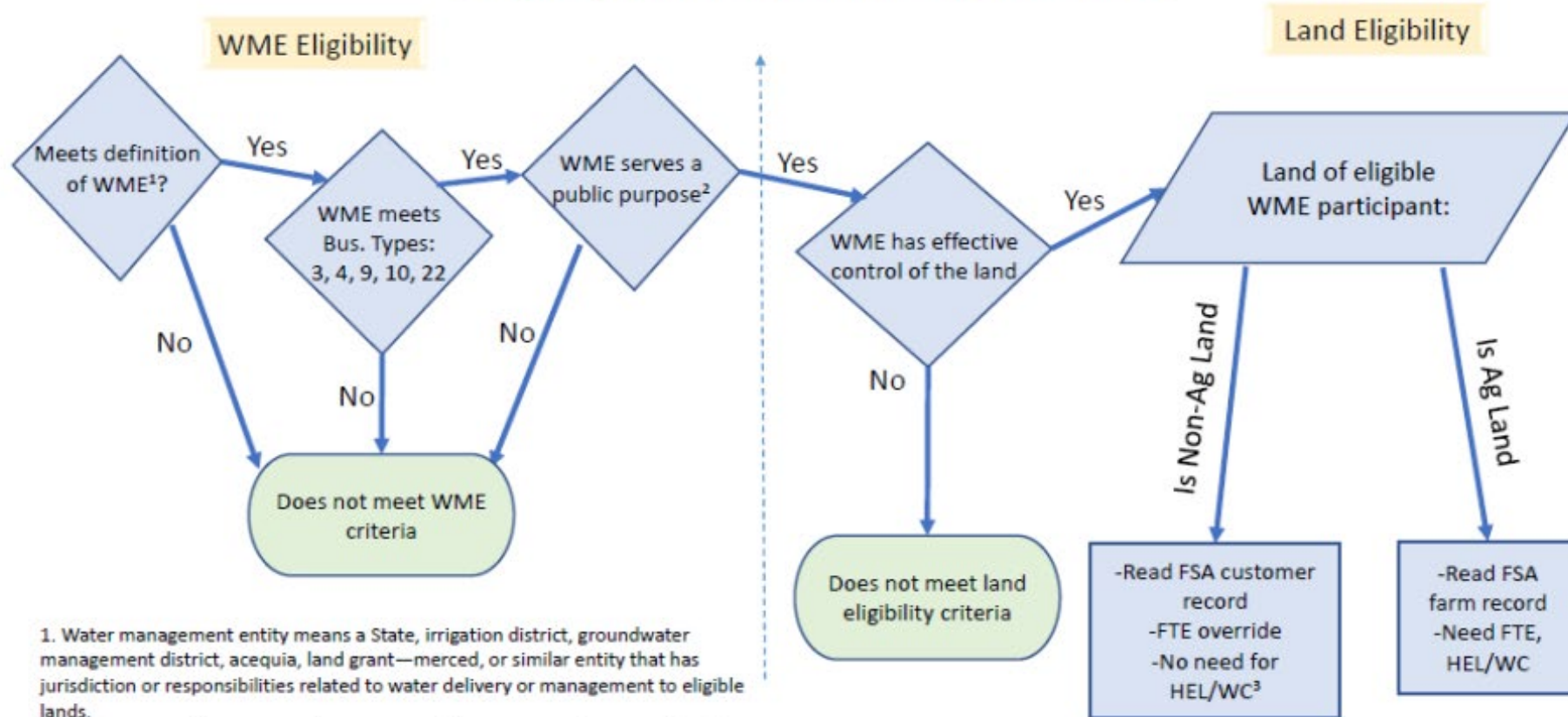
Water conservation or irrigation practices that are the subject of a water conservation project must be implemented—

- (i) On the eligible land of a producer;
- (ii) On land that is under the effective control of the water management entity; or
- (iii) Adjacent to the eligible land of a producer, provided the state conservationist determines the adjacent land is necessary to support the installation of a conservation practice or system on eligible land.

Note: Land that is under the effective control of a WME may be eligible even if it is not agricultural land or nonindustrial private forest land.

WME and Eligibility

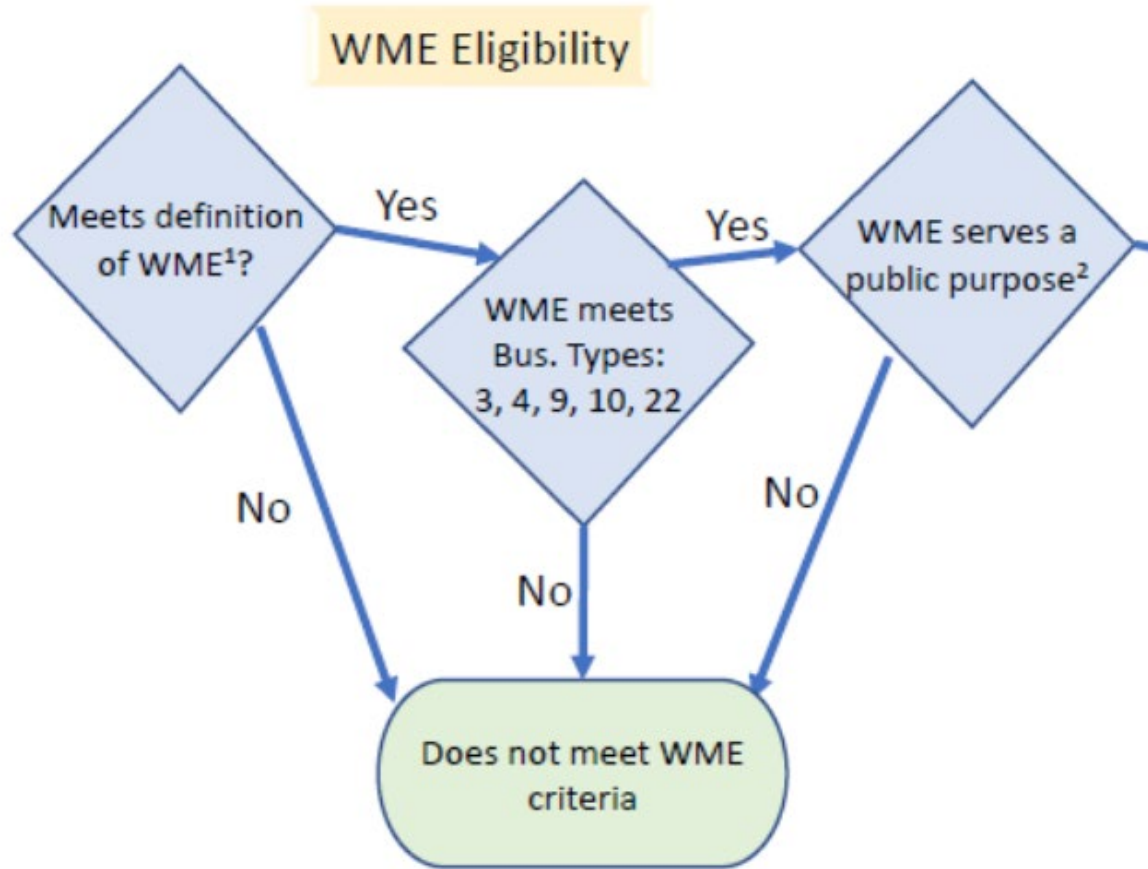
Eligibility Flow Chart for Water Management Entities



1. Water management entity means a State, irrigation district, groundwater management district, acequia, land grant—merced, or similar entity that has jurisdiction or responsibilities related to water delivery or management to eligible lands.

2. A private or public company that serves a public purpose such as a public utility (i.e., has a public governing board) and assists private agricultural producers with managing water distribution or conservation systems

3. As this is non-ag land, HEL and wetland compliance not required



FSA Business Types

- 3: Joint Venture
- 4: Corporation
- 9: State/ Local Government
- 10: Non-profit or Tax-Exempt Organizations
- 22: Limited Liability Company

1. Water management entity means a State, irrigation district, groundwater management district, acequia, land grant—merced, or similar entity that has jurisdiction or responsibilities related to water delivery or management to eligible lands.

2. A private or public company that serves a public purpose such as a public utility (i.e., has a public governing board) and assists private agricultural producers with managing water distribution or conservation systems

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Requirements

The following business types **are not** AGI exempt

- Type 4 – Corporation
- Type 10 – Churches, Charities & Nonprofit Organizations
- Type 22 – Limited Liability Company

Note: AGI is established from the average of the 3 years preceding application of reported AGI submitted to the IRS

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Waivers

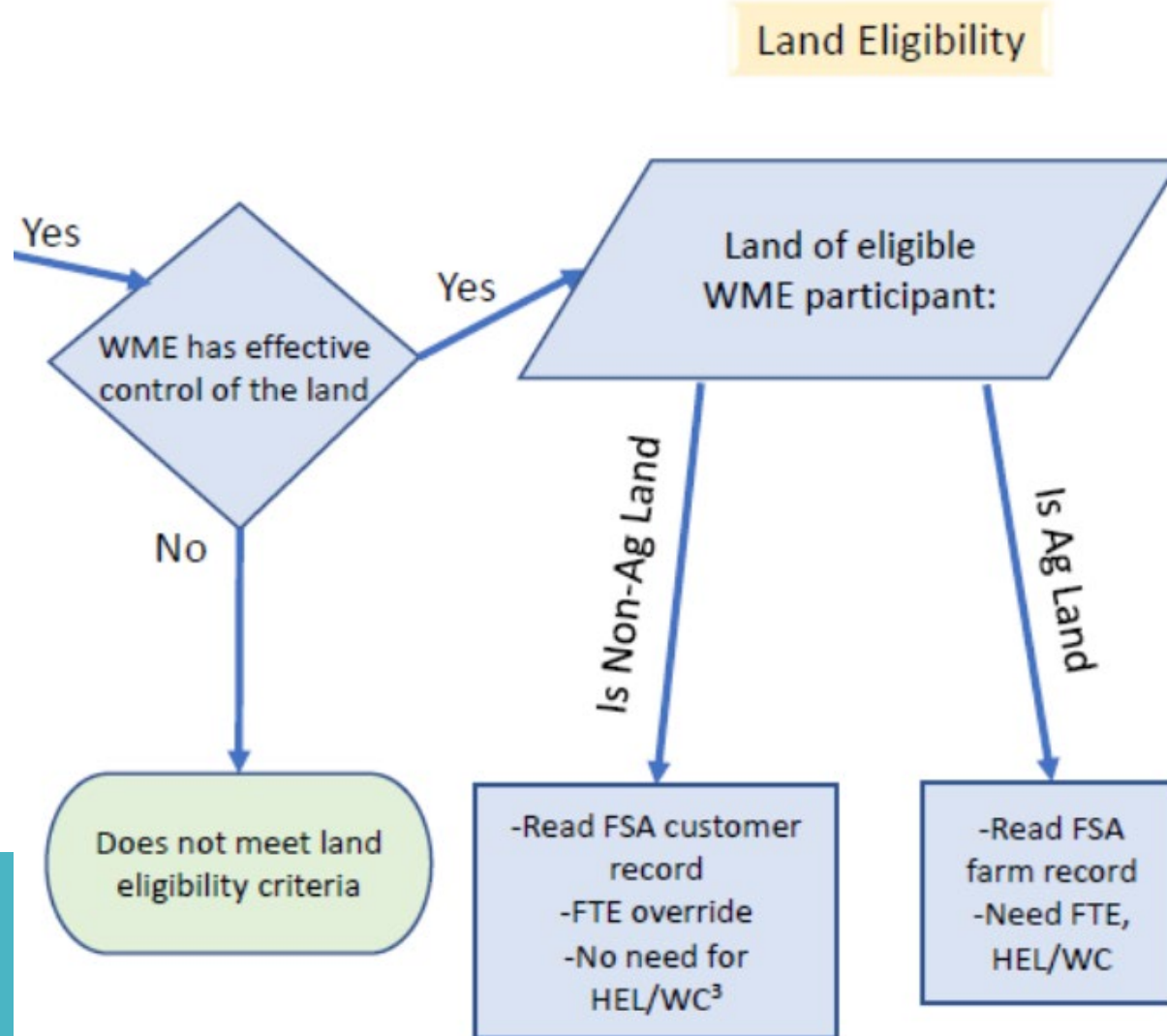
NRCS may waive the applicability of the AGI provisions if NRCS determines that the waiver is necessary to fulfill the objectives of a water conservation project implemented through an EQIP contract with a water management entity.

Under this specific authority, NRCS **will not** require a water management entity that receives this waiver to file Form CCC-941 or have AGI determinations made by FSA.



Business Type Code	Business Type	SCIMS Tax ID Type	Individual or Entity			Entity Members		
			FTE Eligibility Required 1/	AGI Eligibility Required 2/, 10/	\$450,000 Contract and Payment Limits Apply 3/, 4/	Members Required 5/	Member's AGI Affect \$450,000 Limitation and Payment 6/	Impact FTE Eligibility
1	Individual	SSN	Yes	Yes	Yes			
2	General Partnership	EIN	Yes 11/	Exempt 7/	Yes 7/	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Joint Venture 15/	EIN 8/	Yes 11/	Exempt 7/	Yes 7/	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Corporation 15/	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Estate	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Trust - Revocable	SSN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
7	Trust - Revocable	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
9	State/ Local Government 12/ 15/	EIN	Yes	Exempt	Yes	No	No	No
10	Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Organizations 13/ 15/	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
15	Indians Represented by Bureau of Indian Affairs	EIN	No	Exempt	Exempt	No	No	No
17	Trust - Irrevocable	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
18	Individual Operating as a Business	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
20	Indian Tribal Venture 14/	EIN	Yes	Exempt	Exempt	No	No	No
22	Limited Liability Company 15/	EIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
22	Limited Liability Company	SSN 9/	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Eligibility Records



Two Considerations for WMEs:

- Farm Tract Eligibility (FTE) does not apply to contracts with water management entities
- HEL and WC may not apply on non-ag land

Funding Limitations for WMEs

- **Payment limitations** are not applicable to contracts obligated during FY 2025.
- **Contract limitations:** Contracts obligated in FY 2025 for WMEs have a contract limit of up to \$900,000. A request to waive this limit up to \$1,800,000 may be considered if the following conditions are met:
 - The project [complies with environmental evaluation](#) requirements and does not require a site-specific environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS).
 - The [state has the ability to support one or more large water management entity projects](#) and still meet EQIP funding targets.
 - The [state has the ability to support the project's engineering workload](#).

Applications from a WMEs for an EQIP contract may be determined ineligible if the state conservationist determines that the conservation practices encompassed by the proposed EQIP contract are better suited under the RCPP or Public Law 566.

When making this determination, the state conservationist may consider the following factors:

- I. Whether the estimated contract cost for the minimum area required for the EQIP contract greatly exceeds the EQIP payment limitation for water conservation projects.
- II. Whether the project requires a site-specific EA or EIS because its potential adverse impacts have not been adequately analyzed under a NEPA review, or the proposed contract practices have not been adequately analyzed in the EQIP programmatic EA or other existing NEPA document prepared or adopted by NRCS.

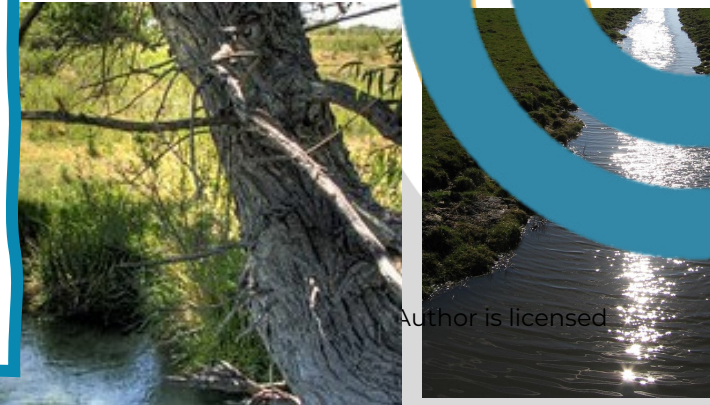


United States Department of Agriculture

Primary Contact:
Your Local Field Office
USDA Service Center Locator

Kindra Brandner
Kindra.Brandner@usda.gov

Stacey Eskew
Stacey.Eskew@usda.gov



Water Management Entities USDA-
NRCS Farm Bill Opportunities

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

BasinScout[®] Decision Support Tools for Watershed Program Implementation and Management

Tony Orlando
Analytics Engineer

Bill Ketterhagen
Project Implementation Specialist

NRCS Colorado – State Technical Advisory Committee
April 29, 2025

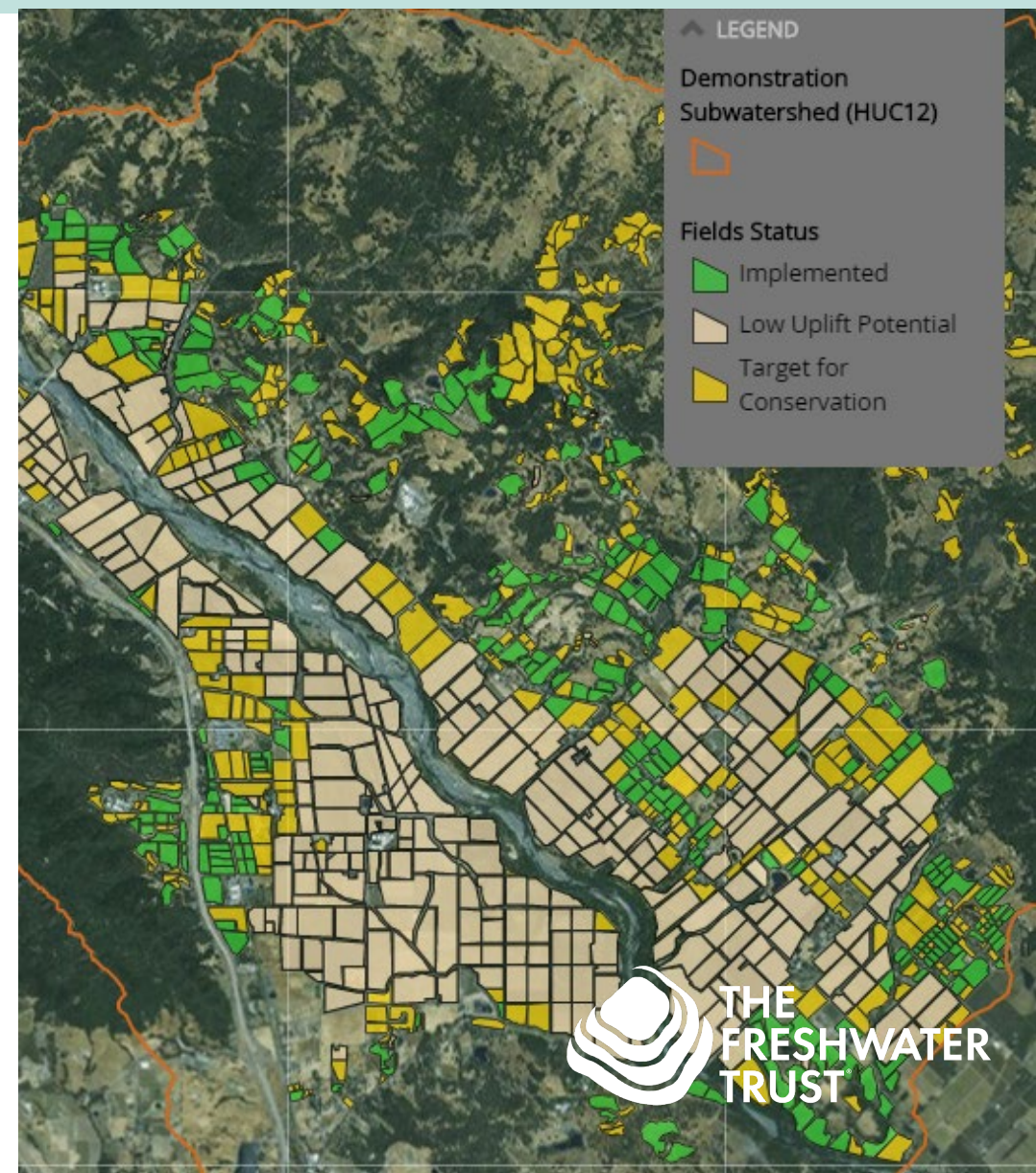


With 21st century tools and technology,
our focus is on scaling up and delivering
smarter, faster, cheaper
watershed solutions

Quantified Conservation Approach

Using advanced analytics to drive conservation actions to the places where they have the best outcome for the lowest cost.

- Assess Options
- Prioritize Actions
- Implement
- Maintain
- Track
- Report



TFT Analytics Toolkit

BASINSCOUT ANALYTICS

Watershed-level diagnostics that allow for remote surveying of large landscapes and watersheds to estimate environmental uplift and prioritize restoration sites.



A program management tool that allows for efficient implementation and tracking of large-scale watershed programs. Provides streamlined coordination among teams and project quality assurance.



A tablet-optimized application for collecting monitoring data in the field and compiling that data for long-term analysis and reporting.

Example: Lower Gunnison Project Area

The LGPA DST models on-farm irrigation upgrades (441, 442) to improve drought resiliency and reduce:

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Salt
- Sediment
- Selenium
- Irrigation Demand



SETTINGS

Select an AOI

Lower Gunnison Project Area

☐ Include User-Defined AOIs

Prioritization

Programmatic Cost Limit

SingleMulti

Metric #1

Salinity (\$/ton)

Nitrogen (\$/lb)

Nitrogen (lbs)

Nitrogen (lbs/acre)

Phosphorus (\$/lb)

Phosphorus (lbs)

Phosphorus (lbs/acre)

Salinity (\$/ton)

☒ Top 25th percentile

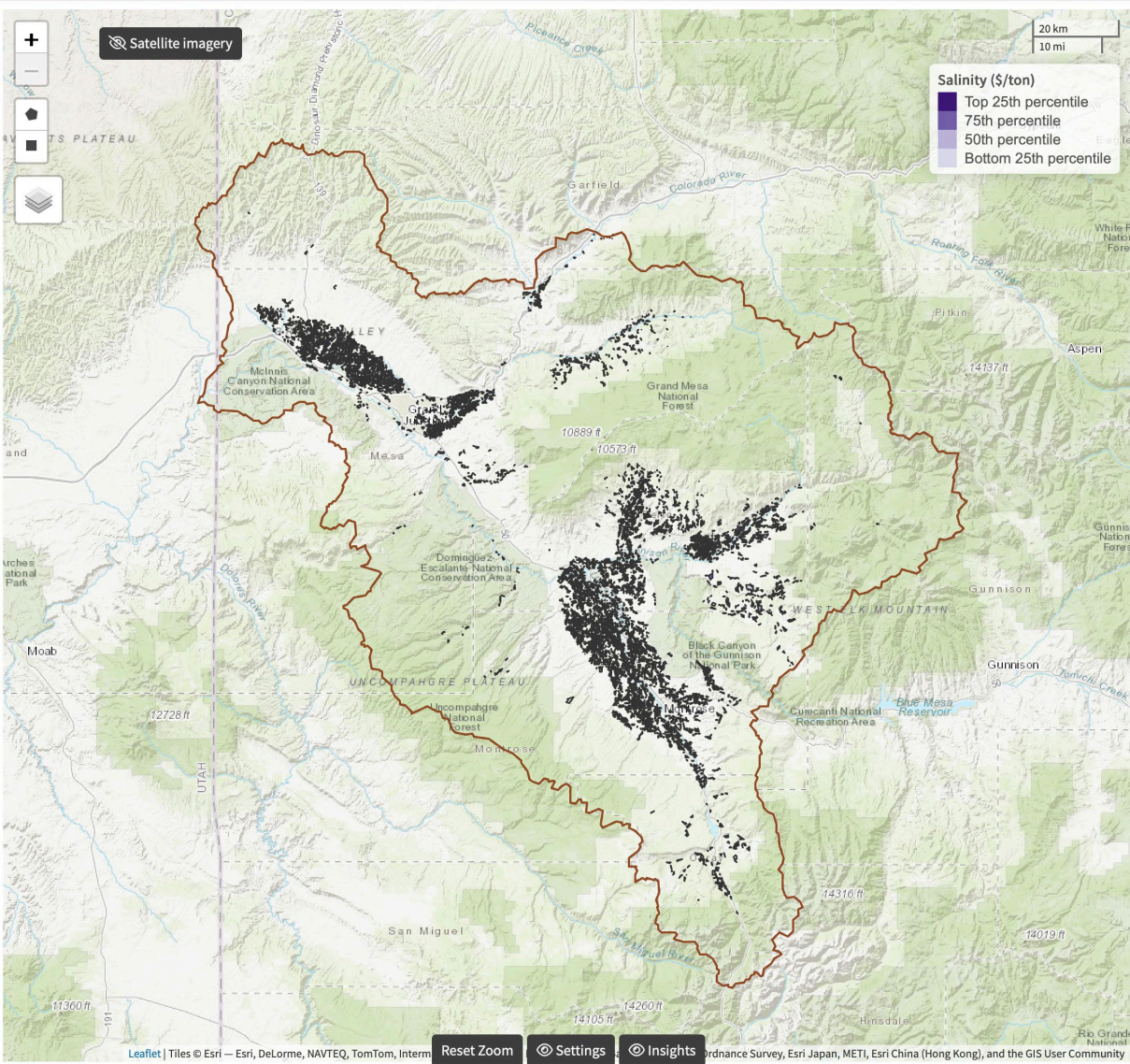
☒ 75th percentile

☒ 50th percentile

☐ Bottom 25th percentile

Diversions

Update



INSIGHTS

LOWER GUNNISON PROJECT AREA

Acres	129,053	Sediment	-255K tons
Field Count	9,481	Irrigation Demand	-142K AF
Cost	\$404M	Selenium	-409K lbs N-Se
Nitrogen	-2M lbs	Salinity	-31K tons
Phosphorus	-307K lbs		

Total Diversions: 979 structures, 1783K AF, 100.0% of LGPA

Instream Diversions: 29 reaches, 102 structures, -17994 AF

Tables & Figures

Diversions: Ranked

Structure Name	Irrigation Demand (AF)	Salinity (tons)	Diversions Variability	Instream Flows?
Grand Valley Project	-16501	-6049	None	
Ironstone Canal	-14965	-5148	None	
Grand Valley Canal	-14854	-4384	None	✓
Montrose & Delta Canal	-13573	-2846	Slight	
Selig Canal	-7619	-3816	Slight	
Fire Mountain Canal	-5322	-360	Slight	
Orchard Mesa Irr Dis Sys	-3875	-132	None	
South Canal	-3759	-424	Slight	
West Canal	-3535	-349	Undefined	
Leroux Creek Ditch	-3511	-264	Severe	

1-10 of 959 rows

Show10

Previous

1

2

3

4

5

...

96

Next

More Info

SETTINGS

Select an AOI

Lower Gunnison Project Area

☐ Include User-Defined AOIs

Prioritization

Programmatic Cost Limit

SingleMulti

Metric #1

Salinity (\$/ton)

Ranking

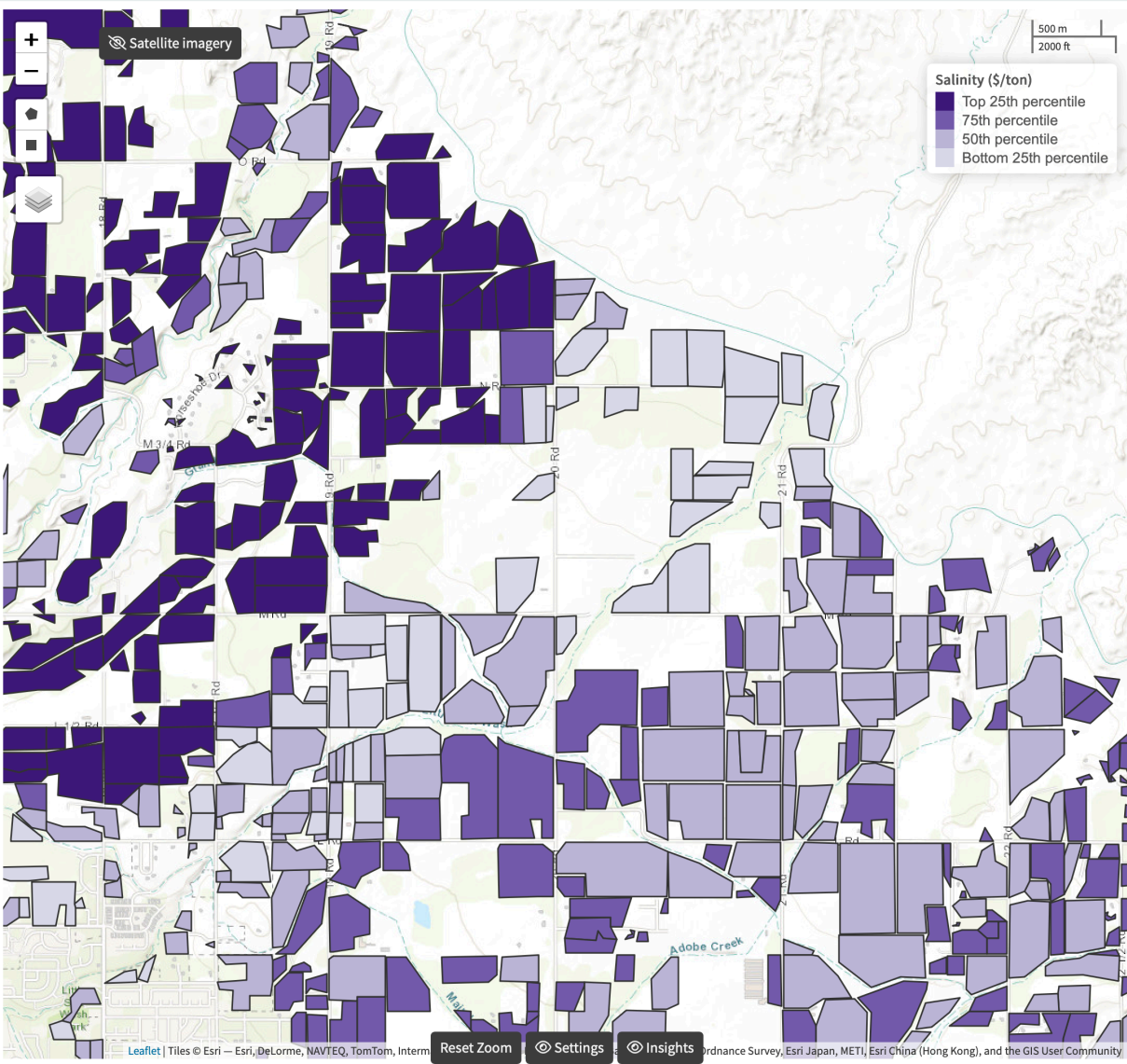
LGPASub-AOI

Feature Layer Percentiles

☒ Top 25th percentile☒ 75th percentile☒ 50th percentile☐ Bottom 25th percentile

Diversions

Update



INSIGHTS

LOWER GUNNISON PROJECT AREA

Acres	129,053	Sediment	-255K tons
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Total Diversions: 979 structures, 1783K AF, 100.0% of LGPA

Instream Diversions: 29 reaches, 102 structures, -17994 AF

Tables & Figures

Fields: Ranked

Zoom	Salinity (\$/ton)
🔍	2025.65
🔍	2071.54
🔍	2108.69
🔍	2121.54
🔍	2129.7
🔍	2130.63
🔍	2165.5
🔍	2174.68
🔍	2177.76
🔍	2237.63

1-10 of 9482 rowsShow10

Previous12345...949Next

🔍 More Info

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SETTINGS

Select an AOI

Lower Gunnison Project Area

☐ Include User-Defined AOIs

Prioritization

Programmatic Cost Limit

SingleMulti

Metric #1

Salinity (\$/ton)

Ranking

LGPASub-AOI

Feature Layer Percentiles

☒ Top 25th percentile

☐ 75th percentile

☐ 50th percentile

☐ Bottom 25th percentile

Diversions

Update

INSIGHTS

LOWER GUNNISON PROJECT AREA

Acres	33,665	Sediment	-50K tons
Field Count	2,375	Irrigation Demand	-36K AF
Cost	\$106M	Selenium	-164K lbs N-Se
Nitrogen	-388K lbs	Salinity	-20K tons
Phosphorus	-72K lbs		

Total Diversions: 979 structures, 1783K AF, 100.0% of LGPA

Instream Diversions: 29 reaches, 102 structures, -17994 AF

Tables & Figures

Fields: Ranked

Zoom	Salinity (\$/ton)
	2025.65
	2071.54
	2108.69
	2121.54
	2129.7
	2130.63
	2165.5
	2174.68
	2177.76
	2237.63

1-10 of 2375 rows

Show10

Previous12345...238Next

More Info

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SETTINGS

Select an AOI

Lower Gunnison Project Area

☒ Include User-Defined AOIs

Prioritization

Programmatic Cost Limit

SingleMulti

Metric #1

Salinity (\$/ton)

Ranking

LGPASub-AOI

Feature Layer Percentiles

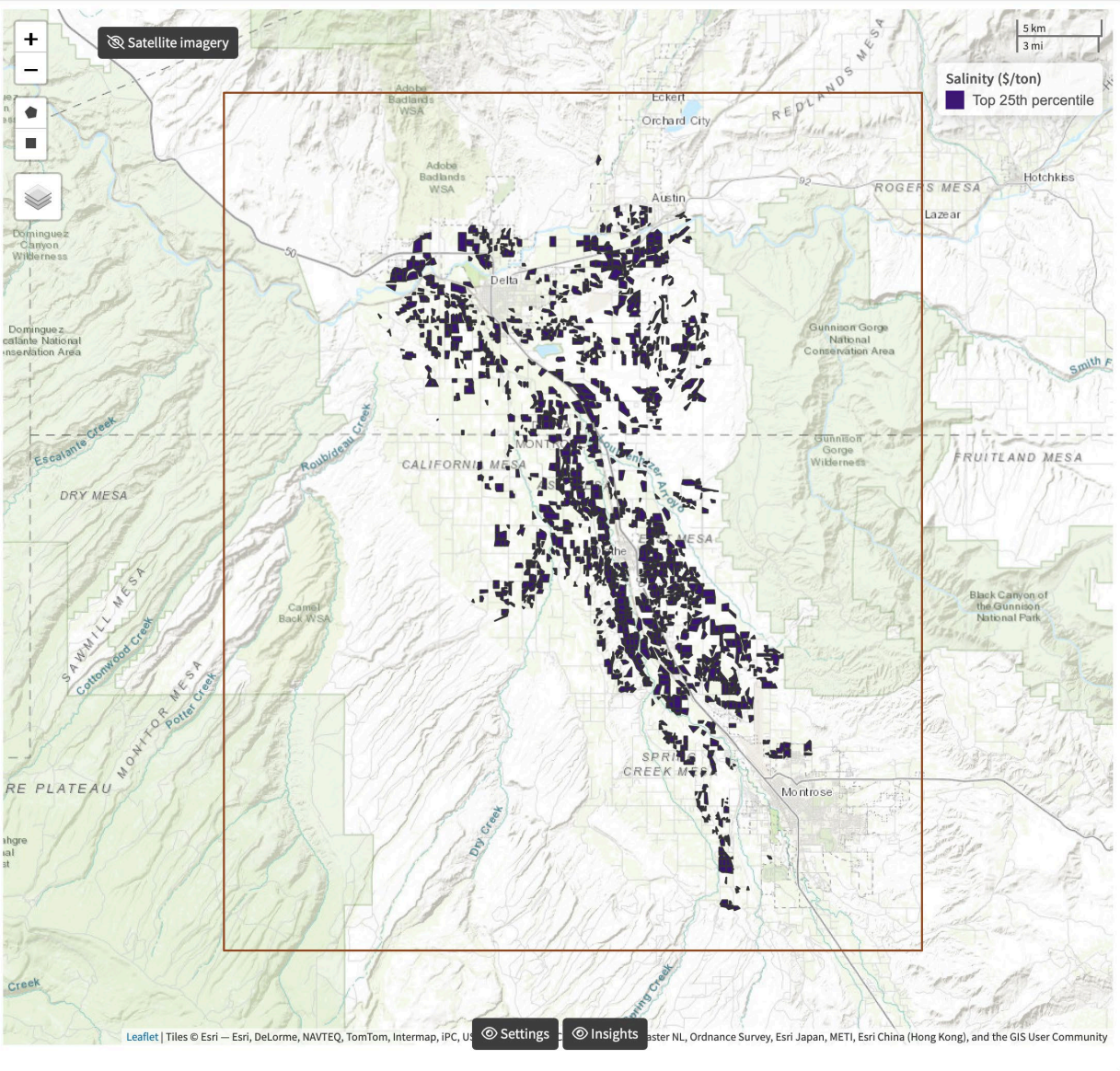
☒ Top 25th percentile

☐ 75th percentile☐ 50th percentile☐ Bottom 25th percentile

Divisions

Sharing

Update



INSIGHTS

CUSTOM

Acres	22,477	Sediment	-38K tons
Field Count	1,598	Irrigation Demand	-23K AF
Cost	\$71M	Selenium	-71K lbs N-Se
Nitrogen	-280K lbs	Salinity	-12K tons
Phosphorus	-54K lbs		

Total Diversions: 979 structures, 1783K AF, 100.0% of LGPA

Instream Diversions: 29 reaches, 102 structures, -17994 AF

Tables & Figures

Fields: Ranked

Zoom	Salinity (\$/ton)
🔍	3257.14
🔍	3277.11
🔍	3352.66
🔍	3783.21
🔍	3784.26
🔍	3785.28
🔍	3787.28
🔍	3788.23
🔍	3788.46
🔍	3789.41

1-10 of 1598 rowsShow10

Previous12345...160Next

🔍 More Info

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SETTINGS

Select an AOI

Lower Gunnison Project Area

☐ Include User-Defined AOIs

Prioritization

Programmatic Cost Limit

SingleMulti

Metric #1

Salinity (\$/ton)

Ranking

LGPA Sub-AOI

Feature Layer Percentiles

☒ Top 25th percentile

☐ 75th percentile

☐ 50th percentile

☐ Bottom 25th percentile

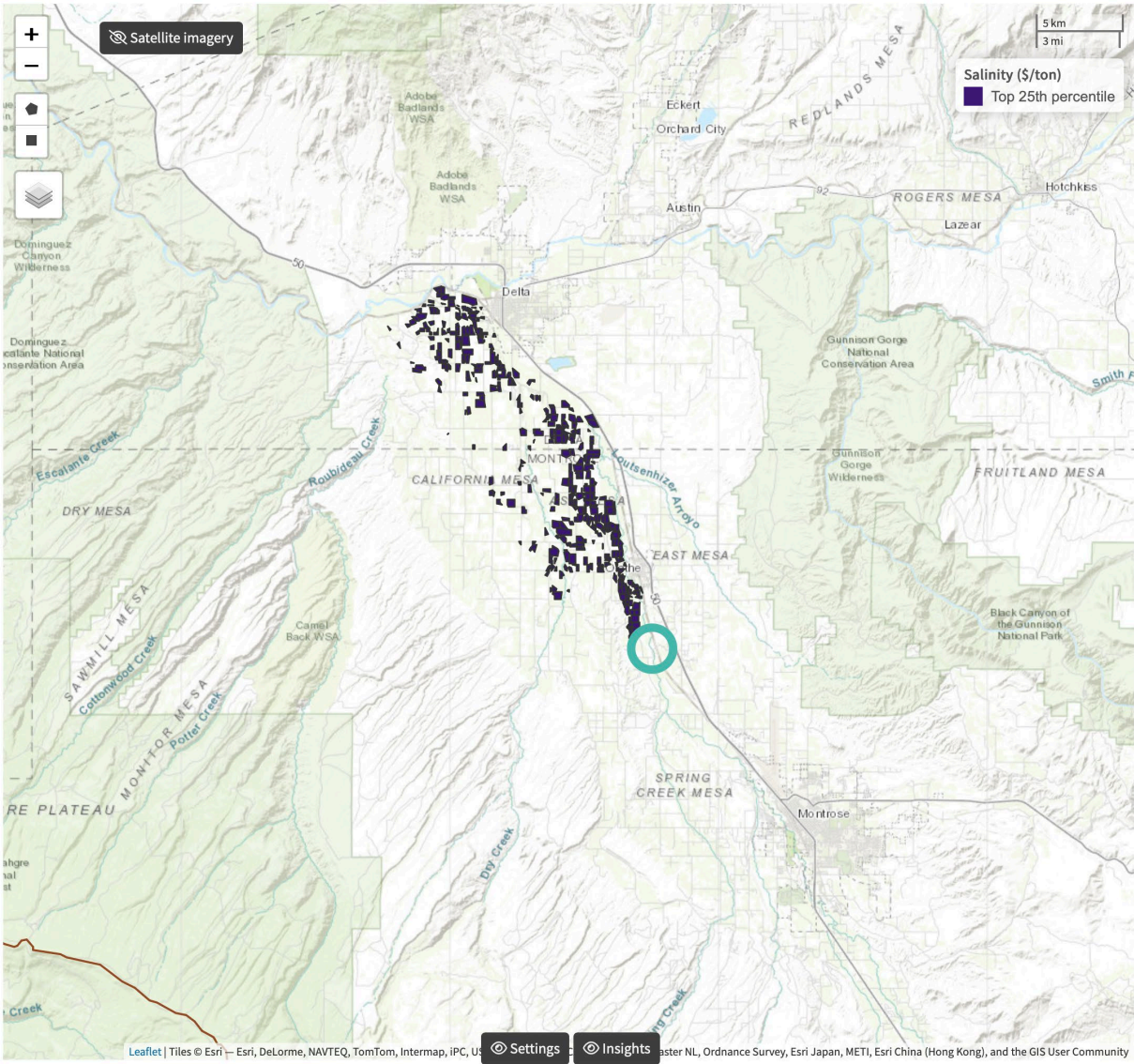
Diversions

Diversion Focus Area

Ironstone Canal

☒ Show PODs

Update



INSIGHTS

IRONSTONE CANAL

Acres	5,653	Sediment	-9K tons
Field Count	406	Irrigation Demand	-6K AF
Cost	\$18M	Selenium	-4K lbs N-Se
Nitrogen	-81K lbs	Salinity	-3K tons
Phosphorus	-15K lbs		

WDID: 4100534

Water Source: Uncompahgre River

Diversion Volume: 114848 AF

Instream Flow Reach: NA

Tables & Figures

Fields: Ranked

Zoom	Salinity (\$/ton)
	3822.47
	3864.02
	3872.97
	3873.99
	3877.84
	3921.08
	3934.77
	3952.25
	3975.09
	4067.11

1-10 of 406 rows

Show10

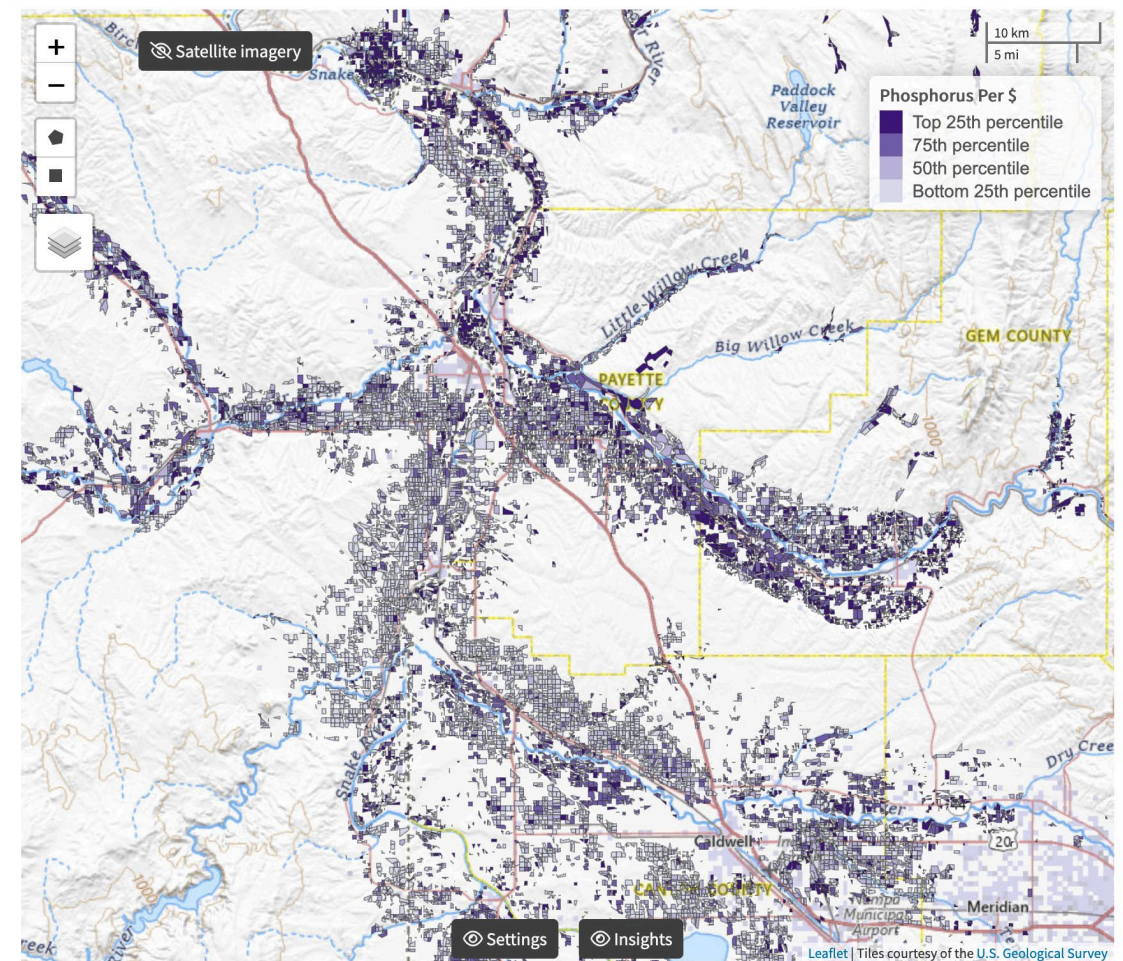
Previous12345...41Next

More Info

Example: Snake River Basin

Same analytics/tooling used to develop \$200M program targeting phosphorus load reduction

- Contracted with OR NRCS to provide TA on 4 co-funded projects
- Leveraging equipment vendors for recruitment of impactful projects
- ~25 total projects in contracting for 2025
- Using full suite of tools to efficiently exchange data/track progress



Questions?



BasinScout[®] Decision Support Tools for Watershed Program Implementation and Management

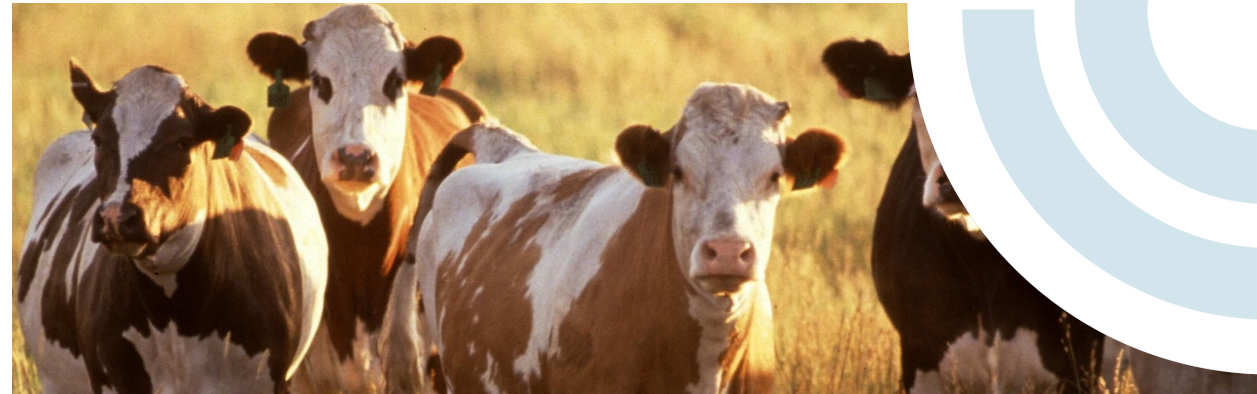
Tony Orlando
Analytics Engineer

Bill Ketterhagen
Project Implementation Specialist

NRCS Colorado – State Technical Advisory Committee
April 29, 2025



General Partnership Updates



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Closing Thoughts...

From: Aberle - DNR, Raymond <raymond.aberle@state.co.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:56 AM
To: With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO
Subject: No on Haying

Liz,
I am a no on haying and I think we need a longer discussion and I would like to hear Mr. Cecil's thoughts on it. Haying would very much undercut wildlife value. It is still eligible with payment reduction. Truly, it would undercut the last of the good stands of CRP and would potentially have a negative impact for LPC in particular. It's concerning to me that we would entertain that this quickly without more context and discussion.

Ray Aberle
Private Lands Program Manager
Terrestrial Programs Unit
Raymond.aberle@state.co.us
Phone: (970)-420-9780
317 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526
Upcoming Out-of-Office/In-field:
April 23-25 SE Region
May 1st - A9 Hot Sulphur Springs
May 5-9 Out-of-Office
May 12-14 - TBD - W Alignment



With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO

From: Anderson,David <David.Anderson@ColoState.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:56 AM
To: With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO
Cc: Ray Aberle (Raymond.aberle@state.co.us)
Subject: [External Email]Haying on CRP

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

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Hi Liz,

I am emailing to share thoughts about the interest in haying on CRP. I am not supportive of that for all the reasons that Ray expressed so well in the STAC meeting. It also seems like double dipping, where the producer is getting payments for CRP and also getting the hay. The haying is a use of the land that is not a beneficial practice supporting the goals of CRP, so therefore I do not think there is a solid argument to made for allowing it on enrolled lands. I think that if landowners want to do haying then they should not be enrolled in CRP. I think it is different than well managed grazing which is a tool to achieve CRP objectives. Thank you for your awesome leadership in this meeting and elsewhere!

Dave

David G. Anderson

Director & Chief Scientist

Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Colorado State University

249 General Services Building

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Office: (970) 491-6891

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Pronouns: he, him, his

david.anderson@colostate.edu

www.cnhp.colostate.edu

[Check out the CNHP blog!](#)

With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO

From: Emily Chavez <emily.chavez@birdconservancy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:26 AM
To: With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO
Subject: [External Email]Vote On CRP Haying

[External Email]

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Hi Liz,

Just wanted to send an email on this as well. I am voting **against/no** to adding haying to CRP.

Thanks,

Emily

--

Emily Chavez
Stewardship Director
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
O: 970-482-1707 x 50

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From: [Matt Smith](#)
To: [With, Elizabeth - FPAC-NRCS, CO](#)
Subject: [External Email] Proposed CRP management activity for haying
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 12:39:44 PM

You don't often get email from matt.smith@pljv.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

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Afternoon Liz,

Just a few observations on the recommendation to add haying as a MCM practice in CO.

I put quite a bit of weight on Ray Aberle's comments surrounding the negative effects he and his staff are seeing on the CRP cover due to haying, where there is a shift away from native warm season grasses, which can be very beneficial to wildlife. As stated in 2-CRP policy for MCM:

"This management activity must be designed to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are site specific and are used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site"

Any MCM practice not beneficial to wildlife should be suspect and carefully considered.

MCM is important, not only for the health of the stand but to meet the statutory requirements within CRP for benefiting wildlife. But not all potential MCM activities are suitable across the country or even within different parts of each state due to varying climatic conditions.

I feel the proposed seven MCM activities are adequate to address wildlife habitat needs across the state.

Haying will continue to be offered within the emergency use provisions of CRP, so there will continue to be opportunities for producers to take advantage of this forage source during those critical drought conditions.

I also question the way this MCM discussion was presented. It would appear to me to deserve greater deliberation within the wildlife subcommittee, followed by a recommendation to the full STAC. I was also concerned there was not time for discussion on the limitations on the practice extent, and which practices haying would be allowed on. If these details had been worked out more thoroughly within a subcommittee, maybe a more solid recommendation, either for or against, could have been achieved.

Very much appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this important issue.

Thank you Liz.

--

Matt Smith
Conservation Delivery Manager

Playa Lakes Joint Venture
785-420-7000
matt.smith@pljv.org