



Parks &
Open Space

Lainson Open Space
Xcel Energy Takings
from Boulder County Interests
April 27, 2016











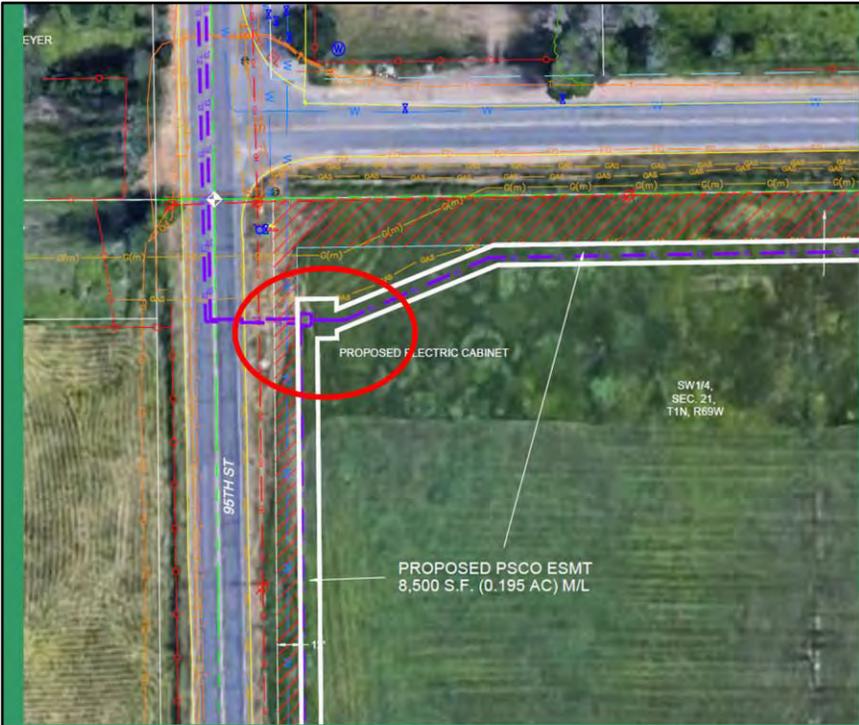


Power poles to be relocated and buried on the north and west sides

Xcel Proposed Easement outlined in white, approximately 10' in width, total 0.195 acre.

Red cross hatched areas have been transferred to Boulder County Transportation

Cabinet Location







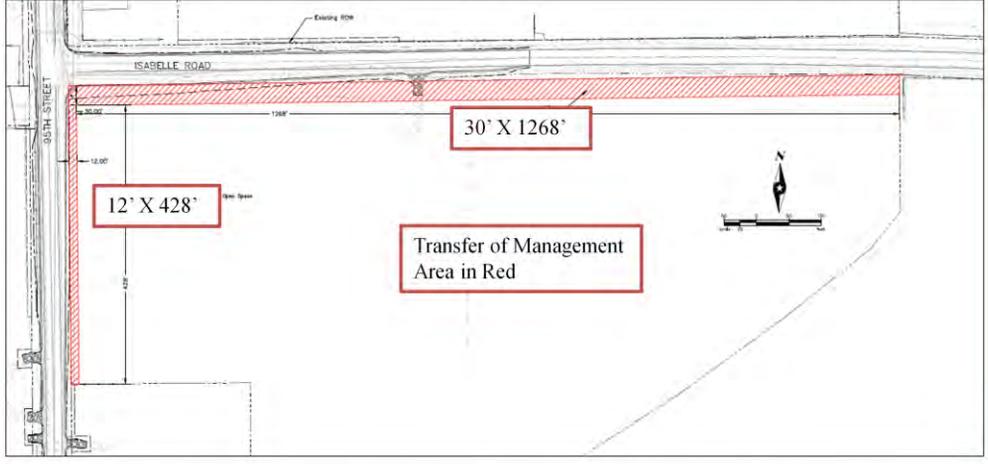
Parks &
Open Space



Isabelle at 95th
looking south

Sheet Revisions	
NO.	DESCRIPTION

Right of Way Plans	
Plan Sheet	



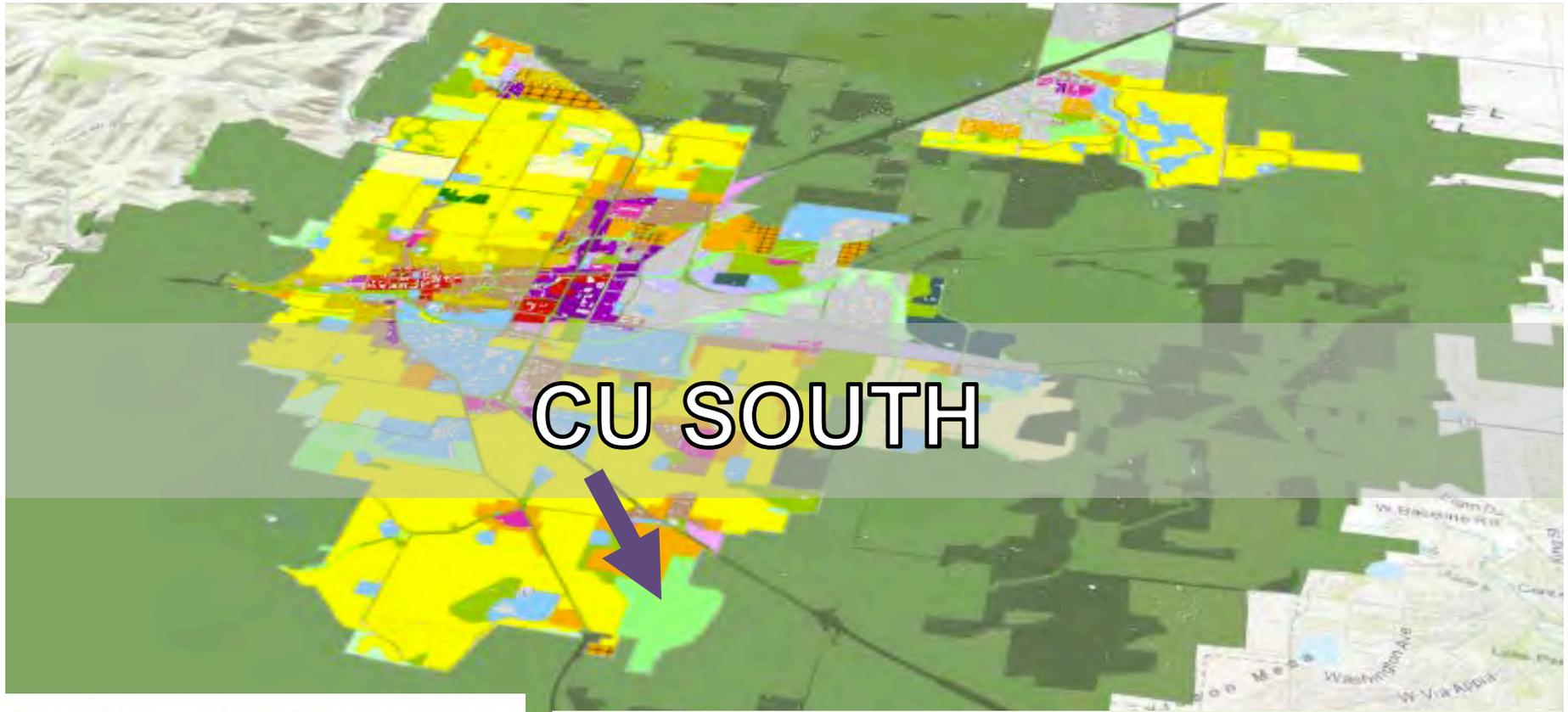
PARCEL	OWNER	ADDRESS	FILE	DESCRIPTION
PE-1	WHEELER COUNTY WREN STATE	2500 N. 85TH ST (WHEELER, CO 80503)	4-13-08-11F	PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION



Isabelle at 95th
looking south



Looking west



CU SOUTH

**OUR LEGACY.
OUR FUTURE.**

BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

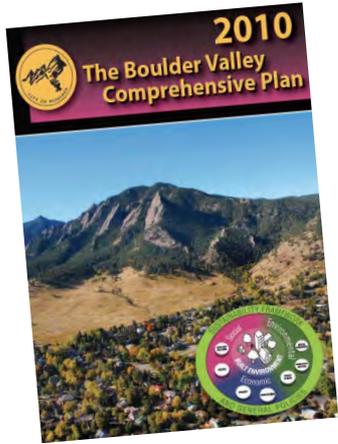
**Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee
April 27, 2017**

CU SOUTH AGENDA

The purpose of this agenda item is to review potential BVCP changes to the "Open Space – Other" (OS-O) land use designation on a portion of the University of Colorado Boulder's South Campus property ("CU South").

1. POSAC's Role
2. CU South Background
3. County's Open Space Perspective
4. Discussion

POSAC'S ROLE



Every five years, the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) undergoes a Major Update process during which all the core values, policies, master plans, land use map designations, and other components of the plan are reviewed.

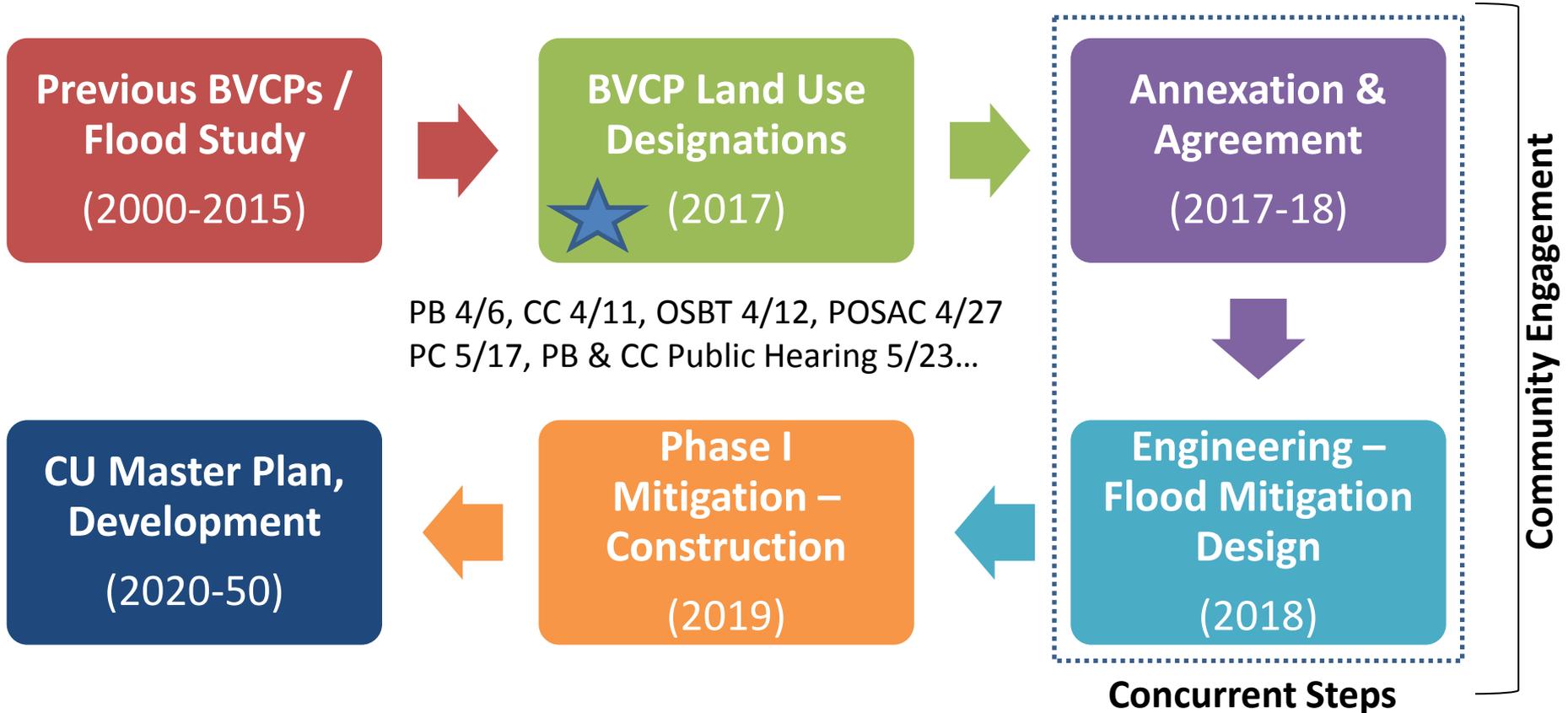
*Requests for **changes** to the comprehensive plan **that affect an area designated Open Space will be reviewed** by the city Open Space Board of Trustees and **the county Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee**. The board of trustees will make a recommendation prior to any action on that change.*

--BVCP Amendment Procedures 2(c)(6)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

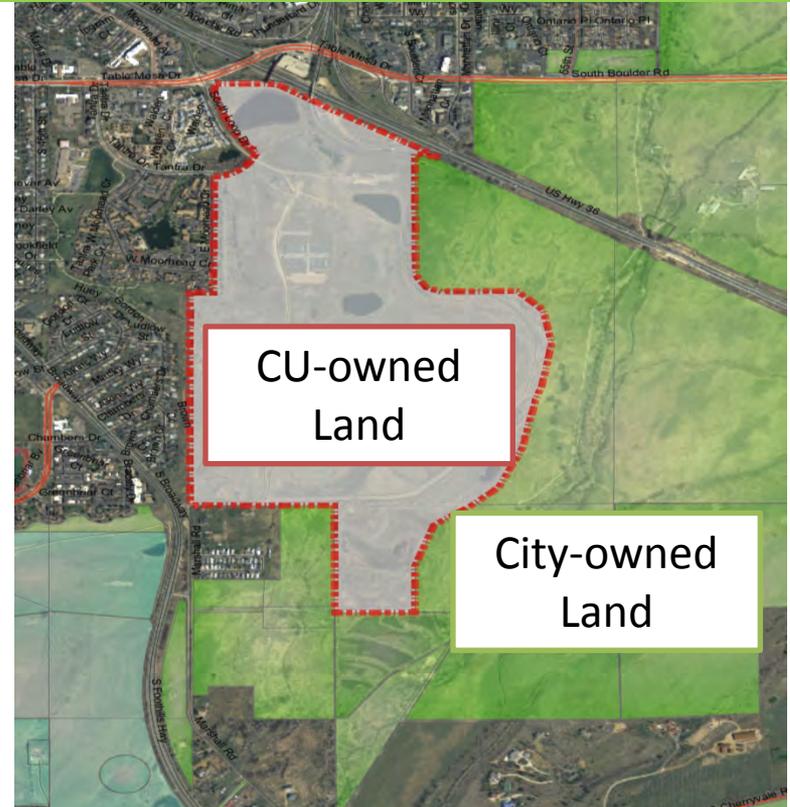
- Do you have any thoughts on how open space areas/values at CU South should be prioritized for conservation/management?
- Do you have any thoughts you would you like to share with POS for incorporation in our analysis for the Land Use staff?

CU SOUTH PROCESS & TIMELINE



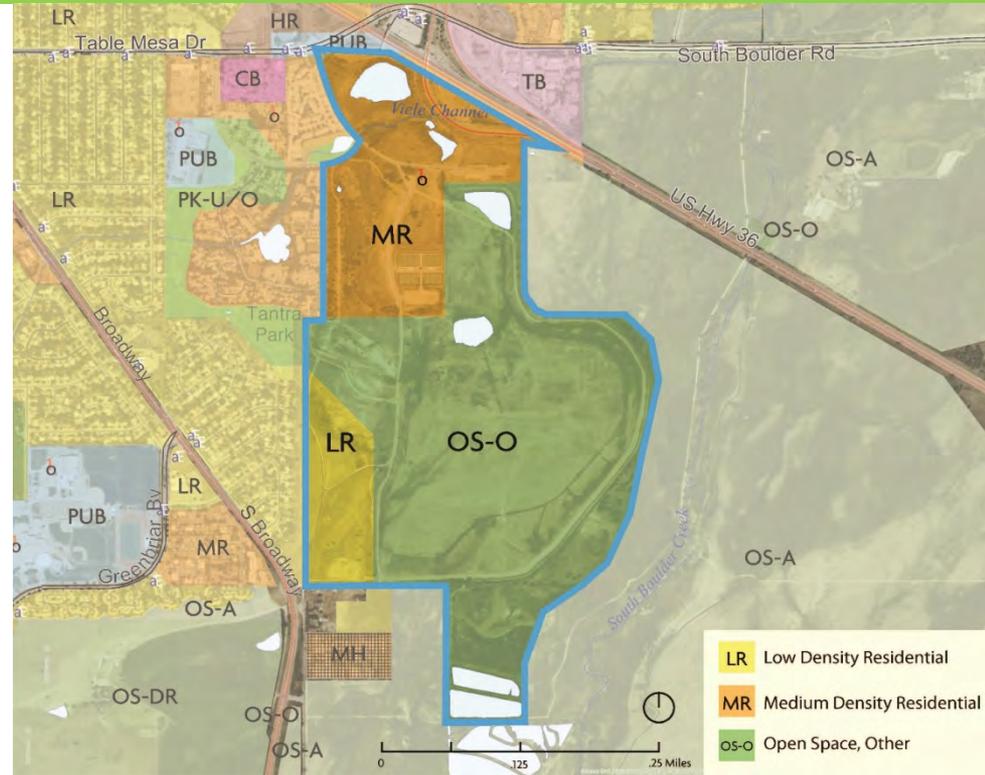
OWNERSHIP

- 308 Acres
- 193 acres OS-O
- Owned by CU



BVCP LAND USE DESIGNNATIONS

- **MDR, LDR, and OS-Other** - desired future uses (since 1977 plan)
- **OS-Other:**
“Other public and private land designated prior to 1981 that the city and county would like to preserve through various methods including but not limited to intergovernmental agreements, dedications or acquisitions.”



PRELIMINARY CU SOUTH PROGRAM

...as stated by CU:

- Floodwater mitigation
- Public Access
- Trails
- Athletic fields & training
- Restrooms, locker rooms
- Preserve/enhance natural open areas

Mid-term



- Housing
- Small scale academic, instructional or research facilities
- Public Access
- Trails

Long-term



- Large-scale sport venues
- Large research complexes
- Towers
- Freshmen housing
- Roadway bypass

Not included

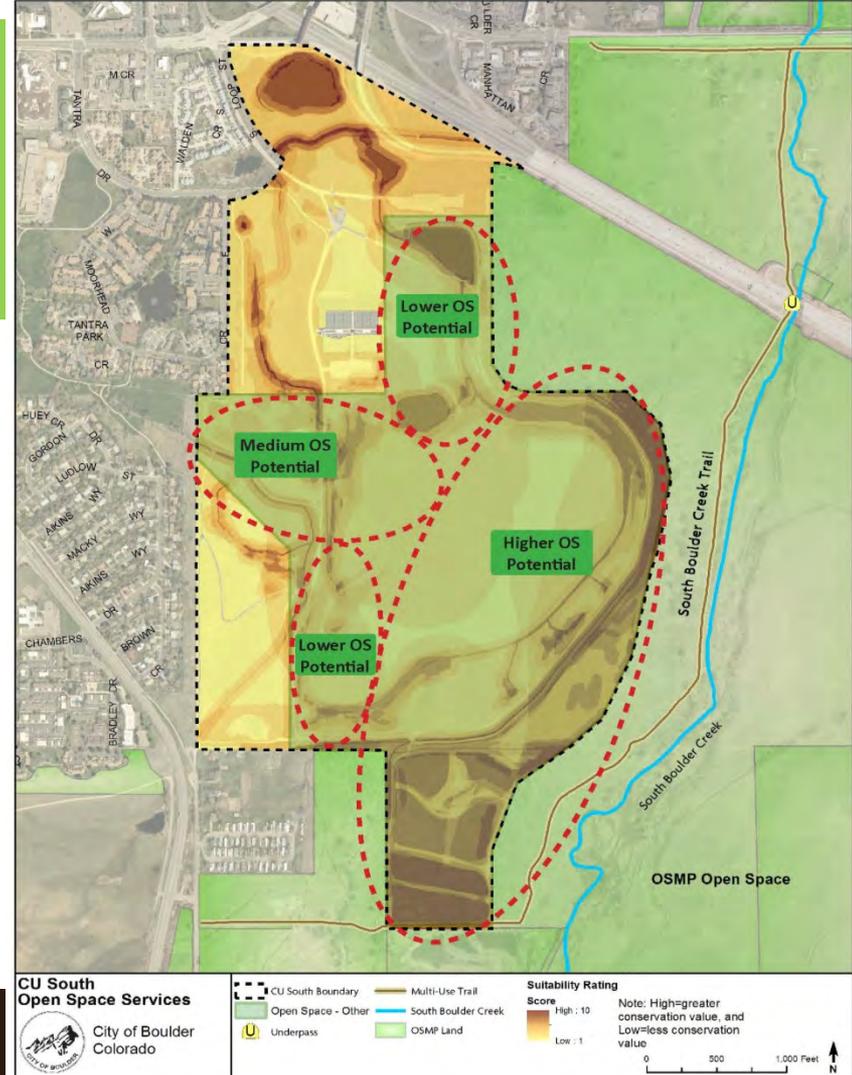


COMMUNITY INPUT



OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS OS-O ANALYSIS

- **High** = identified as having greater conservation value due to overlaps of resources, high viewshed value, areas of lesser conservation value that could be restored to create larger habitat blocks, and regional trail connectivity
- **Medium** = area relatively higher long-term value of recreational connections to Tantra Park.
- **Lower** = isolated OS areas and/or OS areas close to areas of human activity

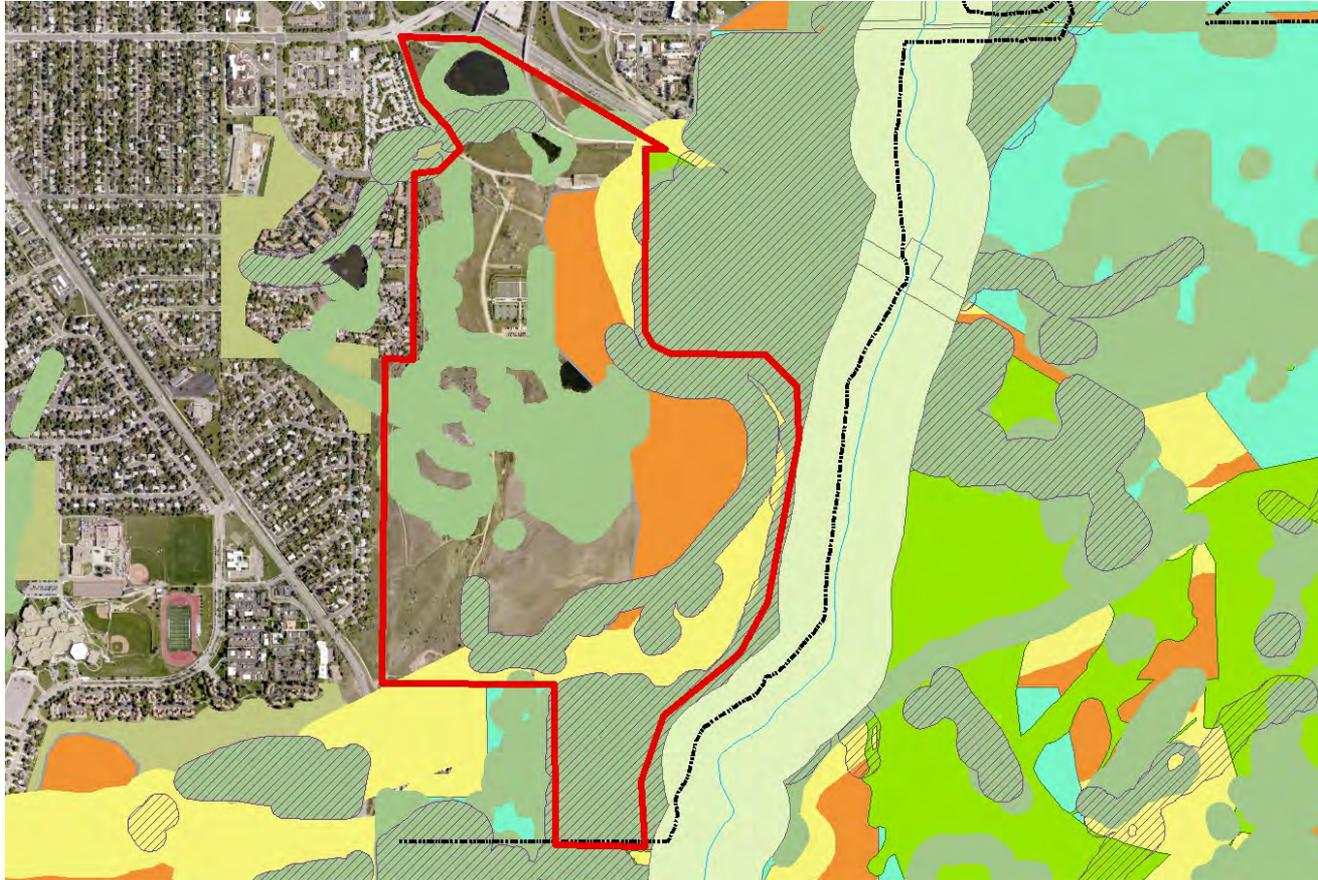


OSBT'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE OS-O AREA

The City's Open Space Board of Trustees approved (5:0) the following recommendation at their meeting on April 12, 2017:

The OSBT moved to (1) state that it recognizes important Open Space values on the CU South property including, but not limited to, the portion currently designated Open Space Other and (2) endorse the OSMP staff report, 2015-2017 Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update CU South OS-O Open Space Analysis as a guide to protecting and enhancing open space values during four body review of the BVCP Land Use designations and subsequent deliberations. We believe that a close working partnership between the University and the City, combined with broad community input, can accomplish very significant benefits for OSMP charter purposes, in addition to accomplishing critically important flood mitigation.

County Comprehensive Plan Designations – “Summary”



1963 Aerial



2016 Aerial, and S. Boulder Creek Trail



OSMP (and Municipal) Parks



Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Habitat



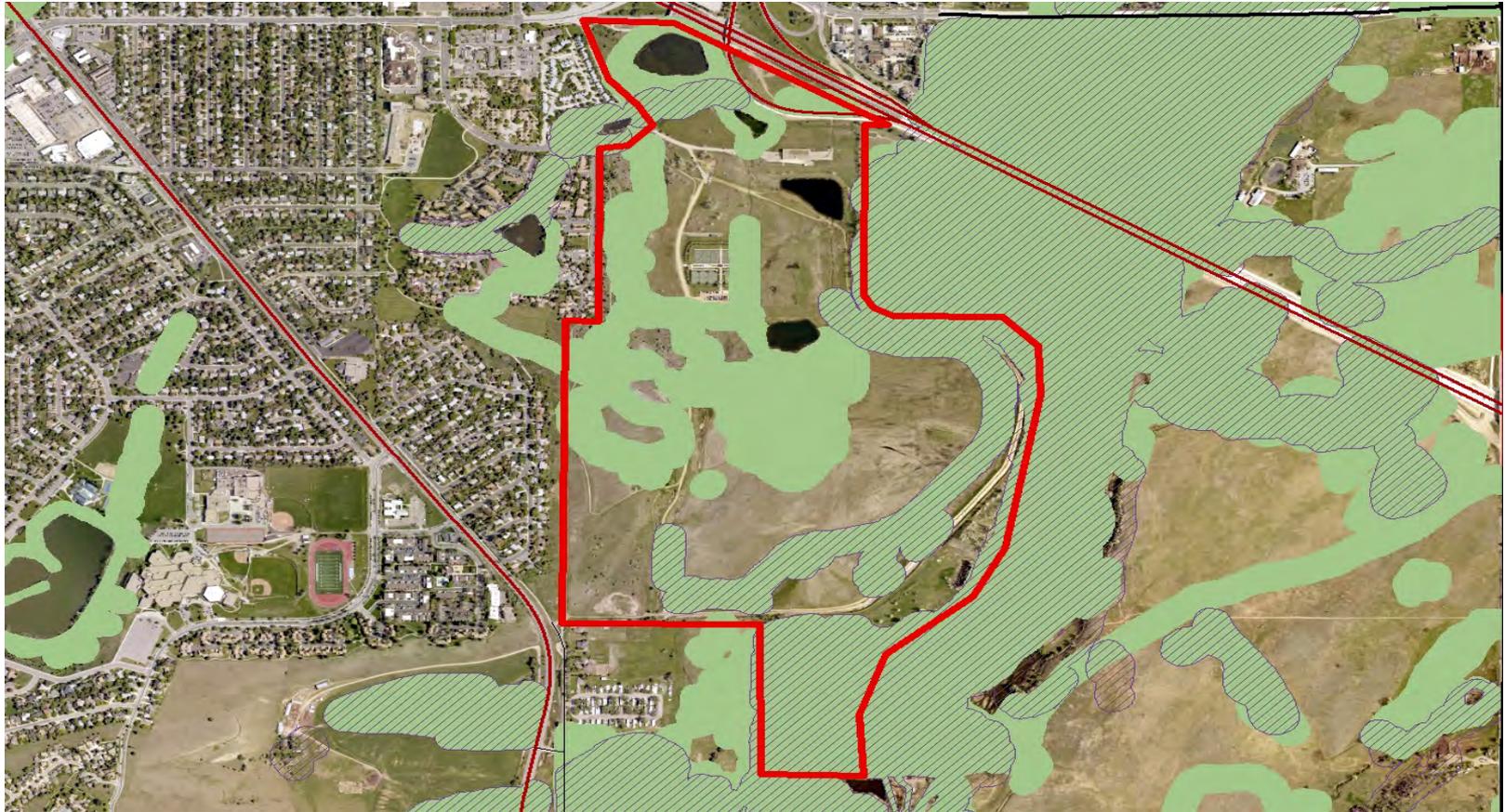
PMJM -- Federal Critical Habitat



PMJM – Federal Critical Habitat, Context



Riparian & Wetlands



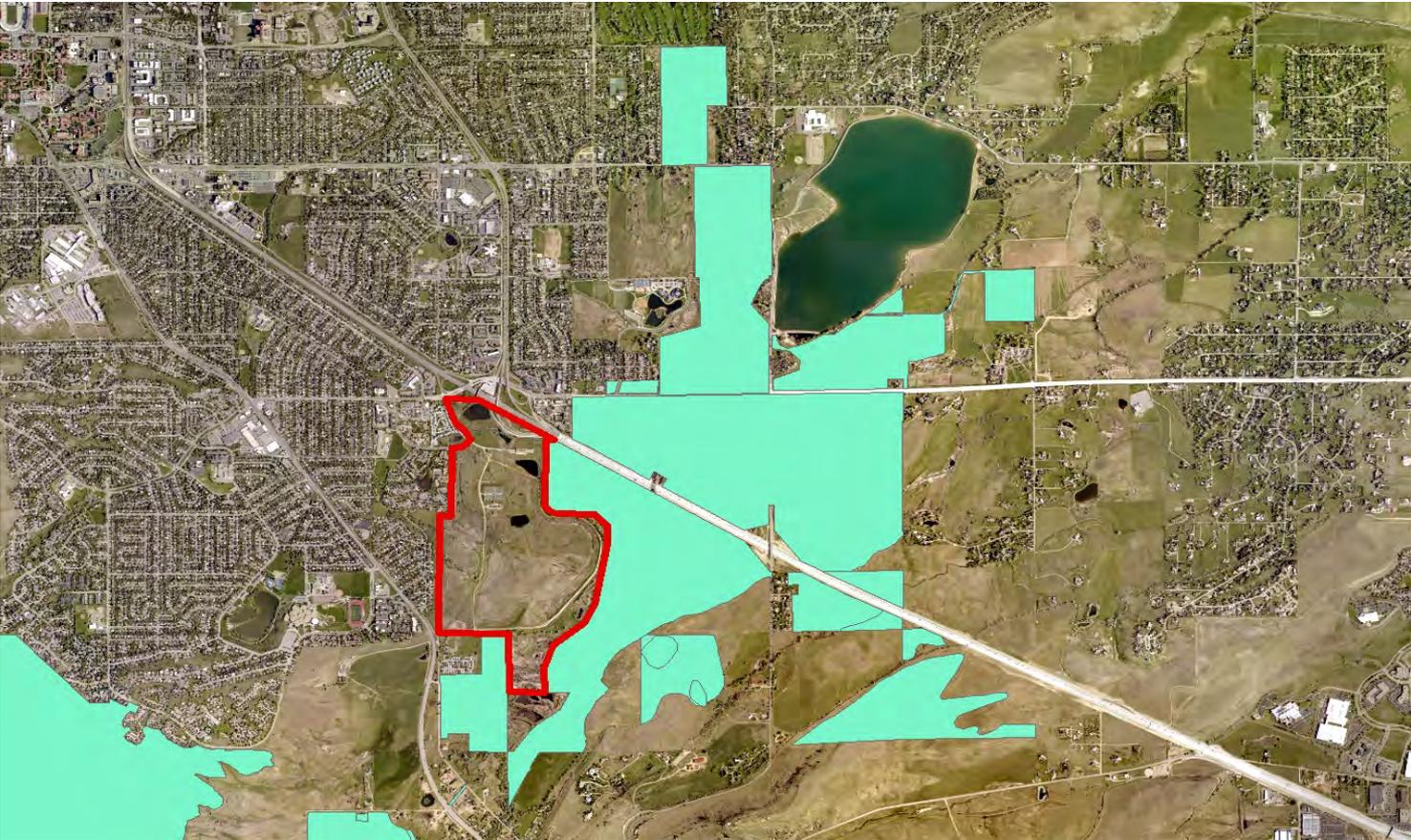
Significant Natural Communities



State/County Natural Area



Natural Area -- Context



High Biodiversity Area (HBA)



HBA -- Context



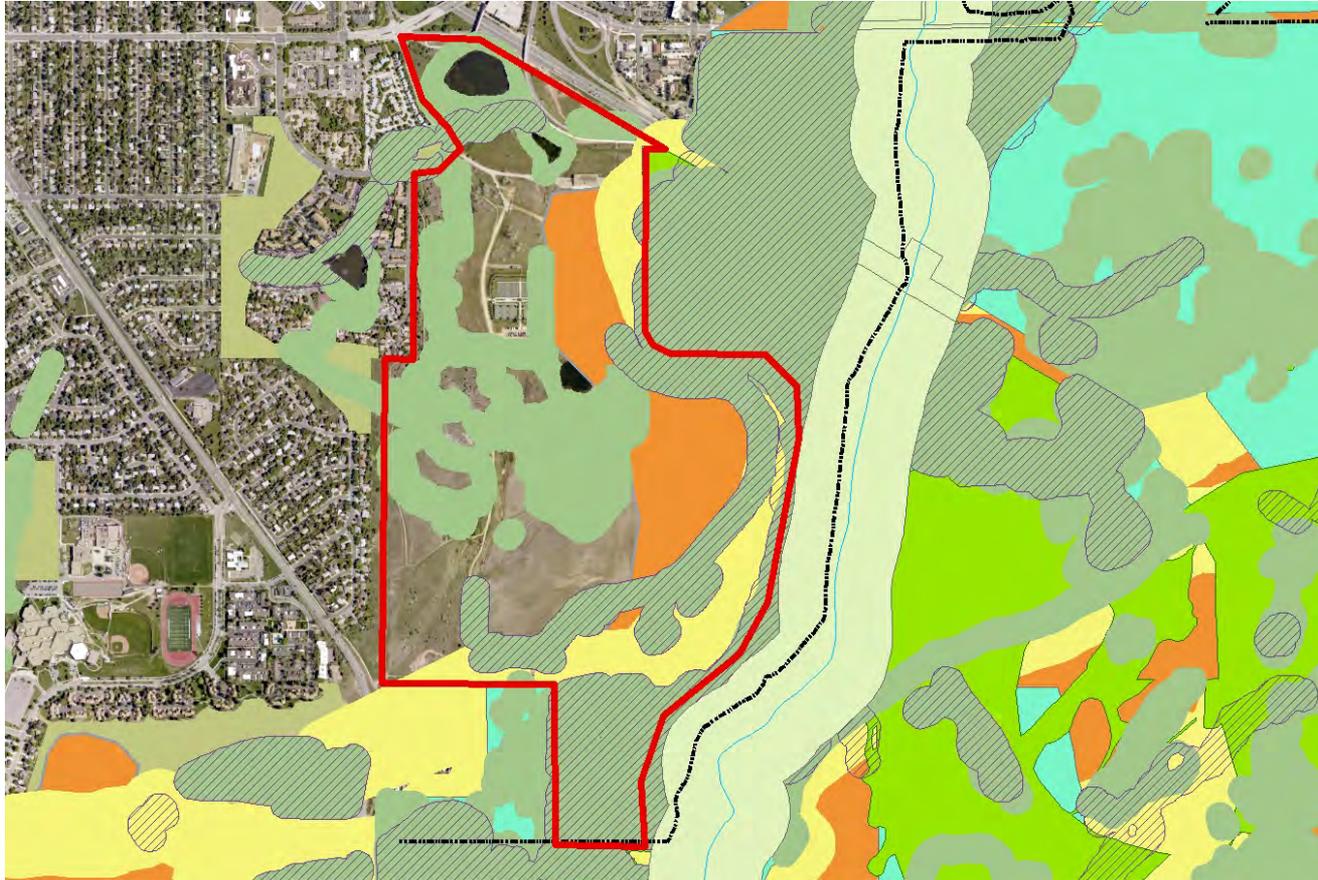
1963 Aerial



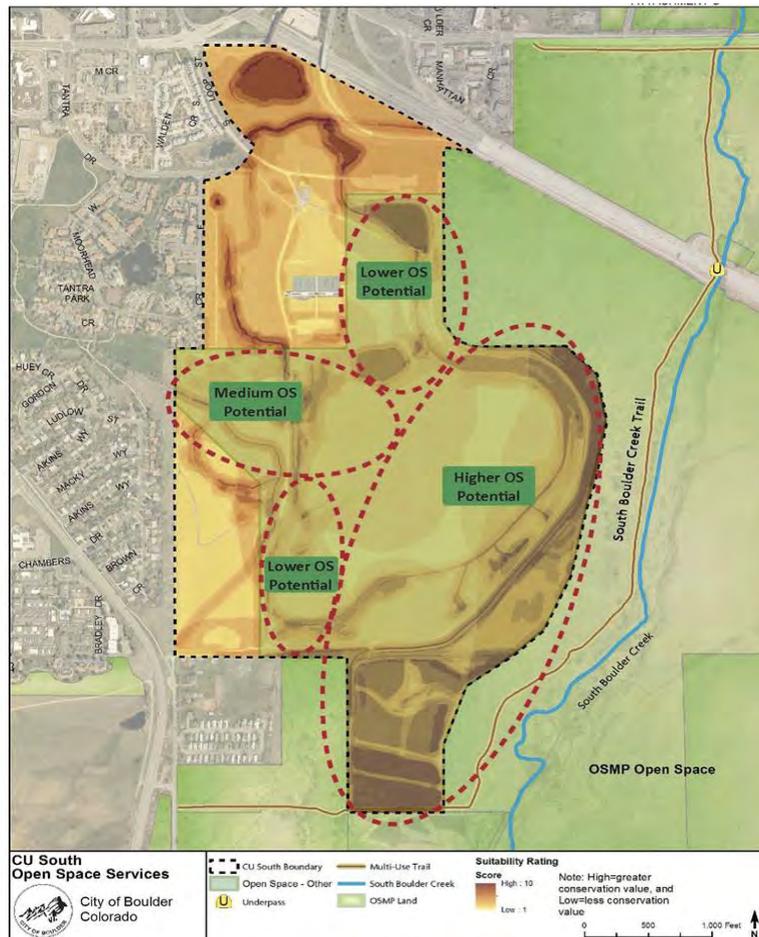
1984 Aerial, Close-up



County Comprehensive Plan Designations – “Summary”



OSMP Suitability Map



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have any thoughts on how open space areas/values at CU South should be prioritized for conservation/management?
- Do you have any thoughts you would you like to share with POS for incorporation in our analysis for the Land Use staff?

Elk Management Plan

Rabbit Mountain Open Space



History

- POS - CPW 2013
- Collars and monitoring vegetation 2015
- Field trip POSAC invited 11/2015
- Presented to POSAC in April 2016
 - POSAC directed staff to draft plan
- On-line comments for a month
- Public Open House April 6, 2017



Larimer County

Indian Mountain

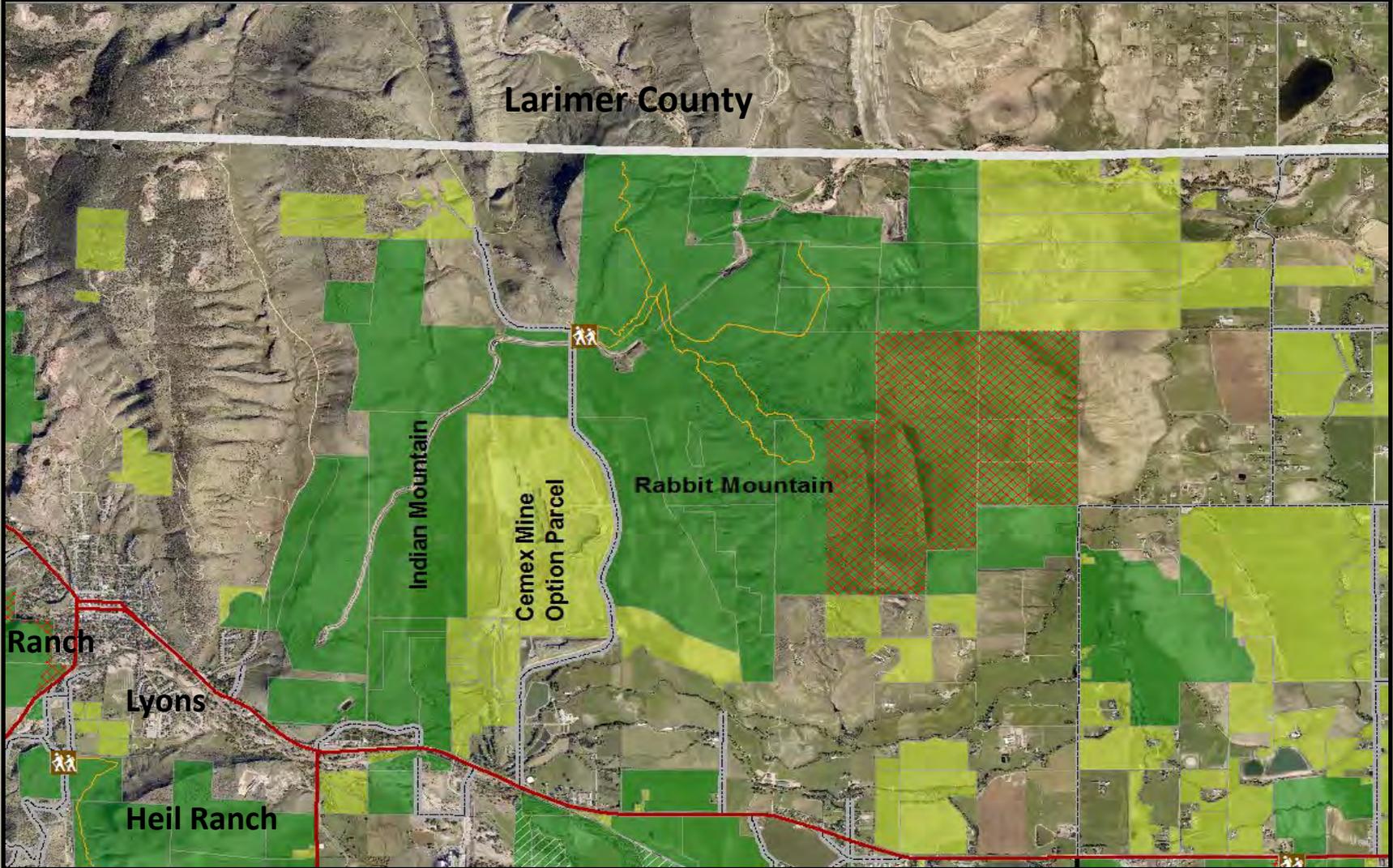
Cemex Mine
Option Parcel

Rabbit Mountain

Hall Ranch

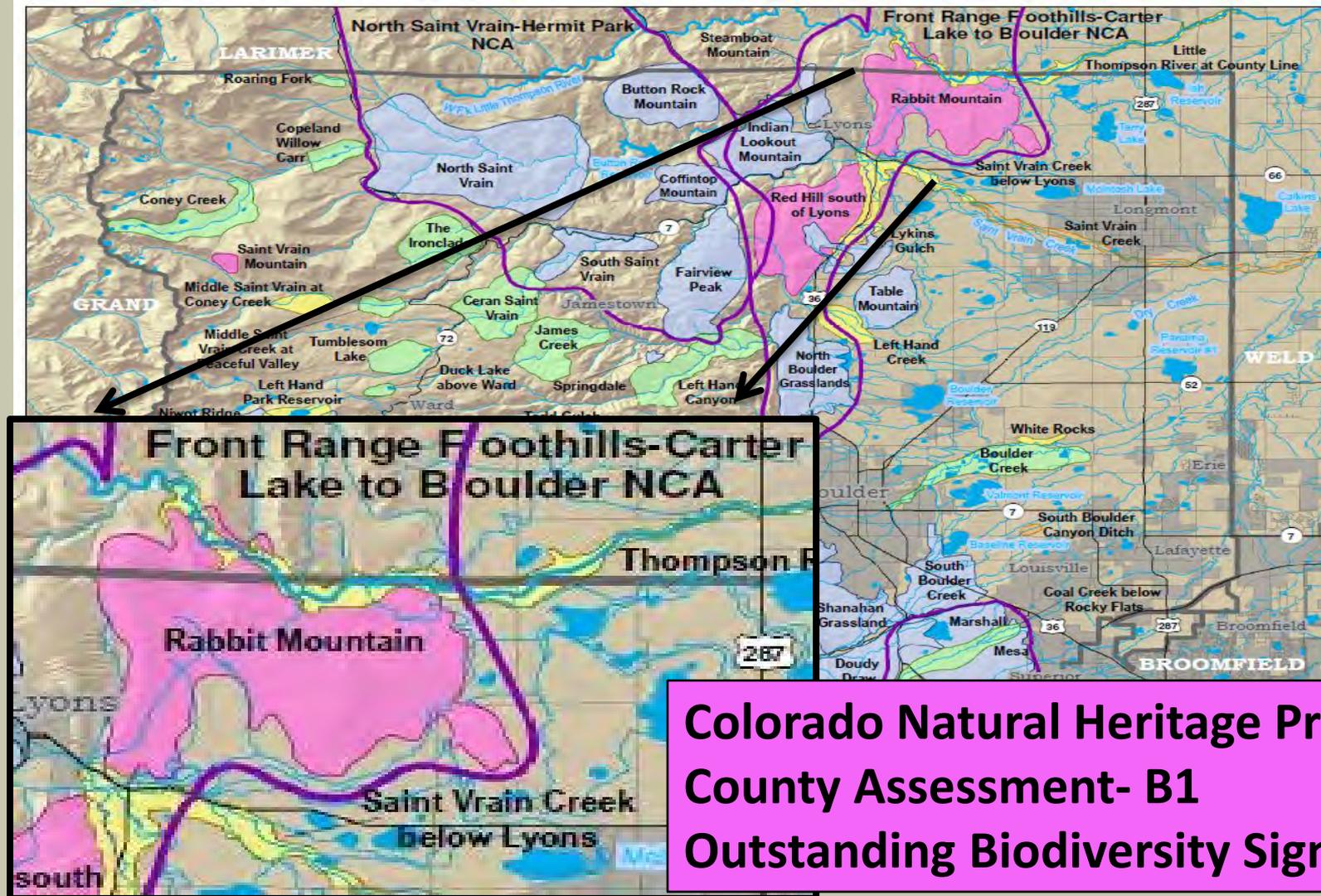
Lyons

Heil Ranch



- Management Plan Update is prioritized on our planning horizon
- Was delayed due to Flood Recovery Planning Efforts





Colorado Natural Heritage Program
 Colorado State University
 254 General Services Building
 8002 Campus Delivery
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-8002

Ph (970) 491-1309
 Fax (970) 491-3349
www.cnhp.colostate.edu
 Map Date: 01/29/2009

Potential Conservation Areas by Biodiversity Significance Rank

- B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance
- B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance
- B3: High Biodiversity Significance
- B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance
- B5: General Biodiversity Interest
- Networks of Conservation Areas

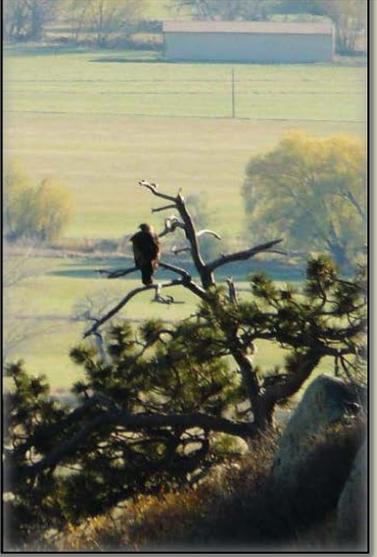
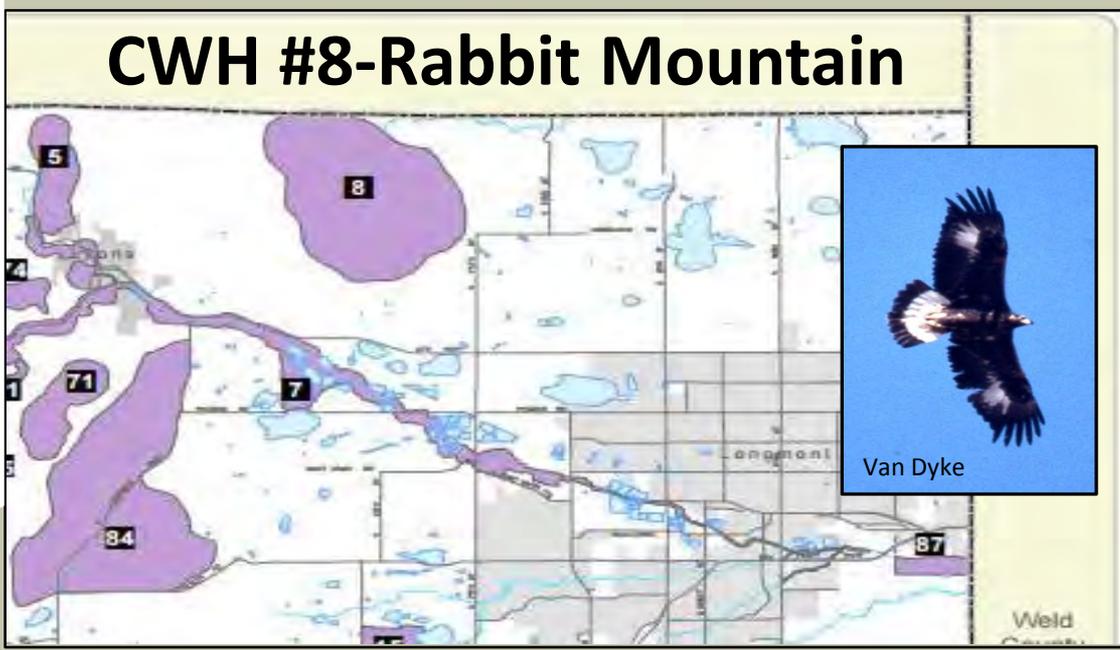
- Base Data**
- Project Area
 - Courses
 - Municipalities
 - Lakes, Reservoirs
 - Rivers, Streams, Creeks
 - Highways
 - Major Roads
- 10m DEM Produced by the USGS



Potential Conservation Areas represent CNHP's best estimate of the primary area supporting the long-term survival

**Colorado Natural Heritage Program-
 County Assessment- B1
 Outstanding Biodiversity Significance**

CWH #8-Rabbit Mountain



Critical Wildlife Habitat #8-
Designated due to diversity of plant
associations, golden eagle,
short-eared owl, avian biodiversity.



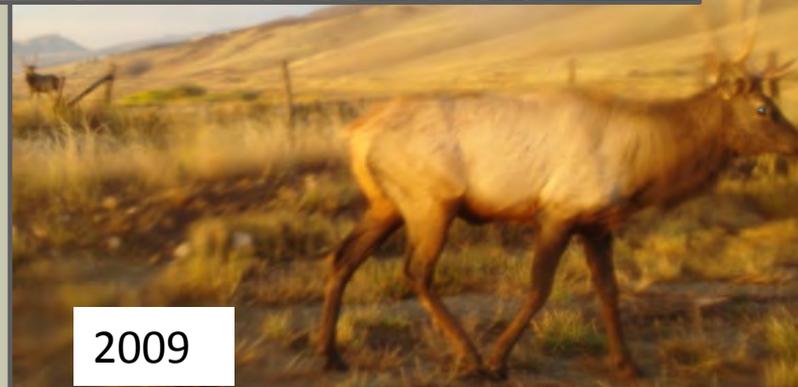
History of Elk Arrival and First Calving



2007

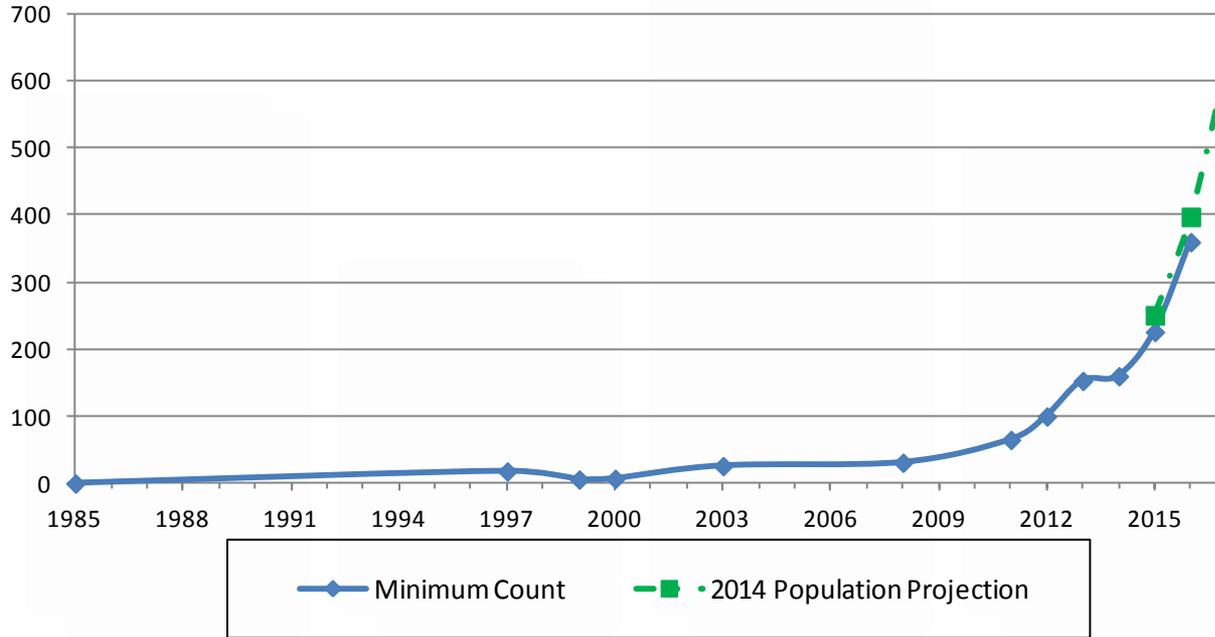


2009



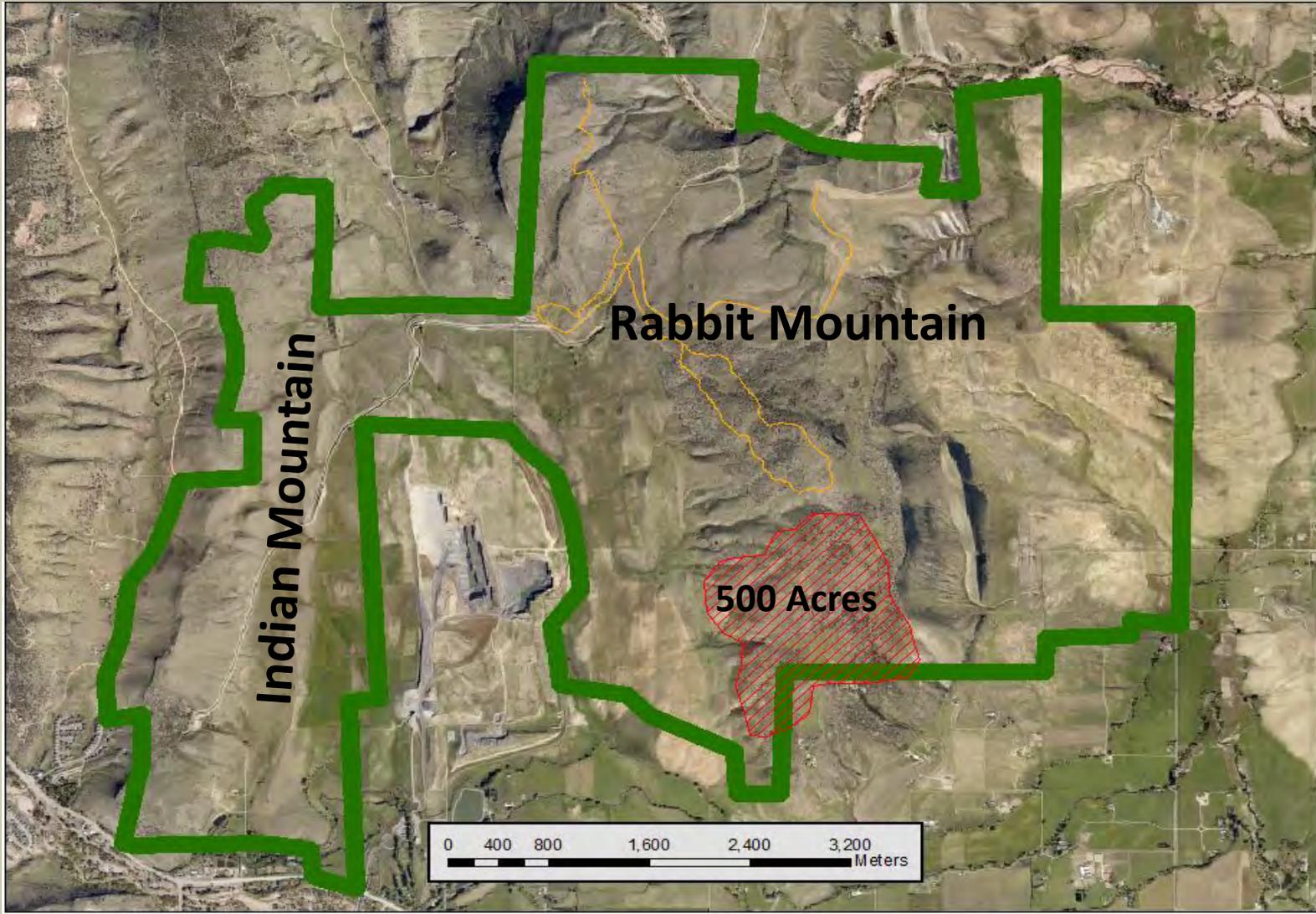
2009

Rabbit Mountain Elk Counts & Population Projection





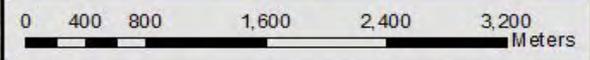




Indian Mountain

Rabbit Mountain

500 Acres



Areas of Resource Damage



Wildlife and Plant Ecology staff study vegetation

Browse Study

Mountain Mahogany

Vegetation Study

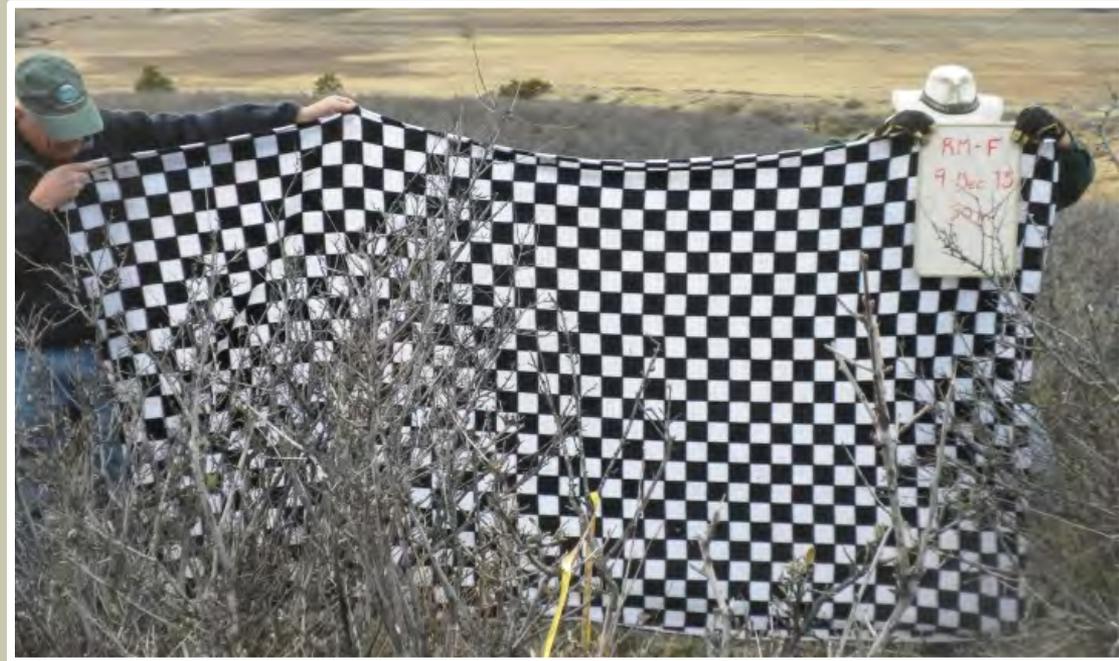
Natives

Non-natives

Litter

Bare soil

Spring 2016



Assessment of Vegetation Condition



Mountain Mahogany



BCPOS and CPW Coordination

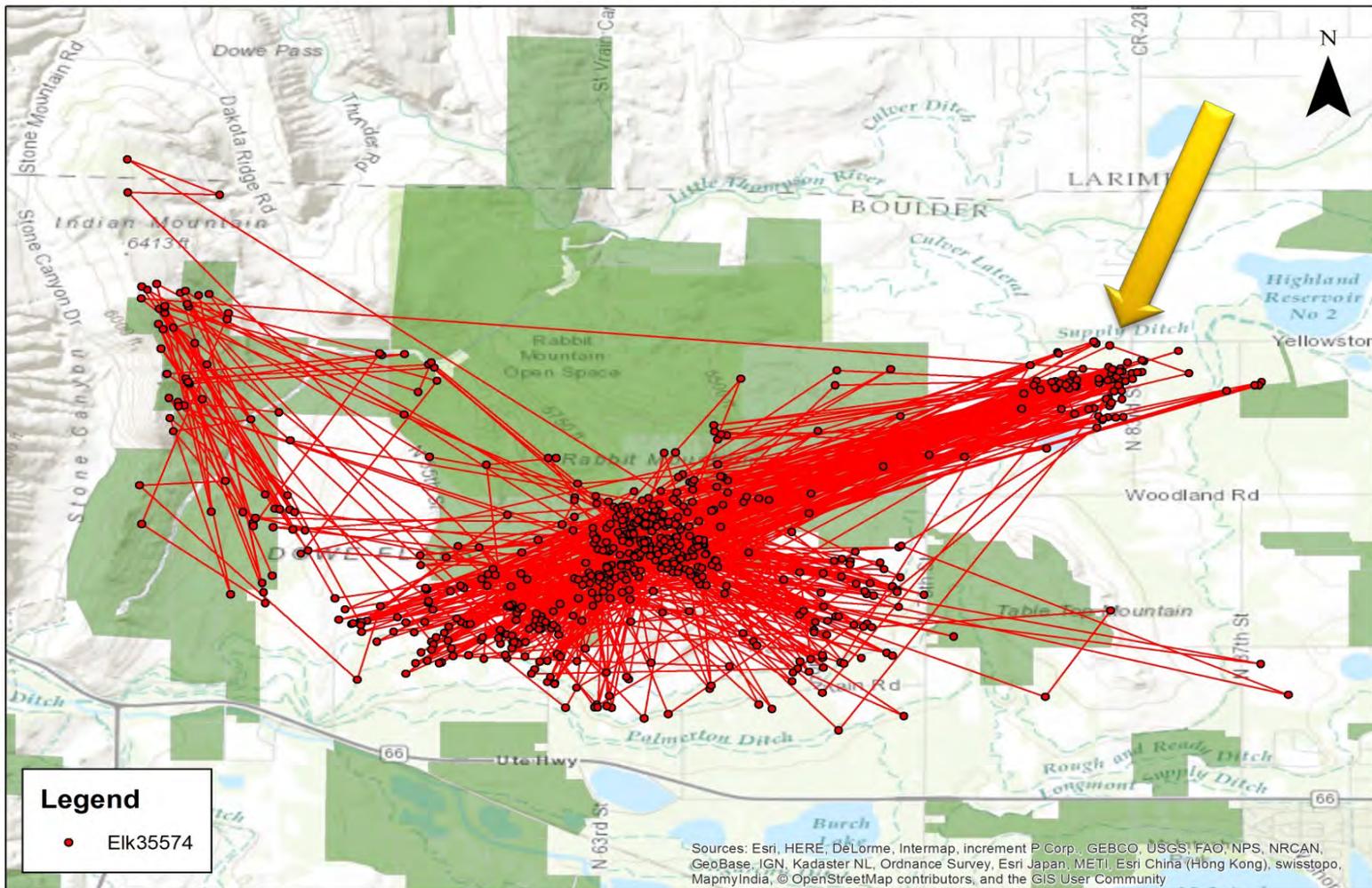
Satellite Collars

Deployed on
Four Cows,
March 2015

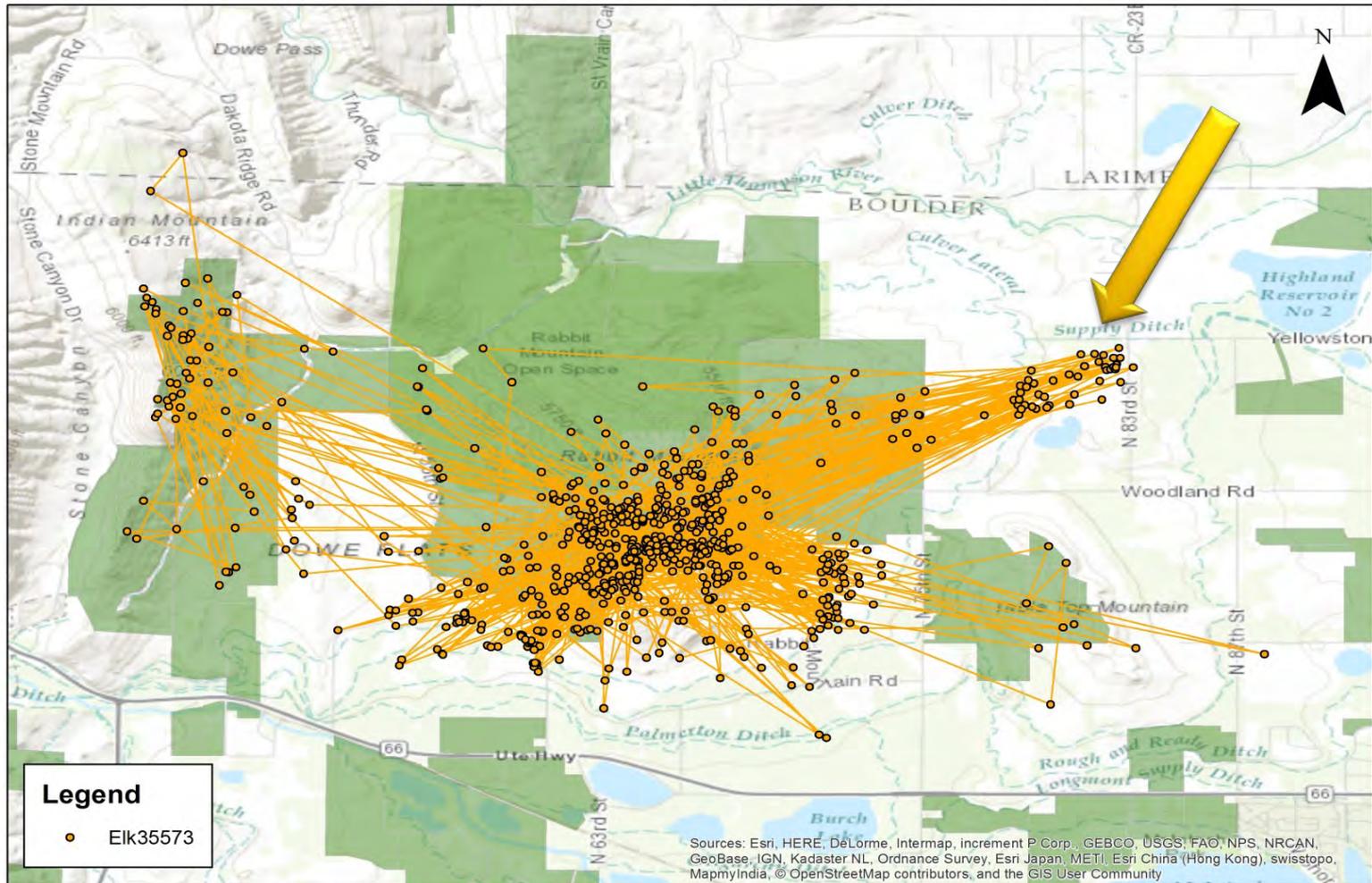




Rabbit Mountain Elk Collar GPS Locations 3-6-2015 to 4-19-2016

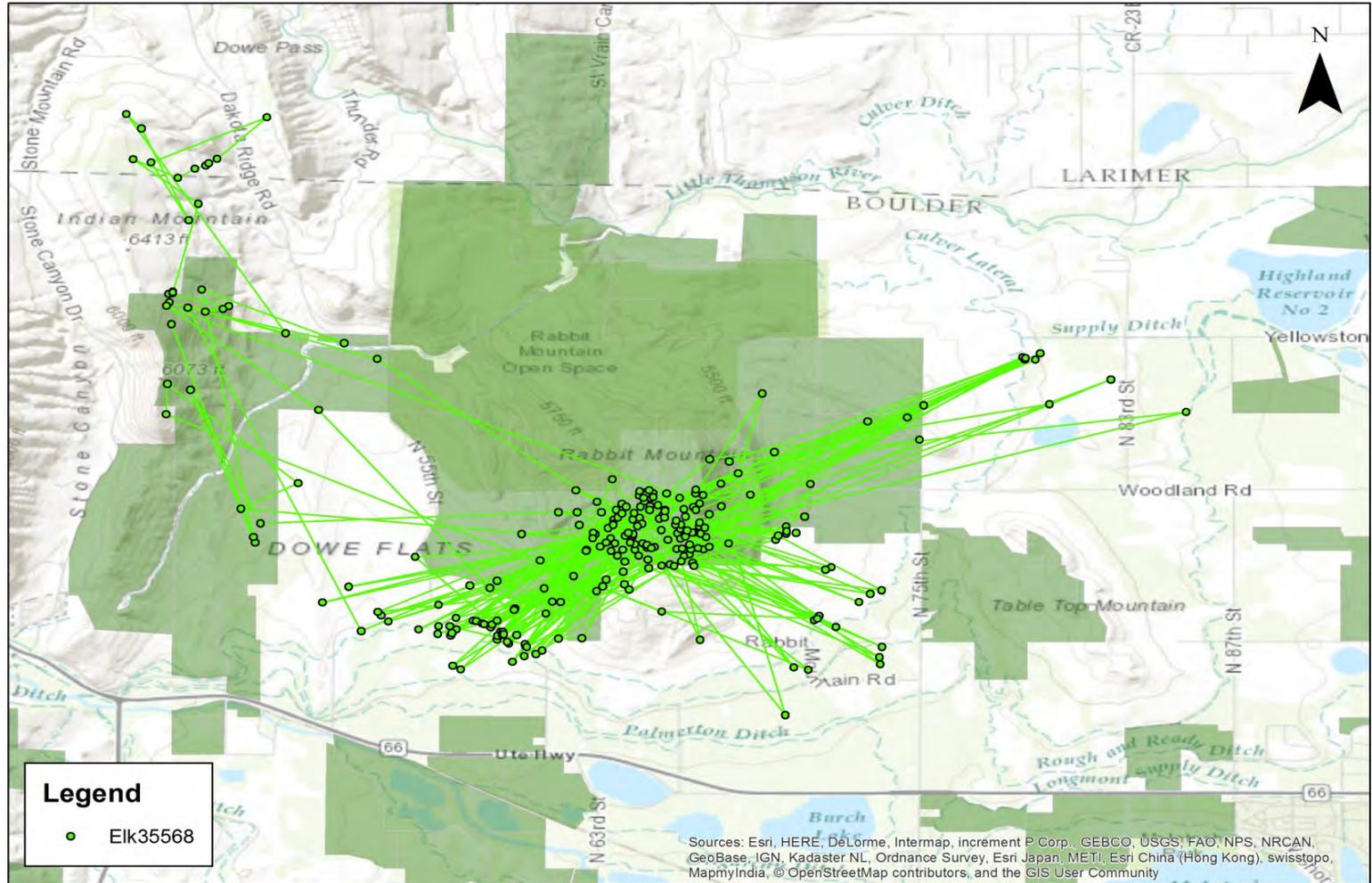


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collar GPS Locations 3-6-2015 to 4-19-2016

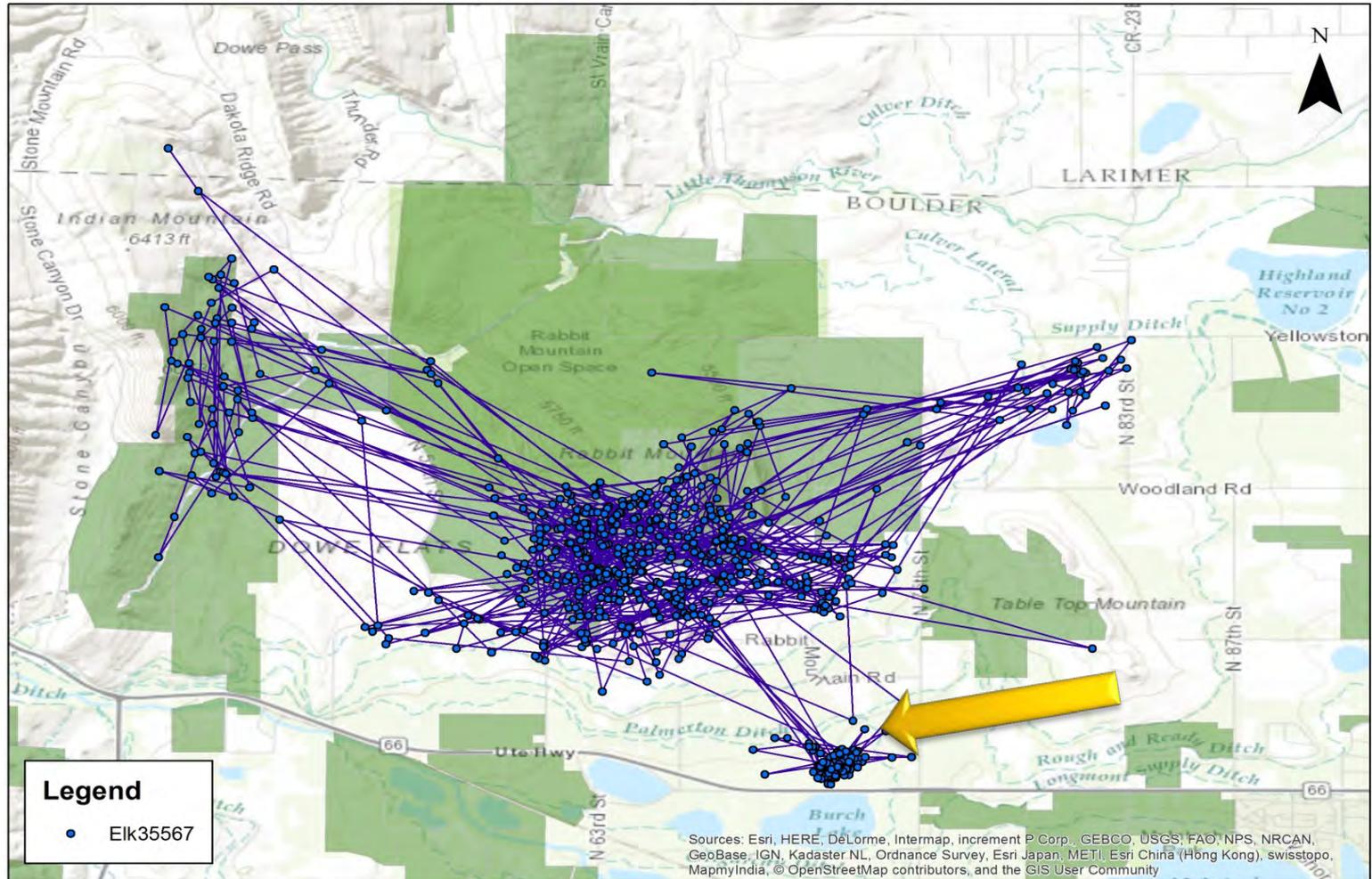


0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

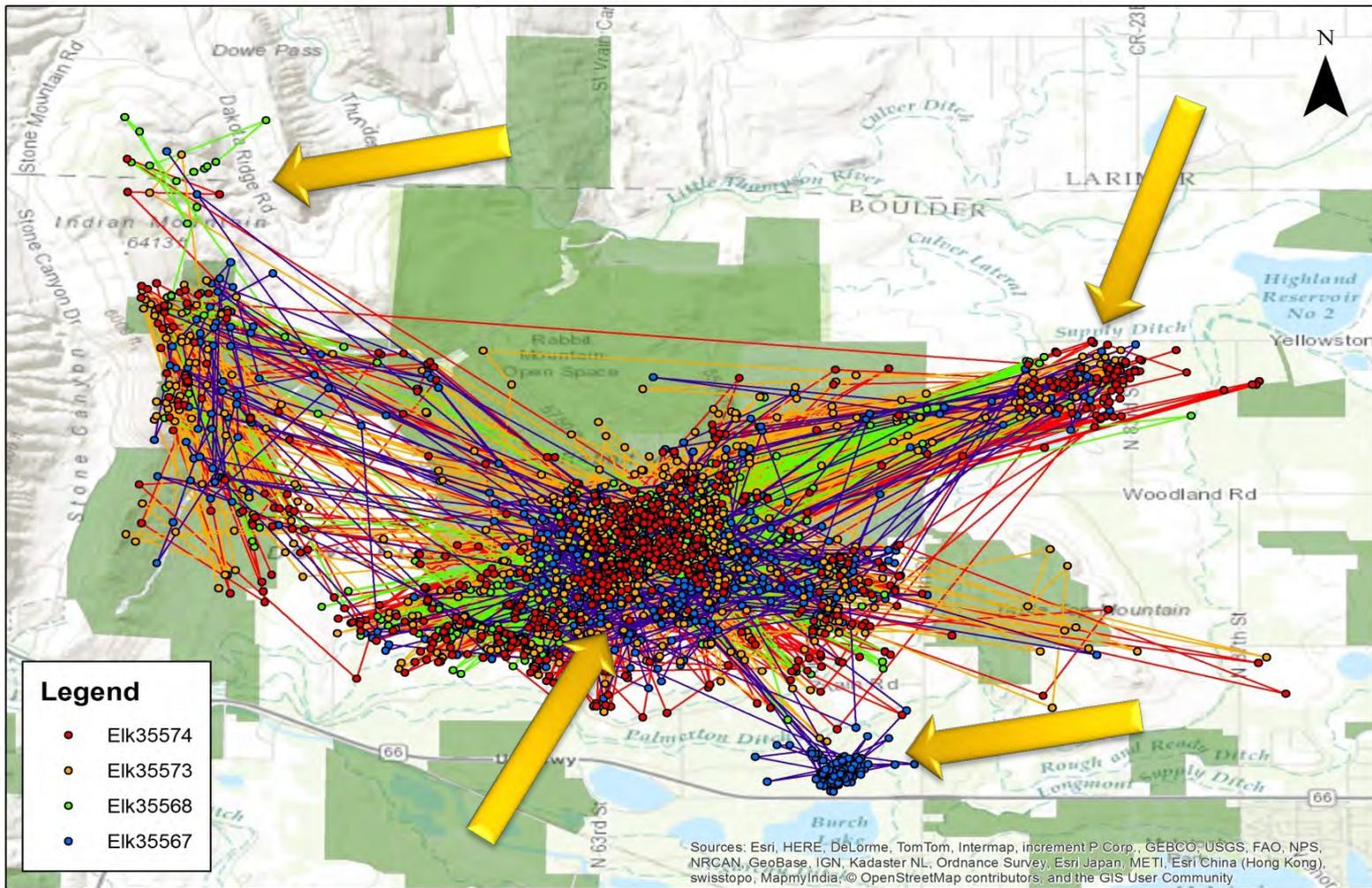
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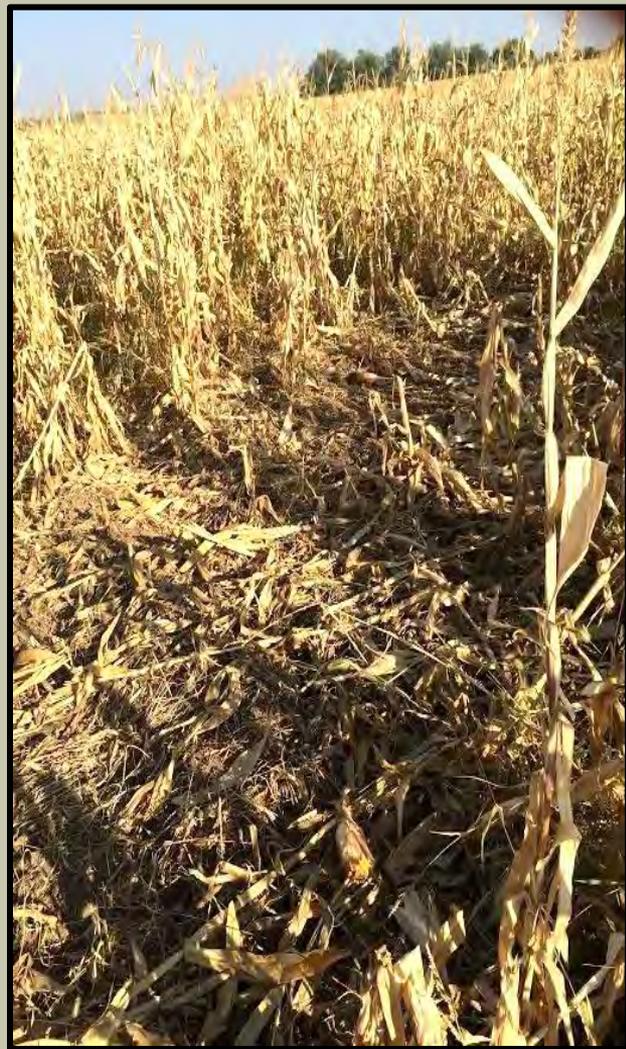
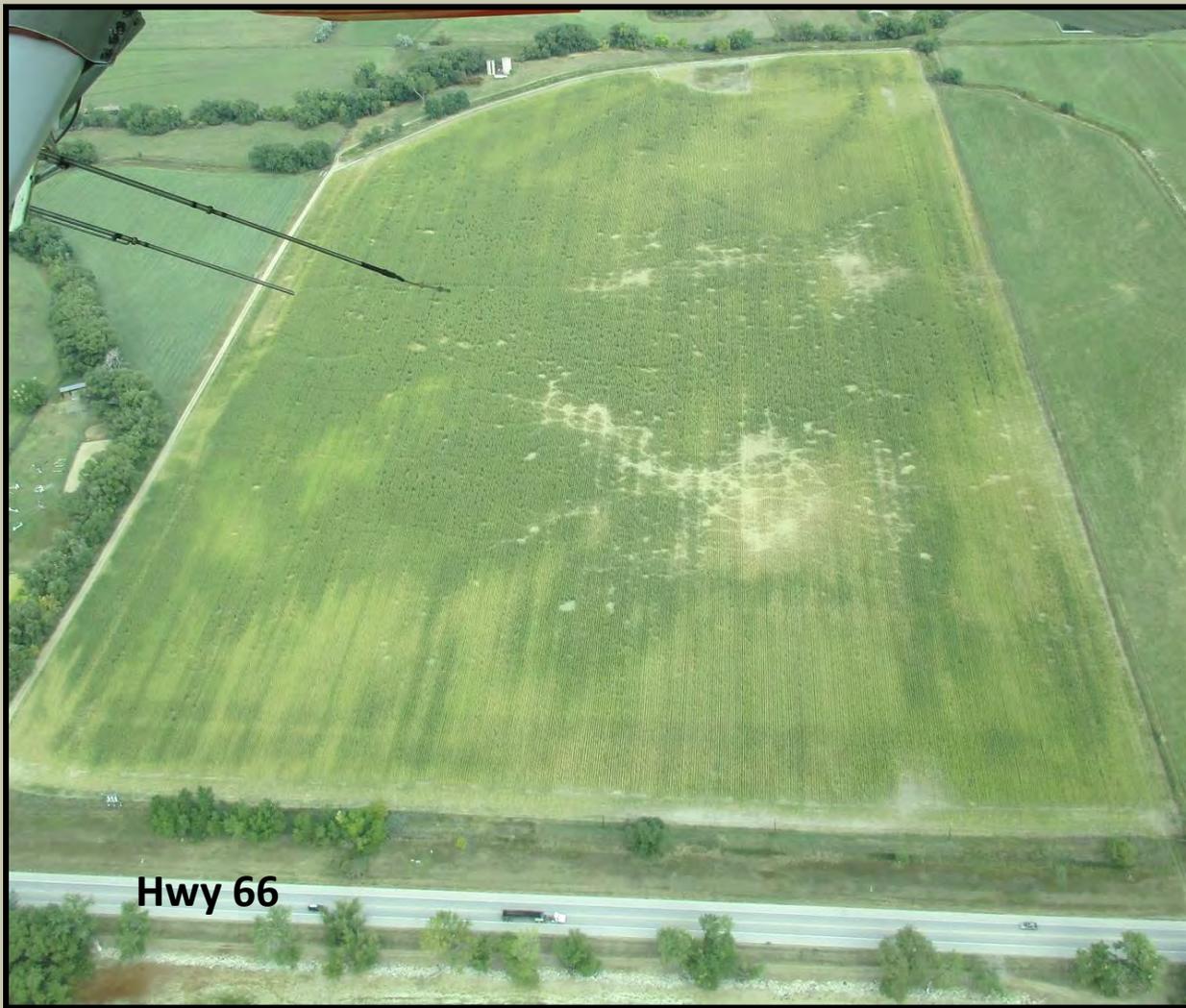


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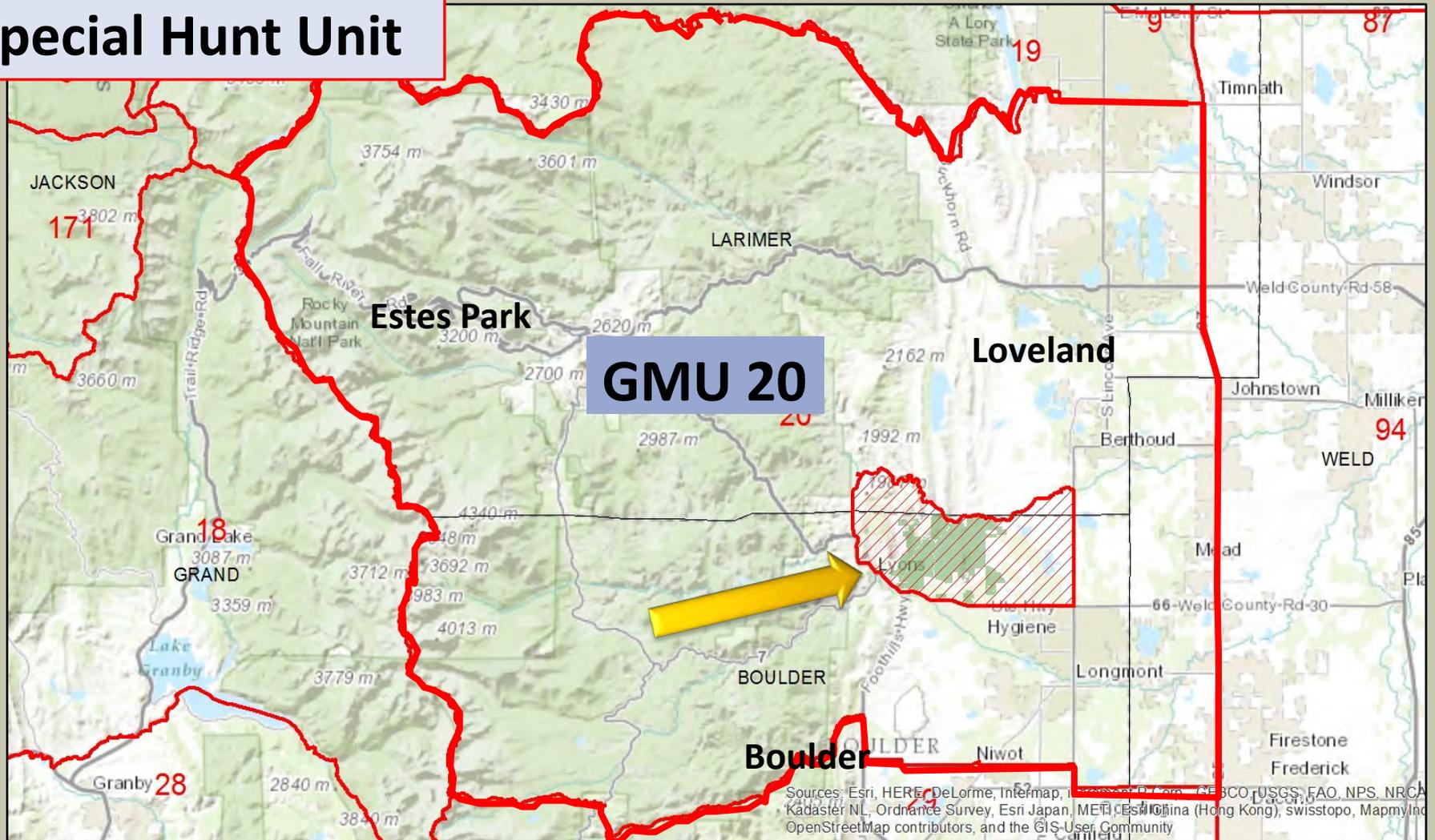


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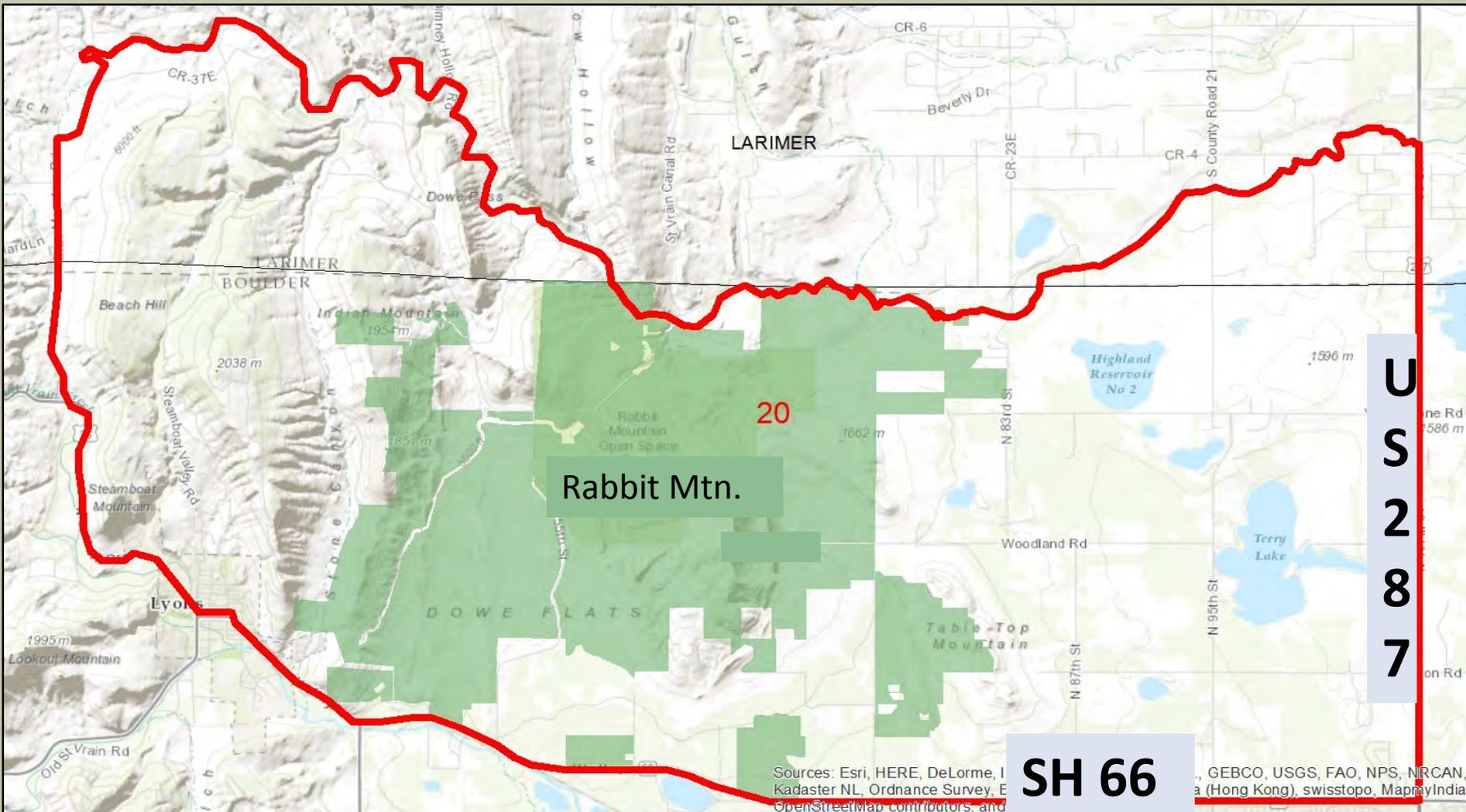




Special Hunt Unit



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, iNGO, Swisstopo, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



2087

SH 66

Rabbit Mtn.

20

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, I Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, E OpenStreetMap contributors, and GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, a (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia

Special Sub Unit Success

2015

- 100 licenses Issued
 - 70 hunters
 - 25 elk harvested
(cows only)

2016

Boundaries Expanded

- 3 Properties - 13 Harvested
- Many more harvested through other opportunities



Alternatives Considered

- > Status Quo
- > Professional Culling
- > Hazing
- > Relocation
- > Fertility Control
- > Fencing
- > Crop Alternatives





Hazing Efforts- Movement Patterns and Behaviors



- 20 outings - September 2015 -> March 2016
- Remained unhabituated
- When pushed west, herd moved to Indian Mountain
- Left core area for 1-6 days, but usually returned in 1 to 3 days





Carter
Lake



Use of Elk Fertility Control



- No legally approved method
 - PZP and GonaCon is for feral horses
 - GonaCon for white-tailed deer
- Cost \$600 - \$1000/elk, every 3 years
- Length of time to effect change
- Not proven in wild populations (in and out migration)

1984 Management Plan Language

- The property should be maintained as a sanctuary with no hunting or trapping allowed. Up until the present, continued hunting on adjacent private properties appears to help control the deer population. However, if careful monitoring of the habitat indicates resource damage is occurring (i.e. deer excess), management options to reduce overpopulations should be considered.

1996 North Foothills Open Space Management Plan

- Hunting should be maintained as a optional management tool for deer and elk populations. Hunting should be considered if deer and elk numbers approach carrying capacity level and could potentially cause damage to other resources. The county should establish methods to monitor populations and coordinate efforts with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. If it is deemed necessary to control the population, the method and timing of hunting will be coordinated with Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Goal of Elk Management Plan

- **Reduce Resource Impacts**
- **Reestablish migration**
- **Reduce long-term population to 30-70**
- **Reduce private land impacts**



- Proposed limited hunting – GMU 20 tags
- Close park during hunting
- 150 feet buffer from property edge
- Antlerless only – no trophy hunting
- Hunters orientation/proficiency test



Public Input – On-line and emails

353 Total Comments

- 231 Support the plan
- 26 Support the plan with changes
- 96 Don't support the plan



Public Input: 73 % Support the Plan or Support with Changes

- **Concerned about habitat damage/want ecosystem benefits (60)**
- **Concerned about impacts to neighboring property owners/crop damages (44)**
- **Economics / cost-effectiveness (43)**
- **Health / behavior of elk population (33)**
- **Allow archery / bow hunting (14)**
- **Science-based management / trust wildlife managers (11)**

Public Input – 73 % Support the Plan – Con't

- Provide food source (10)**
- Public resource / history of hunting (10)**
- Other methods ineffective or not possible (hazing, fence, etc.) (7)**
- Concerned about elk / vehicle collisions (6)**
- Provide education about hunting & wildlife management / youth hunters (5)**

Public Input – Recommended Changes

- **Minimize closure of Rabbit Mountain / impacts users (10)**
- **Use professional sharp shooters to cull herd / selective hunting (6)**



Public Input – 27 % Don't support the Plan

- Oppose hunting on county open space/concerned about setting precedent (31)**
- Public safety concerns (24)**
- Impacts to other users at Rabbit Mountain / length of closure (19)**
- Don't want tax dollars going toward hunting on open space (15)**
- Oppose killing animals (12)**
- Issues with CPW science (11)**

Public Input – 27 % Don't support the Plan

- Concerned about planning process or time for public input (11)**
- Concerned about pressure from hunting interests (8)**
- Thinks CPW profits from hunting (6)**
- Thinks CPW caused problem by re-introducing elk without predators / hunting predators (5)**



- Request a Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners

Questions