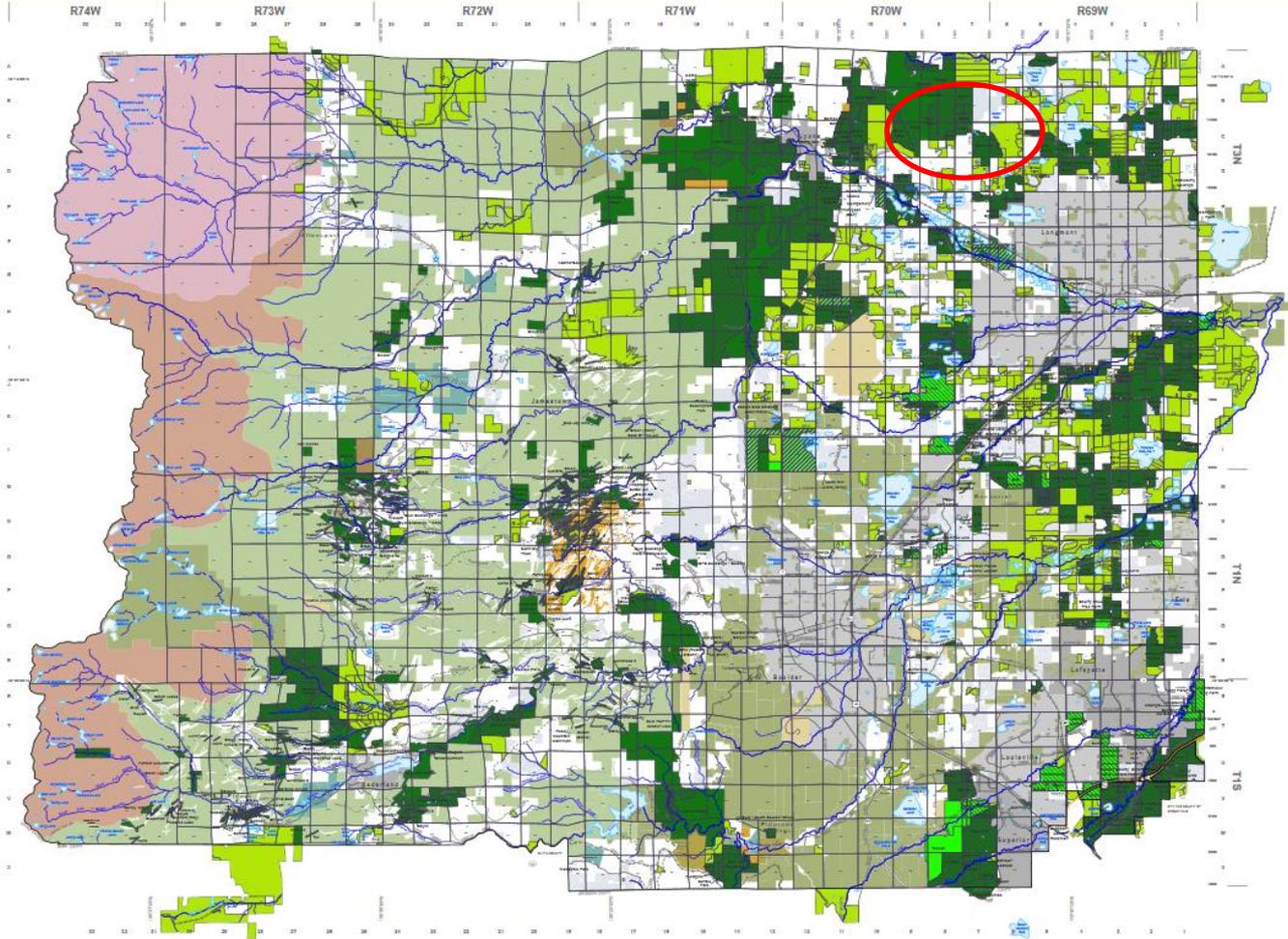




Parks &  
Open Space

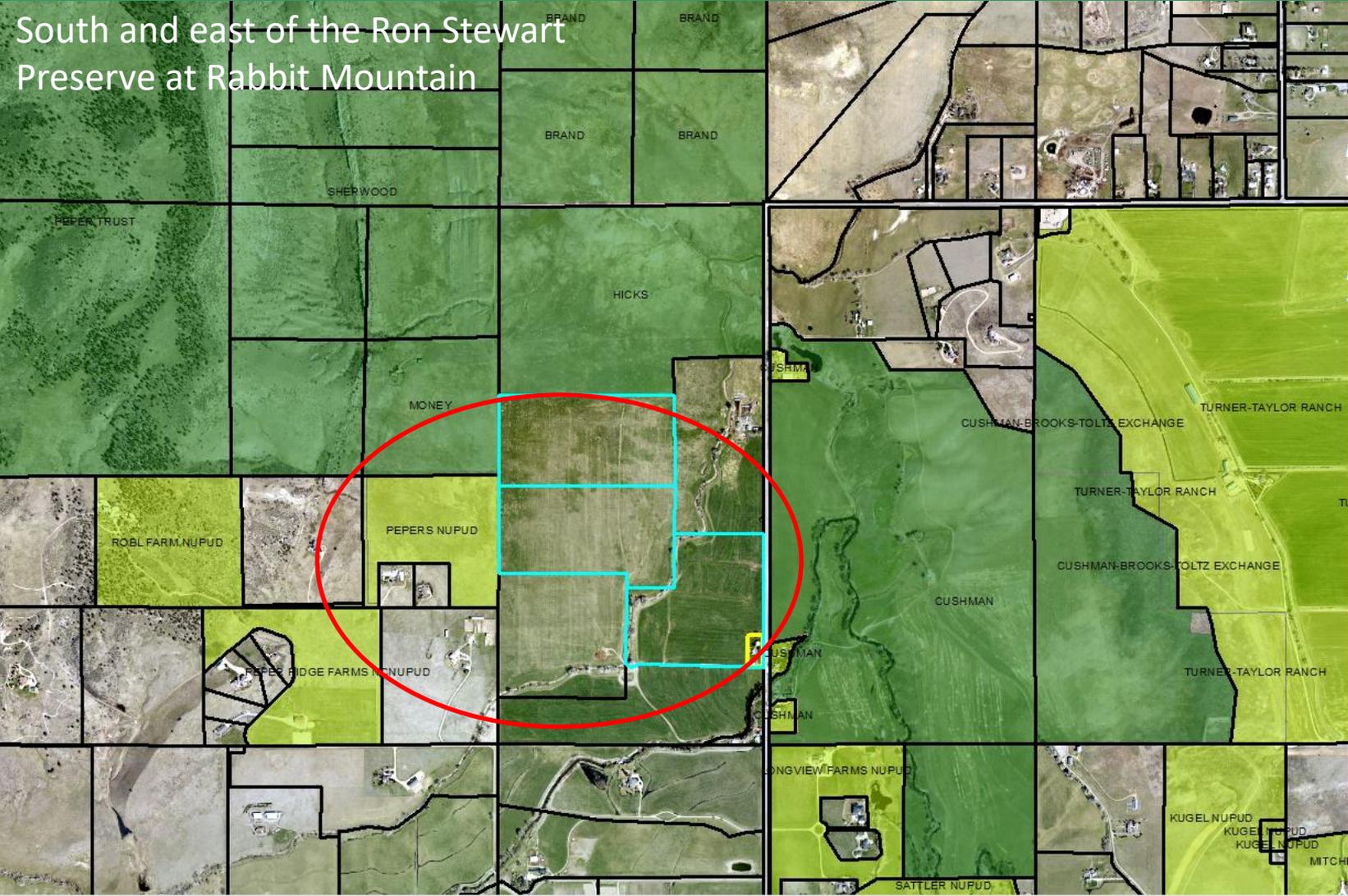
Hicks-Stitzel  
Acquisition  
June 28, 2018

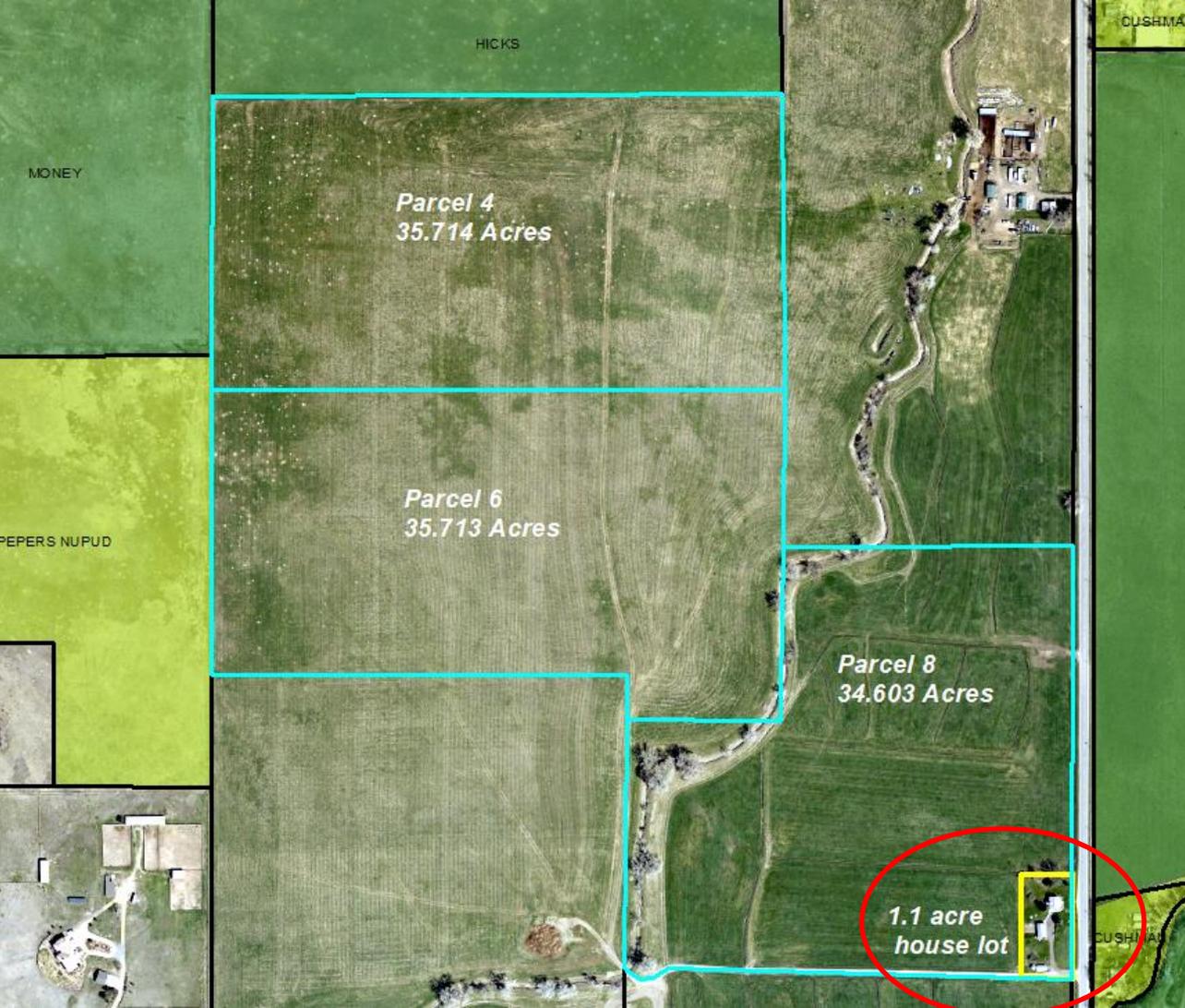
# Open Space in Boulder County



Vicinity Map

# South and east of the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain





## Two Development Rights

West from the South  
East corner



East from Parcel 2  
across Parcel 2 and 1





Looking East from  
Parcel 2 across  
Parcel 3



Northeast from  
Northwest corner of  
Parcel 3

## North and West across the property



From Northern boundary West to East



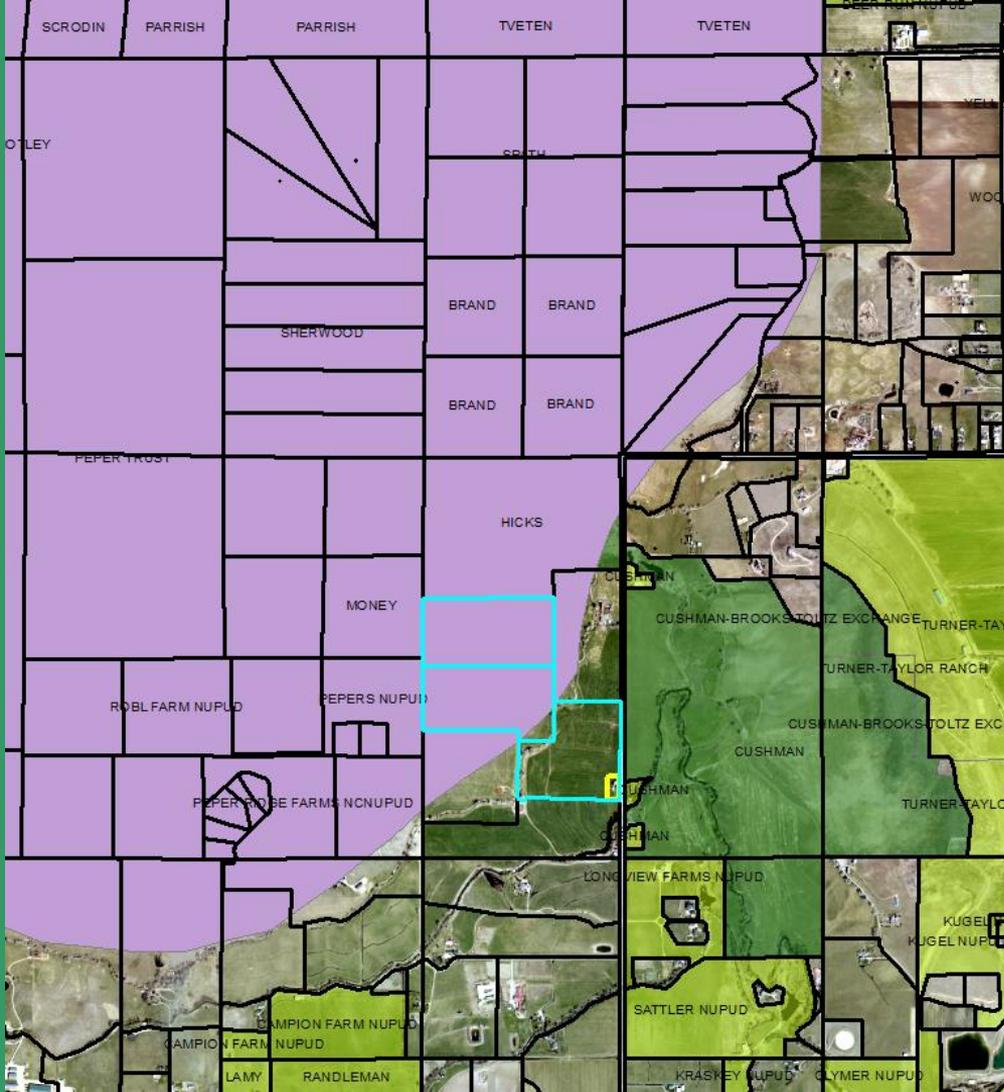


Looking South and  
West from the  
North East corner

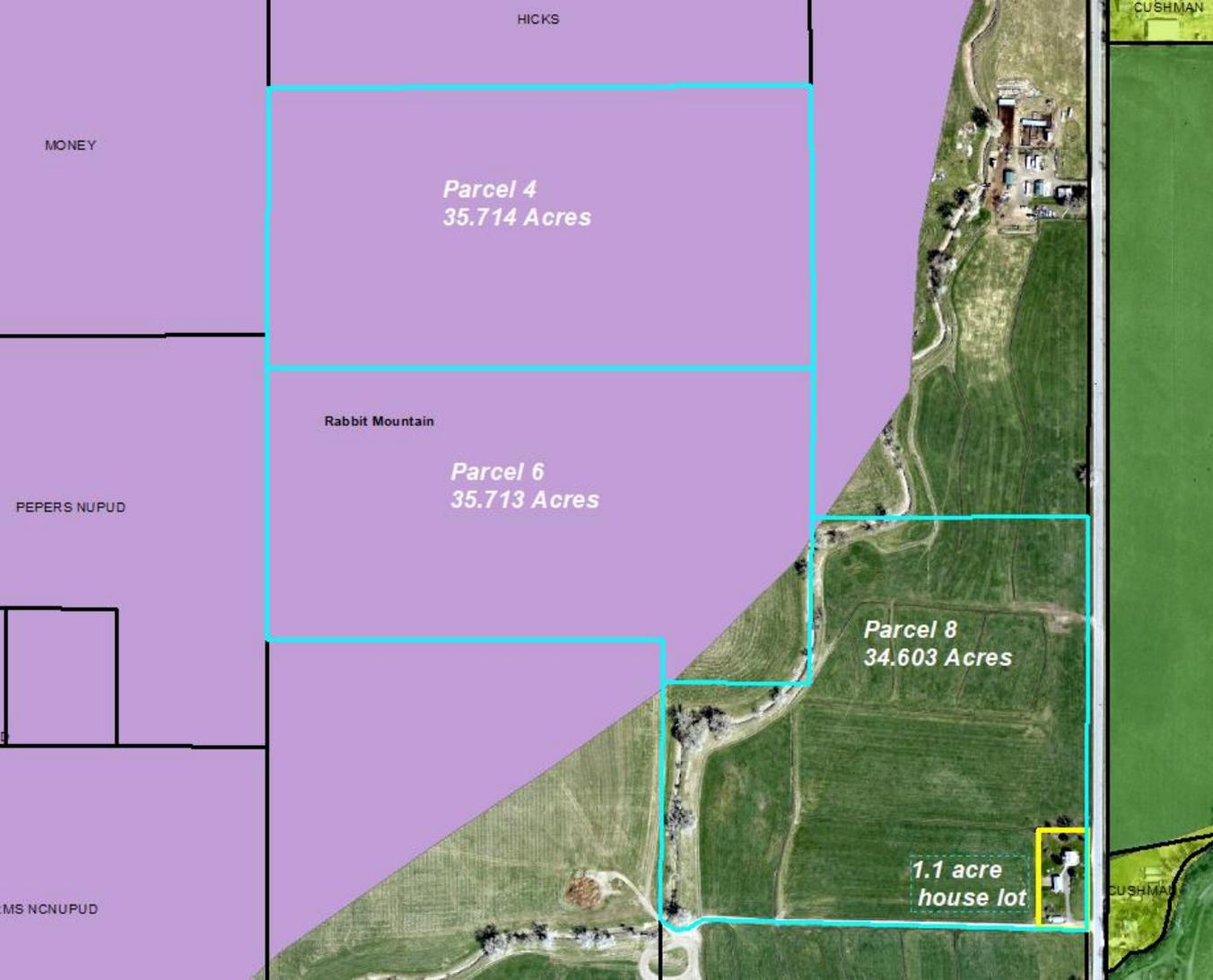
South East corner of  
house lot







# Rabbit Mountain Environmental Conservation Area



MONEY

HICKS

*Parcel 4*  
*35.714 Acres*

Rabbit Mountain

*Parcel 6*  
*35.713 Acres*

PEPERS NUPUD

*Parcel 8*  
*34.603 Acres*

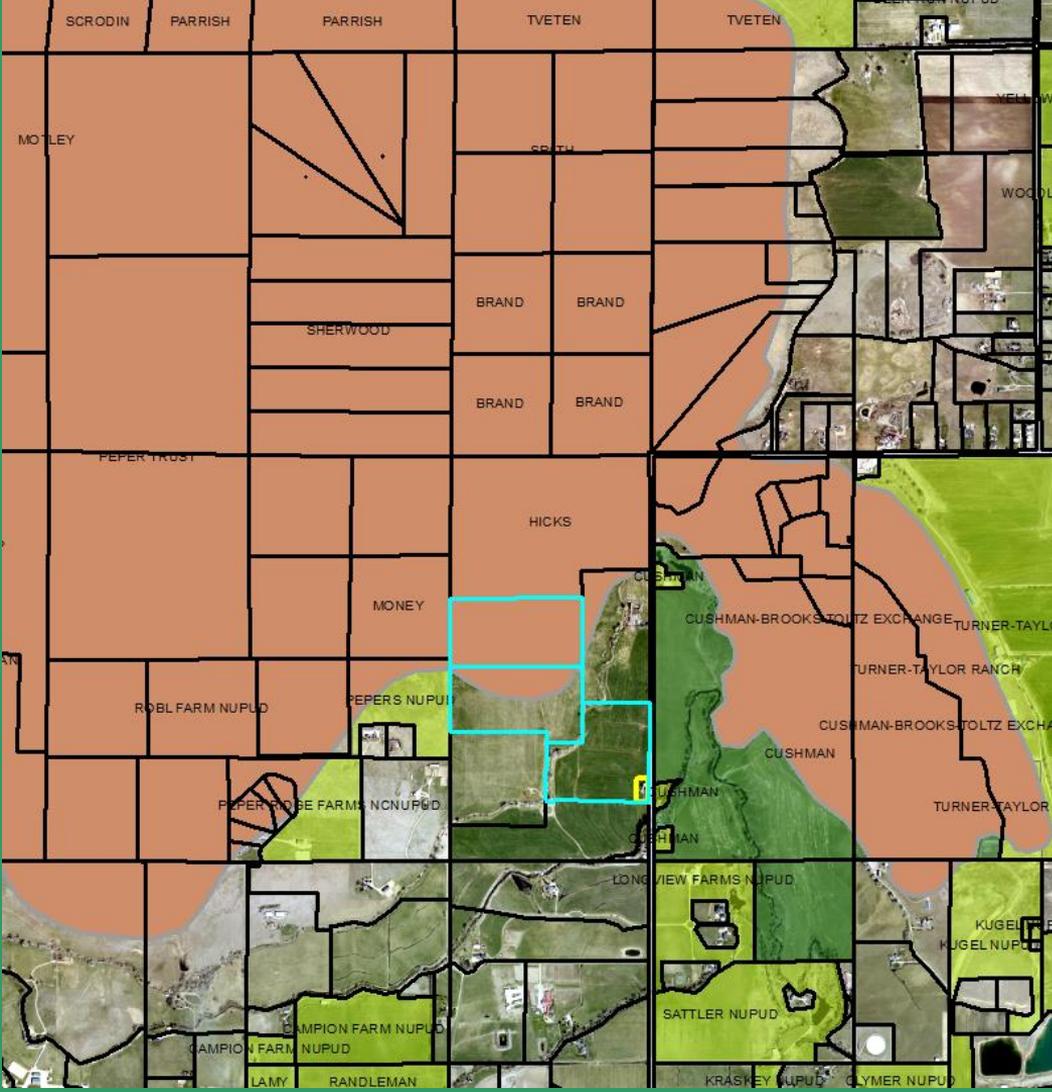
*1.1 acre*  
*house lot*

MS NCNUPUD

CUSHMAN

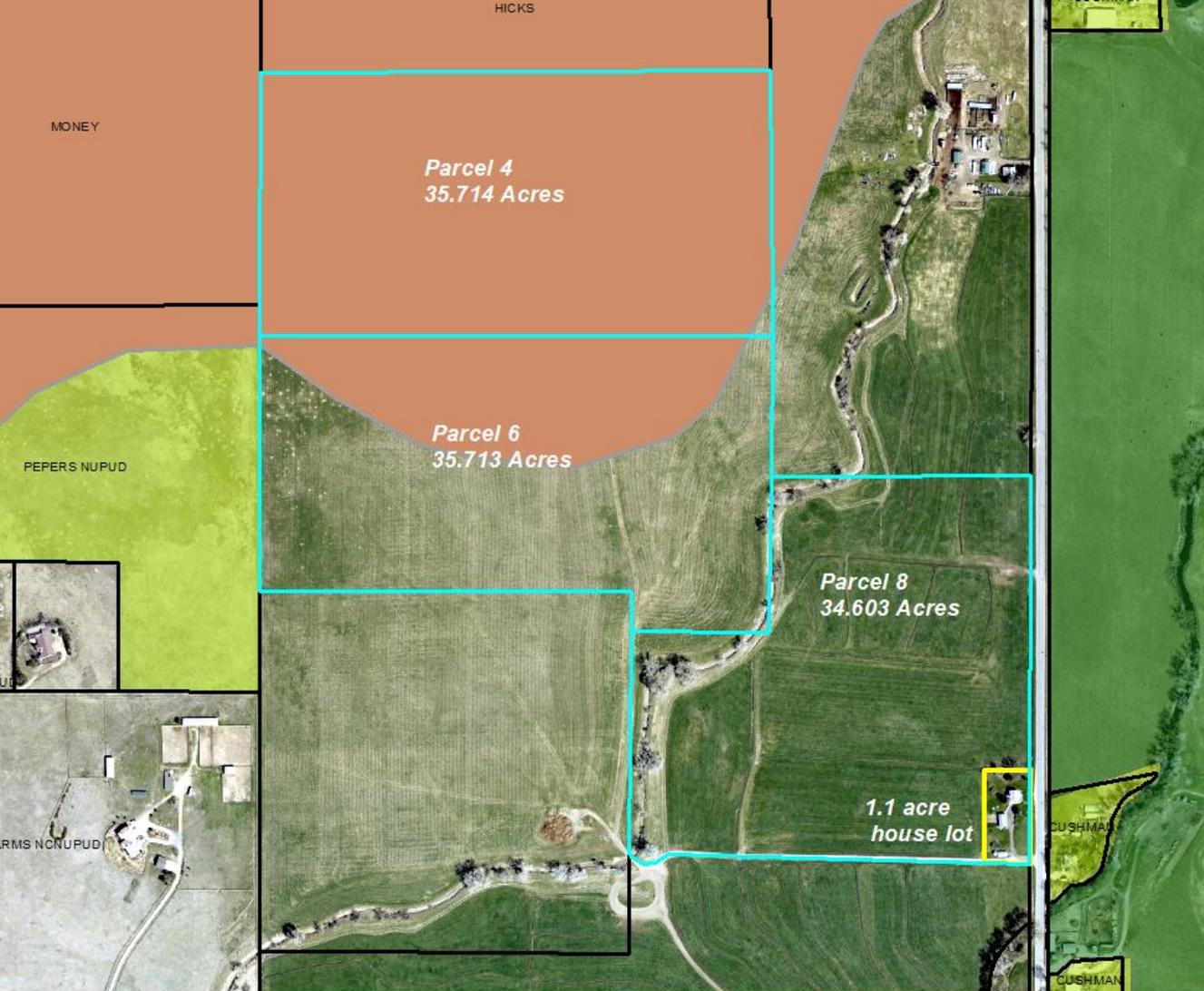
CUSHMAN

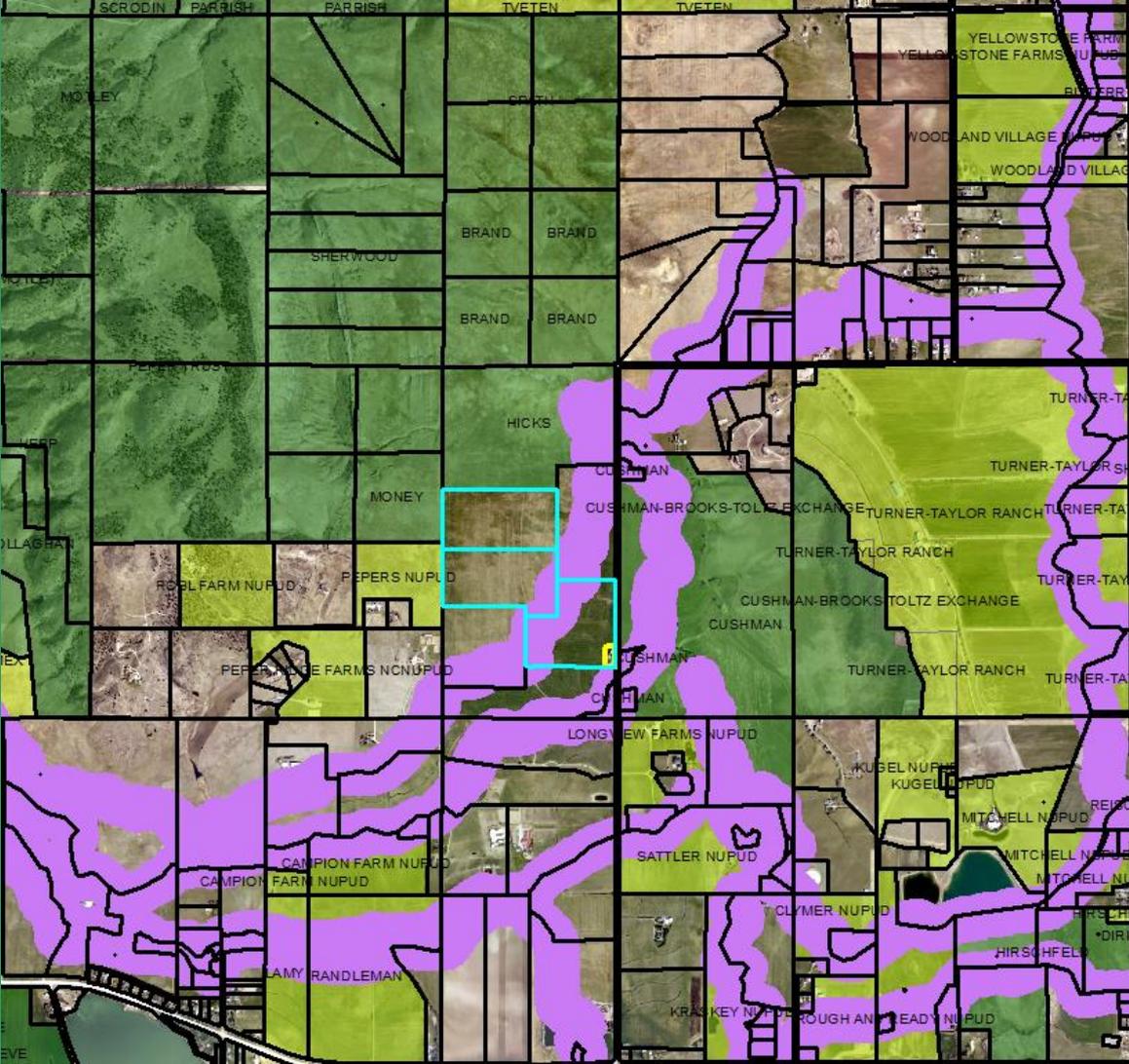
# Rabbit Mountain Environmental Conservation Area



# Rabbit Mountain B-1 Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

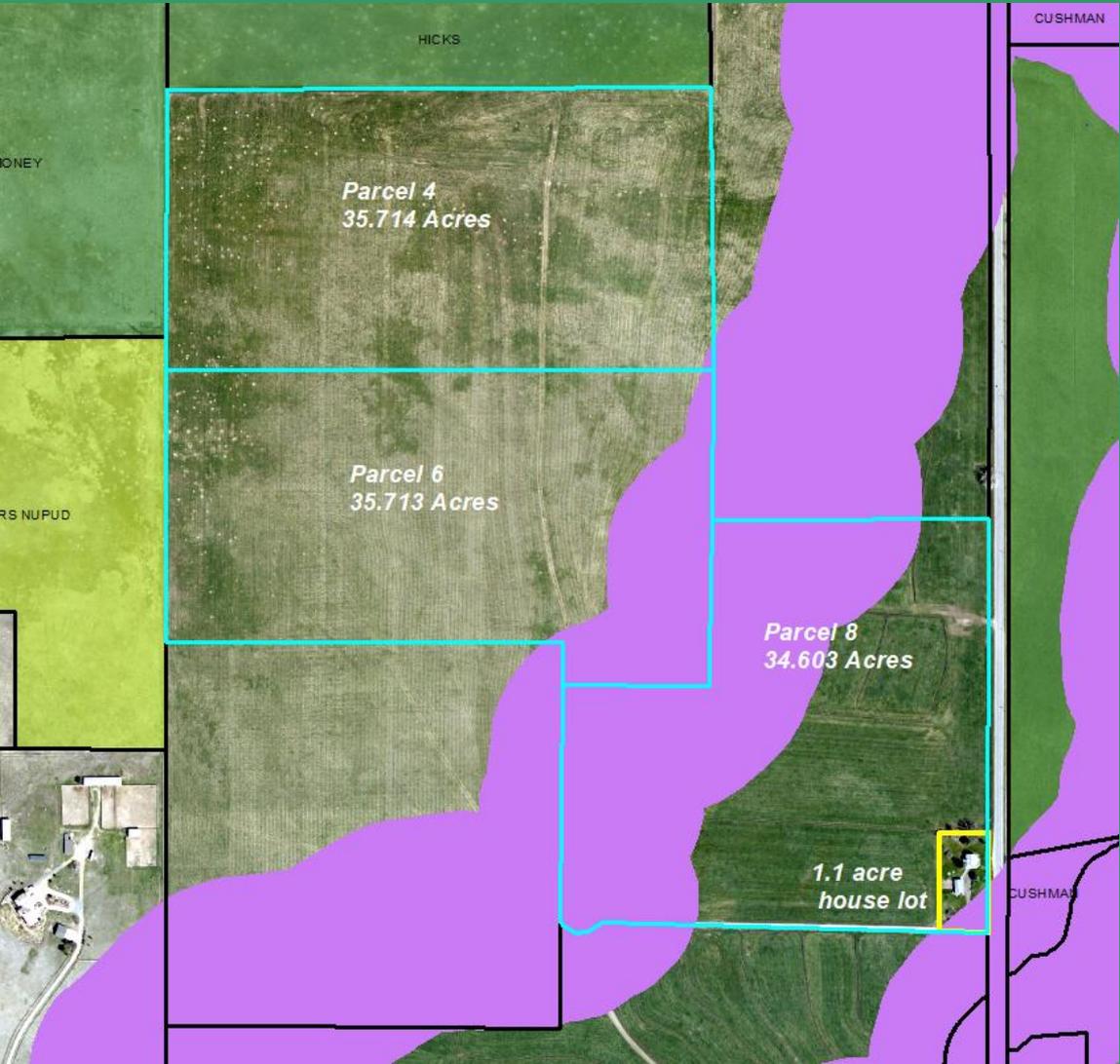
# Rabbit Mountain B-1 Outstanding Biodiversity Significance





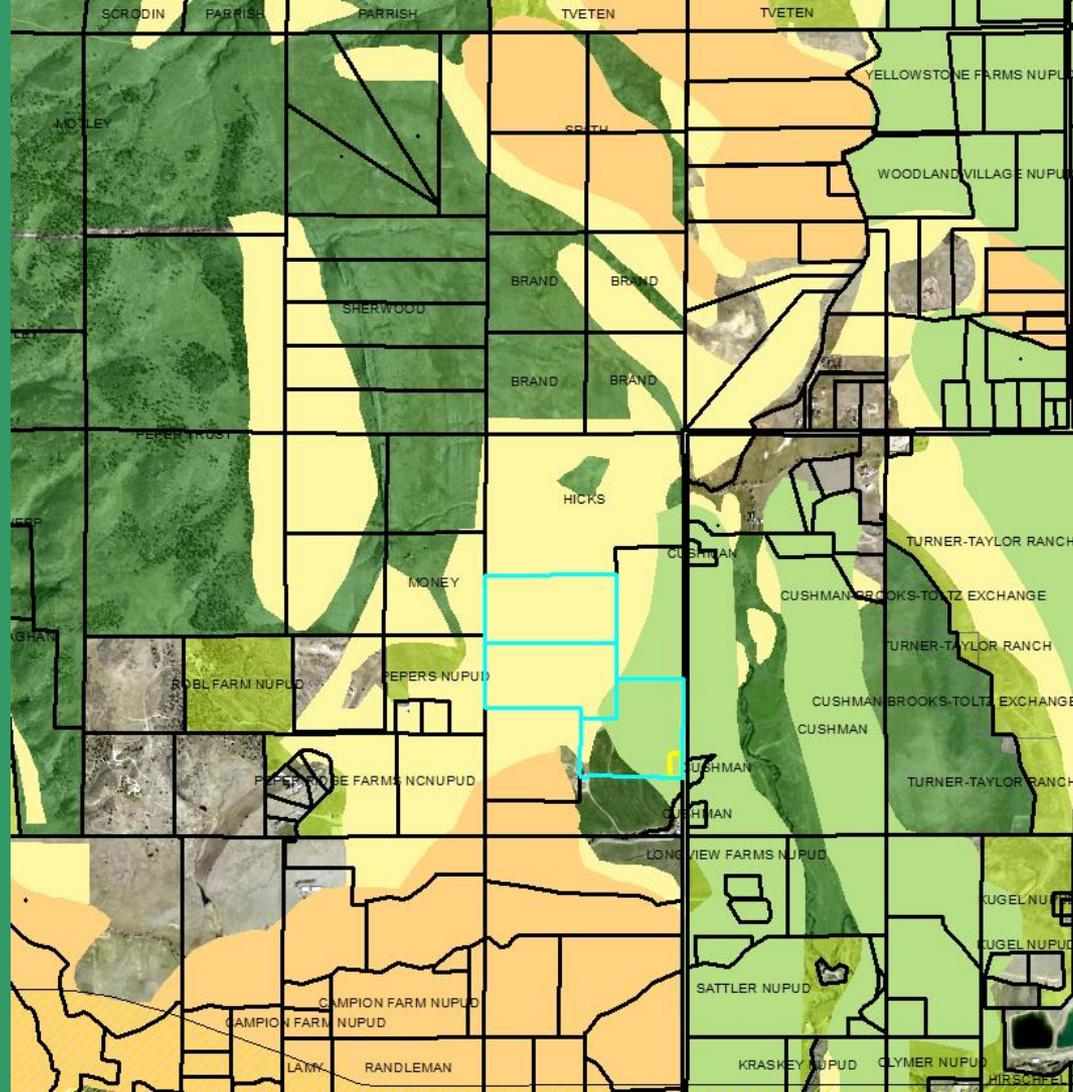
# Zone 3 Suitable Contiguous Habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

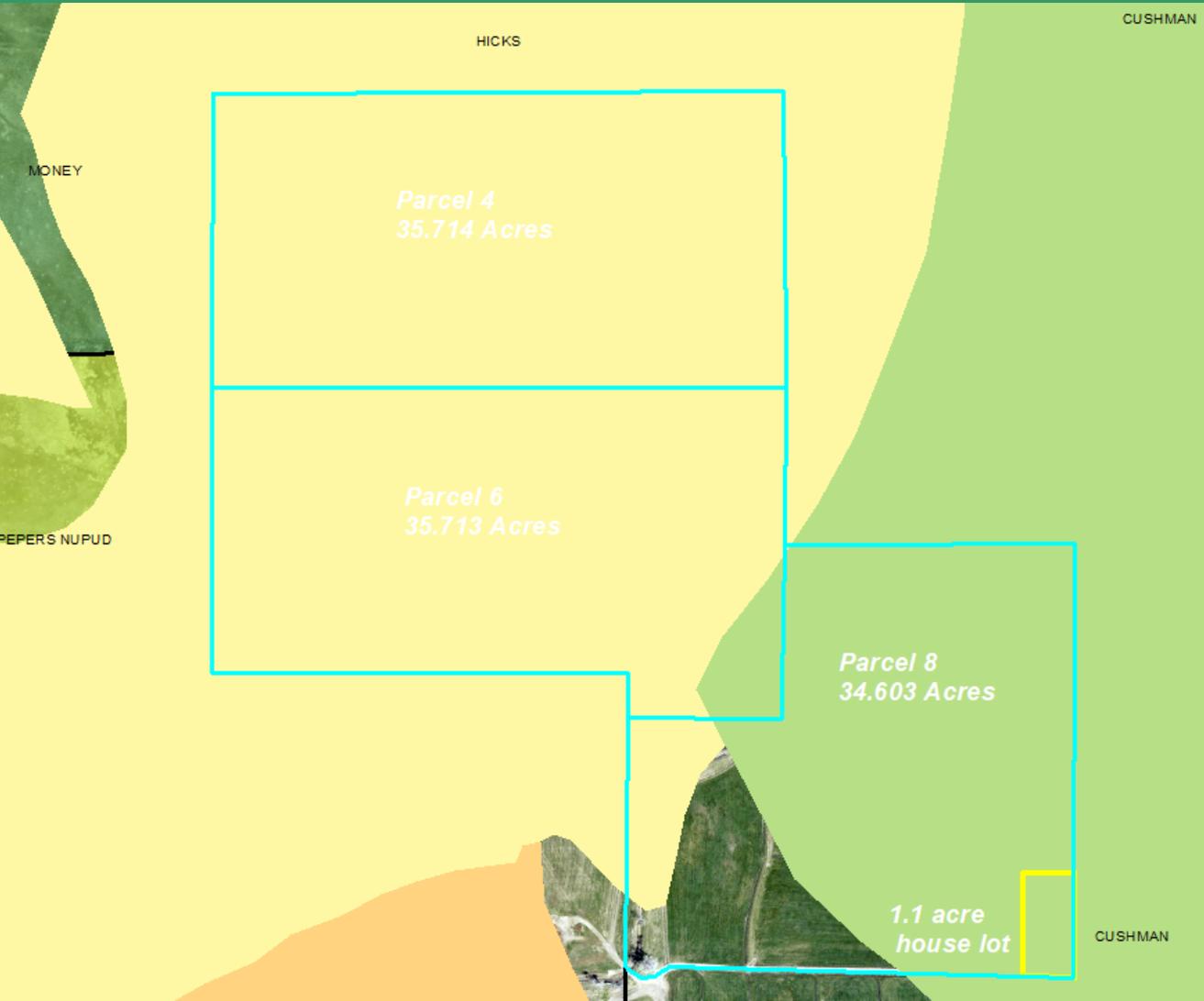
This map illustrates the Zone 3 Suitable Contiguous Habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse. The habitat is shown in purple, covering a significant portion of the central and eastern areas of the map. The highlighted parcel (cyan rectangle) is located within this habitat zone. The yellow square indicates a specific area within the highlighted parcel.



## Zone 3 Suitable Contiguous Habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

# Significant Agricultural Lands of National and Local Importance





# Significant Agricultural Lands of National and Local Importance





Parks &  
Open Space

# E-bikes Public Engagement Plan Update

POSAC Meeting, June 28, 2018



# How we got here...

- 2017 change in state law
- 2017 rules & regs update
- 2018 e-bike public engagement

# *Can* e-bikes be allowed?

- Sales tax language: functions of open space
- Comprehensive plan: definition of passive recreation

# HB 17-1157

## Section 1

“Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways or a low-speed electric vehicle; except that the term does not include ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES, low-power scooters, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power.

# HB 17-1157

## Section 5

- (I) A person may ride a class 1 or class 2 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path where bicycles are authorized to travel
- (II) A local authority may prohibit the operation of class 1 or class 2 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path under its jurisdiction

# Sales Tax: Functions of Open Space

(f) Preservation of land for outdoor recreation areas limited to passive recreational use, including but not limited to hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing.

# Comp Plan: Passive Recreation Definition

Passive Recreation is defined as non-motorized outdoor recreation with minimal impact on the land, water, or other resources that creates opportunities to be close to nature, enjoy the open space features, and have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment.

# Comp Plan: Passive Recreation Definition

Further, ...

- If specifically designated, passive recreation may include bicycling, horseback riding, dog walking, boating, or fishing.

# *Can* e-bikes be allowed?

- Staff believes the answer is “yes” based on the changes in state law
- Precedent for motorized recreational use: 8hp boats allowed at Lagerman Reservoir
- E-bikes are allowed as OPDMDs

# *Should* e-bikes be allowed?

- Foundational values and functions of county open space
- Practical management considerations

# Factors for consideration

- Bike etiquette
- Enforcement challenges
- Regional coordination
- Sustainability
- Inclusion and accessibility

# Public Opinion—Phase II Survey

- Generally in favor of e-bikes on regional trails (55%-64%)
- Generally in favor of e-bikes on plains trails (50%-60%) with the exception of Coalton Trail (48%)
- Strongest objection to prohibition of e-bikes on Boulder Canyon Trail (56%)

# City of Boulder Referral Response

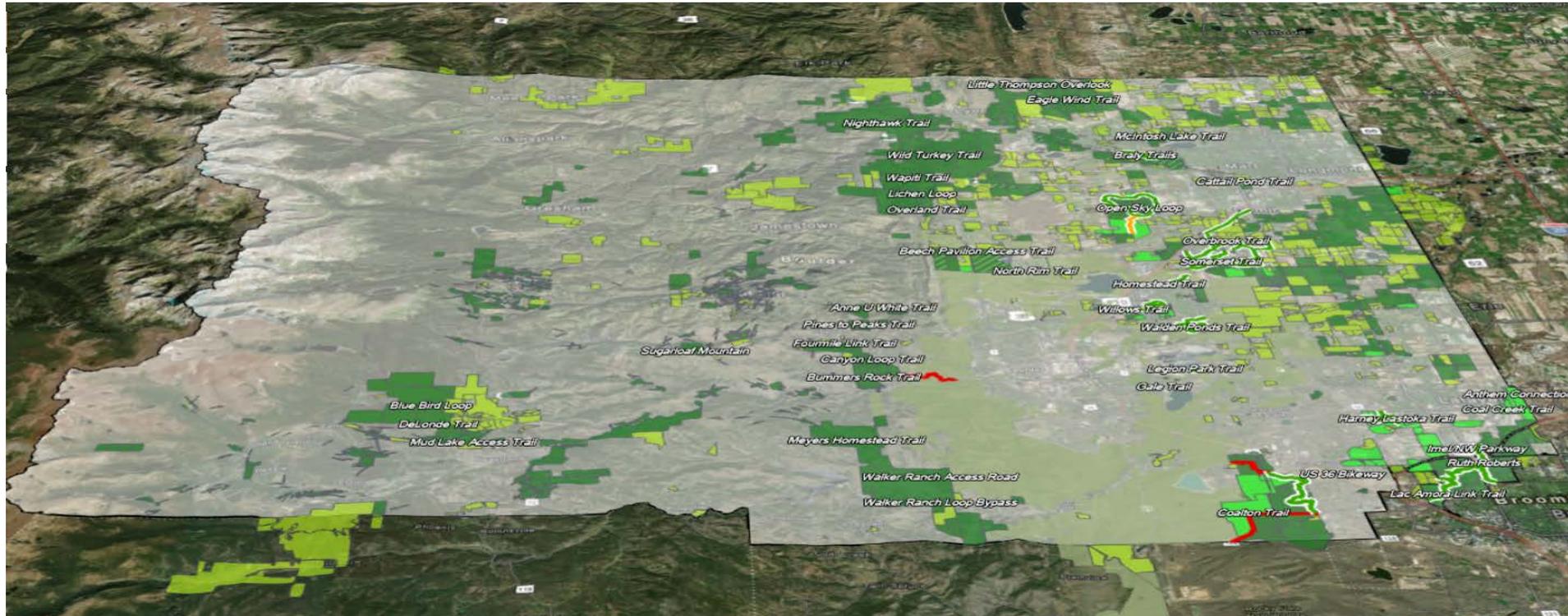
City of Boulder requests e-bikes not be allowed on three trails:

- Boulder Canyon Trail
- Coalton Trail
- Mayhoffer Singletree Trail

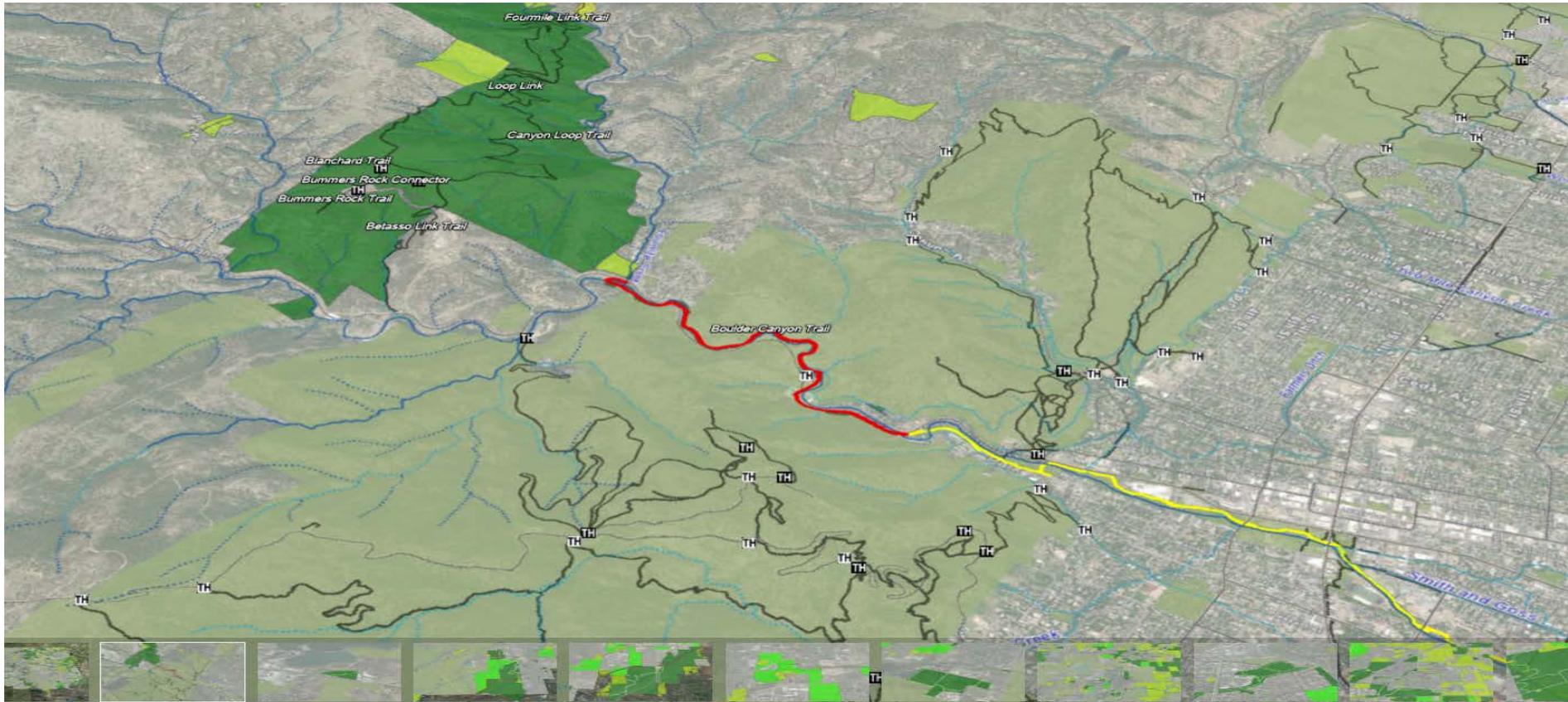
# Staff Recommendation

- Prohibit e-bikes on foothills and mountain trails
- Allow class 1 and class 2 e-bikes on plains trails where bikes are allowed with three exceptions as requested by City of Boulder

# Boulder County Trails

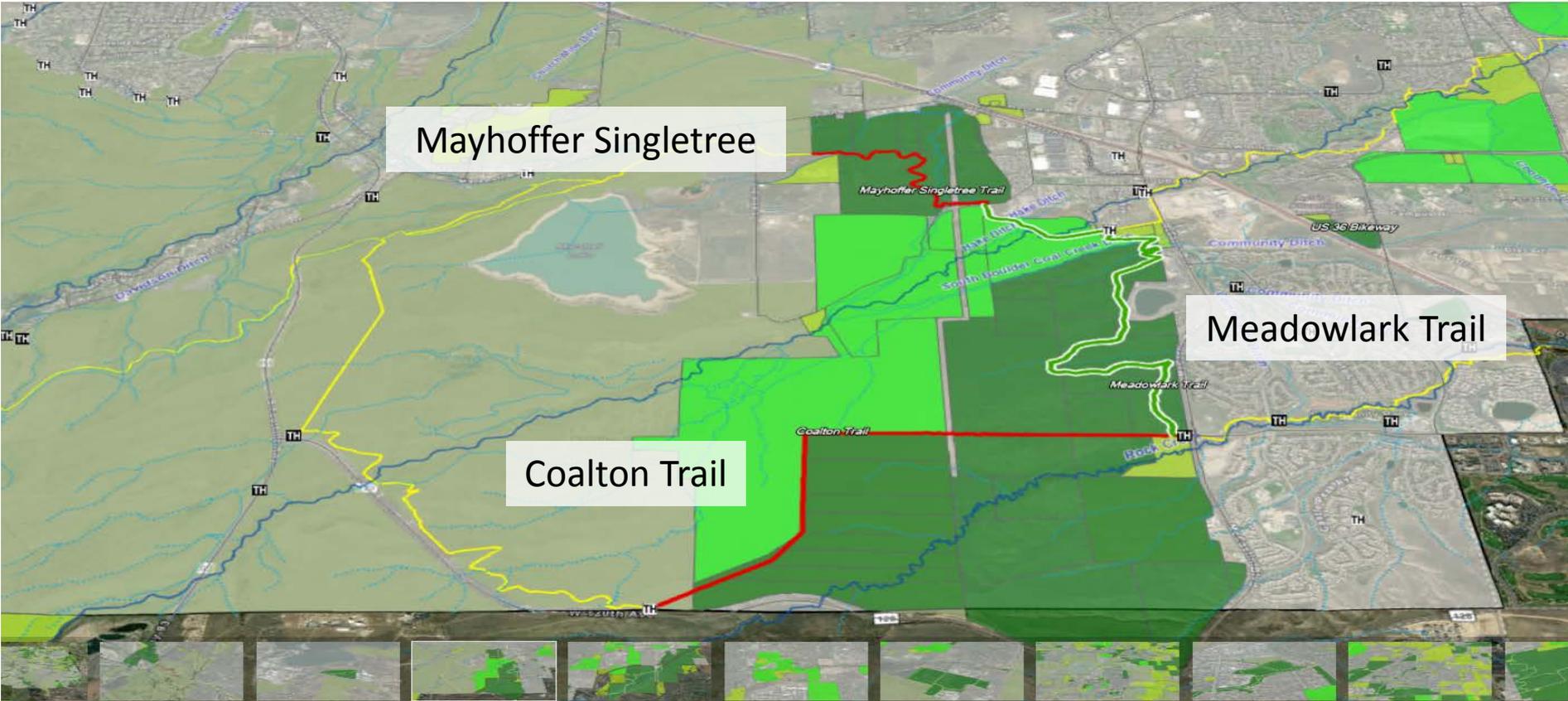


# Boulder Canyon Trail



Source: USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, GEBCO, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodata, tyrelsen and the GIS User Community | Boulder County Parks and Open Space | Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department | Boulder County, Enr, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, NPS, US... | Power

# Coalton Trailhead Trails



Mayhoffer Singletree

Coalton Trail

Meadowlark Trail

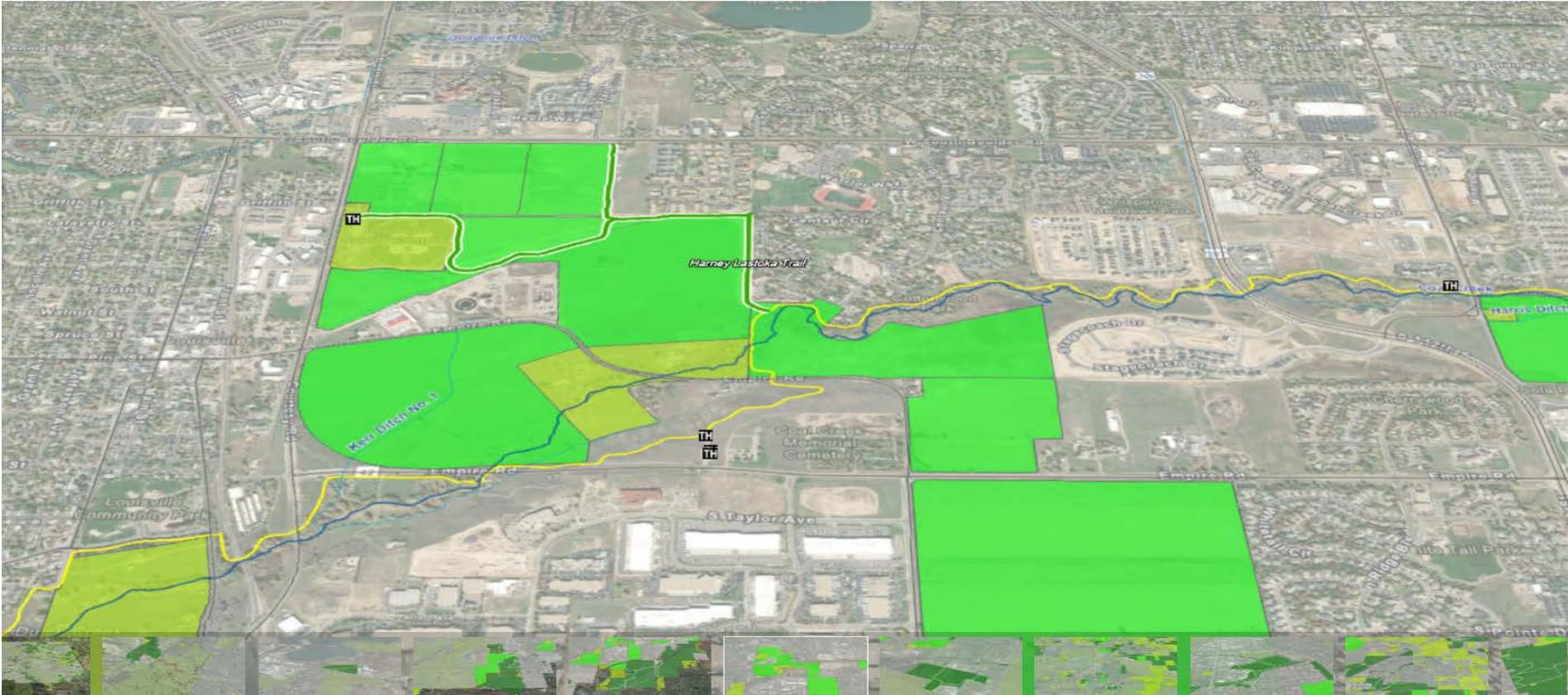
# Legion Park



# Rock Creek Farm



# Harney Lastoka Trail



# Walden Ponds



# LoBo Trail



# Twin Lakes and LoBoTrail



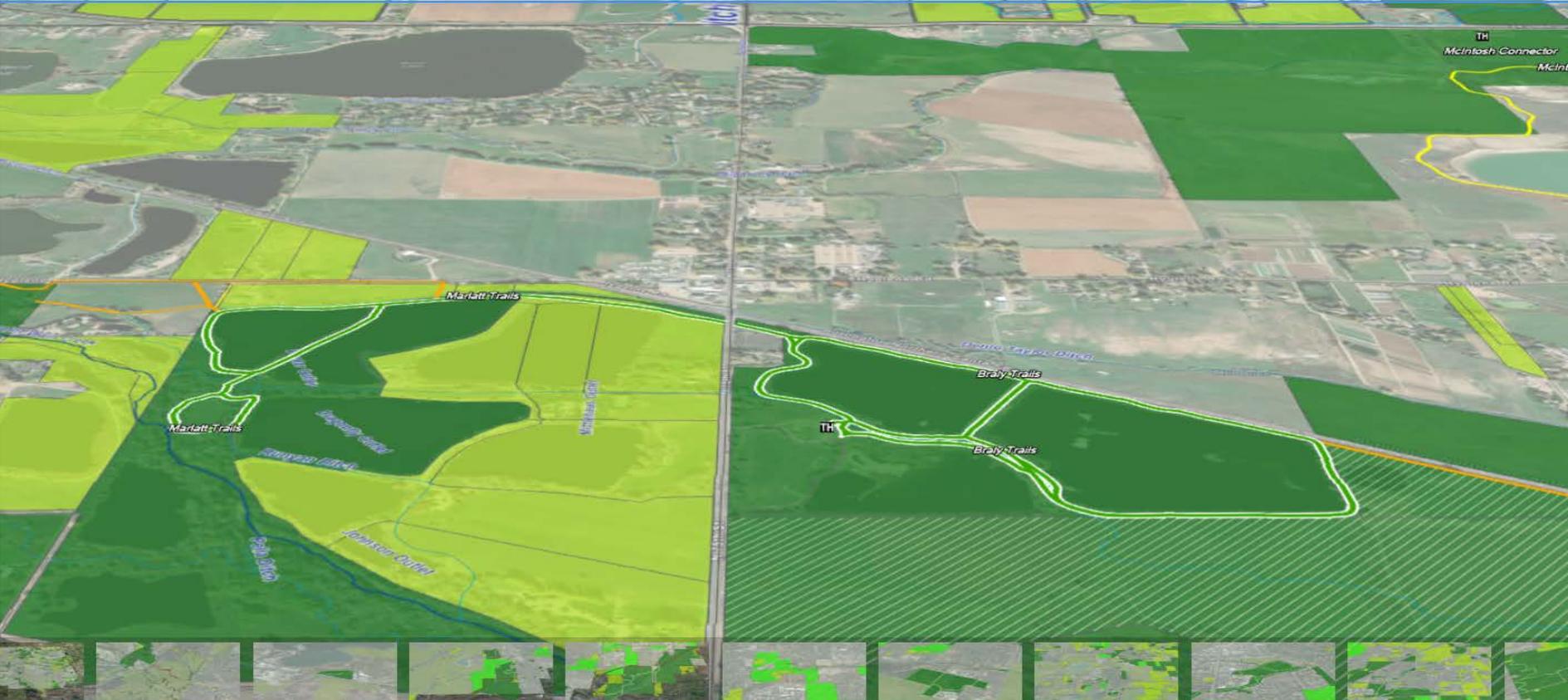
# Niwot Trails



# Lagerman Agricultural Preserve



# Pella Crossing

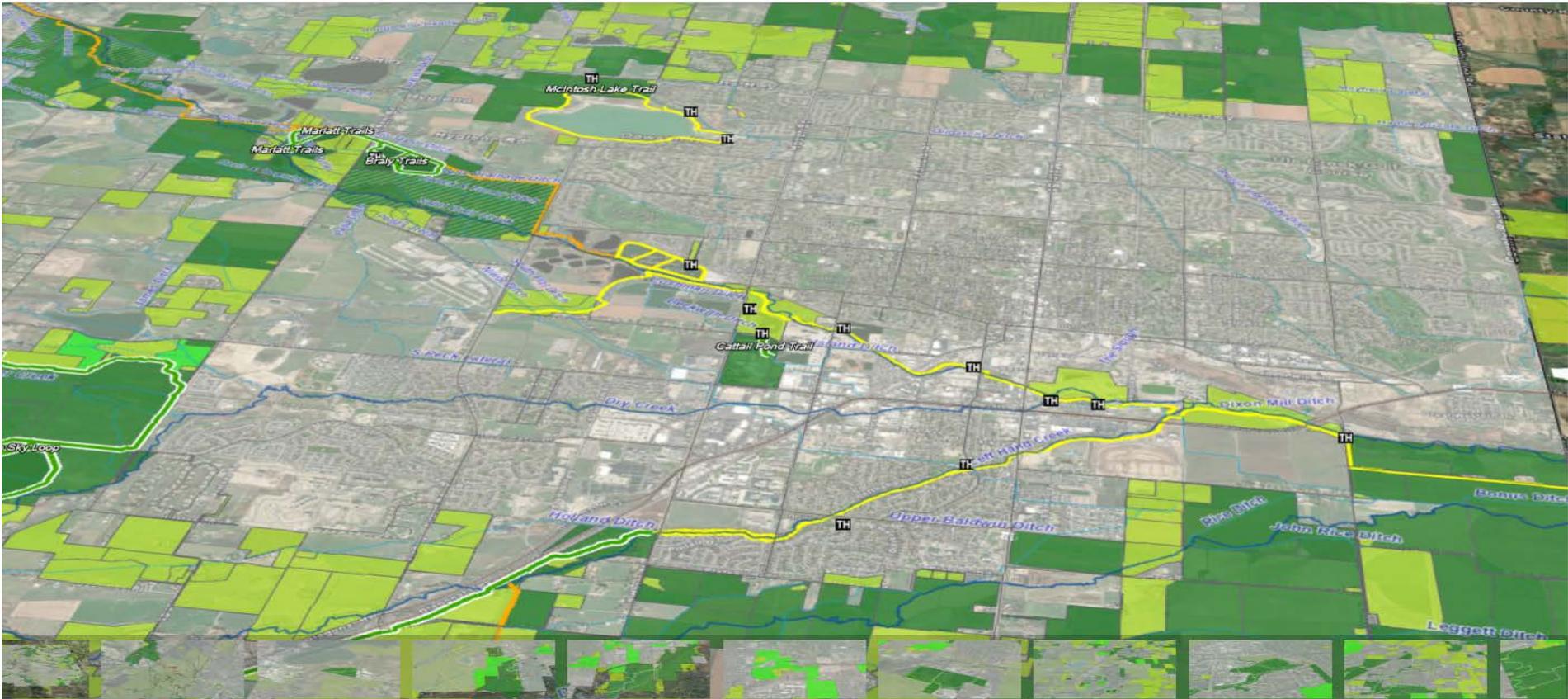


Source: USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, GEBCO, Robinson, NCRAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasvresken and the GIS User Community | Boulder County Parks and Open Space | Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department | City of Longmont, Boulder County, Exp. HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, U... Powell

# Fairgrounds Trail



# St. Vrain Trail



QUESTIONS?

# Volunteer Naturalists

## A Legacy of Sharing Nature

### Boulder County Parks & Open Space

Good evening. My name is Larry Colbenson and I am the Natural History Program Coordinator for Boulder County Parks and Open Space. I have coordinated the Volunteer Naturalist Program since 1997. Boulder County is a remarkable place...

Boulder County is a remarkable place...



... rising over 9,000 feet from the Great Plains...



... to the Continental Divide. Volunteer Naturalists have played a significant role for more than 40 years in sharing the joy, wonder, and appreciation of this unique natural heritage with the Boulder County community.

*“To provide public outreach, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of Boulder County’s open space.”*

- Volunteer Naturalist Program created in 1975
- Handful of volunteers to over 100 VNs today
- Volunteer Naturalists conduct 80-90% of programs every year
- VNs help lead 250-300 nature programs per year for all ages
- 291 nature programs in 2017

One of POS goals: *To provide public outreach, partnerships and volunteer opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of Boulder County’s open space.* The Volunteer Naturalist Program was created in 1975, when the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department (BCPOS) was founded. Over the years the program has grown from a handful of volunteers to over 100 naturalists, who present 250-300 natural history programs a year for children, families, seniors, and the general public. VNs conduct 80-90% of POS programming every year. VN hours for 2017: 5,300.



- **Requested programs: schools, home school groups, preschools, senior centers (207 programs, and 3,720 participants in 2017)**
- **Public programs: (84 programs and 1,677 participants in 2017)**

Total programs in 2017: 291 (207 Requested and 84 Public programs)

- 80% of requested programs in 2017 for preschool-middle school
- 86% of public program participants in 2017 adults or mixed ages





- Nature hikes on open space, school classroom programs and field trips, public libraries, senior centers
- 40% of requested programs every year are wildlife-habitat themed

**Food, Water, Shelter, and Space = Habitat!**



One concept that we always share with people about the value of open space is “Habitat,” because all living things, including people, need habitat to live.

# Classroom Programs





**Wetland Programs at Walden Ponds, Pella Crossing,  
and Stearns Lake at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve  
at Rock Creek Farm**

## Geology hikes at Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch, Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain, and Caribou Ranch





**Ecology hikes at Heil Valley Ranch, Betasso Preserve,  
Walker Ranch, Mud Lake, and Caribou Ranch**

# Connecting kids to Nature



## Diversity and Inclusiveness

- **GOCO Grant NATURE Kids/Jovenes De La Naturaleza**
- **Classroom programs & field trips to Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat for Lafayette preschoolers**
- **Field trips to Heil Valley Ranch for all Lafayette second graders**



We also believe that all Boulder County residents should have access to and opportunity to explore nature and open space. The Nature Kids GOCO grant is a five-year grant that began in 2017. BCPOS is a partner on this grant with Thorne Nature Experience (TNE), Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts, and other local environmental education providers.

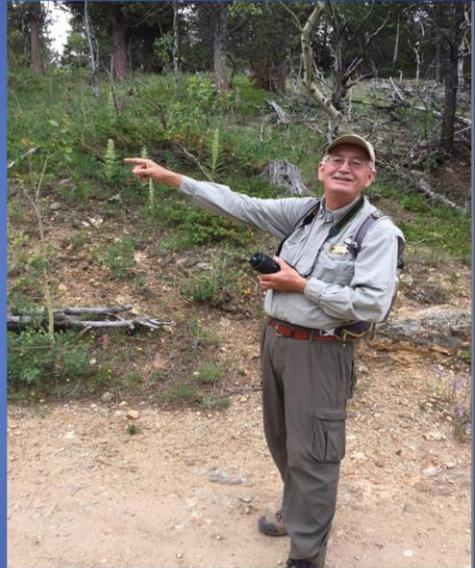
## Annual Volunteer Naturalist Training

- Ten all-day classroom & field training sessions
- Ongoing additional trainings throughout year
- 2019 VN training January 10-March 14



Check out our 2018 summer  
programs and hikes at

[BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org](http://BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org)





# Boulder County Parks & Open Space



## Prescribed Fire

Introduce myself, Resource Specialist in Forestry/Fire for Parks and Open Space

# **PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM GOALS**

- 1. Provide for firefighter and public safety as the first priority.**
- 2. Ensure that risk management is incorporated into all prescribed fire planning and implementation.**
- 3. Use prescribed fire in a safe, carefully planned, and cost-efficient manner.**
- 4. Reduce wildfire risk to communities, watersheds, and other values to benefit, protect, maintain, sustain, and enhance natural and cultural resources.**

The Guide to Prescribed Fire and Planning was approved in 2014. These are the goals that were adopted for the program. In addition, the Forest Policy that was approved in 2010 has very similar language for its objectives and standards.

# **PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM GOALS**

- 5. Utilize prescribed fire to restore natural ecological processes and functions, and to achieve land management objectives.**
- 6. Identify the risk of not implementing fuel treatments and prescribed fire actions.**
- 7. Reintroduce the natural fire disturbance regime to landscapes, acknowledging that mechanical treatments alone are inadequate.**

The Guide to Prescribed Fire and Planning was approved in 2014. These are the goals that were adopted for the program. In addition, the Forest Policy that was approved in 2010 has very similar language for its objectives and standards.

Boulder County Fire Management  
Program Partners :

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE**

**TRANSPORTATION**



Representatives from Parks & Open Space:

Forestry/Fire

Plant Ecology

Wildlife

Resource Protection

Invasive Plants

Cultural History

Recreation and Facilities

Agriculture



Representatives from the Sheriff's Office Fire Management Program

## **BOULDER COUNTY PRESCRIBED FIRE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM**

This group meets quarterly to review and prioritize prescribed fire projects for the department. Most of their efforts are focused on mitigating impacts to resources during project implementation.

# Ditches



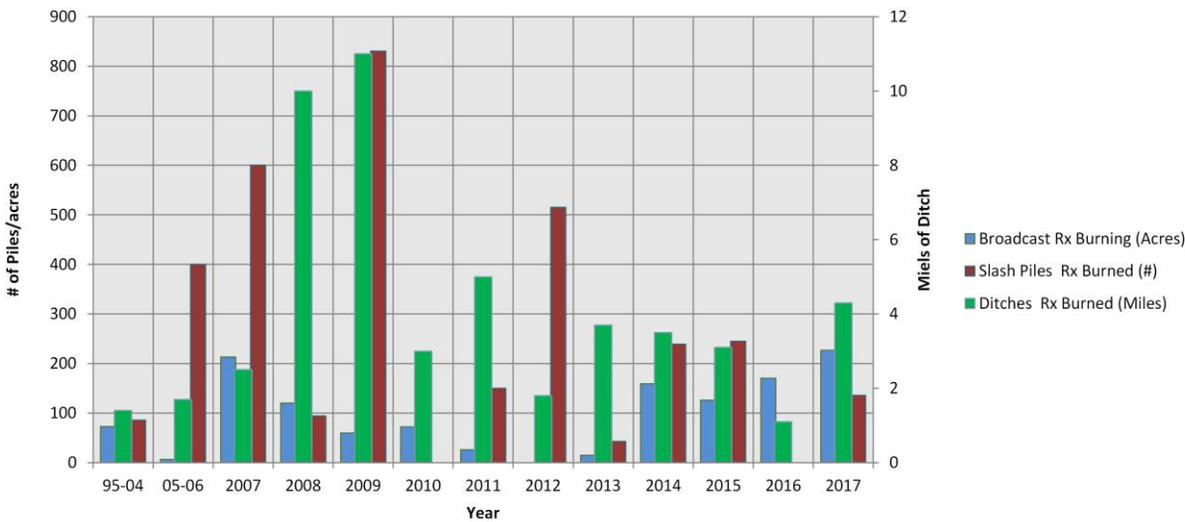
# Piles



# Broadcast



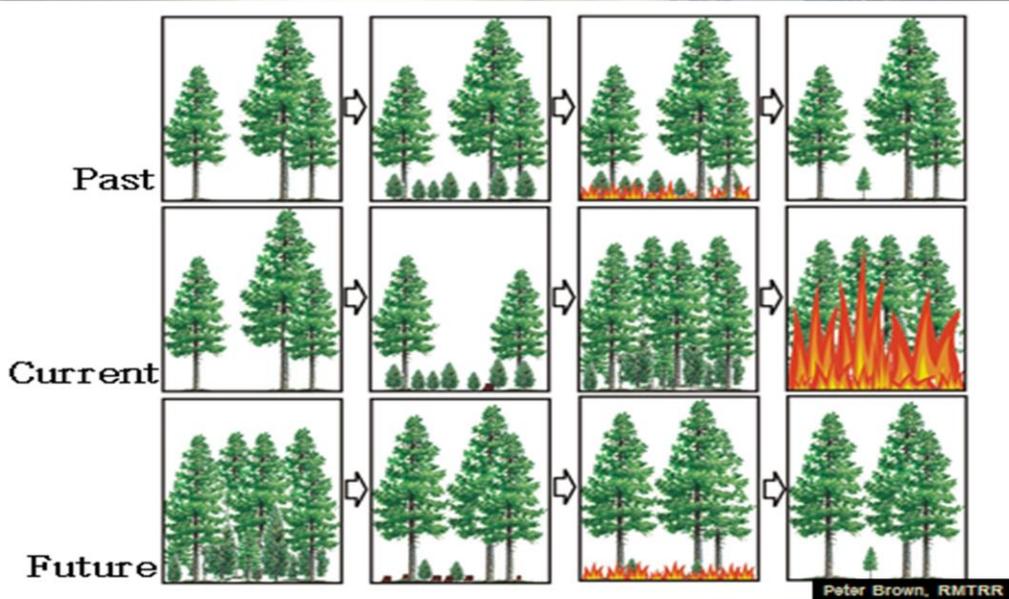
# ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# Why do we use Rx Fire?

- Fuels reduction
- Water conveyance
- Invasive species removal
- Restoration

# FOREST RESTORATION



## Restoration prescription

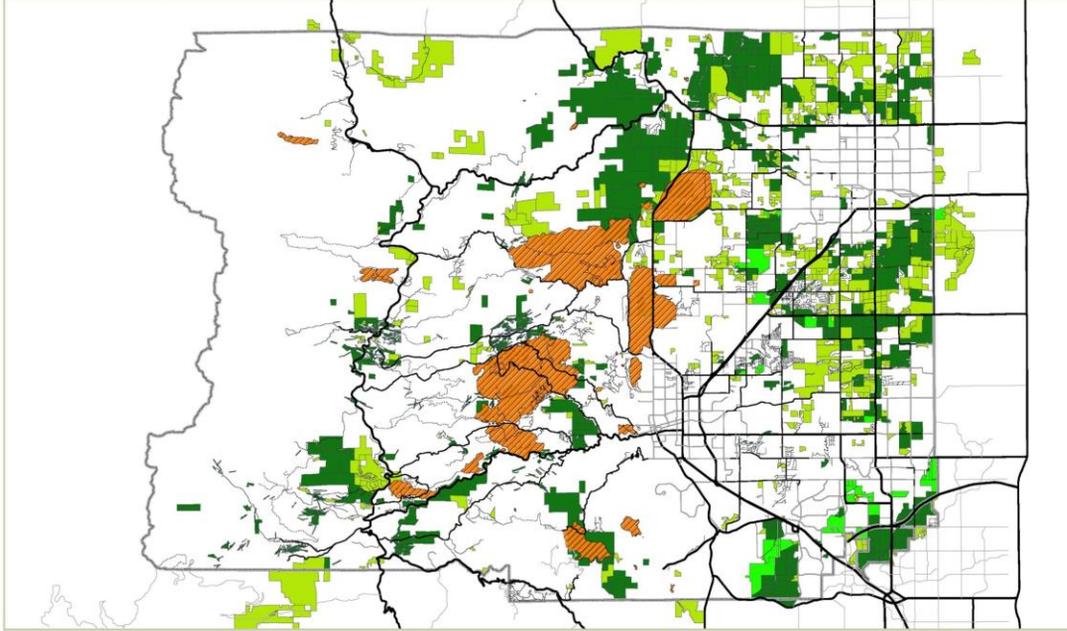
The main purpose of a restoration prescription for a ponderosa pine forest is to restore natural disturbance processes. The most common process is fire.

HVR = 3-36 years mean 14

HR = 2-23 years mean 9

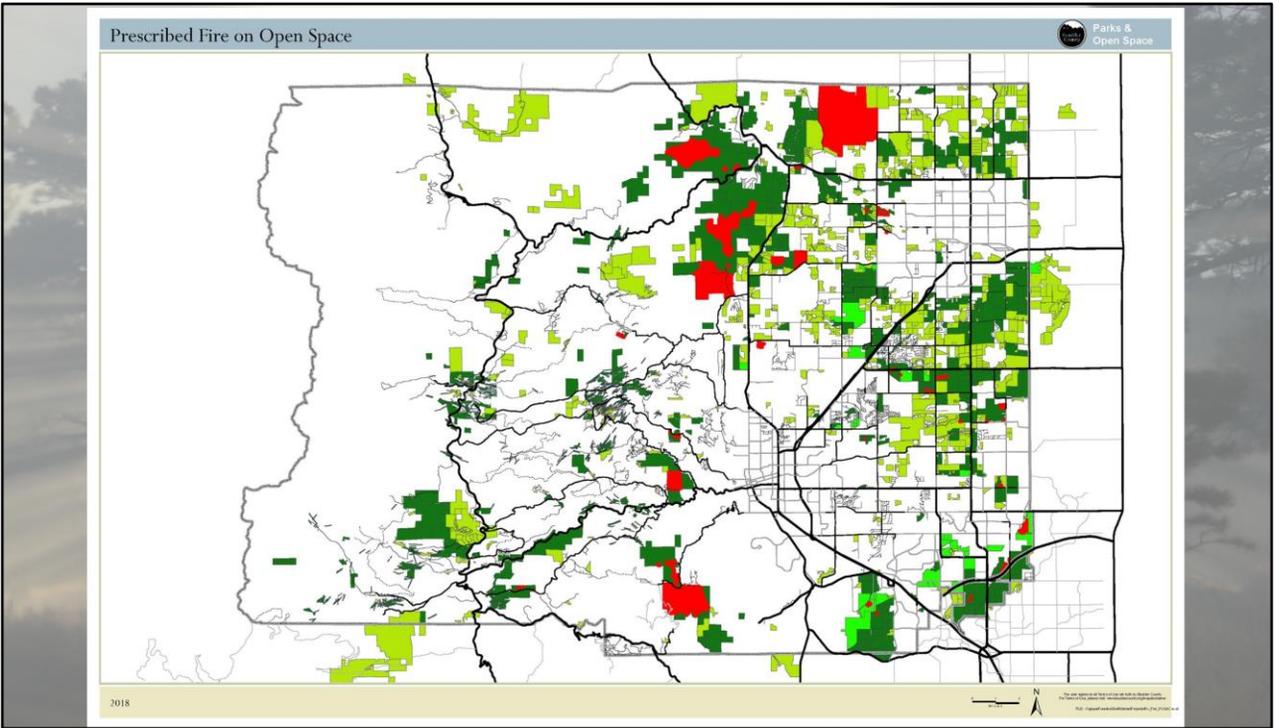
The last recorded fire on either property was in 1859. The north foothills area has missed 10 fire cycles.

The thinning work has allowed us to safely use fire. We have a better opportunity to control the outcomes of the prescribed fire after thinning the forest.



2018

0 1 2 Miles  
N  
The information on this map is derived from the following sources:  
The Department of Natural Resources  
The Department of Public Safety  
The Department of Transportation



7,000+ acres of approved projects

Questions?



Nick Stremel  
nstremel@boudercounty.org

Where people can ask questions.