



*THE
FOUNTAIN CREEK
CROWN JEWEL
PROJECT*

*A 21st Century Vision for the
Fountain Creek Corridor*

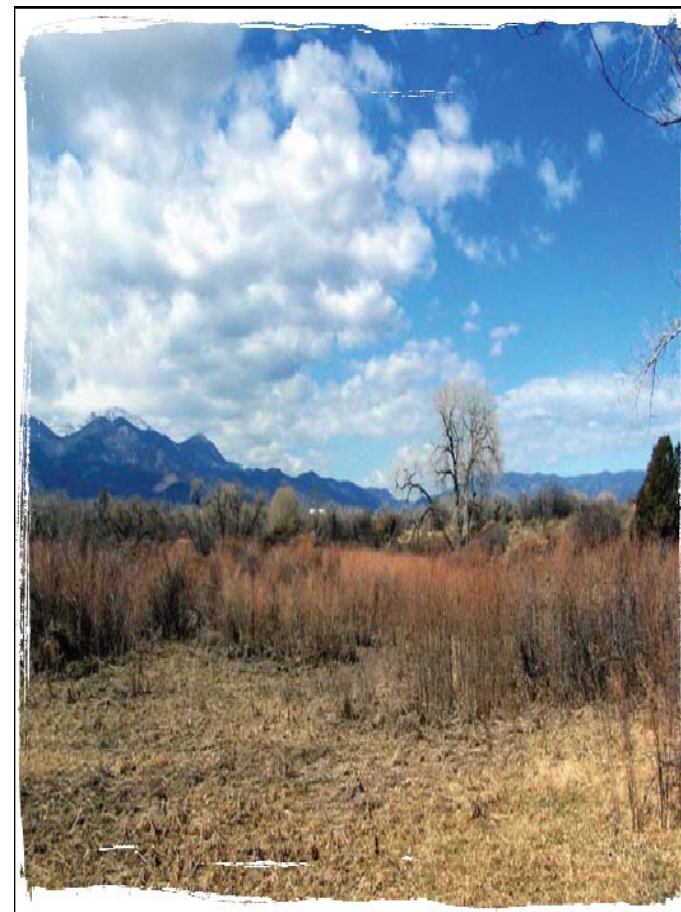
*Presented by the Office of
U.S. Senator Ken Salazar*

The Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project

A 21st Century Vision for the Fountain Creek Corridor

“Now is the time for the entire region to work together to create a Crown Jewel that will bring unmatched recreational opportunities, create an environment for plants and wildlife to flourish, ensure that agricultural lands remain productive and address the flood control and water quality issues on Fountain Creek.”

-- Senator Ken Salazar



Courtesy of Colorado Open Lands

*The Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project:
A 21st Century Vision for the Fountain Creek Corridor*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was researched at the direction of Senator Salazar by Pikes Peak Regional Director Richard Skorman and Arkansas Valley Regional Director Allison Cortner. It was written and edited with the help of Pikes Peak Region Intern Meg Young.

All maps and photos (except the Colorado Front Range Trail Map) are part of the Peak to Prairie Conservation Project by Colorado Open Lands and The Nature Conservancy. The Colorado Front Range Trail map and article provided by Colorado State Parks.

Special thanks for the tireless work of:

- Frogard Ryan Southern Region Director of The Nature Conservancy
- Jonathan Moore Director of Land Protection, Colorado Open Lands
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- Dr. Tom Ready Chair of the State Parks Board

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March of 2006, Senator Ken Salazar helped initiate a dialogue on the idea of restoring Fountain Creek and turning the corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo into a recreational amenity. Senator Salazar extolled the great success achieved carrying out visions on the South Platte River and Cherry Creek in Denver, the Colorado River in Grand Junction and the Yampa River in Northwest Colorado.

Senator Salazar directed his staff in both his Pikes Peak and Arkansas Valley offices to research the potential for carrying out such a project on Fountain Creek. They started by asking key stakeholders and potential partners in the region for their feedback. Nearly a hundred stakeholders from six Southern Colorado counties were presented with the vision and asked for their comments. This document is the result of that research.

The response from everyone interviewed was extremely positive. Some of the participants are already involved in projects to carry out this very vision. Others stated that this “plan” should be a top priority for the entire region. All those interviewed expressed that two key components were essential to its success. The first: fixing the problems associated with Fountain Creek and its tributaries, including flood control and water quality issues. The second: ensuring that policymakers and community leaders in the region work

cooperatively to carry out this vision, calming down the acrimony and debate around the Preferred Storage Option (PSOP), the Southern Delivery System (SDS) and Fountain Creek.

Unlike the I-25 corridor between Denver and Fort Collins, the “greenbelt” and agricultural heritage that currently exists along the interstate between Pueblo and Colorado Springs can still be protected from sprawling development. In fact, there is already a great foundation in place for this vision to succeed.

Colorado Open Lands and the Nature Conservancy have been in discussions with many key landowners along the corridor. Working with the Department of Defense to create a buffer zone around Fort Carson, they have also begun to purchase certain properties and conservation easements.

Colorado State Parks, under the leadership of Board Chair Tom Ready, is excited about the possibility of building a linear park, anchored by two campsite facilities - one in Southern El Paso County and one in Northern Pueblo County. There are hundreds of miles of trails in place and hundreds of miles of new trails planned (including the Colorado Front Range Trail) that would link this linear State Park to trail systems and parks throughout the state. There are a number of large reservoirs adjacent to this corridor as well reservoirs planned that could provide new opportunities for flat water recreation and fishing.

The proposed projects of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC), SDS and PSOP have in fact opened the door for more regional, non-partisan cooperation than ever before.

Local utilities and governments in Pueblo and El Paso Counties and throughout the region are more interested in fixing Fountain Creek than at any time in recent history.

There are a number of new funding sources available today to carry out this vision and there is more potential to create new funding sources for the future success of this project.

While many challenges continue to exist, none of the participants in this research felt that they were insurmountable. The word to best describe the community's reaction to this project is "optimism."

It is Senator Salazar's hope that this document will convey possible scenarios and timelines for carrying out this vision. It is not his intent to spell out exact details of the process or to state with any certainty who must lead it, how it will be funded or what "must" be done or when. He and his staff simply want to convey possibilities, stimulate discussion and help initiate a region-wide process. He wholeheartedly lends his support to carry out this vision in whatever ways he and his staff can.



Courtesy of Colorado Open Lands

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INTRODUCTION

As the urbanized Front Range in southern Colorado continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, the Fountain Creek corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo has become a threatened landscape. With the mixture of working ranches, trails, wildlife habitat, wetlands and gorgeous views, this complex and increasingly degraded corridor is at a critical stage in its existence.

Senator Salazar, in conjunction with many other elected officials and community leaders, is urging key Southern Colorado stakeholders to form a Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project Task Force. This Task Force could meet regularly to determine what it will take to truly fix major problems along Fountain Creek and to work with Colorado State Parks to turn this area into a vibrant recreational corridor, with key State Parks facilities developed.

The goals of this Task Force could include:

- Creating numerous new recreational opportunities such as camping, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, urban and wilderness hiking, horse back riding and bicycle commuting along the corridor
- Completing a vital link between Colorado Springs and Pueblo in the Colorado Front Range Trail
- Restoring natural ecosystems and wildlife habitat throughout the corridor
- Keeping agricultural lands in the corridor productive
- Preserving the “greenbelt” as a community separator and a scenic corridor along the I-25 between Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

BACKGROUND

El Paso County recently became the most populous county in Colorado, with over 560,000 residents. Southern El Paso County is predicted to grow significantly over the next five years, in large part due to the Department of Defense's Base Relocation and Closure Program (BRAC) relocating 15,000 new troops and their families to Fort Carson. Local demographers predict similar growth pressures for Northern Pueblo County as incoming soldiers and their families look for moderate-priced housing and reasonable commute times to their place of employment.

Development pressures today are intensifying and the opportunity to protect key properties for the success of this Project in the Fountain Creek corridor is growing shorter each month.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

The timing for regional cooperation to fix Fountain Creek and create Crown Jewel Project has never been better for a number of reasons.

Preferred Storage Option Plan

As the cities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Fountain, the Southeast Water Conservancy, the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, the Upper Arkansas

Valley Water Conservancy District, Colorado State Parks, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Pueblo West and many other jurisdictions work together to pursue the enlargement of the Pueblo Reservoir and the delivery of new water through the Southern Delivery System, several of these jurisdictions have entered into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with conditions placed on water flows, storm drainage, agriculture preservation and water rights.

Other issues discussed in negotiations have dealt with return flows in Fountain Creek, the completion of the Fountain Creek Watershed Study and building Fountain Creek into a recreational corridor. Never in recent history has there been so much positive political will and cooperation between El Paso and Pueblo Counties and communities in the Upper and Lower Arkansas Valleys to work together for common good. Fixing Fountain Creek and creating a Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project is the logical next step in this process.

Arkansas Valley Conduit

In addition, many Lower Arkansas Valley communities are working to fund and construct the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) from the Pueblo Reservoir for future drinking water needs. This presents another opportunity for regional cooperation that can be leveraged to fix Fountain Creek and to create a Crown Jewel Project.

The successful completion of the AVC may also pave the way for an east-west trail along the Conduit.

Greenprint

The time to place a “Greenprint” (an expression coined by the Trust for Public Land) on the ground in the Fountain Creek corridor is now - before too many “blueprints” are developed. This timing is not only important to seize land protection opportunities, but is also critical to put in place park, trail and recreation infrastructure to serve the future growth of Northern Pueblo and Southern El Paso Counties.

RECREATION

The successful completion of this project could provide numerous recreational opportunities including: hiking, camping, horse-back riding, bird and wildlife watching, commuter biking, mountain biking, fishing and flat water recreation.

Camping

An important component of this linear recreational State Park system will be the creation of two camping areas with easy access to I-25, one in northern Pueblo County and one in Southern El Paso County. Camping is an important source of revenue for State Parks and will be a

sustainable funding source for maintenance and operations of a Fountain Creek State Park.

One possible location for camping in Southern El Paso County is the CSU/Hannah Ranch property. This property has bridge underpass accessible from both sides of I-25. If a camping facility is built there, it would be adjacent to the LaFarge gravel quarries that will eventually become a series of lakes. Possible fishing and other flat water opportunities could be an amenity for future campers. This location is also close to the Pikes Peak International Speedway property that has been considered as a site for a National Veteran’s Cemetery.

Two possible northern Pueblo County campsites exist along I-25. One is at the Pinon exit (with access from both sides of I-25) and the other is on the ICON development property (24,000 acres), north and east of the City of Pueblo. The ICON site may get annexed into the City of Pueblo and could also have the potential for fishing and flat water recreation if future development of the property includes a reservoir.

Fishing and Flat Water Recreation

Fishing and flat water recreation are the most popular and the most overused recreational resources in Colorado. For example, Pueblo Reservoir currently attracts 1.6 million visitors and 500,000 anglers a year. Eleven-mile Reservoir in Teller County attracts 100,000 anglers a year. Blue Mesa reservoir and Lake Pueblo State Park

serve hundreds of boats daily through the summer season - many days both reservoirs are at capacity.

Many new opportunities for fishing and flat water recreation could come to fruition through the success of the Crown Jewel Project such as the creation of new lakes on the LaFarge and Icon Development properties; the connection to Big Johnson Reservoir (the largest body of water in El Paso County); and - if SDS goes through - the creation of the Jimmy Camp Creek and Williams Creek Reservoir (600 plus acres each) in El Paso County.

The Division of Wildlife and the Fun is Fishing program could help stock and develop fishing resources throughout the series of lakes and reservoirs along the corridor.

Trails

The Crown Jewel Project will create hundreds of miles of new trails and will connect to hundreds of miles of existing trails in El Paso, Teller and Pueblo Counties, completing a vital link in the Colorado Front Range Trail system (see appendix).

This Project could connect northern and southern Colorado trails, as well as potentially link trails from Leadville to the Kansas border along the Arkansas Valley Conduit. These trails would provide tremendous mountain biking, bicycle commuting, as well as

wilderness and urban hiking opportunities for the entire region.

The Colorado Front Range Trail project has been an ongoing effort to create a trail system along the Front Range from the New Mexico border to the Wyoming border. Over 1/3 of the 900 mile long trail has been completed, with many sections slated for completion over the next 5 years still missing. A key missing link of the Front Range Trail is the segment between Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

The Crown Jewel Project could help to plan and build the Front Range Trail and its connections to:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>The Santa Fe Trail</i> | <i>The Pueblo Greenway Trail System</i> |
| <i>The Pikes Peak Greenway</i> | <i>The Ring the Peak Trail</i> |
| <i>The Midland Trail</i> | <i>The Pueblo Riverwalk</i> |
| <i>The Ute Pass Trail</i> | <i>Cheyenne Mountain State Park</i> |
| <i>The Rock Island Trail</i> | <i>The Arkansas River Trail</i> |
| <i>The Shook's Run Trail</i> | <i>Gold Camp Road trails</i> |
| <i>Cottonwood Creek Trail</i> | <i>Rampart Range Road trails</i> |
| <i>The Sand Creek Trail</i> | <i>Garden of the Gods Trails</i> |
| <i>Cheyenne Canon Trails</i> | <i>Ute Valley Park</i> |
| <i>Red Rock Canyon Trails</i> | <i>Monument Park trails</i> |
| <i>Section 16 Trails</i> | <i>Fountain City trails</i> |
| <i>The Bar Trail</i> | <i>El Paso County trails</i> |

RESOURCES

Agricultural Heritage

Fertile, irrigated land in the Fountain Creek Valley now produces wheat, corn, hay, oats and vegetable crops. There are also many working livestock ranches along Fountain Creek. These landowners own significant senior and junior water rights. This agricultural way of life has supported many families for generations.

It is important that the vision of the Fountain Creek Legacy Project includes protection for private property rights, junior and senior water rights as well as protecting working farms and ranches along Fountain Creek between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. These “working landscapes” can be incorporated into the overall vision for Fountain Creek State Park and Colorado Front Range Trail, offering security for working families and educational opportunities on a cultural heritage that is rapidly disappearing in the nation.

Visual Resources

This Crown Jewel Project could be vital to maintaining I-25 between Colorado Springs and Pueblo as a greenbelt. Not only are there panoramic mountain views to the south and the west, but the eastern farming and ranching landscapes offer a green corridor of natural

beauty of grain fields, grazing cattle and cottonwood groves that are pleasing to the eye. Just as protecting the Greenland Ranch has created a vital separator between Colorado Springs and Denver, this critical stretch of I-25 is needed as Colorado Springs and Pueblo continue to grow towards each other. There is no greater opportunity in the urbanized Front Range to create a community separator and protect a scenic highway corridor than this project.

Natural Resources

The Fountain Creek corridor is home a wide variety of plants and wildlife. The area is rich with pinon juniper, cottonwood groves, gambles oak as well as tall and short grass prairies. Although many areas are currently disturbed, there is an array of valuable wetlands throughout the watershed.

A variety of animal species live in or visit the area, including mule deer, elk, pronghorn deer, swift fox, prairie dogs, mountain lion, black bear and even an occasional moose. It is also home to a variety of bird species including blue heron, bald eagles, wild turkey, mountain plover, and ferruginous hawk, just to name a few.

CROWN JEWEL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION GOALS

Create a Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Task Force with key stakeholders as participants.

Develop a concept plan for the Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project which identifies and prioritizes specific opportunities for the implementation of the plan.

Apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado Conservation Trust Board Legacy Grant to preserve and protect key private properties to provide crucial natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Work with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and other conservation groups to address dedicated Conservation Finance funding gaps for the cities of Fountain, Woodland Park, Monument and Pueblo as well as Pueblo, El Paso and Teller Counties.

Work with Ft. Carson and the Department of Defense (DOD) to ensure trail linkage through Ft. Carson to Cheyenne Mountain State Park and work with State Parks to analyze linkages to DOD encroachment protected land (Walker Ranch) west of I-25.

If SDS is approved, create a key trail linkage along the SDS pipeline right-of-way from Colorado Springs, Pueblo West and the Front Range Trail to the Pueblo Reservoir,

the Greenway Nature Center and the Arkansas River Headwaters Recreation Area.

Work with the Colorado Front Range Trail committee to leverage funding to complete the Front Range trail from Douglas County to the confluence of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River in Pueblo.

If SDS is approved and built, connect the Colorado Front Range Trail and Fountain Creek State Park with the newly created Colorado Springs Utility Jimmy Camp Creek fresh water Reservoir (a 650 acre facility planned for fishing and flat water recreation) and the Williams Creek return flow Reservoir (700 acres).

If the AVC is funded, build a trail on right-away to connect the Colorado Front Range Trail, Fountain Creek State Park, Pueblo Reservoir, Lower Arkansas Valley communities and the John Martin Reservoir.

Create new trail connections to the future reservoirs on the LaFarge Gravel quarry property and the ICON Development property (mentioned in the camping section above) as it is developed.

Work with CDOT to include key bicycle commuter linkages along Highway 50 as it is eventually expanded to four lanes.

KEY PARTNERS

Right-of-way purchases from key land owners along Fountain Creek over the short and long term will be critical to carry out the Crown Jewel Project. A great deal of investment will have to be made into recreational infrastructure. The inclusion of many partners will ensure the success of this project. Some key partners in this process include:

Colorado Open Lands and the Nature Conservancy

Both organizations have been working diligently with private landowners and Fort Carson to preserve and protect key private properties along the Fountain Creek corridor. Colorado Open Lands Peak to Prairie Conservation Project have just finished an invaluable 42-page report (funded by a GOCO planning grant and matching grants from El Paso and Pueblo Counties) that inventories all natural resources of the area as well as listing all protected lands, endangered properties, private land owners, current resources available and important steps that need be taken in the future for the success of their project. (Many maps, pictures, and appendices in this document are borrowed from their report.)

The completion of the Colorado Front Range Trail and a Fountain Creek State Park could prove to be the key recreational component to the Nature

Conservancy's Peak to Prairie vision. Their partnership will be important to this projects success.

Colorado State Parks

Colorado State Parks Board Chair, Tom Ready, can take credit for the vision to turn this corridor into linear State Park with two camping facilities, massive trail development and many other natural resource and recreational amenities. Not only has Colorado State Parks been anxious to figure out a way to fund and build this important link in the Colorado Front Range Trail, the agency has long wanted more camping facilities in El Paso and Pueblo Counties. In addition, the linkage that this project provides to the existing Lake Pueblo State Park, Mueller State Park and the newly created Cheyenne Mountain State Park offers great outdoor recreational opportunities for State Park enthusiasts.

As a neutral third party entity who won't get involved in "water" disputes, it makes sense that Colorado State Parks would take the lead on the development of the recreational components of this project. They also have the capacity to develop and maintain such a large project. They have demonstrated their success with equally large projects across the State and ones that cross government jurisdictions.

Great Outdoors Colorado

As mentioned above, Great Outdoors Colorado Conservation Trust Board has already invested in this Corridor with their funding of the Peak to Prairie Planning Grant. Because of the success of the Colorado Lottery, it is likely that Great Outdoors Colorado will offer a Legacy Grant in the '07 or '08 cycles. These awards can be for as much as \$12 million and are often used for easement and land purchases. Given the number of partners and the potential for a region-wide benefit, this project would be a strong candidate to be awarded a Legacy Grant as well as other significant grants in the future. Due to the scope of this project and their previous commitment to a Planning Grant, they will be a crucial partner for the success of this project for years to come.

The Department of Defense (DOD)

DOD is working with the Nature Conservancy to purchase land and conservation easements to create buffer zones to protect themselves from encroachment around Fort Carson (\$8 million has been spent to date for Fort Carson, with \$4.5 in additional slated for next year). A similar effort will be undertaken around Peterson Air Force Base. This is a great opportunity for the Crown Jewel Project to leverage DOD buffer zone purchases with investments in the Fountain Creek, Sand and Jimmy Camp Creek corridors.

Colorado Springs Storm Drainage Enterprise (CSSDE)

The timing for the creation of the Colorado Springs Storm Drainage Enterprise couldn't be better. CSSDE will have the opportunity to build its infrastructure and employ the best mitigation techniques to compliment and enhance the Legacy Project. The success of the CSSDE, particularly if other El Paso County jurisdictions participate, will have a tremendous positive impact on the success of the Crown Jewel project.

Citizens Advocacy Groups

Citizens groups such as the Friends of the Fountain, the Trails and Open Space Coalition of the Pikes Peak Region (TOSC), the Medicine Wheel Bicycle Club, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Colorado Mountain Club, the Pueblo and Colorado Springs chapters of the Sierra Club, the Friends of the Peak, the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park and the Colorado Progressive Coalition have been very active in working to protect natural resources and recreational opportunities in the corridor. These groups will play an important citizen's advocacy role as plans for natural habitat restoration and recreation in the Fountain Creek corridor develop.

Local Government and Programs

Many local governments have already invested significantly in Fountain Creek as a recreation corridor. That withstanding, many more local government investments will be needed to successfully carry out this project in the future. An important partner could be the Colorado Springs Trails, Open Space and Parks Program, which currently possess the only funding dedicated to trails, open space and parks and their maintenance in the region (until 2025). It should be noted that GOCO and other government and private funders look more favorably on projects that have significant local matches.

Other partners include the Park and Planning Departments of:

<i>El Paso County</i>	<i>Fountain</i>
<i>Pueblo County</i>	<i>Monument</i>
<i>Pueblo</i>	<i>Woodland Park</i>
<i>Colorado Springs</i>	<i>Pueblo West</i>

As well as:

- The Southeast Water Conservancy District*
- The Pueblo Board of Water Works, CSU*
- Pueblo Utilities, Lower Ark. Water Conservancy District, Upper Ark. Water Conservancy District*

After evaluating all current recreation, park, trail, development, zoning, comprehensive plans and water quality plans, these local governments will be critical partners to the success of the recreational component of this project.

State Government and Programs

Many state agencies and programs could be a great help to carry out the vision such as the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (Fun is Fishing grants), the Department of Local Affairs, Colorado State Historic Society and the State Land Board.

Federal Government and Programs

Many Federal partners will be key to the success of this project including: The Department of Defense (encroachment and sustainability funding), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, The Army Corps of Engineers, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Forest Service, Federal Wetlands Protection, Wetlands Banking Programs and the Bureau of Land Management.

Private Foundations

Grants from local and conservation minded nonprofits will be an important component to the project’s success. Some of these foundations could include: the El Pomar Foundation, the Gates Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, the Edmunson Foundation and many others.

Land Protection and Conservation Groups

In addition to Colorado Open Lands, the Nature Conservancy and Colorado State Parks, there are many local, state and national conservation groups which have played a role in the corridor in the past and could play a key role in the future success of the project. These include: the Trust for Public Land, Colorado Conservation Trust, the Conservation Fund, and the Colorado Wilderness Alliance and the Palmer Land Trust.

Business Leaders and Community Groups

Business leaders, tourism boards and community groups will be critical promoters and contributors to this project. The economy of the whole region will greatly benefit from its creation. Recreation income will be significant from locals and visitors alike. With the addition of major camping areas, flat water recreation, hiking, adventure tourism, hunting, fishing, horse back

riding and biking opportunities, the future economic impact to the region will be significant.



Courtesy of Colorado Open Lands

FIXING FOUNTAIN CREEK

A critical component to the success of the Crown Jewel Project lies in the entire region’s willingness to fix problems associated with Fountain Creek and all of its tributaries and their commitment to restoring the watershed and its habitat to as natural a state as possible.

As Tom Ready, Chair of the Board of State Parks stated,

“We aren’t going to invest in a linear State Park with two campgrounds with a sewer river running through it.”

Festering problems in the Fountain Creek Watershed include:

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|------------------------------|--|
| <i>wastewater spills</i> | <i>scrubbed waste water return flows</i> |
| <i>non-point pollution</i> | <i>invasive vegetation species</i> |
| <i>high water volume</i> | <i>wildlife habitat degradation</i> |
| <i>high e-coli levels</i> | <i>loss of natural vegetation</i> |
| <i>sedimentation buildup</i> | <i>destructive farm and ranch runoff</i> |
| <i>high selenium content</i> | <i>stream bank destabilization</i> |
| <i>loss of wetlands</i> | <i>erosion</i> |
| <i>flash floods</i> | |

Many of these problems also impact the water quality and flow of the Arkansas River and negatively impact farmers, ranchers and local governments who have property and water rights along the Fountain Creek corridor and in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

It is critical that private property owners and local government assets along Fountain and Arkansas Valleys be protected today and in the future from flooding, erosion and degraded water quality. It will be just as important that future investments made in park, trail, open space, camping, fishing and other recreational infrastructure along Fountain Creek be protected as well. It is also critical that the natural habitat of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek be restored and maintained.

POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION GOALS FOR FOUNTAIN CREEK

Ensure that the final phase Federal funding of the Army Corp of Engineers Fountain Creek Watershed Study is allocated in the U.S. Congress 07 Budget and that the Study be completed with all due diligence as soon as possible.

Procure and use all federal, state and local resources available to implement mitigation recommendations of the Fountain Creek Watershed Study.

Aggressively promote regional participation in the Colorado Springs and other Storm Drainage Enterprises that levy fees

associated with all impervious surfaces and built structures necessary to detain present and future flows in the upper basin of Fountain and Monument Creeks and their tributaries.

Aggressively promote the necessary storm drainage, farm runoff and other non-point pollution mitigation recommendations in El Paso, Pueblo County and in the Lower Arkansas Valley – as spelled out in the Fountain Creek Watershed study and all other local, state and federal government plans.

Study the feasibility with all regional utilities and local governments of building a flood control/diversion reservoir near Fountain Creek and its tributaries to contain storm flows during heavy rains, while still maintaining water rights and a steady manageable stream flow.

Promote the completion of Colorado Springs Utilities Fountain Creek Recovery Project and the city of Pueblo’s plans to halt SSO’s (Sanitary Sewer Overflows) into the Fountain Creek basin.

Work with the State Health Department to study, identify and mitigate sources of e-coli in Fountain Creek (possible funding for study in place).

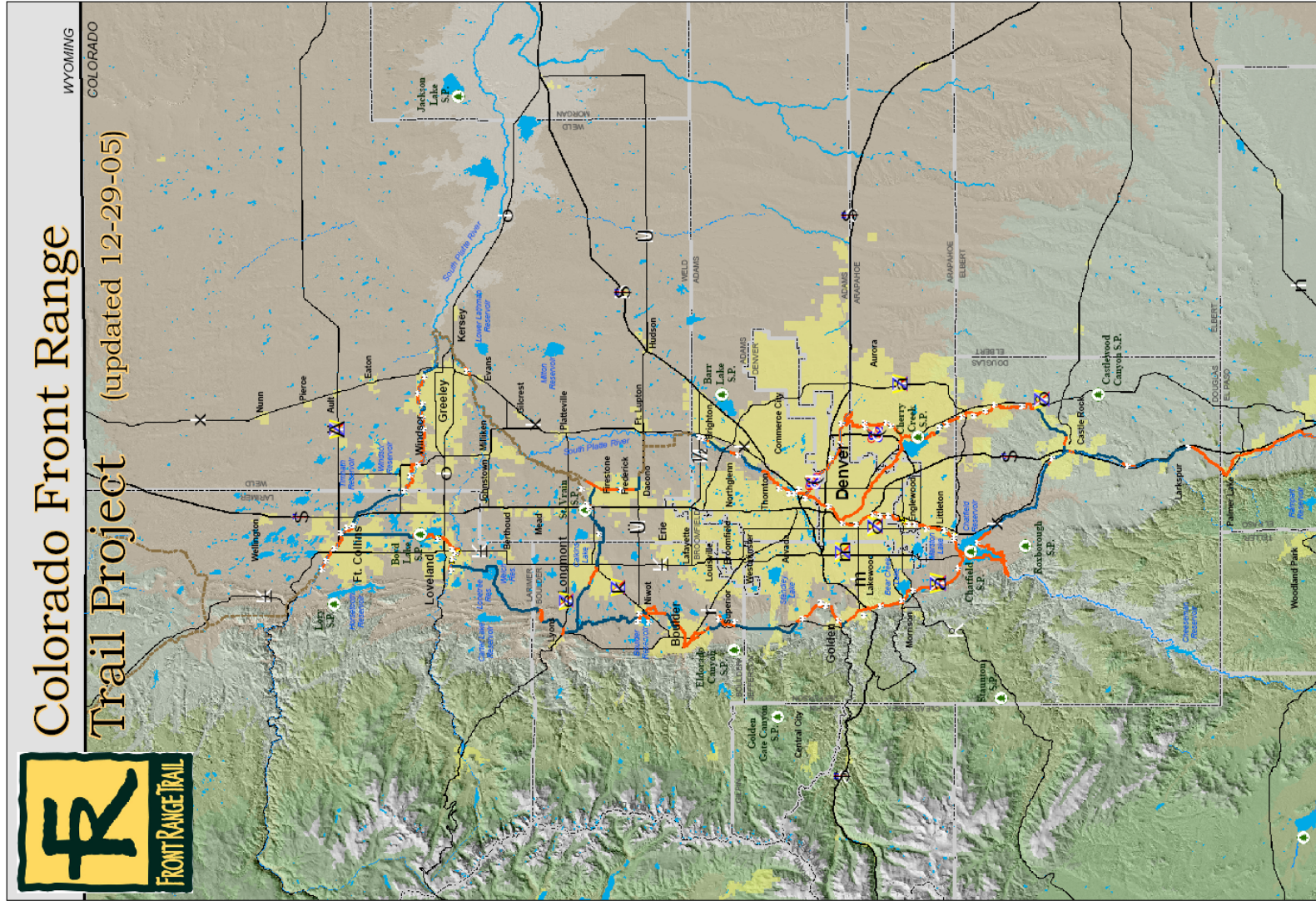
Work with regional governments, community groups and code enforcement agencies to study, identify and mitigate sources of bug infestations, litter, refuse and other

contamination and ecological concerns throughout the whole Fountain Creek corridor.

Work with the Pueblo local governments, the Pueblo Diocese, the Progressive Coalition, the Sierra Club and other social agencies to study environmental justice issues in the neighborhoods adjacent to Fountain Creek in the city of Pueblo.

APPENDIX OF ADDITIONAL FIGURES

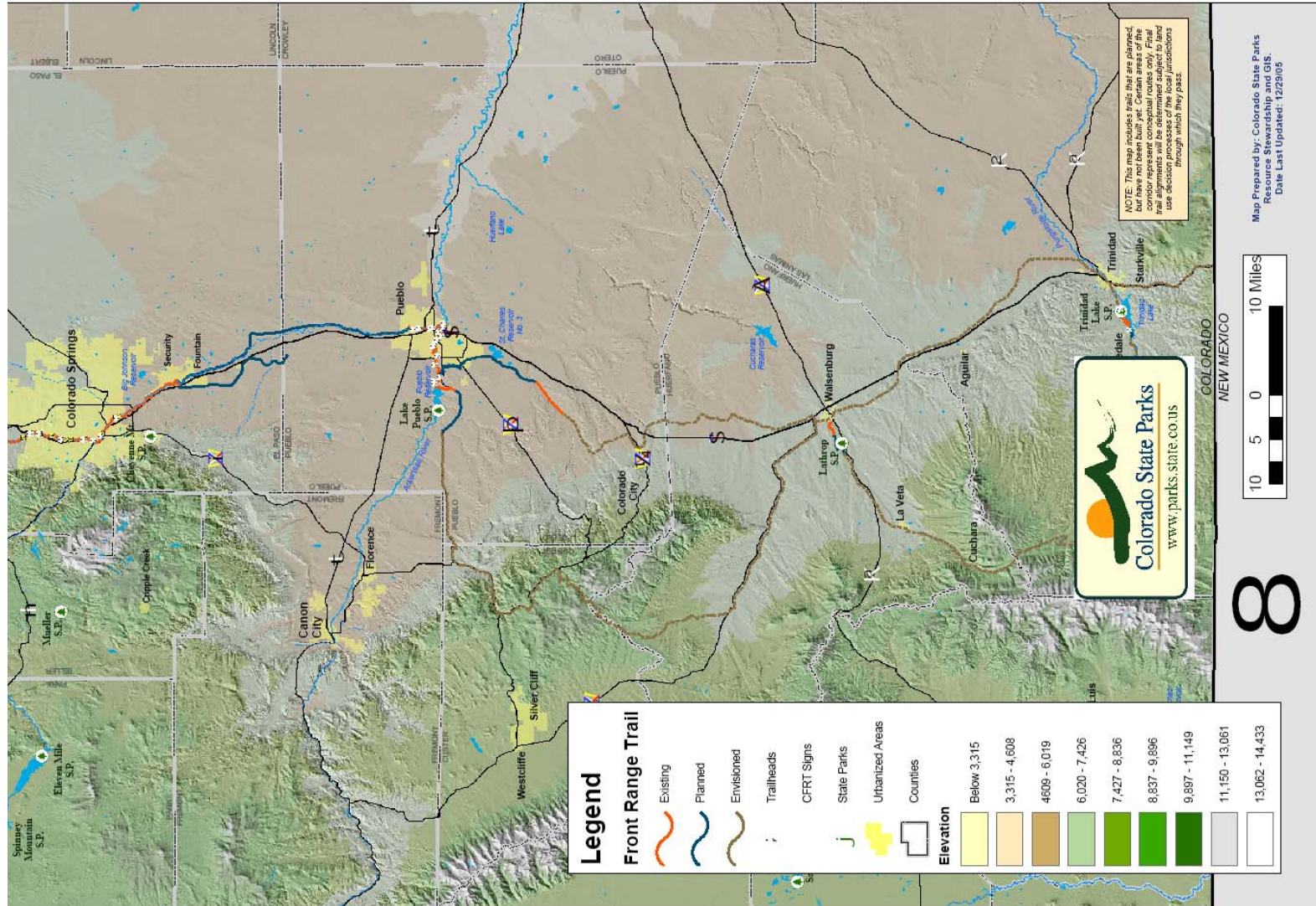
COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL PROJECT (Northern)



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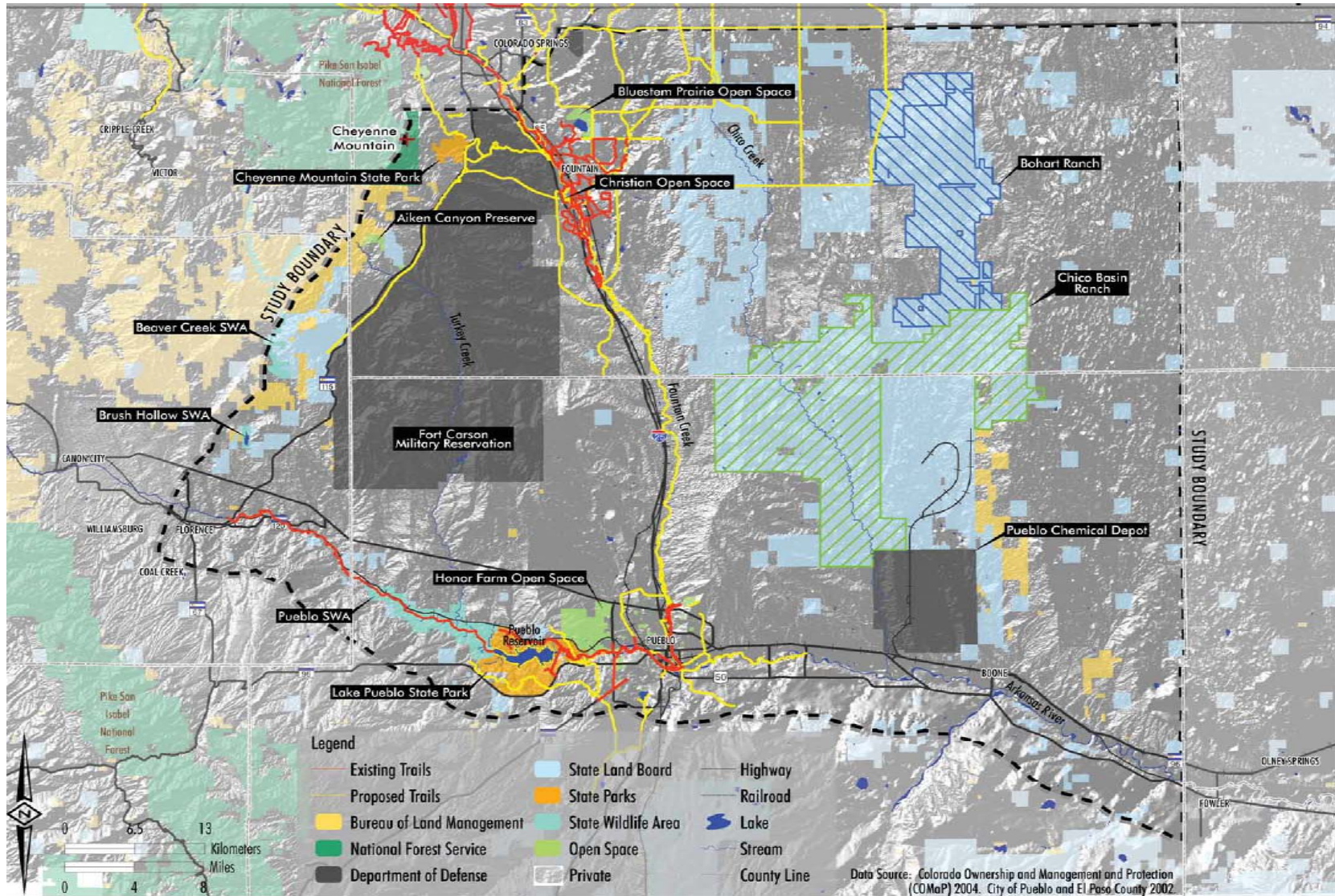
COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL PROJECT (Southern)

— courtesy of Colorado State Parks



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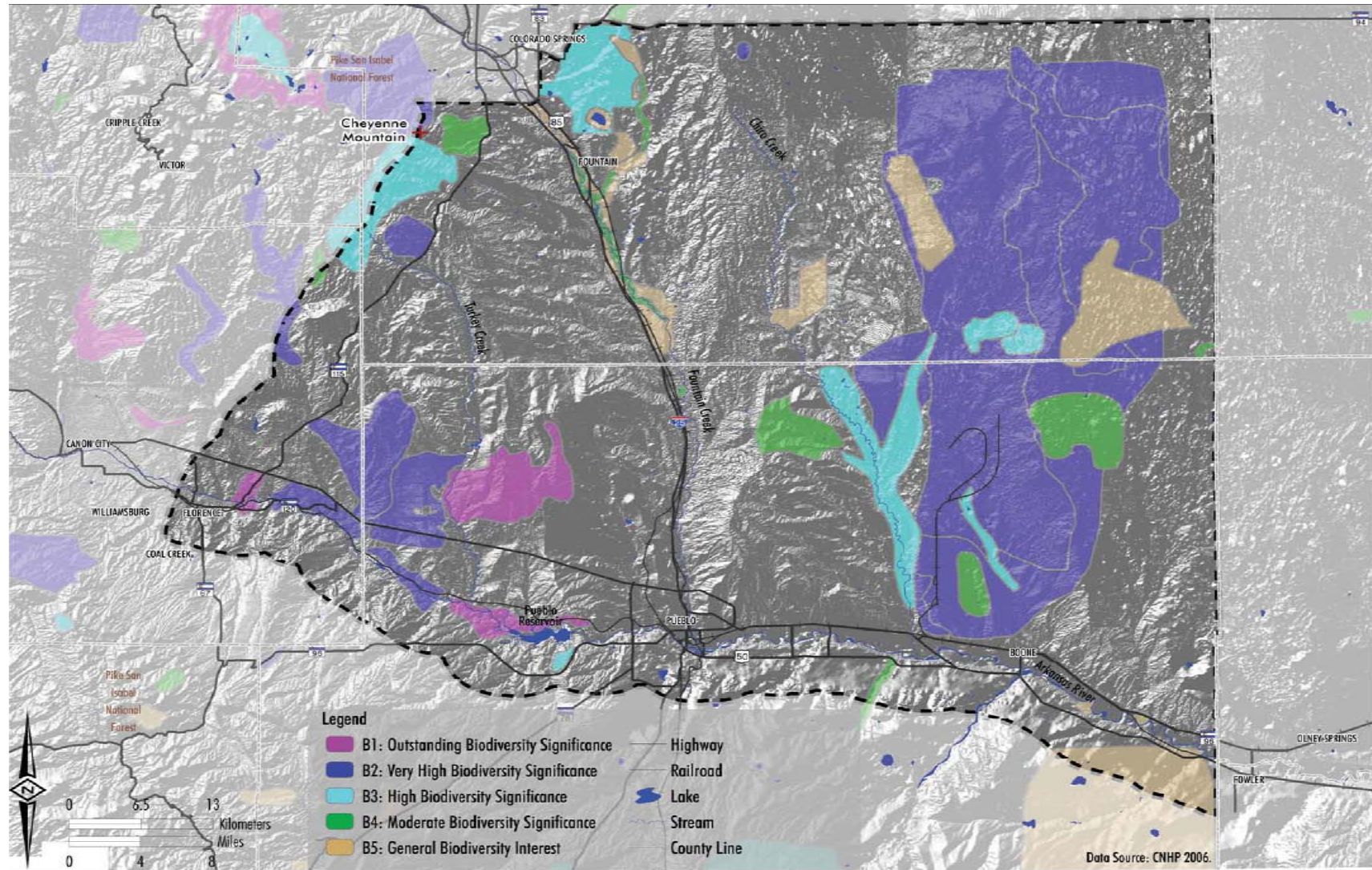
RECREATION RESOURCES – courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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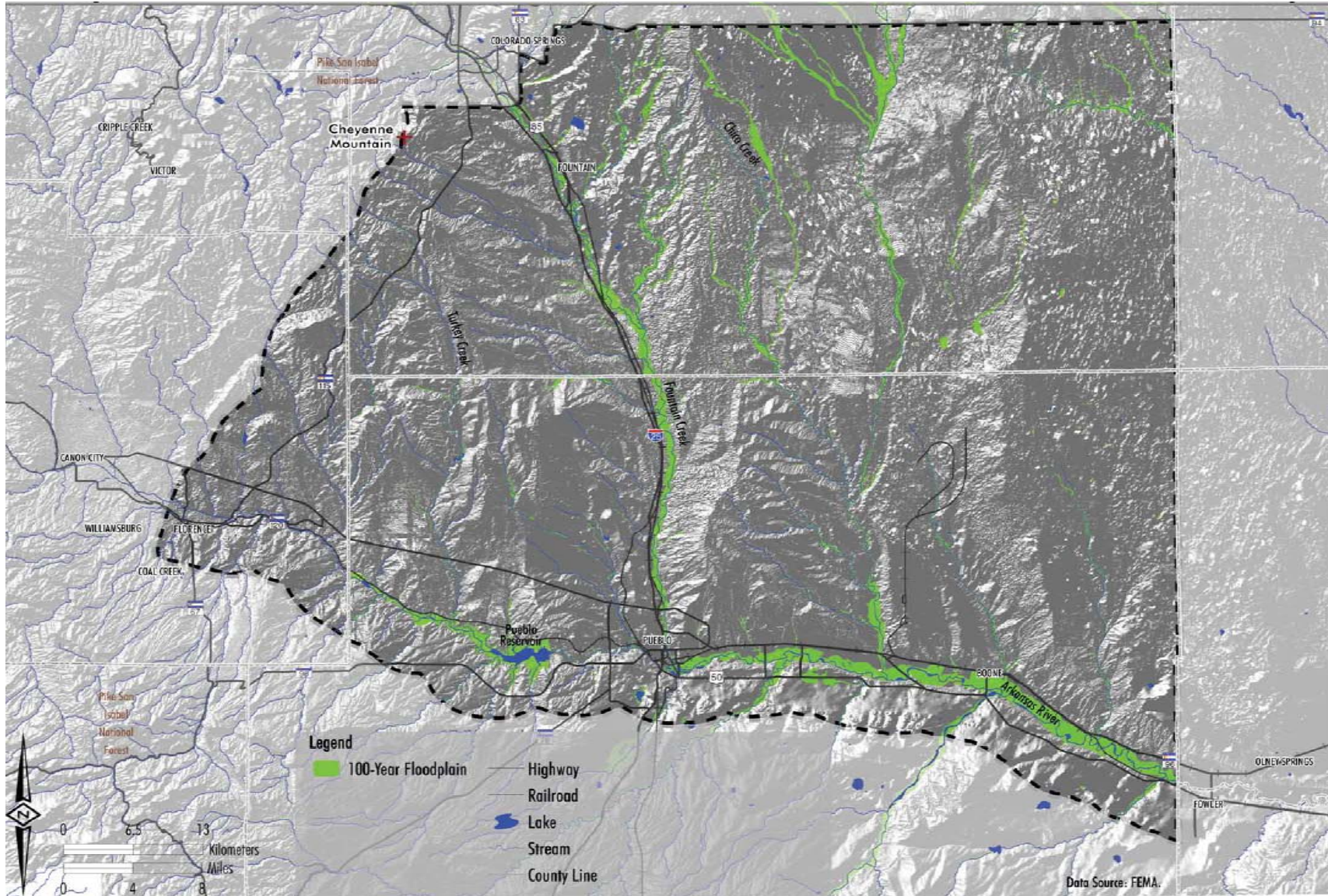
**COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE
POTENTIAL CONSERVATION AREAS**

— courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



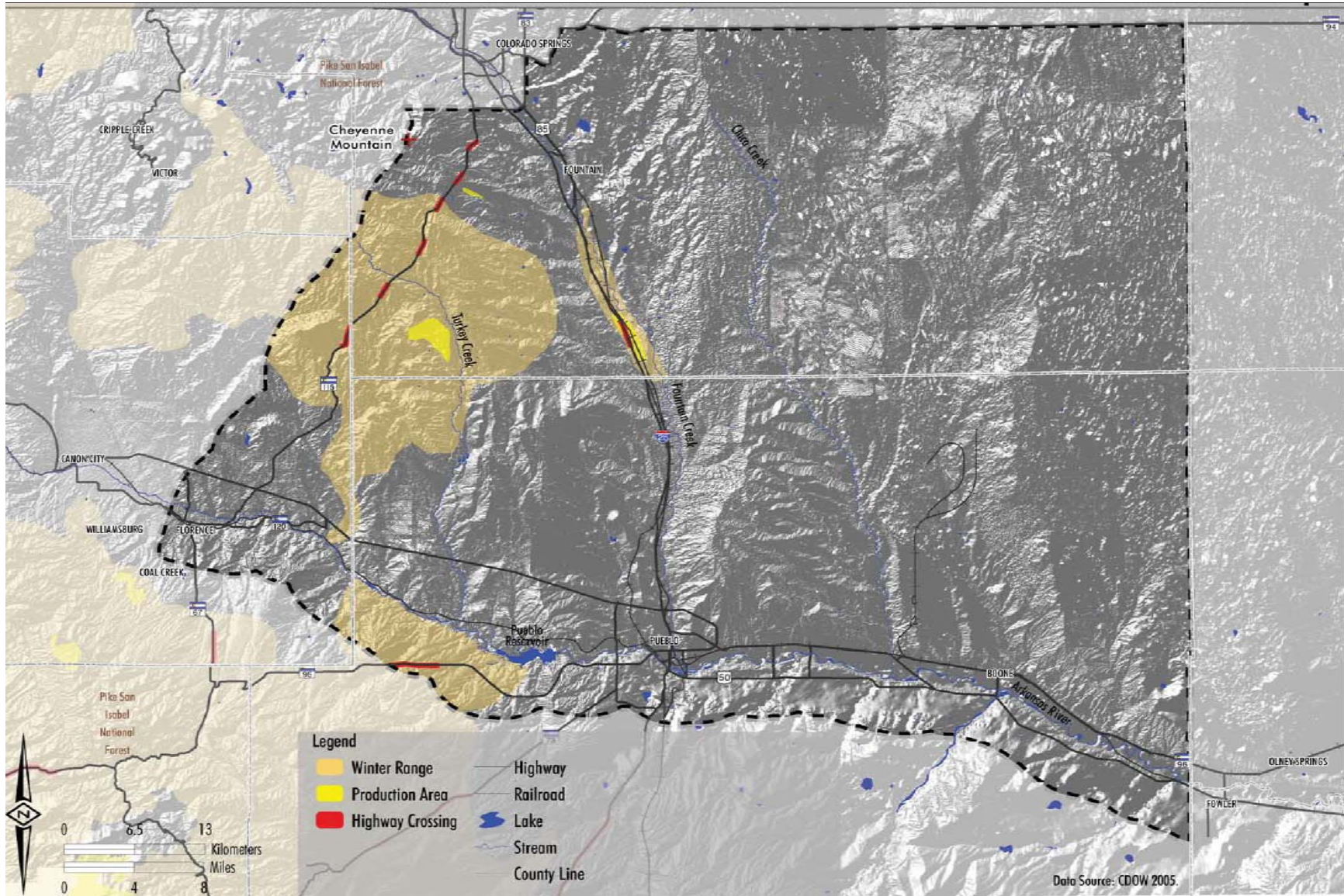
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FLOODPLAINS – courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



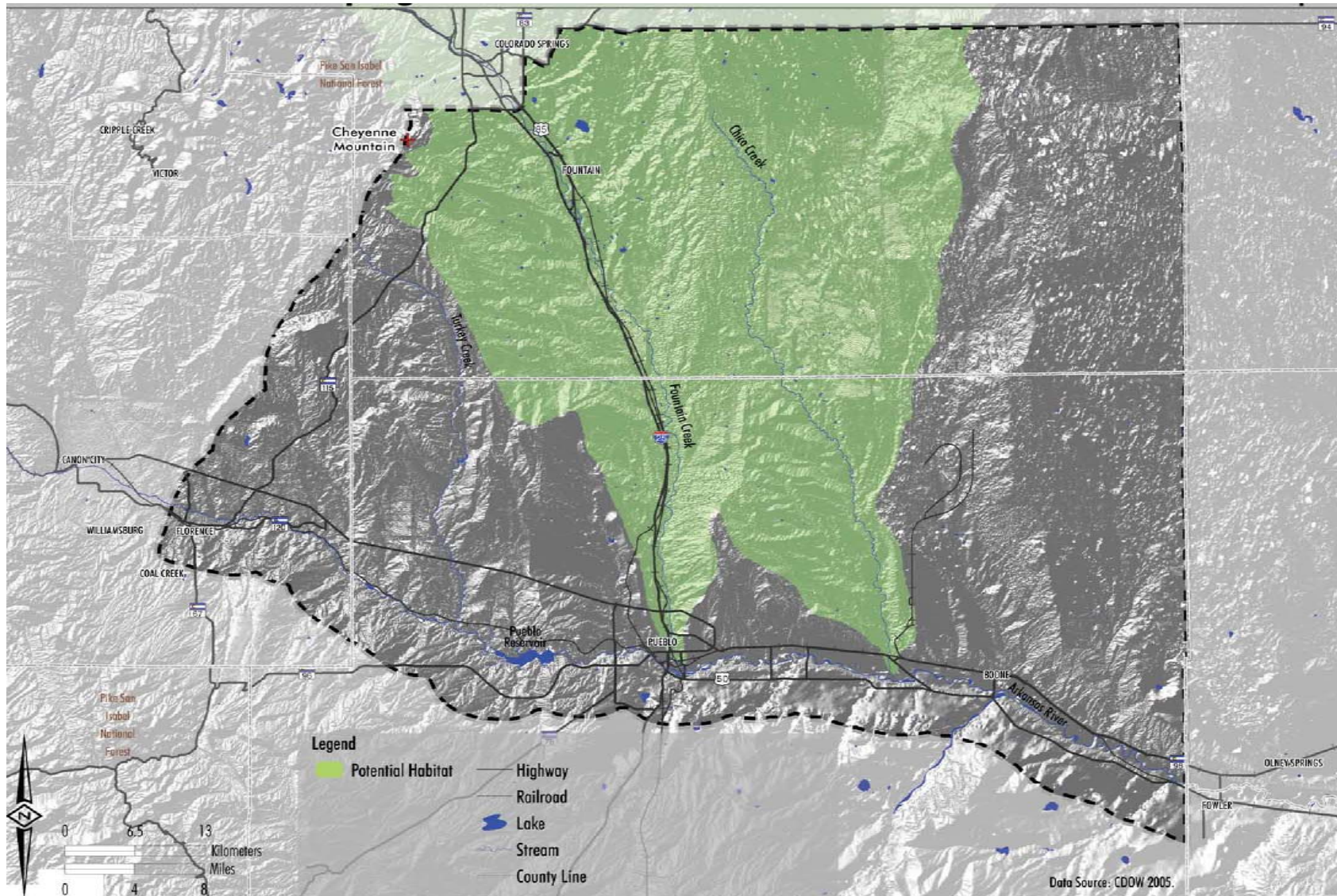
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CRITICAL ELK HABITAT— *courtesy of Colorado Open Lands*



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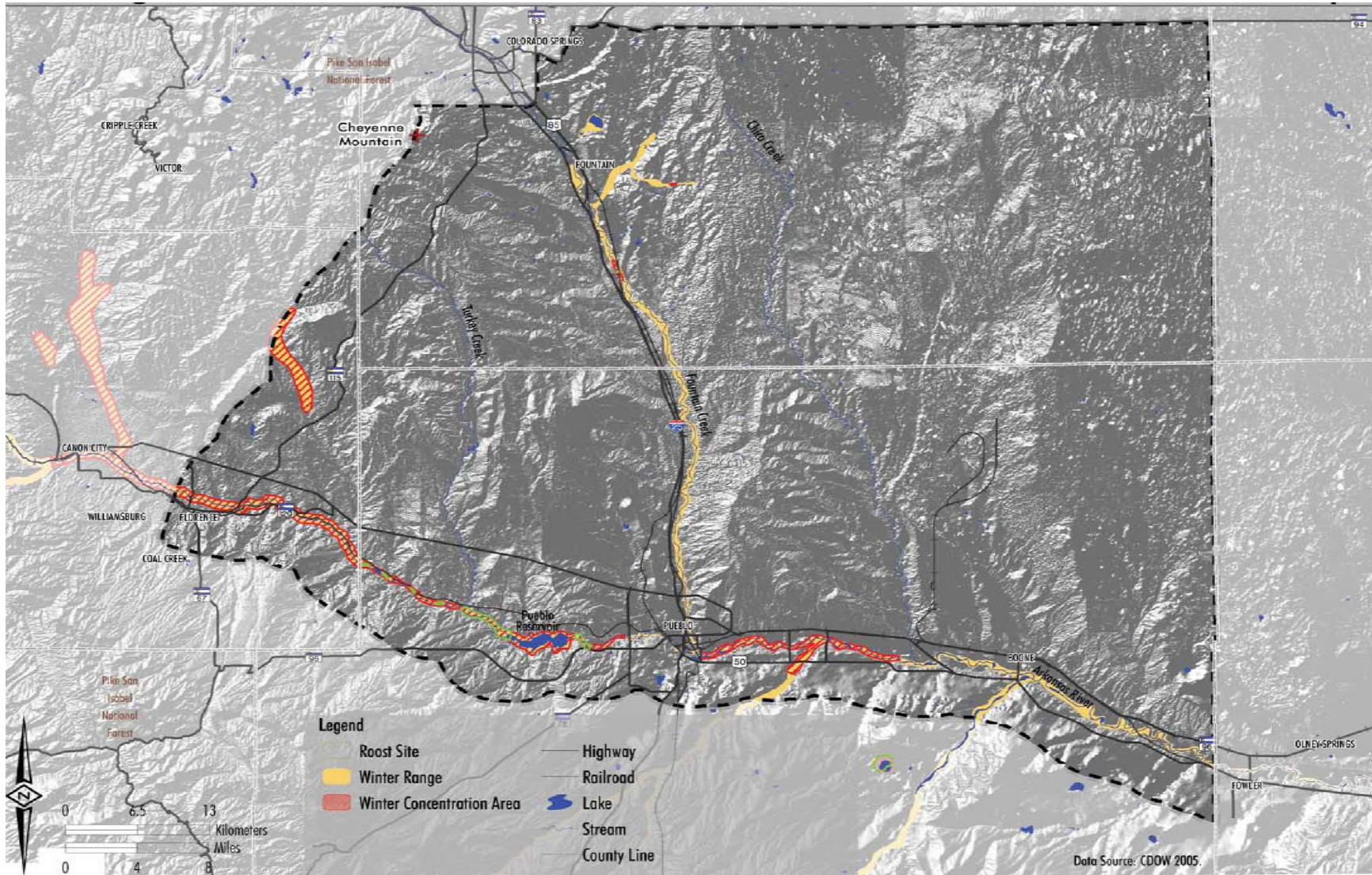
PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE HABITAT
 – courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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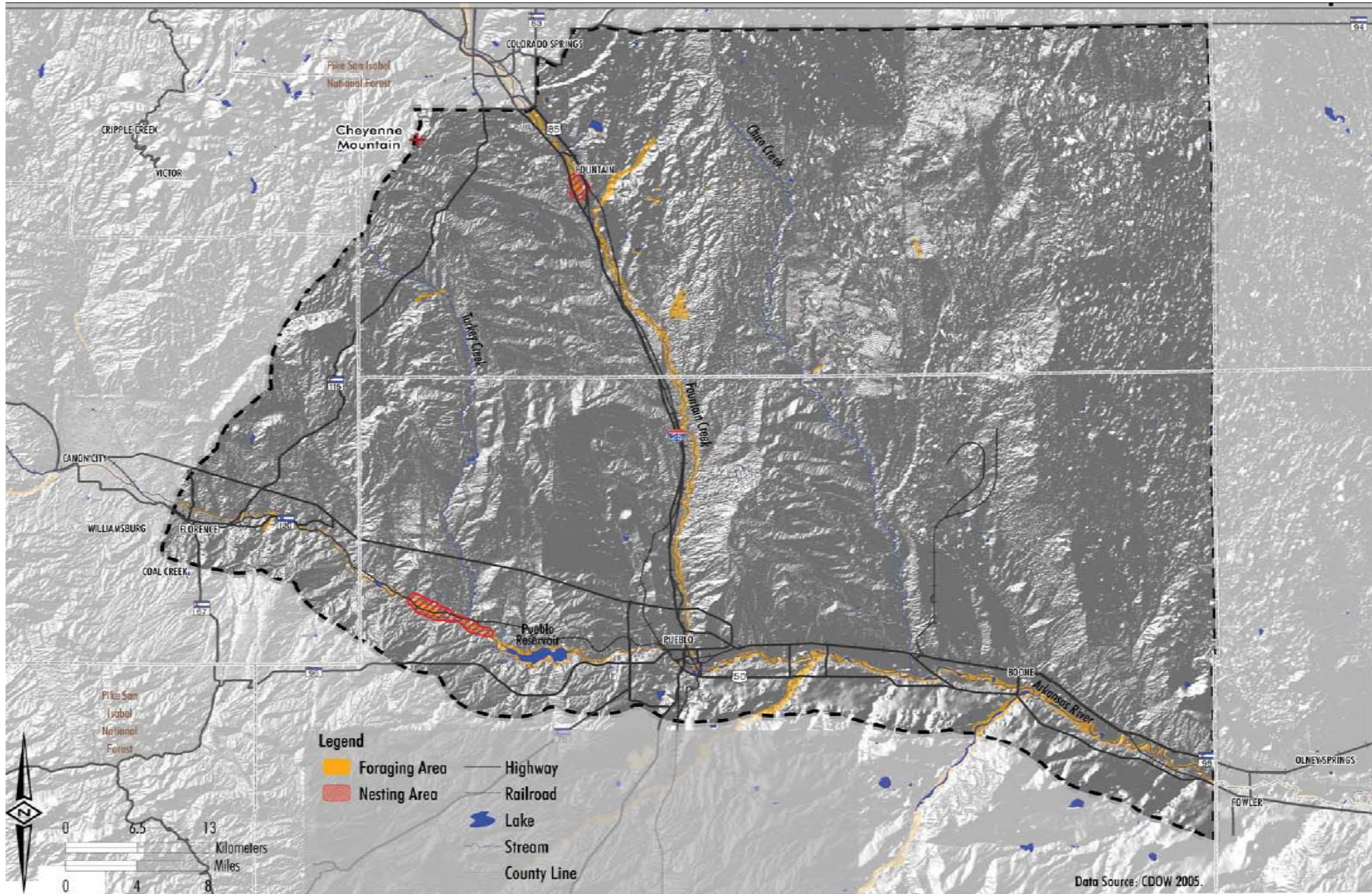
CRITICAL BALD EAGLE HABITAT

– courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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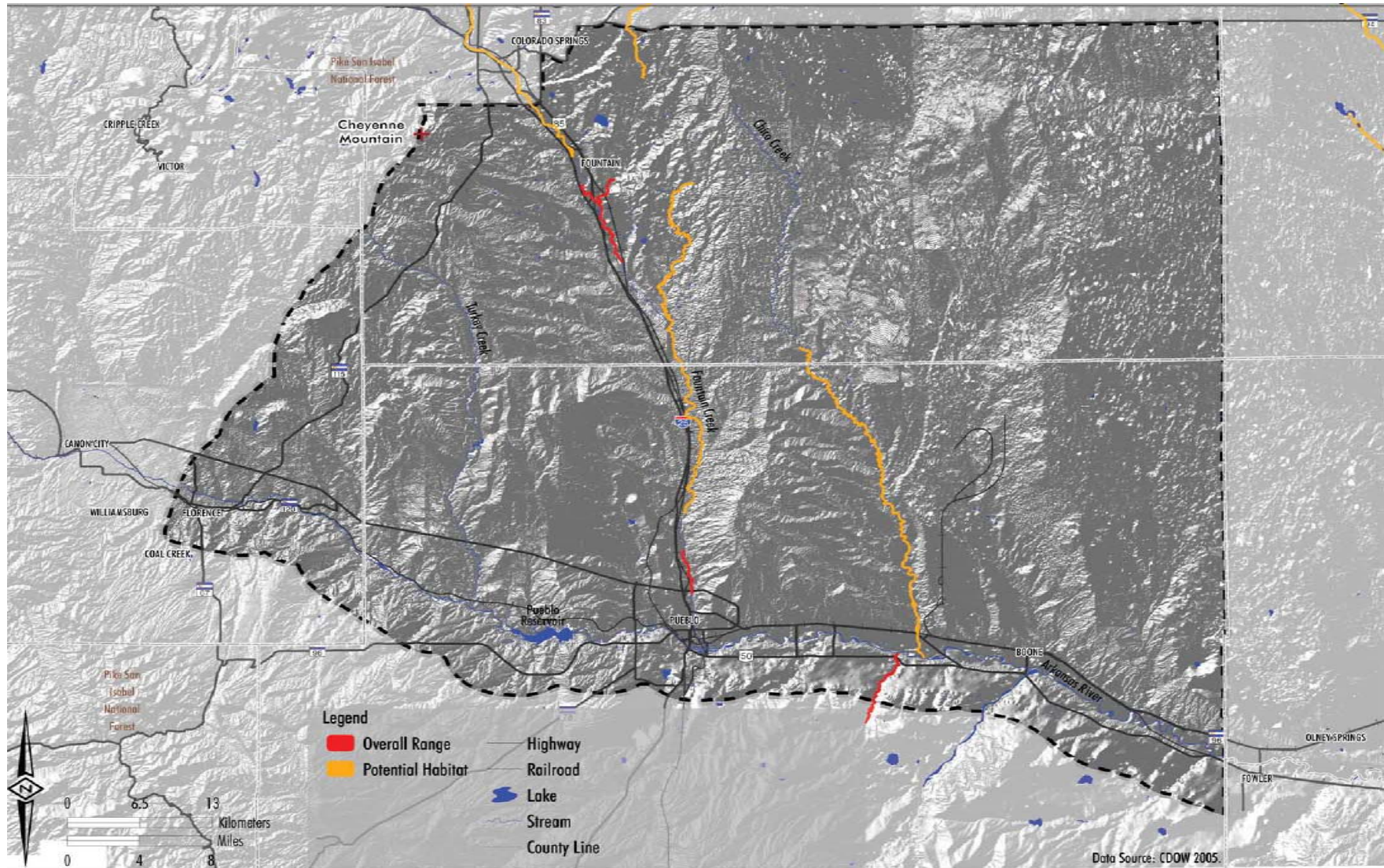
GREAT BLUE HERON HABITAT
 – courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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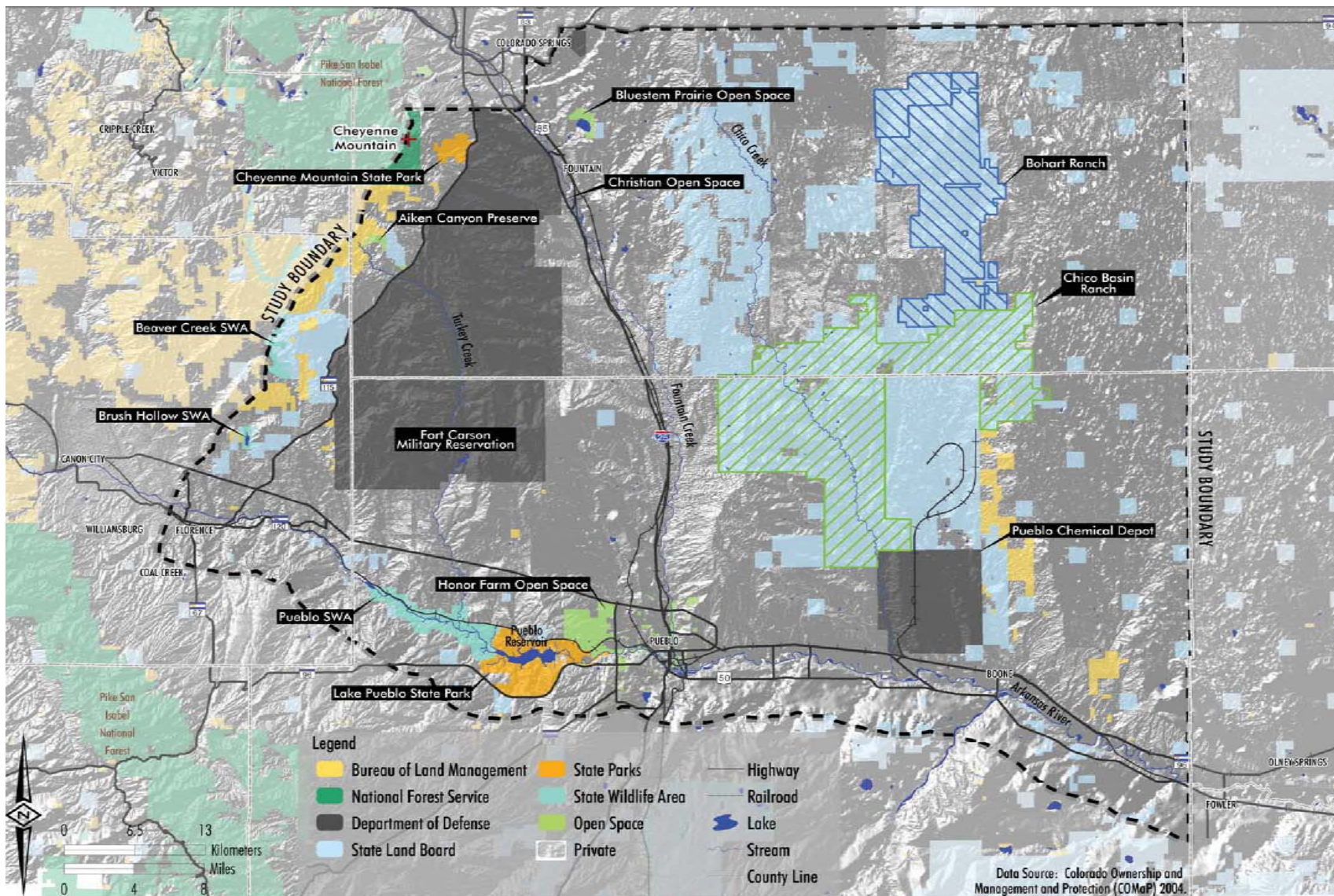
ARKANSAS DARTER HABITAT

— courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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LAND USE –courtesy of Colorado Open Lands



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