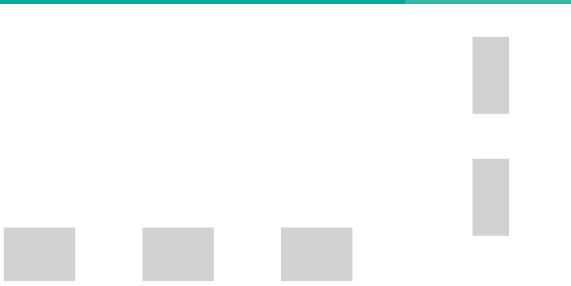


Venture Goals:

Working **Farm** and **Ranch Lands**







Urban sprawl.





Grasslands and subdivisions form distinct contrasts on the Colorado Front Range, Larimer County, Colorado.

Introduction

Conversion of cropland, grazing land, and forest land to other uses can fragment landscapes and diminish their values for agriculture and forest uses, water management, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic purposes. The rate of development accelerated from 1.4 million acres per year between 1982 and 1992 to 2.2 million acres per year between 1992 and 2001.

As predominantly agricultural watersheds shift toward mixed urban and suburban landscapes, land values escalate and agricultural viability declines. Communities can use comprehensive watershed planning to retain a viable agricultural presence, rural quality of life, and quality of the environment, while making room for needed development and other economic uses of the resource base.

Outcome: *Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.*

Objective: *By 2010, 70 percent of farms and ranches protected under easements will remain in active agriculture.*

Baseline: *To be determined. A study is currently being conducted by the University of Nebraska to ascertain how many farms and ranches enrolled in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program remain in active agriculture.*