

Colorado  
Forest Health  
Advisory Council

*Listening  
Session*

March 3, 2021



# Welcome

- Carol Ekarius, Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc., Lake George, CO
- Aaron Kimple, Mountain Studies Institute, Durango, CO



J. Paul	Brown	Rancher-Ignacio, CO	Ranch Owner	Minority Leader of the House
Carol	Ekarius	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Environmental Organization	Governor
Craig	Grother	Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Sportsman Organization	Minority Leader of the Senate
Matt	Jones	Boulder County Commissioner	County Commissioner	Speaker of the House
Scott	Jones	Off-Road Business Association	Motorized Recreation Organization	Minority Leader of the Senate
Aaron	Kimple	San Juan Headwaters Group	Municipal Drinking Water	President of the Senate
Lyle	Laverty	Society of American Foresters	Conservation Organization	President of the Senate
Mike	Lester	Colorado State Forest Service	Chair	Governor
Paige	Lewis	The Nature Conservancy	Environmental Organization	Governor
Mark	Morgan	Morgan Timber Products	Employed by Wood Products Business	Governor
Michael	Preston	Dolores Water Conservancy District and Southwest Basin Roundtable	Municipal Drinking Water	President of the Senate
Chuck	Rhoades	USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station	Employed by a Scientific Research Station	Governor
Travis	Smith	National Wild Turkey Federation	Irrigation Water Supplier	President of the Senate
Tom	Spezze	National Wild Turkey Federation	Wildlife Organization	Governor
Ben	Tisdell	Ouray County Commissioner	County Commissioner	Speaker of the House

## FHAC Members



Carolyn	Aspelin	Colorado State Forest Service
David	Farmer	Colorado State Forest Service
Kristin	Garrison	Colorado State Forest Service
Vaughn	Jones	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Susan	Matthews	Colorado State Forest Service
Mike	McHugh	Aurora Water
Mike	Morgan	Division of Fire Prevention and Control
Angela	Boag	Department of Natural Resources
Amy	Moyer	Department of Natural Resources
John	Ring	Bureau of Land Management
Kirk	Will	Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Ex-officio members



## Panel

- Mike Lester, CO State Forest Service
- Dan Gibbs, CO Dept. of Natural Resrouces
- Jacque Buchanan, US Forest Service



# Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council Panel Discussion

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Jacque Buchanan, Deputy Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region

# Regional Priorities

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- Implementing post fire recovery activities
- Implementing projects funded through the Great American Outdoors Act
- Acknowledging and addressing the impacts of increased recreation use across the region due to COVID.
- Support our regional vegetation management program.
- Evolve our COVID response and navigate to a new normal.
- Forest Plan revision work on the GMUG National Forest.

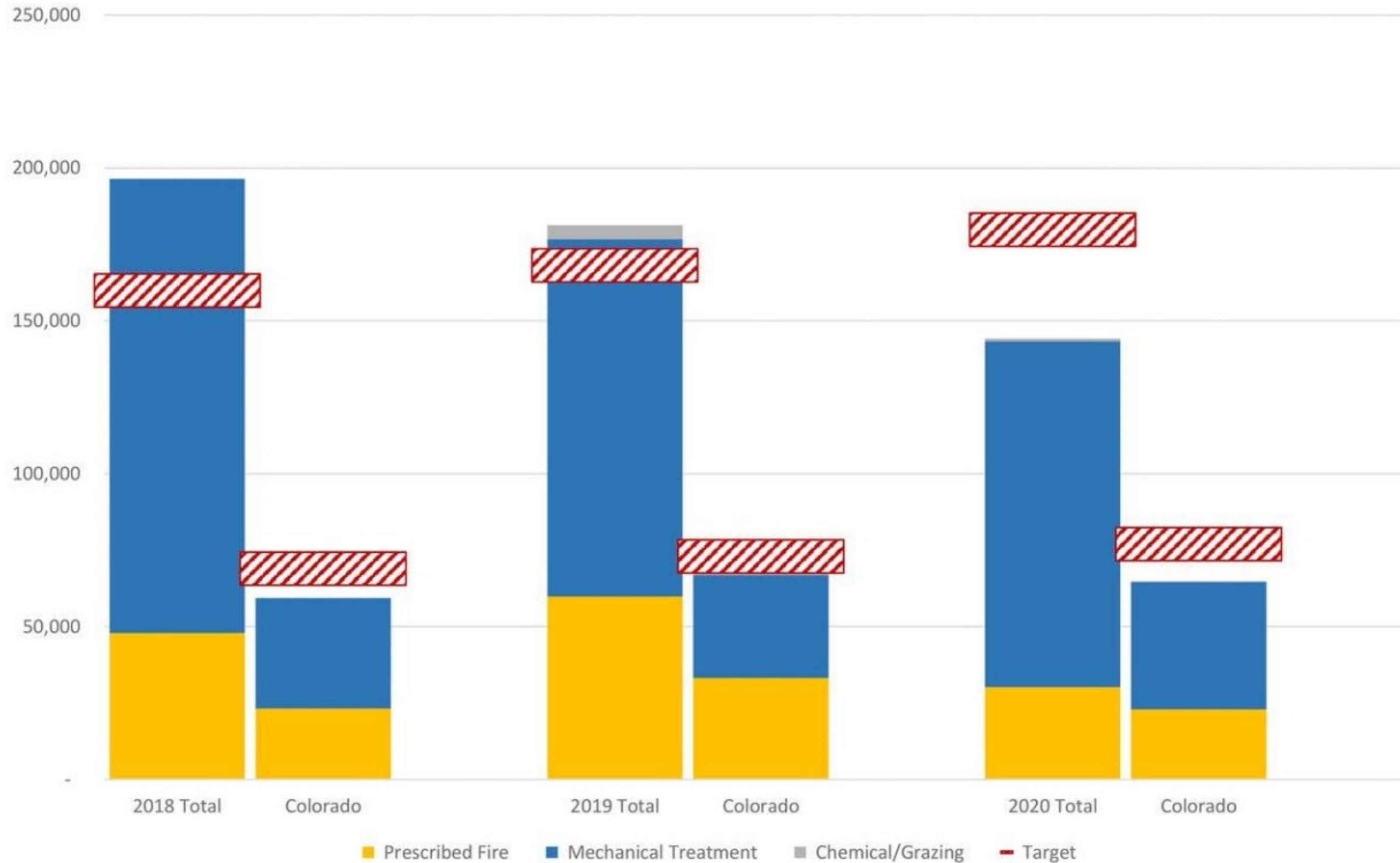


Timber Volume  
Sold on  
Colorado  
Forests  
(Million Board  
Feet)

Forest	2018	2019	2020
GMUG	46	47	38
MBRTB	61	61	28
Rio Grande	34	23	10
ARP	4	7	11
PSICC	10	7	15
San Juan	25	41	42
White River	19	18	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>150</b>



# USFS Hazardous Fuels Treatments on NFS lands in the Rocky Mountain Region



Fuels Acres  
Accomplished  
on Colorado  
Forests

Forest	2018	2019	2020
GMUG	12,257	31,692	10,382
MBRTB	5,508	2,526	1,521
Rio Grande	10,472	8,602	4,074
ARP	6,825	11,421	12,896
PSICC	10,749	13,567	9,208
San Juan	10,524	42,385	29,608
White River	8,242	6,690	2,588
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,577</b>	<b>116,883</b>	<b>70,277</b>



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
Between The  
STATE OF COLORADO,  
And The  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into as of the last date set forth on the signature page below (Effective Date) by and between the State of Colorado (State or Colorado) and the United States Department of Agriculture, including the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region (USDA Forest Service) (collectively the "Partners").

**I. BACKGROUND.**

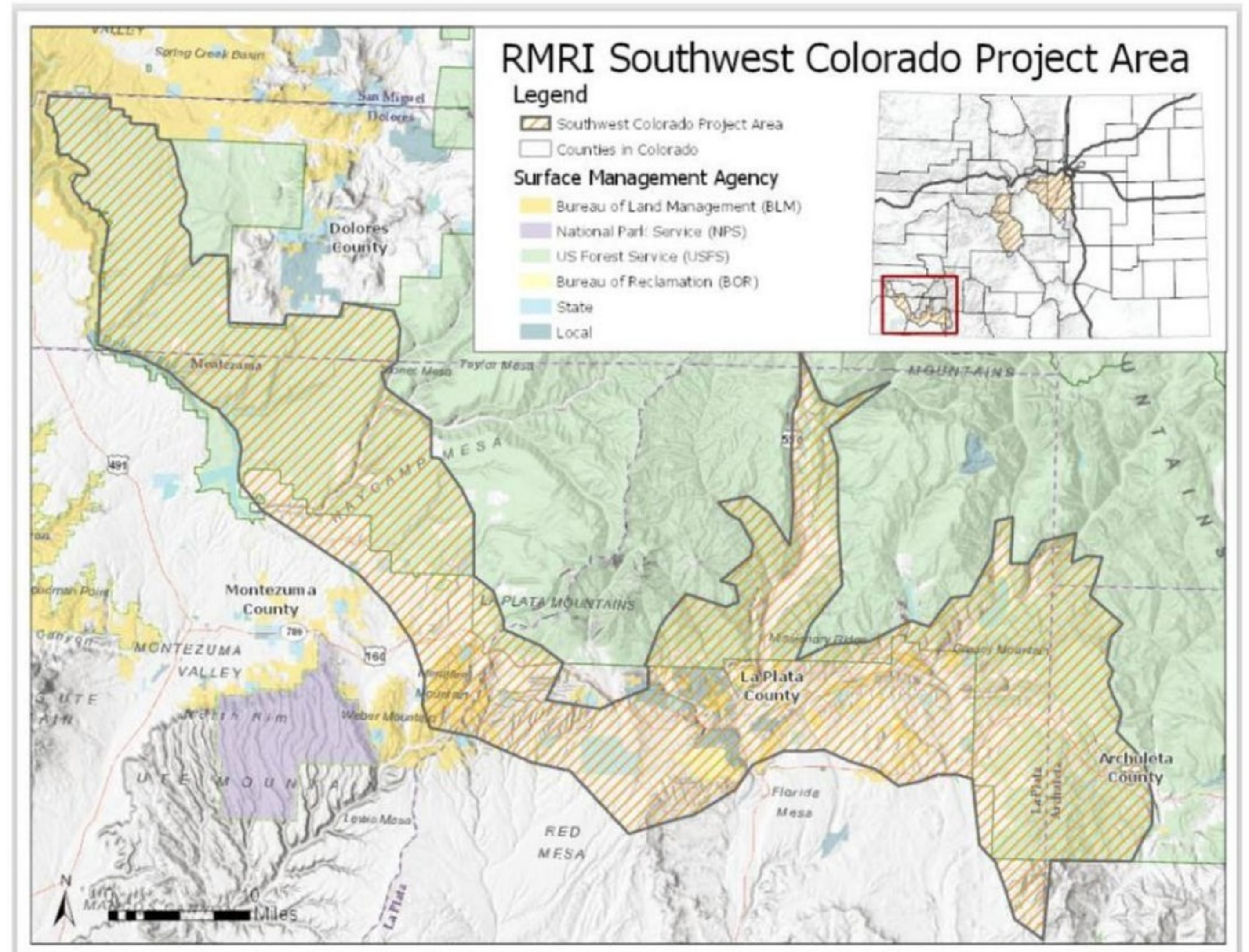
In August 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a new Shared Stewardship Investment Strategy along with the Western Governors' Association and the National Association of State Foresters, which outlined plans to work more closely with states to identify landscape-scale priorities for targeted treatments in areas that hold promise to achieve the greatest benefits and shared goals. The Shared Stewardship Investment Strategy has three core elements:

1. **Determine management needs on a state level:** The USDA Forest Service and states will prioritize stewardship decisions directly with each state, setting priorities together, and combining mutual skills and assets to achieve cross-boundary outcomes desired by all.
2. **Doing the right work in the right places at the right scale:** The USDA Forest Service and the states will use new mapping and decision tools to locate treatments and other investments where they can do the most good, thereby protecting communities, watersheds, and economies where the risks are greatest.
3. **Using all available tools for active management:** The USDA Forest Service and states will use every authority, program, and tool available to do more work on the ground, including timber harvest, non-commercial mechanical treatments, carefully managed fire, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and other watershed restoration activities working with partners and stakeholders to choose the right tools.

The health of Colorado's forests and natural resources heavily influence the social, economic, and environmental landscapes throughout the State. Forest health and natural resource management issues are not confined or defined by ownership and administrative

# Special Projects to achieve Shared Stewardship Goals

- Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative
- National Investment Strategy - PSICC
- Joint Chief's Project - ARP



# FS/CSFS Good Neighbor Authority

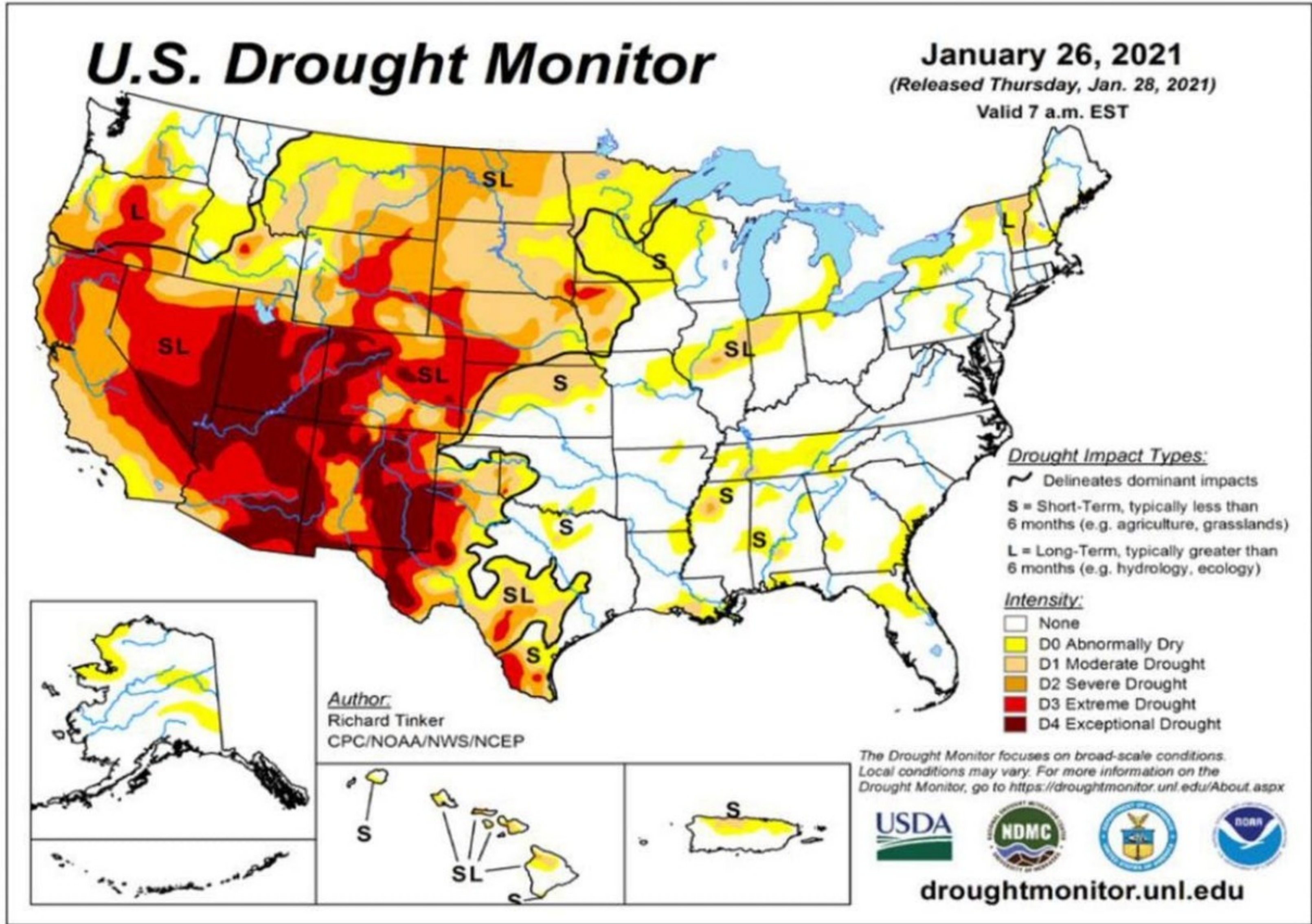
- \$8 million invested by FS
- 32 projects completed or underway.



Large-scale  
Spruce  
Mortality



Outlook is  
Dry for 2021



Preparations  
for 2021 Fire  
Season







## Local Perspectives

- Jen Kovecses, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
- Jamie Gomez, West Region Wildfire Council
- Anthony Culpepper, Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative



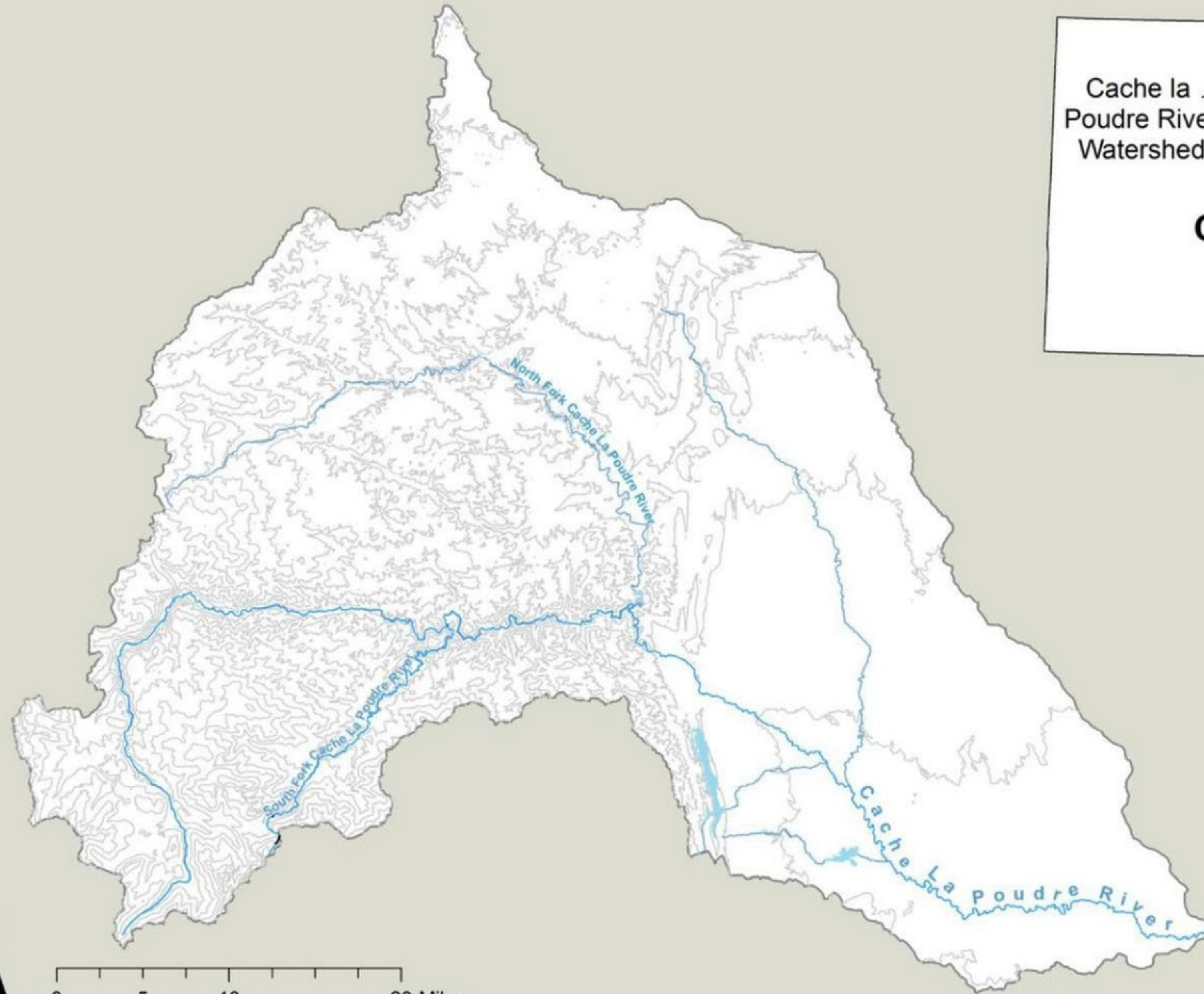


# Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

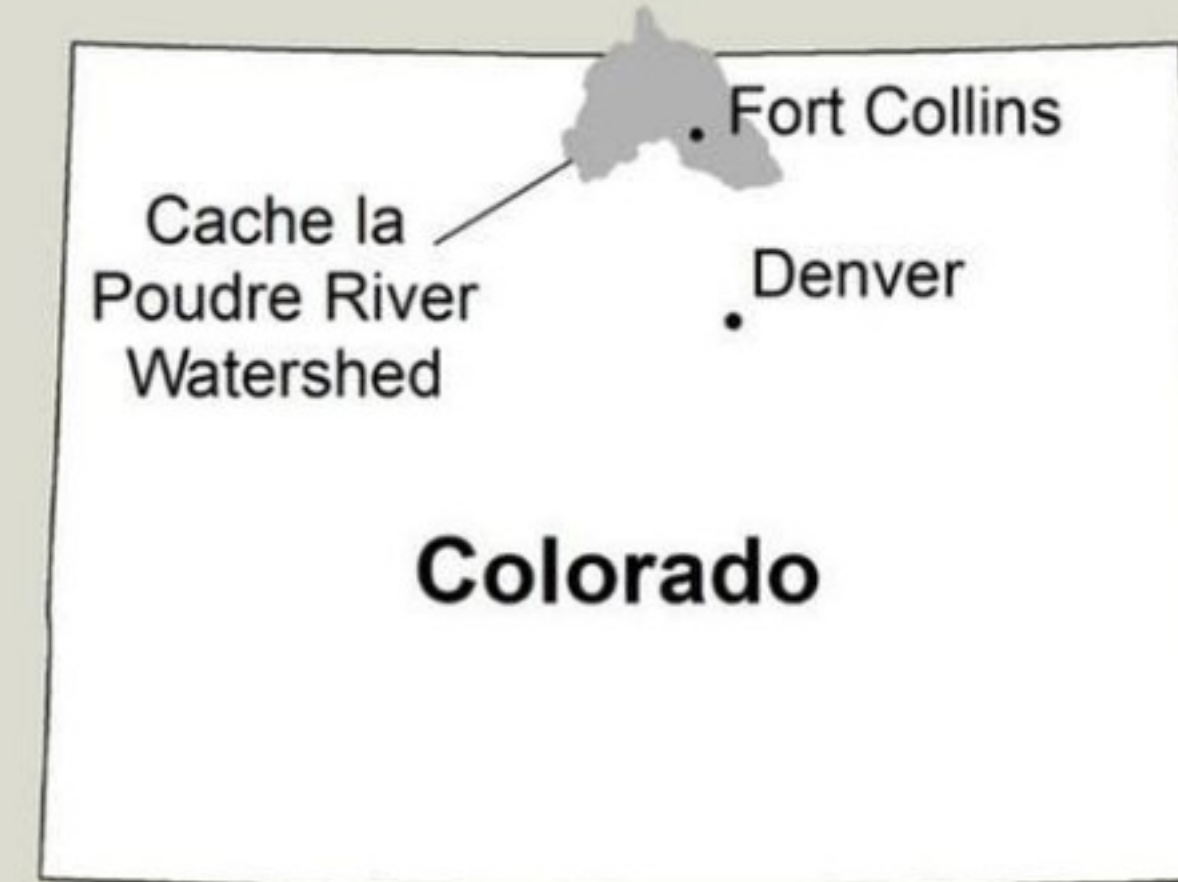
*Our mission is to improve & maintain the ecological health of the Poudre River watershed through community collaboration*

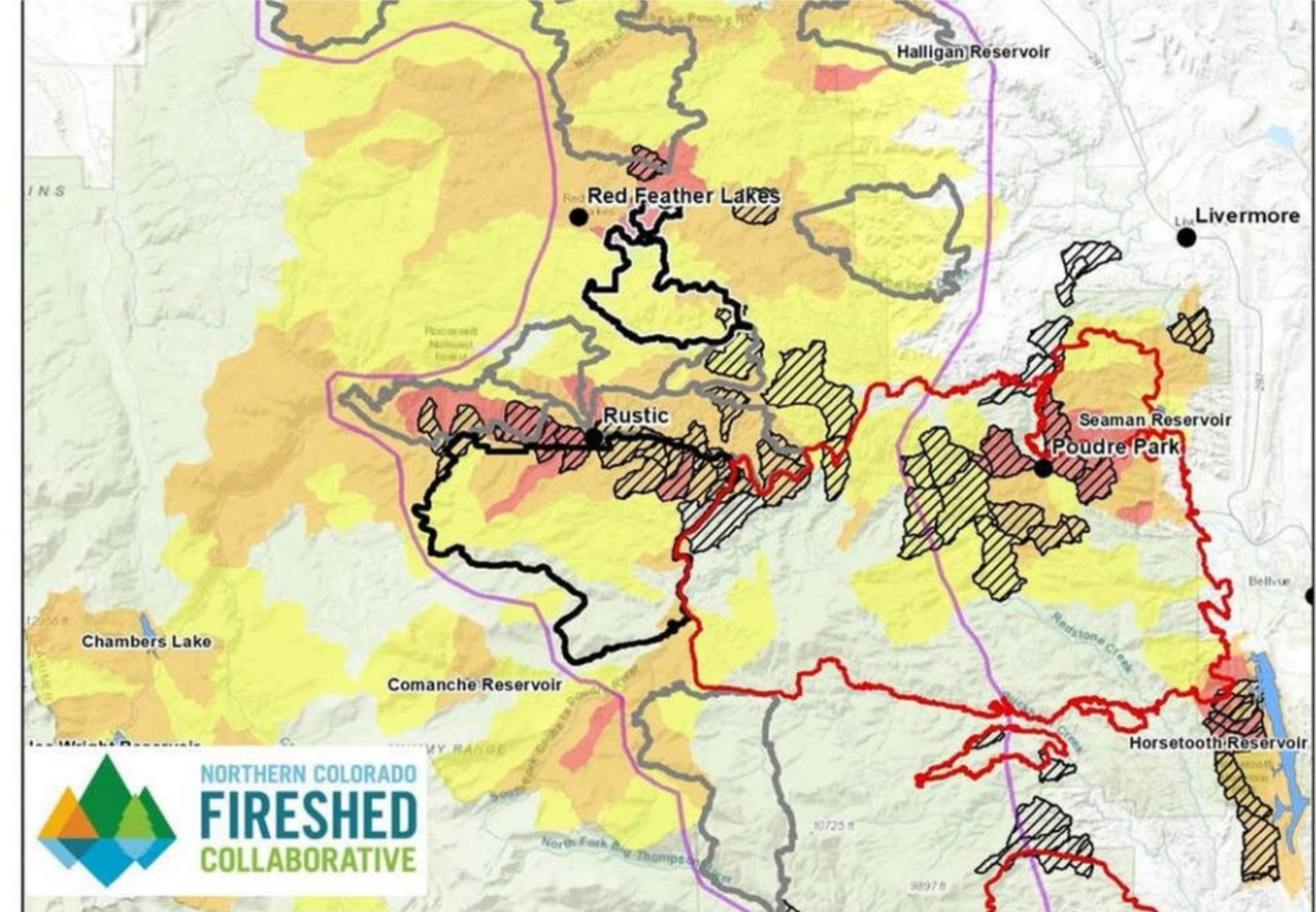
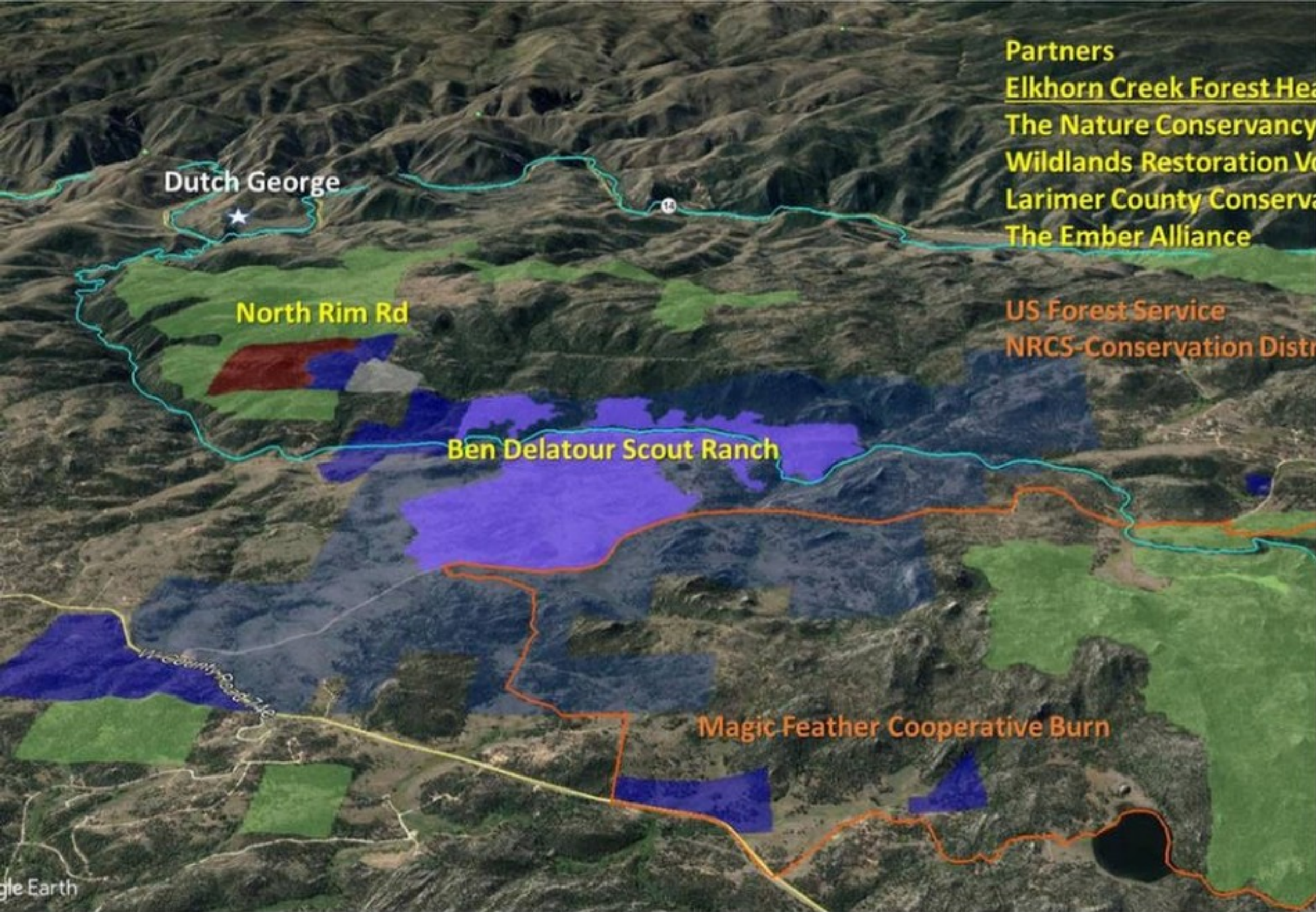
**Jennifer Kovacs**  
[jenk@poudrewatershed.org](mailto:jenk@poudrewatershed.org)

# The Cache la Poudre Watershed



0 5 10 20 Miles





# Project & Program Delivery



# Landowner & Community Engagement



Wildfire Impacts to Our Work

# West Region Wildfire Council

*Working together to reduce wildfire risk in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties since 2007.*

Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council  
Listening Session  
March 3, 2021

*Jamie Gomez*  
*Executive Director, West Region Wildfire Council*



Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council

*Listening Session*

March 3, 2021  
12:30 - 3:00 PM

The FHAC was created to provide a collaborative forum to advise the State Forester on a range of issues, opportunities and threats to Colorado's Forests.

Discussion of what has been accomplished on a State and Local level. What is the FHAC? What is Forest Health? Engage in open session on needs and challenges around the State.



Click below to register for the Listening Session

# Organization Overview

- Established as ad-hoc interagency collaborative in 2007
- Currently a 501c3 non-profit with 5 person Board of Directors
- Funded primarily through local, state and federal grants & agreements.





# Council Members/Stakeholders

- Individual residents
- HOA's
- Other organizations (e.g. non-profits)
- 24 Fire Protection Districts
- 6 Counties – BoCC / EM's / Comm. Development
- Sheriff's Offices/ Emergency Managers
- Colorado State Forest Service (3 field offices)
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control
- Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.
- BLM – SW CO F&A Mgmt. Unit
- USDA Forest Service - GMUG

**Bi-Monthly Council Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every other month. Visit [cowildfire.org/meetings](http://cowildfire.org/meetings) to learn more.**

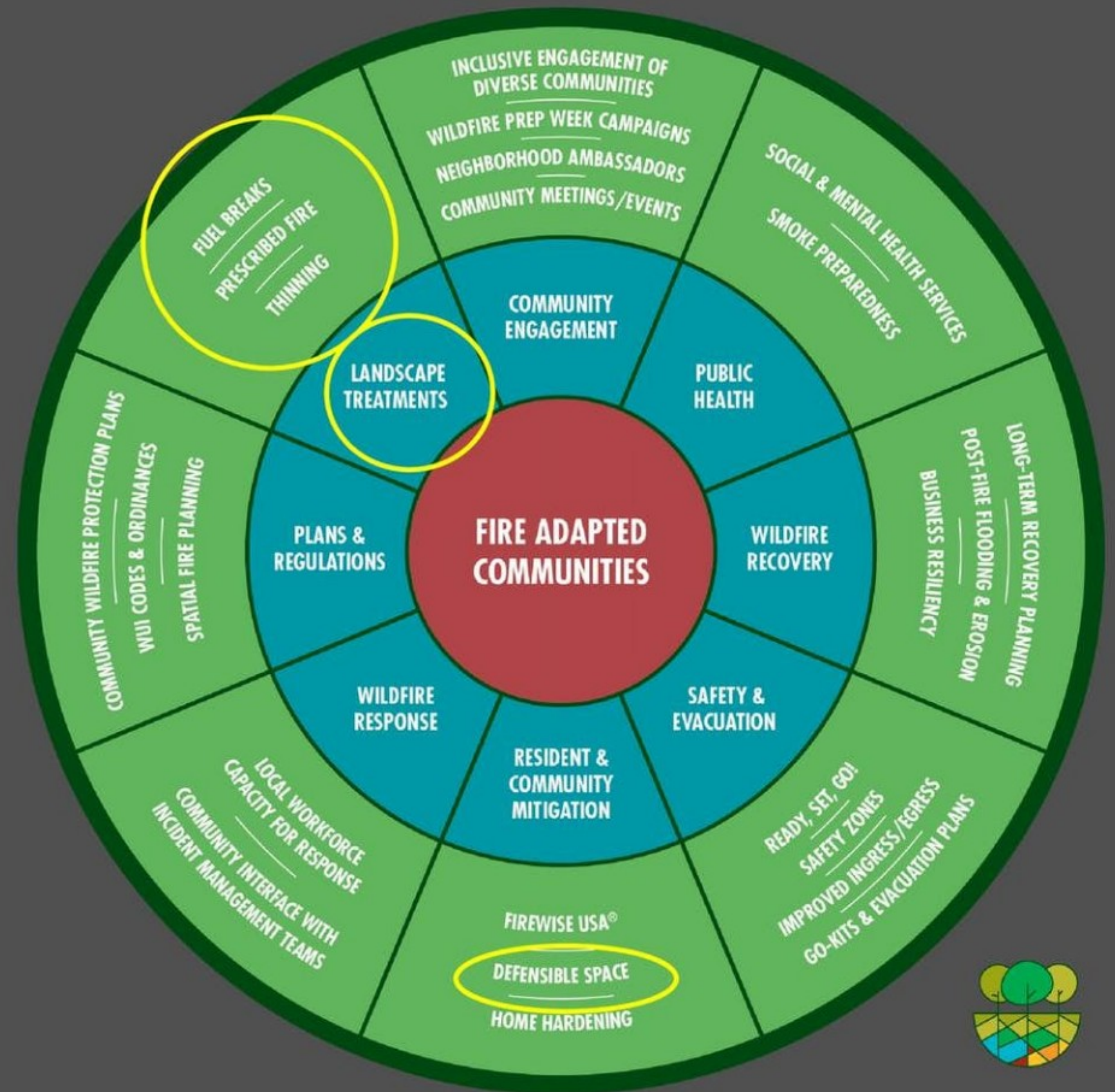
# How WRWC manages projects & programs

- Programmatic focus areas:
  - Assessing & understanding wildfire risk
  - Outreach and education
  - Technical assistance & financial incentives for vegetation management\*
- Vegetation Management \* Cost-Share Program
  - Communities and/or individual landowners
  - Applied fuels management principles – science driven
  - Technical assistance (e.g. treatment prescription & design, S.O.W., field layout/marketing)
  - Contractor bid facilitation
  - Agreements with individual landowners & communities
  - Final compliance & landowner reimbursements
  - Grant management, reporting, etc.



Just as wildfire is a **component** to considering how to address forest issues across the state...

...vegetation management is a **component** to addressing the wildfire issue.



# How WRWC engages with private landowners

- We do meet homeowners and communities where they are at (rhetorically & physically)
- Traditional + Innovative outreach approaches:
  - Presentations at community meetings, HOA meetings, ditch company meetings, etc.
  - Direct mailings / Social media
  - Parcel-scale Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments\*
  - Homeowner surveys\*
  - MyHome Pages - Unique parcel specific web pages\*
  - Direct mailings using applied “Nudge Theory”\*
  - MyWildfireRisk – mobile & web-based platforms built upon REALfire & Boulder Wildfire Partners principles and technology set\*\*



# West Region Wildfire Council

*Working together to reduce wildfire risk in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties since 2007.*

[www.COwildfire.org](http://www.COwildfire.org)

*Office:  
970-615-7300  
510 S. Cascade Ave  
Montrose, CO 81401*





\*Draft logo

**"We envision a future where our communities lead stewardship actions that promote resilient watersheds and forests on all lands within our scope, strengthening the ecological, economic, and sociocultural qualities of the region."**

- Collaborative Kicked Off in July 2019
- Diverse stakeholders: SJNF, BLM, CPW, NRCS, City of Durango, La Plata Co., SUIT, local ditch companies, local FPDs, MSI, ARCF, WAP, HOAs, environmental groups, rec groups, community members

### Focus Areas

#### **Implementation and Adaptive Management**

- Implement landscape and cross-boundary ecosystem management strategies, supported by an adaptive management framework, that maintain and enhance resilience

#### **Community Action and Education**

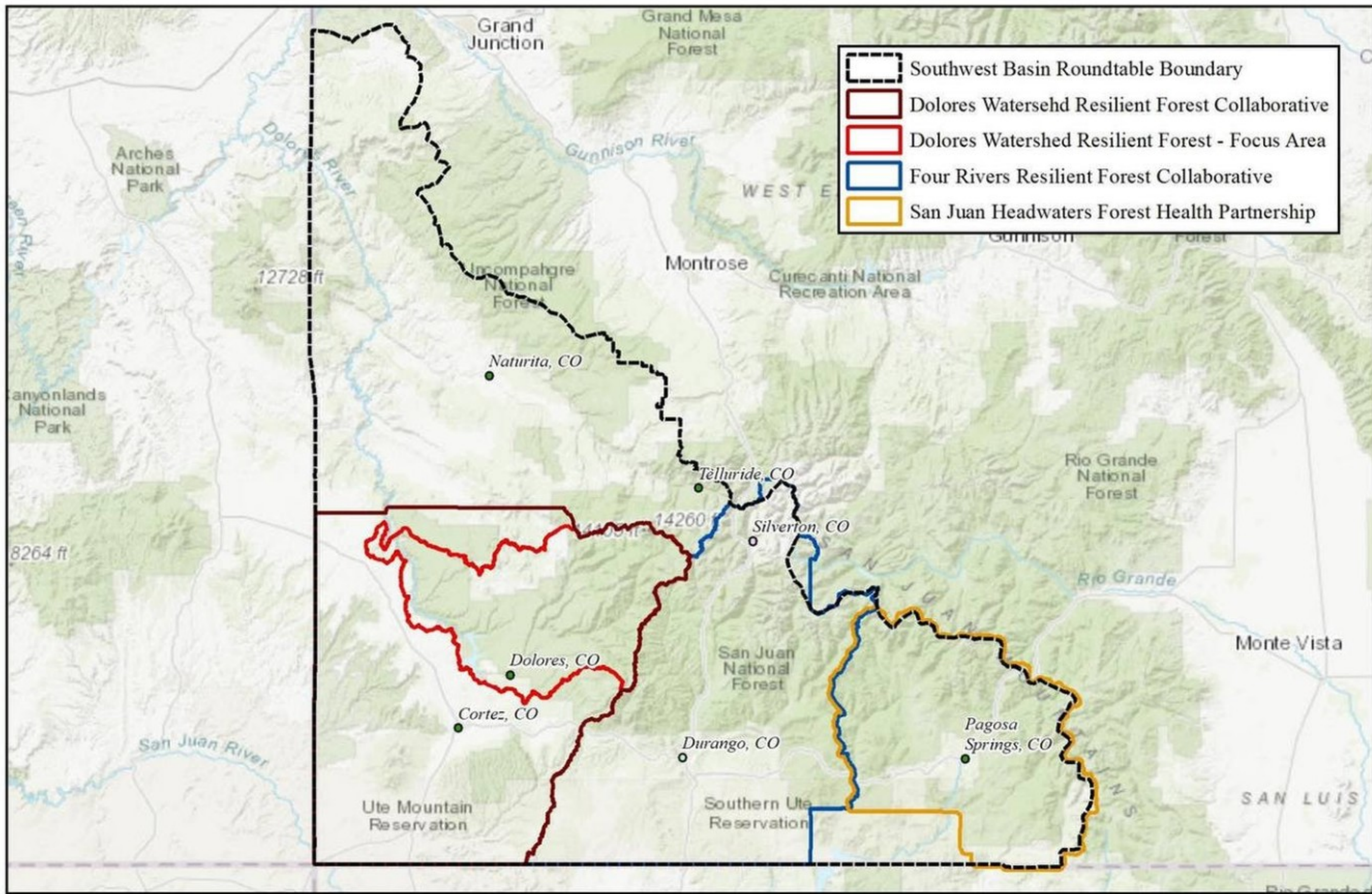
- Empower community residents and visitors to be responsible stewards of a fire-prone region, and to be supportive of landscape-scale ecosystem management practices

#### **Economic Sustainability and Workforce Development**

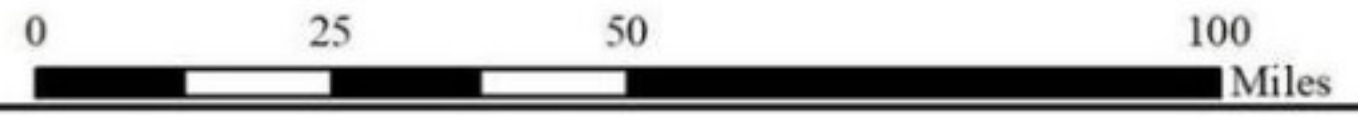
- Support the development of resources, local forest products industry and supporting workforce necessary to meet implementation goals and scale.

#### **Strong Collaborative Process**

- Provide a trusted process for collaboration that promotes engagement, leveraging/sharing of resources, and equalizes participation to achieve all other goals.



Southwest Colorado  
 Forest Health and Resilience  
 Collaboratives



# Aligning Priorities

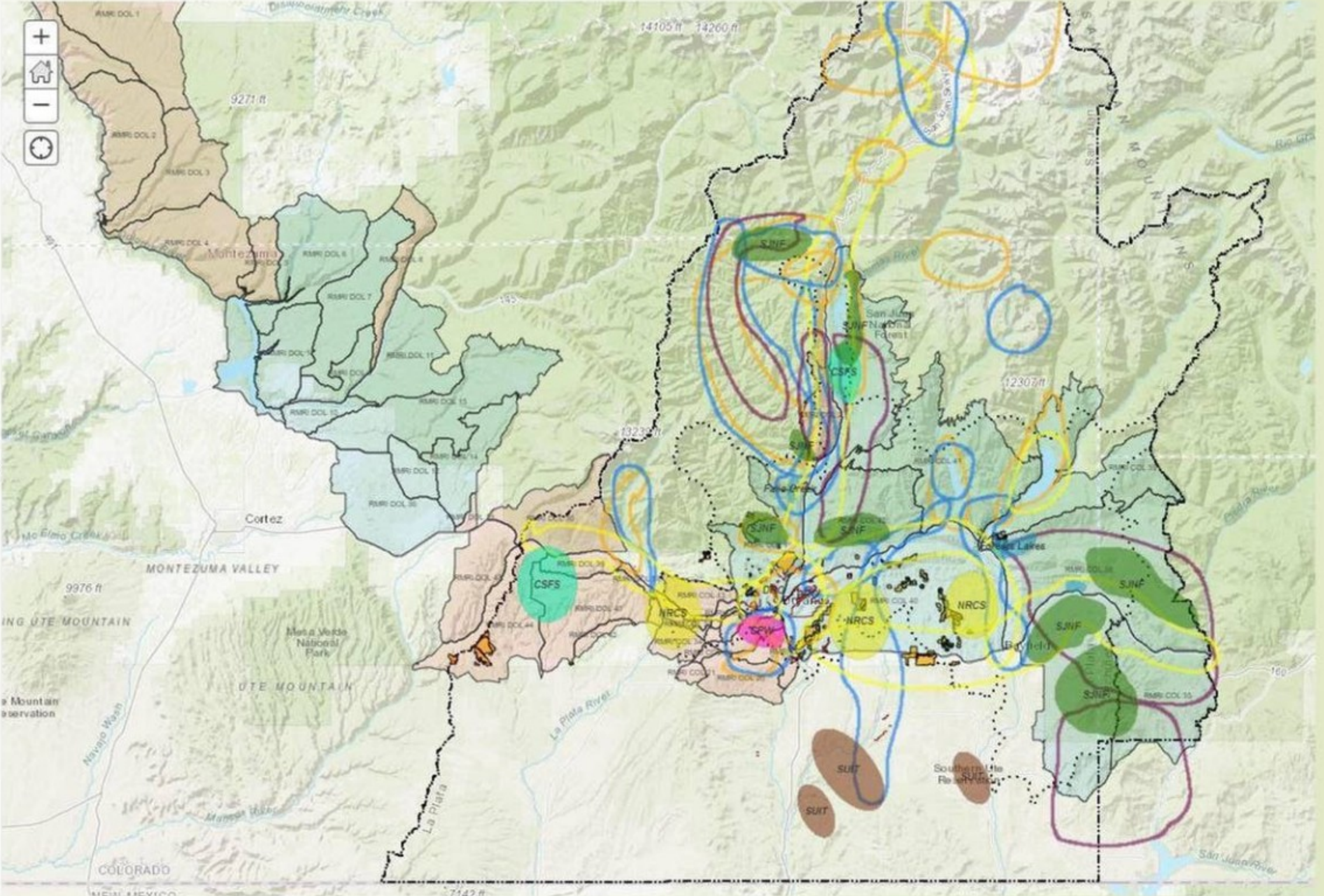
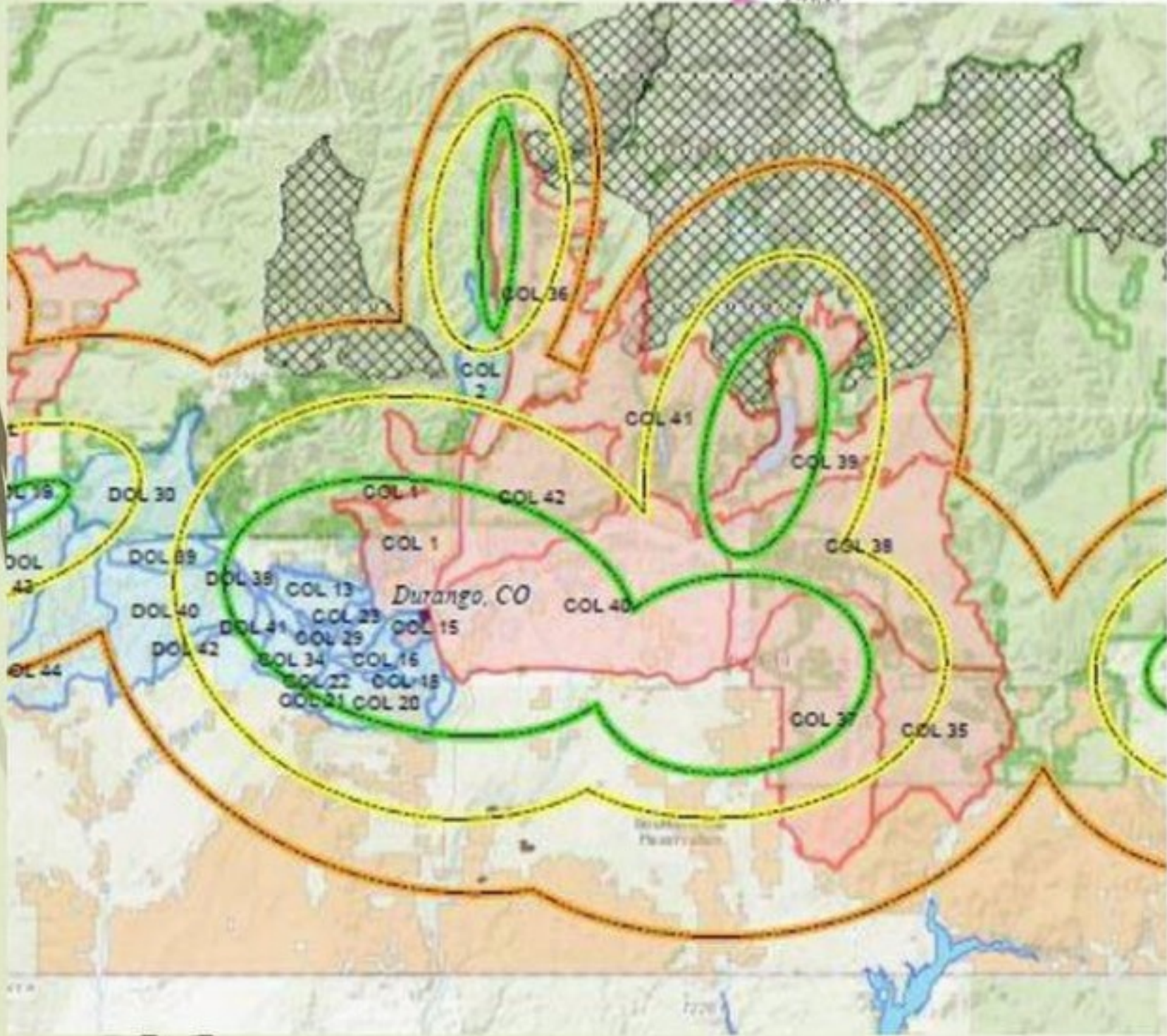


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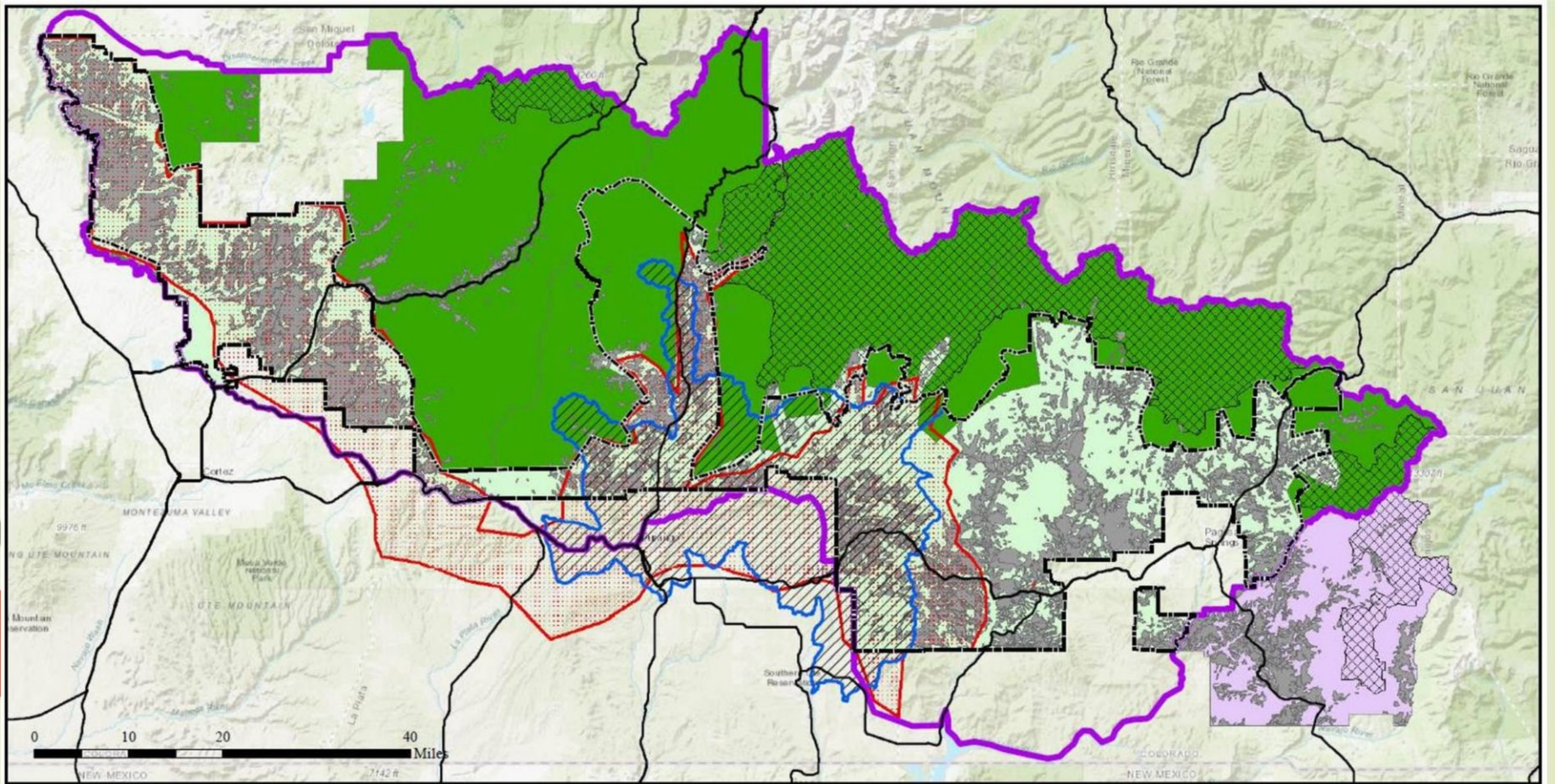
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Four Rivers Stakeholder Priorities 2020


- SJNF
- HOA
- NRCS
- SUIT
- CSFS
- DRO
- COL



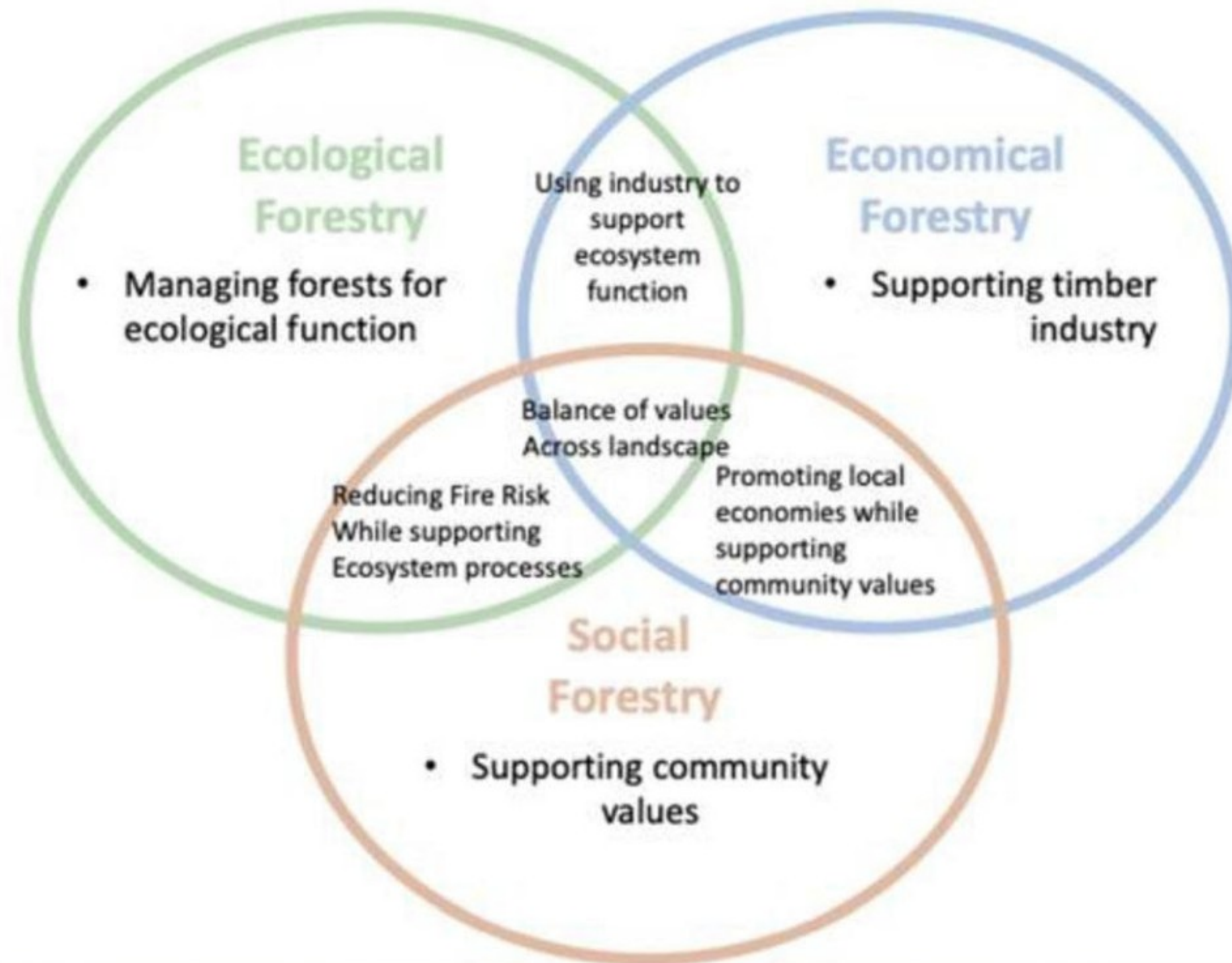




Dolores-Animas-San Juan CFLRP  
Proposed Boundaries and  
Associated Landscape Scale Project Areas

- |   |                                     |   |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|  | CLFRP Project Boundary              |  | Ponderosa/Warm-dry Mixed Conifer |
|  | CFLRP Focus Area                    |  | MSI Proposed CFLRP Focus Area    |
|  | SW Colorado RMRI                    |  | Wilderness                       |
|  | Environmental Impact Fund Landscape |  | Rio Chama CFLRP                  |

## Transformational Change: Alignment of Forestry Values





**Looking Ahead for Four Rivers**

# Thanks for participating

To learn more about FHAC visit <https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-health-advisory-council/>

