

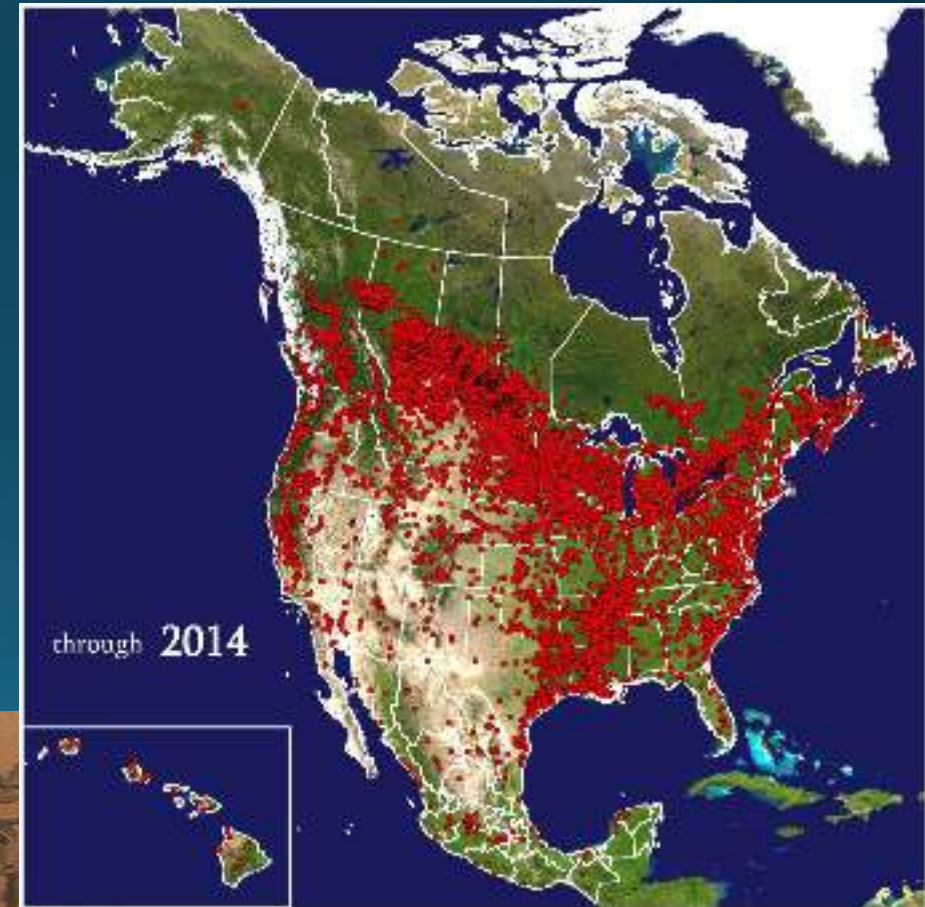
# Sustainable Futures: The Role of Wetlands

Greg Kernohan, Director  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Water Literate Leaders  
February 15, 2023

RESCUE  OUR  
WETLANDS  
*Banding Together for Waterfowl*



# Wetland Conservation Organization



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# Focused Conservation



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# Prairie Pothole Region



# Prairie Pothole Region

- Most threatened ecoregion on the continent
- 50-90% of pothole habitat has been destroyed or severely degraded



# Conservation Accomplishments




**FREE DUCK CALL**

WATER EFFICIENCY

## Aquifer Recharge and Water Use Efficiency

Learn how DU can help with water efficiency



## CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM

TECHNOLOGY - BUSINESS - ENVIRONMENT

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED WHEN YOU JOIN DUCKS UNLIMITED

JOIN TODAY



# 15 MILLION ACRES

## DUCKS UNLIMITED

— CONSERVED —



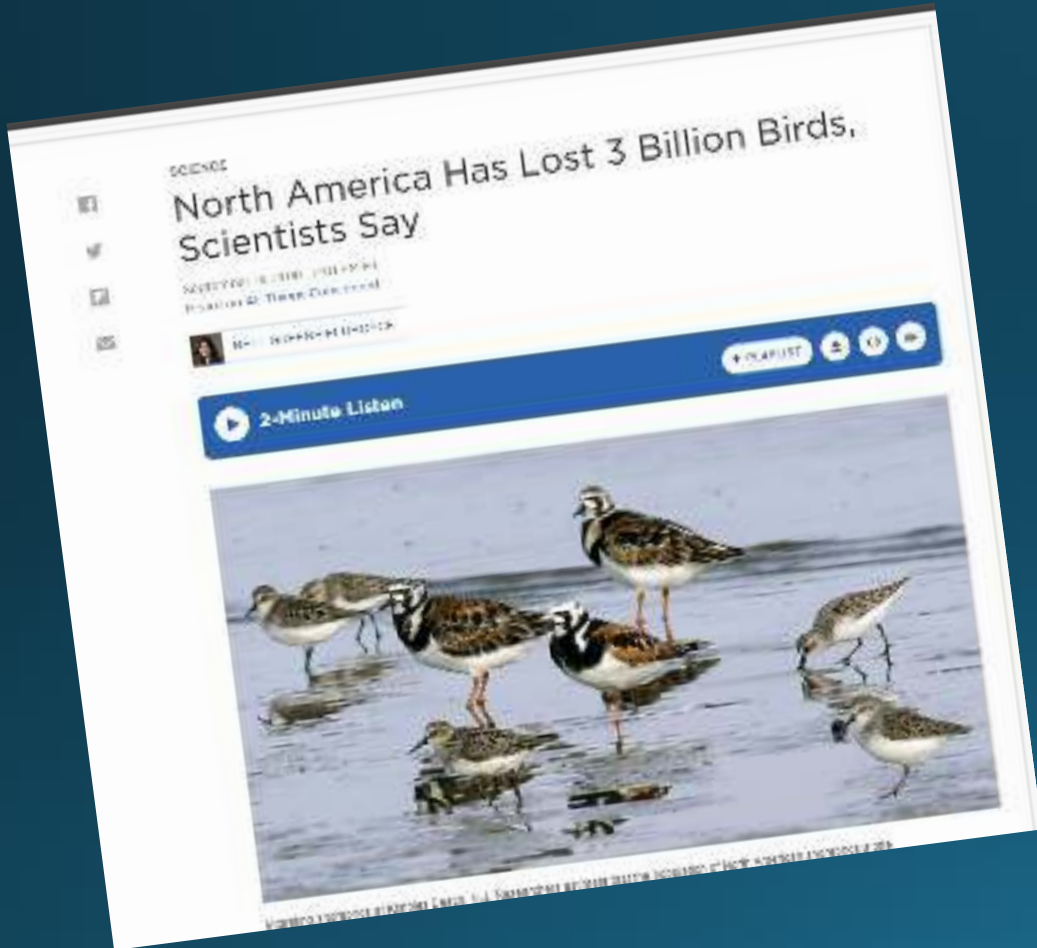
**FREE DUCK CALL**

WETLAND CONSERVATION

## DU Wetland Mitigation



# Loss of Breeding Birds – 30%



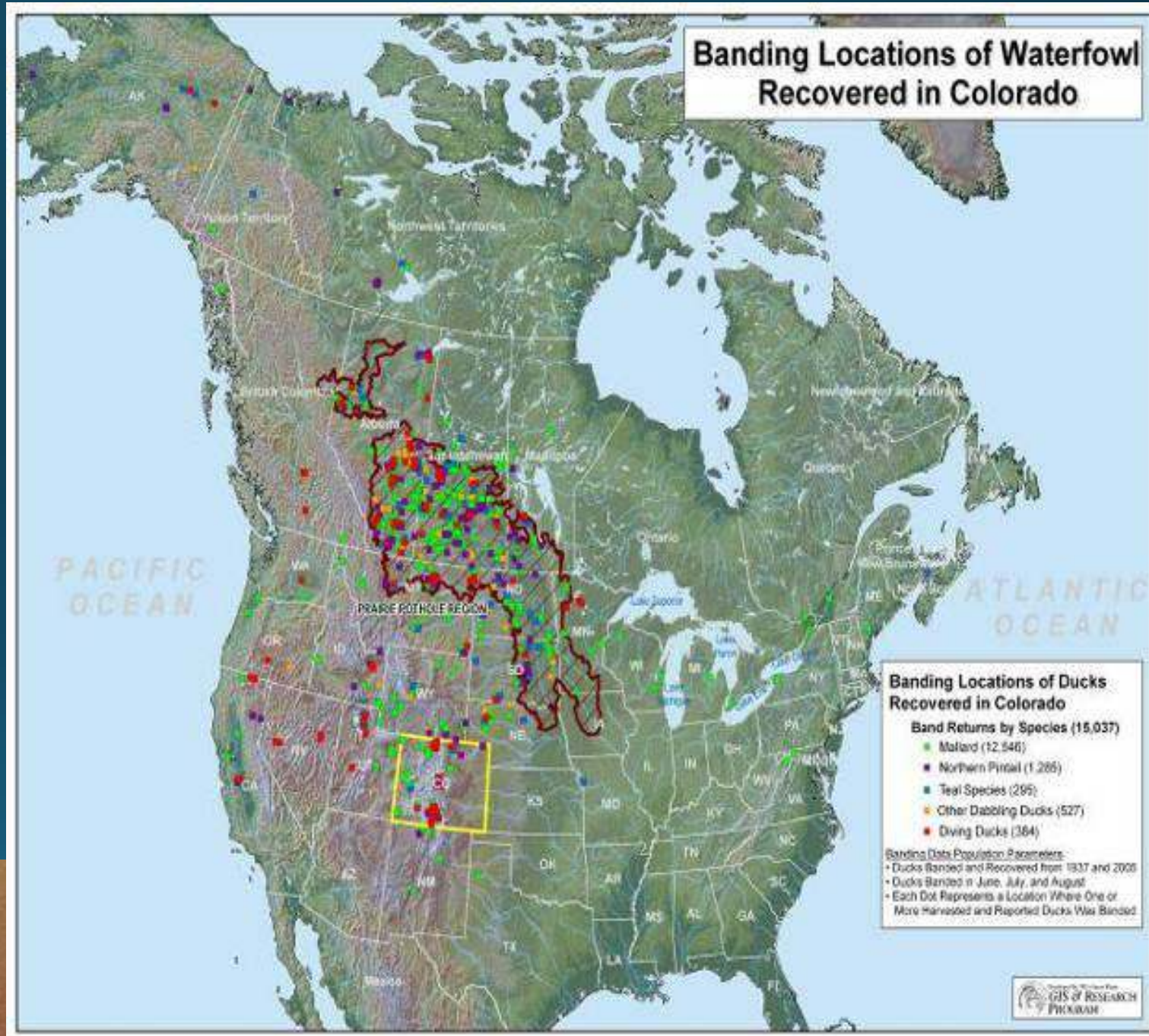
"The numbers of ducks and geese are larger than they've ever been, and that's not an accident," says Rosenberg. "It's because hunters who primarily want to see healthy waterfowl populations for recreational hunting have raised their voices." Journal of Science, September 2019

# The Truth about Wetlands

- About 2% of Colorado's Land Area is Wetland
- 38% of CO's Wetlands Lost or Degraded
- 74% of all Bird Species use Wetlands
- 90% of all Wildlife Use Wetlands
- Excellent Recharge Facilities
- Unsurpassed Natural Pollution Filters
- Nature-based Solutions



# Linking the Mission



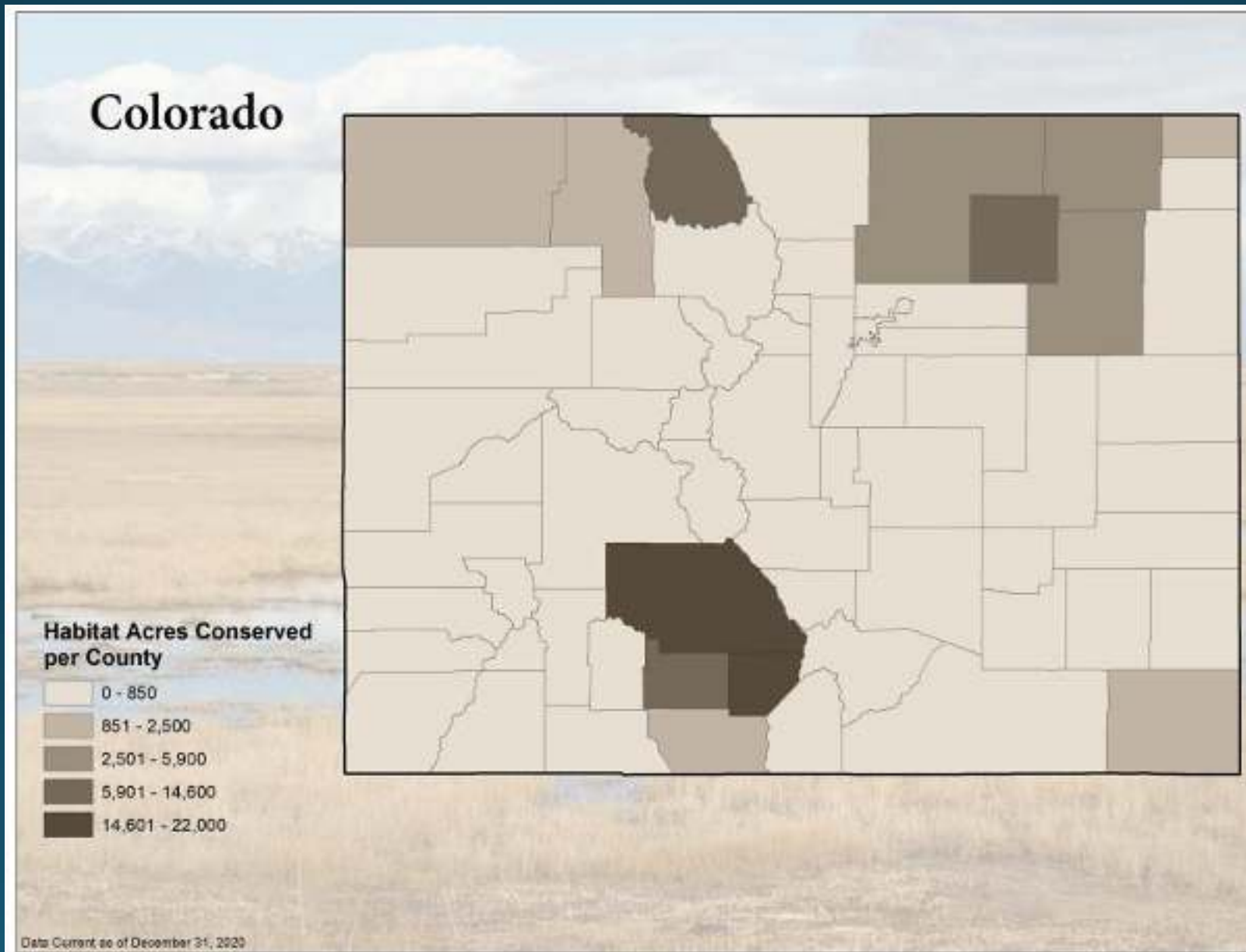
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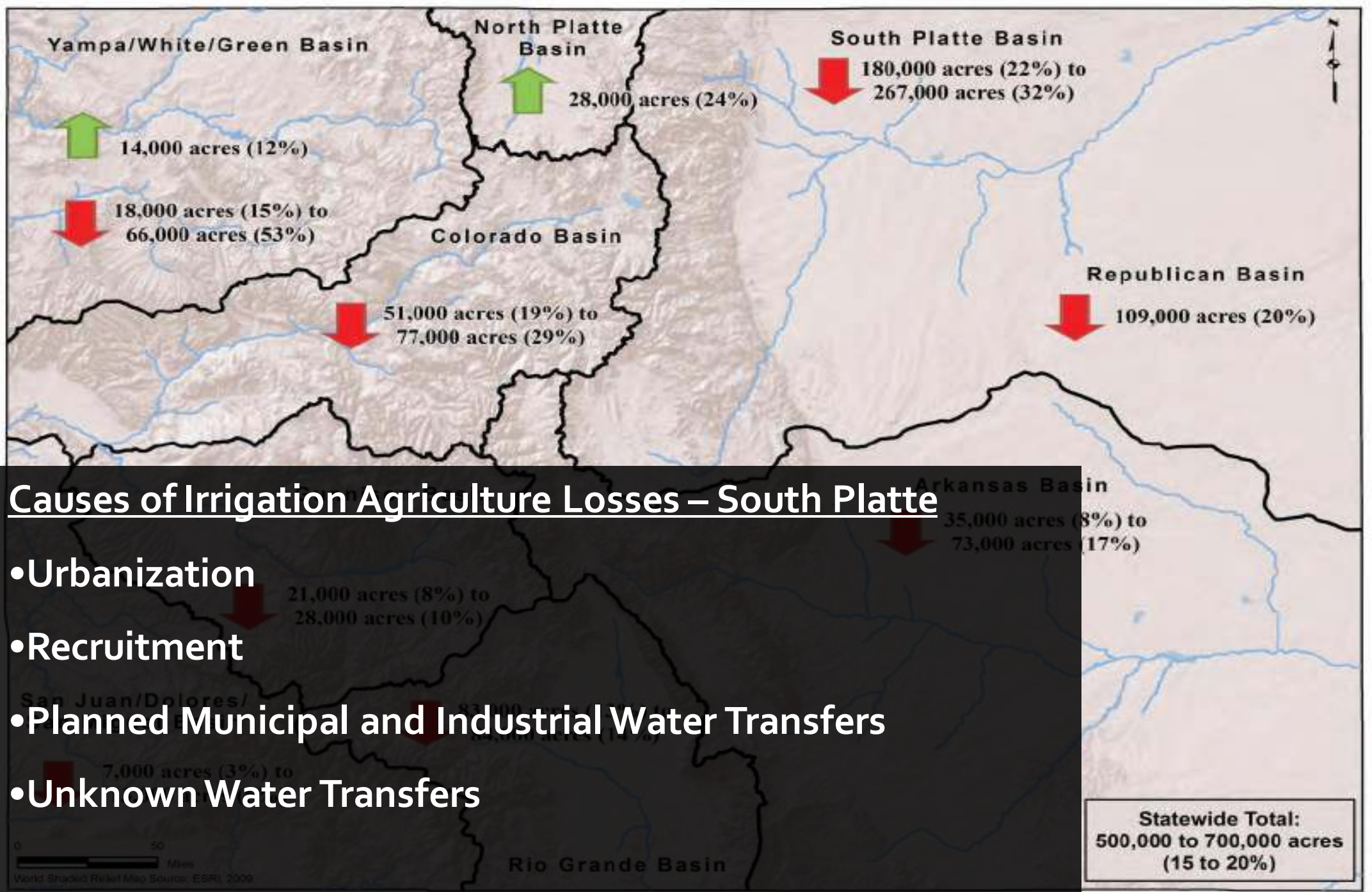


# North American Waterfowl Management Plan 2018



# DU Completed Projects





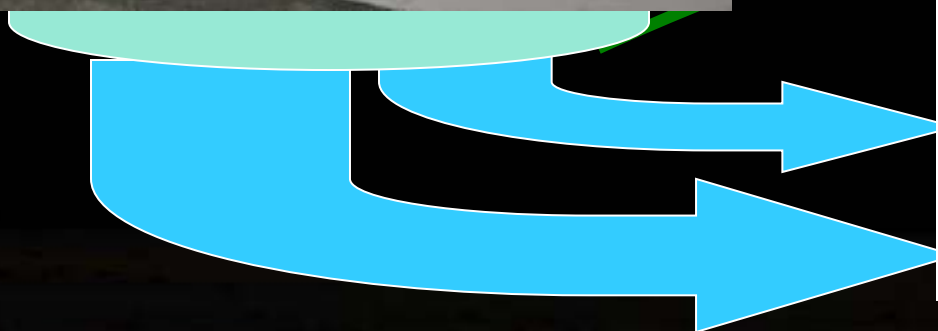
## Causes of Irrigation Agriculture Losses – South Platte

- Urbanization
- Recruitment
- Planned Municipal and Industrial Water Transfers
- Unknown Water Transfers

# Aquifer Recharge Winter/Spring



Wetland  
recharge  
basin



# River Augmentation Summer/Fall



River

Wetland  
recharge  
basin



# South Platte River Ranch

## Property Description

- Riparian Corridor
- Warm-water sloughs
- Dryland Crops
- Native Prairie
- **NO WATER RIGHTS!**



# South Platte River Ranch

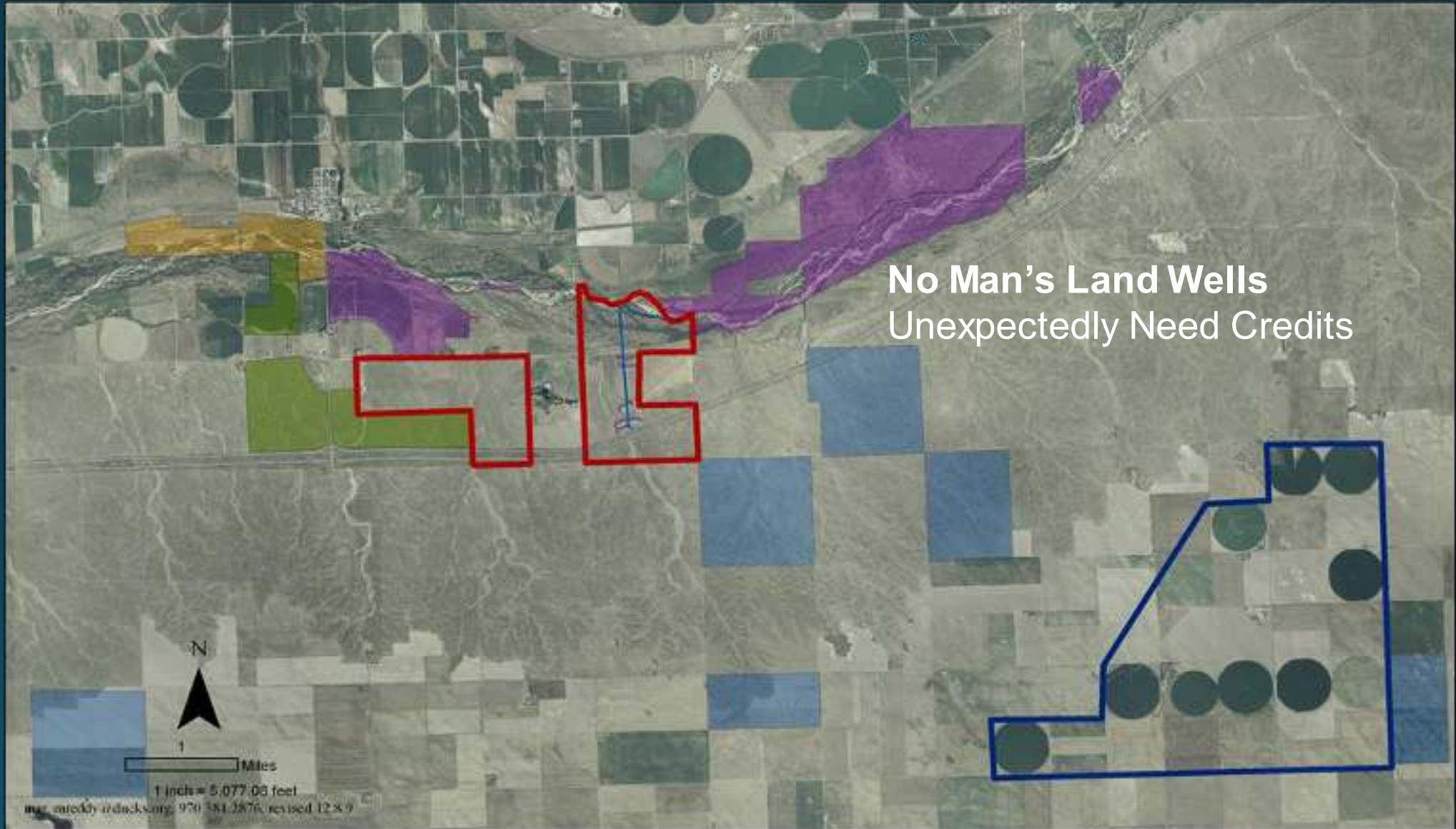
## Project Summary

- NEW WATER RIGHTS
- 40 Acres of Wetlands
- 1.5 Miles Pipeline
- 3,000 GPM Pump
- 70 acre-feet minimum river flows

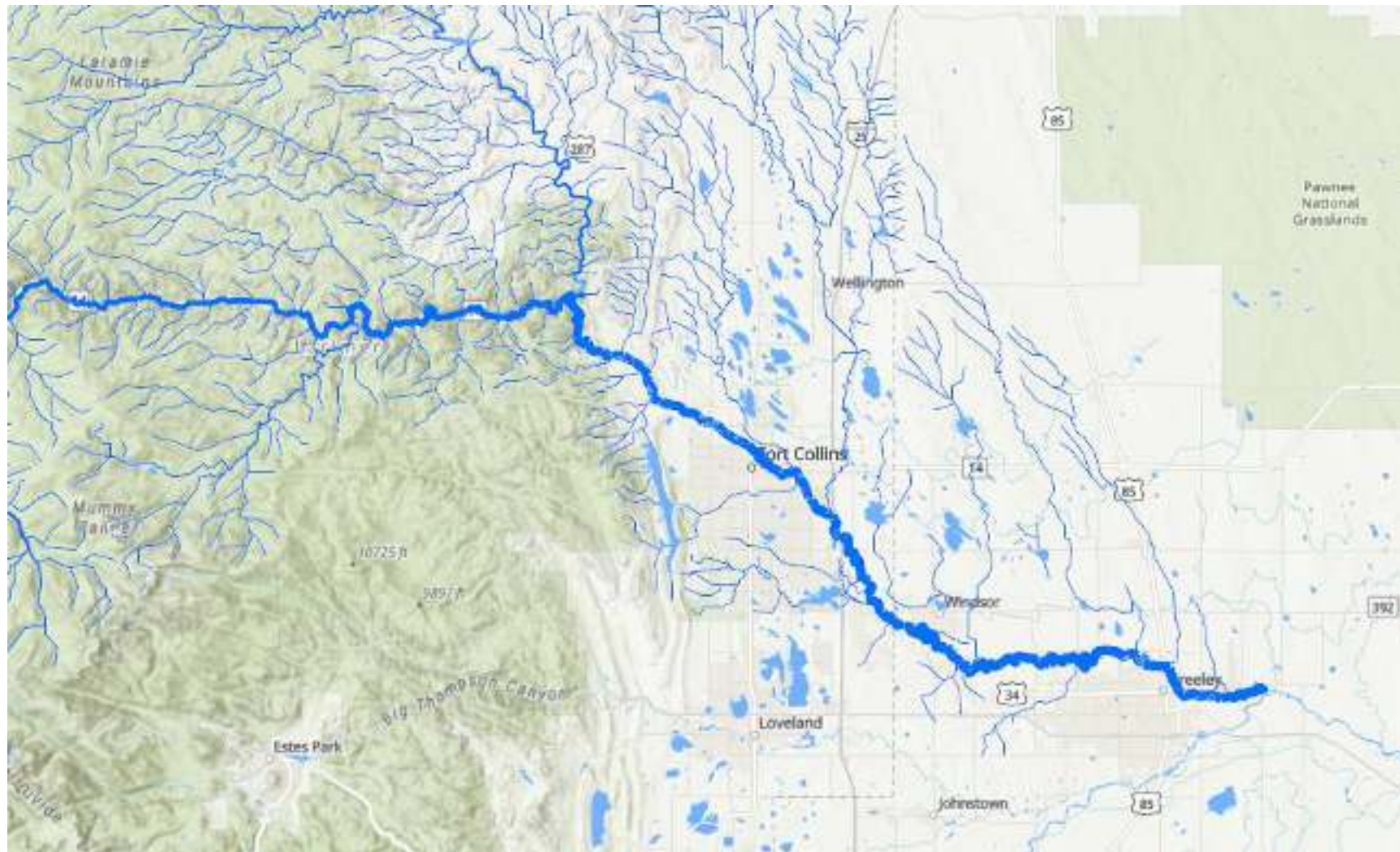




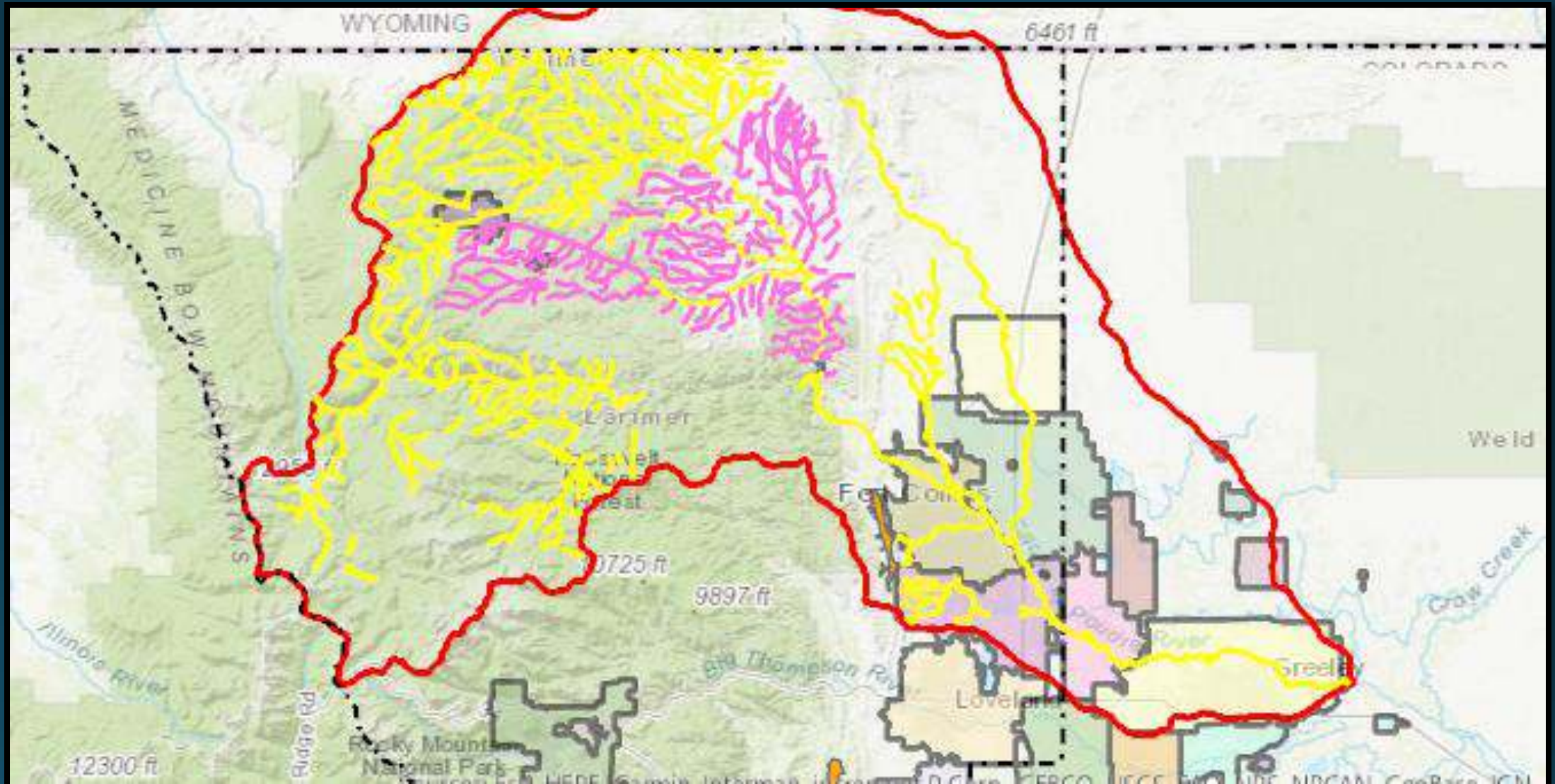
# South Platte River Ranch



# Poudre River Watershed



# Poudre River Watershed Impaired Waters

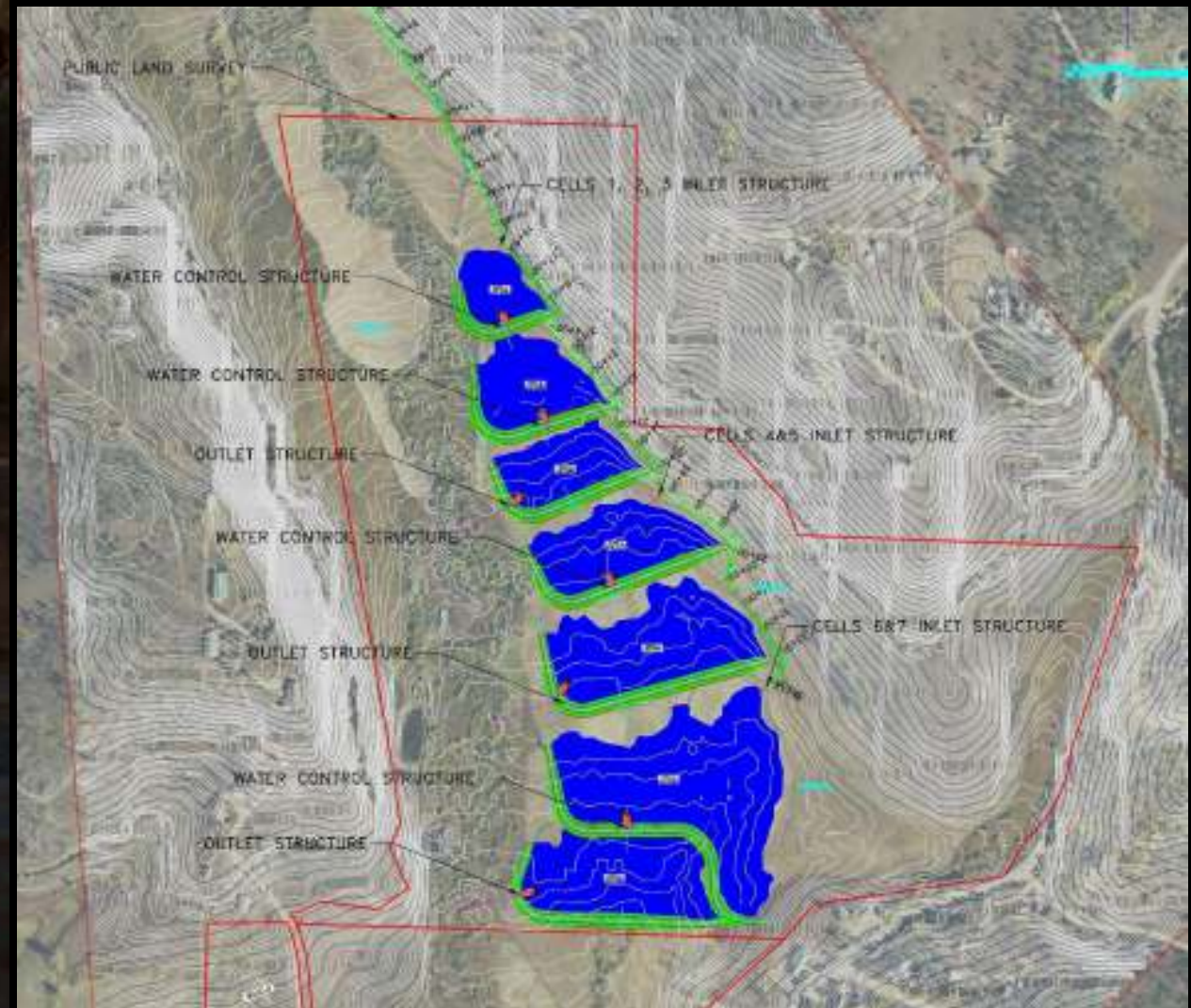


# Wetlands Improve Water Quality

- Remove Phosphorus by 39-44%
- Remove Nitrogen by 17-29%
- Remove Selenium by 55-83%
- E.Coli – 90%
- Temperature -  $<6^{\circ}$

## Processes

- Sedimentation
- Aerobic Microbes
- Anaerobic Microbes
- Vegetation



# Conservation is:

- Science
- Habitat
- Hunting





*HUNTING IS CONSERVATION*

IT'S THAT SIMPLE

Thank You!



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