

State Trust Land Stewardship for Current and Future Generations

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An innovative land trust funding Colorado schools since 1876.



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STEWARDSHIP: an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources.

DEFINITION



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Sound stewardship today.
Sustainable revenue tomorrow.



Lake Gulch, Douglas County

Duty to manage state trust lands..
...~~in a manner that will secure the~~
~~maximum possible amount~~
...in order to produce reasonable and
consistent income over time [and]
Protect and enhance the long-term
productivity and sound stewardship of
state trust lands

OUR MISSION: the State Land Board manages an endowment of assets held in perpetual, intergenerational public trusts for the **financial support** of Colorado's **public schools** and other public institutions.

Generate
reasonable and consistent
income over time.

Protect and enhance the
long-term productivity
and **sound stewardship**
of working trust lands.

MISSION - TODAY



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Stewardship Tools

1. Stewardship Trust
2. Colorado Natural Areas Program
3. Asset Management Plans
4. Stewardship Action Plans
5. Lease Stipulations
6. Biodiversity program / projects
7. Regenerative Agriculture

1977 – forward: Pre-Amendment 16

47 years and counting

- Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP)
- Long-term non-development leases

1996 – forward: Stewardship Trust Focus (Post Amendment 16)

28 years and counting



- Stewardship Trust
- ‘Reasonable and consistent revenue’ applied to all state trust lands
- Lease stipulations for O&G and solid minerals

2011 - forward: Stewardship of All State Trust Lands

13 years and counting



- First full-time stewardship position (Conservation Services Manager)
- Agency Strategic Plan
- Asset Management Plans (AMPs)
- Stewardship Action Plans (SAPs)
- Holistic/Regenerative grazing lease provisions

2017 - forward: Integration of Stewardship Tools & Internal Operations

7 years and counting

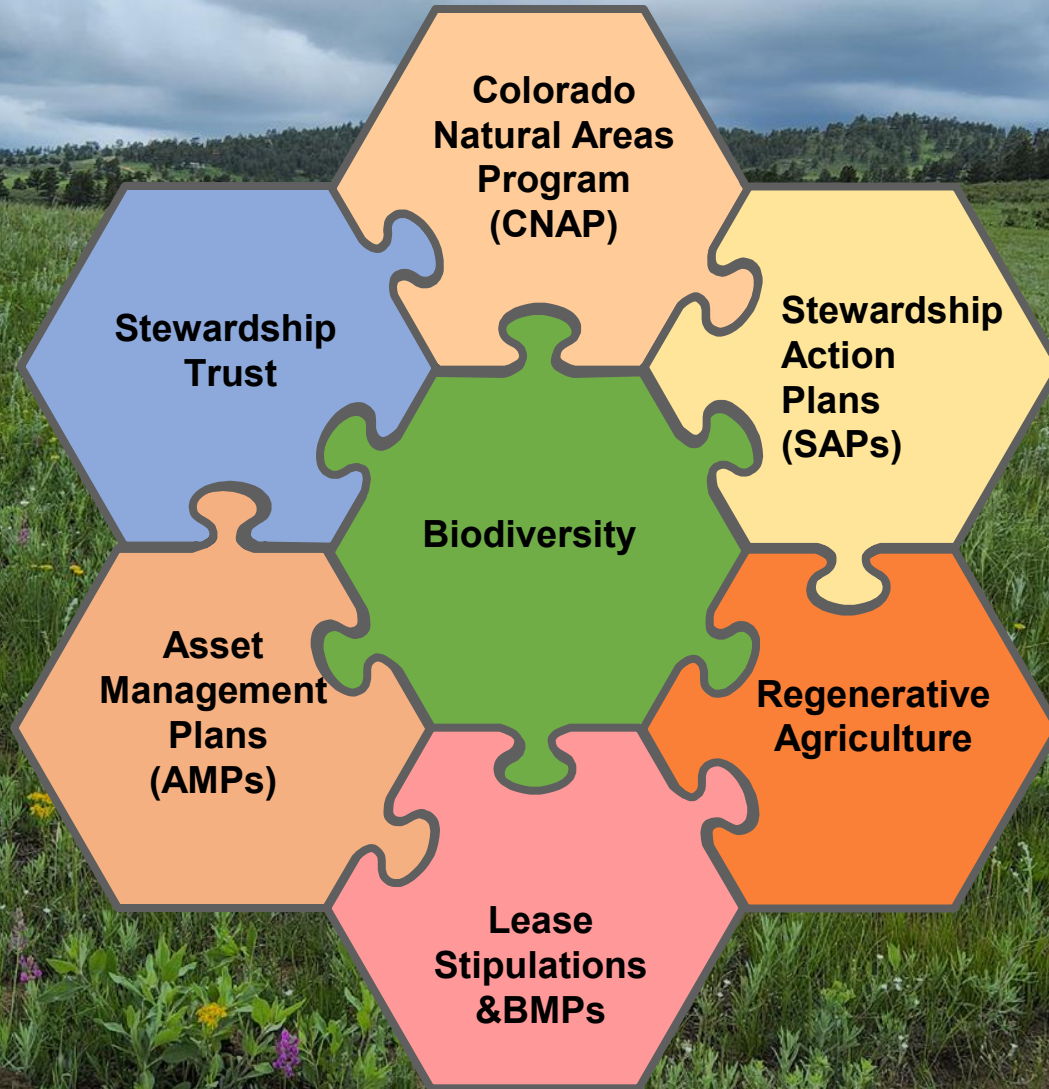
- Agency and Business Plan Goals
- Employee IPOs
- Stewardship Trust Management Plans
- Best management practices (BMPs)
- Communications and Outreach
- Stewardship Trust Manager position
- Biodiversity Manager position
- Regenerative Grazing Manager position

HISTORY OF STEWARDSHIP



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Stewardship Tools





Acres subject to stewardship tools: **1,800,000**

CNAP
32,345 ac

Stewardship Trust
29,677 ac

Stewardship Action Plans
~ 470,000 acres

Asset
Management
Plans
~ 350,000 acres

Land
Stipulations
~ 450,000 acres

Regenerative
Agriculture
~ 200,000 acres

LAND BASED STEWARDSHIP TOOLS



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Stewarding Colorado Trust Lands for Generations

20
24

A Report from the Colorado State Land Board
on Stewardship Programs and Activities



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*An innovative land trust funding
Colorado schools since 1876*

Stewardship Tools

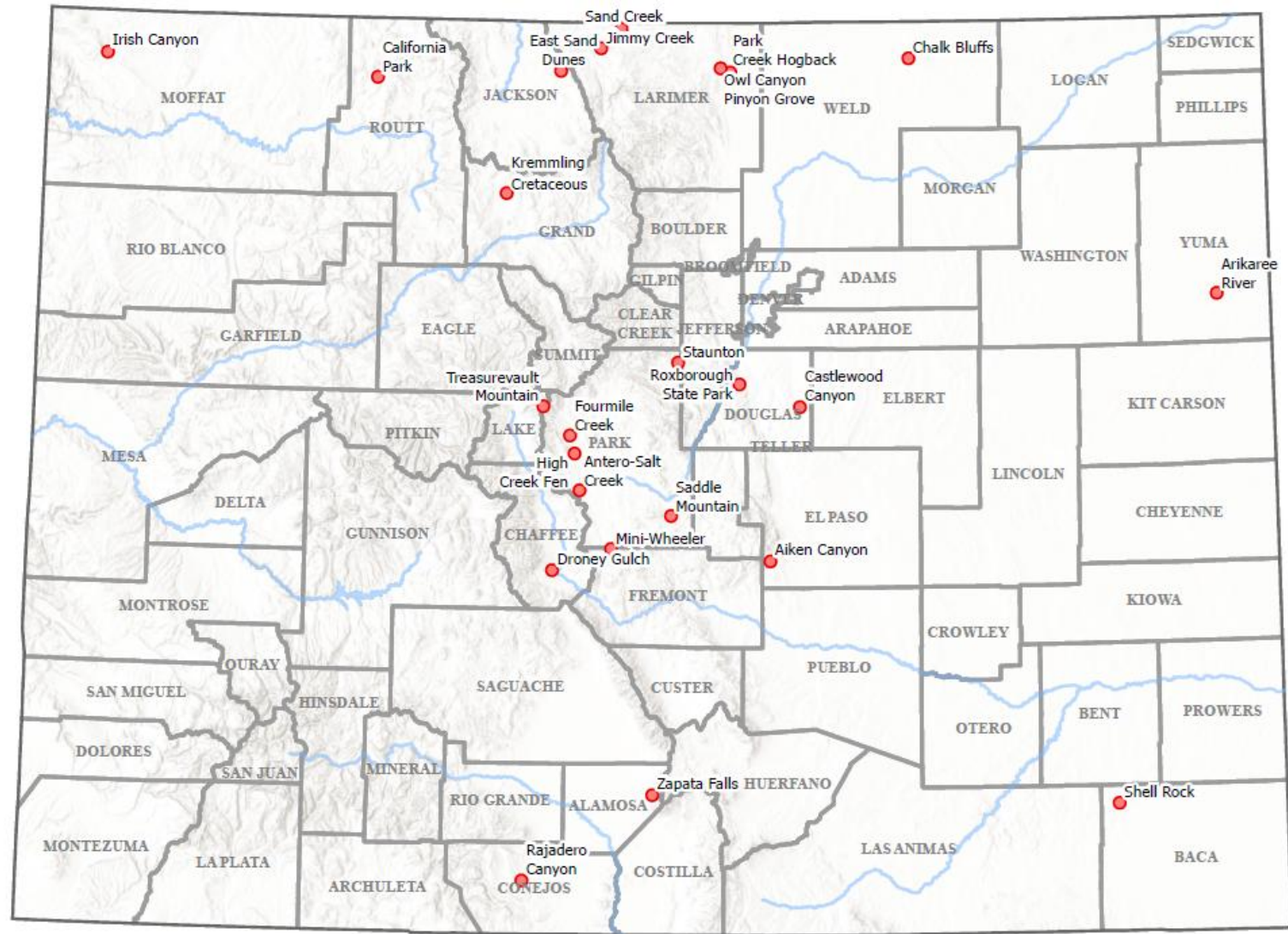
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Colorado Natural Areas Program



East Sand Dunes, Jackson County

Natural Areas on State Trust Land

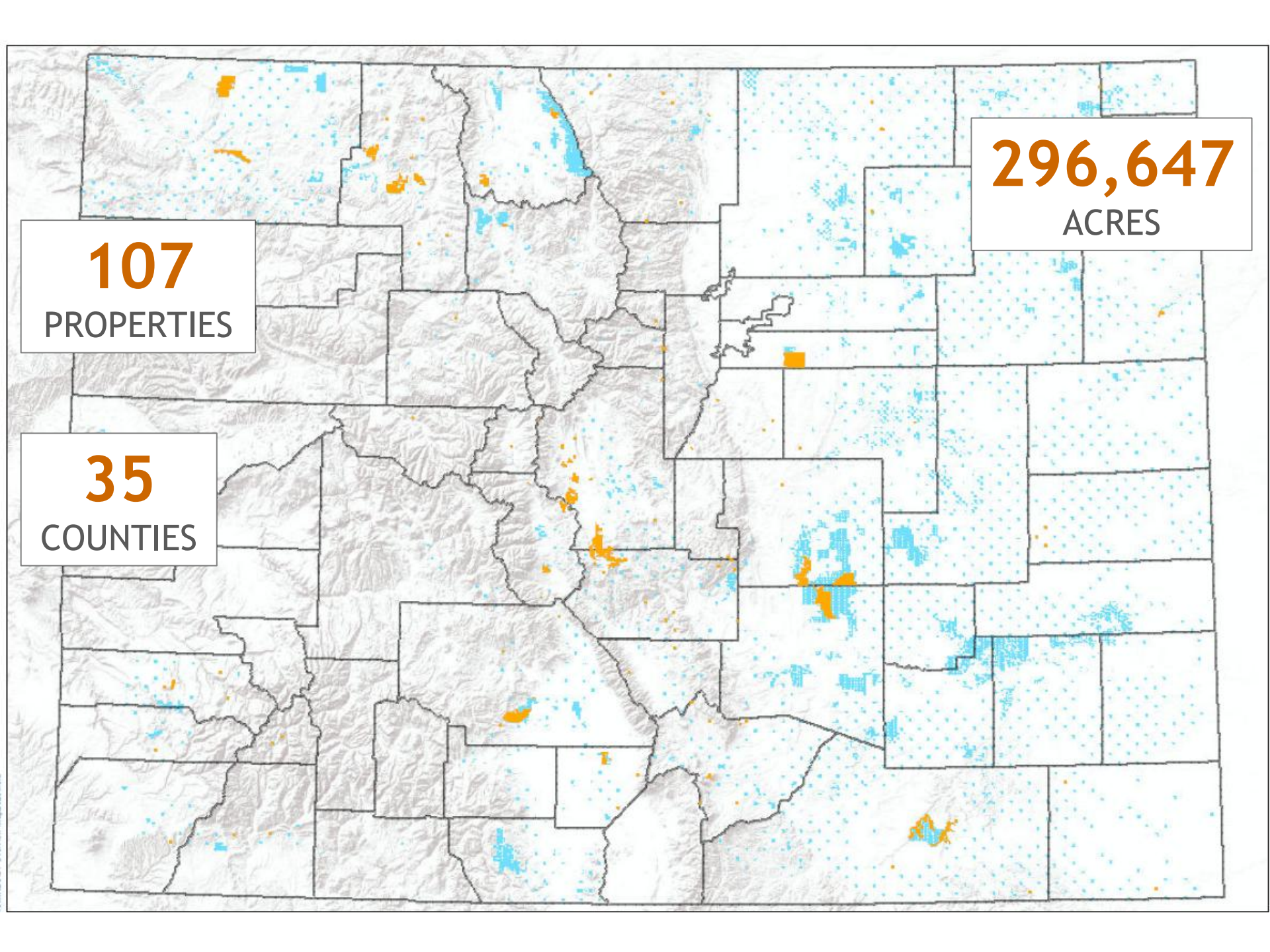


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Stewardship Trust

- Special management program
- Uses must protect and enhance 'Natural Values'
- Size limited

- 
- Rare Plants
 - Wildlife
 - Beauty
 - Open Space
 - Cultural & Geologic
 - Hydrology (wetlands-riparian)
 - Potential Conservation Areas



A map of a mountainous region, likely in the western United States, showing land parcels. The map is overlaid with a grid of black lines representing county boundaries. The terrain is depicted with a grayscale shaded relief effect, showing mountain ranges and valleys. Numerous small, irregularly shaped parcels are scattered across the map, colored in orange and light blue. The orange parcels are more concentrated in the central and western parts of the map, while the light blue parcels are more prevalent in the eastern and southern parts. Three white rectangular boxes with black borders are overlaid on the map, containing text about the number of properties, counties, and acres.

107
PROPERTIES

35
COUNTIES

296,647
ACRES

Stewardship Action Plans

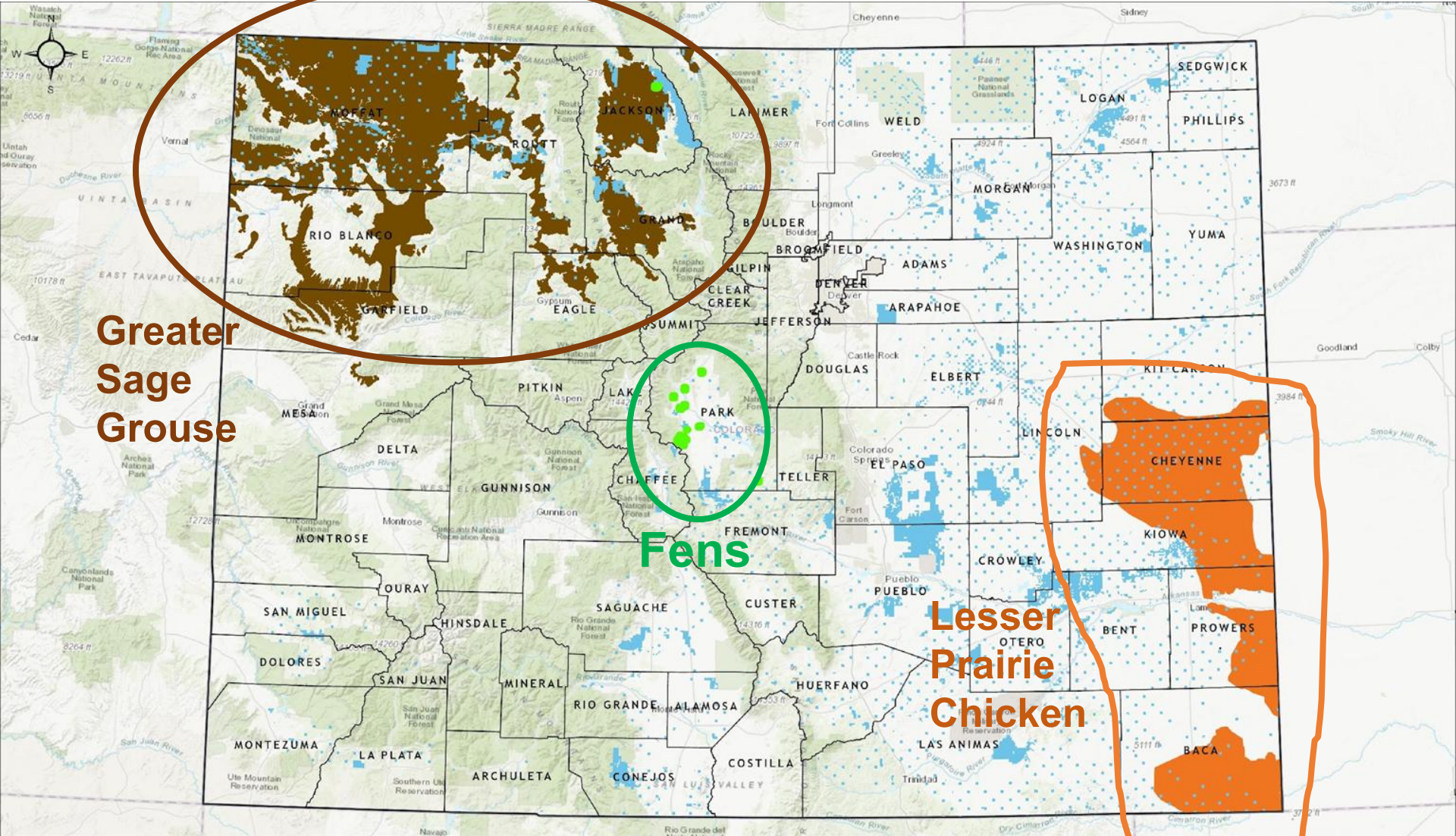
Lesser Prairie Chickens



Greater Sage Grouse



- Landscape-scale management plan
- Targeted species or ecosystem
- Board leasing strategies and BMPs



**Greater
Sage
Grouse**

Fens

**Lesser
Prairie
Chicken**

- Fens SAP
- LPC SAP
- GRSG SAP
- SLB
- Surface Ownership

Stewardship Action Plan Areas



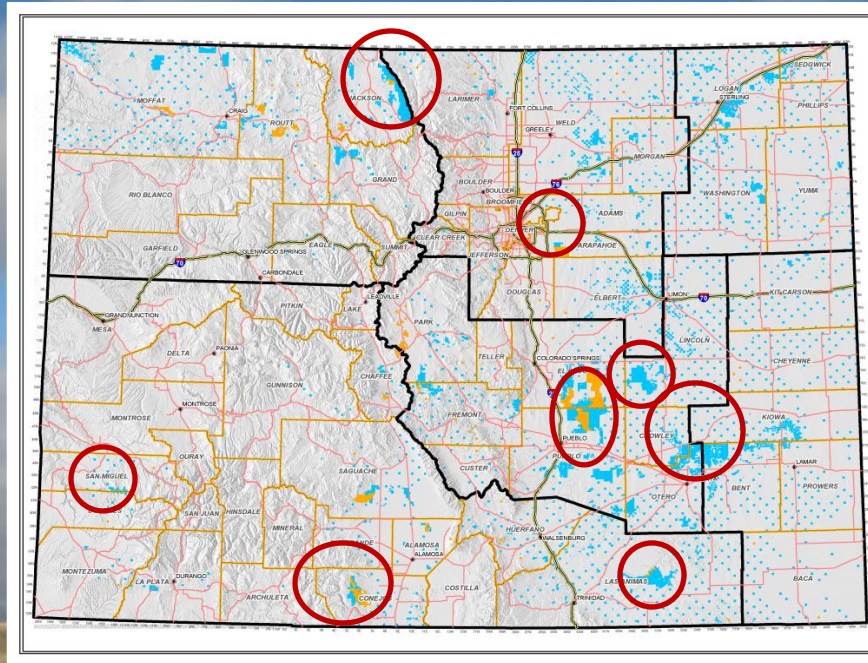
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STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLANS



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Asset Management Plans



- Large Properties over 25,000 acres
- Identify resources, stewardship, and revenue opportunities
- Set goals, objectives, and strategies

Lowry Ranch, Arapahoe County

- 
- Rare Plants & Communities
 - Wildlife
 - Wetlands and Riparian Resources
 - Cultural Resources

LEASE REVIEWS & STIPULATIONS



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Biodiversity Program



San Luis Lakes SWA, Alamosa Co

- 
- A close-up photograph of a small butterfly with green and brown wings perched on a cluster of yellow flowers. The butterfly is positioned in the upper center of the frame, facing right. The flowers are bright yellow and have a four-petaled structure. The background is a blurred, light-colored rocky surface.
- Key habitats and “hotspots”
 - Partnerships
 - Enhancement projects

Photo Credit: Carol English

*Wildlands Restoration Volunteers building
erosion control structures on Lowry Ranch*



ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS



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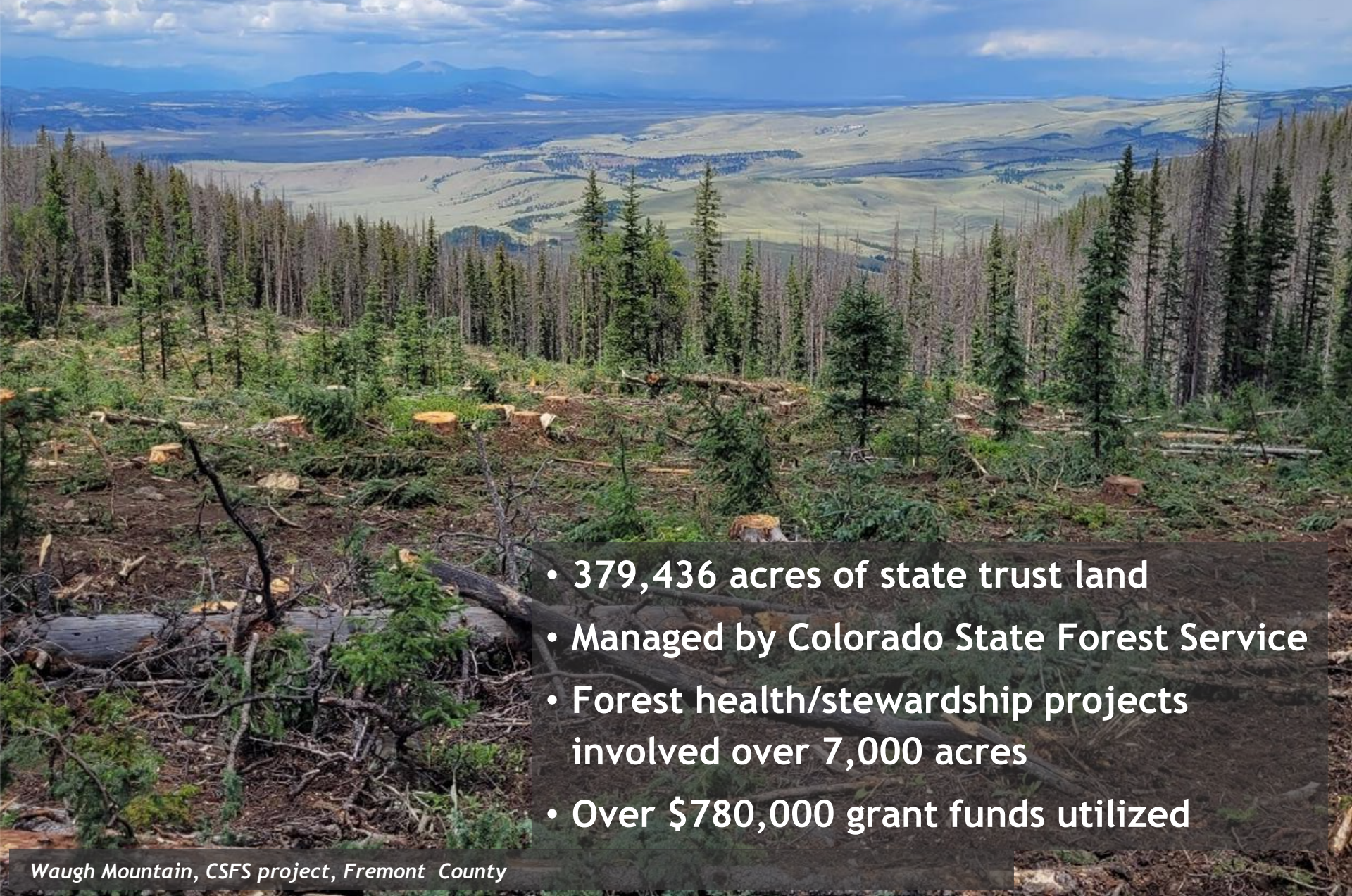


Photo Credit: CPW - CNAP

RESEARCH & SURVEYS



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- 379,436 acres of state trust land
- Managed by Colorado State Forest Service
- Forest health/stewardship projects involved over 7,000 acres
- Over \$780,000 grant funds utilized

Waugh Mountain, CSFS project, Fremont County

FOREST STEWARDSHIP



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Regenerative Agriculture Management



FY 2025 Goals

Hire a Regenerative Agriculture Manager to promote sustainable and regenerative management practices for grazing and crop production that improve the water cycle, increase biodiversity, maintain and improve soil fertility, increase the use of biological controls, and reduce the use of harmful chemicals.

Regenerative Mng.



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MISSION - TODAY



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Managing agriculture lands with a focus on healthy soils and healthier ecosystems

Regenerative Mng.



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5 Regenerative Principles

Minimize Soil Disturbance

Maximize Plant Diversity

Keep Soil Covered

Maintain living Root Year Around

Integrate Livestock

Regenerative Mng.



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1. Promote Regen. Management to Lessees
2. Co-Administrator of Bio Carbon Program
3. Lessee Educational Program
4. RFP's

Regenerative Mng.



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1. Promote Regen. Mng. to Lessees

- a. Voluntary Basis
- b. One on one
- c. Collaboration
- d. Lessee Educational Events
- e. Implementation

Regenerative Mng.



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2. Bio Carbon Policy

Regenerative Mng.



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3. Lessee Educational Program

4 one day presentations Annually

1 multi day seminar Annually



Lowry Ranch, Arapahoe County

Regenerative Mng.



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4. RFP

Request for Proposal

Large Ranches emphasis on Regenerative Management

Regenerative Mng.



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Regenerative Grazing

1. Higher Stock Densities
2. Shorter Duration Graze
3. Long periods of recovery
4. Staggered seasonality
 - a. Improves
 - i. Plant Diversity
 - ii. Water Cycle
 - iii. Carbon Cycle
 - iv. Drought Resilience
 - Quantifiable

Healthy Soil & Healthy Ecosystems

Regenerative Mng.



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Regenerative Farming

Minimize Tillage

Maximize Plant Diversity

Keep Soil Covered

Living Root Year Around

Integrate Livestock

Minimize Chemicals

Regenerative Mng.



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**Healthier Soil, Healthier Ecosystems,
Healthier Livestock, Higher Revenues,
Longevity of Working Lands**





Questions/Comments



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- Two annual agriculture education forums led by experts
 - ~ 130 lessees and/or guests attend the all-day lectures.
- Three-day adaptive grazing seminars held in the summer.

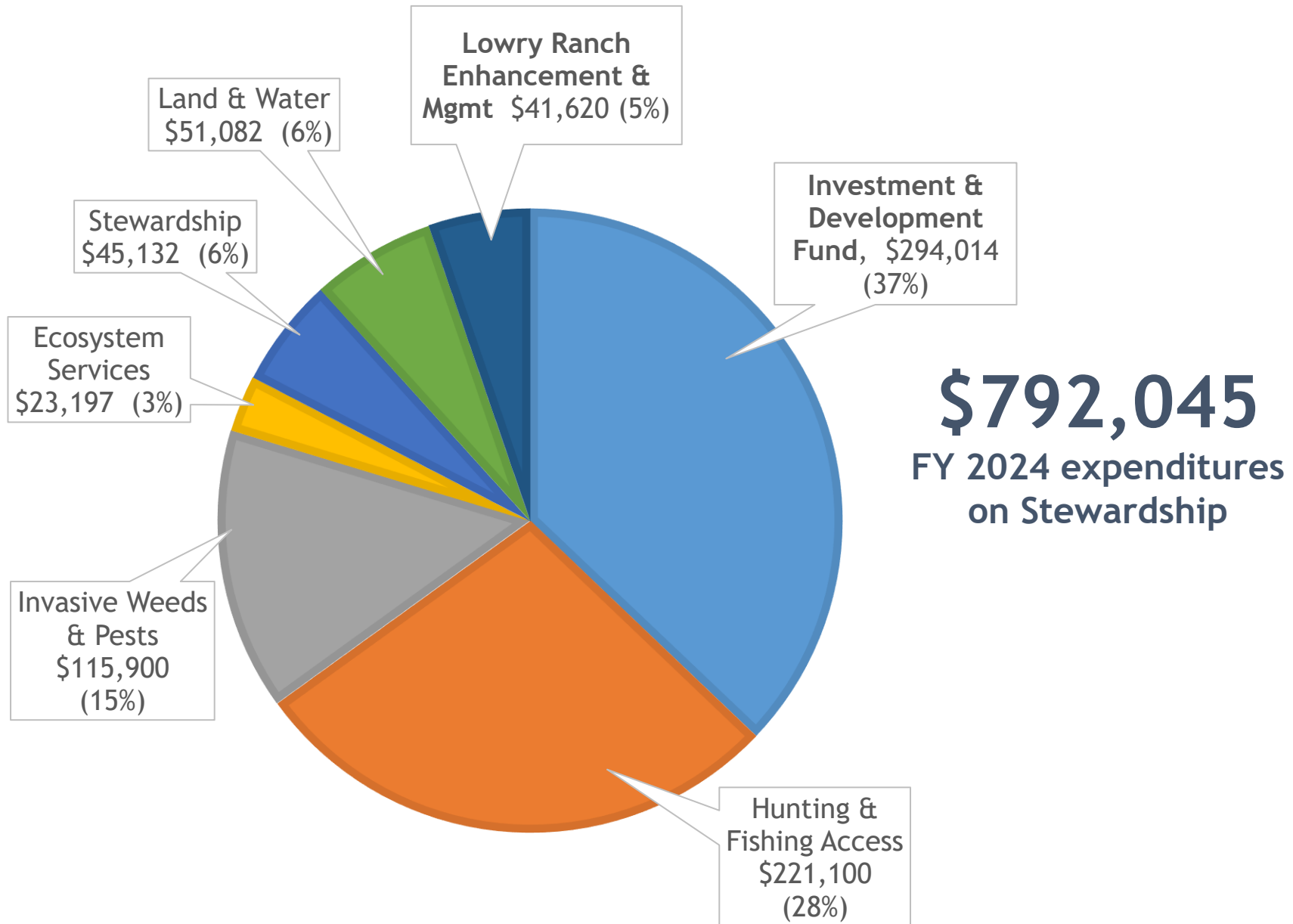


Lowry Ranch, Arapahoe County

REGENERATIVE GRAZING



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FUNDING STEWARDSHIP



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*View from Sultan Peak Stewardship Trust,
San Juan County*

1,852 STAFF INSPECTIONS



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