

RWR Environmental Impacts to Privately Conserved Lands



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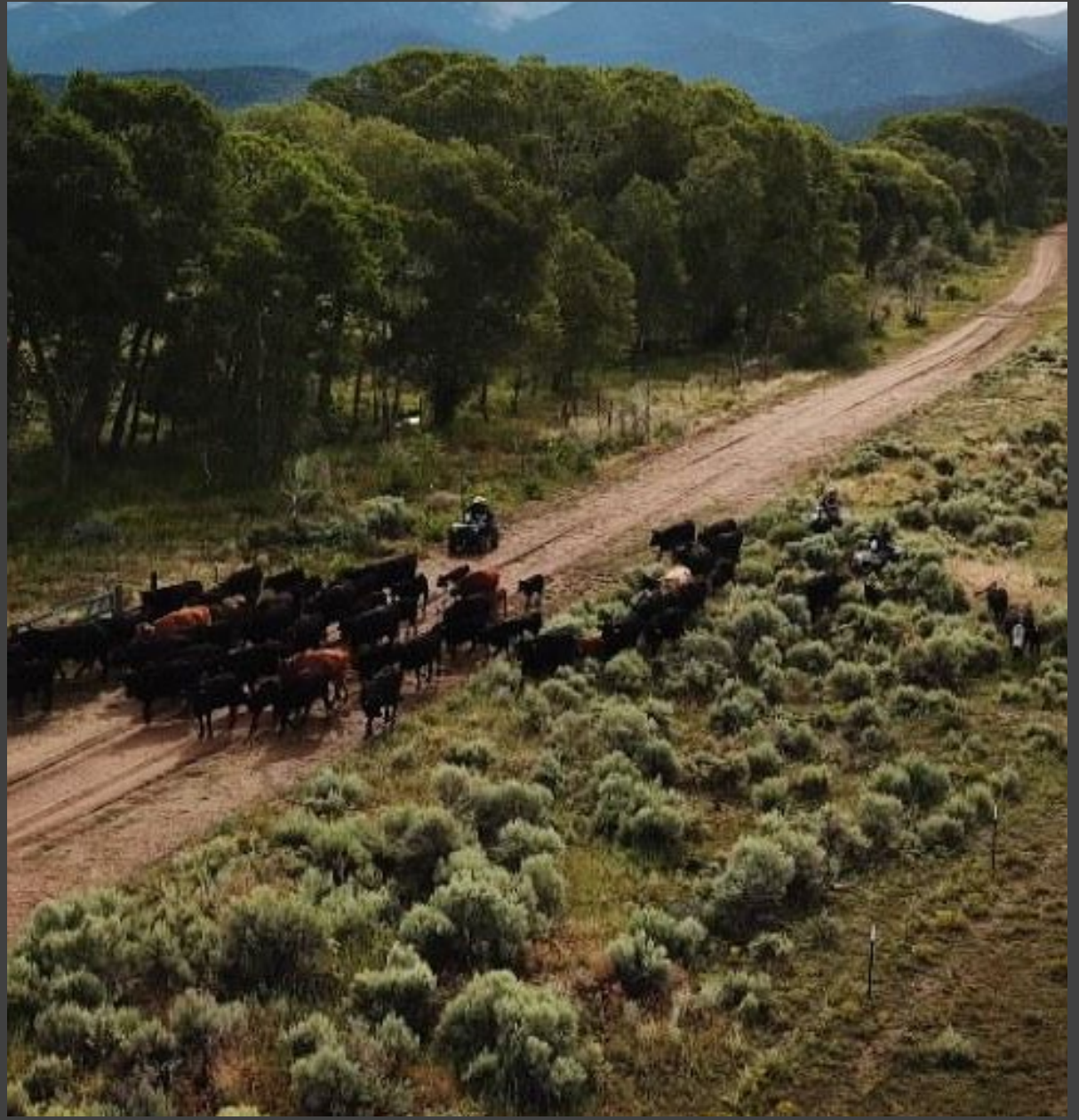
Conservation Easements have long recognized that water rights support numerous public benefits

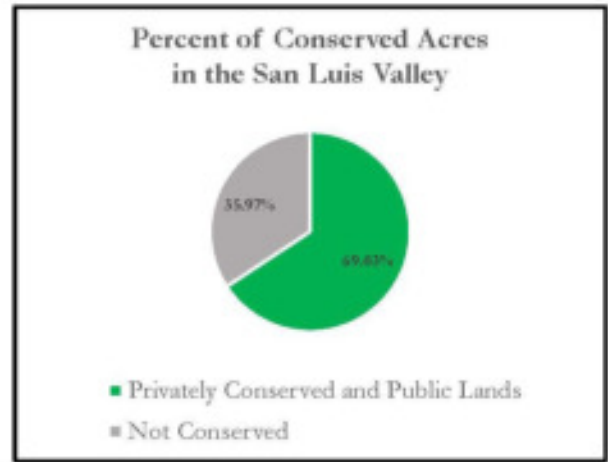
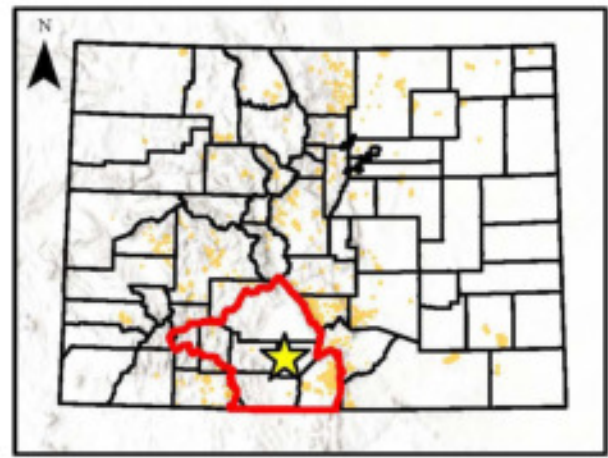
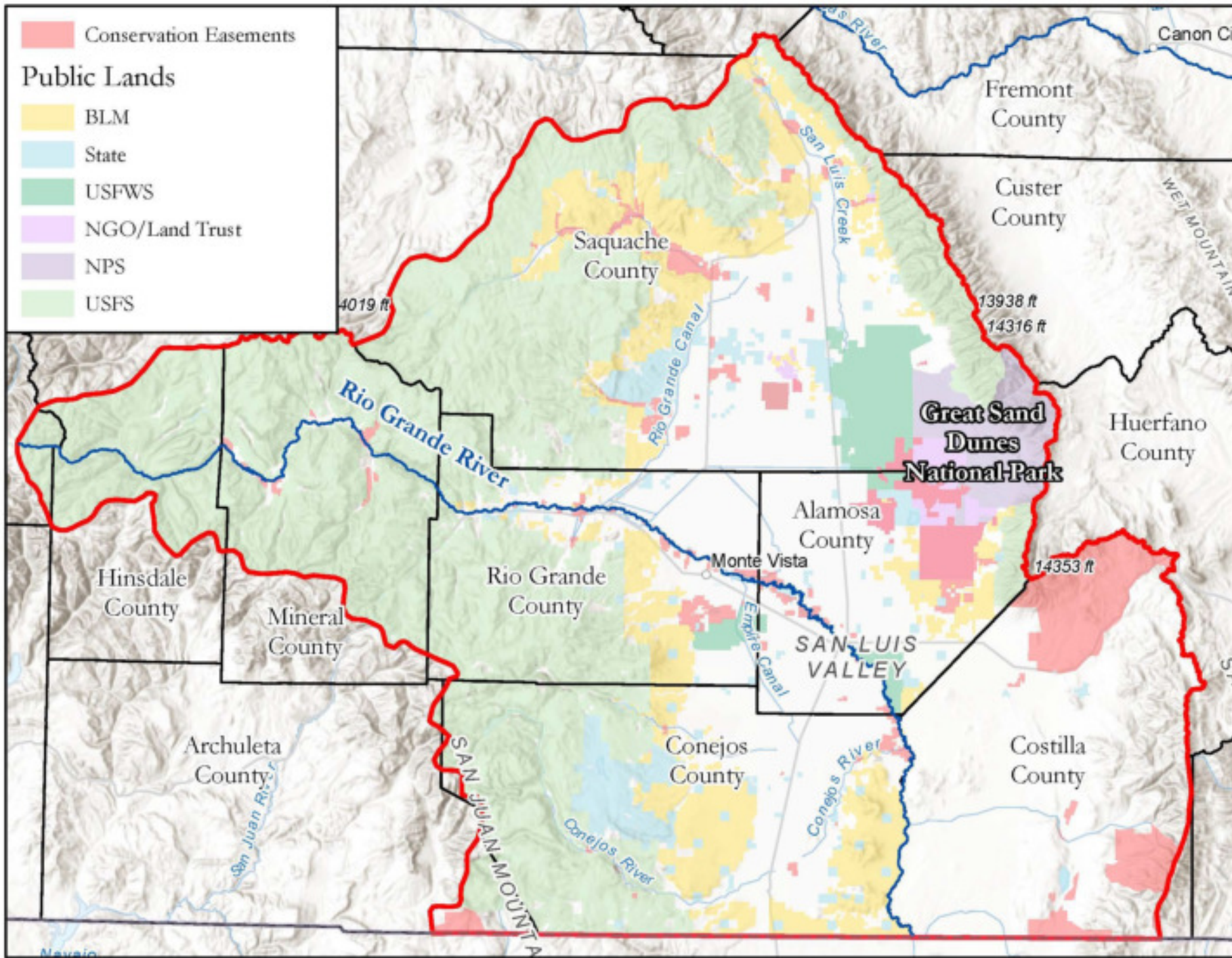
- Wildlife Habitat
- Ecosystem Function
- Food Production
- Rural Economy and Heritage

Traditional restrictions said that water rights cannot be leased or sold (must continue historic use).









Total Number of Conservation Easements (CEs)	208
Total Number of Acres Conserved through CEs	354,879.98
Total Number of Acres Conserved through CEs & Public Lands	5,635,571.82



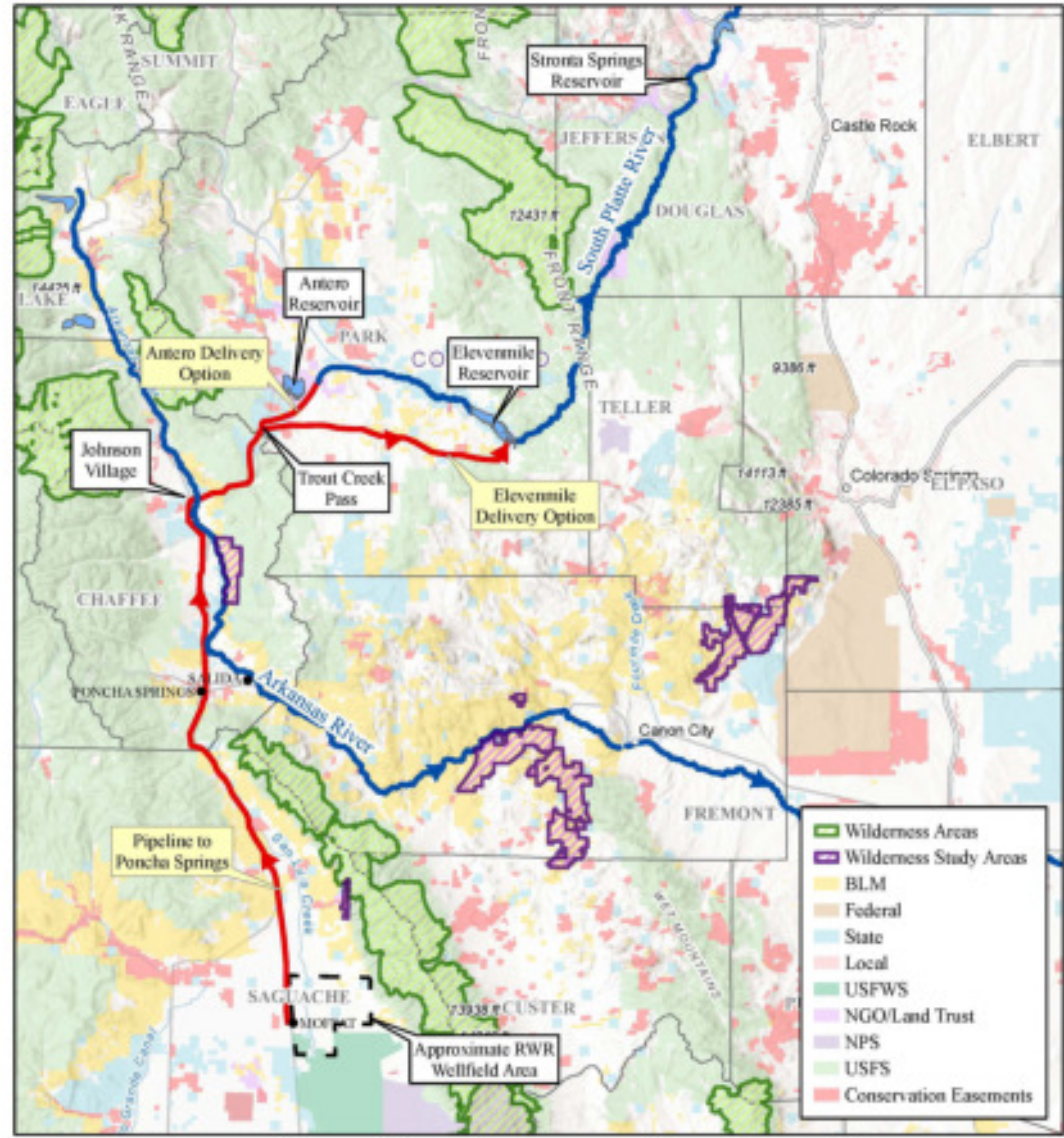
When a land trust completes a conservation easement with a landowner, it promises to defend the conservation values of that land and water in perpetuity.

Encumbering water rights in a conservation easement gives the holder standing in water court to oppose any changes that could injure those water rights.



Renewable Water Resources Proposal

Impacted Public and Conserved Lands



Preparer: Colorado Open Lands
Date: 02/22/2022
Data Sources: Colorado Ownership, Management and Protection Service (2021), Wilderness Areas - US Geological Survey (2021), Wilderness Study Areas - U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM (2018)
This map is not a survey and should not be construed as one.

Local Solutions for Aquifer Recovery: Groundwater Conservation Easements

- Focus on limiting groundwater pumping; recovery of aquifer is public benefit
- Percent reduction in pumping is permanent, but farm can stay in business
- Farmer/rancher is compensated loss of farm/ranch value
- Property is also protected for wildlife habitat





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