

Biodiversity Conservation on Private and Communal Lands

Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands



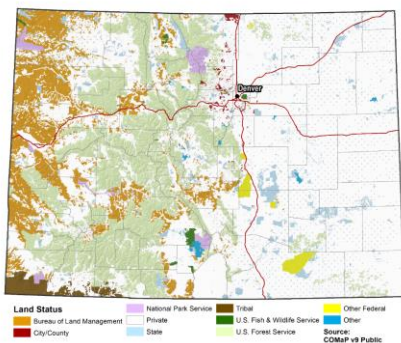
Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Ecologist
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
www.cnhp.colostate.edu



Outline

- Wildlife seldom respect political boundaries
- Scale matters:
 - Some species require very little space while others require large landscapes
- Patchwork ownership offers opportunities for private-public partnerships
- Examples of private/public conservation partnerships
 - SE Colorado
 - Gunnison County

Colorado's Ownership Pattern

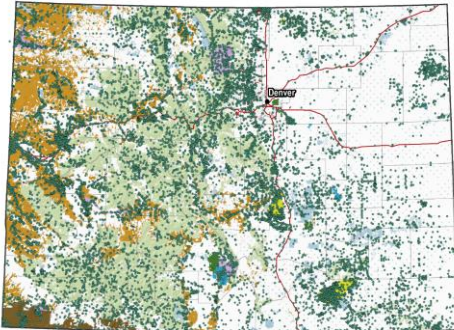


The Need for Private/Public Partnerships

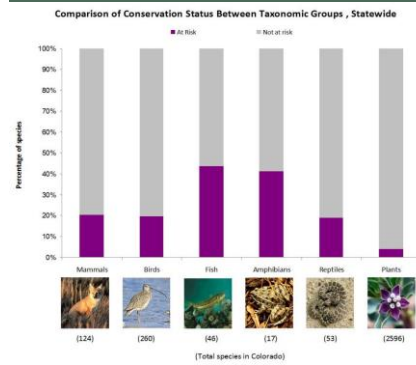
- Most of Colorado's privately-owned natural acres are working ranches
- Often with public lands nearby
- CNHP has documented thousands of occurrences of imperiled species and ecosystems on private lands.
- Our Statewide analysis supports the need for additional private/public partnerships



Colorado's Ownership Pattern and Imperiled Species and Communities



At risk species in Colorado



- All of Colorado's taxonomic groups have species that are declining or at risk of declining.
- Most would benefit from a private/public partnership

When Designing Conservation Projects, Scale Matters

Aletes humilis (Larimer aletes) – G2G3 S2S3



Range



It is often much easier to achieve conservation success when a species occupies a relatively small area

Scale Matters

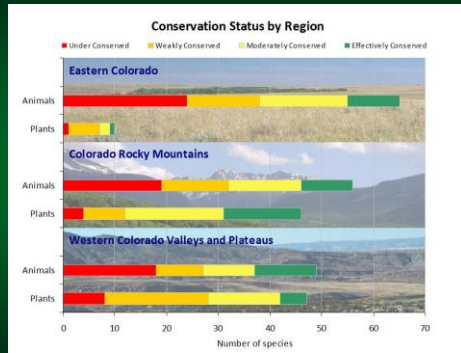
Gunnison Sage-grouse
(*Centrocercus minimus*)



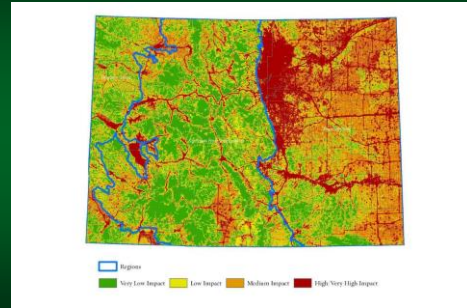
- Scattered populations occur on a matrix of private and public lands that occupy over 600,000 acres
- The key to successful conservation action includes numerous private/public partnerships over 5 counties
- Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances, Conservation Easements, and habitat restoration are helping



Where Should We Work?

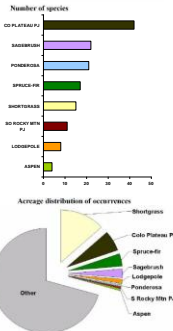
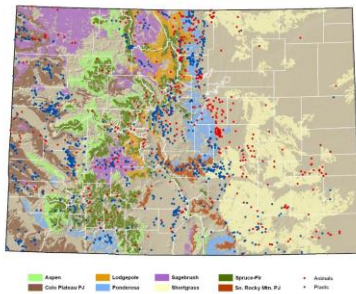


Terrestrial Impact Indicators Estimating landscape integrity



Matrix ecological systems and imperiled species in Colorado

Includes 124 species ranked GHG2 or T1T2



Gunnison Basin Private/Public Partnership

- **Need:**
 - Gunnison Sage Grouse require functioning wet meadows for raising chicks
- **Problem:**
 - Many of the wet meadows are degraded and in need of restoration
 - Climate change exasperates the problem
 - Ownership of meadows are approx. 40% public, 60% private

Gunnison Basin Completes Third Year Of Public/Private Partnership Restoration

BLM, USFS, TNC, CNHP, CPW, NRCS,
Private Ranches work together

One year after the structure is built
Gunnison Sage Grouse are utilizing
the wetter meadow



Our goal is to restore
over 100 miles of wet
meadows over the next
10 years.

The Key to Conserving Colorado's Biodiversity

- The greatest conservation opportunities and successes revolve around developing private/public partnerships and using best available science to plan for the future.



Thanks!



Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Ecologist
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado State University
(970) 491-0814
Jeremy.Sueltenfuss@colostate.edu
www.cnhp.colostate.edu