Workshop: The Next Ten Years of Conservation
Carrie Bennett
1:25-4:00

Introduction: Vanessa Mazal, DNR

30x30 Targets:

Planning for the Next Decade of Conservation

Vanessa Mazal
Policy Advisor, Federal Affairs
Colorado Department of Natural resources
vanessa.maza@state.co.us

30x30: "A Global Deal for Nature"

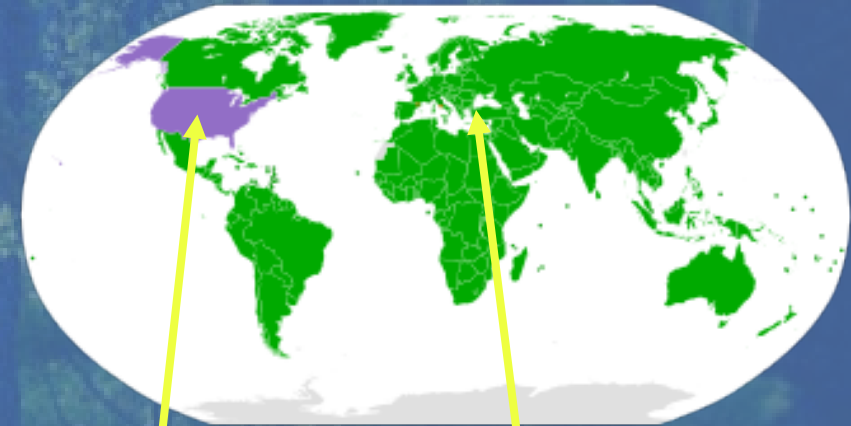## Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Global Deal for Nature)

- **Conserve 30% of the Earth's Lands, Oceans and Inland Waters by 2030 ("30x30")**

- **Key milestone toward 50% by 2050**

Goals

1. **Safeguard genetic diversity**

2. **Restore ecosystem functionality**

3. **Promote equitable benefits**

4. **Improve implementation capacity**

Convention on Biological Diversity

30x30: "A Global Deal for Nature"

2010-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity ("Aichi Targets")

Aichi Target 11: By 2020…

- 17% terrestrial and inland water areas

- 10% Coastal and Marine Areas

  - "Especially areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services conserved through effectively, equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes."

30x30: "A Global Deal for Nature"

Pitfalls of Area-based Conservation:

- **What counts?:** Divergent interpretations of which conservation tools and designations qualify as adding up to area-based target?

- **"Protected area bias":** Tendency of governments to protect lands, resources with lower opportunity (notwithstanding conservation value)

- **Outcomes:** When/where can land area-based conservation targets (i.e. 30%) serve as appropriate proxies for climate, biodiversity and ecological system indicators?

- **Nested scales:** How should countries and jurisdictions tasked with implementation understand their "share" of a global target?

America the Beautiful (ATB) Initiative

January, 2021 - Biden E.O. 14008

Directs fed agencies to "conserve or restore 30% of the nation's lands and waters by 2030"

- **Aligns with global 30x30 commitments (92 countries)**

- **Supportive state, local initiatives (CA, NM, ME, HI)**

May, 2021 - *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Report*

- *American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas*

- **Preliminary "opportunity areas":**

  - Reward voluntary conservation;

  - Expand outdoor access

  - Invest in restoration/resilience workforce

  - Create parks in underserved communities,

  - Supporting tribal efforts

  - Expanding collaborative F&W conservation

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May, 2021 - *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Report*

- Called for creation of American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas

- **Preliminary "opportunity areas":**
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  - investing in restoration and
  - resilience workforce
  - creating parks in underserved communities,
  - supporting tribal efforts; expanding collaborative F&W conservation

American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas

1. *Science and Data:* Data sources, standards, technical approaches

2. *Outcomes:* How to capture contributions to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and resilience, and equitable access to nature and its benefits?

3. *Conservation Continuum:* How to reflect the meaningful conservation work already underway in America? (i.e., how/what to measure)

4. *Collaboration:* How to partner with Tribes, states, local governments?

Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks

USGS Gap Analysis Project (PAD-US)

1 - Most durable, natural processes dominate
- Wilderness, National Parks, private "nature reserves"

2 - Less durable, managed for conservation
- National monuments, local natural areas, cons. easements

3 - Less durable, multi-use
- ACECs, Roadless Areas, WSAs, Open Space
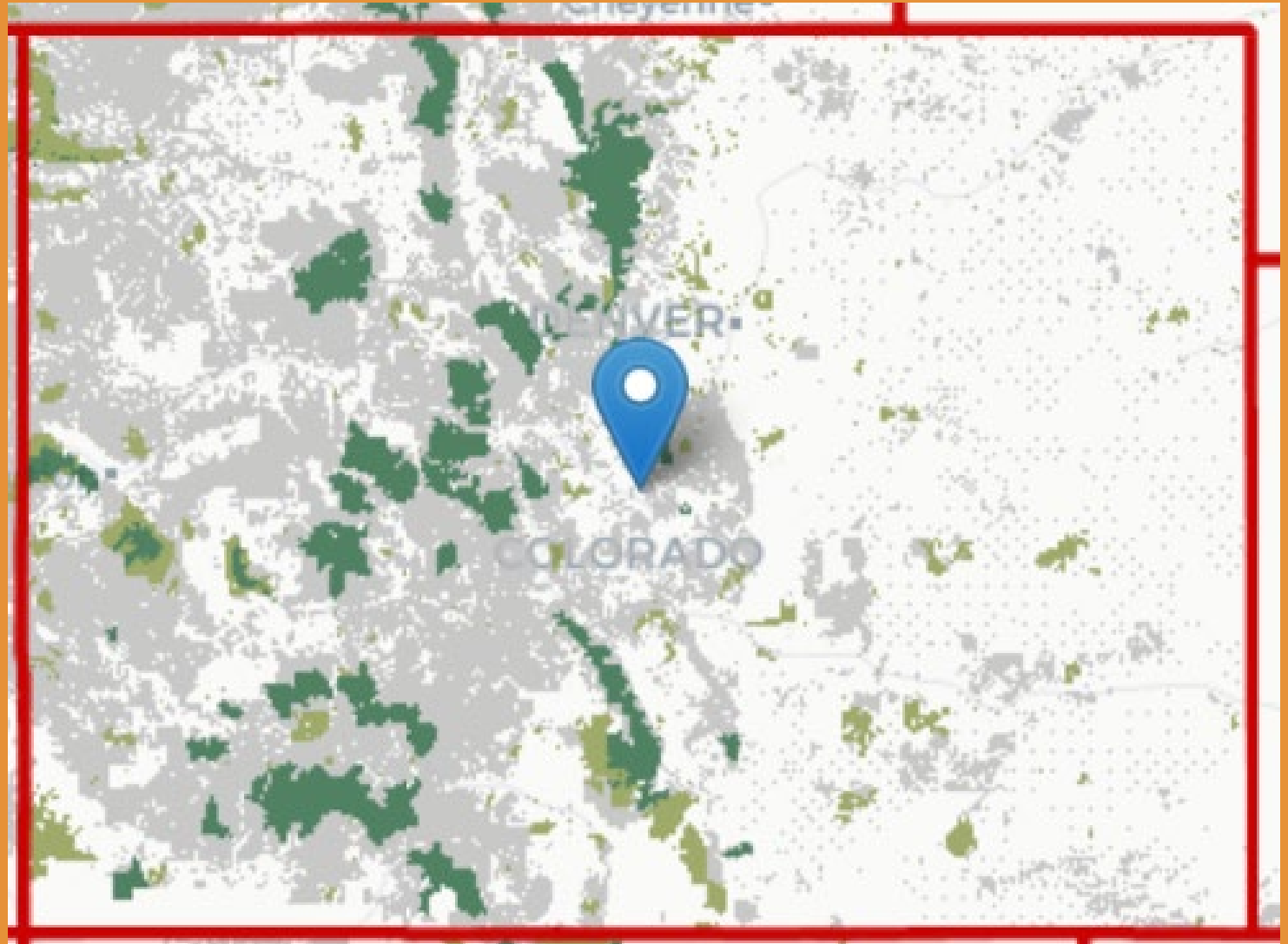
4 - No known protections

Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks

GAP Lands in Colorado

1 - Biodiversity Protection (natural disturbance permitted)
2 - Biodiversity Protection (natural disturbance suppressed)
3 - Multiple Use (extraction permitted)
4 No Known Mandate for Protection

(~11% "Protected")

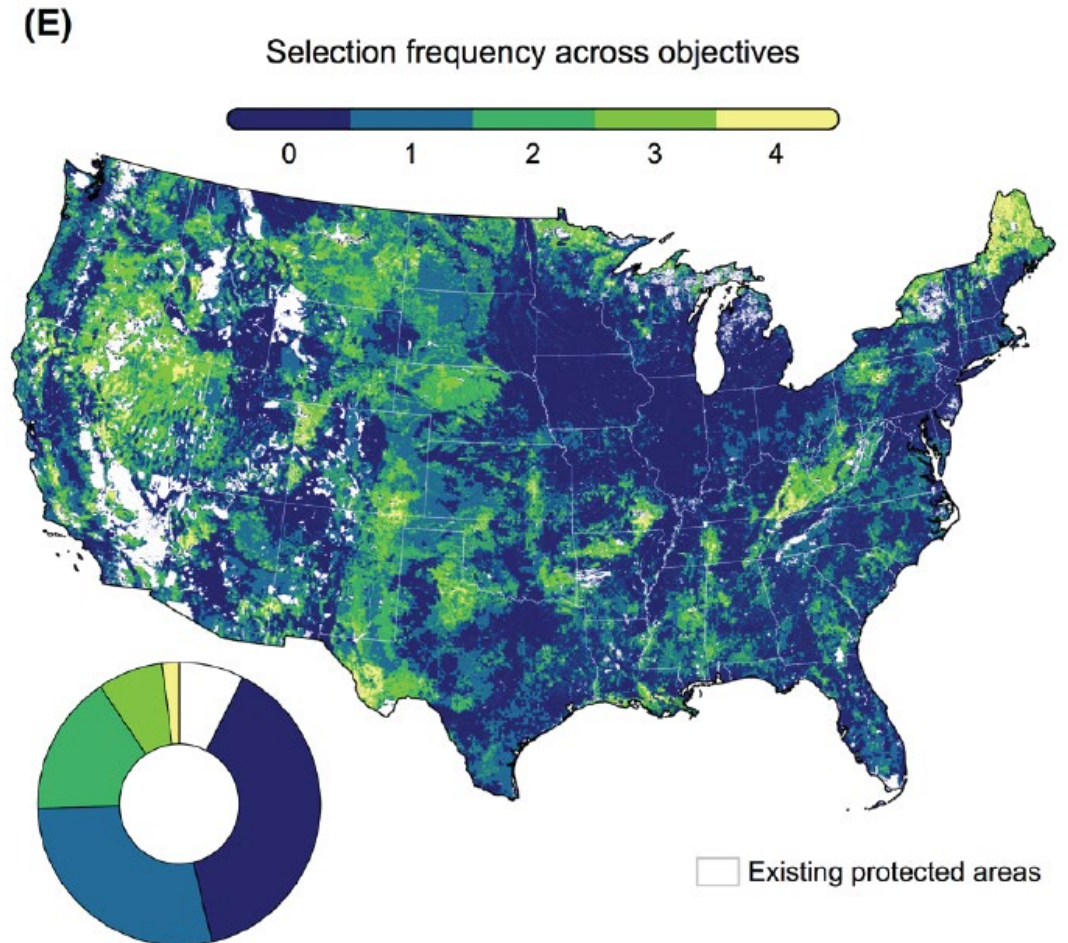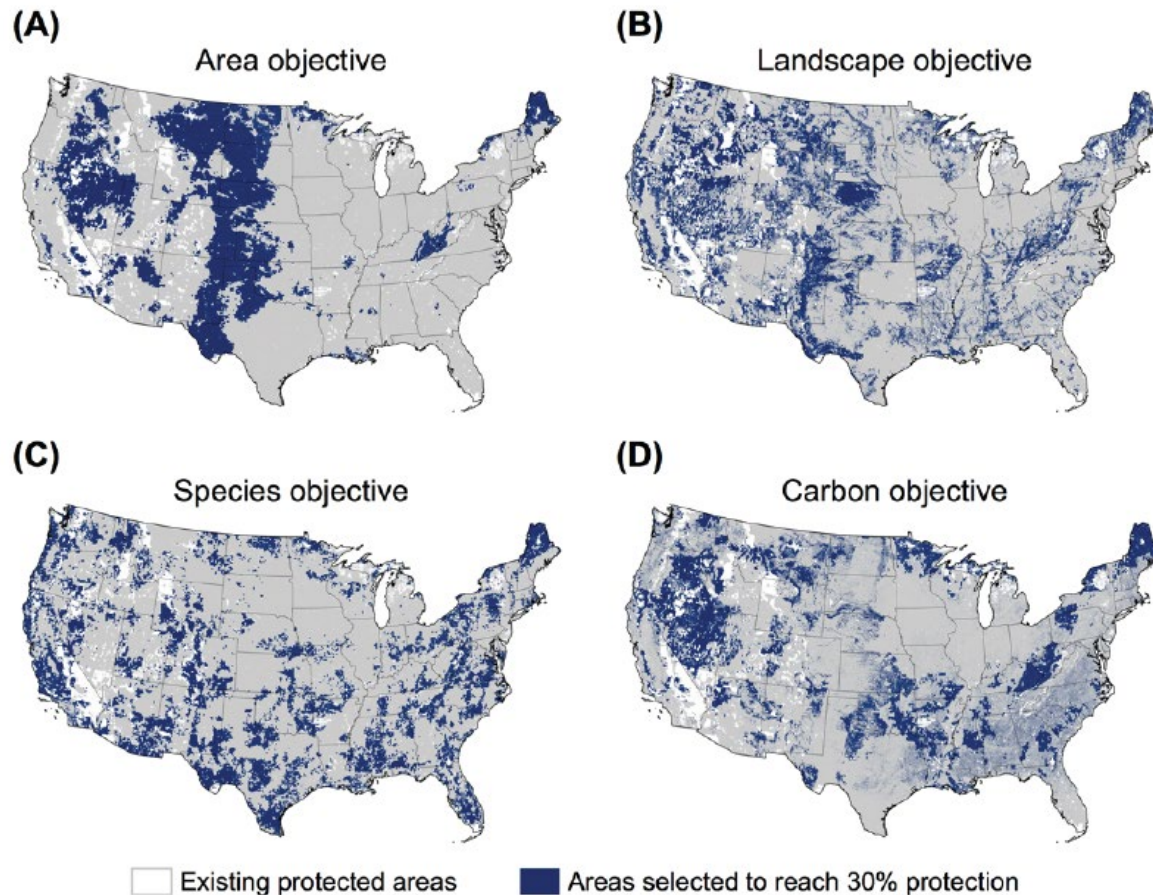# Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks

USGS Gap Analysis Project (PAD-US): Concerns

- Overly general - does not capture nuance

- Misclassification - Conservation tools not accurately assigned

- Restrictive categories

- Unreliable assumptions about tools:resource conditions/outcomes

Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks

Outcomes-based Analysis

Area-based targets alone don't capture conservation objectives: what, where and how also matter

- **Analyze outcomes-based sub-targets that contribute to 30%**
  - **Climate/Carbon Sequestration, Biodiversity, Connectivity**

- **Assign "weight" to priority areas**

- **Overlay Outcomes-based data with area-based data**
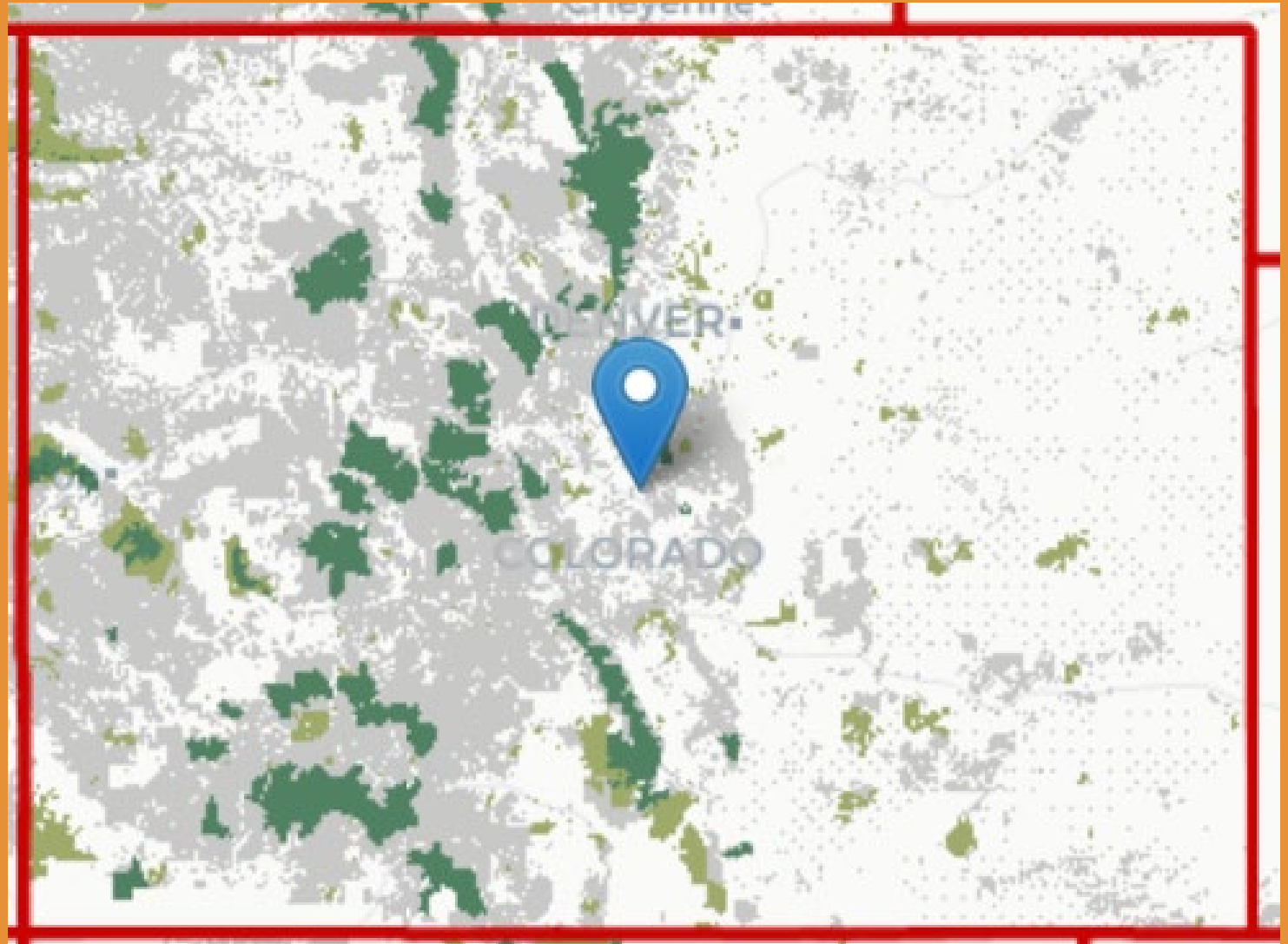 - **CNHP**
  - **TNC RCL**

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Conservation Continuum (What Counts)

1. Revisit "durability" metric

2. Establish outcomes-based targets
   ○ Carbon Sequestration
   ○ Biodiversity/Ecosystem Health
   ○ Connectivity

3. Weighted protected area classifications - data overlay

4. Expand inclusion of effective conservation tools
   ○ Administrative designations
   ○ State designations (SWAs)
   ○ Agricultural easements
   ○ OECMs

Collaboration

1. Understand state priorities

2. Integrate with state planning initiatives

3. Collaborate with NHPs and conservation data centers

4. Expand capacity

Questions

1. **Classification - how to better tie management classifications/codes to outcomes?**

   - **CoMAP management codes**
   - **PCAs**

2. **Western water - How to reflect "inland water" in context of Western water governace**

   - **Water quality classifications**
   - **Water quantity**
   - **Land-based protections**