Rare Plants and the North Trail Study Area Plan

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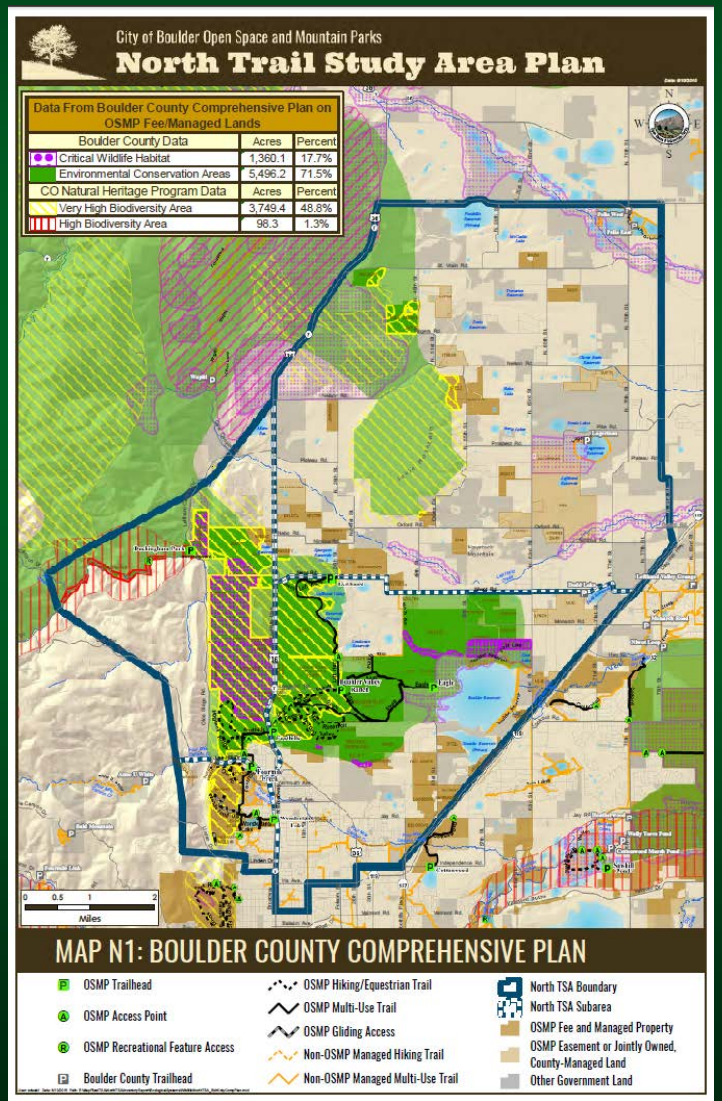

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
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NatureServe Ranking System: Conservation Status Ranks

- **Global (G) Ranks** show the degree of rarity on the global scale.
- **State (S) Ranks** show the degree of rarity on the state scale.

- 1 – Critically Imperiled
- 2 – Imperiled
- 3 – Vulnerable to Extirpation or Extinction
- 4 – Apparently Secure
- 5 – Demonstrably Widespread, Abundant, and Secure

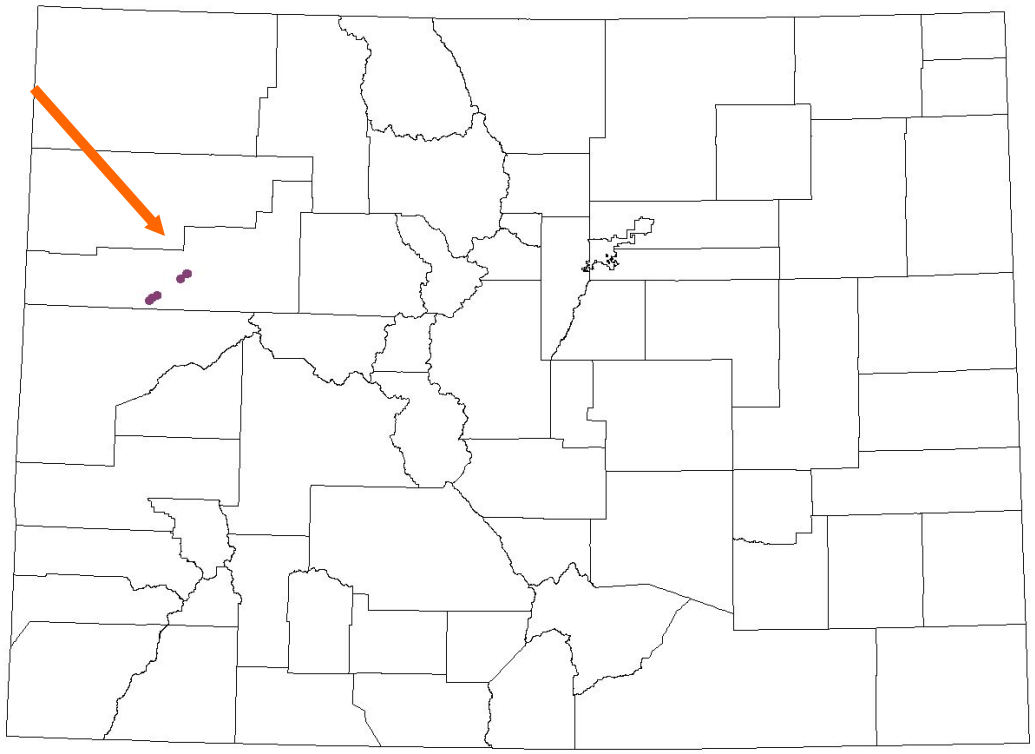
Critically imperiled worldwide (G1)

Penstemon debilis

Critically imperiled worldwide (G1)

Penstemon debilis

Worldwide distribution of Parachute Penstemon (Restricted to Garfield County in Colorado)



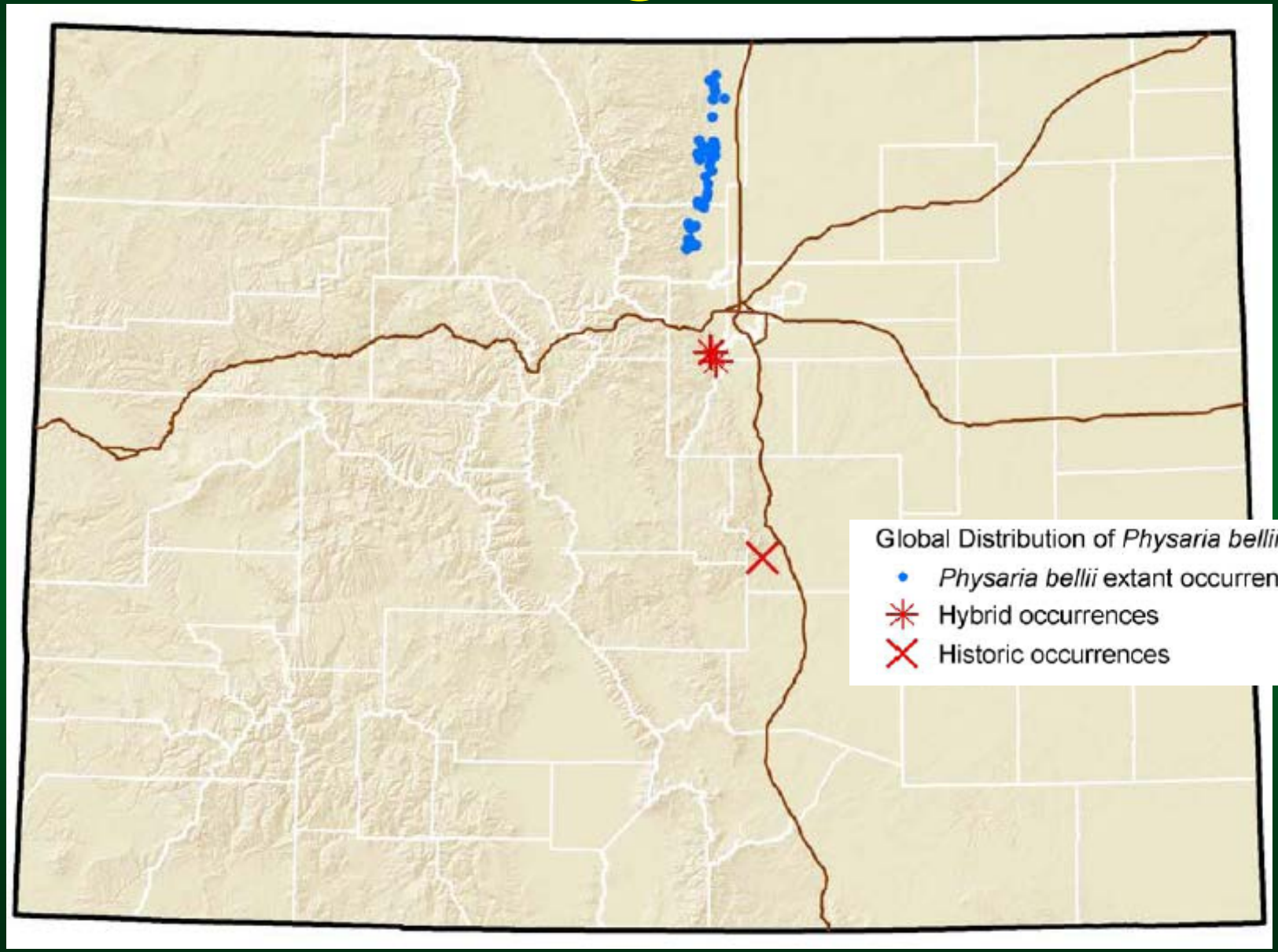
Habitat for *Penstemon debilis*

Bell's Twinpod (*Physaria bellii*)

- G2G3 S2S3
- 28 known occurrences, 11 in Boulder Co.

Bell's Twinpod habitat

Global Range of *P. bellii*



Bell's Twinpod at Pineridge Natural Area

Xeric Tallgrass Prairie: Grassy Slope Sedge

Photo: Max Lichter, SEINET

Grassy slope sedge	*Carex oreocharis*	S2/G3	1	To be determined	XTP
Birds-foot violet	*Viola pedatifida*	S1/G5	1	116	MGPM/XTP
Dwarf leadplant	*Amorpha nana*	S1S2/G5	1	69	MGPM/XTP
Bell's Twinpod	*Physaria bellii*	S2S3/G2G3	7	526	MGPM/XTP/AG
Waterthread pondweed	*Potamogeton diversifolius*	S1/G5	1	19	Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Mixed Grass Prairie Mosaic

Photo: Robert L. Stone, Lady Bird Johnson Wildlflower Center

Photo: Easterncoloradowildflowers.com

Photo: Easterncoloradowildflowers.com

Table NB1. Rare Plant Species in the North TSA

Species	Scientific Name	Ranking	Populations	Subpopulations	Target
Narrow-leaved Milkweed	*Asclepias stenophylla*	S2/G4G5	1	2	MGPM
Blue Toadflax	*Linaria canadensis var. texana*	SNR/SU/G5	1	1	MGPM
Wavy-leaf stickleaf	*Nuttallia sinuata*	S3/G3	3	104	MGPM
Slim-pod Venus' looking-glass	*Triodanis leptocarpa*	S1/G5?	1	1	MGPM

Table NB2. Rare Vegetation Associations in the North TSA

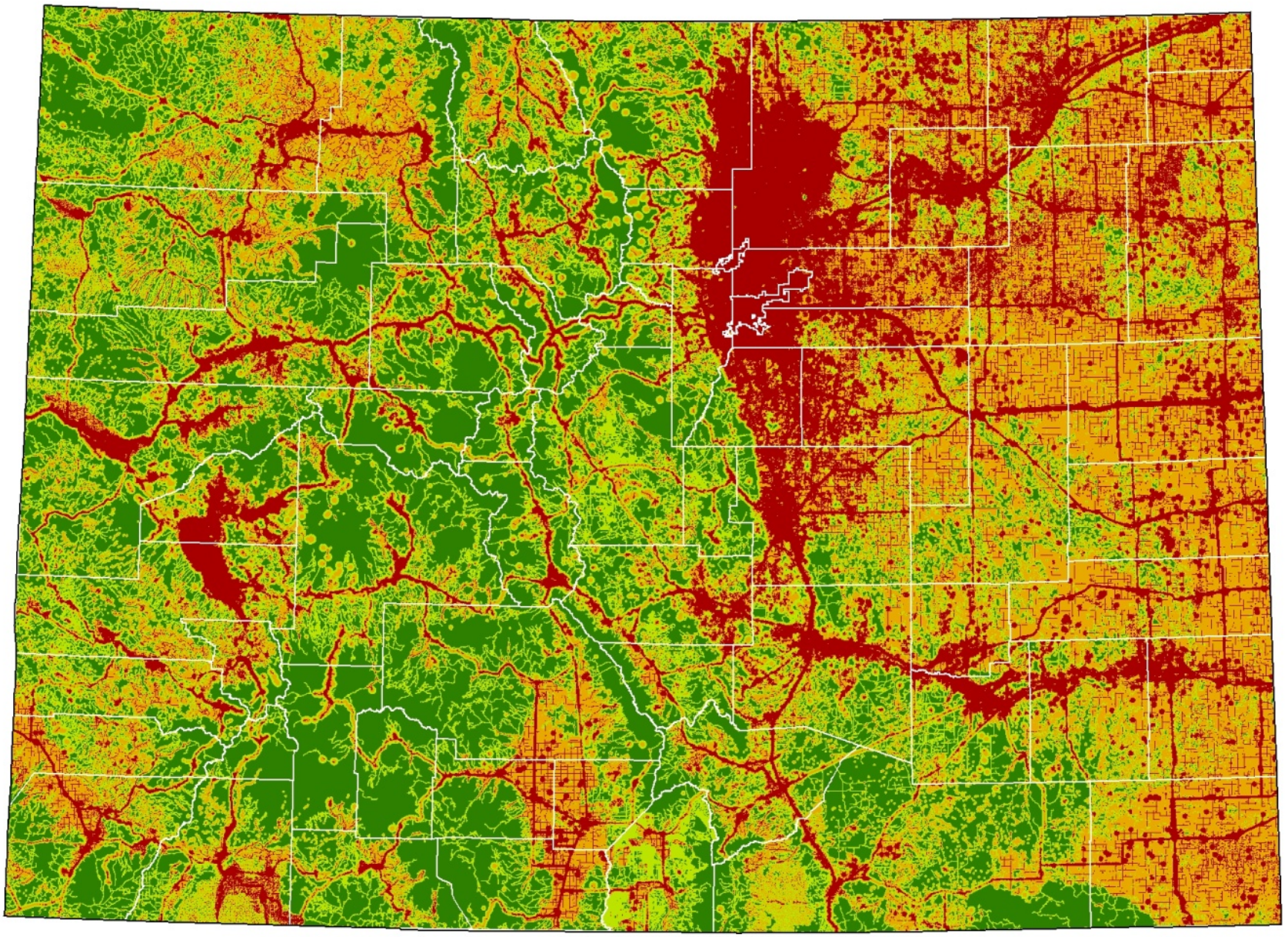
Common Name	Scientific Name	Rank	Acres in the TSA	Targets
Western Wheatgrass - Green Needlegrass Herbaceous Vegetation	*Pascopyrum smithii - Nassella viridula* Herbaceous Vegetation	S2/G3G4		Mixedgrass Prairie Mosaic
Indian Ricegrass Shale Barren Herbaceous Vegetation	*Achnatherum hymenoides* Shale Barren Herbaceous Vegetation	S2/G2		Mixedgrass Prairie Mosaic
Needle-and-Thread Colorado Front Range Herbaceous Vegetation	*Hesperostipa comata* Colorado Front Range Herbaceous Vegetation	S1S2/G1G2		Mixedgrass Prairie Mosaic
New Mexico Needlegrass Herbaceous Vegetation	*Hesperostipa neomexicana* Herbaceous Vegetation	S3/G3		Mixedgrass Prairie Mosaic
			393	
Big Bluestem - Little Bluestem Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	*Andropogon gerardii - Schizachyrium scoparium* Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	S2/G2?		Xeric Tallgrass Prairie
Big Bluestem - Yellow Indiangrass Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	*Andropogon gerardii - Sorghastrum nutans* Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	S1S2/G2		Xeric Tallgrass Prairie
Big Bluestem - Prairie Dropseed Western Foothills Herbaceous Vegetation	*Andropogon gerardii - Sporobolus heterolepis* Western Foothills Herbaceous Vegetation	S1S2/G2		Xeric Tallgrass Prairie
Ponderosa Pine / Mountain-mahogany / Big Bluestem Tree Savannah Herbaceous Vegetation	*Pinus ponderosa / Cercocarpus montanus / Andropogon gerardii* Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	S2?/G2		Xeric Tallgrass Prairie
			464	
Mountain-mahogany / Needle-and-Thread Shrubland	*Cercocarpus montanus / Hesperostipa comata* Shrubland	S2/G2		Upland Shrublands
Choke Cherry - (American Plum) Shrubland	*Prunus virginiana - (Prunus americana)* Shrubland	S3/G4Q		Upland Shrublands
Mountain-mahogany - Ill-scented Sumac / Big Bluestem Shrubland	*Cercocarpus montanus - Rhus trilobata / Andropogon gerardii* Shrubland	S2S3/G2G3		Upland Shrublands
			123	

Plant Communities of the North Trail Study Area

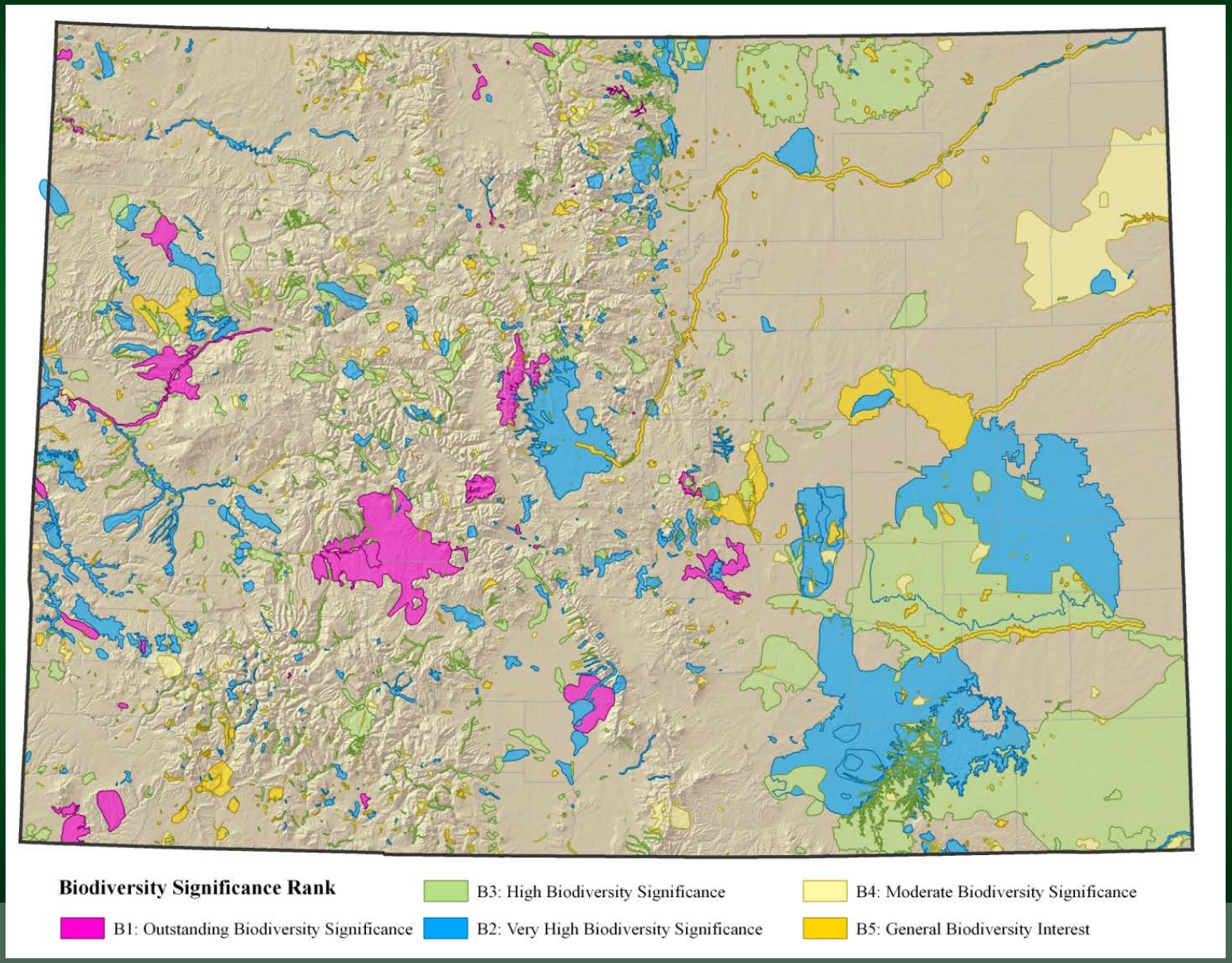
Wetland and Riparian Plant Communities

Common Name	Scientific Name	Rank	Acres in the TSA	Targets
Choke Cherry -	*Prunus virginiana* -	S3/G4Q		Wetlands and
(American Plum) Shrubland	(*Prunus americana*) Shrubland			Riparian Areas
Western Snowberry Shrubland	*Symphoricarpos occidentalis* Shrubland	S3/G45		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Big Bluestem - Yellow Indiangrass Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	*Andropogon gerardii* - *Sorghastrum nutans* Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	S1S2/G2		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Threesquare Herbaceous Vegetation	*Schoenoplectus pungens* Herbaceous Vegetation	S3/G3G4		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Saltgrass Herbaceous Vegetation	*Distichlis spicata* Herbaceous Vegetation	S3/G5		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Nuttall Alkaligrass Herbaceous Vegetation	*Puccinellia nuttalliana* Herbaceous Vegetation	S3/G3?		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Nebraska Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation	*Carex nebrascensis* Herbaceous Vegetation	S3/G4		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Clustered Field Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation	*Carex praegracilis* Herbaceous Vegetation	S2/G3G4		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
American Mannagrass Herbaceous Vegetation	*Glyceria grandis* Herbaceous Vegetation	S2/G2?		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Narrowleaf Cottonwood / Water Birch Woodland	*Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis* Woodland	S3/G3		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
Plains Cottonwood - (Peachleaf Willow) / (Coyote Willow, Sandbar Willow) Woodland	*Populus deltoides* - (*Salix amygdaloides*) / *Salix* (*exigua, interior*) Woodland	S3/G3G4		Wetlands and Riparian Areas
			138	

Colorado's Landscape Disturbance Index



Colorado's Potential Conservation Areas



Thank You!

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