

**RAPID RESOURCE ASSESSMENT  
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN  
BENNETT OPEN SPACE  
BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO**

*Prepared for—*

City of Boulder  
Open Space and Mountain Parks  
66 S. Cherryvale Road  
Boulder, Colorado 80303

*Prepared by—*

ERO Resources Corporation  
1842 Clarkson Street  
Denver, Colorado 80218  
(303) 830-1188

ERO Project #4089

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## SUMMARY

BENNETT PROPERTY		
<b>APPROXIMATE SIZE</b>	<b>ACQUISITION DATE</b>	<b>CURRENT ZONING</b>
124.5 acres	June 7, 2007	Agricultural
<b>MANAGEMENT DESIGNATION</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>	
Agricultural Area	Closed	

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE RESOURCES

The property is primarily made of lowland pasture but a few sloping grasslands and upland areas are present. The property is dissected by the Boulder Feeder Canal which meanders from the north to the south in the property. Table Mountain Ditch and a few other smaller unnamed ditches weave from west to east in the property. While most of the grassland vegetation communities have been altered by livestock and prairie dog grazing and are dominated by nonnative species, the property has a few areas of native shortgrass prairie that have remained relatively pristine. Potential habitat for rare plants is limited on the property due to heavy grazing and trampling in the area. The property does provide habitat for a variety of grassland wildlife including foraging and nesting habitat for various raptor species. An active red-tailed hawk nest is present in the easternmost corner of the property in a dead cottonwood tree.

## OPEN SPACE VALUES BASED ON RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The property is important for open space because it maintains—

- Riparian and wildlife habitat along the Table Mountain Ditch corridor
- Open space conservation in an increasingly developing area
- Agricultural production with on-site lessee
- Remnant patches of shortgrass/mixedgrass prairie
- Foraging and nesting habitat for various raptor species

## MANAGEMENT ISSUES BASED ON RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Some management issues that could adversely affect the open space values on the property include—

- Noxious weeds, including Canada thistle, Russian olive, and redstem stork's bill
- Degraded grassland from overgrazing throughout the property
- Several portions of the southern boundary fence are down or falling
- Lack of clear and legal administrative and emergency access to east portion

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP) retained ERO Resources Corporation (ERO) to conduct a rapid resource assessment and develop a property management plan for the 124.5-acre Bennett Property (“property”) near the city of Boulder in Boulder County, Colorado (Figure 1). The conditions on the property have generally been documented through photo points (Appendix A). The purpose of this rapid resource assessment and management plan for the property is to—

- Summarize the physical/ecological characteristics and conditions
- Document and record existing conditions and open space values
- Identify and prioritize management needs and opportunities
- Prescribe management actions
- Classify the property into a management area

The OSMP Visitor Master Plan directs that plans be completed for properties before they are opened and that visitor access be considered. Specific guidance for new properties is as follows:

***New Property Planning and Facilities.*** Complete planning and infrastructure improvements in a timely manner, prior to opening newly acquired properties to public access. However, as appropriate, preserve existing public access during the planning and improvement process. Open Space and Mountain Parks will complete a site management plan recommending appropriate locations, types of uses and visitor infrastructure, and how to provide adequate visitor infrastructure and services.

Property plans direct immediate planning and improvement needs, while Trails Study Areas (TSA) planning will be used to periodically update visitor access needs based on conditions at the time.

### METHODS

OSMP supplied records, documents, and GIS data applicable to the property. On June 19, 2008, a team of natural resource planners and ecologists from ERO walked the extent of the property documenting ecological and physical characteristics and identifying management needs and opportunities.

ERO consulted several organizations, agencies, and databases including the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), Colorado Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), the Colorado Natural Diversity Information Source (NDIS), and Boulder County pertaining to resources on the property. Published information, such as U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) maps, also was used to prepare the inventory.

## REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report presents a summary of the information gathered for the rapid resource assessment and describes the results of ERO's evaluation of the resources and open space values on the property. The report is organized into five narrative sections and three appendices. Following the *Summary* and *Introduction*, the *General Description* section provides information on the setting. The *Site Resources* section summarizes the ecological and cultural resources; existing trails and access; land use and management; and improvements and legal considerations on the property. The *Property Management Plan* describes short- and long-term management needs, management actions, and Management Area designation.

Appendix A contains photographs of the property with narrative descriptions and a corresponding photo point map. Appendix B presents plant and animal species identified during the site visit, and Appendix C includes report references.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The property is located near the western edge of the Great Plains physiographic province. The property encompasses about 125 acres characterized by irrigated pasture land and mixed grassland east of Table Mountain.

## LOCATION AND ACCESS

The property is located in central Boulder County about 9 miles north of downtown Boulder (Figure 1). Specifically, the property is located in Sections 10 and 15 in Township 2 North, Range 70 West of the 6th P.M. (Figure 2).

From downtown Boulder, travel north on Highway 36, turning right onto Nelson Road. Follow Nelson Road east to 55<sup>th</sup> Street. The property is located on the west side of 55<sup>th</sup> Street about ¼ of mile south of Nelson Road.

Primary access is from North 55<sup>th</sup> Street along the western edge of the property. Emergency access would primarily be from this location. Another gate is located along 55<sup>th</sup> Street near the southeast corner of the property, which provides access across the Boulder Feeder Canal to the eastern portion of the property.

Secondary access to the eastern portion of the property is available along the Boulder Feeder Canal access road, while walk-in access is available from Nelson Road.

## ACQUISITION

The City of Boulder acquired the Bennett Property on June 7, 2007. The total price for 124.5 acres was \$3,562,500 (\$2,759,000 – Land and \$803,000 – water).

## LAND USE

The property is primarily used for agriculture, including irrigated and non-irrigated pasture and livestock grazing through an agricultural lease.

## LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The property is located in rural Boulder County, and is surrounded primarily by agricultural lands and rural residential areas. OSMP’s Steele Open Space property and Table Mountain are located to the west, while the Boulder Feeder Canal bisects the property from north to south.

## NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES

### NEIGHBORING AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Agricultural or commercial properties and basic land uses identified near the property during the site visit and with a property record search available through the Boulder County Assessor’s Office (Boulder County 2008a) are summarized below.

OWNER	LOCATION AND LAND USE
Mackenzie, David W. & Casey P. 5600 Neslon Rd. Longmont, CO 80503-9007 Parcel No. 13171000013	Northwest of property Agriculture – farm/rural residence
Clyncke, Eugene & Laura 5656 Nelson Rd. Longmont, CO 80503-9007 Parcel No. 13171000011	Northwest of property Single family rural residence
Schlutz, Gregory F. & Hilda L. 5850 Nelson Rd. (6650 Nelson Rd.; Longmont, CO 80501-9009) Parcel No. 13171000015	Northeast of property Agriculture
Schlutz, Gregory F. & Hilda L. 5850 Nelson Rd. (6650 Nelson Rd.; Longmont, CO 80501-9009) Parcel No. 13171000002	Northeast of property Agriculture
Bohn, William J. & Phyllis L. 9453 N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. Longmont, CO 80503-9057 Parcel No. 13171000016	Northeast of property Agriculture – farm/rural residence Noxious weed reports on property for Canada thistle & Mediterranean sage
Shennan, Melony H. 9247 N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. (9421 N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St.; Longmont, CO 80503-9057) Parcel No. 13171500002	East of property Agriculture
Norton, Richard B. & Sharon M. 9247 N. 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. (12987 Hill Crest Dr.; Longmont, CO 80510) Parcel No. 13171500003	East of property Agriculture – farm/rural residence

Bovet, Raymond P. & Webel, Suzanne H. 5735 Prospect Rd. Longmont, CO 80503 Parcel No. 131715000031	South of property Agriculture – farm/rural residence Site plan review for construction of 8,308 Sf.residence and 2,160 Sf. barn. Site plan waiver for construction of 2,352 Sf. barn.
Fidao, Laurie S. Prospect Rd. (5629 Prospect Rd.; Longmont, Co 80503) Parcel No. 131715001005 <i>Steele Ranch Conservation Easement          (NUPUD Outlot)</i>	South of property Agriculture

## SITE RESOURCES

This section documents in more detail the basic physical and ecological characteristics and conditions that directly support the open space values of the property. Key features are shown on Figure 3.

### TOPOGRAPHY

Topography on the property generally slopes from west to east. Elevations range from about 5,280 feet in the southeast corner to about 5,200 feet along the eastern boundary. The USGS Topographical map of the property is shown in Figure 2.

### GEOLOGY

The property occurs along the western margin of the Denver Basin of northeastern Colorado, which contains sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age. Generally the area includes the upper unit of Pierre Shale. Pierre Shale contains areas of sandstone. Some areas at the top of Table Mountain (off the property) include Older Gravels and Alluviums from unconsolidated surficial deposits and rocks of quaternary age (Tweto 1979).

### SOILS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped six soil types on the property. Each mapping unit is described below and Figure 4 shows the NRCS soil mapping. All soil information was gathered from the NRCS soil survey (NRCS 1975).

**Mapping Unit SaD. Samsil clay** (3 to 12 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of shale outcrop, a few areas of Shingle loam, and a few small areas of Renohill silty clay loam. In places this soil has scattered gravel and cobbles on the surface. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. Native vegetation is mainly little bluestem, western wheatgrass, sideoats grama, blue grama, green needlegrass, sedges, and forbs.

**Mapping Unit KuD. Kutch clay loam** (3 to 9 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of Nunn clay loam, Samsil clay, Renohill silty clay loam, and Shingle loam. In some places

scattered gravel and cobblestones are on the surface. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. Native vegetation is western wheat, blue grama, sage, and cactus.

**Mapping Unit NuC. Nunn clay loam** (3 to 5 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of Kim soils and Nunn clay loam. In a few places scattered gravel and cobbles cover the surface. Runoff is medium, permeability is slow, and the erosion hazard is moderate. Native vegetation is blue grama, buffalograss, needlegrass and wheatgrass.

**Mapping Unit NuB. Nunn clay loam** (1 to 3 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of Kim soils, Nunn sandy clay loam, Nunn clay loam, and Valmont clay loam. Runoff is medium, permeability is slow, and the erosion hazard is moderate. Native vegetation is blue grama, buffalograss, needlegrass and wheatgrass.

**Mapping Unit LoB. Longmont clay** (0 to 3 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of Colby silty clay loam and Heldt clay. Shale is typically found at a depth of less than 40 inches. Runoff is slow, permeability is slow, and the erosion hazard is slight. Principal native vegetation is alkali saccation and saltgrass.

**Mapping Unit AcC. Ascalon sandy loam** (3 to 5 percent slopes). This soil includes areas where cobblestones are on the surface and small areas of Ascalon sandy loam (1 to 3 percent slopes). Runoff is medium and the erosion hazard is moderate to high. Native vegetation is chiefly short grasses, predominantly blue grama.

## HYDROLOGY

### SURFACE HYDROLOGY

Four ephemeral drainages cross the property from west to east. The property is not located within a designated floodplain area.

According to topographic information from the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map, surface water on the property flows east towards Dry Creek (USGS 1968, photorevised 1979). Agricultural conveyances on the property include the Boulder Feeder Canal, Swede Ditch, and Table Mountain Ditch. An unnamed reservoir is located in the southeast corner of the property.

### SUBSURFACE HYDROLOGY

Based on a review of the USGS Hygiene quadrangle, shallow ground water would flow in a easterly direction towards the Dry Creek drainage (USGS 1968; photorevised 1979). There is one permitted water well on the property (CDWR 2008), which is described below under *Water Rights*. No seeps or springs were identified on the property.

### WETLANDS

Wetland vegetation was found primarily in the eastern section of the property west of the agricultural pond. Dominant wetland species include Baltic rush (*Juncus arcticus* ssp. *ater*) and tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*).

## VEGETATION

### GENERAL VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Most of the property is currently used as agricultural land and consists of both irrigated pasture and dryland meadow areas. Several small clusters of cottonwoods and occasional willow are found along Table Mountain Ditch and along other drainages in the property. The northern portion of the property is primarily dry land agricultural areas. The southern portion of the property is primarily irrigated with dry areas surrounding structures. Vegetation communities are described below and shown in Figure 5. A list of plant species identified during the field visit appears in Appendix B.

### WESTERN WHEATGRASS HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (WWH)

The western wheatgrass herbaceous alliance is present in the southern and in patches in the western and northern portion of the property as well as on slopes and rocky areas. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), a native perennial cool season grass, is the dominant grass in this community but other native grass species such as needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), and purple threeawn are present. Introduced annual/biennial forbs such as small flower alyssum (*Alyssum parviflorum*), redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), and tall tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*) are common. Native perennial forbs such as Kansas gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*), prairie flax (*Adenolinum lewisii*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) are present.

### SMOOTH BROME HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (SBH)

The smooth brome herbaceous alliance is present in the north and south of the property. This alliance is dominated by smooth brome (*Bromopsis inermis*). Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) are also present.

### INTRODUCED SPECIES AGRICULTURAL PASTURE (ISAP)

In the central portion of the property the introduced species agricultural pasture is present. This community is dominated by introduced perennial forbs, introduced annual/biennial forbs, native perennial cool season grasses, and introduced annual and perennial grasses. Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is the most dominant introduced perennial forb but other species such as horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) and smooth brome are present. Redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) is present scattered throughout the property but is mainly found within this community type.

### TALL FESCUE HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (FH)

The tall fescue herbaceous alliance is found in small lowland swales near the south central portion of the property. Tall fescue is the dominant species in this community type.

### BALTIC RUSH SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (BRSH)

In the central portion of the property a Baltic rush seasonally flooded herbaceous alliance is present (BRSH). Baltic rush is an obligate wetland plant is dominant within this community type. Tall fescue, an introduced perennial cool season grass, is common within this community type.

**RARE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES**

No rare plants or plant communities have been identified by CNHP on the property (CNHP 2006) and none were observed during the site visits.

**STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Based on the site visits, three List B noxious weed species occur on the property: Canada thistle (*Breca arvensis*), redstem stork’s bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). List C species include cheatgrass (*Anisantha tectorum*), common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*).

**Table 1. Noxious weeds present on the property.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	OSMP Priority	Boulder County Weed List	State of Colorado Noxious Weed List
Canada thistle	<i>Breca arvensis</i>	Moderate	x	B
cheatgrass (downy brome)	<i>Anisantha tectorum</i>	Moderate	not listed	C
common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	None	not listed	C
field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	None	not listed	C
redstem stork's bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	None	not listed	B
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	High	not listed	B
smooth brome	<i>Bromopsis inermis</i>	Moderate	not listed	not listed

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act §§ 35-5.5-101 through 119, C.R.S. (2003) states that “List B noxious weed species are species for which the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, develops and implements state noxious weed management plans designed to stop the continued spread of these species. List C weed species are species for which the Commissioner, in consultation with the state noxious weed advisory committee, local governments, and other interested parties, will develop and implement state noxious weed management plans designed to support the efforts of local governing bodies to facilitate more effective integrated weed management on private and public lands. The goal of such plans will not be to stop the continued spread of these species but to provide additional education, research, and biological control resources to jurisdictions that choose to require management of List C species.”

**WILDLIFE**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The property provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species associated with shortgrass prairie and agricultural lands in Boulder County. The irrigation ditches and grasslands on the property contain potential habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Large cottonwoods along the ditches

provide nesting sites for raptors, as well as denning sites for mid-sized mammals such as raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Typical bird species likely include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and various species of raptors (described below).

Small rodents that are likely to occur include deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), house mouse (*Mus musculus*), and western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). Other mammals that occur or are likely to occur on the property include coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and raccoon. All of these species probably frequent the areas along the ditch, although coyote may be more common in open areas.

**Prairie dogs.** The southern half of the property and several pockets in the northern half support black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) colonies. Prairie dog populations in this area appear healthy and have no evidence of impact from plague. Prairie dog colonies also have potential to support burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

**Raptors.** A large active red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest is present in the eastern most corner of the property along Table Mountain Ditch (Figure 3, Photo 18). The property provides foraging habitat and perch trees for various raptor species associated with the nearby Table Mountain Ditch riparian corridor. The property likely provides foraging habitat for golden eagle, which are known to nest on nearby Table Mountain.

**Fish.** The stock pond has the potential for use as a native fish refugia.

#### **THREATENED, ENDANGERED, OR CANDIDATE WILDLIFE SPECIES**

According to the Colorado Division of Wildlife Natural Diversity Information Source (NDIS) and CNHP databases for the area, there are no threatened or endangered species on the property (NDIS 2008).

#### **COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DESIGNATIONS**

According to the NDIS database, the western portion of the property is considered to be within a human conflict area for black bear (*Ursus americanus*) (NDIS 2008). However, the property does not contain suitable habitat for black bear.

#### **BOULDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATIONS**

The property does not contain any county-designated Critical Wildlife Habitats or other designations related to wildlife.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

#### **OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION FILE SEARCH**

The Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation conducted a search of the Colorado Inventory of Cultural Resources database for the property (OAHF 2008). This database contains information on documented federal or state studies or findings regarding any cultural resources. According to the search four sites occur on the property (OAHF 2008). (These sites are mainly associated with the Boulder Feeder Canal). Other potential unidentified cultural resources may exist within the property boundaries.

## **OTHER RESOURCES AND DESIGNATIONS**

The property is not located within any areas designated for cultural resources in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan; however, archaeologically sensitive areas associated with Table Mountain are located less than a mile west of the property (Boulder County 2008b).

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **AGRICULTURAL USE**

The property is leased for agricultural use. During the site visit, no livestock were present on the property. Heavy livestock use (primarily cow) was noticeable throughout the property. Cow trails and tracks line the property. Several underground tile drains were broken and water springs from the ground in two areas (Figure 3 and Photos 23 & 24). These areas, and around the pond and ditches is where evidence of livestock use is greatest.

The farm house and associated facilities on the property allows for an on-site agricultural lessee, which benefits the agricultural management and rural character of the property and surrounding area.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Each side of the property is bounded by barbed-wire/or barbed-wire with electric. Several portions in the southern area are falling down or are in need of repair. Barbed-wire fence also lines the Boulder Feeder Canal.

### **BOULDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATIONS**

The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan has identified portions of the property to be Significant Agricultural Lands – Lands of Statewide Importance and Land of Local Importance (Boulder County 2008c).

## **RECREATION**

Public access is not permitted on the property. Prior to public ownership, the property was privately owned and was not open to public access.

No evidence of recreational use was observed on the property.

## **PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **STRUCTURES**

Structures are present near the southwest corner of the property. One single family house, several out buildings, and one shed/utility building are present scattered around the house. A small wooden corral is present on the east side of the Boulder Feeder Canal. No other structures, apart from the homestead, are present on the property.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES**

The Boulder Feeder Canal runs from north to south through the middle of the property. Six pipes are present over the Boulder Feeder Canal. One pipe diverts Table Mountain Ditch over the

Boulder Feeder Canal and outlets at a head gate to the east of the Canal. The unnamed lateral ditch in the central portion of the property is diverted into another pipe over the Canal and outlets at a head gate to the east of the Canal. Three other pipes divert water over the Canal. The last pipe may carry water to underground irrigation pipes. To the west of the pond on the property, east of the Boulder Feeder Canal, two broken underground irrigation pipes are present (Figure 3). Water currently springs from the broken pipes (Photo 23&24). (Irrigation improvements on the property are currently in the planning stages). A pond is present in the southwest corner of the property and is held by an earthen dam. Water outlets from the dam and continues east outside of the property. Evidence of heavy grazing is present around the ponds, broken irrigation pipes, and along the other unnamed ditches in the property.

No utilities were observed on the property.

### **ROADWAYS AND TRAILS**

A small dirt road parallels the east side of the Boulder Feeder Canal (off the property and within the canal right-of-way). Access to the east side of the property is by the small road along the Boulder Feeder Canal or through a gate in the south central or southeast corner.

Livestock trails are scattered throughout the property. Trails converge to the east of the Boulder Feeder Canal and cross over Table Mountain Ditch (Photo 32). No social trails are present on the property.

## **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **WATER RIGHTS**

Purchase of the 124.5 acres (2007) included 9 shares of Left Hand Ditch Company water, three water taps from the Left Hand Water District, 66 units of Colorado-Big Thompson water from the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and ownership of Bennett Reservoir #1 with a decreed capacity of 8.57 acre-feet of water.

The current lessee also leases water to supplement supplies purchased by OSMP.

According to the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR 2008), there is one permitted water well on the property:

- Permitted domestic well, permit #118252

### **MINERAL RIGHTS**

Purchase of the 124.5 acres (2007) included all mineral rights including sand, gravel, coal, and oil and gas owned by seller.

### **EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY INFORMATION**

See OSMP property file.

### **LOCAL PLANNING DESIGNATIONS**

The entire property is currently zoned Agriculture (Boulder County 2008d).

Boulder County Comprehensive Plan designations on the property include—

- County Trails Map – Trail Alignment (along the Boulder Feeder Canal)

- Significant Agricultural Lands – Lands of Local Importance

The property is also considered to have moderate geologic constraints due to expansive soils or the potential for landslides, mudslides, mudfalls, or debris fans.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

### MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATION

Recommended management area designation: Agricultural Area.

The location and features of the property are generally consistent with the characteristics, goals, and strategies outlined for Agricultural Areas in the OSMP Visitor Master Plan, including intensive agricultural production, potential for conflict with visitor use, and compatibility with adjacent land uses (OSMP 2005). This management area designation is consistent with the historic and current uses of the property and its primary open space values, and with the management designation of other nearby OSMP properties.

### PUBLIC ACCESS

Recommended status: Closed

While this property consists of productive or potentially productive agricultural land that does not offer compatible recreation opportunities.

The property will remain closed because it is isolated and not connected to a larger open space area, there is no visitor infrastructure, and property infrastructure is not complete. Public access and facilities on this property will be evaluated further in a future Trail Study Area or other planning processes.

### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The following management issues were identified on the property based on observations during the site visit, existing documentation, and input from OSMP staff.

***Grassland management.*** Grassland areas throughout the property are degraded from overgrazing from livestock and prairie dogs. Areas dominated by introduced plant species contribute to a decrease in vegetative diversity, less than desirable forage for wildlife and can increase the potential for soil loss and erosion.

***Noxious weeds.*** The property contains three List B noxious weeds species and three List C species. Most of these noxious weed species are typical of agricultural and open space properties in the region.

***Irrigation infrastructure maintenance.*** Two broken tile drains are apparent on the east portion of the property. This condition likely compromises the agricultural capability of the property and may result in erosion and other resource impacts.

**Fencing.** Several portions of the barbed-wire fence along the southern boundary are down or are in poor condition.

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Management objectives and recommended management actions for various resources on the property are outlined below. In general, management objectives are a concise statement of what OSMP wants to achieve in protecting open space values, addressing management issues related to a particular resource type. Management actions are the specific tasks or tools that can be used to fulfill the objective and address the issue.

### VEGETATION

**Objective 1:** Prevent the spread of other noxious weeds from current conditions documented in the resource assessment.

Action: Continue control efforts for noxious weeds identified on the property.

Action: Work with agricultural lessee and ditch maintenance entity to manage agricultural infrastructure in a manner that reduces the potential for noxious weeds.

Action: Provide follow-up monitoring and weed control.

**Objective 2:** Coordinate long-term management with sensitive breeding periods for wildlife.

Action: Minimize disturbance (burning, mowing, grazing, and chemical spraying) during the nesting season for grassland birds.

### FENCING AND SIGNING

**Objective 1:** Identify property as OSMP land through clear and defined fencing and signing of the property boundary.

Action: Install OSMP signs along property boundary.

**Objective 2:** Conduct routine fence repair and maintenance along the property boundary.

Action: Repair areas of downed or missing fence along the south boundary, particularly in areas that could facilitate trespass livestock from adjacent lands.

Action: Monitor the condition and effectiveness of fencing every 1-3 years.

### AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

**Objective 1:** Investigate and address problems associated broken underground pipes and other irrigation infrastructure.

Action: Evaluate the existing irrigation infrastructure to identify problems and opportunities for improvements in equipment and management.

Action: Work with agricultural lessee to develop improvements to the irrigation system that is consistent with overall management goals.

Action: Monitor the condition of the irrigation infrastructure for on-going problems and enhancement opportunities.

Action: Manage grazing to restore or improve condition of shortgrass/mixedgrass prairie patches.

#### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**Objective 1:** Manage prairie dogs consistent with vegetation and agricultural objectives for the property.

Action: Evaluate prairie dog colony for use by burrowing owl and golden eagle.

Action: Designate management based on criteria established in the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan.

#### **STRUCTURES**

**Objective 1:** Evaluate house and associated structures on the property to determine whether they should be retained, moved, or deconstructed over the long term.

Action: Consider retaining structures if they compliment agricultural lease and management.

Action: If structures are removed or deconstructed, revegetate site with native species.

Action: If removed, provide follow-up monitoring and weed management to ensure successful revegetation.

#### **CONSERVATION AND COORDINATION**

**Objective 1:** Work with adjacent landowners to provide consistent, sustainable management to the surrounding area.

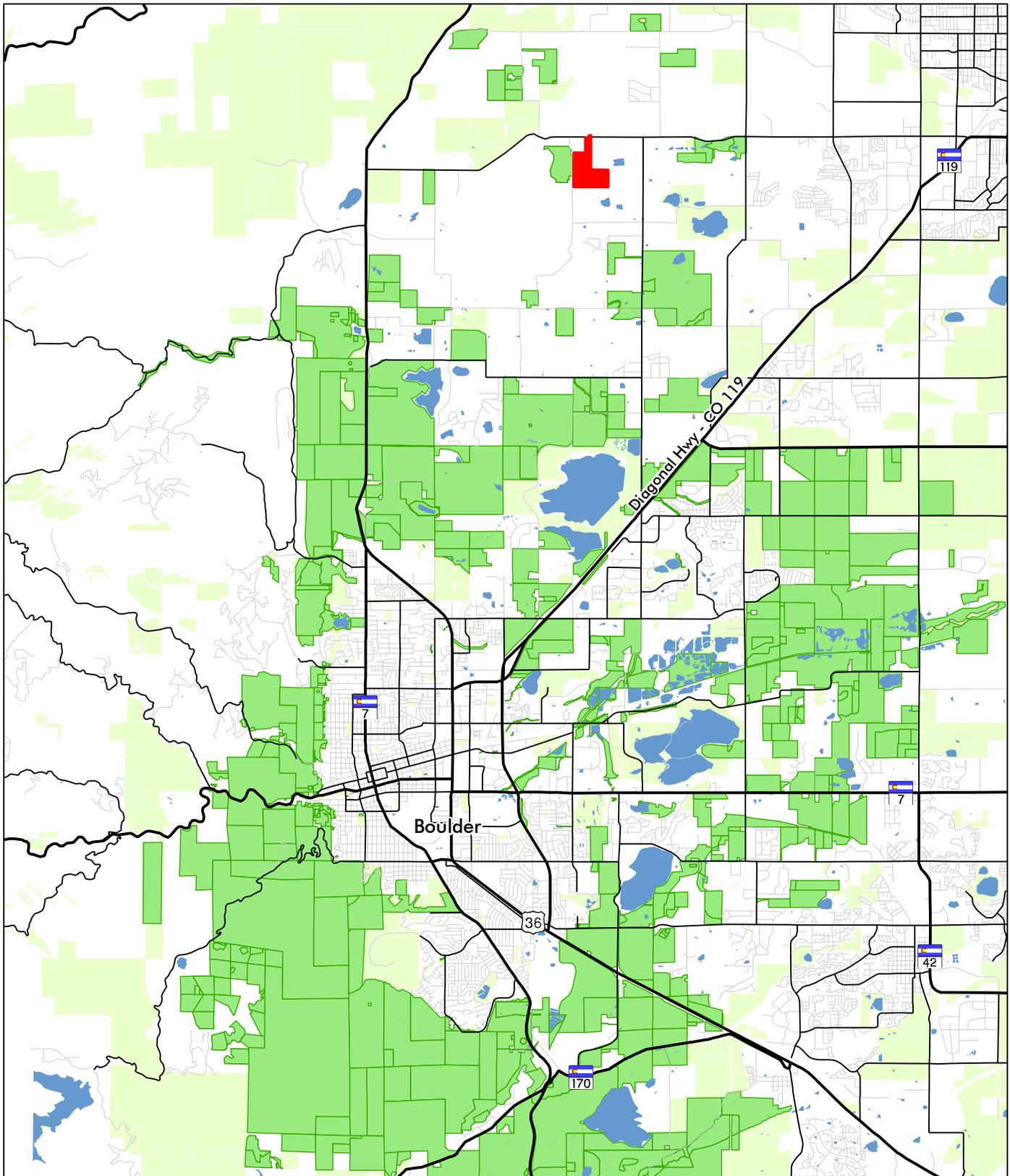
Action: Establish and maintain lines of communication with adjacent landowners.

Action: Monitor resource conditions (e.g., weeds, prairie dogs) on adjacent properties and identify potential issues or opportunities.

Action: Allow OSMP to become a resource for landowners seeking knowledge or advice on various land management topics.

# FIGURES





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**Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan**

- Bennett Property
- City of Boulder Open Space
- Other Open Space

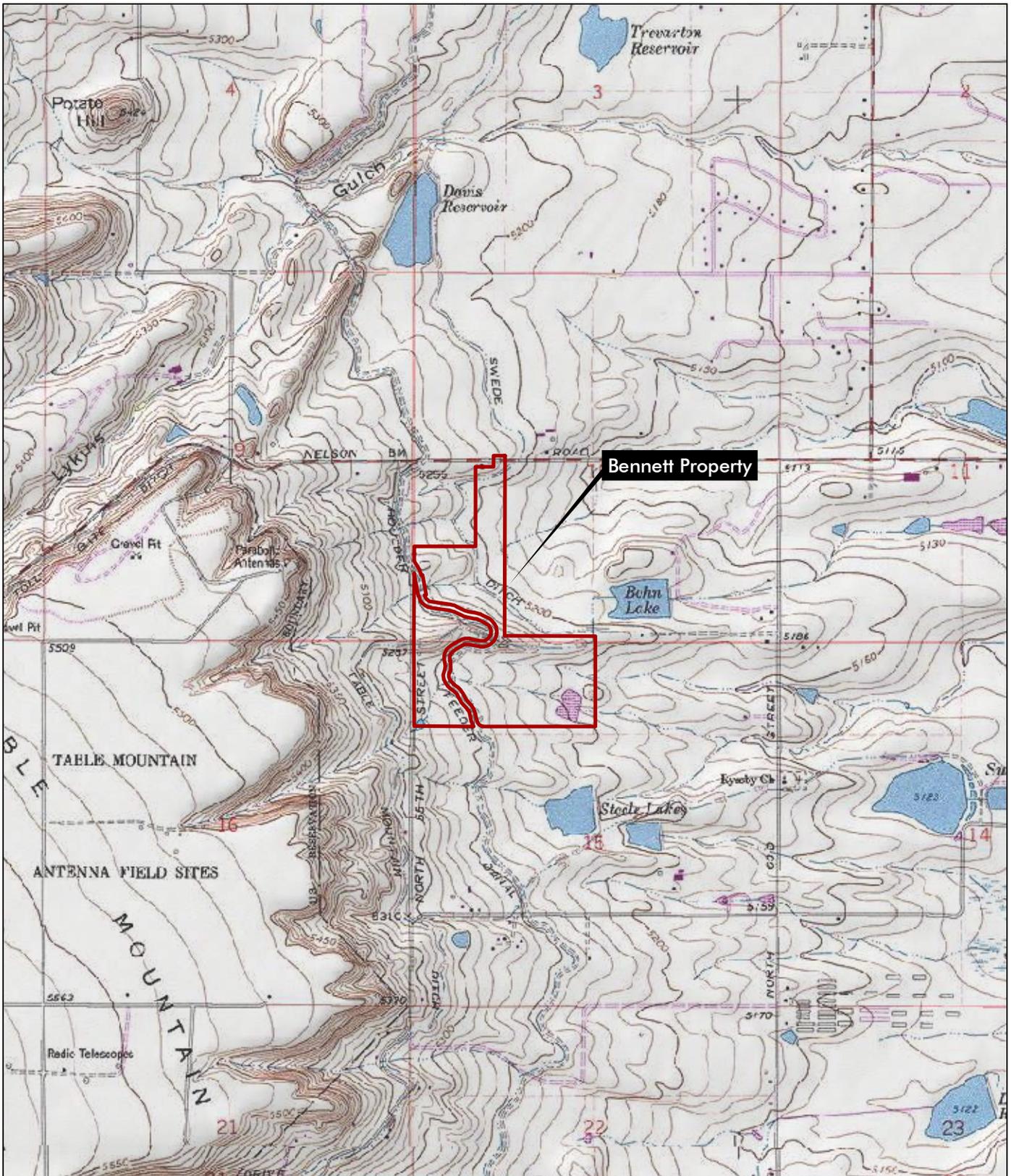


1 inch = 2 miles



**Figure 1  
 Vicinity Map**

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space  
 and Mountain Parks  
 File: 4089 Figure1.mxd  
 March 2008



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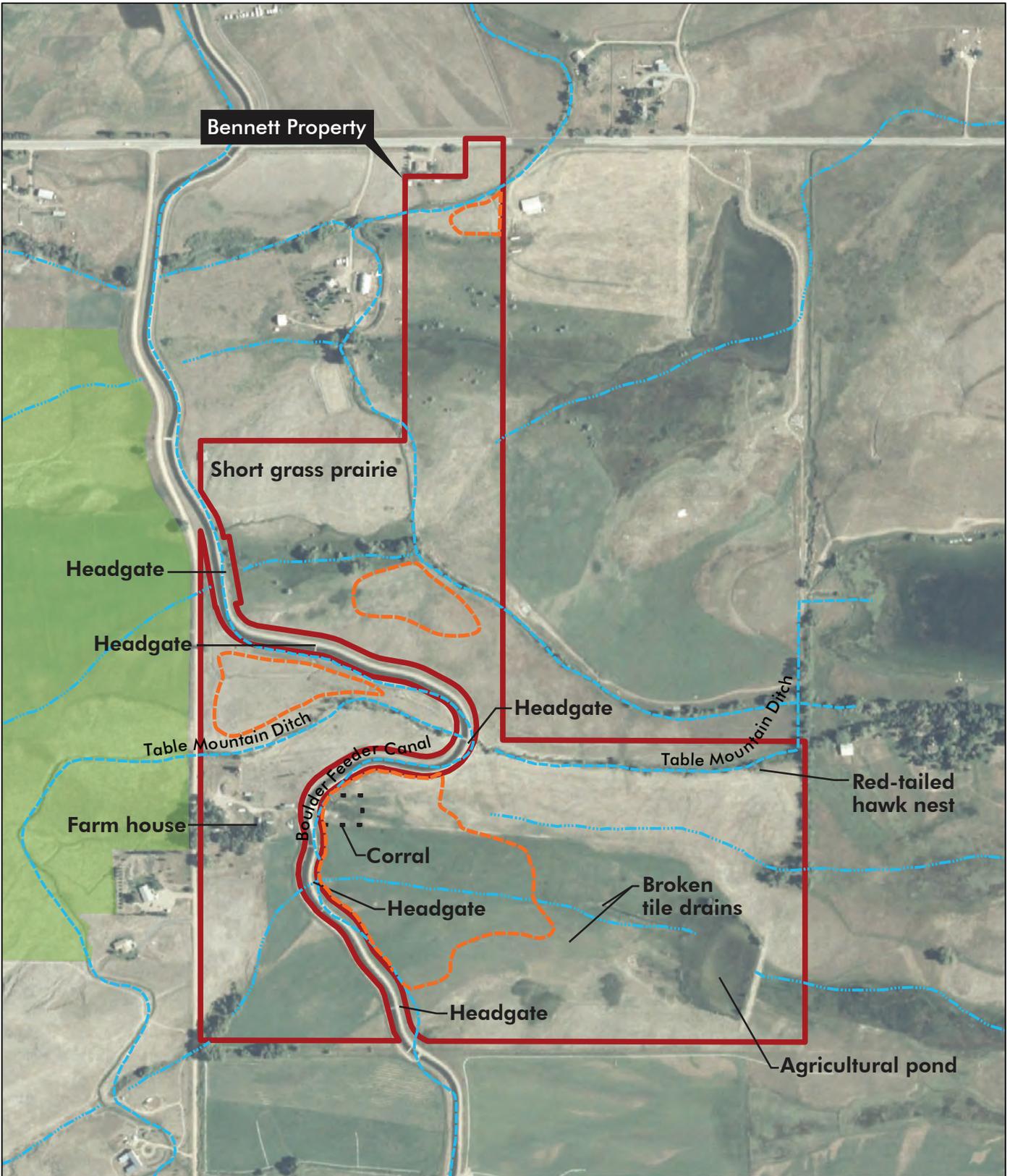
**Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan**  
 Sections 10 & 15, T2N, R70W  
 UTM NAD83 Coordinate Zone 13N; 481126mE, 4443892mN  
 USGS Hygiene CO, Quadrangle  
 Boulder County, Colorado

0 2,000 4,000 Feet  
 1 inch = 2,000 feet

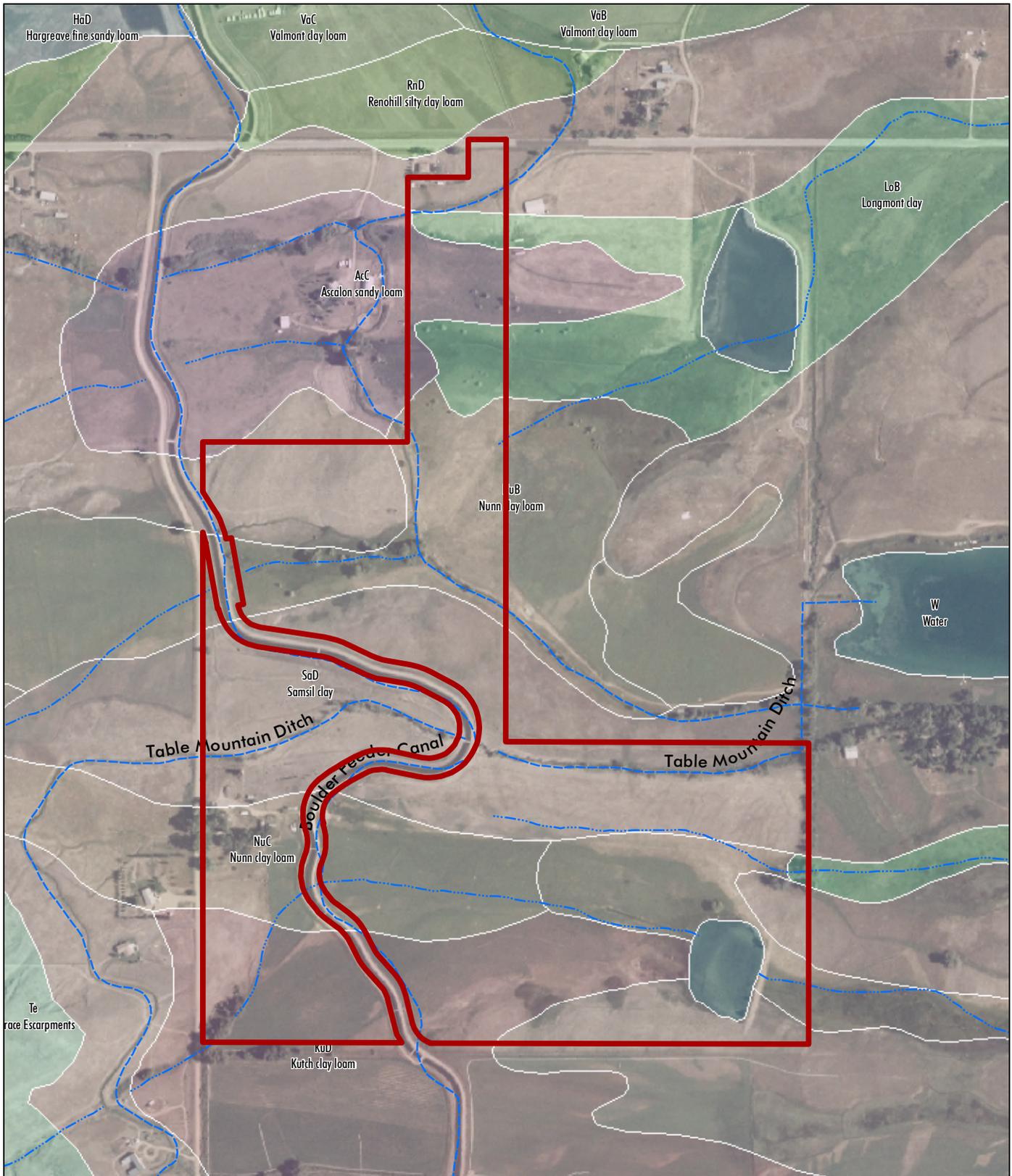


**Figure 2**  
**Location**

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space  
 and Mountain Parks  
 File: 4089 Figure 2.mxd  
 February 2008



<p><b>ERO</b>          ERO Resources Corp.          1842 Clarkson Street          Denver, CO 80218          (303) 830-1188          Fax: (303) 830-1199</p>	<p><b>Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> City of Boulder Open Space</li> <li><span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Other Open Space</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">○</span> Active prairie dog colony</li> </ul> <p>0      600      1200      Feet</p> <p>1 inch = 600 Feet</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N  </p>	<p><b>Figure 3          Property Features</b></p> <p>Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space          and Mountain Parks          File: 4089 Figure 3 Bennett.pdf          July 2008</p>
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**Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan**

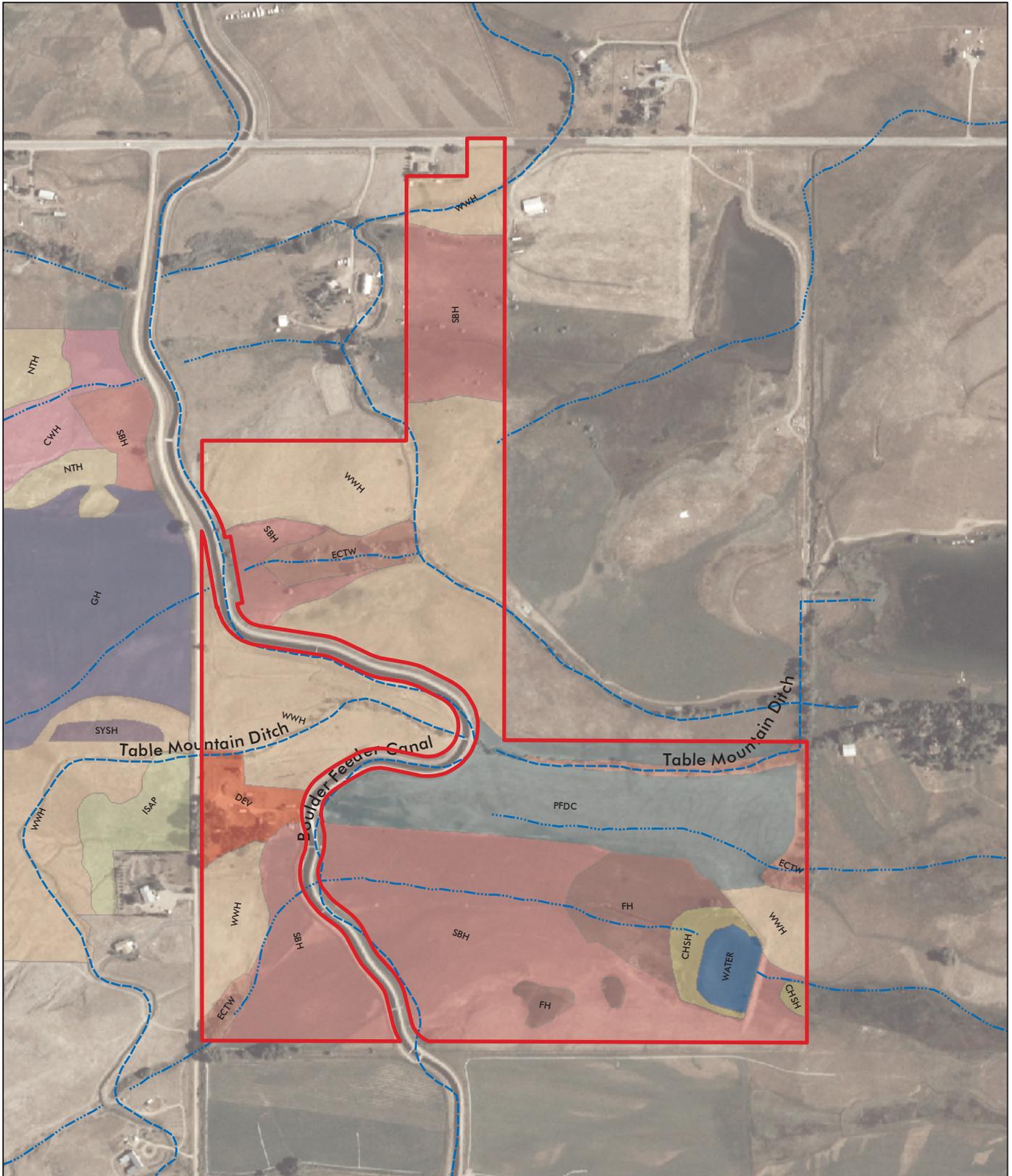


1 inch = 600 Feet



**Figure 4  
 Soils**

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space  
 and Mountain Parks  
 File: 4089 Figure 4.mxd  
 February 2008



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**Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan**  
 (See following page for for vegetation community names)



1 inch = 600 Feet



**Figure 5**  
**Vegetation Communities**

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space  
 and Mountain Parks  
 File: 4089 Figure 5.mxd  
 June 2008

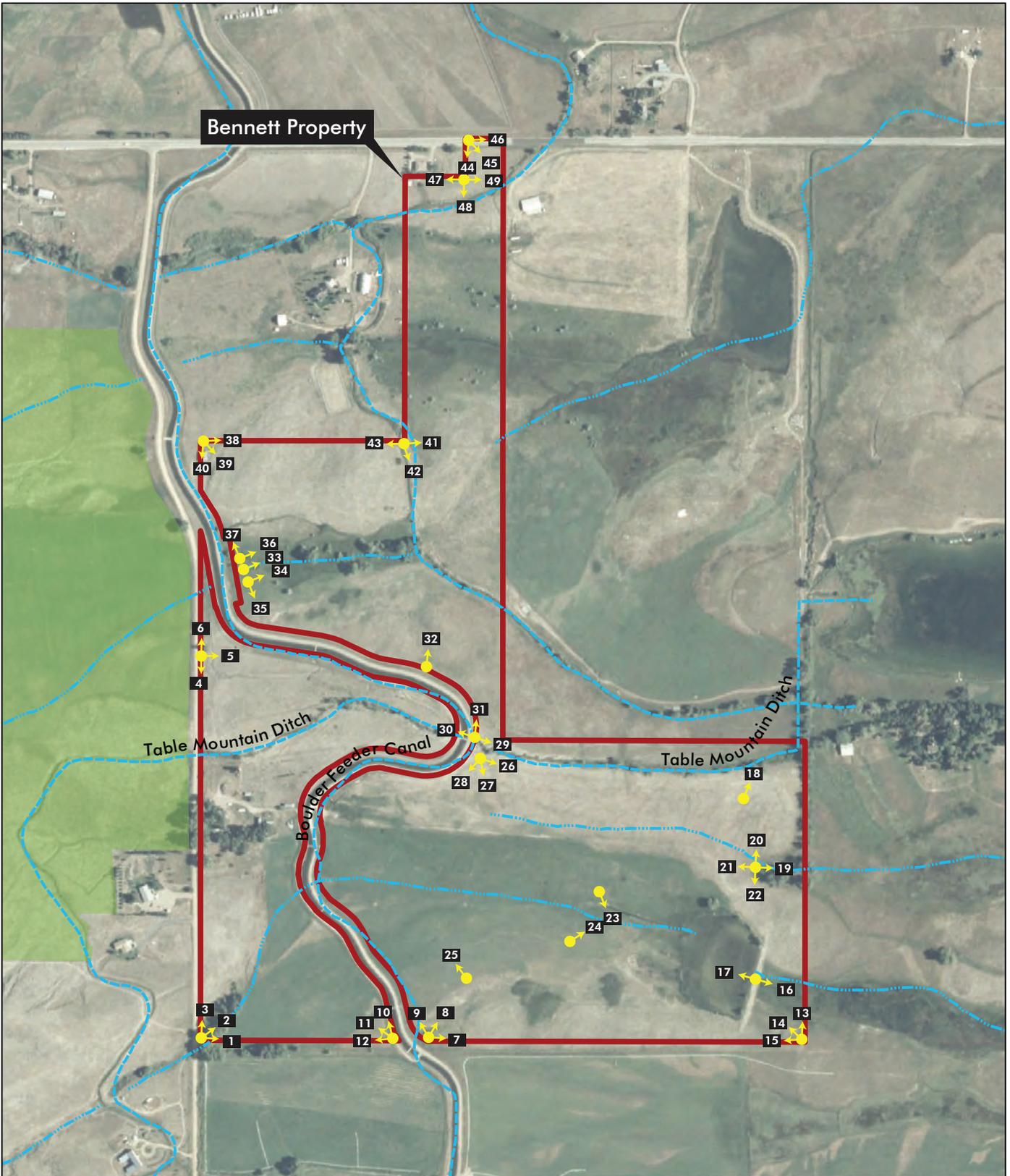
## Vegetation Communities

### Acronym, CmnName

	ADUD, Annual-dominant Upland Disturbance
	APS, American Plum Shrubland Alliance
	BBYH, Big Bluestem - (Yellow Indiangrass) Herbaceous Alliance
	BRSR, Baltic Rush Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	CFSH, Clustered Field Sedge Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	CHSH, Cattail Herbaceous Semipermanently Flooded Alliance
	CTH, Canada Thistle Weedy Forb Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation [Provisional]
	CWH, Crested Wheatgrass Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance
	CWTS, (Coyote Willow, Sandbar Willow) Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance
	CWW, Crack Willow (introduced) Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance
	DCAP, Disturbed Cultivated Agricultural Pasture
	DEV, Developed
	DFF, Douglas Fir Forest Alliance
	DFW, Douglas-fir Woodland Alliance
	ECTW, Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance
	ESSH, Emory Sedge Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	ETCW, Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance
	FBH, Foxtail Barley Temporarily Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	FH, (Tall Fescue, Meadow Fescue) Herbaceous Alliance
	FSBH, Fourwing Saltbush Herbaceous Alliance
	GAH, Cultivated Alfalfa / Smooth Bromegrass Hay
	GH, Cultivated Grass Hay
	IC, Irrigated Cropland
	ISAP, Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture
	KBH, Kentucky Bluegrass Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance
	NNH, New Mexico Needlegrass Herbaceous Alliance
	NSH, Nebraska Sedge Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	NTH, Needle-and-Thread - Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance
	OT, Ornamental Trees
	PDFF, Ponderosa Pine - Douglas-fir Forest Alliance
	PDFW, Ponderosa Pine - Douglas-fir Woodland Alliance
	PFDC, Perennial Forb Disturbance Community
	PMTH, Ponderosa Pine Wooded Mixed Herbaceous Alliance (Savannah)
	PPF, Ponderosa Pine Forest Alliance
	PPW, Ponderosa Pine Woodland Alliance
	PTSH, Ponderosa Pine Tallgrass Savannah Herbaceous Alliance
	PTW, Ponderosa Pine Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance
	QADF, Quaking Aspen - Douglas-fir Forest Alliance
	ROW, Russian Olive Semi-Natural Woodland Alliance
	SBH, Smooth Bromegrass Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance
	SDS, Snakeweed Dwarf-shrubland Alliance
	SKBH, Sun Sedge-Agassiz Kentucky Bluegrass Herbaceous
	SYS, Soapweed Yucca Evergreen Shrubland
	SYSH, Soapweed Yucca Shrub Savannah Herbaceous Alliance
	THA, Threesquare Herbaceous Alliance
	TSIS, Ill-scented Sumac Intermittently Flooded Shrubland Alliance
	TSSH, Three-leaved Sumac Shrub Savannah Herbaceous Alliance
	TSUS, Three-leaved Sumac Upland Shrubland Alliance
	WATER, Water
	WBSS, Water Birch Seasonally Flooded Shrubland Alliance
	WTFH, Western Wheatgrass Temporarily Flooded Herbaceous Alliance
	WWH, Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance

**APPENDIX A**  
**PHOTO POINT MAP AND DOCUMENTATION**





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**Bennett Property RRA and Management Plan**

➔ 1 Photo Point



1 inch = 600 Feet



**Appendix A  
 Photo Points**

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space  
 and Mountain Parks  
 File: 4089 Bennett photo points.pdf  
 July 2008

**APPENDIX B**  
**PLANT SPECIES**



## APPENDIX B PLANT SPECIES

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Smooth Brome Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance (SBH)	Tall Fescue Herbaceous Alliance (FH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance (ECTW)
<b>Native Annual/Biennial Forbs</b>									
Cirsium undulatum		wavyleaf thistle	■	■					
Erigeron divergens		spreading fleabane	■	■					
Erysimum asperum		western wallflower	■						
Grindelia squarrosa		curlycup gumweed		■					
Pterogonum alatum	Eriogonum alatum	winged buckwheat		■					
<b>Introduced Annual/Biennial Forbs</b>									
Arctium minus		common burdock			■				
Carduus nutans ssp. macrolepis		nodding plumeless thistle, musk thistle			■	■			
Erodium cicutarium		redstem stork's bill	■	■					
Melilotus officinalis		yellow sweetclover							
Salvia aethiopis		Mediterranean sage	■	■		■			
Sisymbrium altissimum		tall tumbled mustard	■	■					
Tragopogon dubius ssp. major		yellow salsify							
Verbascum thapsus		common mullein	■	■					
<b>Introduced Annual Grasses</b>									
Anisantha tectorum	Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	■	■					
<b>Native Perennial Forbs</b>									
Achillea lanulosa	Achillea	western yarrow			■				

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Smooth Brome Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance (SBH)	Tall Fescue Herbaceous Alliance (FH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance (ECTW)
	millefolium								
Adenolinum lewisii	Linum lewisii	prairie flax							
Ambrosia psilostachya var. coronopifolia		Cuman ragweed							
Argemone polyanthemos		crested pricklypoppy	■						
Asclepias speciosa		showy milkweed	■	■					
Erigeron flagellaris		trailing fleabane	■	■					
Eriogonum umbellatum		sulphur-flower buckwheat							
Erysimum capitatum		sanddune wallflower		■					
Evolvulus nuttallianus		shaggy dwarf morning-glory							
Gaura coccinea		scarlet beeblossom		■					
Helianthus pumilus		little sunflower							
Heterotheca villosa		hairy false goldenaster	■	■					
Leucelene ericoides	Chaetopappa ericoides	rose heath	■	■					
Leucocrinum montanum		common starlily	■						
Liatris punctata		Kansas gayfeather	■	■					
Lithospermum spp.		puccoon							
Mentha arvensis		wild mint			■		■		
Oenothera villosa	Oenothera strigosa	hairy evening-primrose							
Paronychia jamesii		James' nailwort		■					
Psoralidium tenuiflorum	Psoralea tenuiflora	slimflower scurfpea	■	■					
Ratibida columnifera		upright prairie coneflower	■						
Sphaeralcea coccinea		scarlet globemallow	■	■					

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Smooth Brome Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance (SBH)	Tall Fescue Herbaceous Alliance (FH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance (ECTW)
<b>Introduced Perennial Forbs</b>									
Breca arvensis	Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle			■				
Cichorium intybus		chicory			■				
Convolvulus arvensis		field bindweed	■	■	■			■	
Rumex acetosella	Acetosella vulgaris	common sheep sorrel			■				
Taraxacum officinale		common dandelion			■		■		
<b>Native Perennial Cool Season Grasses and Grass Like</b>									
Achnatherum hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides, Stipa hym.	Indian ricegrass	■						
Elymus trachycaulus	Agropyron trachycaulum	slender wheatgrass					■		■
Hesperostipa comata	Stipa comata	needle and thread	■	■					
Hesperostipa neomexicana	Stipa neomexicana	New Mexico feathergrass				■			
Juncus arcticus ssp. ater	Juncus balticus	Baltic rush			■	■	■		
Koeleria macrantha	Koeleria gracilis	prairie Junegrass	■						
Nassella viridula	Stipa viridula	green needlegrass							
Pascopyrum smithii	Agropyron smithii	western wheatgrass	■	■				■	
Schoenoplectus lacustris ssp. creber	Scirpus validus, Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	softstem bulrush					■		
Schoenoplectus pungens	Scirpus pungens, S. americanus	common threesquare					■		

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Smooth Brome Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance (SBH)	Tall Fescue Herbaceous Alliance (FH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance (ECTW)
Typha angustifolia		narrowleaf cattail					■		
Typha latifolia		broadleaf cattail					■		
<b>Introduced Perennial Cool Season Grasses</b>									
Bromopsis inermis	Bromus inermis	smooth brome			■			■	
Dactylis glomerata		orchardgrass			■				
Phleum pratense		timothy			■				
<b>Native Perennial Warm Season Grasses</b>									
Andropogon gerardii		big bluestem							
Aristida purpurea		purple threeawn							
Bouteloua curtipendula		sideoats grama	■	■					
Buchloe dactyloides	Bouteloua dactyloides	buffalograss	■	■					
Chondrosium gracile	Bouteloua gracilis	blue grama grass	■	■		■			
<b>Native Shrubs and Subshrubs</b>						■			
Artemisia frigida		prairie sagewort		■	■	■			
Atriplex canescens		fourwing saltbush							
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush				■			
Gutierrezia sarothrae		broom snakeweed	■	■					
Krascheninnikovia lanata	Ceratoides lanata	winterfat							
Padus virginiana ssp. melanocarpa	Prunus virginiana ssp. melanocarpa	black chokecherry	■						
Prunus americana		American plum							
Rhus aromatica ssp. trilobata	Rhus trilobata	skunkbush sumac							

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Smooth Brome Semi-Natural Herbaceous Alliance (SBH)	Tall Fescue Herbaceous Alliance (FH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Eastern Cottonwood Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance (ECTW)
<b>Native Succulents and Agavoids</b>									
Echinocereus viridiflorus		nylon hedgehog cactus		■					
Opuntia macrorhiza		twistspine pricklypear	■	■					
Yucca glauca		soapweed yucca	■	■	■				
<b>Native Trees</b>									
Negundo aceroides	Acer negundo	box elder							■
Populus deltoides ssp. monilifera		plains cottonwood							■
Salix amygdaloides		peachleaf willow							■
<b>Introduced Trees</b>									
Elaeagnus angustifolia		Russian olive			■		■		■



**APPENDIX C**  
**REFERENCES**



## **APPENDIX C**

### **REFERENCES**

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**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 1** - View east from southwest corner.



**Photo 2** - View northeast from southwest corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 3** - View north from southwest corner.



**Photo 4** - View south from western property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 5** - View east from western property edge.



**Photo 6** - View north from western property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 7** - View east from southern property edge.



**Photo 8** - View northeast from southern property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 9** - View north from southern property edge.



**Photo 10** - View north from southern property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS  
BENNETT**



**Photo 11** - View northwest from southern property edge.



**Photo 12** - View west from southern property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS  
BENNETT**



**Photo 13** - View north from southeast corner.



**Photo 14** - View northwest from southeast corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 15** - View west from southeast corner.



**Photo 16** - View east from top of dam.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 17** - View west from top of dam.



**Photo 18** - View of red-tailed hawk nest near northwestern property corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 19** - View east from eastern central location.



**Photo 20** - View north from eastern central location.

**PHOTO POINTS  
BENNETT**



**Photo 21** - View west from eastern central location.



**Photo 22** - View south from eastern central location.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 23** - View of flowing water from broken underground irrigation pipe.



**Photo 24** - View of flowing water from broken underground irrigation pipe.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 25** - View of active prairie dog mounds near south central location.



**Photo 26** - View east near central property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 27** - View south near central property edge.



**Photo 28** - View southwest near central property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 29** - View east of Table Mountain Ditch.



**Photo 30** - View west of Table Mountain Ditch piped over the Boulder Feeder Canal.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 31** - View north near central property edge.



**Photo 32** - View north from Boulder Feeder Canal.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 33** - View east of unnamed lateral ditch from northwestern property edge.



**Photo 34** - View east near unnamed lateral ditch from northwestern property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 35** - View south near unnamed lateral ditch from northwestern property edge.



**Photo 36** - View east near unnamed lateral ditch from northwestern property edge.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 37** - View north near unnamed lateral ditch from northwestern property edge.



**Photo 38** - View east from northwestern corner.

**PHOTO POINTS  
BENNETT**



**Photo 39** - View southeast from northwestern corner.



**Photo 40** - View south from northwestern corner.

**PHOTO POINTS  
BENNETT**



**Photo 41** - View east from north central corner.



**Photo 42** - View south from north central corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 43** - View west from north central corner.



**Photo 44** - View south from north property corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 45** - View southeast from north property corner.



**Photo 46** - View east from north property corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 47** - View west from north property corner.



**Photo 48** - View south from north property corner.

**PHOTO POINTS**  
**BENNETT**



**Photo 49** - View east from north property corner.