

**RAPID RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
SCHNEIDER-IRLLC OPEN SPACE
BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO**

Prepared for—

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SUMMARY

SCHNEIDER-IRLLC PROPERTY		
APPROXIMATE SIZE	ACQUISITION DATE	CURRENT ZONING
67 acres	March 10, 2006	Agricultural
MANAGEMENT DESIGNATION		PUBLIC ACCESS
<i>North Section</i> – Natural Area		Allowed, but not encouraged
<i>South Section</i> – Passive Recreation Area		

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE RESOURCES

The property consists of two parcels divided by light industrial development along Longhorn Road. The larger northern parcel consists of rolling grassland interrupted by two intermittent drainages, one of which supports a narrow riparian corridor. The smaller southern parcel consists of steep escarpment slopes and rolling grasslands, with a small intermittent stream running through the bottom. The property supports several occurrences of Bells twinpod (*Physaria bellii*), a rare plant species – several small clusters of twinpod were identified in the northern parcel, while large populations of the plant were identified on the steep slopes along the southern property boundary. Most of the grassland vegetation has been altered by grazing and includes scattered noxious weeds and nonnative species.

OPEN SPACE VALUES BASED ON RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The property is important for open space because it maintains—

- Several populations of Bell’s twinpod (*Physaria bellii*), a rare plant species
- Scenic open space along the US 36 corridor which serves as a visual gateway to the City of Boulder
- Part of the CNHP-designated North Boulder Grasslands Potential Conservation Area, which is considered to have very high biodiversity significance
- Open grassland habitat for a variety of wildlife species
- Native grassland communities with restoration potential

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 and redstem stork’s bill
- Several incidences of wind-blown garbage and building materials from neighboring properties and the US 36 corridor
- Several portions of the west boundary fence are down or missing
- Trampling, streambank erosion, and other impacts associated with livestock grazing

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 67-acre Schneider-IRLLC 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 6, 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 65 acres characterized by rolling grasslands, a narrow riparian corridor, and steep shale escarpment slopes.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

The property is located in central Boulder County about 5 miles north of downtown Boulder (Figure 1). Specifically, the property is located in Section 6 in Township 1 North, Range 70 West of the 6th P.M. (Figure 2).

Primary access is from US Highway 36 along the eastern edge of the property. From downtown Boulder, travel north on Broadway to US Highway 36.

The northern portion of the property has gated access in two locations: one along Longhorn Road, and a second along US 36 about ¼ mile north of Longhorn Road. Vehicle access to the southern portion of the property would be from an adjacent property south of Longhorn Road, through a gate onto the property.

Emergency access is possible from any of the access points described above.

ACQUISITION

The City of Boulder acquired the Schneider-IRLLC Property on March 10, 2006. The total price for 67 acres was \$862,500.

LAND USE

The property has been historically used for livestock grazing. Current grazing on the southern portion of the property is associated with the adjacent open space property to the east. The northern portion of the property has not currently had any grazing or active management since its purchase by OSMP.

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The property is located adjacent to US Highway 36, about one mile east of the Front Range foothills, and is in the center of a complex of protected open space lands (Boulder Valley Ranch) that form the north gateway to the Boulder.

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
Kay, Eugene A 5601 N. Foothills Hwy.. Boulder, CO 80302 Parcel No. 146306000014	Southeast of property Manufacturing/processing
Barday, Carl A. 3116 Longhorn Rd. (C/O Donna Lucarelli; 2218 Jewel St.; Longmont, CO 80501 Parcel No. 146306000008	Center of property Manufacturing/processing
Industrial Research Land Leasing Corp. 3216 Longhorn Rd. (Leasing Corp. 3216 Longhorn Rd.; Boulder, CO 80502) Parcel No. 146306001004	Center of property Warehouse land
Independent Testing Lab 3386 Longhorn Rd. Boulder, CO 80302-9361 Parcel No. 146306000007	Center of property Manufacturing/processing – existing structure does not meet setback requirement
Artist Services Network Inc. 3207 Longhorn Rd. (C/O George Sinner; 505 University Ave.; Boulder, CO 80302 Parcel No. 14306000005	Center of property Warehouse/storage land – Diffuse knapweed reported on property. Management plan in place.
Industrial Research Land Leasing Corp. 5863 Rawhide Ct. (3126 Longhorn Rd.; Boulder, CO 80302) Parcel No. 146306001002	Center of property Manufacturing/processing
Industrial Research Land Leasing Corp. 5854 Rawhide Ct. (3126 Longhorn Rd.; Boulder, CO 80302) Parcel No. 146306001003	Center of property Manufacturing/processing

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Industrial Research Land Leasing Corp. 3121 Longhorn Rd. (3126 Longhorn Rd.; Boulder, CO 80302) Parcel No. 146306001001	Center of property Manufacturing/processing
Industrial Research Land Leasing Corp. Longhorn Rd. 3126 Longhorn Rd.; Boulder, CO 80302 Parcel No. 146306001005	Center of property Manufacturing/processing

NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

Government-owned 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
Municipal Property Authority N. Foothills Hwy. (1777 Broadway; Boulder, CO 80302-6220) Parcel No. 131731000002 <i>Joint City & County of Boulder Open Space</i>	North of property Undeveloped land – Limited impact special use review for the North Boulder Valley trailhead & trail
City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146306000037 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	South of property Undeveloped land
City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146306000027 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	East of property Undeveloped land – Limited impact special use review for the North Boulder Valley trailhead & trail
City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146306000026 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	East of property Undeveloped land
City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146306000037 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	East of property Undeveloped land

City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146306000038 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	East of property Undeveloped land
City of Boulder N. Foothills Hwy Real Estate & Open Space (PO Box 791; Boulder, CO 80306-0791) Parcel No. 146101000024 <i>City of Boulder Open Space</i>	East of property Undeveloped land

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

Elevations on the property range from about 5,547 feet in the southeastern corner to about 5,500 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 middle and lower units of Pierre Shale. Pierre Shale contains areas of sandstone (Tweto 1979).

SOILS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped four 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 VcC. Valmont cobbly clay loam (1 to 5 percent slopes). This soil includes areas of Valmont clay loam and Nunn clay loam. The surface layer is about 8 inches of cobbly clay loam and the subsoil is about 14 inches of cobbly clay loam or cobbly clay. Runoff is medium and the erosion hazard is slight to moderate. Native vegetation is blue grama, western wheatgrass, and cactus.

Mapping Unit ReD. Renohill Loam (3 to 9 percent slopes). This soil includes a few areas of rock outcrop and small areas of Samsil and Shingle soils. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. Native vegetation consists of western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, blue grama and scattered big sagebrush.

Mapping Unit HeC. Heldt clay (3 to 5 percent slopes). This soil includes small areas of Renohill silty clay loam and Colby silty clay loam. In some areas near ridgetops scattered gravel

is on the surface. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. Native vegetation is primarily western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, blue grama, and basin wildrye.

Mapping Unit Te. Terrace escarpments. These areas consist of undifferentiated shallow soils that have many cobbles and stones on the surface. In many places there is merely a thin layer of cobbles over sandstone or shale. Only limited moisture is available for plants because these undifferentiated soils are shallow. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high.

HYDROLOGY

SURFACE HYDROLOGY

Three unnamed, ephemeral drainages cross the property from west to east. The property is not included within a designated floodplain area.

According to topographic information from the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map, surface water on the property flows to the east toward Dry Creek (USGS 1967, photorevised 1979).

SUBSURFACE HYDROLOGY

Based on a review of the USGS Boulder quadrangle, shallow ground water would flow in an easterly direction towards the Dry Creek drainage (USGS 1967; photorevised 1979). There are no permitted water wells on the property (CDWR 2008), and no seeps or springs were identified on the property.

WETLANDS

Wetland vegetation was observed along drainages in the central and south portion of the property. The most dominant wetland plant is Baltic rush (*Juncus articus* ssp. *ater*) a native rush. In the southern portion of the property broadleaf cattail (*Tphya latifolia*) and Emory's sedge (*Carex emoryi*) are dominant.

VEGETATION

GENERAL VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

The property consists of rolling hills and valleys with upland areas and wet meadows. The northern portion of the property is dominated primarily by shortgrass prairie species. The central portion has tall elm trees in the western corner and wetland vegetation along swales. In the southern portion of the property shrubby species dominate the hill slopes. Vegetation communities are described below and shown in Figure 5. A list of plant species identified during the field visit appears in Appendix B.

SOAPWEED YUCCA EVERGREEN SHRUBLAND (SYS)

In the northern and central portion of the property on dry hilltops a soapweed yucca evergreen shrubland alliance is present. This alliance is dominated by soapweed yucca (*Yucca glauca*), a native agavoid. Native grasses such as needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*) are present. A few scattered native shrubs/subshrubs such as fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*) and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) are present.

WESTERN WHEATGRASS HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (WWH)

The western wheatgrass herbaceous alliance is the dominant community type and is present in the northern, central, and southern areas of the property. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is the dominant grass in this community but other native grass species such as needle-and-thread and purple threeawn are present. Native perennial forbs such as Kansas gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*), prairie flax (*Adenolinum lewisii*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) are present. Introduced perennial cool season grasses such as smooth brome (*Bromopsis inermis*), and crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron desertorum*) are present in small quantities.

NEEDLE-AND-THREAD – BLUE GRAMA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (NTH)

The needle-and-thread – bluegrama herbaceous alliance is present along the slopes in the northeast of the property. This alliance is dominated by needle-and-thread, blue grama grass and western wheatgrass. Soapweed yucca, and twistspine pricklypear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*), a succulent species, is also dominant in this community type.

SNAKEWEED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE (SDS)

Along the slopes in the southern portion of the property and in the northwest, a snakeweed dwarf-shrubland alliance is present. This community type is dominated by broom snakeweed, a native subshrub, and a mixture of native perennial cool and warm season grasses such as western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), blue grama grass (*Chondrosom gracile*), and purple threeawn. Native perennial forbs such as Howard's evening-primrose (*Oenothera howardii*), hairy false goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), and shaggy dwarf morning-glory (*Evolvulus nuttallianus*) are also present.

INTRODUCED SPECIES AGRICULTURAL PASTURE (ISAP)

In the central portion of the property patches introduced species agricultural pasture are present. This community type is dominated by introduced annual and perennial forbs as well as introduced annual grasses. Introduced forb species such as smallflowered alyssum (*Alyssum parviflorum*), tall tumbled mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Cheatgrass is also common within this community type.

BALTIC RUSH SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (BRSH)

In the central portion of the property and the south a Baltic rush seasonally flooded herbaceous alliance is present. This community type lines drainages and swales and is dominated by Baltic rush.

CATTAIL HERBACEOUS SEMIPERMANENTLY FLOODED ALLIANCE (CHSH)

In the southwestern corner of the property a cattail herbaceous semipermanently flooded alliance is present. This community type is dominated by broadleaf cattail. Emory's sedge was found lining the edges of this community type.

RARE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES

A Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) population was found in the central and south portion of the property (Figure 3, Photos 25 & 37). Bell's twinpod is an endemic species that is believed to be imperiled globally or in the state of Colorado (G2/S2).

STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Based on the site visits, Mediterranean sage (*Salvia aethiopsis*), a species from List A, was found scattered throughout the upland areas in low densities. Populations of Mediterranean sage are shown on Figure 3 (Photo 17). A total of four List B noxious weed species occur on the property. Canada thistle (*Breca arvensis*) occurs along drainages in the central section of the property in low densities. Redstem stork’s bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) was found scattered throughout the upland areas in low to medium densities. Scotch cottonthistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) was found in medium densities in the south-central portion of the property in disturbed areas. Three List C noxious weeds were found on the property: cheatgrass, common mullein, and field bindweed. List C noxious weeds were found in medium to high densities throughout the property. Infestations of common mullein were found in the south central areas in high densities.

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
Mediterranean sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	High	X	A
redstem stork's bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	none	not listed	B
Scotch cottonthistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Moderate	x	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 A species are species for which the Commissioner of Agriculture has designated for eradication. 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 in Boulder County, and limited habitat associated with riparian corridors. Typical bird species likely include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) and potentially grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Small rodents that probably occur along the riparian corridor 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. The property is also known to support populations of rattlesnake.

Prairie dogs. The northern portion of the property contains a large extent of inactive prairie dog burrows. During the site visit, most burrows appeared to be inactive and no prairie dogs were observed in the northern portion of the property. Five prairie dogs were observed in an active colony along the eastern boundary of the southern parcel. Prairie dog colonies also have potential to support burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

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). The property is contained within the CNHP-designated North Boulder Grasslands Potential Conservation Area, which is considered to have very high biodiversity significance (B2)(CNHP 2007).

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DESIGNATIONS

According to the NDIS database, the property does not contain any CDOW-designated wildlife habitat areas.

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 (OAHP 2008). This database contains information on documented federal or state studies or findings regarding any cultural resources. According to the search, one survey was conducted on the property and another occurred near the property just west of Highway 36 (OAHP 2008). The survey on the property was at the location of the existing gated access along the west boundary. 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 (Boulder County 2008b).

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL USE

No agricultural use of the northern portion of the property has occurred since its purchase by OSMP. The southern portion of the property is actively grazed and is contiguous with the open space property to the east (there is no fence separating the two). About 12 to 15 cows and calves were on the property during the site visit.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The northern portion of the property is almost entirely surrounded by barbed-wire fence, with the exception of a short segment (about 300 feet) along Longhorn Road. These fences are in good condition. The southern portion of the property is fenced along the north and west sides, and a small segment of the south side. The southern and eastern boundaries are not fenced.

BOULDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATIONS

The property has not been designated as significant agricultural land by the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (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 recent recreational access or use was evident during the site visit. An old bicycle race track loops through the northernmost portion of the property. The track was only used by specific permission from the previous landowner. This track is revegetated in many areas.

PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE

STRUCTURES

One structure and associated yard area associated with adjacent land uses is apparently located on the northern portion of the property along Longhorn Road. This structure is separated from the rest of the property by perimeter fence and was not investigated during the site visit.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

A small lateral ditch extends between two small stock ponds in the southern portion of the property. Fencing on the property is discussed above.

An overhead electrical line runs along the north property boundary, and along the west boundary of the southern portion of the property. An additional overhead electrical line crosses the southern portion of the property. No other utilities were observed on the property.

ROADWAYS AND TRAILS

A two-track access road enters the property from the west (along US 36) and extends east into the property for a short distance. This road does not appear to be frequently used, and has revegetated in many areas.

An old motorcycle trail loops through the northern portion of the property. This trail does not appear to have been used in several years and is revegetating in many areas.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

WATER RIGHTS

Purchase of the property did not include any water rights.

MINERAL RIGHTS

Purchase of the property included all mineral rights that are appurtenant to the property and owned by the seller.

EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY INFORMATION

See OSMP property file.

LOCAL PLANNING DESIGNATIONS

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

The Boulder County Open Space Plan identifies the property and adjacent areas around Haystack Mountain as a proposed Open Corridor, Roadside (Boulder County 1996).

Boulder County Comprehensive Plan designations on the property include—

- Rare Plant Area – *Physaria bellii*
- Environmental Conservation Area – Boulder Valley Ranch/Beech Open Space

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: North Section – Natural Area.
South Section – Passive Recreation Area

The location and features of the property are generally consistent with the characteristics, goals, and strategies outlined for Natural Areas and Passive Recreation Areas in the OSMP Visitor Master Plan, including variable condition of natural ecosystems and compatibility with adjacent land uses (OSMP 2005). These management area designations are consistent with the historic and current uses of the property and its primary open space values, and with the management designation of adjacent OSMP properties.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Recommended status: Allowed, but not encouraged.

There is no evidence of recent public access on the property. If informal public access does occur, the potential for resource damage would be minimal. However, should future public use monitoring or rare plant surveys reveal potential resource impacts, implement incremental measures to re-direct, restrict, or close public access to the property.

The goal of this access status is to allow limited informal access if it should occur, but to prevent a pattern of passive recreational use from forming that is detrimental to natural, agricultural and cultural resources. Should public access result in a Class 2 undesignated trail: (trail obvious; vegetation cover lost and/or organic litter pulverized in primary use area – see Manning et al. 2006), the property may be closed at the sole discretion of the OSMP department. External gates will be locked to prevent unauthorized vehicle access. 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.

Noxious weeds. The property contains one List A noxious weeds species (Mediterranean sage), three List B species, and three List C species. While most of the noxious weed species are typical of agricultural and open space properties in the region, Mediterranean sage is a high priority species for both OSMP and the State of Colorado, and should be aggressively managed to prevent its spread.

Litter. The property contains several incidences of wind-blown litter and debris from the adjacent U.S. 36 corridor. While this litter and debris does not constitute a significant management issue, it can have aesthetic impacts, could provide a foothold for noxious weeds and, and may also attract additional illegal dumping.

Grazing management. The southern portion of the property is actively grazed, resulting in trampling and downcutting along the drainage near the west boundary. While this condition appears to be typical of many grazed areas, impacts to streams and other water bodies should be managed and monitored to allow suitable livestock access while also preserving the potential for wetland and riparian habitat development, and revised grazing prescriptions should be considered.

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: Target and control Mediterranean sage on the property, with the goal of eradication.

Action: Implement efforts to aggressively control Mediterranean sage.

Action: Conduct follow-up monitoring and treatments to ensure effectiveness.

Objective 2: 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 3: Identify and protect any occurrences of Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) or other rare plant species on the property.

Action: Conduct targeted surveys to confirm extent of Bell's twinpod populations (or other species) on the property.

Action: Consider additional measures (e.g., additional use restrictions/enforcement, habitat management/restoration) to protect the population.

Objective 4: 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.

Objective 5: Identify opportunities for habitat restoration on the property.

Action: Evaluate potential for restoring native grassland communities on the property.

Action: Manage future grazing activity in a manner that is compatible with habitat restoration objectives and prairie dog management.

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.

Action: Evaluate boundary fence to ensure that it meets OSMP standards for resource management and wildlife passage.

Objective 1: Conduct routine fence repair and maintenance along the property boundary.

Action: Repair areas of downed or missing fence along the west boundary, in the southern portion of the property.

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

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Objective 1: Identify opportunities to allow viable agricultural use while limiting impacts to potential riparian resources.

Action: Further evaluate the condition of water/riparian resources and impacts related to grazing.

Action: Evaluate whether a single water source (pond on property) is suitable to sustain a viable grazing program.

Action: Work with lessee to develop specific strategies for riparian enhancement without unreasonably compromising grazing operations.

Action: Allow prescriptive grazing only on the north portion of the property.

Action: Consider fencing and restoring portions of the drainage and pond along the west property boundary (south side) to improve habitat for amphibians and other species.

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 other raptors.

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

Objective 2: Consider opportunities for other wildlife values.

Action: Evaluate potential for rattlesnake hibernacula on the property.

CONSERVATION AND COORDINATION

Objective 1: Work with adjacent landowners to provide consistent, sustainable management to the greater Boulder Valley Ranch area.

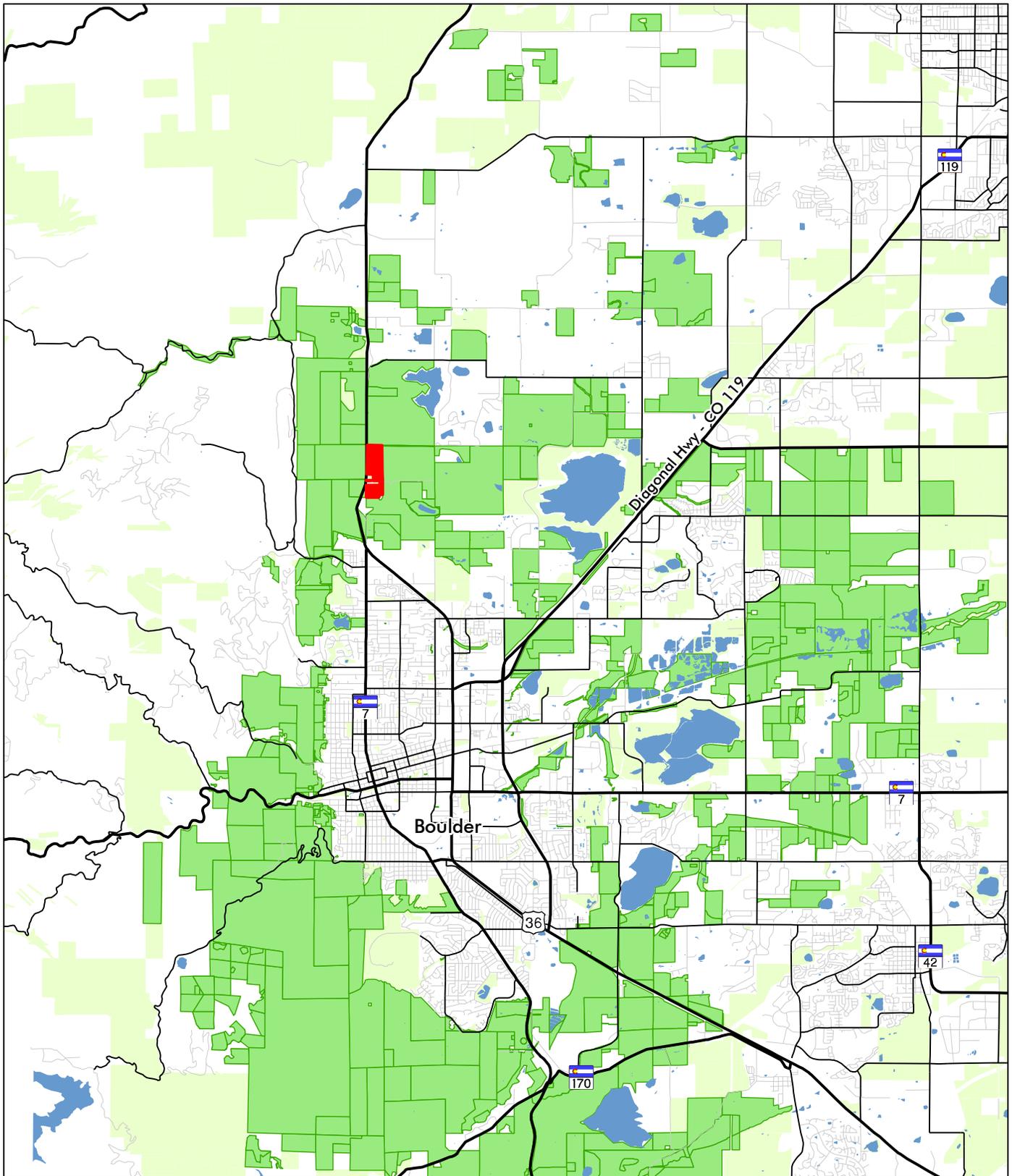
Action: Establish and maintain lines of communication with adjacent landowners.

RAPID RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
SCHNEIDER-IRLLC OPEN SPACE
BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

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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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan

- Schneider-IRLLC Property
- City of Boulder Open Space
- Other Open Space

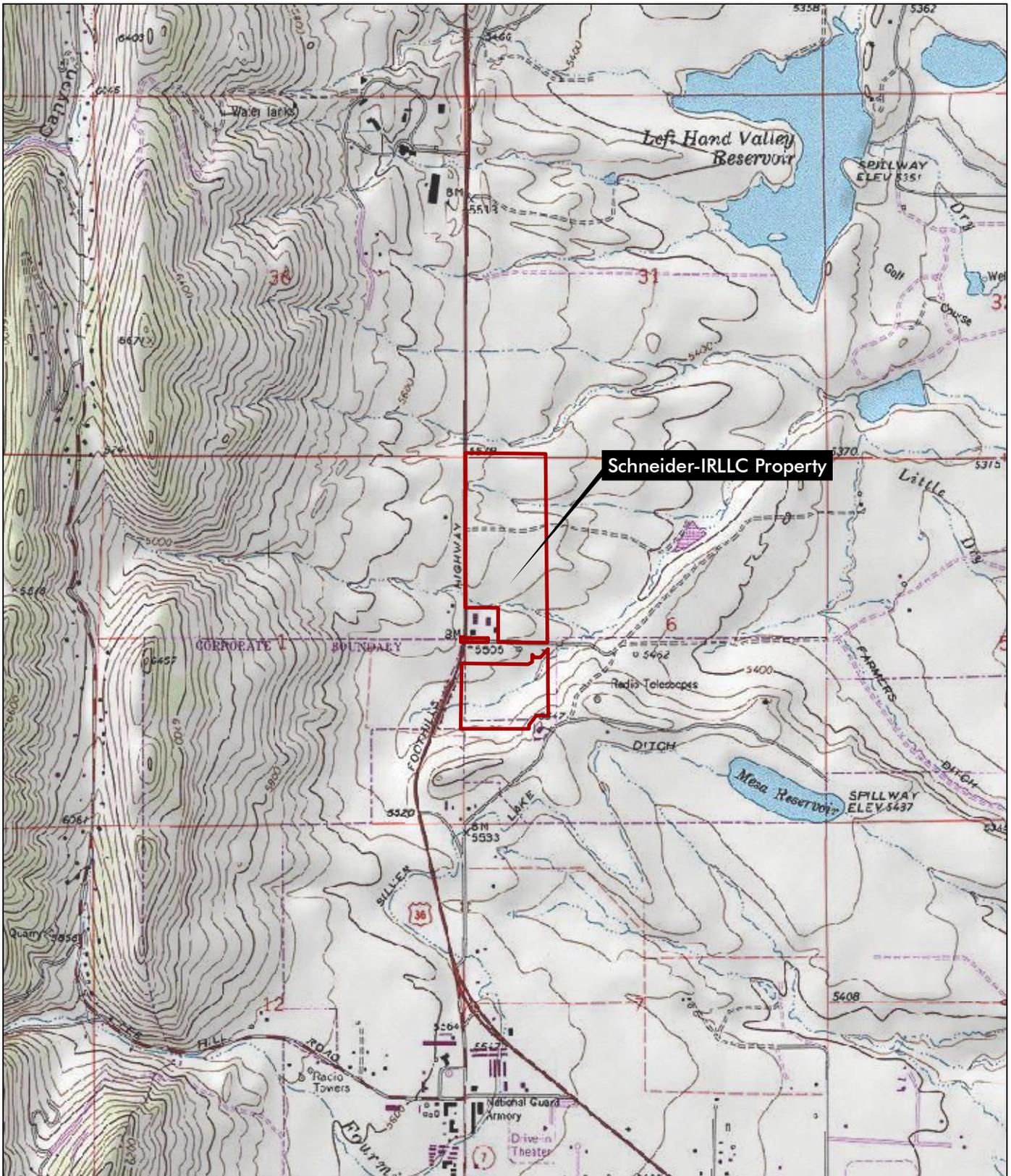


1 inch = 2 miles



**Figure 1
 Vicinity Map**

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



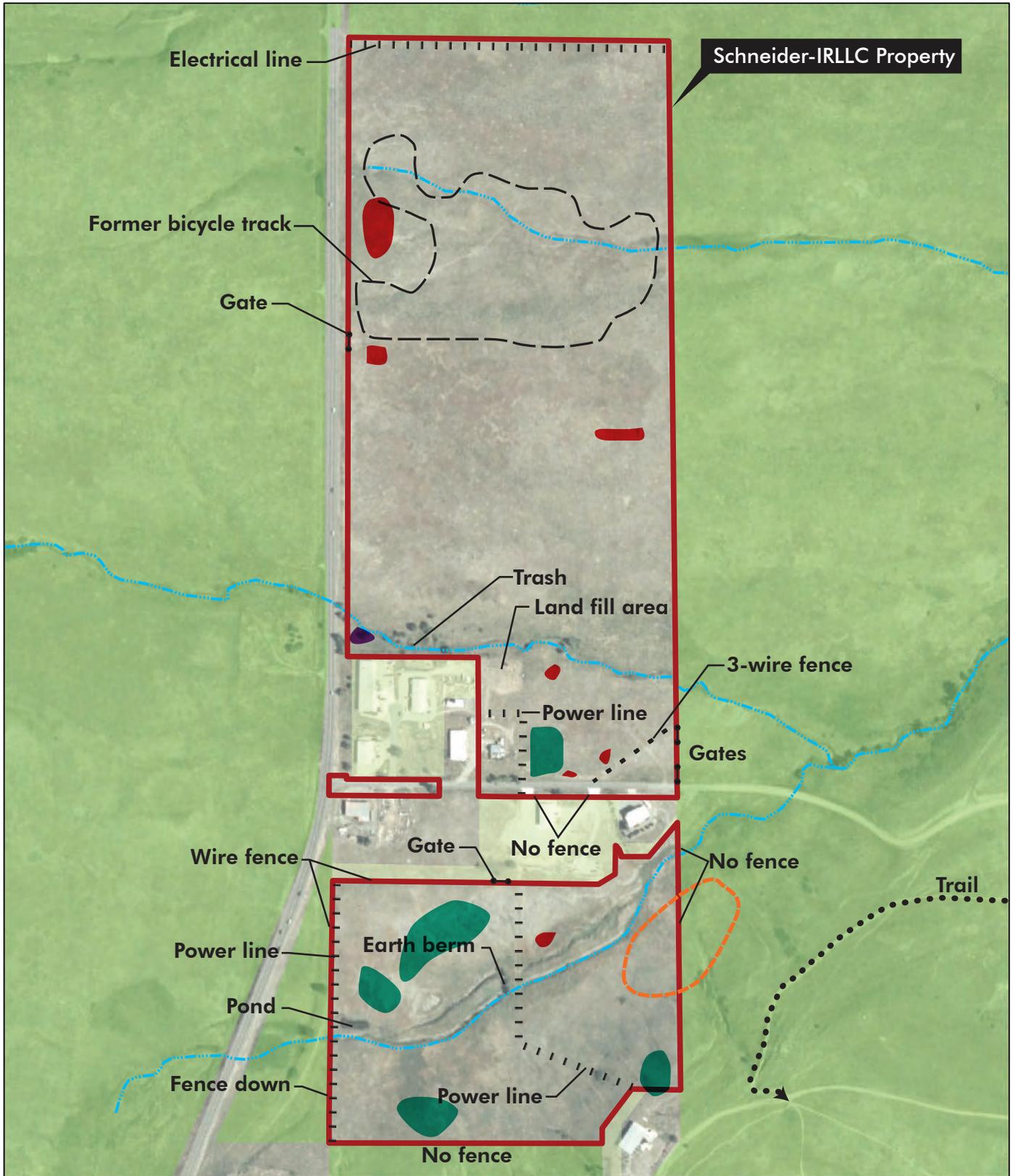
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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan
 Section 6, T1N, R70W and Section 31, T2N, R70W
 UTM NAD83 Coordinate Zone 13N; 476146mE, 4436902mN
 USGS Boulder CO, Quadrangle
 Boulder County, Colorado



Figure 2
Location

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



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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan

- City of Boulder Open Space
- Other Open Space
- Bell's twinpod
- Mediterranean sage
- Weed patch
- Active prairie dog colony

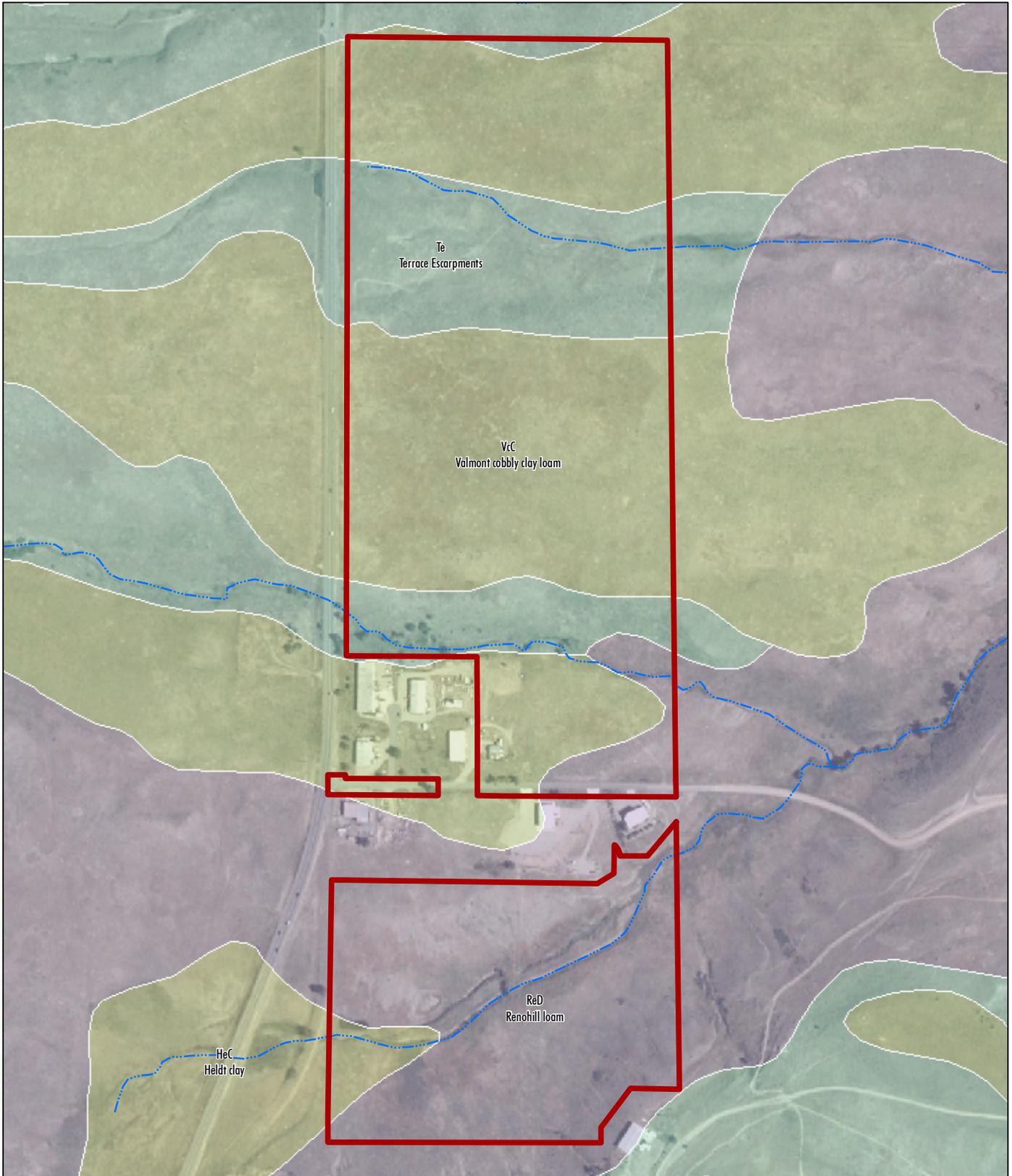


1 inch = 500 Feet



Figure 3 Property Features

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space
 and Mountain Parks
 File: 4089 Figure 3 Schneider IRLLC.pdf
 July 2008



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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan

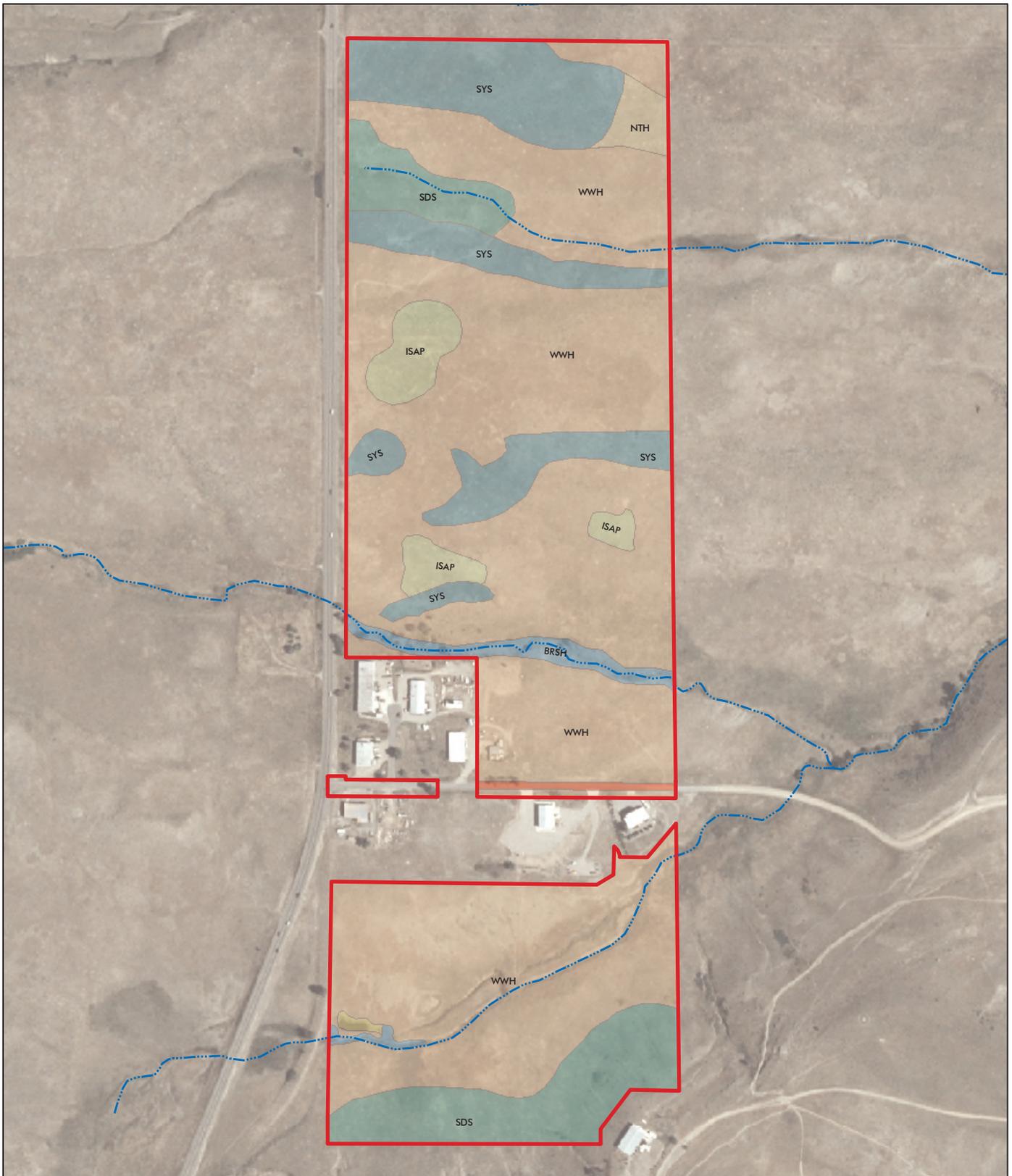


1 inch = 500 Feet



Figure 4
 Soils

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



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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan
 (See following page for for vegetation community names)



1 inch = 500 Feet



Figure 5
Vegetation Communities

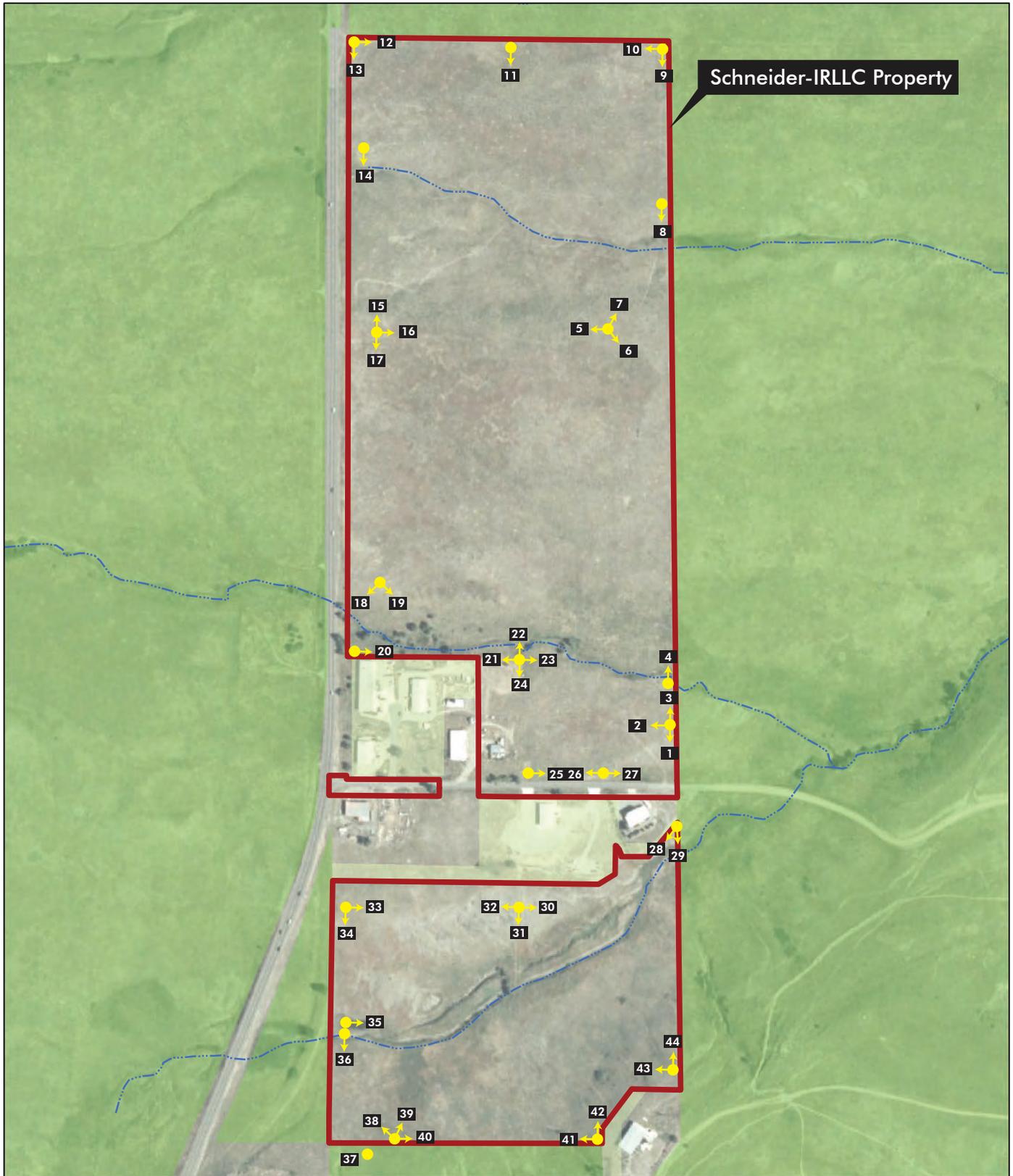
Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space
 and Mountain Parks
 File: 4089 Figure 5.mxd
 June 2008

Vegetation Communities

Acronym, CmnName

	ADUD, Annual-dominant Upland Disturbance
	APS, American Plum Shrubland Alliance
	BBYH, Big Bluestem - (Yellow Indiangrass) Herbaceous Alliance
	BRSF, 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



Schneider-IRLLC Property



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Schneider-IRLLC Property RRA and Management Plan

●➔ 1 Photo Point



1 inch = 500 Feet



Appendix A
 Photo Points

Prepared for: City of Boulder Open Space
 and Mountain Parks
 File: 4089 Figure 3.mxd
 March 2008

APPENDIX B
PLANT SPECIES

APPENDIX B PLANT SPECIES

Plant Species Observed during the June 9, 2008 Site Visit

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Needle-and-thread Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance (NTH)	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Baltic Rush Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance (BRSH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Soapweed Yucca Evergreen Shrubland Alliance (SYS)	Perennial Forb Disturbance Community (PFDC)
Native Annual/Biennial Forbs										
Cirsium undulatum		wavyleaf thistle	■	■	■				■	
Erigeron divergens		spreading fleabane	■	■	■					
Erysimum asperum		western wallflower		■					■	
Grindelia squarrosa		curlycup gumweed	■		■					
Pterogonum alatum	Eriogonum alatum	winged buckwheat	■		■				■	
Introduced Annual/Biennial Forbs										
Arctium minus		common burdock				■		■		
Carduus nutans ssp. macrolepis		nodding plumeless thistle, musk thistle				■		■		
Erodium cicutarium		redstem stork's bill	■	■	■			■		■
Melilotus officinalis		yellow sweetclover				■		■		■
Onopordum acanthium		Scotch cottonthistle						■		
Salvia aethiopis		Mediterranean sage	■	■	■			■		
Sisymbrium altissimum		tall tumbled mustard	■	■	■			■		
Tragopogon dubius ssp. major		yellow salsify	■							
Verbascum thapsus		common mullein	■	■	■			■	■	

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Needle-and-thread Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance (NTH)	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Baltic Rush Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance (BRSH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Soapweed Yucca Evergreen Shrubland Alliance (SYS)	Perennial Forb Disturbance Community (PFDC)
Introduced Annual Grasses										
Anisantha tectorum	Bromus tectorum	cheatgrass	■	■	■					
Native Perennial Forbs										
Achillea lanulosa	Achillea millefolium	western yarrow								■
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	■		■					

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Needle-and-thread Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance (NTH)	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Baltic Rush Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance (BRSH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Soapweed Yucca Evergreen Shrubland Alliance (SYS)	Perennial Forb Disturbance Community (PFDC)
<i>Psoralidium tenuiflorum</i>	<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i>	slimflower scurfpea		■	■					
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>		upright prairie coneflower		■						
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>		scarlet globemallow	■	■	■					
Introduced Perennial Forbs										
<i>Breca arvensis</i>	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle				■	■	■	■	■
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>		chicory				■	■			■
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>		field bindweed	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>		common dandelion				■	■			
Native Perennial Cool Season Grasses and Grass like										
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> , <i>Stipa hym.</i>	Indian ricegrass	■	■						
<i>Carex emoryi</i>		Emory's sedge					■			
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	slender wheatgrass					■			
<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	<i>Stipa comata</i>	needle and thread	■	■	■					
<i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i>	<i>Stipa neomexicana</i>	New Mexico feathergrass								
<i>Juncus arcticus</i> ssp. <i>ater</i>	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic rush				■	■			
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	<i>Koeleria gracilis</i>	prairie Junegrass	■	■						
<i>Nassella viridula</i>	<i>Stipa viridula</i>	green needlegrass	■							
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	western wheatgrass	■	■	■					
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> ssp. <i>creber</i>	<i>Scirpus validus</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	softstem bulrush					■			

Species Name	Synonym	Common Name	Needle-and-thread Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance (NTH)	Snakeweed Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance (SDS)	Western Wheatgrass Herbaceous Alliance (WWH)	Baltic Rush Seasonally Flooded Herbaceous Alliance (BRSH)	Cattail Herbaceous Semi-permanently Flooded Alliance (CHSH)	Introduced Species Agricultural Pasture (ISAP)	Soapweed Yucca Evergreen Shrubland Alliance (SYS)	Perennial Forb Disturbance Community (PFDC)
Native Succulents and Agavoids										
Echinocereus viridiflorus		nylon hedgehog cactus			■					
Opuntia macrorhiza		twistspine pricklypear	■	■	■					
Yucca glauca		soapweed yucca	■	■	■			■	■	■
Introduced Trees										
Elaeagnus angustifolia		Russian olive				■	■		■	

APPENDIX C
REFERENCES

APPENDIX C

REFERENCES

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**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 1 - View of southeast corner of north parcel from east boundary.



Photo 2 - View southwest from east boundary.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 3 - View north along east fence line in the north parcel.



Photo 4 - Scattered trash in the small drainage in the north parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 5 - Old motorcycle track in north parcel, looking west.



Photo 6 - View of north parcel, looking southeast.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 7 - View of northeast portion of north parcel.



Photo 8 - View along east boundary, looking south.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 9 - View from northeast corner, looking south.



Photo 10 - View from northeast corner, looking west.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 11 - View from north boundary, looking south.



Photo 12 - View from northwest corner, looking east.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 13 - View from northwest corner, looking south.



Photo 14- Remnants of old motorcycle track along east boundary, looking south.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 15 - View from access gate along west boundary, looking north.



Photo 16 - View from access gate along west boundary, looking east.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 17 - View of access gate along west boundary, looking south.



Photo 18 - View of corner along western boundary of the north parcel.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 19 - View of southeast portion of the north parcel.



Photo 20 - View along south boundary and riparian corridor in the north parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 21 - View west near the southern portion of the north parcel.



Photo 22 - View north near the southern portion of the north parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 23 - View east near the southern portion of the north parcel.



Photo 24 - View of southern portion of the north parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 25 - Bells twinpod observed near the southern edge of the north parcel.



Photo 26 - Southern edge of north parcel, looking west.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 27 - Southern edge of north parcel, looking east.



Photo 28 - Northeast corner of southern parcel, looking southwest.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 29 - Northeast corner of southern parcel, looking south.



Photo 30 - View east from northern edge of southern parcel.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 31 - View south from northern edge of southern parcel.



Photo 32 - View west from northern edge of southern parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 33 - View west near the northwest corner of the southern parcel.



Photo 34 - View south near the northwest corner of the southern parcel.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 35 - Pond along the west edge of the southern parcel, looking east.



Photo 36 - Drainage along the west edge of the southern parcel, looking south.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 37 - Bells twinpod observed near the southern property boundary.



Photo 38 - View northwest from the southern property boundary.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 39 - View northeast from the southern property boundary.



Photo 40 - View east along the southern property boundary.

**PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC**



Photo 41 - View west from a southeast corner point.



Photo 42 - View north from a southeast corner point.

PHOTO POINTS
SCHNEIDER IRLLC



Photo 43 - Bells twinpod population location near southeast property corner.



Photo 44 - View north from the southeast property corner.