

DRAFT

PLATT ROGERS MEMORIAL PARK

REYNOLDS RANCH

AND

ROGERS PROPERTY

MANAGEMENT PLAN

PREPARED BY:

**BOULDER COUNTY PARKS
AND OPEN SPACE**

JUNE 2000

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SUMMARY OF RESOURCE EVALUATION*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The lands around Magnolia Road and in Boulder Canyon have been important in the county's landscape due to their intrinsic features as well as their geographic position. Located in the montane lifezone, these lands are the start of a transition zone between lower elevation foothills and higher subalpine areas. These lands have been important locations for the movement of animals and people between summer and winter range, between city and mining camp or between urban area and recreational site. The qualities of the land have made it a home for wildlife, ranchers, miners, and people desiring a peaceful and beautiful area.

Beginning in 1994 the County seized the opportunity to protect three of the significant properties that comprise the Magnolia Road to Boulder Canyon landscape. Platt Rogers Memorial Park is approximately 780 acres in size and is located on the south side of Boulder Canyon. Reynolds Ranch is approximately 860 acres located on either side of Magnolia Road and drops into Boulder Canyon just east of Barker Reservoir. Rogers Property is 88 acres located 3/4 mile below Barker Reservoir on both sides of State Highway 119. Together, these properties help protect the scenic mountain landscape as well as important wildlife habitat.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Reynolds and both Rogers families, and Denver University who decided to take the necessary land saving actions and protect these lands from development for the benefit of all citizens. We also wish to express our gratitude to all the citizens of Boulder County who have provided the means to acquire these ranches.

• General Description of Properties

The open space properties lie within southwest Boulder County between Boulder and Nederland (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Reynolds Ranch is located on both sides of Magnolia Road, beginning 1 mile east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway and continuing east for 2.5 miles; part of Reynolds Ranch, called Reynolds Mining Claims and Lower Reynolds, run north falling into Boulder Canyon and abut part of the Big Springs Subdivision of Nederland. Platt Rogers Memorial Park is located on the south side of Boulder Canyon, 10 miles west of Boulder and 2 miles east of Nederland. Rogers Property is located in Boulder Canyon 3/4 mile east of Barker Reservoir.

Platt Rogers Memorial Park was acquired in October, 1994. The purchase price for the 780 acres was \$700,000 (\$897 per acre). Primary reasons for the acquisition were: preservation of approximately 3 miles of Middle Boulder Creek riparian corridor; preservation of the viewshed along this stretch of State Highway 119; preservation of the value of the property for wildlife as much of the property has been relatively inaccessible to people; and the fact that the purchase price was slightly less than \$1,000 per acre.

The County began acquiring Reynolds Ranch in April, 1995 and completed the acquisition in 1999. The purchase price for the 860 acres was \$2,409,764 (\$2,800 per acre). The primary reasons for the acquisition were: preservation of an important movement corridor and habitat for wildlife; protection

* For a more detailed assessment of the resources, including scientific names and references, see ``Draft Platt Rogers Memorial Park, Reynolds Ranch and Rogers Property Resource Evaluation``

Figure 1 - Location

Figure 2 - Topography and Place Names

of important wetlands; and preservation of the viewshed along Magnolia Road. The Reynolds family is leasing back approximately 370 acres of the ranch (called Reynolds Homestead in Figure 2) for grazing cattle and use of the residence for 20 years (until 2015).

The Rogers Property consists of 88 acres and was acquired in November, 1997. The purchase price was \$246,400 (\$2,800 per acre). The primary reasons for acquisition were: protection of the scenic corridor in Boulder Canyon; and preservation of ½ mile of high quality riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek.

1.2 Physical Characteristics and Landscape Setting

These three open space properties lie within the montane lifezone of the eastern flank of the Rocky Mountain Front Range. Topography varies from flat, broad expanses of landscape to steep, rocky cliffs and canyons (Figure 2). The landscape is relatively flat and broad in the vicinity of the Reynolds Homestead portion of Reynolds Ranch along Magnolia Road. Here, deposited colluvial soils favor the meadows and wetlands seen along Magnolia Road. Heading north, the landscape descends, rather steep and dramatically in some locations, into the canyon cut by Middle Boulder Creek. Platt Rogers Memorial Park, Rogers Property and Lower Reynolds form significant parts of the Boulder Canyon landscape. This area is dominated by several types of coniferous forest. In several locations, stream action by Middle Boulder Creek has created alluvial benches which again favor grasslands and wetlands as seen on Rogers Property adjacent to State Highway 119, and Rogers Park on Platt Rogers Memorial Park.

The area lies within the crystalline core of the Front Range. The Boulder Creek batholith, dominated by Boulder Creek Granodiorite, underlies almost all of Platt Rogers Memorial Park, the eastern and southern portions of Reynolds Ranch, and the northern and southern portions of Rogers Property. The western portion of Reynolds Ranch is underlain by metasedimentary rocks of biotite gneiss and quartzite. Scattered throughout both properties are rocks of Silver Plume Granite which cut the Boulder Creek batholith as dikes. Also present are dikes dating from the Laramide Orogeny which are mineralized. Small amounts of gold and silver have been produced in the area.

However, the vicinity containing these open space properties is best known for the production of tungsten, an ore used to harden steel which was mined from the area for use during both World Wars I and II.

The current land ownership and lands use patterns in the area are fragmented. Approximately 50-60% of the land in this area is privately owned. These lands are a mix between remains of historic ranches, 40 acre residential parcels, old County subdivisions with 5-10 acre parcels, and mining claims which are becoming residential parcels. The Town of Nederland lies to the west and abuts Reynolds Ranch. Mixed in are scattered blocks of National Forest land ranging in size from just a few acres to approximately 1300 acres. This largest block of National Forest land abuts all three open space properties.

2.0 VEGETATIVE RESOURCES

2.1 General Description

The pattern of vegetation found on these open space properties is influenced by elevation, slope, aspect and soil type. Ponderosa pine woodlands and Douglas-fir forests dominate the portions of this landscape that fall into Boulder Canyon. These slopes are steep and mostly north facing, hence stand densities are high and dominated by Douglas-fir mixed with ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine. Much of the Douglas-fir in these stands were killed during a recent spruce-budworm epidemic. On west and south facing aspects, ponderosa pine dominates open stands with scattered Douglas-fir and common juniper. In riparian and ravine habitat, Engelmann spruce, blue spruce and narrowleaf cottonwood may occur. At higher elevations, on the upper slopes above Boulder Canyon and along Magnolia Road, lodgepole pine becomes prominent initially on north-facing slopes and on all aspects as elevation increases. On the broad plateau traversed by Magnolia Road, fine-grained colluvial soils allow for areas to be dominated by grasses and sedges.

The vegetation of this areas has seen several recent periods of

change in the rate of disturbance, particularly fire. The mean return fire interval for the pre-settlement period (pre-1859) was between 21 and 66 years. The settlement period (1859-1916) saw a great increase in fire as the mean return interval ranged between 9 and 18 years. The settlement period also saw heavy demands on the timber resources for fuel, mine props and town construction. The post-1916 period is viewed as a period of fire suppression. The alteration of fire frequency, first increasing and then decreasing from historic levels, along with the large percentage of local forests that were burned or cut during the settlement period means that today's forests are more uniform in age and structure, and generally have a higher density of trees. There is also evidence that forests are encroaching on grasslands and meadows, again probably due to the lack of fire. The increased tree density and greater forest coverage has probably contributed to more severe and widespread insect infestations.

Non-native plants are present on these open space properties. The primary noxious weed is musk thistle. Canada thistle and yellow toadflax are also present. On Reynolds Ranch and Rogers Property significant portions of the meadow communities are dominated by timothy and Kentucky bluegrass.

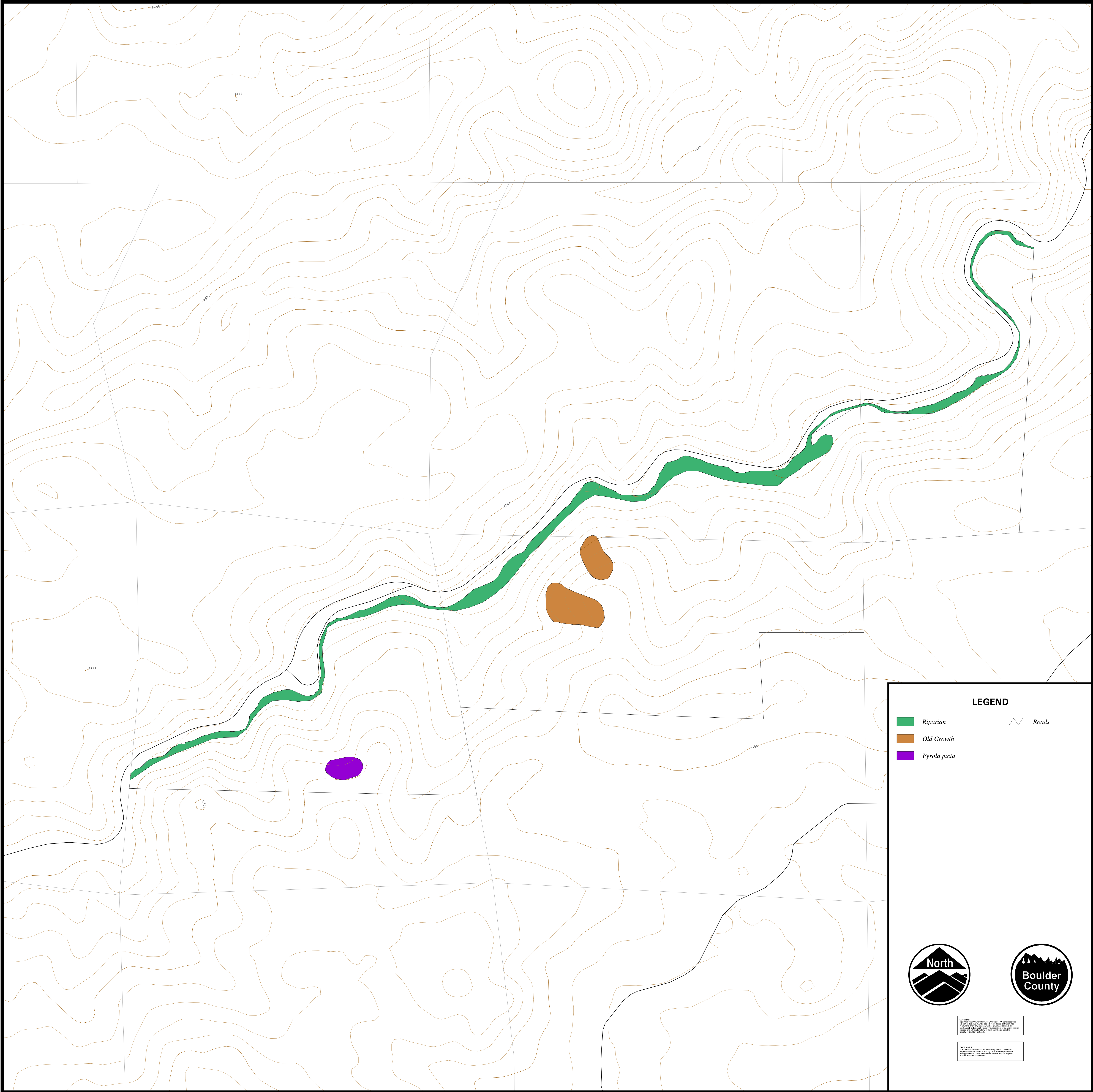
2.2 Significant Resources

The quality and rarity of plant communities were assessed against information from the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department's Environmental Resources Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. Key factors included the status and distribution of the plant community in Boulder County and Colorado. Four plant communities of significance and one rare plant site were located at nine locations on the open space properties (Figures 3a and 3b). Wetland, riparian, grassland and old-growth forest were the major vegetation types. The north-facing aspects contain the greatest potential for rare plants.

A. Wetlands: The three large montane wet meadows found on Reynolds Ranch are significant. They received high ratings during the county-wide wetland inventory conducted by Wright Water Engineers in 1993 due to their size and the high numbers of wetland

PLATT ROGERS

Significant Plant Communities



Significant Plant Communities

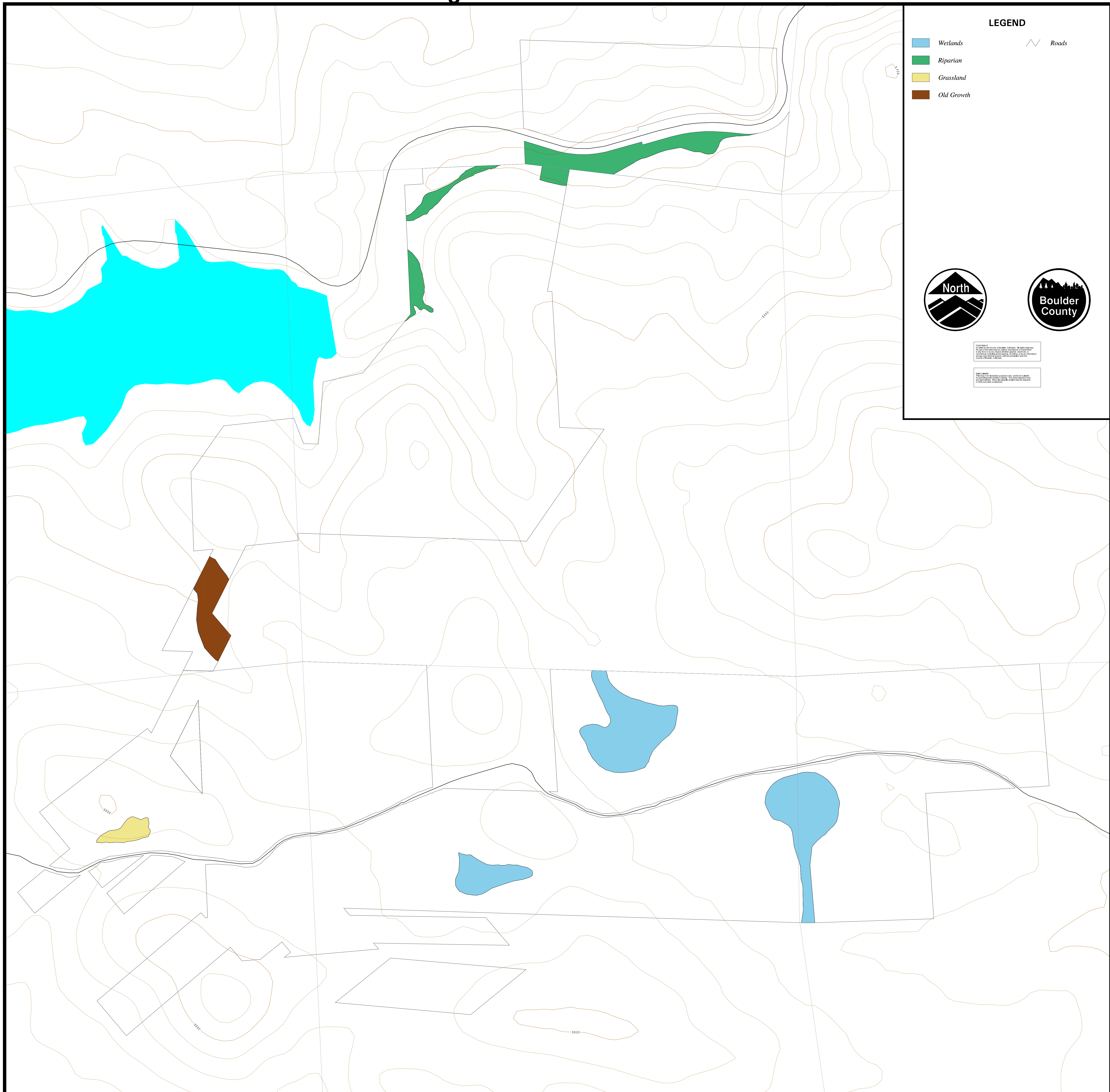


Figure 3a - Significant Plant Communities - Platt Rogers

Figure 3b - Significant Plant Communities - Reynolds/Rogers

functions they performed including groundwater recharge and discharge, sediment trapping, nutrient retention, and food chain support. Wetlands comprise less than 3% of Boulder County's landscape. Wetland sites in the montane are not common. These sites are also important for wildlife.

B. Riparian Areas: A mosaic of montane riparian forests and shrublands are present along Middle Boulder Creek. These areas are found along the northern property boundary of lower Reynolds Ranch, south of State Highway 119 on Rogers Property, and all along the northern property line of Platt Rogers Memorial Park. Due to the rarity of this plant community in Boulder County these areas are considered significant. The quality of this community varies and in some areas the community is almost totally absent. It should also be noted that this community is almost totally absent from the north side of Middle Boulder Creek due to the presence of the highway. This makes the value of the plant community remaining on the south side that much more important. The highest quality area is found south of State Highway 119 on Rogers Property. At least two distinct plant associations were noted: Engelmann spruce-blue spruce/alder-Drummond's willow; and Engelmann spruce-blue spruce-narrowleaf cottonwood/river birch-willow species. Some of the riparian areas are potential sites for restoration. The riparian communities are important for groundwater recharge and discharge, flood control, shoreline anchoring, sediment trapping, nutrient retention and removal, food chain support and wildlife habitat.

C. Grassland: A small montane grassland with a plant association of mountain muhly - needle-and-thread-grass is present on Reynolds Ranch. This association is of interest because few high quality sites exist not only in Colorado, but throughout the world. This site is mixed with several other grasses and has a small shrub component.

D. Old-Growth Forests: Two small stands (6 and 12 acres in size) of lower montane woodlands have old-growth qualities on Platt Rogers Memorial Park. Both sites are dominated by a ponderosa pine/bitterbrush plant association. The largest trees are 20" to 24" diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) and averaged over 200 years of age. The oldest ponderosa pine sampled in the stand was 322 years old; another was 252

years old. Most Douglas-fir trees are dead, however one living tree was 288 years old. Large diameter snags and deadfall, important old-growth components, are present. Another old-growth site is found on Reynolds Ranch. It is approximately 5 acres in size. A south facing aspect is dominated by ponderosa pine, while an adjacent ravine is forested with Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce. The largest trees are 30" DBH with an average age of 126 years old. The oldest sampled tree was a ponderosa pine of 164 years old. Less than 1% of ponderosa pine forests in Boulder County are considered old-growth.

E. Pictureleaf Wintergreen: A population of pictureleaf wintergreen, an imperiled plant in Colorado, was found on Platt Rogers Memorial Park about 1/4 mile upslope from Castle Rock. It is found on moist, cool, north-facing slopes under coniferous trees between 7,100 feet and 9,800 feet elevation.

It is probable that other rare species are present, particularly on the north facing cliffs and drainage in Boulder Canyon. Likely candidates include grass-fern, broad-leaved twayblade, white adder's-mouth, Weatherby's spikemoss, Larimer aletes and dwarf rattlesnake-plantain.

3.0 WILDLIFE RESOURCES

3.1 General Description

The montane lifezone contains important wildlife habitat. The mixture of forest, woodland and meadow provides good habitat diversity. Additionally, important winter range and movement corridors are present.

Approximately 48 species of mammal could call these properties home. This represents about 50% of all mammal species found in the county. The most common mammal is probably the deer mouse. Other common ground dwelling rodents include several chipmunk species and golden-mantled ground squirrel. Chickarees are the most common squirrel while Abert's squirrels are more restricted in habitat to mature stands of ponderosa pine. Common carnivores include coyote, red fox and long-tailed weasel. Mountain lion, black bear and bobcat are regularly seen. The most common

ungulates are elk and mule deer.

A total of 76 breeding bird species were observed during a one season survey and over 90 species are considered potential breeders. Common forest dwellers include mountain chickadee, ruby-crowned kinglet, pine siskin, yellow-rumped warbler and northern flicker. The most common grassland bird is the vesper sparrow. Riparian areas have a unique avian community including many neo-tropical migrants such as dusky flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, MacGillivray's warbler and song sparrow. Several raptors nest on the properties including red-tailed hawk, northern goshawk and Cooper's hawk.

Other forms of animals are present. Middle Boulder Creek contains brook and rainbow trout. Western terrestrial garter snakes, striped chorus frogs and tiger salamanders are present. Boreal toads historically were found in Giggey Lake but a recent survey found none.

Changes in animal communities since Euro-American settlement are many. Lost from the landscape are bighorn sheep, gray wolf, grizzly bear, river otter and native cutthroat trout. Avian populations have seen community shifts toward those species that can take advantage of greater human influence including crows and cowbirds. Mid-sized mammals such as the introduced house cat, domestic dog and fox squirrel, and some native animals such as raccoon, are increasing in number.

3.2 Significant Resources

Several significant wildlife resources warrant special attention. The significant resource areas are primarily based on high quality habitat types where several species of concern congregate. The most significant habitat types found include wetlands, riparian areas and montane ravine forests. Additionally, areas with a low level of human presence need recognition for their ability to provide effective habitat for large mammals such as black bear and elk, as well as nesting raptors.

Following are descriptions of significant wildlife resource areas. They are mapped on Figures 4a and 4b.

Areas of High Habitat Effectiveness: These properties are used by several species of mammals and raptors who have large

territorial requirements. The area is winter range for elk. Mule deer, mountain lion, black bear and bobcat are present. Northern goshawk nests on open space and golden eagles hunt the area and nest in Boulder Canyon.

The landscape within which these open space properties exist is fairly fragmented by homes, roads and trails. In the recently released Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (U.S.D.A. Forest Service 1997) the Forest Service made an assessment of habitat effectiveness for large segments of the landscape. The assessment estimated effective habitat based on distances from travelways (moderate to high use trails and roads) that are open to use. Their method of estimation is based on known disturbance distances for large mammals. For the foothills and montane lifezones of Boulder County effective habitat remains for only 41% of the public and private lands within the National Forest boundary. For the Magnolia Road area, this figure drops to just above 30%. Trail and recreational use needs to be sensitive to this situation of current low habitat effectiveness.

A strategy for maintaining habitat effectiveness should include: providing blocks of land with no formal trails to provide effective habitat; and encouraging recreationists to stay on trails so activities and movements through the landscape are predictable for wildlife.

Figures 4a and 4b recognize two areas where habitat effectiveness is an important resource. The first is the central part of Platt Rogers. This area has low human use. It also contains important raptor habitat as well as two high quality montane ravine forests. Additionally, site evidence suggests a significant amount of black bear use in this area.

The second area is the upper portion of Reynolds Ranch (Reynolds Ranch Homestead) which is important elk winter habitat. This area has a good mix of meadow, aspen and forest that provides forage as well as hiding and thermal cover for elk.

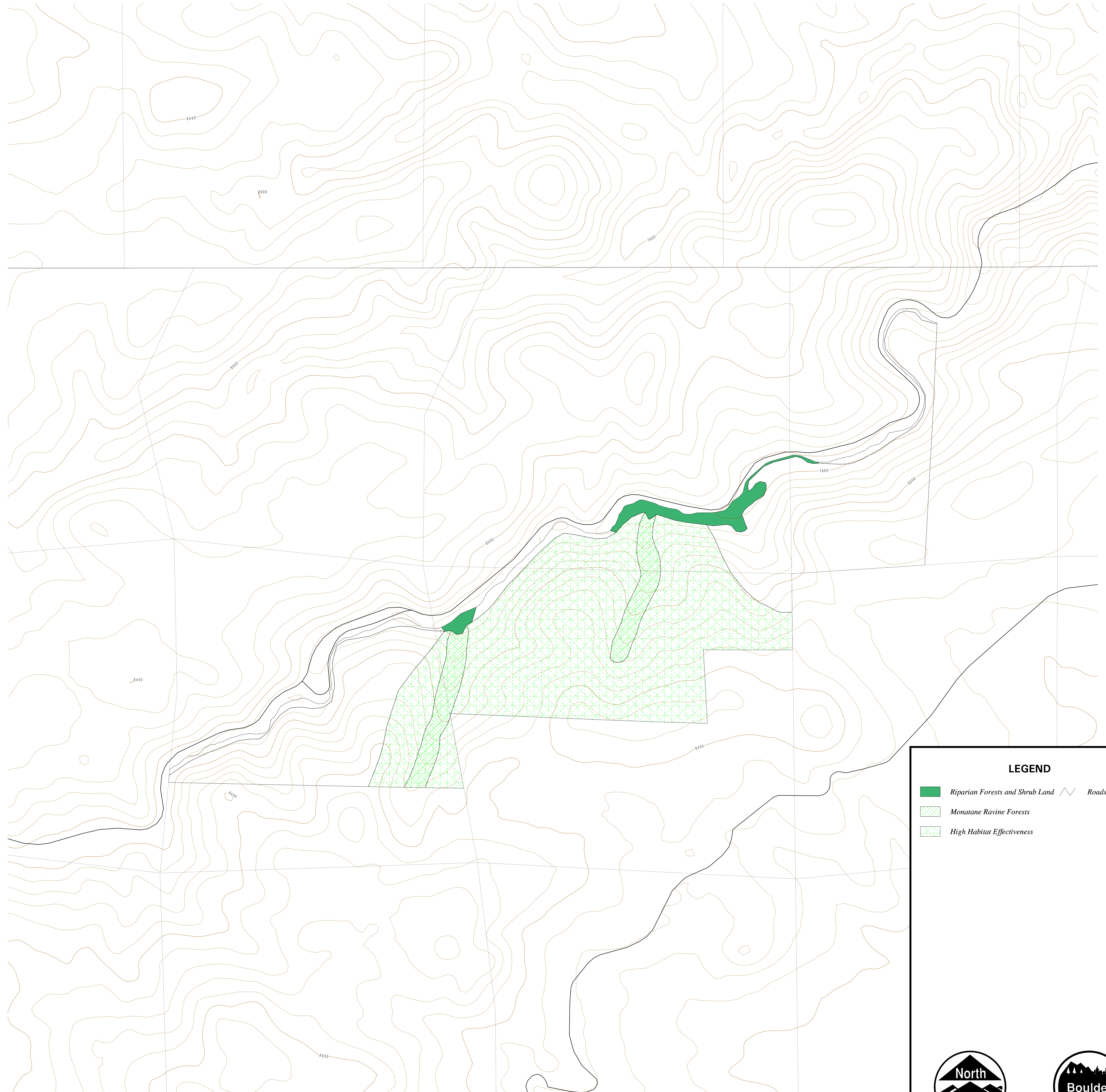
Wet Meadows: The Reynolds Ranch Homestead area contains three large wet meadows. These areas are important habitat for savannah sparrows, a species restricted to this habitat type for breeding. Wet meadows are uncommon landscape features in Boulder County. A number of other animals utilize these areas for

breeding including waterfowl, amphibians such as striped chorus frogs, and several small mammal species. A host of insects, which are food for other animals, are found in wet meadows. Giggey Lake was an historic site for boreal toads.





Riparian Areas: Middle Boulder Creek is a sizeable stream that has some important sections of riparian habitat. Riparian areas have a mix of shrub and forest habitat. These areas are rich in wildlife. Found here are such species of concern as veery, fox sparrow and golden-crowned kinglet. Many neo-tropical migrants such as dusky flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, yellow warbler, Wilson's warbler, and Lincoln's sparrow are present. Habitat specialists dependent on large trees are also present. Much of Middle Boulder Creek has been affected by the highway development on its north

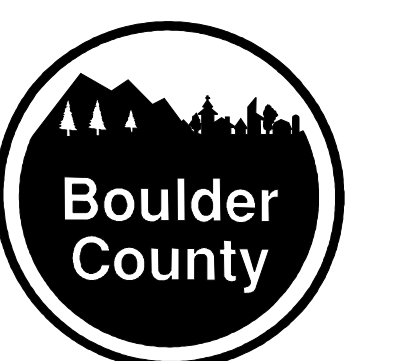
PLATT ROGERS

Significant Wildlife Resource Areas



LEGEND

 *Riparian Forests and Shrub Land*
 *Monatane Ravine Forests*
 *High Habitat Effectiveness*
 *Roads*



DISCLAIMER
This map is for illustrative purposes only, and is not suitable for cadastral or cadastral mapping. The actual depicted area is approximate. More topographic studies may be required to show accurate conditions.

REYNOLDS RANCH

Significant Wildlife Resource Areas

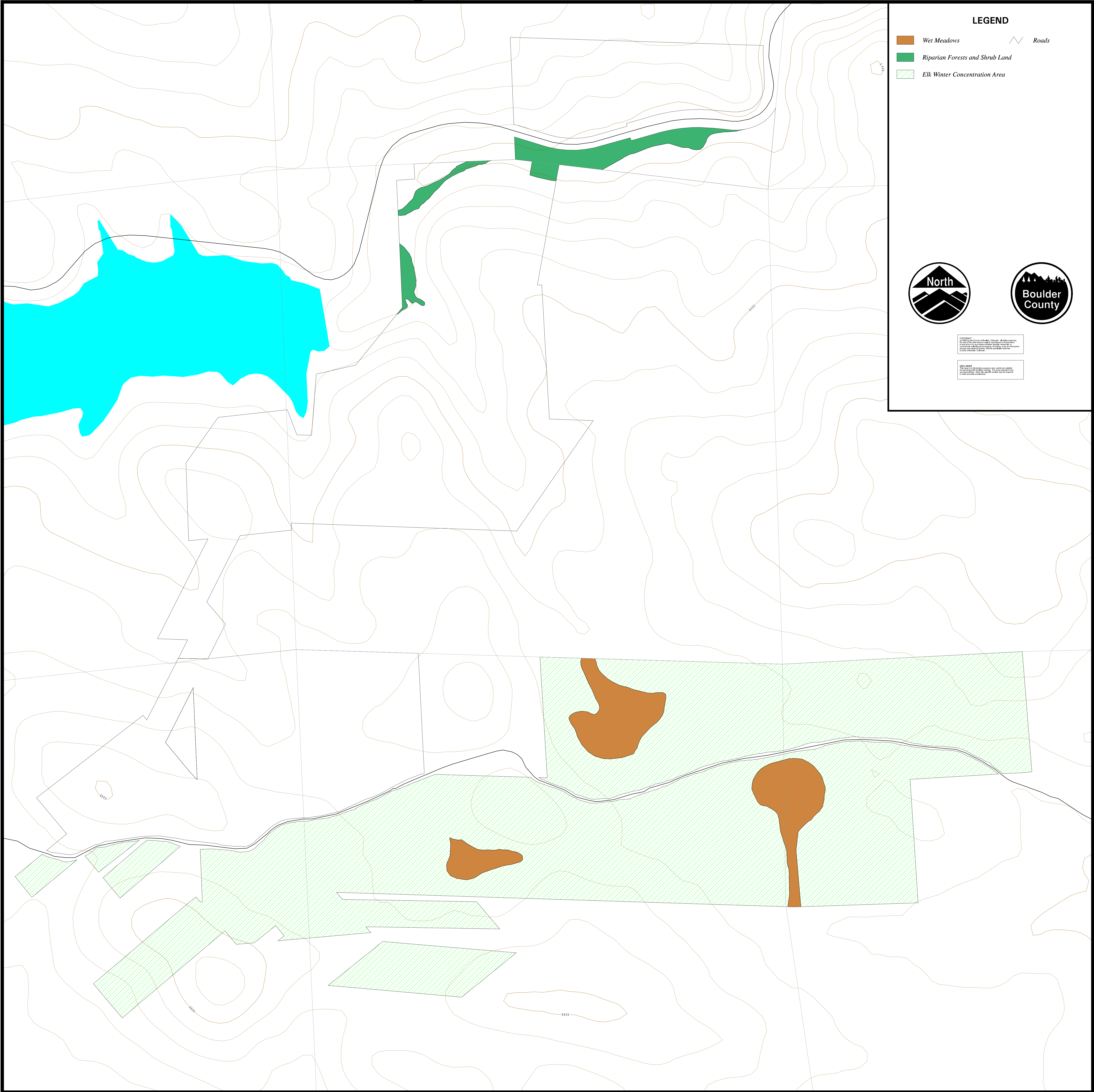


Figure 4a - Significant Wildlife Resource Areas - Platt Rogers

**Figure 4b - Significant Wildlife Resource Areas - Reynolds Ranch
and Rogers Property**

side as well as the control of water. A significant area of high quality riparian habitat exists on the Rogers Property.

Montane Ravine Forests: Montane ravine forests have qualities that mimic old-growth forests and are rich in species diversity. Several species of concern find suitable habitat here including three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, golden-crowned kinglet and veery. Other habitat specialists dependent on large trees are also present. The two most significant ravine forests are Perfect Tree Gulch and Rogers Gulch, both located on Platt Rogers.

4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.1 General Description

This area has been utilized by humans for thousands of years, although the prehistoric period is currently not as evident on the landscape as historic times. Prehistoric habitation and use of northeastern Colorado covers approximately 12,000 years from the late Pleistocene epoch through historic contact. Evidence of occupation is nearly continuous throughout this 12,000 year span, though most of the reliably dated archaeological sites in the region represent the past 5,000 years. The Paleo-Indian Stage (12,000 - 7,500 years before present) is characterized by a nomadic lifestyle and a hunting and gathering economy based upon the exploitation of large game animals that are mostly now extinct. The Archaic Stage (7,500 - 2,000 years before present) was characterized by a continental warming trend, an increased dependence on smaller mammals and wild plants, and the increased use of foothills and montane environments. The Ceramic Stage (2,000 - 275 years before present) is characterized by the introduction of ceramic technology, the replacement of the spear with the bow, and the advent of horticulture, though evidence of plant domestication in northeastern Colorado is scant. The Protohistoric/Contact Stage (275 - 150 years before present) was the beginning of direct and frequent contacts between Native Americans and people of European descent, and is characterized by accelerated mobility and conflict that followed the acquisition of horses and fire arms.

Accelerated permanent settlement of Boulder County by Euro-Americans began in 1859 with the discovery of gold. Settlement

and the patenting of land within the area of these open space properties began during the 1860s, though many of the patents were not formally recorded until 1873 (Figure 5). Lands homesteaded in the mountains of Boulder County generally included meadows and water which allowed for the production of hay needed to feed horses and the cultivation of limited crops. These were the primary reasons behind the homesteading of Reynolds Ranch and the Rogers Property. Transportation also influenced land settlement; the development of a road up Boulder Canyon caused the patenting of much of Platt Rogers. The location of minerals further influenced the patenting of land. The tungsten mining boom, which began during World War I, resulted in the patenting of claims which eventually became part of Reynolds Ranch.

Reynolds Ranch was first homesteaded by Charles Newton Hockaday around 1864. The ranch had several ownerships, including the Giggeys. In 1945, Merle and Gertrude Reynolds acquired the ranch. In 1950, the Reynolds acquired 13 mining claims from Boulder County through tax sale. They acquired additional properties in 1970 and 1971 through trade and purchase to arrive at the

Figure 5 - Early Land Patents and Homesteads

configuration of the ranch today.

The Platt Rogers property was first patented by individuals who were associated with the development of the road up Boulder Canyon in 1871. The discovery of silver at Caribou two years earlier provided the initiative to complete the road. J.P. Maxwell, C.M. Tyler, Maj.J.F. Buttles, Amos Widner, A. Arnett and others furnished the capital. Platt Rogers began acquiring his holdings in the area around 1874. These included not only the lands of Platt Rogers Memorial Park, but considerable additional holdings on the north side of the creek. These lands were used for prospecting, mining, milling, timber production and family stays.

The Rogers Property appears to have been first settled upon by Alexander Campbell Bennett, although the homestead patent records indicate a 1906 date to Frank Kingman. From 1910 until it was bought by the County, the property was owned by a group of people with roots in Kansas. During much of this time, dating to before World War II, the property was leased by the Williams Family and worked as a dairy farm. The property was commonly called the Williams Dairy which they leased until recently. Dorothy Rogers became one of the owners in 1965, and in 1987, her and Timothy Rogers acquired the property.

4.2 Significant Resources

Several historic sites and structures are present:

Hockaday Homestead Cabin: This cabin lies on Reynolds Ranch just south of Magnolia Road. It is a log cabin with a stone addition. Boulder County Assessor's records estimate that the cabin was built in 1862, while an inscription on one of its logs read 1865. Charles Hockaday homesteaded the property in the mid-1860s and owned it until 1876. The cabin is one of Boulder County's oldest standing structures and is considered eligible for National Register and Local Landmark consideration because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a method of construction and is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.

Cabin and Sheds on Rogers Property: The Rogers Property contains a cabin and three sheds. It appears that these buildings were associated with regional ranching activities in around the turn

of the 20th century. It is possible they were constructed by A.C. Bennett, or by Frank Kingman. They are in a deteriorated condition and have lost much of their ability to convey a sense of their historic significance. They are not considered eligible for Local Landmark or National Register designation.

Barker Reservoir to Kossler Lake Water Pipeline: The pipeline was constructed in 1909 and 1910 by the Eastern Colorado Power Company. It is a 3' diameter pipeline that is buried except for manholes and siphons. The pipeline is used to transport water to Kossler Lake near Flagstaff Road where it then descends into a hydro-electric plant in Boulder Canyon. On Platt Rogers at Rogers Park there was a construction site for segments of the concrete pipe which, via a tram, were raised some 300' to the elevation of the aqueduct.

Site of Perfect Tree: The Perfect Tree was a landmark in Boulder Canyon beginning with the earliest wagon trips. It was a beautifully shaped blue spruce that was tall and perfectly conical in shape. The tree was located near where Perfect Tree Gulch enters Middle Boulder Creek. For many years there was an actual marker alongside the road pointing to the tree's location. The tree no longer stands having been defoliated and killed by the spruce-budworm epidemic in the early 1980s and eventually blown over by the wind.

Several other sites are worth noting:

- Rogers Park/Mill Flat: It was the site of several sawmills, hence the historic name of Sawmill or Mill Flat. Probably the best known was the McAllister Sawmill which operated in the 1880s and 1890s. The open scar on the hillside above Rogers Park/Mill Flat was the location of a tram used to hoist concrete pipe sections for the aqueduct. The site was also used as a ski jump on several occasions; newspaper articles indicate that the site was used in ski jump competitions in the mid-1920s, 1940s and 1960s.
- The original Pine Glade School was located on the east edge of Reynolds Ranch just north of Magnolia Road. Nothing currently remains at the site.
- The rebuilding of the Boulder Canyon Road during the 1940s and 1950s was a major construction project undertaken by

the Bureau of Public Roads. Prior to this most of the road was not paved and in many places above Boulder Falls it was only one lane. During this reconstruction the road was cut through the north side of Castle Rock, the grade in The Narrows was reduced from 14% to 9.4% and the tunnel was built through the rock outcrop near the Public Service Hydro Plant. Platt Rogers Inc. was the principal construction firm for the project.

5.0 VISITOR SERVICES

5.1 General Description

There are three major areas that influence recreational use and access: Boulder Canyon, The Town of Nederland and Magnolia Road. Boulder Canyon has a number of recreational uses centered around the stream and rock outcrops; while few people live in the upper canyon, the highway provides easy access to those living above and below as well as visiting tourists. Primary uses are in the form of activities related to Middle Boulder Creek (fishing and picnicking) and climbing (rock and ice). The Magnolia Road area has an existing trail system and a local residential population. The Town of Nederland has a resident population that has been accessing lands to their east (on National Forest lands and portions of Reynolds Ranch) for recreation.

5.2 Significant Resources

Trails: Existing recreational use of Reynolds Ranch centers around a trail system that links Nederland to the ``Boy Scout Timber Cut`` area on National Forest lands located in Sections 16 and 17, and the ``Front Range Trails`` area also in Section 16. The trail system is used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians and crosses the Mining Claim section of Reynolds Ranch at several locations. The origin of this system is complex. During the late 1950s a trail system was laid out in this area. It was a cooperative project between the Forest Service and the Boy Scouts. Some of this trail system never received much use and is not apparent except for occasional markings on trees. Other parts are still in use. Still other parts of the current trail system are of more recent origin. Finally, some parts of the current trail system utilize roads put in by the Forest Service for forest management activities.

The access locations from Nederland into Reynolds Ranch (Reynolds Ranch Mining Claim area) occur at three places. Two of these converge in a drainage sometimes called Clark Valley and originate off of Wildwood Drive and Doe Trail in Big Springs Subdivision. Both of these trails traverse National Forest lands before entering Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims. Additionally, the Doe Trail access crosses private land before entering National Forest land. A third access trail exists near the intersection of Doe Trail and Alpine Drive. This trail first crosses private land before entering Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims. All of these trails head east and converge with a trail that follows an abandoned powerline. The powerline trail goes from Magnolia Road north to a high point on Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims; it also crosses National Forest land. Off of the powerline trail, trails head east onto the National Forest trails in the Boy Scout Timber Cut area and continue east toward the Front Range Trails. Access into this trail system off of Magnolia Road exists where the powerline intersects the road and on National Forest lands at two locations. Additional casual and social trail use exists on all three open space properties.

Climbing: Boulder Canyon is known for many high quality climbing routes. The number of climbing routes in the canyon has been increasing over the years, particularly since the practice of bolting. Both rock climbing and winter ice climbing are present on Platt Rogers Memorial Park.

Rock climbing on Platt Rogers occurs at two general locations. The first is just above the Narrows on the eastern edge of the property. The site is known as High Energy Crag. The second area is in the vicinity of Castle Rock and includes two areas of exposed granite located above the aqueduct. They are called Frisky Cliff and Mountain Rose Crag. All areas have routes that use fixed bolts.

Winter ice climbing is the result of a leak in the aqueduct pipeline which allows water to flow over the rock below the freeze. The area is located west of Castle Rock above and south of Middle Boulder Creek and below the aqueduct. Historically there were 3 - 4 routes established along the flows from the leak. In 1996-97 at least 12 new routes were created by human interference. Water was diverted from the existing flows into hoses and tubes which channeled the water to create new flows.

Public Service Company of Colorado became concerned about the illegal diversion of water from the aqueduct and removed much of the hose. The City of Boulder has recently acquired the aqueduct. A group of ice climbing activists is working on a proposal for consideration by the City of Boulder, USFS, and Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

Boulder Canyon: The most heavily used recreation corridor affecting these properties is Boulder Canyon. Major forms of recreation associated with the canyon include auto touring, bicycling, fishing, rock climbing, ice climbing, viewing Boulder Falls and picnicking. Much of the recreational use occurs within State Highway right-of-way. Picnic areas were established in Boulder Canyon in the late 1940s when the highway was reconstructed. Currently the sites are still being used though most of the concrete tables and benches are in a state of disrepair. Three of these sites are adjacent to Platt Rogers near Rogers Park, Perfect Tree Gulch and Castle Rock.

Several other sites on or near Platt Rogers have been used for recreation. Rogers Park has been casually used for picnicking, camping, hiking, winter sledding and fishing. Castle Rock, which is located in State Highway right-of-way, is a popular rock climbing location. Rock and ice climbing occur at several sites. Some hiking occurs along sections of the aqueduct on Platt Rogers with primary access from Castle Rock; some of this use is for access to climbing. Casual trail use also occurs on that part of the aqueduct through Lower Reynolds Ranch and the Rogers Property, as well as eastern Platt Rogers.

Within Boulder Canyon most of the existing picnic areas and vehicle turnouts are within State Highway right-of-way. An important consideration is safe ingress and egress from the highway. Most of the access locations to existing picnic sites do not meet current safety standards relative to sight distance. This applies to the portion of the old highway which goes around Castle Rock as well as the Rogers Park area. CDOT has safety concerns regarding projects that will directly result in increased use of the existing sites, particularly those sites which do not meet current sight distance standards.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

This section of the plan provides management direction for these open space properties. The focus is to provide general management direction through goals, objectives, tasks and maps.

The level of detail varies, though for the most part, this document provides a broad overview.

6.0 MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Those goals in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan of particular relevance to these properties include:

- B.1 Unique or distinctive natural features and systems and cultural features and sites should be conserved and preserved in recognition of the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Boulder County. Other resources should be managed in a manner which is

consistent with sound conservation practices, while enhancing compatibility between natural and man-made characteristics.

- B.3 Critical wildlife habitats should be conserved and preserved in order to avoid the depletion of wildlife and to perpetuate and encourage a diversity of species in the County.
- B.4 Significant natural communities (including significant riparian communities) and rare plant sites should be conserved and preserved to retain living examples of natural ecosystems, furnish a baseline of ecological processes and function, and enhance and maintain the biodiversity of the region.
- B.5 Wetlands which are important to maintaining the overall balance of ecological systems should be conserved.
- C.1 Provision should be made for open space to meet human needs throughout the County in order to protect and enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of the environment.
- C.4 A County-wide trail system shall be promoted to serve transportation and recreation purposes.
- B.9 Riparian ecosystems, which are important plant communities, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, shall be protected.
- K.1 Every effort shall be made to identify and protect prehistoric and historic sites which meet national, state, or local criteria for historic designation from destruction or harmful alteration.

Those policies in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan of particular relevance to these properties include:

- 4.04 The County shall identify and work to assure the preservation of critical wildlife habitats, natural areas, historic and archaeological sites and significant agricultural land.
- 4.05 Existing critical or unique stands of vegetation such as short grass prairies, chaparral, willow carrs and old-growth forests, should be conserved and preserved.
- 4.08 The County shall provide management plans and the means for the implementation of said plans for all open space areas that have been acquired by

- or dedicated to the County. The open space land owned or controlled by the County shall be managed in such a way as to provide protection to neighboring landowners or tenants, visiting public, and the resource itself. Boulder County shall contract for and provide payment for services necessary for protection of County-controlled open space when said protection is not directly provided by the County.
- 4.09 The County, through its Parks and Open Space Department, shall continue to provide environmental education activities for the public, including but not limited to programs on the uniqueness, importance and appropriate uses of open space areas in the County.
- 4.15 Except as the County may establish regional park, recreation, trail or other similar facilities, the County will provide only a minimum level of maintenance or development on open space land (consistent with policy 4.08).
- 4.15.3 In evaluating potential uses and/or development of park and open space lands, preference shall be given to those activities which are consistent with the County's original intent of acquiring the land.
- 4.23 Trail locations shall be selected so as to minimize their impact upon the environment and the surrounding private properties. Adverse effects on the privacy and utility of private lands shall be minimized insofar as possible by trail placement, posting of rules and admonitions against trespassing, installation of containing fences where critical, and any other appropriate measures.
- ER.1.5 The County shall identify and work to assure the preservation of critical wildlife habitats, natural areas, Natural Landmarks, environmental conservation areas and significant agricultural land.
- ER.1.6 Areas that are considered as valuable scenic vistas, such as the foothills portion of Boulder County, shall be preserved as much as possible in their natural state.

- ER.4.8 The County will work towards protecting critical elk range and migration routes through reducing development potential and by working with landowners and management agencies to minimize human disturbance and provide seasonal habitat needs.
- ER.6.5 Development proposals affecting wetlands other than those identified as significant, particularly those with high functional ratings, a large size, hydrologic connections, wildlife habitat value, or human interest, should also be evaluated for potential impacts and mitigation measures.
- ER.8.5 The County will work with appropriate management agencies and property owners to protect or restore riparian areas.
- ER.8.6 The County shall work toward minimizing human impacts to riparian ecosystems from development, roads and trails.
- ER.8.7 The County will work with appropriate entities to ensure suitable minimum stream flows that maintain channel morphology, support hydrologically connected wetlands and perpetuate species, both plant and animal, dependent on riparian ecosystems.
- ER.8.9 Management of riparian areas shall encourage use or mimicry of natural processes, maintenance or reintroduction of native species, restoration of degraded plant communities, elimination of undesirable exotic species, minimizing human impacts, and development of long-term ecological monitoring programs.
- K1.02 Significant archaeological and historic sites and structures acquired by the County both in unincorporated and incorporated areas, shall be documented, protected, preserved, and where appropriate restored.
- K1.02.1 After acquisition, an inventory of cultural resources on the property shall be undertaken and the historic significance of each resource shall be determined.
- K1.02.2 Resources that meet the criteria for local landmark, or State or National

Register status should be nominated for such status by the County.

In accordance with these adopted goals and policies, the management objectives for these properties include:

1. Protect the scenic quality and undeveloped nature of the properties.
2. Protect the ecosystem functions of the properties relative to their values within the Magnolia Road/Boulder Canyon area.
3. Protect and properly manage significant plant and animal communities, and rare plants and animals.
4. Preserve the cultural, historical, geological and archaeological integrity of the area.
5. Manage for ecosystem integrity by encouraging and planning for naturally occurring processes so they will remain vital components of the ecosystem.
6. Manage vegetative communities by maintaining and encouraging desirable native species, restoring degraded areas, and controlling undesirable exotic species.
7. Protect wildlife habitat by maintaining natural food, cover, nesting sites, resting areas and habitat effectiveness.
8. Provide passive outdoor recreation opportunities which do not adversely impact sensitive resources.
9. Provide opportunities for continued research, and environmental and cultural interpretation.
10. Provide a good neighbor policy to adjacent landowners.

7.0 VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT

General management objectives for vegetative resources include:

- Protect and properly manage significant plant communities and rare plants.
- Manage for ecosystem integrity by encouraging and planning for naturally occurring processes so they will remain vital components of the ecosystem.

- Manage vegetative communities by maintaining and encouraging desirable native species, restoring degraded areas, and controlling undesirable exotic species.

The management direction is towards protecting critical resources, encouraging native species over exotic, and maintaining natural processes. Where feasible, a passive approach of letting nature take its course will be utilized. However, active tools such as forest thinning, manual and mechanical weed control, use of herbicides, biological weed control, seeding, grazing, rest from grazing, exclusion from grazing, and prescribed fire will also be utilized.

7.1 Protection of Significant Resources

Several significant plant communities were identified through field inventories. These included wetlands, riparian shrublands and forests, old-growth forests and montane grasslands. Recommendations for their protection include:

- Properly manage significant elements of natural diversity. Activities in or near significant resources should only be carried out with knowledge of the most current information and best management practices, and need to be performed in a manner that protects the resource. (Additional relative direction pertaining to forest management, grazing and weed management are found under section 7.2.) Appropriate organizations, such as the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Natural Areas Program, and the University of Colorado Herbarium, should be consulted in conjunction with any proposed activity, development of specific management plans, and long-term monitoring.
- Where possible, avoid fragmentation by roads and trails of significant sites, and actively manage roads and trails through and to these sites to control invasive alien plants.
- Increase public awareness of the benefits of protecting areas determined to be significant to natural diversity. Increasing the public's knowledge

of the remaining significant areas will build support for the initiatives necessary to protect them. Such activities could be done through interpretive signs, direct public involvement in management, information pamphlets, and public service announcements.

- Continue to identify significant natural resources through inventories and other tools.

7.2 Forest, Grassland and Wetland Management

Management, both active and passive, may occur in order to maintain or restore natural communities and mimic natural processes. The primary objectives are:

- Maintain or increase the health and vigor of plant communities. Maintain and where appropriate increase the cover of native plant species and communities. Many of the grasslands were historically converted to non-native pasture species; conversion to native cover types is currently not considered feasible. These non-native pasture communities have important functional values as forage and soil binders.
- Utilize a livestock grazing system on the Reynolds Ranch Homestead which maintains or increases the health and vigor of grassland plant communities. This should be achieved by animal movement through a series of pastures which decreases the chance of over-intensive grazing and allows for proper regrowth of grasses. Internal pastures shall utilize temporary fencing as much as possible.
- Decrease livestock grazing pressures on the wetland communities of the Reynolds Ranch Homestead as these areas are important for groundwater quality and animal habitat. Livestock grazing should be excluded from the wetland surrounding Giggey Lake due to the presence of several sensitive animals found in and around the lake.
- Relative to the landscape mosaic of grassland, woodland and forest, current information favors the following objectives:

- Meadows and grasslands should be retained. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to enlargement or enhancement of meadow communities. This would be accomplished by removal or thinning of trees which have invaded meadows because of the absence of ground fires. The use of controlled burns may also be considered. It appears that the primary meadow sites, particularly the areas near Magnolia Road on Reynolds Ranch Homestead and in Boulder Canyon, are relatively permanent as they occupy locations of colluvial and alluvial soils.
- Woodlands, which are generally found on south-facing aspects or flat sites with colluvial soils, and dominated by ponderosa pine (and to a lesser extent Douglas-fir), should be retained. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to enlargement or enhancement of stands. Again, the cessation of fire has allowed for woodland stands to become denser. Some stands have been converted to forests dominated by shade-tolerant trees. Thinning of trees, focusing on removal of small diameter trees and retention of larger sized trees, may be utilized to retain and enhance woodlands. The use of controlled burns may also be considered.
- Coniferous forests comprised of pure stands of lodgepole pine or Douglas-fir, or mixed stands of the above species along with ponderosa pine and other species, occupy both steep north-facing hillsides and flatter uplands. These forests will retain a dominant role in the landscape, but may be slightly reduced in extent due to expansion of meadows and enhancement of woodlands. Additionally, a greater mosaic of age-classes than presently found would be advantageous, including greater coverage by aspen. The steep north-facing aspects of Boulder Canyon present topographic and access problems for management activities. Management of coniferous forests is secondary in importance to meadow and woodland enhancement. What coniferous

forest management occurs will generally happen on the flatter upland sites as well as the toes and ridges of the steeper north-facing slopes. The location of such management must also be considered in the context of the surrounding landscape and should be coordinated as part of a larger scheme in conjunction with other public and private landowners.

- Forest and woodland management should strive to increase the amount of large-diameter trees, particularly of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Existing old-growth should be retained and opportunities sought for establishment of new old-growth stands. Topographic settings which favor large-tree development include south-facing hillsides, ravines, rocky hillsides and ridges, and flat upland sites. For stands of ponderosa pine, ponderosa pine mixed with Douglas-fir, montane ravine forests, and mixed conifer forests on sites favorable for large tree development, active management should favor retention of large trees and the taking of small-diameter trees.
- The primary tools for active woodland and forest management include: thinning and pruning of forests and woodlands; and use of controlled burns. Following are objectives for these management tools:
 - Thinning and Pruning of Forests and Woodlands: This management tool is utilized in order to decrease stand density and maintain open meadows, shrublands and woodlands. It also allows fire to be a more effective and less dangerous agent by reducing stand density, maintaining less hazardous fuel types, and eliminating ladder fuels. Thinning will focus on removing understory trees, as well as many seedlings and saplings which would have been killed by historically occurring low-intensity ground fires.
 - Use of Prescribed Burns: Prescribed burns can reduce exotic plants, restore ecological

diversity, and reduce fuel loads which may help reduce the risk or severity of wildland fire. Low to moderate intensity prescribed burns can be utilized in grasslands, woodlands and some forests of these open space properties. Areas to be burned may receive an initial thinning and pruning of trees in order to allow the fire to be more effective.

Prescribed burns are carefully planned. Boulder County Open Space will coordinate with local fire districts, the County Sheriffs Office, and other appropriate land management agencies. Carefully developed burn plans need to be written for each prescribed fire. The burn plan provides for a window of opportunity during which predetermined environmental conditions must exist in order for the burn to be conducted. During this window, officials test conditions such as wind direction, temperature, and moisture to determine if conditions are appropriate for the burn. A prescribed burn will not be conducted unless conditions are appropriate for a safe and effective burn. The monitoring of plant communities before and after each burn are important in order to measure the effects of each fire and provide data to better plan future events. The prescribed burns allow for the better maintenance of a healthy ecological system while reducing the risk of a major wildland fire.

- Work with the U.S. Forest Service, Town of Nederland, Nederland Fire Protection District, and High Country Fire Protection District establishing appropriate fuel breaks and wildfire mitigation projects. Fuel breaks should follow natural features and achieve ecosystem objectives as well as wildfire mitigation. Priority consideration should be given to fuel breaks between Nederland and Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims, and along the upper ridge of the north-facing aspect of Boulder Canyon.
- Weed and non-native plants are present on these open space properties. Noxious weeds are present including

musk thistle, Canada thistle and yellow toadflax. Initial weed mapping indicates that concentrations are found on: Reynolds Ranch near Magnolia Road and around the homestead; Platt Rogers Memorial Park at Rogers Park; and Rogers Property in the pasture on the north side of State Highway 119. The County utilizes an integrated pest management approach that uses manual removal, prescribed fire, mechanical, biological and herbicidal methods. All methods of control are evaluated to reduce potential adverse effects to human health and the environment.

- The only other site on these open space properties which may be appropriate for grazing as a use and/or management tool is the meadow on the Rogers Property located on the north side of State Highway 119. This property has received historic grazing use, most recently as a pasture for horses.
- While all of the riparian area along Middle Boulder Creek is considered significant, sections are in poor condition and in need of restoration. The County, along with other appropriate entities and citizens, should develop a restoration plan for the vegetation along Middle Boulder Creek.

8.0 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

General management objectives for wildlife resources include:

- Protect the ecosystem functions of the properties relative to their values within the Magnolia Road/Boulder Canyon area.
- Protect and properly manage significant animal communities and rare animals.
- Protect wildlife habitat by maintaining natural food, cover, nesting sites, resting areas and habitat effectiveness.

The management direction focuses on three different scales: 1) the context of the open space in the landscape; 2) the ability

of the open space to function as effective wildlife habitat; and
3) the protection of known significant resources.

8.1 Protection of Landscape Values

The Magnolia Road/Boulder Canyon area of Boulder County is a relatively fragmented landscape with a mix of National Forest land, historic ranches, residential development on various sized parcels, mining claims which are becoming sites for new homes, open space, local roads, County roads, State Highways, jeep roads, and trails. The values of the open space properties lie both in their intrinsic qualities and their geographic position.

The open space properties, combined with adjacent National Forest lands, create a 3,000+ acre area protected from future residential development. These lands are also part of a significant wildlife movement corridor which serves as a bridge between subalpine and foothill landscapes. A primary reason for acquisition of Platt Rogers Memorial Park is its undeveloped nature. A primary reason for acquisition of Reynolds Ranch is its function as a wildlife movement corridor.

- Management and use of these open space properties must protect the undeveloped nature of these lands and their ability to function as wildlife habitat and movement corridors.

8.2 Maintaining Habitat Effectiveness

Maintaining effective habitat for wide-ranging animals and/or human sensitive species, including black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, elk, and hawks, is important not only for the animals well-being, but also because they provide ecosystem functions by being predators, prey, grazers and scavengers. Habitat is considered effective when it can be utilized by these species and they are not continually displaced due to human presence.

- Minimize habitat fragmentation by trails and recreational use, and maximize effectiveness by providing sizeable blocks of land where wildlife can find hiding cover and food while concentrating areas of human activity. Effective habitat of high importance found on these open space properties include the Reynolds Ranch

Homestead area and much of Platt Rogers Memorial Park.

- Encourage visitors to stay on trails so their activities and movements through the property are predictable to wildlife.

8.3 Protection of Significant Resources

A number of conservation areas containing significant resources are identified. Significant resources include montane ravine forests, riparian areas, wet meadows, areas of high habitat effectiveness, raptor habitat, elk winter range, and black bear foraging areas. Recommendations for their protection include:

- Properly manage conservation areas. Any activities in or near significant resources should only be carried out with knowledge of the most current information and best management practices. The effects and impacts of such tools as forest management, grazing, fire and weed management, should be utilized in a manner that protects the resource. Appropriate organizations, such as the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and academic institutions, should be consulted in conjunction with any proposed activity, development of specific management plans, and long-term monitoring.
- Direct visitor use away from the central and eastern parts of Platt Rogers Memorial Park, Reynolds Ranch Homestead area, wetlands, riparian areas and montane ravine forests. Minimize habitat fragmentation by trails and recreational use and maximize habitat effectiveness. Encourage visitors to stay on trails.
- Wildlife closures should be utilized for the following areas: The central and eastern portions of Platt Rogers (excluding Rogers Park and the southeast corner of Platt Rogers); and Reynolds Ranch Homestead.

- Forest management should perpetuate large-diameter trees, snags and deadfall throughout the forests and woodlands to help those wildlife specialists that depend on these features.
- Work in cooperation with other appropriate entities and citizens to protect and restore riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek.

9.0 CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

General management objectives for cultural resources include:

- Preserve the cultural, historical and archaeological integrity of the area.
- Provide opportunities for continued research and cultural interpretation.

The management direction is towards cultural resource protection, ongoing research and providing opportunities for interpretation.

The best known and most prominent cultural resources are historic sites related to homesteading, ranching, transportation, mining and water. Isolated finds of prehistoric artifacts have been documented from the properties.

Parks and Open Space regulations prohibit the removal of any artifacts by visitors. The sensitivity of cultural resources should be respected by all visitors. Following is general management direction for cultural resources:

- Work with the Reynolds Family to maintain the character of the historic ranch cabins, which they are leasing through the year 2015. As the end of the lease period approaches, reevaluate use of the site.
- The ranch buildings on the Rogers Property should be stabilized from further decay and made safe.
- Other historic cultural sites should be inspected for safety and cleanup potential.

- A pedestrian archaeological survey should be conducted of those portions of the property considered likely to yield additional sites and artifacts.
- Continue researching the many historical themes of the area including homesteading, ranching, early roads, Boulder Canyon Road development, Barker Reservoir and Pipeline, tungsten mining, Magnolia Road settlement, Boulder Canyon sawmills, Reynolds Family, Giggey Family, Hockaday Family, Bennett Family, Williams Family, Rogers Park, and Perfect Tree.

10.0 VISITOR SERVICES

10.1 Visitor Use Objectives

General management objectives for visitor services include:

- Provide passive outdoor recreation opportunities which do not adversely impact sensitive resources.
- Provide opportunities for continued research, and environmental and cultural interpretation.
- Provide a good neighbor policy to adjacent landowners.

The Open Space Sales Tax Resolution (Resolution No. 93-174) approved by the voters of Boulder County, and whose funds were used to acquire these properties, provides further direction regarding appropriate recreational use of these lands. The resolution cites six functions that open space may serve including urban shaping buffers, preservation of critical natural and historic resources, trail linkages and public access, areas of environmental preservation, conservation of natural resources, and:

``preservation of land for outdoor recreation areas limited to passive recreational use, including but not limited to hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing.''

10.2 Management Areas

In trying to balance resource protection with visitor use, Management Areas that describe the emphasis of use of the land have been developed (Figure 6). They distinguish between areas more suitable for resource protection and areas more suitable for visitor use.

Significant factors influencing the management areas are as follows:

- Protecting critical wildlife habitats and scenic values are primary reasons for the acquisition of all three properties.
- The configuration of the three properties is relatively irregular when compared to other open space properties such as Rabbit Mountain or Hall Ranch. Their shape and size contribute to a feeling that they are more part of a larger landscape and less of a whole by themselves. Such facets as trails or forest management will require a significant amount of coordination with adjacent properties, particularly those of the U.S. Forest Service.
- Boulder Canyon Highway, because of poor sight distance for safe ingress and egress, presents significant limits to expanding recreational opportunities within the canyon.
- The general locations of current major recreational uses appear workable within the current landscape. These uses include a trail system from Nederland across the Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims, the ice climbing flows just west of Castle Rock on Platt Rogers Memorial Park, and the three rock climbing areas also on Platt Rogers (High Energy Crag, Frisky Cliff and Mountain Rose Crag).

REYNOLDS RANCH/PLATT ROGERS

Management Areas

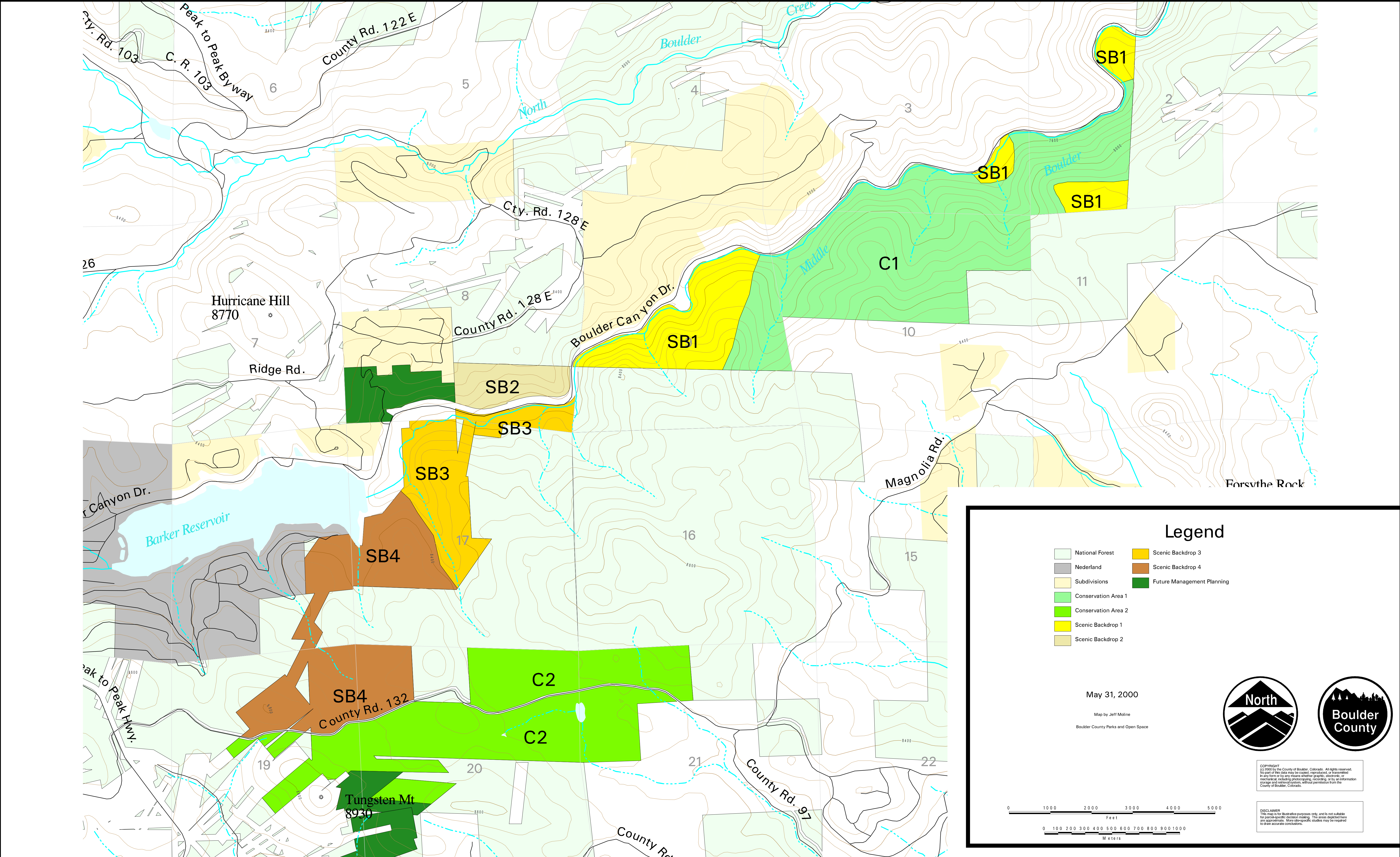


Figure 6 - Management Areas

With these factors in mind, the management areas for these open space properties are:

Conservation: These are areas with the highest values for flora and fauna. They also provide habitat effectiveness for human sensitive wildlife species. Recreational use should be directed away from these areas and they should be considered for wildlife closures.

- Portions of Platt Rogers Memorial Park (C1): This area provides habitat for several human sensitive animals. It also contains old-growth forests and high quality montane ravine forests. Several avian species of concern nest here including northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, golden-crowned kinglet, olive-sided flycatcher and veery. A population of pictureleaf wintergreen, an imperiled plant in Colorado, is present. The area has high habitat effectiveness. There is evidence of high use by black bear due to the presence of many berry-producing shrubs.
- Reynolds Ranch Homestead (C2): This area contains significant wetlands. Savannah sparrows, a species of concern, nest here. The mollusk, sharp sprite, another species of concern, is found in Giggey Lake. Additionally, the area is critical elk winter range, part of an elk winter concentration area and a corridor for wildlife movement. This area is under lease to the Reynolds Family. That portion of the Reynolds Ranch Homestead located north of Magnolia Road may be considered for additional trail development; this will be coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service and public use through this part of the Homestead will be restricted to the trail. This area will also be considered for location of a Parks and Open Space Resident Manager.

Scenic Backdrop: These areas have high scenic value. They may also contain significant environmental resources. Scenic Backdrop areas are appropriate for continued recreational use that is consistent with open space objectives. The Scenic Backdrop Areas are:

- Portions of Platt Rogers Memorial Park (SB1): These

sites have high scenic value within Boulder Canyon. Recreational use occurs primarily in the form of climbing. Rogers Park is also a site for picnics, casual hiking and winter play. There are no designated trails. Limiting factors for recreational use include parking, ingress and egress to Boulder Canyon Highway, crossing Middle Boulder Creek, topography and good wildlife habitat effectiveness due to low levels of human use. Relative to rock climbing, bolted routes present at the time of purchase are accepted, however new bolting is not permitted under Park Rules and Regulations. Ice climbing is continued in the historic locations. Expansion of ice climbing is not favored due to environmental impacts (changes in erosional process due to placing ice flows over areas not previously subject to these forces, impacts to vegetation types located under ice flows), problems with safe ingress and egress, parking limits (related to safe ingress and egress), and appropriateness of diverting water to create artificial ice flows on open space. Additionally, water rights will need to be secured from the City of Boulder to continue the existing ice climbing areas.

- Rogers Property north of Boulder Canyon Highway (SB2): This area was acquired primarily due to its scenic values within Boulder Canyon. Its small size, isolation and location result in low recreational value. The historic buildings on the property, though in poor condition, will be stabilized and made safe. There are no designated trails on the property and parking is prohibited along Boulder Canyon Highway adjacent to the property. Public access will not be allowed until the buildings are stabilized.
- Lower Reynolds Ranch and Rogers Property south of Boulder Canyon Highway (SB3): This area has scenic value within Boulder Canyon. There are also significant ecological values associated with the riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek. There will be no designated trails in this area.
- Reynolds Mining Claims (SB4): This area is for non-motorized recreation in a natural appearing landscape.

Designated trails are the primary routes for recreational travel and visitors are encouraged to stay on them. Trails are for hiking, mountain biking and equestrians. In this area, dogs will be allowed off-leash due to the intermix with National Forest lands and difficulties with enforcing different regulations in such a fragmented area. However, all other Open Space Rules and Regulations, including no firearms and no overnight camping, will apply. The designated trail system is further described in the following section.

10.3 Recreation Facilities

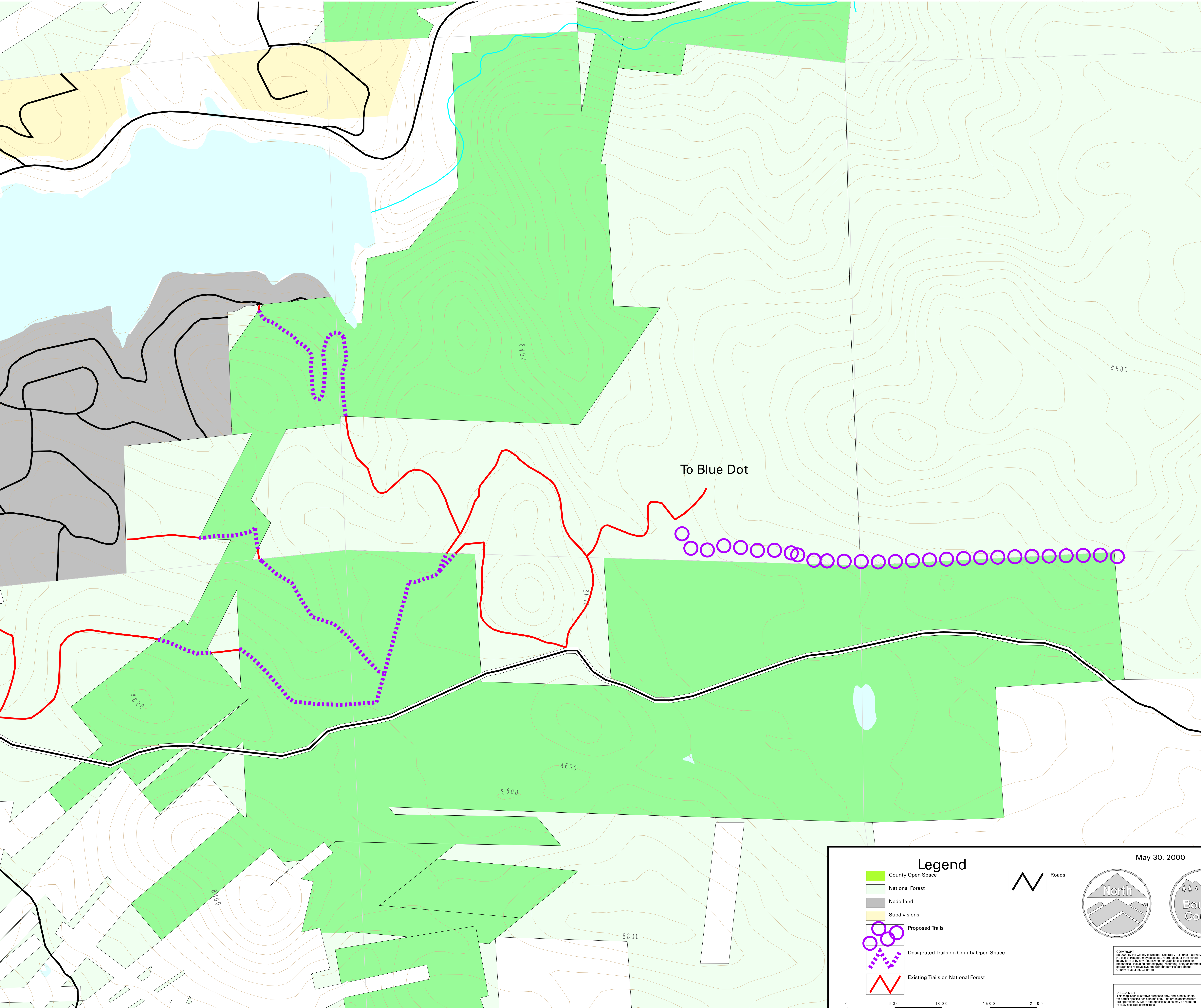
Recreational facilities center on a trail system found on the Reynolds Ranch Mining Claim area (Figure 7). This trail system provides key linkages from Nederland and National Forest lands west of Reynolds Ranch to the Boy Scout and blue dot trail systems located on National Forest lands to the east. The trail system currently utilizes existing routes. Signs and trail markers will be utilized to demarcate this designated trail system. Trail locations may change in order to create more sustainable routes, but will retain current concepts relative to linkages. Almost all of these trails are on both County Open Space and National Forest lands. Coordination will be required with the Forest Service to formalize the trail system. The designated trail system as depicted in this plan should be considered provisional and may change depending on the outcome of the Forest Service's Winiger Ridge Travel Management Plan.

A route heading northeast from the Public Service Natural Gas Regulator Station (located on Magnolia Road) and connecting to the Abandoned Power Line trail will also become a designated trail. This route runs on the north side of a ridge above Big Springs Subdivision and partly utilizes an old survey cut through the dense lodgepole pine forest. This route achieves what was attempted by the illegally constructed portion of the ``Boot Trail`` which the County closed several years ago. Since about half of this trail is on Forest Service land, coordination will be needed with the Boulder District.

There may be one additional trail developed that will provide a link from the Boy Scout trail system and run east to the Front Range Trails. This trail may run through that part of the

REYNOLDS RANCH

Designated Trails



Legend

- County Open Space
- National Forest
- Nederland
- Subdivisions
- Proposed Trails
- Designated Trails on County Open Space
- Existing Trails on National Forest

May 30, 2000

North

Boulder County

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Boulder County Parks and Open Space
Map by Jeff Moline

Reynolds Ranch

Figure 7 - Designated Trail System

Homestead area located north of Magnolia Road. This trail will be a joint project with the Forest Service.

Access locations from Nederland occur at three sites. One originates off of Wildwood Drive in Big Springs Subdivision. It traverses National Forest land before entering Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims. A second access trail exists near the intersection of Doe Trail and Alpine Drive. This trail first crosses private land before entering Reynolds Ranch; a legal access needs to be negotiated with the property owner. A third access point occurs from the route that follows the drainage from Big Springs Subdivision to the Natural Gas Regulator Station. Currently, this route goes up to the regulator station and then northeast toward Reynolds Ranch Mining Claims. A route may be developed, in coordination with the Forest Service, from the base of the gulch and angles southeast into the existing trail.

Access into the trail system off of Magnolia Road exists on National Forest lands at the Natural Gas Regulator station, in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 20 (Boy Scout entrance) and in the southeast quarter of Section 16 (Front Range Trails entrance).

Other casual and social trails exist in the Reynolds Mining Claim area. These trails will be closed.

10.4 Fencing

Fencing is a management tool that can help delineate property boundaries, focus access onto open space land from public trailheads, reduce casual access points from private land, control trespass on private land, and control grazing animals. All of Reynolds Ranch and the Rogers Property have been surveyed. Platt Rogers Memorial Park has not recently been surveyed, though some monuments and section corners have been located.

Currently, the only functional fencing is found around the Reynolds Ranch Homestead area, and along Boulder Canyon Highway through the Rogers Property. Additional functional fencing exists along a portion of Lower Reynolds Ranch, and along a portion of the upper boundary of Platt Rogers Memorial Park; both of these fence sections are maintained by adjacent private

property owners for livestock retention. Other perimeter and interior fencing exists but is in disrepair and nonfunctional.

Management direction for fencing is to maintain the existing functional fence around the Reynolds Ranch Homestead area and along Boulder Canyon Highway through the Rogers Property. The standards for the fencing replacement around the Reynolds Ranch Homestead, where cattle are grazed, is to meet Colorado Division of Wildlife standards for wildlife-safe fencing (wire spacing at 16-22-28-40 inches from the ground) with the exception that barbed wire will be used on all but the bottom strand. Additionally, the top strands of several fence segments along Magnolia Road are lowered during the winter to aid elk movement. Interior fencing of the Reynolds Ranch Homestead should utilize temporary fencing as much as possible. Additional fencing may be utilized where it would help delineate property lines between open space and private residential development or where it is likely that trespass to private land or unwanted access to open space is occurring. Nonfunctional fencing which may be hazardous to wildlife movement, particularly old sections of barbed wire, should be removed.

10.5 General Park Regulations

The following regulations, which apply to all County Open Space, will be applicable to these properties:

- Properties which are open for public use, are open from sunrise to sunset. Overnight camping is prohibited.
- Collecting, removing, destroying, or defacing any natural or manmade objects within parks and open space is not permitted.
- Feeding, disturbing, trapping, hunting, or killing wildlife is not permitted (except as allowed by the Board of County Commissioners to carry out a wildlife management program).
- Groundfires are not permitted. Fires may only be built in established grills and fireplaces in picnic areas. Fires may be prohibited entirely by order of the Board of County Commissioners, the Boulder County Sheriff, or the Director of Parks and Open Space by

the posting of special notices or notification through the press.

- Pets must be on a leash and under physical control of a person at all times (With the exception of the Reynolds Ranch Mining Claim area where dogs are allowed off-leash).
- Mountain bicycling is permitted on designated trails only.
- A valid Colorado fishing license is required whenever fishing in ponds, lakes and creeks.
- Discharging or carrying firearms, crossbows, fireworks, or projectile weapons of any kind is not permitted (except law enforcement officials and as allowed by the Board of County Commissioners to carry out a wildlife management program).
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted unless the area is specifically designated and posted to permit the operation of such vehicles in the area (County and emergency vehicles on official business are excepted; exceptions may also be granted to persons with disabilities, by written permission from the Parks and Open Space Department, for the use of single-rider, motorized vehicles adapted for recreational use by people with disabilities).
- It is unlawful to place rock bolts, install gates, establish or construct trails or other facility for public or private use without the written permission from the Parks and Open Space Department.
- The Parks and Open Space Department may temporarily close areas to public use for repairs or due to wildlife, vegetation and/or public safety concerns. It shall be unlawful for the public to enter such areas.
- The disposal of trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or debris is not permitted except in designated trash receptacles.

- It is unlawful to consume, possess or serve alcoholic beverages, as defined by state statute.
- Activities which unduly interfere with the health, safety and welfare of the users or the neighbors in the area, or which create a nuisance or hazard to the use and safety of persons using or neighboring such areas are prohibited. Disorderly conduct (including amplified sound) shall be prohibited.

10.6 Parks and Open Space Field Staff

The field staff of Boulder County Parks and Open Space conduct and/or coordinate construction, maintenance, patrol and resource management activities on open space lands. Currently, this staff is comprised of 57 full-time and over 44 seasonal employees. The field staff are split into the following divisions:

Resource Management: Conduct resource inventories (wildlife, plants, forests, cultural) and resource management projects; provide patrol and law enforcement; plan interpretive facilities and programs; coordinate volunteer activities.

General Maintenance: Maintain facilities, buildings, roads, fencing; mow where necessary; trash collection.

Trails and Construction: Construct and maintain trails; construct trailhead facilities, picnic areas, group shelters, interpretive facilities and aids; produce and repair signs.

Agricultural Resources: Manage agricultural and grazing leases, and activities.

Weed District: Plan and conduct weed management activities.

10.7 Patrol

Several staff activities will provide patrol of the property. Primary law enforcement responsibility will be provided by full-time Sheriff's Park Deputies, who cover all

major open space properties. The deputies are fully commissioned law-enforcement officers. They travel throughout the properties on foot and by mountain bike. Other Boulder County Sheriff's Officers also have the duty and authority to enforce regulations adopted for County park and open space areas.

Property Managers live on or near the open space properties. They provide a wide range of services, including general maintenance, and provide a continual presence on the property. They also have the authority to enforce rules and regulations. A Property Manager position may be established on Reynolds Ranch to provide coverage of mountain open space properties.

Park Rangers are present on open space properties and can enforce rules and regulations. They also help educate the public about rules and regulations, land management issues, and current resource management projects.

Field Interpreters may also be present on the properties. Their role is to interact with park visitors, interpreting natural and cultural resources, discussing land management issues, explaining current resource management projects, and explaining rules and regulations, when appropriate. While not having law enforcement responsibilities, Field Interpreters provide a presence and can call in enforcement personnel if needed.

10.8 Emergency Services

Emergency response is provided by a host of agencies, organizations and fire protection districts. These activities are initially coordinated through a call to the Boulder County Sheriff's Dispatch Division. From here, depending on the nature of the emergency, appropriate response agencies are called.

Three fire districts help provide fire fighting and emergency response (first aid, evacuation, search and rescue) services to these properties. Areas in Boulder Canyon (above the Narrows) and the first part of Magnolia Road are covered by Nederland Fire Protection District; this includes most of Platt Rogers Memorial Park, all of the Rogers Property and the western portion of Reynolds Ranch. The majority of upper Magnolia Road is covered by High Country Fire District; this includes the eastern portion of Reynolds Ranch and the upper part of Platt

Rogers Memorial Park. The lowest and eastern most portion of Platt Rogers Memorial Park falls within the coverage of Sugarloaf Fire Protection District.

The fire protection districts generally provide initial response and coordination for fighting fires. This is supplemented with help from the Boulder County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, the Boulder County Wildland Firefighters, the Colorado State Forest Service, and possibly Federal crews and other fire fighting crews that may have been brought into the area during high fire seasons. The current mode of operation is to aggressively control all fires and extinguish them at the earliest time possible.

10.9 Volunteer Opportunities

For interested citizens and organizations, many volunteer opportunities exist through Boulder County Parks and Open Space to help maintain the land and provide services to visitors. Most of these programs are organized through the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Volunteer Coordinator or Field Interpreter, unless otherwise noted. Volunteer opportunities include:

Adopt a Park/Trail: This program gives families, schools, community groups, and businesses an opportunity to be part of the County's park maintenance system. Generally, there is an adopted site, such as a parking area or trail. Work can include trash pick-up, trail construction/maintenance, weed control, wildlife habitat construction, and other park improvements. Training is provided by Parks and Open Space staff.

Park Hosts: Park Hosts work at specific open space properties orienting visitors to the recreational opportunities, resources, and places to enjoy. Park rules may also be discussed with visitors. Training is provided by Parks and Open Space staff.

Volunteer Naturalists: Volunteer Naturalists are trained to provide environmental education programs to the public, school groups, and organizations. Each year, one to two classes of 20-25 people are chosen from applicants for the training program. There are two other programs associated with the Volunteer Naturalists: the Herbarium Team works on

developing a complete inventory of all plant species found on open space; and the Cultural History Team; pulls together information and materials on the history associated with open space properties, and is involved with living history presentations.

Volunteer Work Projects: Volunteer work projects allow individuals to participate in a variety of activities helping the department undertake and complete resource and interpretive projects. Projects have included waterfowl census, raptor monitoring, park/trail clean-up, trail building maintenance, plant restoration, forest stand improvement, interpretive writing, park host, wildlife projects, bat monitoring and fire management. Recruitment for volunteers for these projects is on a per project basis and coordinated by either a lead staff person for the project or the Field Interpreter.

Adopt a Weed-Patch: This program allows groups and individuals the chance to help the County control noxious weeds by hand-pulling and cutting. To volunteer, contact the Boulder County Weed District.

The Boulder County Youth Corps is an opportunity for younger people to get involved in community activities, some of which will be conducted on open space. Youths from the ages of 14-17 can apply. The program is designed to provide youths lifetime skills by involvement in specific programs. The program is coordinated by the Administrative Services Division of Boulder County.

11.0 RESOURCE MONITORING

Resource monitoring is done to determine how well management objectives are being met. Monitoring provides a feedback mechanism for decision making that keeps the plan dynamic and responsive. Monitoring provides information on what changes are occurring on the property. Some resources may be adversely affected resulting in a change in management. Other resources may improve as a result of management activities. Visitor use patterns, user conflicts, and monitoring the creation of social trails can influence recreation management.

The monitoring of specific resources is performed on a periodic

basis. Some inventories are ongoing and occur through standard patrol activities. Others are scheduled several times a year (trail inspections), annually (raptor nest monitoring), or every 5 years (detailed weed mapping). Still other monitoring projects are triggered by particular events, such as the vegetative monitoring needed before and after a controlled burn.

Annually, a general monitoring report will be prepared. Every 5 years, a major evaluation of management direction will be undertaken.

Resource Monitoring

What	Who	Frequency
Photopoints		
Vegetation	Every 3 years	BCPOS
Trails	Annual	BCPOS
Cultural Resources	Every 5 years	BCPOS
Vegetation Transects	Every 3 years	BCPOS
Weed Mapping	Every 5 years	BCPOS
Elk Monitoring	Annual	BCPOS/Vol/CDOW
Social Trail Inventory	Annual for 1 st 5 yrs,	BCPOS
	Every 2 years after	
Fencing, Building,	Annual	BCPOS
Facility Inspection		

General Department Project

What	Who	Frequency
Visitor Use Levels	Annual	BCPOS
Visitor Questionnaire	Every 3 years	BCPOS/Vol
Records of Violation	Annual	BCPOS/Sheriff
Records of Request for Use	Annual	BCPOS
Records of Reported Conflicts	Annual	BCPOS/Sheriff
Records of Emergency Response	Annual	BCPOS/FPD/Sheri

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Special

What	Who	Frequency
Prescribed Fire	As Planned	BCPOS
Pre-fire Veg Inventory		
During Fire Intensity		
Post Fire Veg	Annual for 1 st 5 years, every 5 years after	
Giggey Lake Amphibian	Occasional (Every 10 Years)	
		BCPOS/University/CDOW
and Mollusk Inventory		

Abbreviations: BCPOS - Boulder County Parks and Open Space; Vol. - Volunteers; CDOW - Colorado Division of Wildlife; FPD - Fire Protection Districts.