



MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Strategic Plan

June 2005

Dear Reader-

The magnificent Mosquito Range was home to thousands of 19th Century miners living in makeshift communities, working gold and silver mines. Visible clues to this colorful past still cling precariously to the steep slopes above each valley. This rich heritage, along with the area's remarkable natural and recreational resources, provided the impetus for the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI).

Mining claims that once afforded hiking, camping, and rock hounding opportunities are now being fenced and posted. Parking and trail access is more limited as new property owners become concerned about trespassing, vandalism, and liability. Historic mining structures are being stripped of their weathered exteriors and period artifacts, without regard to their significance or ownership. Other 19th Century buildings are falling prey to neglect and the elements. Boot soles and truck tires are churning up sensitive alpine meadows.

In the Mosquito Range planning area, recreationists use many access routes that pass through private land. You may regularly use such a route now and not even know it. Local land owners, steeped in local tradition and respectful of backcountry activities like skiing, hunting, four-wheeling, and hiking, have been accepting of people crossing their land. Indeed, all of the 14,000-foot peaks in the planning area are on private land, and access has never been perceived to be a problem. Today, however, historical mining roads are being gated where community residents have recreated for two generations. These are just a few of the issues facing miners, property owners, resource managers, and recreation clubs in the 21st Century throughout the Mosquito Range.

The Alma Foundation, in partnership with Park County and The Trust for Public Land, facilitated the MRHI to address increasing land use conflicts and resource management issues, and to create a plan that allows compatible development to proceed in an orderly manner. In this spirit, we have engaged a cross-section of the community and other stakeholders to analyze the resources and develop non-regulatory strategies that will protect and enhance the most significant attributes and opportunities of the Mosquito Range.

Through this public-private partnership we hope to ensure that the legacy of this exceptional place is maintained for another hundred years. We invite you to join us in this cooperative effort to preserve extant historic structures, improve recreation access, protect rare or sensitive natural areas, safeguard private property rights, and generate new economic opportunities.

Regards-

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Stakeholders

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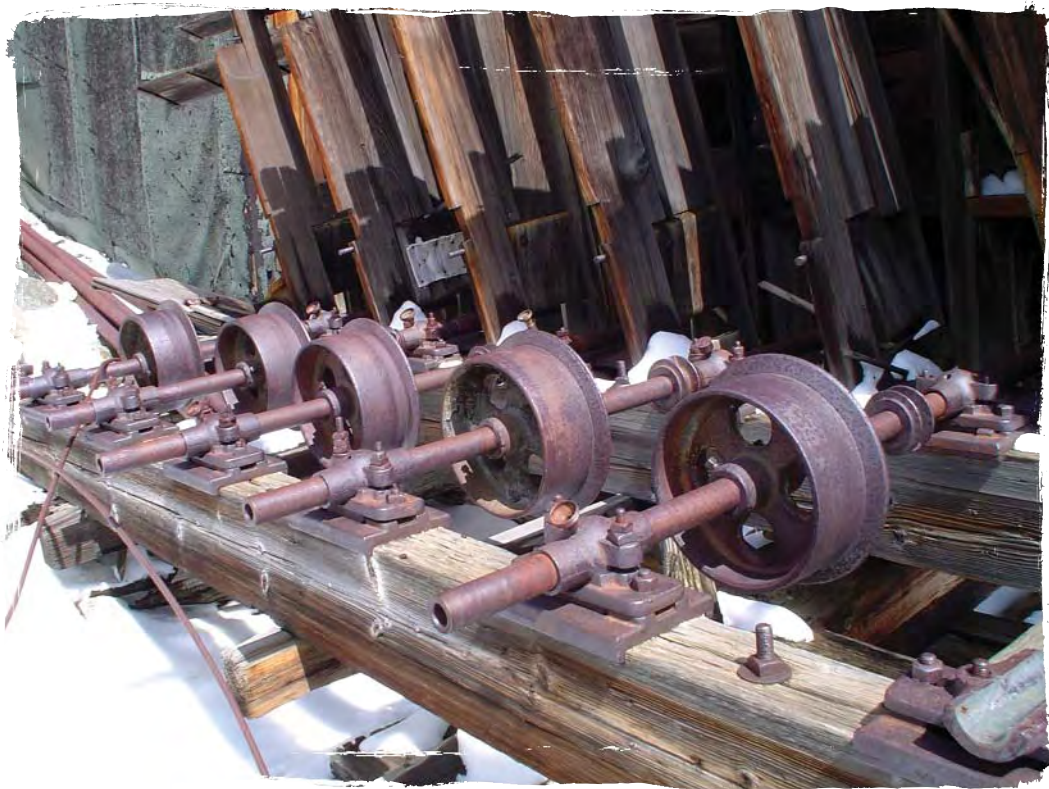
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INTRODUCTION

The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI) presents an outstanding opportunity to preserve cultural and historic resources, create a network of recreation opportunities and keep large parts of vibrant natural systems intact. The planning area contains cultural and historic, recreation, and natural resources of statewide and national significance. For these very reasons it also is attractive as a place to live, work, and visit. We believe there is still time to coordinate and balance preservation and conservation with recreation and economic development so the natural integrity and heritage of the area is not lost.

BACKGROUND

Mining has played an important role in the history of the planning area. During 1860 and 1861, almost a quarter of Colorado's population resided in the mountains surrounding South Park. The area was extensively explored for minerals by miners, hoping to strike it rich on gold, silver, or even salt. Mining may be more difficult today, but numerous prospectors and gem collectors still frequent the region. While the economic legacy may have passed, the miners left an incredibly rich historic and cultural legacy as evidenced by the Paris Mill, high altitude mines, and Snowstorm Dredge.



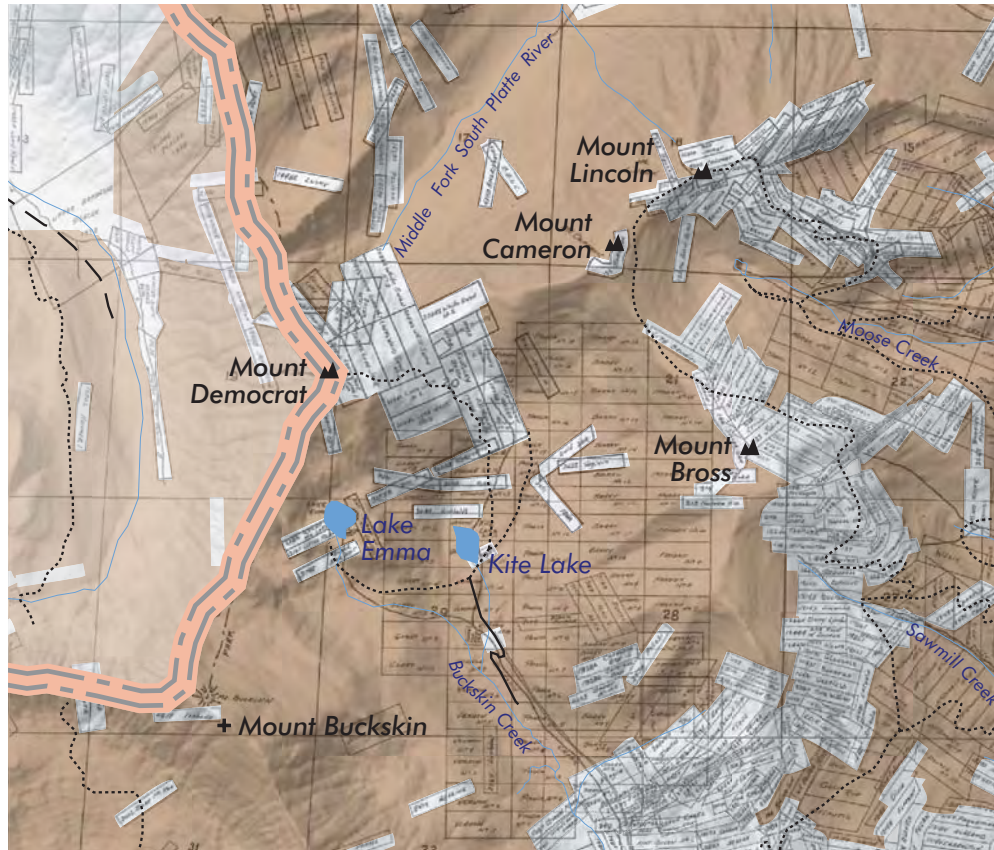
Prior to 1992, building permits for Park County remained below 200 annually; in the ten years since 1994, building permits have averaged over 400 annually. Total housing units for Park County has steadily increased from around 8,000 in 1994 to around 12,000 today. In addition, the net immigration for Park County has been over 600 people annually since 1994. These countywide trends explain why many new homes and access roads are now being constructed at or near timberline, in areas that were historically used for mining and recreation. This represents a significant shift in land use and human access to areas that were previously undeveloped or inaccessible.

THE CHALLENGE IN A RURAL LANDSCAPE

Some say losses of cultural and historic, recreation, and natural resources are inevitable for development to occur and the economy to grow. The fundamental thesis of the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Strategic Plan is that, while some losses cannot be avoided, with planning, coordination, and strategic action, opportunities to protect significant heritage resources and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors can be preserved in the face of changing conditions.

Trails to the fourteeners crisscross public (brown) and private (white) lands often contributing to trespass and vandalism issues for private landowners and public land managers.

Private lands as identified in this map require permission to cross.



Land ownership patterns in and around many high mountain Colorado communities reflect the legacy of Colorado's mining past. A quick assessment of the *Land Ownership Status* map on page 14 reveals a number of historic mining towns dispersed throughout a matrix of public lands. This public land matrix is not uniform; instead, it is cut-up and pocked by hundreds of patented mining claims, mill sites, and other privately owned inholdings scattered piecemeal across the landscapes adjacent to or nearby the population centers that once served the mines. The Towns of Alma, Fairplay, and unincorporated portions of Park County sit amid this jumbled overlay of land ownership.

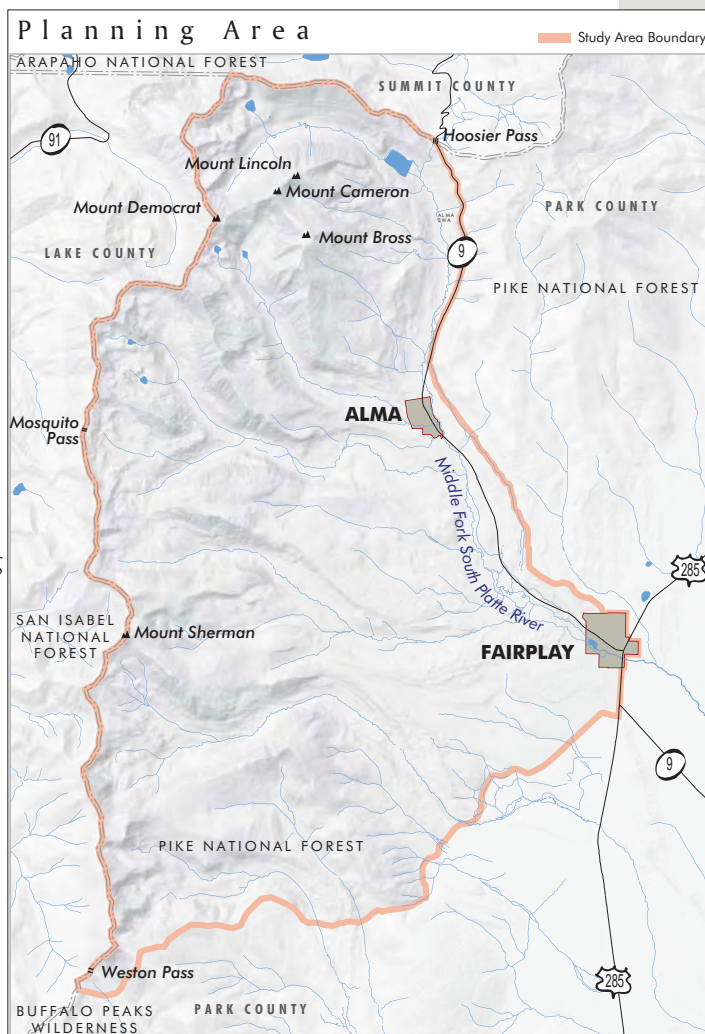
Now, at a time when large-scale hard rock mineral mining appears increasingly less viable economically, a dramatic increase in second home development on privately owned, patented mining claims and other historic mining-related properties is occurring in the Mosquito Range. Within the context of the public/private land ownership mosaic, the potential for incompatible land use development increases over time. As shown in the figure above, many private mining claims are crisscrossed by recreational trails and roads. In the past, landowners may have allowed the public to cross their property but, with changing demographics, more and more people are moving to the Mosquito Range without benefit of local knowledge concerning mining and recreation. As recreational uses rise, the frequency of vandalism and trespass in some areas is increasing. Large property owners are frustrated by the lack of awareness and the increased liability they face because of visitors crossing their property.

The potential is also high for a second home to be built over an OHV trail or access to a fourteener that people have used for years. A prime example of incompatible land use development already exists in areas along Hoosier Pass. In recent years, several homes have been built near timberline, thus limiting access to nearby mining claims, resulting in visual impacts along some of the most scenic corridors in Park County. And, while a number of second homes may not seem to pose threats of any consequence, the planning area may quickly approach a development threshold that, once crossed, will create significant management issues for public land agencies and Park County, alter recreational areas, fragment wildlife habitat, threaten high alpine vegetation communities, despoil scenic splendor, and reduce the economic viability of mining. Ultimately crossing this "threshold" may threaten the economic health of Park County by diminishing the very resources (i.e., cultural and historic, recreation, and natural) in the planning area that support residents' quality of life and attract visitors.

As one of its main goals, the MRHI endeavors to preserve popular access routes for recreational users while respecting the rights of private property owners. Working with willing landowners, the stakeholders of MRHI hope to use tools such as access agreements or conservation easements to preserve critical trail connections.

PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION

The South Park region of central Colorado, including the Hoosier Pass area and the Mosquito Range, presents a stunning array of high mountain peaks and passes, alpine cirques, rich fens, and lower elevation sageland. Largely due to its unusual hydrology and geology, the area harbors many of the state's rare plants and natural communities. The high-elevation planning area in particular, due to its unusual limestone outcrops and unglaciated uplands, is a biodiversity hotspot. The planning area spans north to south from Hoosier Pass to Weston Pass and east to west from the Middle Fork of the South Platte River to the Park County line. Highlighted below are some of the significant cultural and historic resources, recreation amenities, and natural features in the planning area.





Cultural and Historic Legacy

- The **Snowstorm Dredge is the last intact gold dredge in Colorado** and could be the last in the nation. Used from 1941 into the 1960s, it did the work of several hundred men as it dug and processed ore in the gold fields between Fairplay and Alma.
- At its height of activity, the London Mine complex on Mosquito Pass included the North and South London Mines, the **first aerial tramway in Colorado**, and a large mill. It processed gold, silver, and lead.
- Until closing in 2004, the Sweet Home Mine produced **rhodochrosite, the official Colorado state mineral**.
- Once an important site for processing precious metals from mines in Park County's Buckskin Gulch, the Paris Mill is now abandoned. Subject of many an artist's brush, the now languishing **Paris Mill was constructed in 1894 and is on the local register of historic places**. It is also considered eligible for the national and state registers of historic places. The mill is a large, multi-level structure with aerial tramway connections to mines in the mountains above. Machinery still contained in the building, including three different stamps used for crushing and grinding ore, is representative of several generations and methods of ore processing.

Recreation Opportunities

- **Recreational opportunities abound** in the planning area, enriching the lives of residents and visitors. Hiking, camping, fishing, peak climbing, hunting, OHV driving, and rock hounding - all are popular in the planning area.

- **Interesting features on the Wheeler Lake OHV Trail** include Montgomery Reservoir and Magnolia Mill.
- **With over 20 miles of hiking trails and 80 miles of multi-use trails**, residents and visitors can explore, exercise, and enjoy the richness of this environment.
- Four historical auto tours established in the planning area represent **one of the area's biggest attractions** and are a catalyst for heritage tourism.
- **Four peaks over 14,000 feet**—Mount Bross (14,172 feet), Mount Lincoln (14,286 feet), Mount Democrat (14,148 feet), and Mount Sherman (14,036 feet)—attract recreational enthusiasts from throughout Colorado and the nation.

Important Plants and Wildlife

- The Mosquito Range is one of the **botanical "hotspots"** in Colorado. Few other areas in the state support the number and rarity of plant species found here. One of these is the Penland alpine fen mustard. This species is a Colorado endemic known only from Summit and Park counties.
- The Mosquito Range Potential Conservation Area (PCA) incorporates much of the area above timberline in the Mosquito Range. This PCA supports an extraordinarily high concentration of rare plant species. To date, a total of 180 occurrences of **56 significant plants, animals, and plant communities** have been documented.
- Globe gilia is a plant species found in the planning area and **nowhere else in the world**.
- Sacramento Creek provides important habitat for Porter feathergrass, a **highly imperiled plant** found nowhere in the world but Colorado's South Park. Feathergrass inhabits rare wetlands, some of which date to the last ice age.





- The Fourmile Creek drainage provides an **important wildlife migration corridor** from the Mosquito Range to South Park. It supports an extremely rich fen community, which is globally imperiled.
- The planning area is home to **herds of elk, deer, and bighorn sheep**.
- The **Polixenes arctic butterfly**, ranked as **vulnerable in the state**, is also known from this area.
- The **lynx and wolverine** are known to the planning area from historical documentation. The lynx release program in Colorado enjoyed considerable success in 2004. Older spruce-fir forests in the planning area provide habitat where the lynx thrive.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The first task of the Strategic Plan was to identify stakeholders and partners in the planning area. A startup meeting in June 2004 introduced stakeholders to the MRHI, and began to build a complete list of stakeholder contacts. A simple brochure about the MRHI was developed for stakeholders to help inform interested parties.

Stakeholders met seven times to discuss project progress, and to help develop this document for the planning area. Developing a vision and set of goals and objectives created a foundation for this process, including a synthesis of individual ideas that each stakeholder brought to the group. The series of stakeholder meetings with breakout groups by resource (cultural and historic, recreation, and natural resources) involved discussing goals, available information, contacts, and the future vision for that specific plan element in the planning area. During the drafting of the document, participants were asked to integrate elements from each of the resource areas to come up with an overall strategic plan acceptable to all stakeholders.



Several mechanisms for involving the public and other stakeholders were used. A brochure communicated basic project information, meetings were conducted in an open forum, and various articles appeared in the local press. A public open house in June 2005 allowed interested parties to review mapping and ask questions. Public involvement and outreach will be a major thrust of the next phase of the MRHI.

VISION AND GOALS

The stakeholders envision the conservation of truly unique natural areas, preservation of historic and cultural sites and structures, a diversity of recreation uses, and new community economic opportunities. In keeping with the collaborative spirit of the development of this Strategic Plan, it is the partners' intention to work toward creative solutions that benefit all stakeholders and both private and community interests. Our vision—

“The partners of the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative seek opportunities to maintain and enhance resource values through inclusive, cooperative efforts to benefit quality of life and experiences.”

This project vision is supported by four goals within each of the resource areas:

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Preserve cultural and historic sites and ensure public access to those sites.
- Create public-private partnership agreements for the preservation and use of cultural and historic sites.
- Protect and enhance cultural and historic sites by reducing vandalism, trespass, and landowner liability.
- Generate new adaptive uses for historic properties that contribute to the local economy.

RECREATION RESOURCES

- Identify and improve recreational facilities to meet the present and future needs of the local community and visiting recreation users.
- Identify, acquire, and improve access to recreational corridors throughout the planning area.
- Promote and encourage responsible recreational use.
- Generate new recreational business opportunities.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Protect and enhance riparian areas and their associated basins to maintain water quality.
- Conserve and enhance areas with rare plants and vegetation communities.
- Conserve and enhance areas of wildlife habitat and wildlife movement corridors.
- Provide incentives for protection of natural resources on private land.

EXISTING LAND OWNERSHIP

The planning area is rich in cultural and historic, recreational, and natural resources, some of which have been carefully managed for many years. Although approximately 57 percent of the 112-square mile planning area is currently public land, without connections between areas, cultural and historic resources will remain threatened, recreation experiences will be altered, and many of these protected areas will lose their species richness. Presented here is a summary of the existing land ownership and management status of protected areas and their considerable resources.

PIKE NATIONAL FOREST

Within the MRHI planning area, 37,000 acres of the Pike National Forest rise up from South Park to the 14,286-foot Mount Lincoln. The recreation resource within the Mosquito Range remains primarily primitive and undeveloped, accessible mainly by four-wheel drive, horse, mountain bike, or foot. Remains of early day mining activity and stage routes are still easily discernible, further adding to the attraction of the area.

Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area

Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area is located atop Windy Ridge at the eastern foot of Mount Bross. The winds from which the ridge gets its name have caused the trees to take on their weathered appearance. A native of the Rocky Mountains, these conifers are found at elevations that exceed 8,000 feet and are often found right at timberline. Colorado contains the most easterly found environments for bristlecone pines in the United States. This scenic area was established in 1967 to protect a unique grove of beautifully formed bristlecones, some of which are 800 years old.

Limber Grove

The Limber Grove Trail leads from Horseshoe Campground to Fourmile Campground in the area southwest of Fairplay. Near its high point (10,900 feet), the trail makes a fairly gentle ascent up timbered slopes to Limber Grove, a small grove of ancient limber and bristlecone pine trees. Some of the trees in Limber Grove may be over 1,000 years old.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages about 2,800 acres of public lands in the planning area. These lands are managed for a multitude of uses including, but not limited to, recreation, mining, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

Approximately 75 percent of these lands, or 2,100 acres, on the west side of the planning area are classified as an Area of Critical Ecological Concern (ACEC). An ACEC is defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) as an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes.

ALMA STATE WILDLIFE AREA

At 10,000 feet, the Alma State Wildlife Area provides habitat for elk, deer, and waterfowl. The Middle Fork of the South Platte runs through the 240-acre Alma State Wildlife Area, which is located near the top of the watershed at the base of Hoosier Pass. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has made improvements in the area to provide fishing access along the Middle Fork for rainbow, brown, and brook trout.



STEWARDSHIP TRUST

In November 1996, state voters amended the sections of the Colorado Constitution that cover the State Land Board. Among other things, this amendment established a Stewardship Trust of 300,000 acres. This is approximately 10 percent of the 3 million surface acres that the Board manages to benefit eight trusts—the largest of which supports kindergarten through 12th grade education in Colorado. The purpose of the Stewardship Trust is to protect the long-term productivity and sound stewardship of lands held in trust by the Board. The Stewardship Trust does not guarantee that land will be open space forever or that the property will not be used for such things as grazing, crop production, forestry, and mineral extraction.



Treasurevault Mountain

Treasurevault Mountain was identified as a potential Colorado Natural Area in 1992. The 320-acre parcel in the Stewardship Trust contains alpine tundra, wetland communities that are in excellent condition, and populations of the globally imperiled Penland alpine fen mustard. The parcel is part of several potential conservation areas identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program that are of outstanding or very high biodiversity significance.





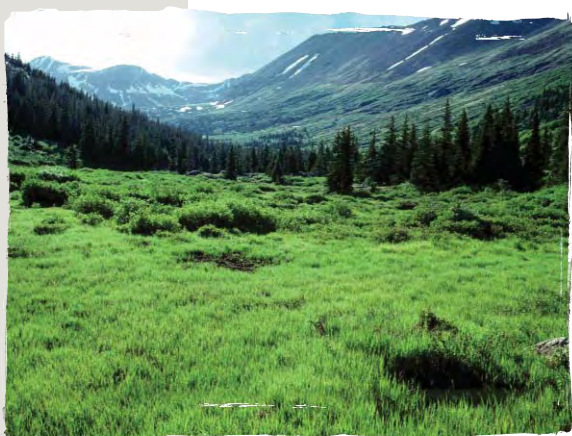
Fourmile Creek at Peart

The Fourmile Creek at Peart parcel supports populations of at least four plants known from nowhere else in Colorado including Canadian single-spiked sedge, Greenland primrose, pygmy bulrush, and few-flowered ragwort. The Stewardship Trust parcel is located only three miles outside of the Town of Fairplay in an area where private land has been subdivided for residential development. The valley of Fourmile Creek is an important wildlife migration corridor connecting the valley floor with the highest peaks of the Mosquito Range. About 180 of the parcel's 960 acres occur within the southern portion of the planning area.



CEMETERY LOOP OPEN SPACE

In 2000, the Town of Alma, in partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Alma Foundation, and significant community support, acquired the 31-acre Cemetery Loop Open Space. Bordered on three sides by the Pike National Forest in Buckskin Gulch, the Cemetery Loop Open Space provides access to the Pike National Forest and Windy Ridge Road. A portion of its namesake, the Cemetery Loop Trail, runs through the property as part of the greater Alma Ridge Trail system. In addition to recreational benefits, Alma pursued conservation of this parcel to protect a portion of the Town's watershed and preserve scenic views.



FOURTEENERS AND OTHER PRIVATE LANDS

"Fourteeners" found in the planning area include Mount Lincoln 14,286 feet, Mount Bross 14,172 feet, Mount Democrat 14,148 feet, and Mount Sherman 14,036 feet. These fourteeners are adjacent to public lands managed by the Pike National Forest and BLM, but access to their summits is not possible without trespassing on private property. In fact, over 31,000 acres (43 percent) of the planning area are in private ownership. Of these 31,000 acres, only 720 acres are within incorporated boundaries with the remainder in the unincorporated portions of Park County. Outside of the Towns of Fairplay and Alma, about 9,400 acres are subdivisions.

MAPPING ANALYSIS - SETTING PRIORITIES

Careful planning and analysis have given us a detailed knowledge of the planning area, as well as a broad perspective. The goal is to see the best qualities of the planning area's heritage preserved. To be efficient and strategic, we have harnessed technology to identify areas with the highest coincidence of resource overlap. Using Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, we have been able to synthesize information from a variety of sources and scale it into a concise format.

The three resource maps (i.e., *Cultural and Historic Resources*, *Recreation Resources*, and *Natural Resources*) are based on extensive data analysis and a series of stakeholder meetings. Individual resources and the associated analysis for these maps are described below. For cultural and historic and recreation resources, we applied an area of influence to assist in the analysis. The area of influence, applied to point features (e.g., a historic mill) and linear features (e.g., an OHV trail), is designed to enhance the context of these types of features within the surrounding landscape and is not regulatory in nature.

Selection of a set of priority resources for analysis does not preclude incorporating other resources in the final decision-making process when seeking partnerships, acquiring grants, or implementing on-the-ground projects. For example, mineral resources (see the *General Geologic Map and Mineral Areas* compiled from the Colorado Geological Survey in the *Appendix of Additional Figures*) in the planning area are diverse, include both lode and placer deposits, and should be considered in decision making.



CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The *Cultural Resources* map was compiled from the Colorado Historical Society's (CHS) database of field-surveyed sites. Where cultural and historic mapping information was not available from the CHS, several stakeholders affiliated with the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (PCHPAC) provided data and corrected mapping. PCHPAC is working on a preservation plan for the entire county and has conducted surveys supported through the State; intensive surveys have been conducted in Alma. For planning purposes, the following areas of influence were generated around cultural and historic sites: 50 meters around each site classified as "not eligible" by the CHS or sites identified by



LAND OWNERSHIP STATUS

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

COLORADO



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | State Land Board | High Clearance | Highways |
| BLM Area of Critical Ecological Concern | Alma Open Space | 4 Wheel Drive | Improved Roads |
| National Forest Service (NFS) | Private | Motorized Trail | Private or unmaintained road / trail |
| NFS Wilderness Area | | Hiking Trail | Municipal Boundary |
| | | GPS Trails | County Boundary |
| | | Paved Bike/Hiking Path | Study Area Boundary |
| | | | Rivers / Streams |
| | | | Lakes |
| | | | Marsh |
| | | | 14ers |



Data Source: The ownership database was originally compiled for use in the Colorado GAP analysis. It was downloaded from the NDIS SCOP website. The file was updated using the ownership layer from the Pike National Forest GIS data.

MRHI stakeholders; 125 meters around each eligible site; and 250 meters around registered sites. Again, the area of influence is designed to enhance the context of these sites within the planning framework and is not regulatory in nature.

RECREATION RESOURCES

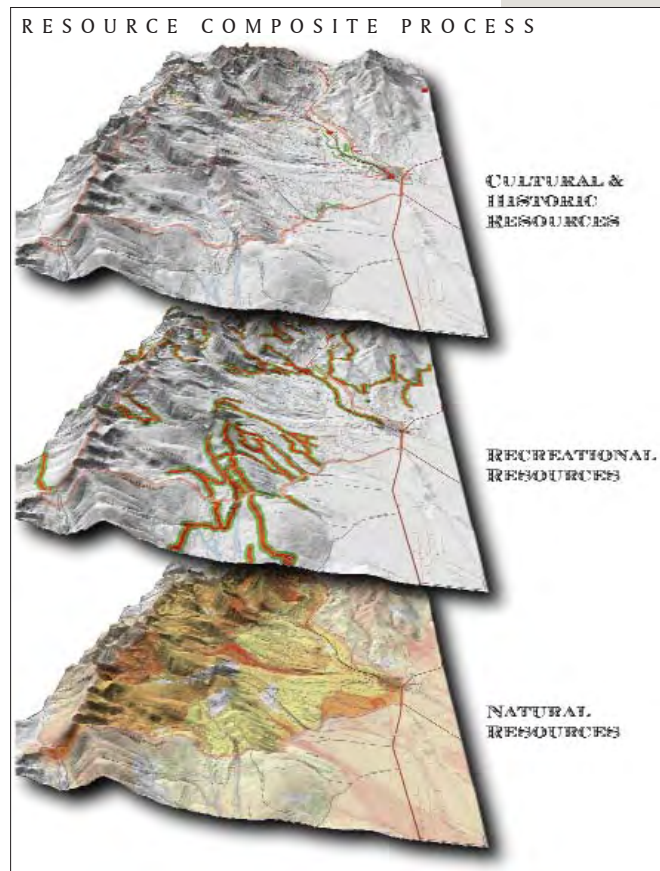
Recreation information (i.e., trails, trailheads, campgrounds, and other amenities) and subsequent *Recreation Resources* map was based on data from the Pike National Forest, Colorado Open Lands, and GPS trail data around Alma from GARTOS. We used National Geographic's Trails Illustrated maps and local stakeholder input to classify the roads and trails. For recreation resources, we applied a graduated area of influence of 60 meters (200 feet), 100 meters (330 feet), and 200 meters (660 feet). The area of influence has been incorporated to assist the stakeholders to consider the context of the surrounding landscape when planning along recreation corridors. The area of influence is not regulatory in nature.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mapping for natural resources came from several sources. Data on biological significance (outstanding, very high, high, moderate, and general) mapped as areas of high biological diversity, comes from the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). Riparian areas were extracted from the U.S. Forest Service mapping for the South Park Ranger District. Habitat mapping was acquired from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) for species of interest including bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and black bear. Threatened and endangered species mapping was acquired from the CDOW and CNHP for greenback cutthroat trout and penland alpine fen mustard. The CDOW identified locations along Highway 9 where wildlife typically cross and wildlife conflict areas. Each data element was mapped separately and appears individually in the *Appendix of Additional Figures*. The *Natural Resources* map is a composite of these individual data layers.

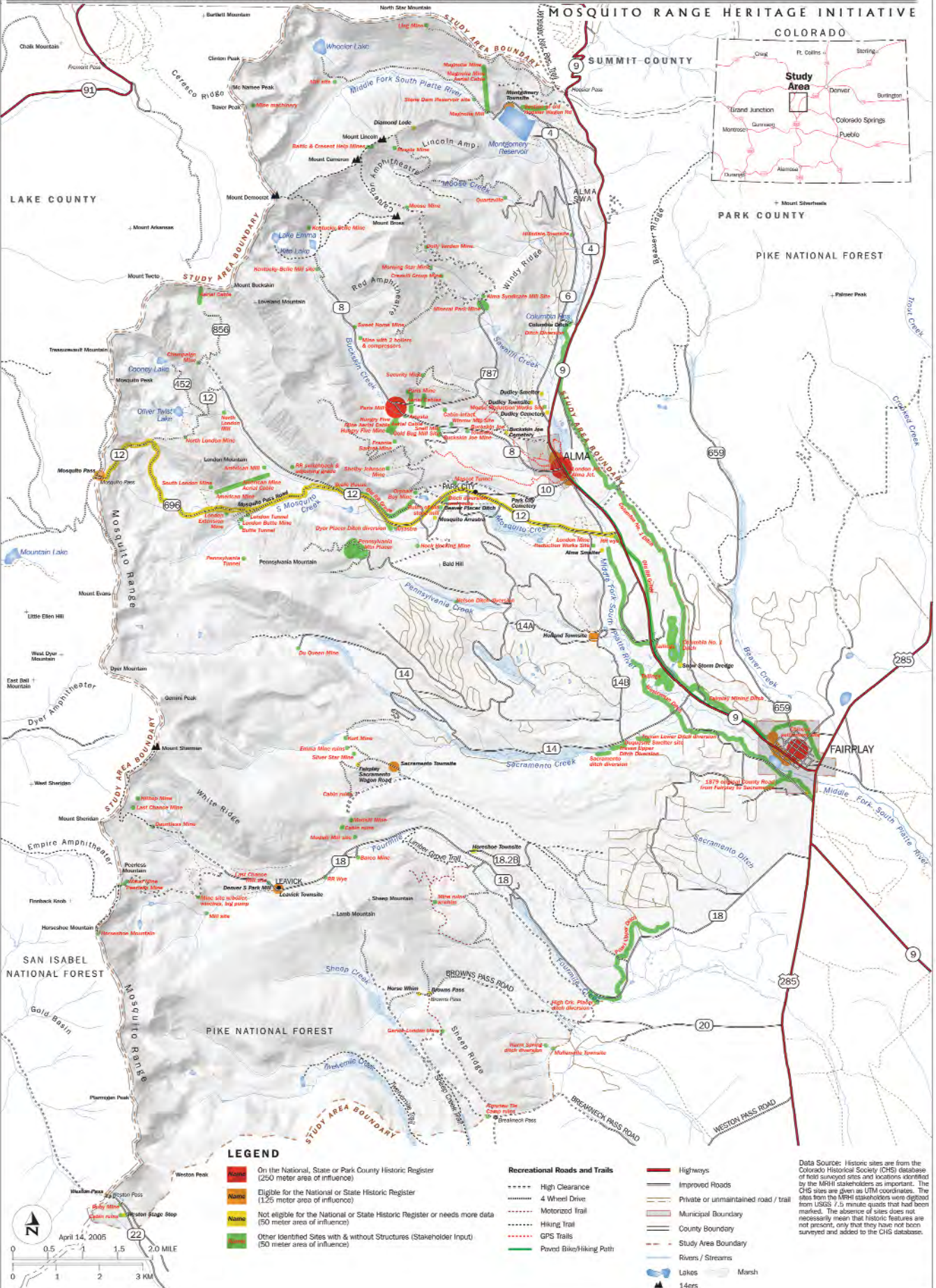
RESOURCE COMPOSITE MAP

The individual resource maps are combined to create the *Resource Composite* on page 19. An illustration of this process is provided at right. The *Resource Composite* depicts areas with a high coincidence of



CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE



LEGEND

- On the National, State or Park County Historic Register (250 meter area of influence)
- Eligible for the National or State Historic Register (125 meter area of influence)
- Not eligible for the National or State Historic Register or needs more data (50 meter area of influence)
- Other Identified Sites with & without Structures (Stakeholder Input) (50 meter area of influence)

Recreational Roads and Trails

- High Clearance
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Motorized Trail
- Hiking Trail
- GPS Trails
- Paved Bike/Hiking Path

- Highways
- Improved Roads
- Private or unmaintained road / trail
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes / Marsh
- 14ers

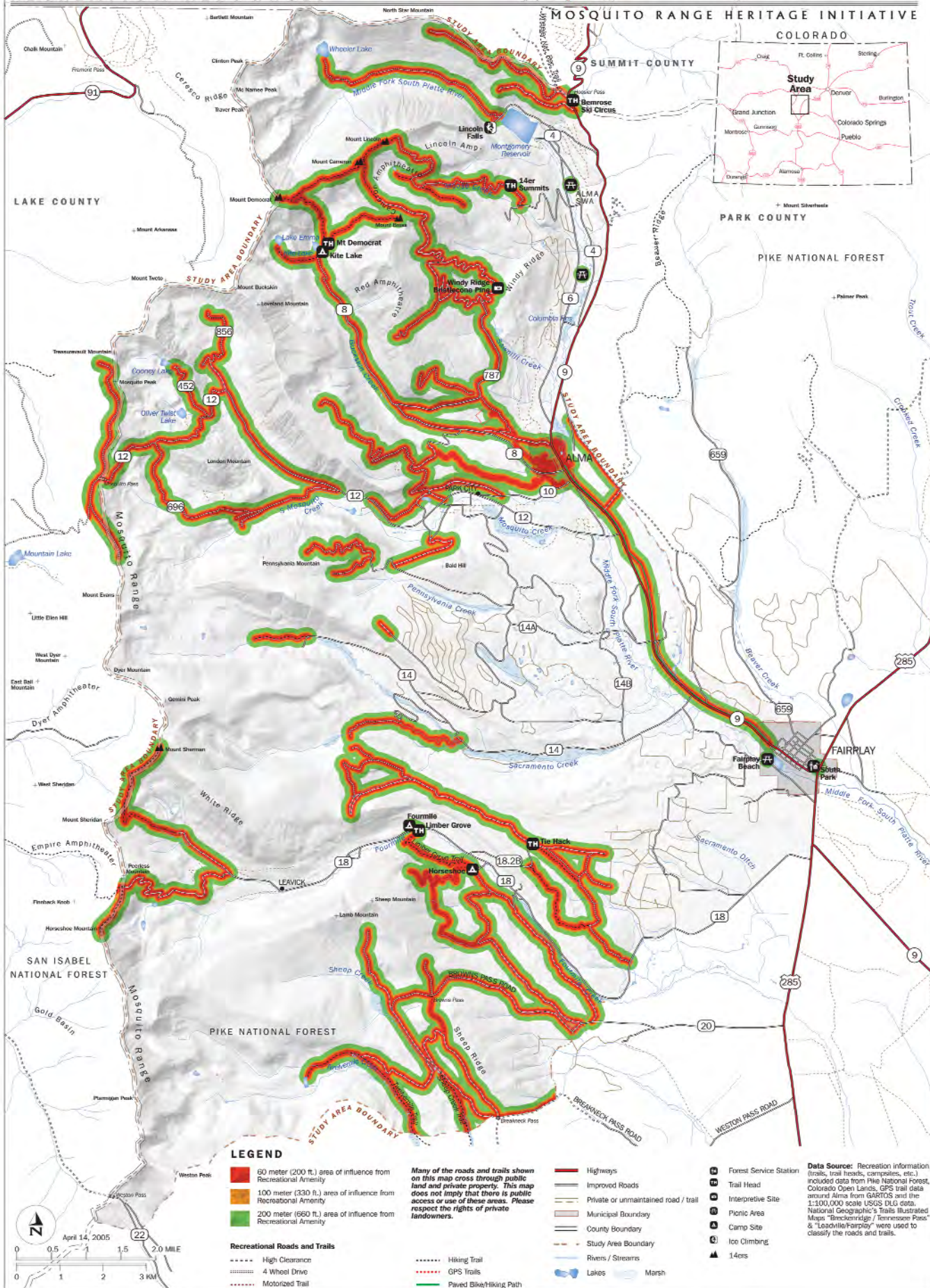
Data Source: Historic sites are from the Colorado Historical Society (CHS) database of both surveyed sites and locations identified by the MHRH stakeholders as important. The CHS sites are given as UTM coordinates. The sites from the MHRH stakeholders were digitized from USGS 1/2 minute quads that had been marked. The absence of sites does not necessarily mean that historic features are not present, only that they have not been surveyed and added to the CHS database.



RECREATION RESOURCES

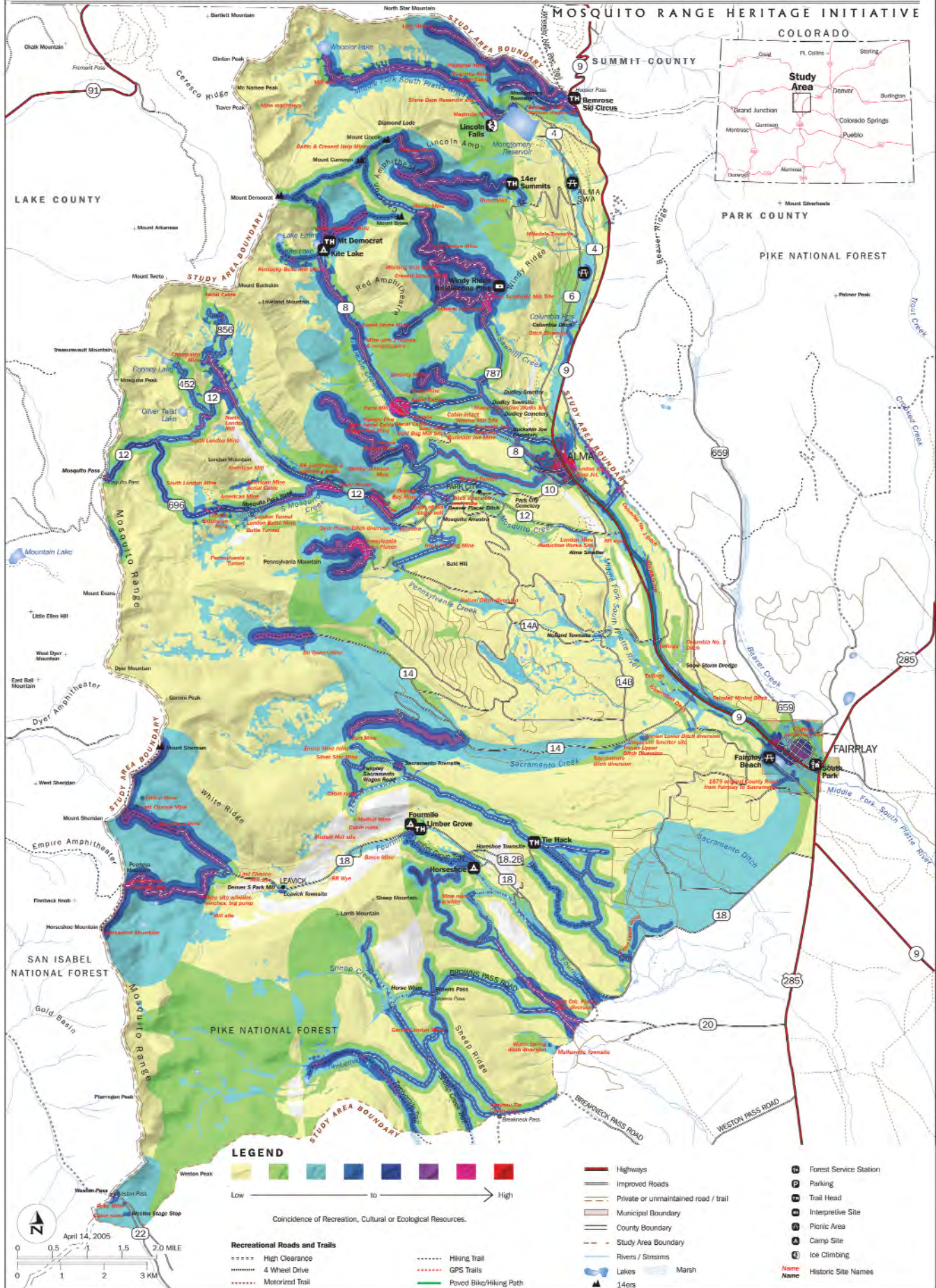
MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

COLORADO



RESOURCE COMPOSITE

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE



overlapping resources based on the criteria (i.e., cultural and historic, recreation, and natural resources). The map should not be interpreted to mean that all the high-coincidence areas shown will be conserved, whether by public acquisition or by other means, in the future. It does, however, show in broad outline the major areas to consider for future actions as outlined in the *Implementation* section. The major areas identified in the *Resource Composite* are presented below, grouped under two headings: *Stream Corridors* and *Alpine Areas*.

Stream Corridors

One major and several minor stream corridors cross the planning area. The Middle Fork of the South Platte River, the main corridor, flows from the north through Alma and Fairplay toward Park County's ranchlands east of the planning area. Three additional creeks (Buckskin, Mosquito, and Sacramento) flow from the west into the Middle Fork of the South Platte. Fourmile Creek flows into the South Fork of the South Platte. A significant portion of the planning area's cultural and historic, recreation, and natural heritage is concentrated within or adjacent to each of these stream corridors. The five stream corridors identified in the *Resource Composite* are listed below and described briefly on the following pages.

- Middle Fork of the South Platte River—Montgomery Reservoir to Wheeler Lake
- Middle Fork of the South Platte River—Fairplay to Alma
- Buckskin Creek
- Sacramento Creek
- Fourmile Creek and Southern Planning Area

Middle Fork of the South Platte River—Montgomery Reservoir to Wheeler Lake

The source of the Middle Fork of the South Platte River sits high in the planning area above 12,000 feet at Wheeler Lake and the drainages below Mounts Democrat, Lincoln, Cameron, and Bross. Just down from the summit of Hoosier Pass is Montgomery Reservoir, which characterizes much of the heritage within this corridor.



Montgomery was founded in August 1861, two years after gold was discovered in the area. By 1862, Montgomery had 150 cabins, five sawmills, three hotels and the largest dancehall in the region. By the late 1860s, gold had played out and the residents had moved south to Buckskin Joe. In the 1950s, the City of Colorado Springs began construction of Montgomery Reservoir and the remains of Montgomery were flooded.

Today, Montgomery Reservoir above Alma stores water for Colorado Springs. Significant efforts by Colorado Springs Utilities have helped ensure

that Montgomery Reservoir is accessible to the public for outdoor recreation such as hiking and fishing. In addition, the Wheeler Lake OHV trail begins at Montgomery Reservoir near the historic Magnolia Mill and follows the Middle Fork of the South Platte River to Wheeler Lake. Wheeler Lake is both a challenging and popular OHV route that can be driven as a day trip from the Front Range. Dispersed camping and trespassing on private property are two major issues the stakeholders seek to address within this corridor.

Middle Fork of the South Platte River—Fairplay to Alma

From County Road 12 downstream to County Road 1, the Middle Fork of the South Platte River is characteristic of both the heritage and challenges in the planning area. This portion of the river corridor encompasses primarily private residential property. In recent years, numerous additional residential homes have been constructed along the river. This development poses water quality concerns through sedimentation and sewage system effluent to the river and associated wetlands.

Within this matrix of private land, one can find the Snowstorm Dredge, the last intact gold dredge in Colorado and possibly in the nation. In 2001, Colorado Preservation, Inc. added the dredge to its Colorado's Most Endangered Places List. Since that time, supporters of preservation have received funding from various sources and a grant from the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund to purchase the dredge. Local community members have expressed the hope that the Snowstorm Dredge will remain at its current location.

Buckskin Creek

Buckskin Creek joins with the Middle Fork of the South Platte River near Alma. The Town of Alma was established in 1873 at the junction of the Middle Fork of the South Platte River and Buckskin Creek, a location essential to its success. Alma was lower in elevation than other towns such as Quartzville, Montgomery, or Dudley, yet close enough to the mines to attract the construction of smelters. A mass exodus from Alma during 1879 to Leadville's silver boom left a quarter of the buildings vacant; however, many new silver ore discoveries were made up Buckskin Creek, resulting in the return of many of the town's residents. Numerous abandoned mines exist on federal and private lands in the Buckskin Creek drainage. A popular route for climbing Mounts Boss, Democrat, and Lincoln in one day starts from Buckskin Gulch. The stakeholders seek to mitigate dispersed camping that is prevalent throughout the Buckskin Creek corridor and throughout the area leading up to the Windy Ridge Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area.

Sacramento Creek

The Sacramento Creek valley includes portions of two spectacular drainages on the east slope of the Mosquito Range. The wide willow carrs in the valley bottoms are in good to excellent condition, and support occurrences of the globally imperiled Porter feathergrass, which is known only from a very narrow range in the Southern Rocky Mountains in the vicinity of South Park. Engelmann spruce forests with small patches of native grasslands dominate the upland portions of the Sacramento Creek valley.

The valley includes a mix of privately and publicly owned lands. The South Park Ranger District manages most of the public lands; the Bureau of Land Management manages a small area. Special designation on public lands and incentives such as conservation easements on private lands would likely benefit the long-term protection of this area.

Fourmile Creek and Southern Planning Area

Fourmile Creek crosses the planning area in the south, flowing from the mountains through the Town of Leavick and into the subalpine valley below. The creek emerges from a coniferous forest then spreads out into a large area of beaver ponds and willow stands. Although a relatively short segment of Fourmile Creek exists within the planning area, it provides an important wildlife migration corridor from the Mosquito Range to South Park and supports several rich fen areas.

Hiking, mountain biking, and OHV use of National Forest lands south of Fourmile Creek in the Browns Pass area has increased in recent years, because of the proximity to Fairplay and rapidly developing subdivisions. County Road 18 within the corridor provides access to Mount Sherman, one of the easiest fourteeners to climb. The road passes right by the only remaining structure at Leavick, the Hilltop Mill. Above Leavick, the driveable road ends at the Dauntless Tunnel. The hike up Sherman begins by following the old mine road up to Hilltop Mine at 12,900 feet. The Hilltop Mine produced over \$600,000 in silver ore in 1888. In the spring of 1897, the mill still standing at Leavick was built. An incredible 13,000-foot-long aerial tram once brought ore down to the mill.

Alpine Areas

Several alpine areas identified in the *Resource Composite* are extremely valuable to residents and visitors alike for many reasons. These areas provide adventure, spiritual renewal, and opportunities to connect with the natural world. The areas are also the easiest routes on popular peaks, regularly accommodating hundreds of hikers and OHV enthusiasts daily on summer weekends. The popularity of these areas brings substantial economic benefits to nearby communities in the planning area.

Regrettably, this popularity has led to the degradation of some fragile areas and user conflicts. Without intervention and continued stewardship, impacted areas will continue to deteriorate and conflict may rise rapidly as the frequency of visitation increases. The MRHI seeks to maintain the heritage of the five principal areas identified in the *Resource Composite* and described below, while at the same time mitigating conflicts with private property owners.

- Hoosier Pass
- Mosquito Pass Road
- Pennsylvania Mountain
- Mount Sherman
- Mounts Bross, Lincoln, and Democrat

Hoosier Pass

Hoosier Pass lies on the Continental Divide, the meandering spine of mountains that separates the Atlantic and Pacific watersheds. For many centuries, Hoosier Pass served as a link between two important Ute hunting grounds—South Park and Middle Park—the heart of the Tribe's mountain domain. Today, the 11,542-foot pass is the gateway from Summit County to the South Park region of central Colorado and the Mosquito Range. From the summit of the pass, visitors enjoy stunning views of the geomorphology and glacial formations of the planning area. Mountain bikers have access to a moderate ride that begins at the top of Hoosier Pass, heads west toward the Magnolia Mine, cuts north descending to Crystal Lake, and back to Hoosier Pass.

Mosquito Pass Road

The confluence of Mosquito Creek and the Middle Fork of the South Platte River is also the jumping off point for Mosquito Pass Road, a county-maintained road that parallels Mosquito Creek and traverses the creek corridor. A trip to the highest automobile pass in North America (13,186 feet) provides impressive views of abandoned mines and flora and fauna. Most of the land within the corridor is private, but remnants of the mining heritage are still visible from the road and interpreted through one of Park County's several auto tours.

In 1861, the mining camp of Mosquito opened on the east side of the pass. Augusta Tabor crossed Mosquito with her husband, Horace Tabor, in 1870 on horseback. She noted there was no road at all and that the way was very steep. A wagon road went across the pass in the early 1870s to accommodate the silver rush. When the Hayden survey party visited in 1873, they found the pass already named and well used, although the route was still difficult. Mosquito Pass had very heavy traffic during the Leadville mining boom days. As the mines played out, the pass fell into disuse and the road was not kept up. Today's travelers include OHV enthusiasts, snowmobilers, skiers and mountain bikers on the lower elevation portions of the trail.

Pennsylvania Mountain

Three of Pennsylvania Mountain's four sides are relatively gentle slopes by Colorado standards, and the mountain is one long ridge with a broad, flat summit. The 13,006-foot summit provides unique views of much of the surrounding Mosquito Range. In 1990, a famous 8-ounce nugget of gold was found on the slopes of Pennsylvania Mountain, which is known for its heavy mining activity. This nugget was dubbed "The Turtle Nugget."

Mount Sherman

Mount Sherman is more isolated than most fourteeners, and is also one of the most inconspicuous in appearance and historic interest. With its gentle slopes, especially on the south and east, and its easy access, this remains a popular mountain for family climbing even though it is on private property. A trailhead is located south of Fairplay and eight miles west on Fourmile Creek Road, past the town of Leavick. The route passes Dauntless Mine and goes up to the Sherman-Sheridan saddle, then heads northeast up the ridge to the summit of Sherman. The Sacramento Creek Trailhead is on private property and provides an example of the type of potential user conflict the stakeholders wish to mitigate.

Mounts Bross, Lincoln, and Democrat

Rich silver ore was discovered at the 13,860-foot level of Mount Bross in 1871 by Captain Plummer. He called it The Moose Mine. Other discoveries came quickly including The Russia and The Dolly Varden, all in the same general area. As the prospect holes near the top testify, many a claim was staked above 14,000 feet on Mount Democrat. Mount Lincoln was a "mining mountain" from the start. It is pockmarked with prospect holes and catacombed with mines. Millions of dollars in silver, gold, and other metals came from its innards.

Surprisingly, a favorite sport of early Colorado miners was mountain climbing, and Mount Lincoln was one of the preferred peaks. In addition to the many fourteeners visible from its summit, some 50 peaks more than 13,000 feet high can be seen. Although all three peaks are private property, experienced hikers continue to climb Mount Democrat, Mount Bross, and Mount Lincoln in one day. Previously, OHV drivers enjoyed an extremely short drive to the top of Mount Lincoln; the route has since been gated and OHV enthusiasts cannot legally reach the top.



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Achieving the goals outlined in this plan will take determined effort and coordination. For this reason, the stakeholders have developed a strategy for implementing the vision and have outlined an organized structure to help guide this effort.

FOUR IMPLEMENTATION GOALS

The stakeholders have identified four fundamental goals of implementation. They are-

- 1. Realize Continuity** - by developing an organizational structure with current stakeholders and a staff coordinator that will perpetuate the vision and values of the plan through a long-term implementation effort.
- 2. Secure Adequate Funding** - by securing the grants, in-kind, philanthropic, and volunteer resources necessary to achieve the plan's goals.
- 3. Promote Adoption of the Plan by the Community** - by enacting non-regulatory policies, voluntary measures, and market-based incentives that help direct both public and private land-use decisions in ways that support the vision and values of the plan.
- 4. Encourage Advocacy and Education** - by continuing to build public awareness of the plan and support for its goals.

COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

Unique leadership and cooperation are needed to pool resources and experiences for the MRHI. A simple organizational structure has been proposed to guide and advocate the process. The structure is not based on directives or a single authority. Rather, it is built on a foundation of good will, coordination, and partnering. As stakeholders, we know there are a number of highly effective public sector, private sector, and non-profit entities already working in the planning area. Our goal is to improve these efforts by coordinating them.

We propose establishing an official coordinating group to oversee implementation of the plan and make recommendations on behalf of the stakeholders to elected officials and public land management agencies. This group would meet several times annually to discuss joint concerns and proposals.

STAFF COORDINATOR

An important first step is to build the capacity of the MRHI to act strategically and proactively within the planning area toward protecting the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage, and to respond creatively to unexpected opportunities. A staff person, either part- or full-time depending on the level of activity, should be hired or designated by a participating agency. This person's job would be primarily three-fold: 1) to stay current on land conservation, cultural and historic preservation, and recreation activity in the planning area; 2) to keep stakeholders apprised of opportunities; and 3) to educate area leaders and the general public about the importance of the plan's values and vision. Participating members of the MRHI would help fund the staff person and modest operating costs.

When the coordinating group meets to exchange information and manage activities, it should also direct the staff person and evaluate the success of implementing the plan.

IMPLEMENTATION ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

Implementation will occur on multiple fronts, spearheaded by appropriate member organizations, including but not limited to-

- **Historic and Cultural Resource Preservation.** Typical Lead Entities: Alma Foundation, Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Colorado Preservation, Inc.
- **Trail and Greenway Projects.** Typical Lead Entities: Park County, Town of Alma, Town of Fairplay, South Park Recreation, Inc., Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Colorado Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc., Pike National Forest.
- **Land Conservation.** Typical Lead Entities: Alma Foundation, The Trust for Public Land, Colorado Open Lands, Pike National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management.
- **Education and Interpretation.** Typical Lead Entities: Alma Foundation, Park County Development and Tourism, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Colorado Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc., Pike National Forest.
- **Recreation.** Typical Lead Entities: Park County, Town of Alma, Town of Fairplay, South Park Recreation, Inc., Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Colorado Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc., Pike National Forest.
- **Heritage Tourism.** Typical Lead Entities: Park County Development and Tourism, Alma Foundation, Park County, Town of Alma, and Town of Fairplay.
- **Water Quality.** Typical Lead Entities: Town of Alma, Town of Fairplay, Coalition for the Upper South Platte River, Colorado Springs Utilities, Focus Area Committee, Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Wildlife Crossings and Corridors.** Typical Lead Entities: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, Pike National Forest, Bureau of Land Management.

TEN IMPORTANT INITIAL STEPS

In addition to creating a coordinating group and hiring a staff coordinator, the stakeholders recommend a number of initial steps to achieve the implementation goals. These include-

- 1.** Refine the plan, through fieldwork as necessary, to further identify areas with high resource value. Completing a reconnaissance survey for historical, cultural, and archeological resources; mapping critical wildlife corridors; finalizing digitized mapping of mining claims; refining mineral resource mapping; and identifying roads and trails with a public right-of-way in the planning area will lead to the preparation of more site-specific plans. These plans can help guide property owners and public officials.
- 2.** Create an information clearinghouse and database to store and exchange information that has been collected about the planning area and on-going projects affecting the future character of the Mosquito Range.
- 3.** Identify and pursue the implementation of several demonstration projects over the next 12 to 18 months. These should include at least two land conservation projects, as well as trails, historic preservation, and education projects identified in the implementation matrix.
- 4.** Present the message of the plan with the goal of buy-in from key officials and decision-makers whose activities affect the planning area.
- 5.** Designate an interim staff coordinator and an official address for the MRHI. The Alma Foundation is one possible place to temporarily "house" the project.
- 6.** Designate a spokesperson for the project and convey a central message including news stories and features through local media.
- 7.** Develop a website as a way to distribute information to stakeholders, community leaders, and interested members of the public.
- 8.** Work to leverage public-private partnerships between local government, private foundations, and organizations to help raise funds and expedite projects.
- 9.** Implement an educational plan to address issues such as wildlife conflicts for homeowners or respecting private property in the planning area.
- 10.** Pursue funding through Great Outdoors Colorado, the State Trails Program, or similar granting entity in the next cycle.

The table on the following pages shows the detailed priorities that will be required to implement the plan. Implementation opportunities are organized under the *Stream Corridor* and *Alpine Areas* headings as identified in the *Resource Composite*.

		Implementation Opportunities											
		Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Coordination \$ Funding ● Stewardship ◆ Volunteers ☞ Expertise 											
Middle Fork of South Platte River (Montgomery to Wheeler Lake)													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire the Magnolia Mill. Add the site to the Local and State Registers and list of Colorado's Most Endangered Places. • Design and erect identifying signs for Montgomery Town, Dudley Town, and Quartzville Sites. • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 		⊙ \$						\$ ☞				
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect signage that informs the public of private lands (i.e., the fact that the road to Wheeler Lake goes through private property). • Erect signs that inform the public of appropriate use such as types of vehicles, speed limits, noise, and threats to natural communities. 									\$ ● ◆ ☞			
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue opportunities to permanently protect key wetlands and other riparian habitat to preserve water quality and wildlife habitat. • Pursue opportunities to protect mineral resources to support the economic viability of Park County. 			\$ ◆ ☞		\$ ● ◆ ☞		\$ ⊙ ☞		\$ ●		\$ ☞	
Middle Fork of South Platte River (Fairplay to Alma)													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. • Investigate the Main Street Program. • Investigate the potential for an Alma Historic District. • Conduct an intensive survey of Fairplay. • Expand the existing bike trail to include the Snowstorm Dredge and add interpretive signage for placer mines. • Purchase the Snowstorm property and enhance it for the benefit of heritage tourism. • Extend the bike and trail system from Alma to Magnolia and add historic interpretation. 		⊙ \$ ● ◆ ☞						\$ ☞		\$ ☞		

Potential Partners

CO Dept. of Public Health and Env.						
CO Fourteeners Initiative						
Colorado Open Lands						
CO Natural Heritage Program						
CO Preservation, Inc.						
Colorado Springs Utilities						
CO State Land Board						
CO State Parks – Trails Program						
CO Department of Local Affairs						
Environmental Protection Agency						
Federal Highway Administration						
National Trust						
Park County Development and Tourism						
Park County Historic Preservation						
Park County Historical Society						
Placer Valley HOA						
Private Landowners						
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation						
South Park 4x4 Club						
South Park Recreation District						
Summit Foundation						
Colorado Open Lands						
Town of Alma						
Town of Fairplay						
Trout Unlimited						
Trust for Public Land						
US Forest Service						
Valley of the Sun HOA						
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado						

		Implementation Opportunities												
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Coordination \$ Funding ● Stewardship ◆ Volunteers ☞ Expertise 	Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology
Middle Fork of South Platte River (Fairplay to Alma)														
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the potential to extend the riverwalk; create and improve trailheads and associated facilities; and identify and create additional designated camping facilities. Establish a Fairplay-Alma partnership for a trail system from the recreation center to Alma; expand the riverwalk to Fairplay. Investigate opportunities to encourage private lodging oriented to central recreation corridor. Obtain additional easements along the river for fishing access. Enhance Park County's access area along the river near County Road 14. Pursue roadside enhancements through federal funding. Construct an information center, a visitor center, or kiosk in the corridor. 													
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to construct safe wildlife crossings (underpass or overpass) at key locations along Highway 9. Conserve additional lands along the river corridor. 		\$	\$	◆	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Buckskin Creek														
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire the Paris Mill and add it to the Local and State Registers. Restore the Paris Mill and create a plan for uses such as tours. Identify and sign points of interest. Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 		⊙	\$	●	◆	☞				\$	☞		

Potential Partners

CO Dept. of Public Health and Env.				
CO Fourteeners Initiative				
Colorado Open Lands	☞	●	☞	☉
CO Natural Heritage Program				
CO Preservation, Inc.	☞	☉		
Colorado Springs Utilities				
CO State Land Board				
CO State Parks – Trails Program		☞	☞	☞
CO Department of Local Affairs		☞	☞	☞
Environmental Protection Agency				
Federal Highway Administration				
National Trust				
Park County Development and Tourism	☞	☞	☞	☉
Park County Historic Preservation				
Park County Historical Society				
Placer Valley HOA				
Private Landowners	☞	☞	●	☞
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation		☞	☞	☞
South Park 4x4 Club				
South Park Recreation District			◆	☉
Summit Foundation				
Colorado Open Lands				
Town of Alma	☞	☞	☞	☉
Town of Fairplay	☞	☞	☞	☉
Trout Unlimited			◆	●
Trust for Public Land	☞	☞	☞	☉
US Forest Service	☞	☞	☞	☞
Valley of the Sun HOA		◆	●	☞
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado			☞	◆

		Implementation Opportunities																			
		⊙	Coordination																		
		\$	Funding																		
		●	Stewardship																		
		◆	Volunteers																		
		☞	Expertise																		
				Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology						
Buckskin Creek																					
Recreation Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage a private lodging and preservation venture to protect the Paris Mill area. Update the auto tour for the corridor. Develop guidebooks to include CDs, cassettes, or videos. Consider a location for a potential base camp for hiking the area's fourteeners. Educate recreation users to "ask first" before crossing private property. Designate campgrounds. Design and implement a camper management program. 																				
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate the numerous abandoned mines on federal lands in the Buckskin Creek drainage. Protect and enhance water quality. A camper management program would greatly assist. 																				
Sacramento Creek																					
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 																				
Recreation Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address access and rights-of way issues in the corridor. Consider additional trails and trailheads to access adjacent public lands. Address and mitigate OHV use through various means including: Adopt-A-Road program; designating specific routes; developing signage; working to update 4-wheel drive guidebooks; websites; and maps; and using volunteers for education. 																				
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect populations of Porter feathergrass in wetland habitats throughout the corridor. Protect and enhance elk and moose habitat. 																				

Potential Partners

CO Division of Mining and Geology								
CO Dept. of Public Health and Env.								
CO Fourteeners Initiative								
Colorado Open Lands								
CO Natural Heritage Program								
CO Preservation, Inc.								
Colorado Springs Utilities								
CO State Land Board								
CO State Parks – Trails Program								
CO Department of Local Affairs								
Environmental Protection Agency								
Federal Highway Administration								
National Trust								
Park County Development and Tourism								
Park County Historic Preservation								
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South Park Recreation District								
Summit Foundation								
Colorado Open Lands								
Town of Alma								
Town of Fairplay								
Trout Unlimited								
Trust for Public Land								
US Forest Service								
Valley of the Sun HOA								

		Implementation Opportunities											
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Coordination \$ Funding ● Stewardship ◆ Volunteers ☞ Expertise 	Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology
Fourmile Creek and Southern Planning Area													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 									☞ \$			
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue land preservation opportunities as they relate to recreation associated with Browns Pass Road. • Implement an Adopt-A-Road program in the area. 									◆ ● \$			
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify groups willing to assist the Forest Service with maintenance in the area. 			◆ ☞ \$		☞ ◆ ● \$				☞ ◆ ● ⊙			
Hoosier Pass													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. • Construct an overlook/kiosk as a gateway into the planning area. 						● \$		☞ \$				
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct an overlook/kiosk as a gateway into the planning area that identifies recreation opportunities. • Designate winter use trails. Identify avalanche hazard areas and provide education for backcountry travelers. • Determine if public OHV access to the west is legal. • Establish a hiking/biking trail to Alma. • Provide a restroom/rest stop; there may be potential with the appropriate maintenance agreement. 						● \$			●			
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct an overlook/kiosk to interpret glacial, geomorphological, and other natural features of the planning area. 			◆ ☞ \$									

Potential Partners

CO Dept. of Public Health and Env.									
CO Fourteeners Initiative									
Colorado Open Lands			☞ ● ☺						
CO Natural Heritage Program									
CO Preservation, Inc.		☞ ☺							
Colorado Springs Utilities									
CO State Land Board									
CO State Parks – Trails Program			☞						
CO Department of Local Affairs									
Environmental Protection Agency									
Federal Highway Administration									
National Trust									
Park County Development and Tourism			☞						
Park County Historic Preservation		☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞
Park County Historical Society									
Placer Valley HOA									
Private Landowners		☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation									
South Park 4x4 Club			☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞
South Park Recreation District									
Summit Foundation									
Colorado Open Lands									
Town of Alma									
Town of Fairplay									
Trout Unlimited									
Trust for Public Land			☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞
US Forest Service	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞
Valley of the Sun HOA									
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado									

		Implementation Opportunities												
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Coordination \$ Funding ● Stewardship ◆ Volunteers ☞ Expertise 	Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology
Mosquito Pass Road														
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan and signage for interpretation of historic sites from Alma Junction to Mosquito Pass. • Create a master plan to outline the future of historic sites along corridor. • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 		⊙ \$ ● ◆ ☞				⊙ \$ ● ☞				\$ ☞			
Recreation Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the auto tour for the corridor. • Study the potential for a hiking trail along the old railroad corridor. • Address and mitigate OHV use through various means including: Adopt-A-Road program; signing the pass lower on the road when close; designating specific routes; developing signage; working to update 4-wheel drive guidebooks; websites; and maps; and using volunteers for education. 		⊙ \$ ● ◆				⊙ \$ ● ☞				\$ ● ◆ ☞			
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to preserve land in order to buffer threatened plant populations. • Pursue projects that protect and enhance water quality. 		⊙ \$ ●	\$ ◆ ☞			⊙ \$ ● ☞							\$ ☞
Pennsylvania Mountain														
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 										\$ ☞			
Recreation Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address and mitigate OHV use through various means including: Adopt-A-Road program; designating specific routes; developing signage; working to update 4-wheel drive guidebooks; websites; and maps; and using volunteers for education. • Close access areas where trespass is occurring. 										\$ ● ◆ ☞			
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance elk habitat in Pennsylvania Creek basin. • Develop mitigation measures regarding OHV use to have a positive effect on natural communities. 			\$ ◆ ☞							⊙ \$ ● ☞			

Potential Partners

CO Dept. of Public Health and Env.								
CO Fourteeners Initiative								
Colorado Open Lands				☞ ● \$ ☉				
CO Natural Heritage Program								
CO Preservation, Inc.					☞ ☉			
Colorado Springs Utilities								
CO State Land Board				☞ ● \$				
CO State Parks – Trails Program				☞ \$				
CO Department of Local Affairs								
Environmental Protection Agency				☞ \$				
Federal Highway Administration								
National Trust								
Park County Development and Tourism					☞ \$ ☉			
Park County Historic Preservation					☞ \$ ☉			
Park County Historical Society					☞ \$			
Placer Valley HOA								
Private Landowners				☞ ● \$				
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation								
South Park 4x4 Club								
South Park Recreation District								
Summit Foundation								
Colorado Open Lands								
Town of Alma								
Town of Fairplay								
Trout Unlimited								
Trust for Public Land				☞ \$ ☉				
US Forest Service				☞ ● \$ ☉				
Valley of the Sun HOA								
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado					☞ ◆			

Implementation Opportunities													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ Coordination \$ Funding ● Stewardship ◆ Volunteers ☞ Expertise 	Access Fund	Alma Foundation	Audubon Society	Backcountry Horsemen	Bureau of Land Management	Coalition for the Upper S. Platte River	CO Department of Transportation	CO Division of Wildlife	CO Historical Society	CO Association of 4WD Clubs	CO Center for Community Development	CO Division of Mining and Geology
Mount Sherman													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire access to Hilltop and Leavick. Put both sites on Local and State Registers. Develop a plan for public/private use. • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. 					⊙ \$ ● ☞			\$ ☞				
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure legal, public access to Mount Sherman and Horseshoe Mountain. • Update the auto tour for the corridor. 	\$ ☞				⊙ \$ ● ☞							
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to preserve land that buffers threatened plant populations. 			\$ ◆ ☞		⊙ \$ ● ☞							
Mounts Bross, Lincoln, and Democrat													
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cultural and historic resource survey. • Add interpretive signage where appropriate. 								\$ ☞				
<i>Recreation Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure legal, public access to the summits of Mounts Lincoln and Cameron. • Consider parking areas for potential future access to summits of Mounts Lincoln and Cameron. • Work with stakeholder group to get legislation regarding recreation rights-of-way and attractive nuisances on mining properties consistent. That is, work to provide legal protection for landowners willing to provide recreation access across mining lands to fourteeners. • Work to update various guidebooks and websites regarding fourteener access. Access across private property is prohibited. • Ensure legal, public access to summit of Mount Bross. • Ensure legal, public access to the top of Mount Democrat. • Create parking and campground areas with interpretive information available. 	\$ ☞								\$ ● ◆ ☞			
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection of rare alpine plant communities by designating parking areas and specific recreation rights-of-way. 			\$ ◆ ☞									

Case Studies



PARIS MILL

Location: The Paris Mill is located along Buckskin Gulch about 2.8 miles west of Alma off of Colorado Highway 9.

Description: Constructed in 1894, the Paris Mill is a large, multi-level structure with aerial tramway connections to mines in the mountains above. The mine was one of the richest strikes in the Alma District, producing gold, silver and lead ore for decades. But time, and the unstable prices of metals, forced the closure of the mine and the mill in 1951, following nearly 100 years of operation.

The mill was activated again briefly during the 1970s by the Mount Bross Mining Company to re-process old mine waste piles, but was effectively abandoned for good shortly thereafter. Most of the original ore processing equipment is still in place, although partially vandalized and stripped. Originally powered by a steam engine that drove a leather-belt drive shaft to run equipment throughout the mill, it was converted to a steam-electric operation after the turn of the century. Many of the old drive shafts, giant belt wheels, electric motors and motor mounts are still in place, although all the valuable copper has been salvaged.

In 1996, the Paris Mine was identified as the top preservation priority by the county and the South Park Heritage Area Committee. Today, the Paris Mill is on the Local Register and eligible for the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Current Status: Chiwawa Mines owns about 1,000 acres and are offering to sell the Paris Mill in a 165-acre parcel. Adjoining the 165-acre parcel with the Paris Mill is a 94-acre parcel of land for potential higher density development.

Acquisition Feasibility: The most desirable option is to acquire all 1,000 acres of Chiwawa Mines property in the area or to find a buyer that will provide a conservation easement on land and a preservation easement on the mill. Other alternatives would be to:

- Acquire 165- and 94-acre parcels
- Acquire only the 165-acre parcel with the mill
- Acquire the mill and a few surrounding acres, which would likely result in the loss of much of the historical integrity of site

In any scenario, road access to the mill would not be lost

Desired Condition: Once acquired, the Paris Mill site could potentially provide a variety of opportunities for:

- Historic interpretation: signage, working mill parts
- A high-country museum exhibit (e.g., in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science)
- Field education camps (e.g., geology, mining, history, preservation, archaeology, wildlife biology, or forestry) in partnership with a Colorado university
- Bike and/or ski rental and repair, ski training, or mountain/rock climbing training
- Athletic training camp for skiers, runners, or Olympic athletes
- Staging area for nearby opportunities for skiing, hiking, climbing, bicycling, birding, or fishing
- Nature clubs (e.g., Colorado Mountain Club or Colorado Arts Consortium)
- Concessions such as a coffee shop, brew pub, restaurant, or café

Challenges: Acquisition of property, acquisition of funding, determination of appropriate types of use, effectively marketing the Paris Mill.

Potential Funding Partners: State Historical Fund; private donors; Park County.



TOWN OF ALMA RIVERWALK TRAIL

Location: Pedestrian trail (½ mile) along the Middle Fork of the South Platte River

Description: The proposed loop trail would be 5 feet wide and be comprised of about 1,800 linear feet of boardwalk and 800 linear feet of crusher fines. Two trailheads with adjacent parking facilities and restrooms would be established at the Town Hall and the Alma Theater/Ladies Aid Building. Two footbridges are also included in the design. The purpose of the trail is to provide an enjoyable recreational experience for citizens and visitors in Alma and to protect the surrounding riparian habitat by confining pedestrian use to the constructed trail areas. Proposed uses focus primarily on walking, fishing, picnicking, and quiet appreciation of the surrounding area.

The trail would overlook the historic Alma Placer Mine, which began operations in the late 1850s and is now in the process of reclamation. The trail gains elevation from the river basin area to the top of two glacial mounds, which offer views of the valley north toward Mount Bross and down valley toward the Town of Alma. Views also overlook Gateway Pond and native riparian habitat.

Three possible sites for interpretive signage have been identified. Potential topics for interpretive signage include the historic Alma Placer Mine, native riparian habitat, glacial development of the valley, and history of Alma. The trail design includes designated picnic areas and benches to enjoy the natural beauty and views of the river valley.

Current Status: The Town of Alma received a grant for \$180,000 from GOCO for the Riverwalk Project.

Steps for Implementation:

1) Obtain Funding: Create a list of possible funding sources for trail construction and write a master grant. Funding for a recreational trail is available from numerous public and private sources. A master grant would outline the purpose of the project, how it will benefit Alma residents, and funding needed to achieve the project goals. This master grant can then be individualized for each funding source. NOTE: This step has largely been accomplished through receipt of the \$180,000 GOCO grant.

2) Develop a Plan for Acquiring Easements: Create an overlay of land ownership to facilitate easement

discussions in areas where the trail lies on private property. The proposed alignment of the trail is the least invasive (in comparison to other alternatives that have been considered) and travels through natural areas with expansive views.

3) Begin Design Development: As easements are worked out and trail alignment is confirmed, design development can begin. During this process, the trail designer can determine construction techniques required for each area and develop a more accurate cost estimate. Next, the designer can initiate site surveys and develop a construction-phasing plan.

Challenges: Obtaining matching funds; working with private landowners

Potential Funding Partners: Mining Corporations; Alma Foundation; Town of Alma; Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission



MINERAL BELT NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL

Location: The 12.5-mile Mineral Belt Trail is a loop trail that starts in downtown Leadville, heads downhill to the west, crosses the main highway (U.S. 24), goes behind Colorado Mountain College, climbs up to California Gulch, and traverses over to the Matchless Mine valley before heading down back into Leadville.

Trail Description: Designated a National Recreational Trail in 2002, the Mineral Belt Trail is an all-season non-motorized wheelchair-accessible route with numerous trailheads and access points.

The trail uses a variety of pre-existing beds including jeep roads, hiking trails and a small portion of the 150 miles of railroad beds that have been built in the Leadville area over the past 130 years. The trail travels through 6 miles of the Leadville Historic District, as well as aspen groves, conifer forests, wildflower meadows, and open vista sage parks. It also offers unsurpassed views of the Sawatch and Mosquito ranges.

Wintertime trail users find the trail snowcat-groomed, affording freestyle and classic Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and winter biking.

Several annual trail events are held on the Mineral Belt:

March - The Mineral Belt 10km Freestyle Nordic Tour - Hosted by the Colorado Mountain College Ski Area Operations School

June - Mineral Belt Trail Day - Family day on the trail; ride/walk and picnic

September - Leadville BikeToberfest - A bicycle event to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Colorado Chapter

Opportunities/Successes: The trail was made possible because of a public mandate and continued support. In the end, the trail serves as a recreational attraction that annually brings in additional revenue to the community. Partnerships between the EPA, Union Pacific Railroad, ASARCO, and others paved the way for future collaboration. Leadville residents regained trust of the EPA and other government agencies.

The Mineral Belt Trail recently became a National Recreational Trail and because of its historical significance was provided an award at the Western American Mining Conference. Currently, the Mineral Belt Trail Board is considering whether the trail could be designated as a National Historical Park Trail.

Challenges: The trail took about 10 years to develop. Much of the difficulty centered on securing trail

easements on private property and negotiating several small land exchanges. Because the trail goes through a Major Historical Mining District and numerous scattered mining claims exist throughout the area, establishing property ownership was a difficult process. ASARCO Mining Company, the local sanitation district, Union Pacific Railroad, Leadville School District, and Lake County accounted for about 70 percent of the land needed for the proposed trail. Lake County purchased one additional parcel.

Another major challenge was that the proposed trail traveled over a major superfund site. At first, the EPA required that trigger levels for cleanup of lead, cadmium, and arsenic would be the same as those for residential cleanup (about 500 ppm). Eventually, the Mineral Belt Planning Team negotiated a level of 16,000 ppm instead of 500 ppm with the EPA. Background levels for these contaminants are about 1,200 ppm.

Other challenges included:

- Obtaining grants and meeting grant requirements
- Designing the trail to be ADA accessible despite over 700 feet of vertical gain
- Identifying and locating potential mine shafts within 100 yards of the trail and capping about 75 shafts with possibility of subsiding
- Throughout the trail planning process there were varying degrees of support from three different Boards of County Commissioners
- Funding the project was complicated. The Mineral Belt Trail Planning Team tapped almost a dozen separate sources of funding. Partnerships opened a common dialog where they could work toward common goals. Galvanized public support

Partners: The trail required cooperation from mining companies, Union Pacific Railroad, Environmental Protection Agency, Town of Leadville, Lake County, and several private landowners.

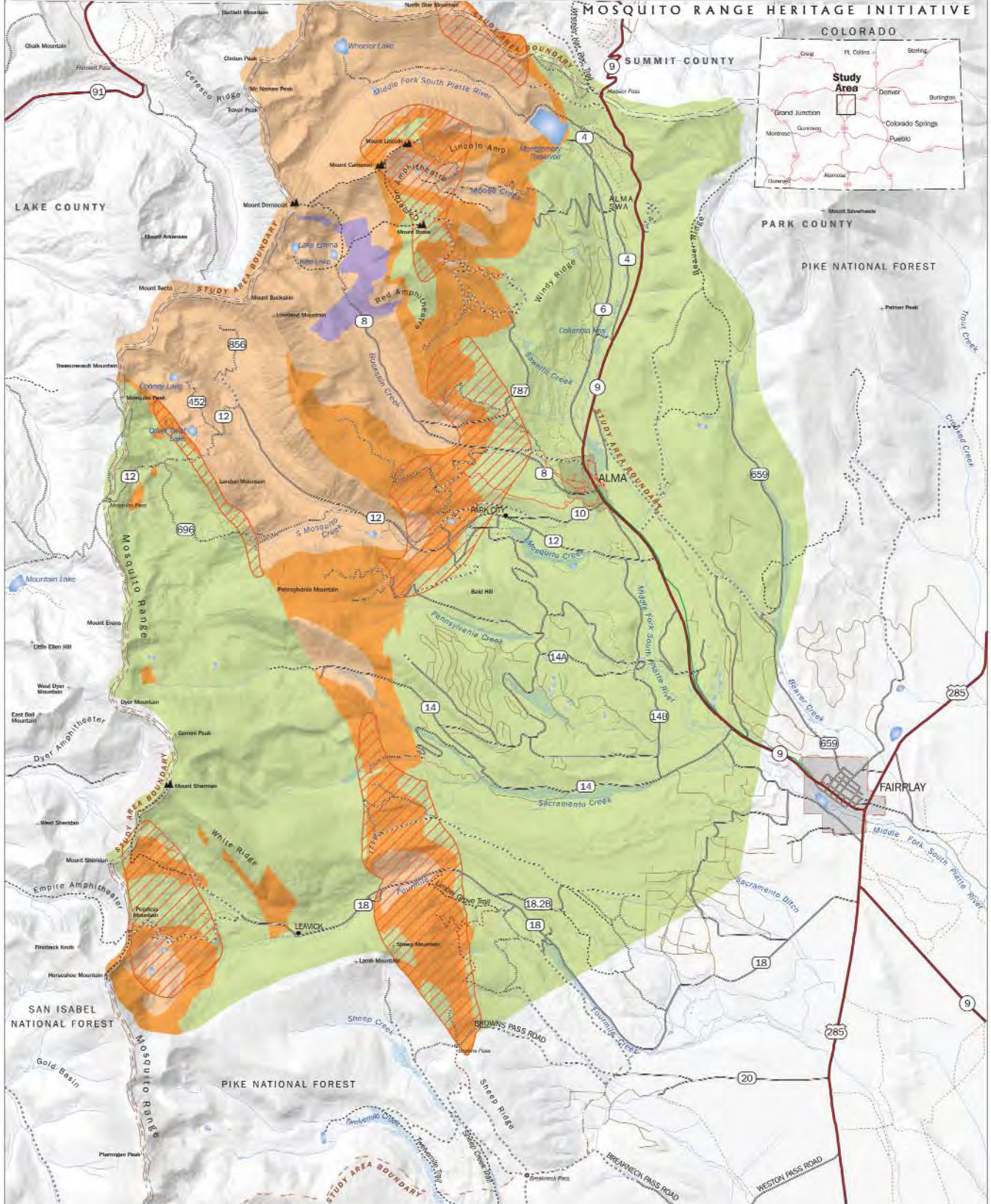
Funding: The total cost of the trail was about \$3.5 million (including an \$850,000 land donation from Union Pacific Railroad). Lake County's total cost was about \$150,000. Some of the grant funding was obtained from Federal Highway TEA 21 funds, GOCO, and Colorado State Parks. ASARCO (over \$225 million), Union Pacific and EPA provided additional funding.



Appendix of Additional Figures

GENERALIZED GEOLOGIC MAP AND MINERAL AREAS

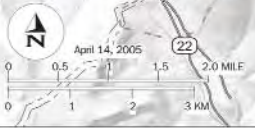
MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE
COLORADO



LEGEND

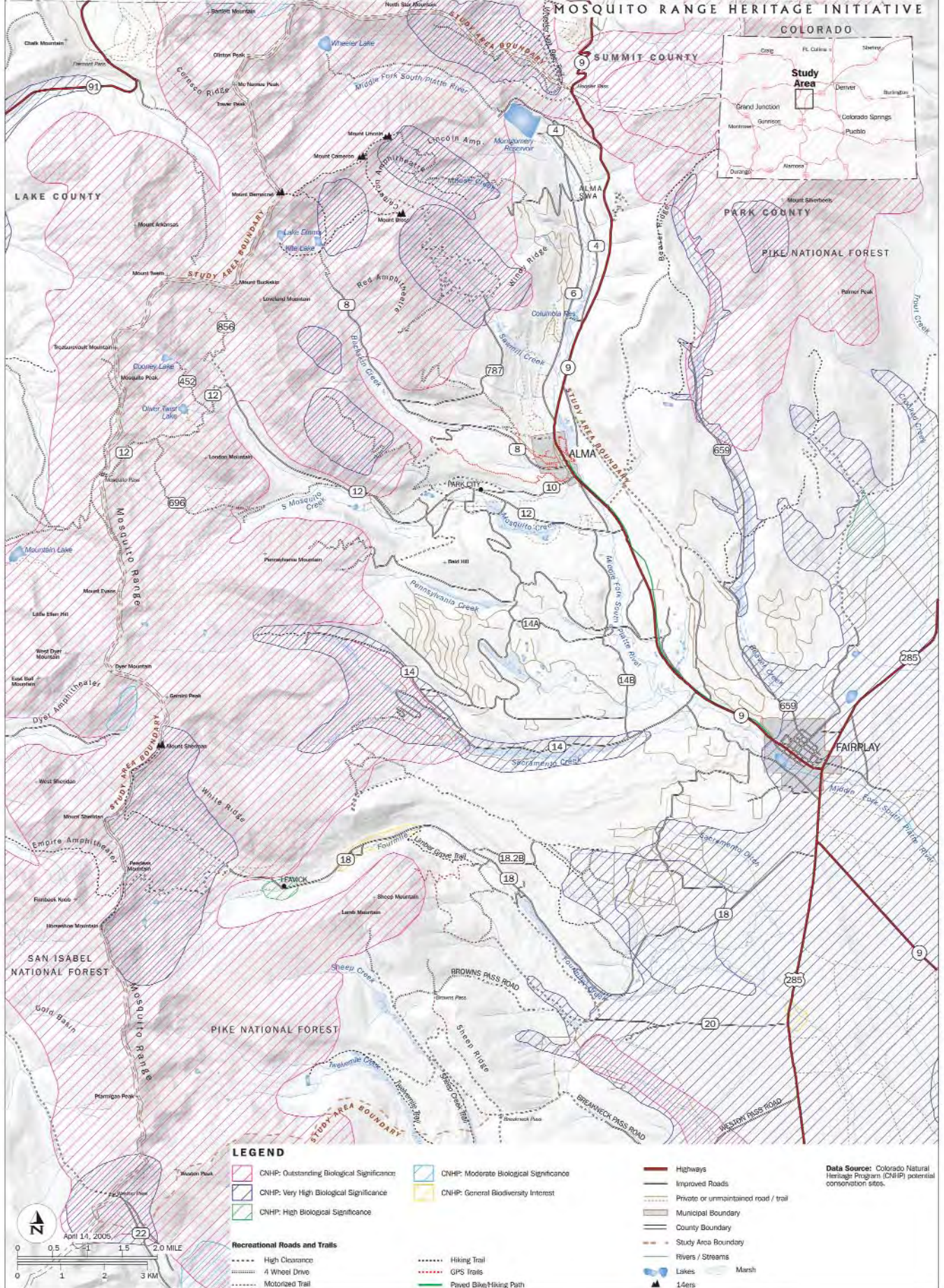
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Quartz Monzonite Stocks | Schist-injection Gneiss Series | Highways |
| Sedimentary Rocks | Mineralized Area | Improved Roads |
| Pre-Pennsylvania Sedimentary Rocks | | Private or unmaintained road / trail |
| | | Municipal Boundary |
| | | County Boundary |
| | | Study Area Boundary |
| | | Rivers / Streams |
| | | Lakes |
| | | Marsh |
| | | 14ers |
| Recreational Roads and Trails | Hiking Trail | |
| High Clearance | GPS Trails | |
| 4 Wheel Drive | Paved Bike/Hiking Path | |
| Motorized Trail | | |

Data Source: Digitized from the USGS "Generalized Geologic Map Showing Bedrock Geology, Features Pertinent to Physiography and Placers, Park County Colorado" 1950.



COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL CONSERVATION AREAS

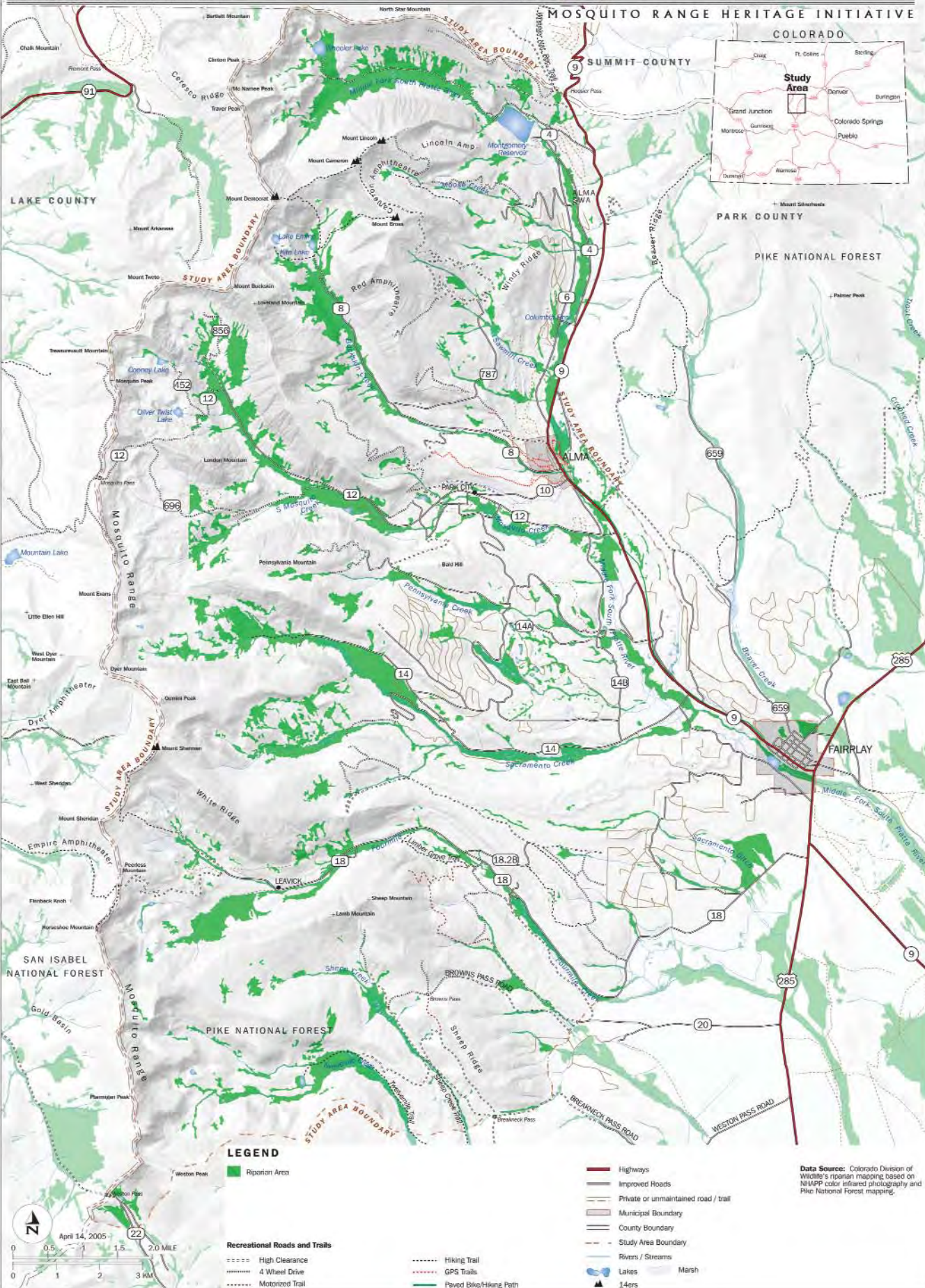
MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE



RIPARIAN AREAS

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

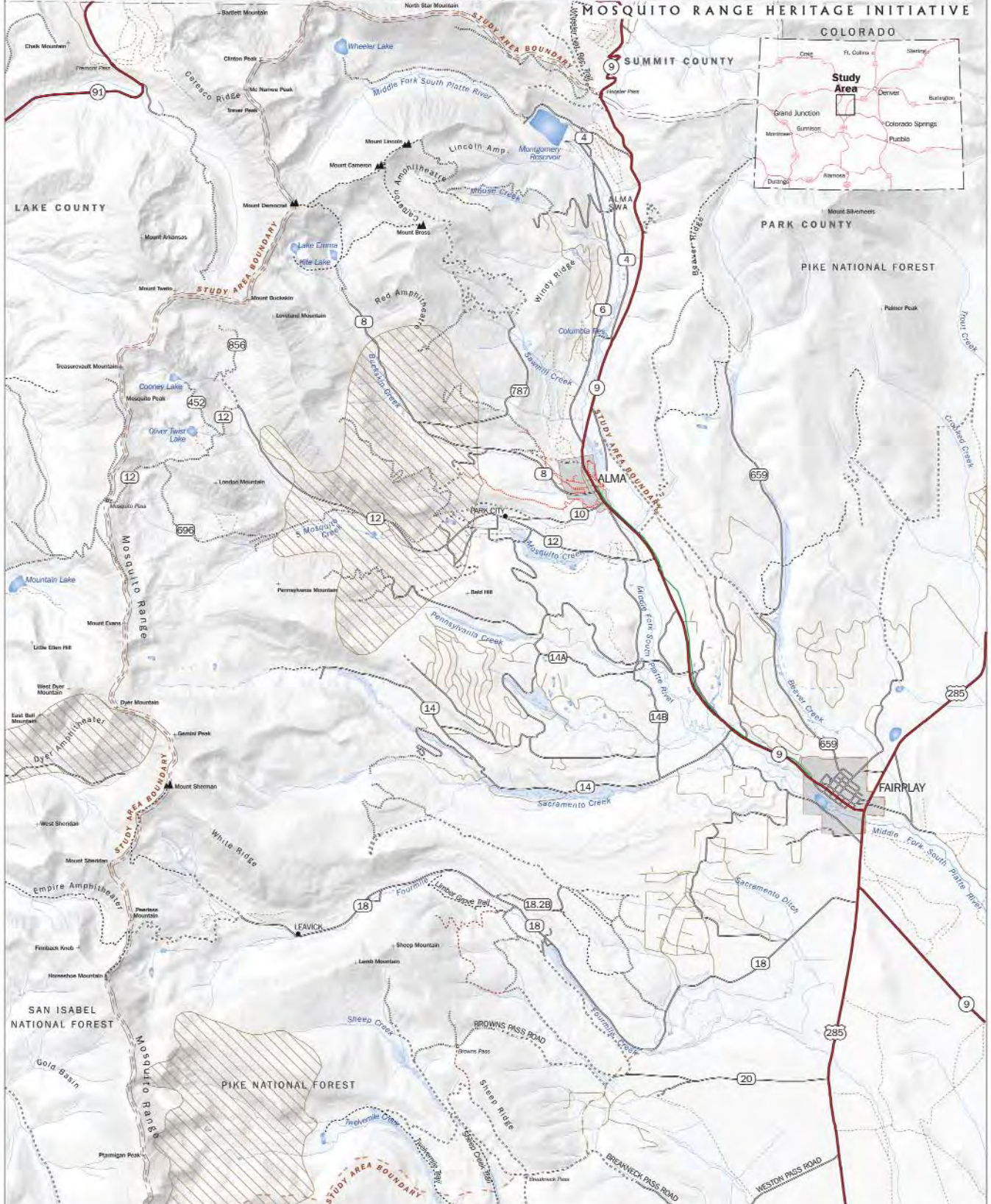
COLORADO



CRITICAL BIG HORN SHEEP HABITAT

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

COLORADO



LEGEND

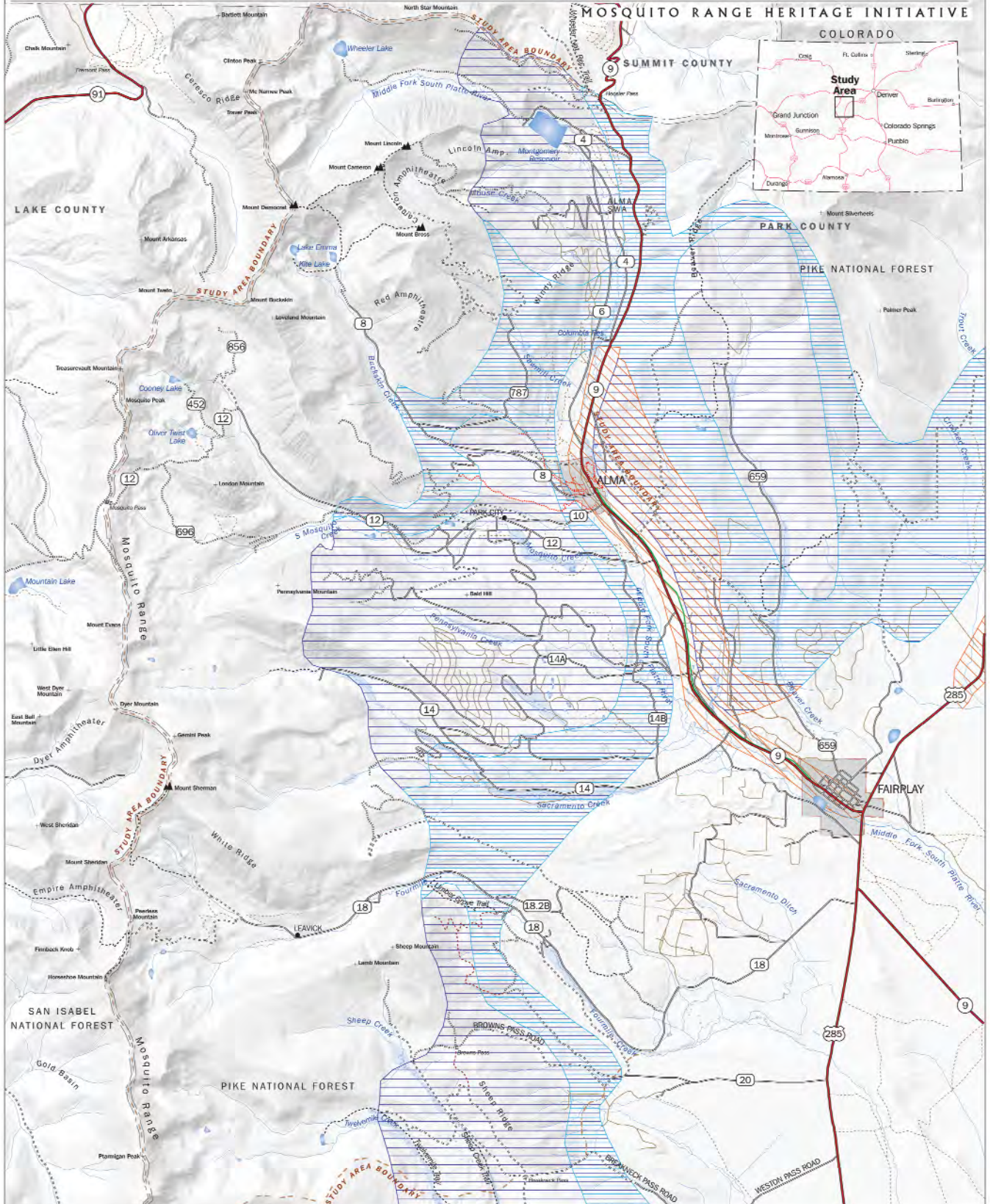
- Big Horn Sheep Winter Range
- Highways
- Improved Roads
- Private or unmaintained road / trail
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Marsh
- 14ers
- High Clearance
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Motorized Trail
- Hiking Trail
- GPS Trails
- Paved Bike/hiking Path

Data Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) NDIS mapping.



CRITICAL MULE DEER HABITAT

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE COLORADO



LEGEND

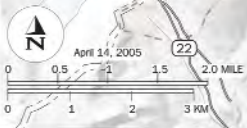
- Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area
- Mule Deer Severe Winter Range
- Mule Deer Highway Crossing

Recreational Roads and Trails

- High Clearance
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Motorized Trail
- Hiking Trail
- GPS Trails
- Paved Bike/Hiking Path

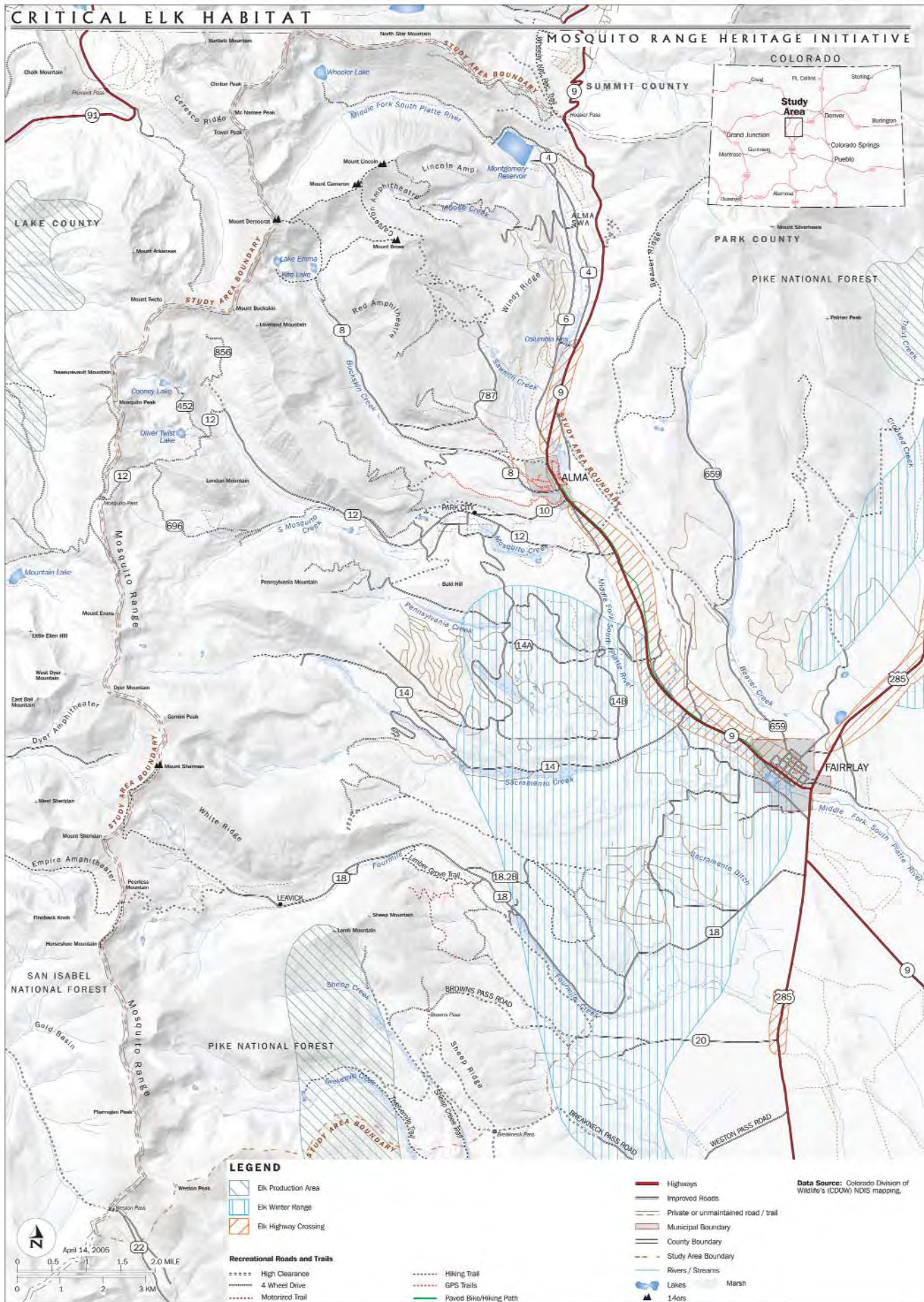
- Highways
- Improved Roads
- Private or unmaintained road / trail
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Marsh
- 14ers

Data Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) NDIS mapping.



CRITICAL ELK HABITAT

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE COLORADO



LEGEND

- Elk Production Area
- Elk Winter Range
- Elk Highway Crossing

Recreational Roads and Trails

- High Clearance
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Motorized Trail
- Hiking Trail
- GPS Trails
- Paved Bike/Hiking Path

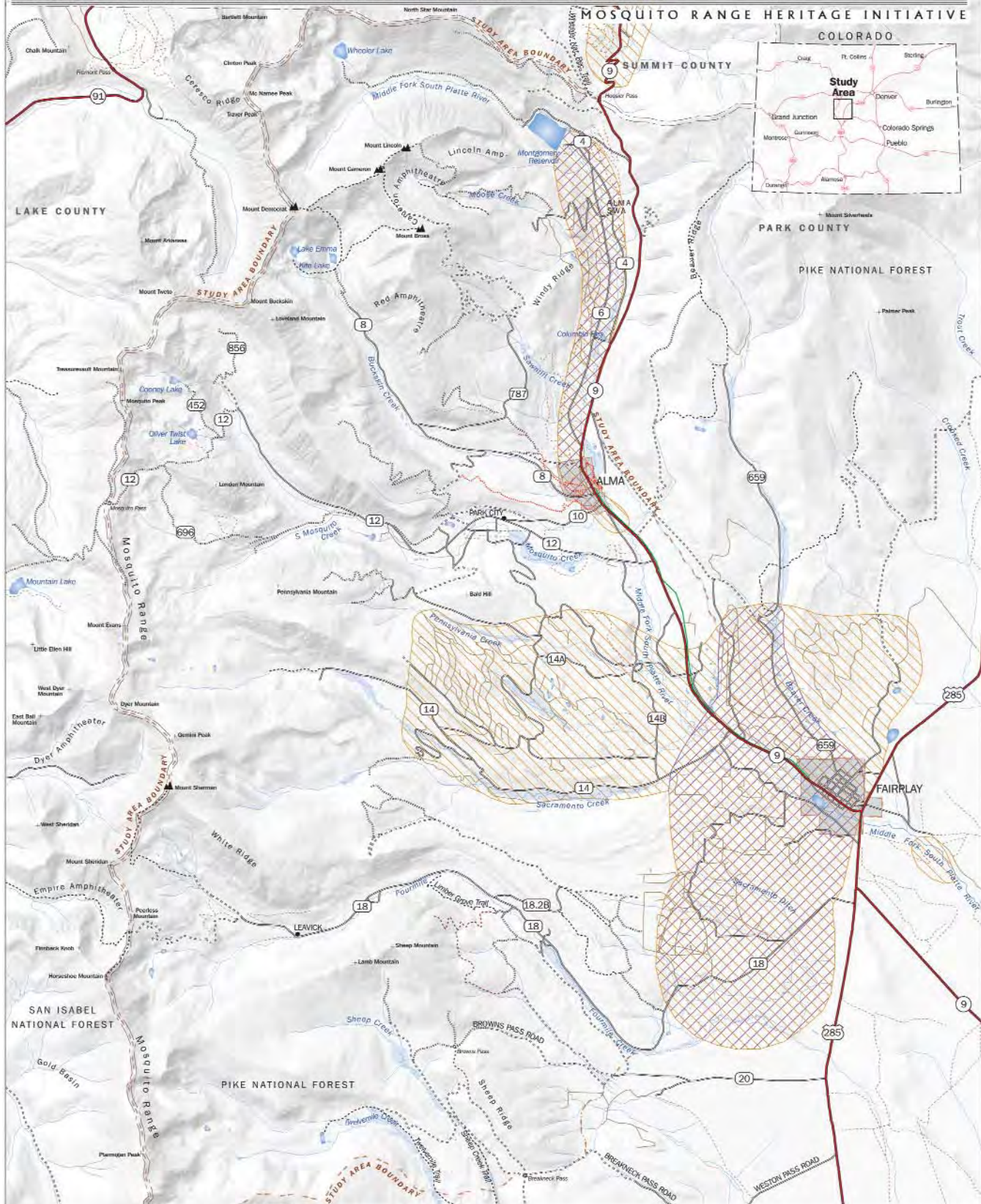
- Highways
- Improved Roads
- Private or unmaintained road / trail
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Marsh
- 14ers

Data Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) NDIS mapping.



BLACK BEAR HABITAT AND CONFLICT AREAS

MOSQUITO RANGE HERITAGE INITIATIVE
COLORADO



LEGEND

- Black Bear Human Conflict Area
- Black Bear Summer Concentration Area

Recreational Roads and Trails

- High Clearance
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Motorized Trail
- Hiking Trail
- GPS Trails
- Paved Bike/Hiking Path

- Highways
- Improved Roads
- Private or unmaintained road / trail
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Rivers / Streams
- Lakes
- Marsh
- 14ers

Data Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) NDIS mapping.



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