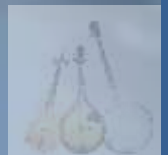


Colorado's Riparian Corridors

Connecting Our Cities To The Headwaters Via Floodplain Greenways

Brian Hyde, CFM



RMLUI Conference
March 2, 2012

Using floodplain greenways to travel toward the sourcewater

What if you started bicycling in Denver

or

in another floodprone community a little bit upstream (*like Golden*)?



Could you get to the headwaters?



Could you travel along floodplains in Fort Collins

or

in Colorado Springs?

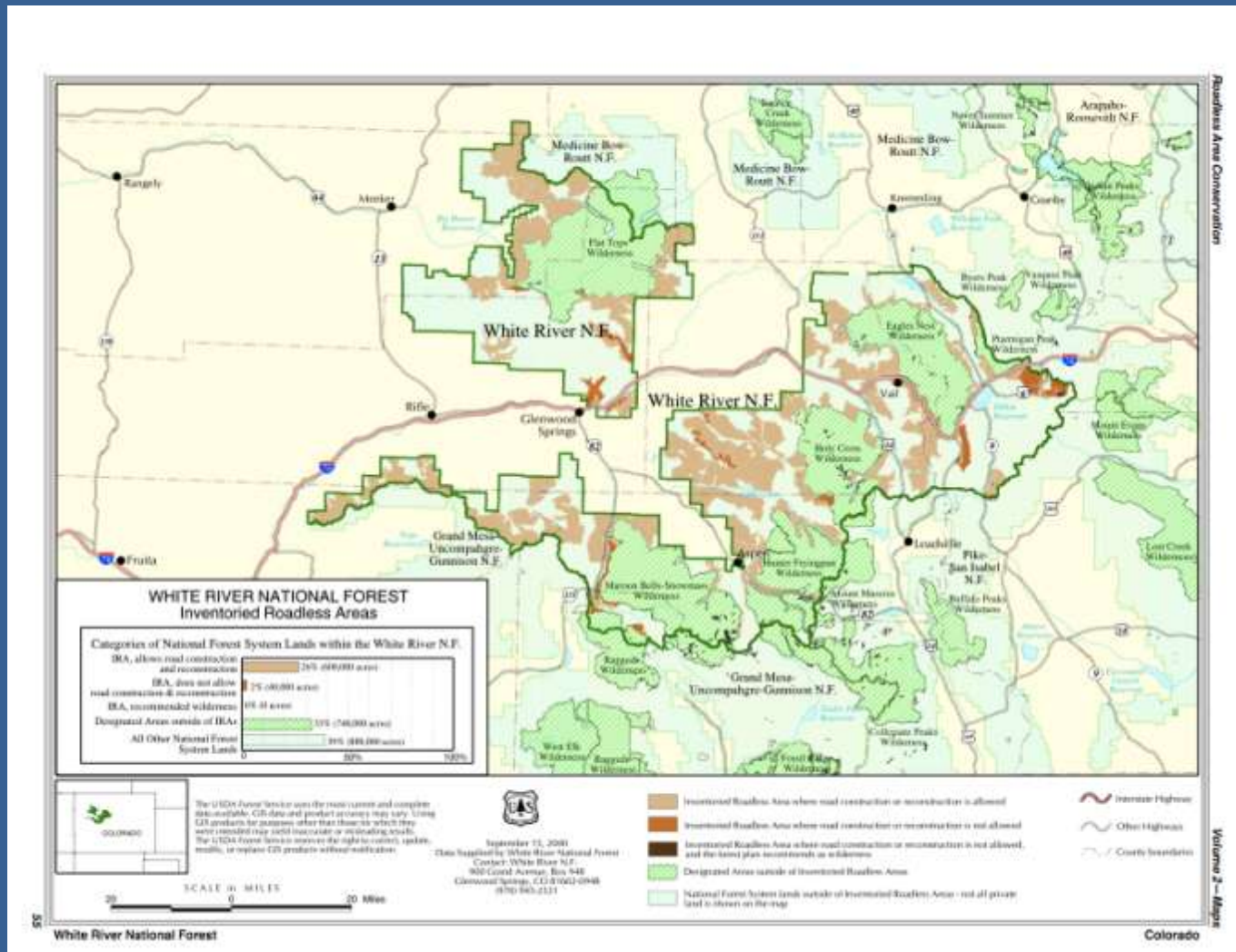


and reach the headwaters?

Wilderness Areas & Roadless Areas

White River National Forest, Colorado

A Significant Component of the Front Range's Headwaters



"... untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

“Where’s the beef?”

- What could the connection to the headwaters be?
- What should that connection be?
- What do cities want that connection to be?
- If the connection is tangible (i.e. something besides money, something you can touch or experience with your other senses)
- **Let’s explore floodplain greenways**

Greenway :

- 1. A linear open space established along a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridgeline.*
- 2. An open-space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas.*



I Suggest Three Types of Greenways

- **Basic Greenway** – *almost allegorical streams; accept most constraints of prior urbanization*
- **Enhanced Greenway** – *more recognizable channel shapes; moderate level of stream corridor rehabilitation*
- **Restored Greenway** – *stream and floodplain corridors that recreate pre-settlement riparian channel and overbank conditions; very high level of riparian corridor network restoration*

Potential Benefits of Greenways

- ❑ Flood hazard reduction
- ❑ Creation of an integrated system of community amenities
- ❑ Water quality and habitat enhancement
- ❑ Protection of agricultural and urban gardening lands
- ❑ Recreation – physical and emotional health
- ❑ Environmental education
- ❑ Connectivity of communities to each other, to headwaters, and to wilderness
- ❑ Opportunities for alternative travel



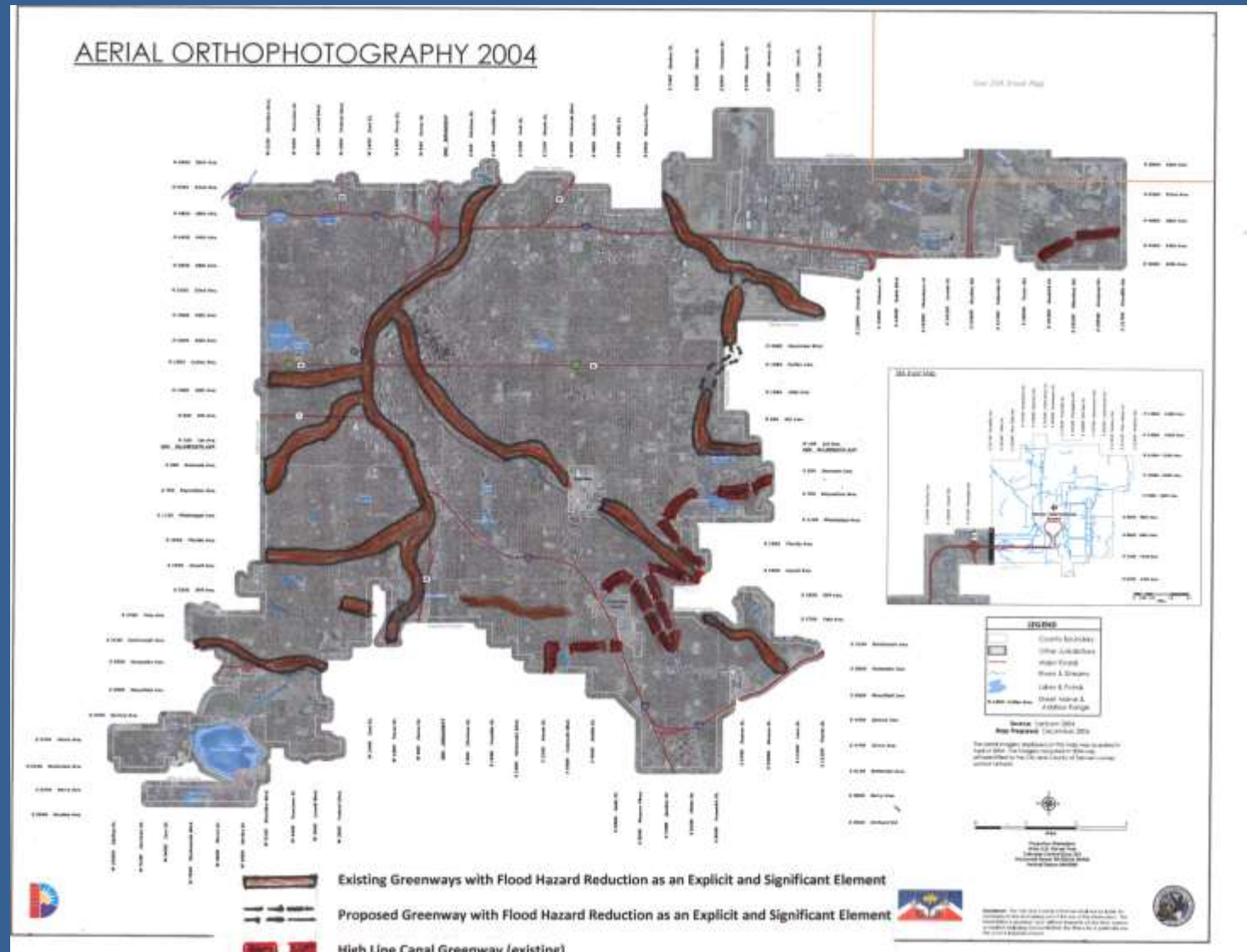
Colorado's Riparian Corridors

Connections ~ Part I

A “Denver-wide” View



A “Denver-wide” View – Existing & Proposed Flood Hazard Reduction Greenways



Colorado's Riparian Corridors

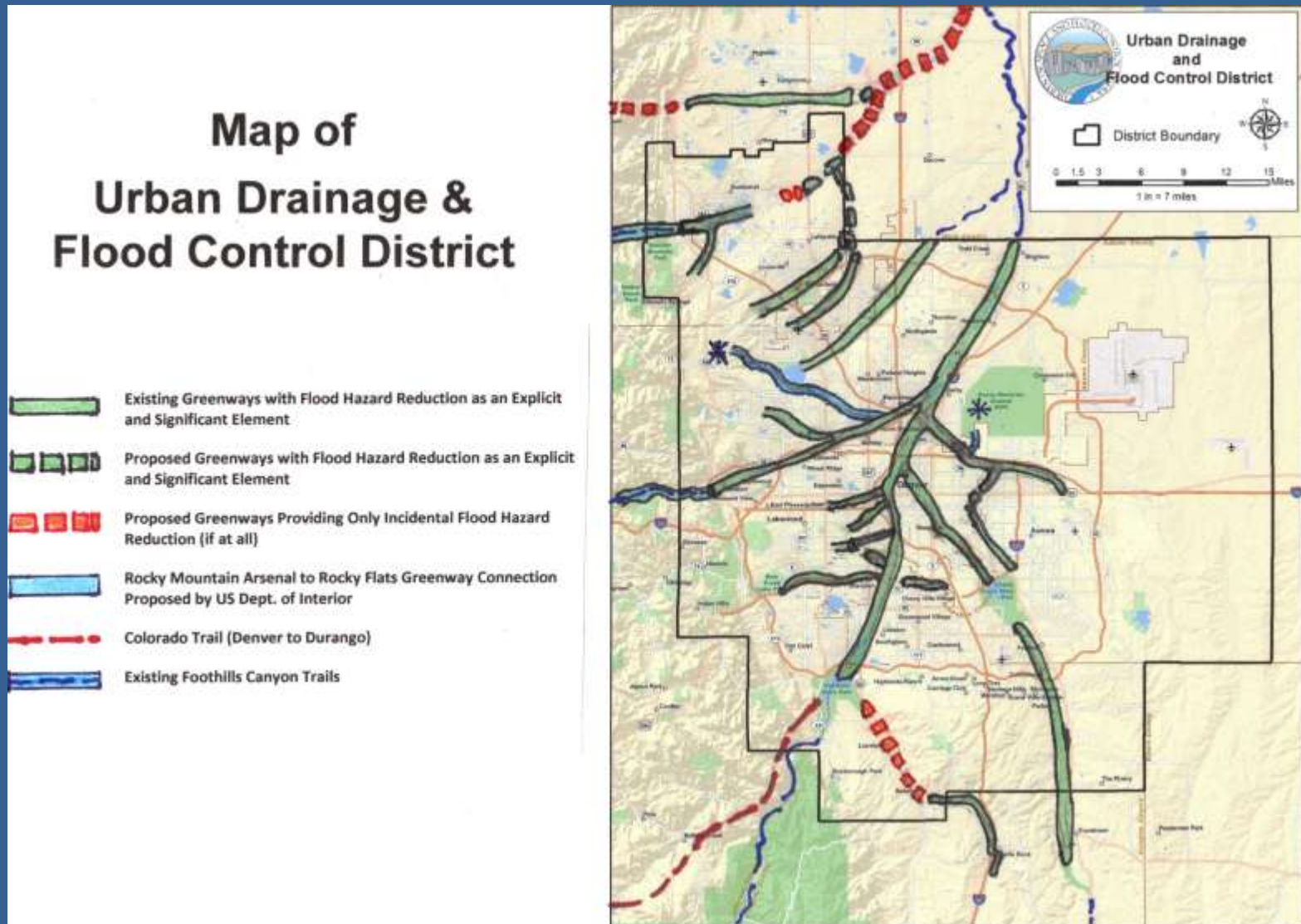
Connections - Part II

A Regional View

(UDFCD – Denver Metro area)



A Regional View (UDFCD) – All Existing & Proposed Greenways ~ With & Without Flood Hazard Reduction



Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is promoting the “Refuge to Refuge” Greenway in the Denver Metro Area



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conceptual Graphic of Connecting Urban Trails

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado



Produced for the Division of Planning, Region 5
Denver, Colorado
Current to May 17, 2011
Inventory Date: 1/28/2010
File: w:\denvermap\denvermetro\denver_A_salazar_poster_201101.mxd



LEGEND

- Highway
- Visitor Center
- Existing Trail Connection
- Proposed Trail Connection
- Existing Regional and Refuge Trails
- Proposed Regional and Refuge Trails
- National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
- County Boundary
- Hydrology



Consideration is Also Being Given to Connecting Rocky Flats to Rocky Mountain National Park



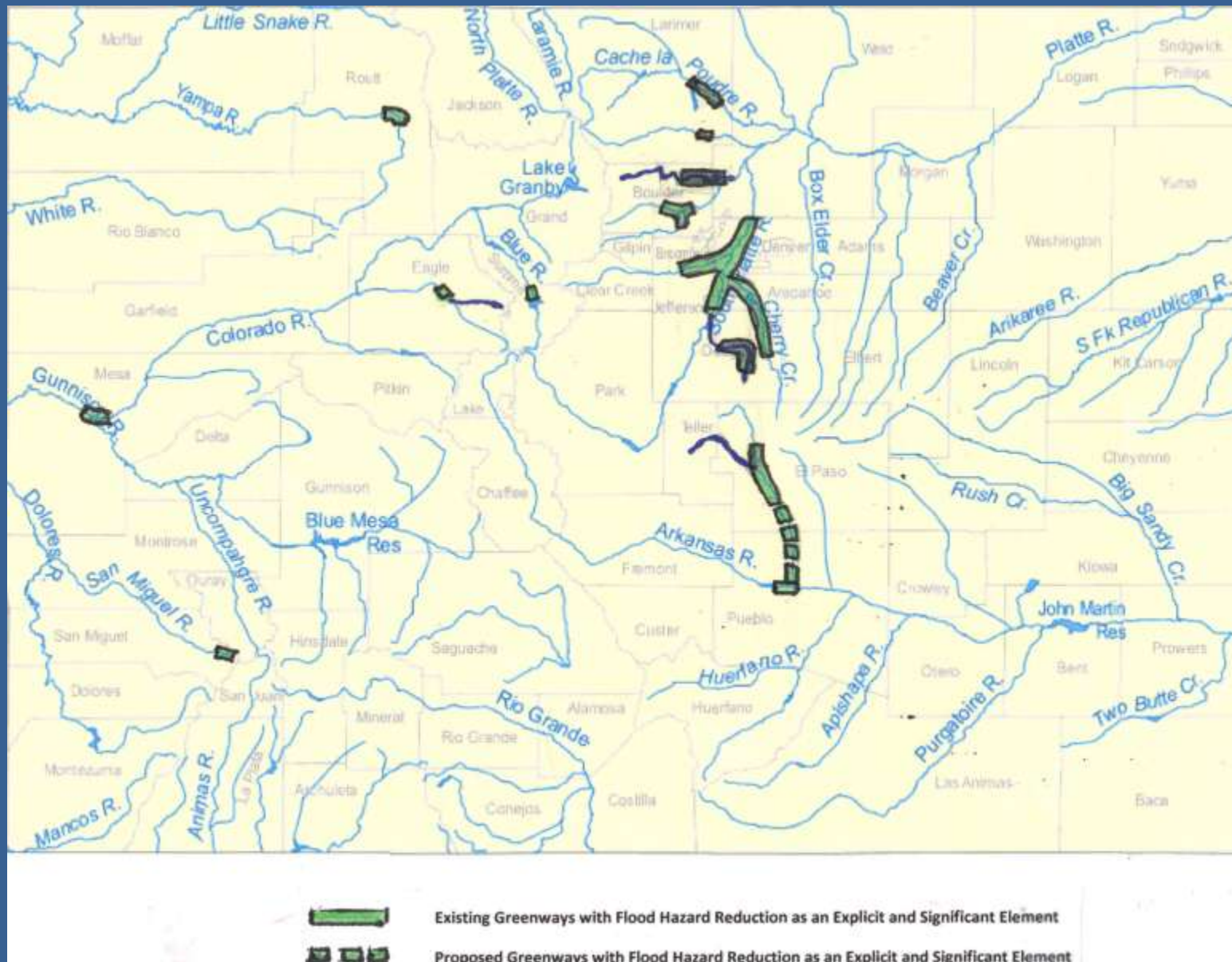
Colorado's Riparian Corridors

Connections - Part III

A Statewide View

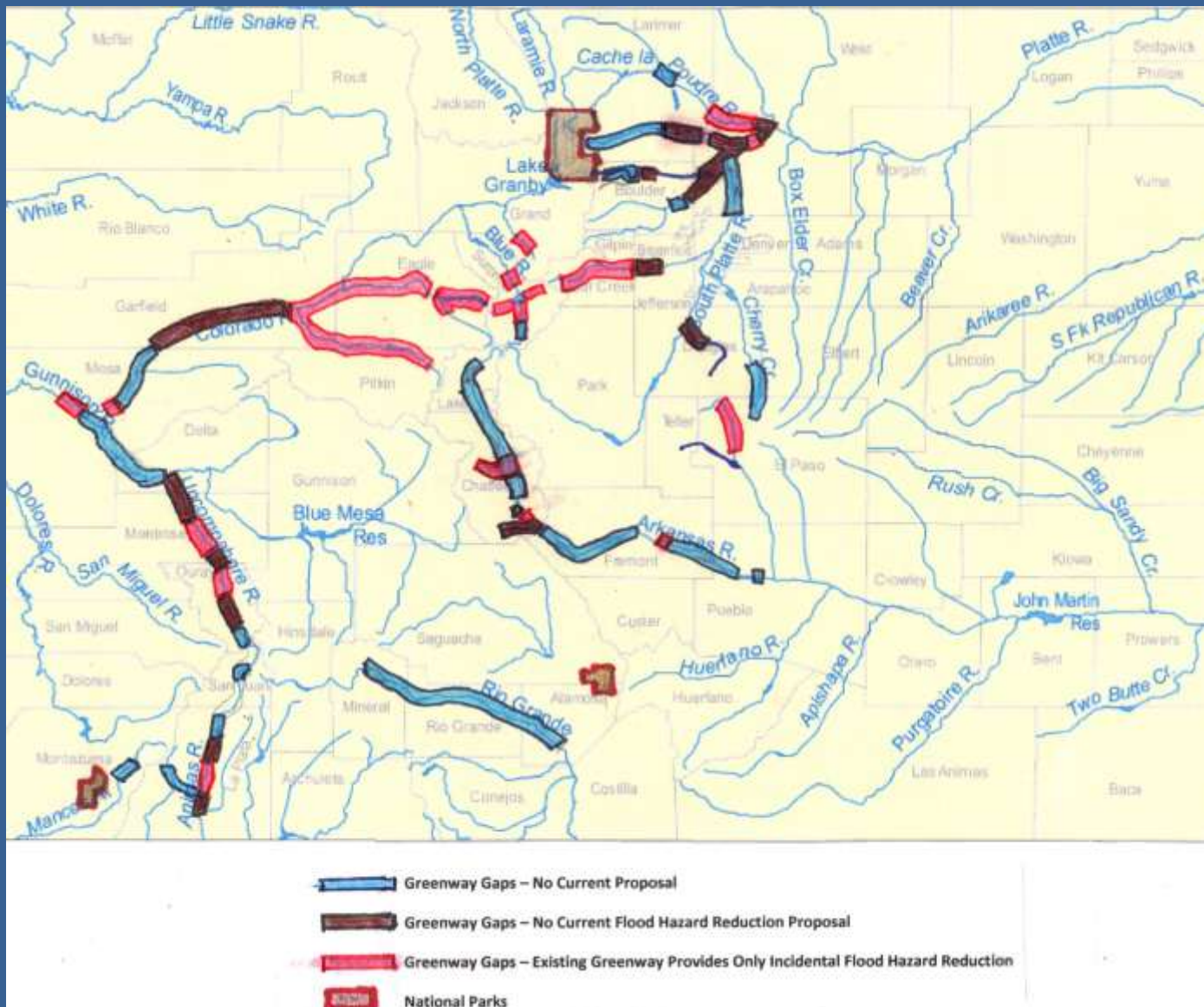


A Statewide View - Existing & Proposed Flood Hazard Reduction Greenways



A Statewide View (JUST A THOUGHT)

Maybe Create a Network by Filling in the Floodplain Greenway Gaps?



Colorado's Riparian Corridors

Connections ~ Part IV

A Possible First Step in the
Clear Creek Riparian Corridor



Implementing the Clear Creek Greenway Is a Logical First Step Toward Connecting the Metro Area to the Headwaters

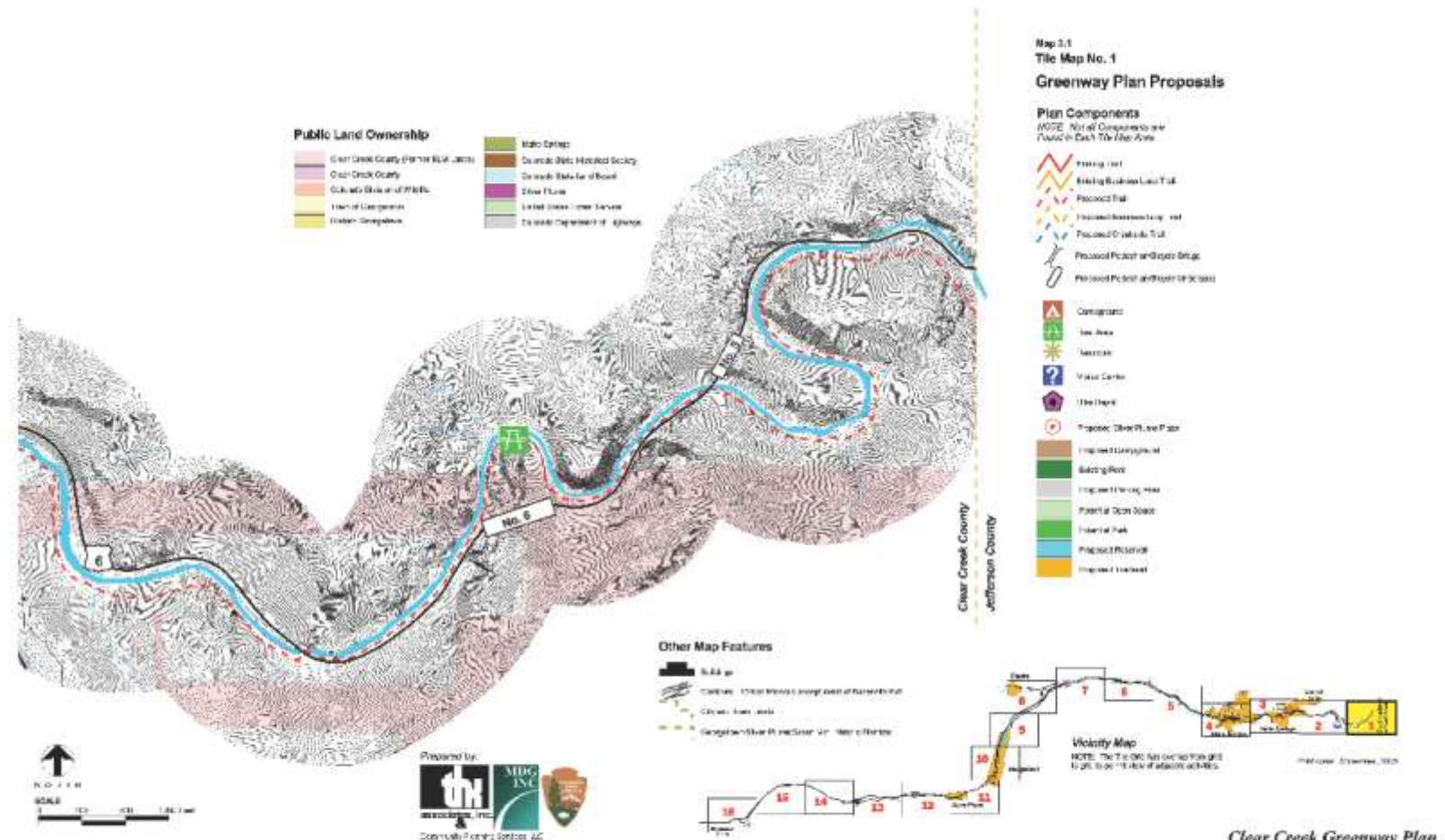


CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY PLAN

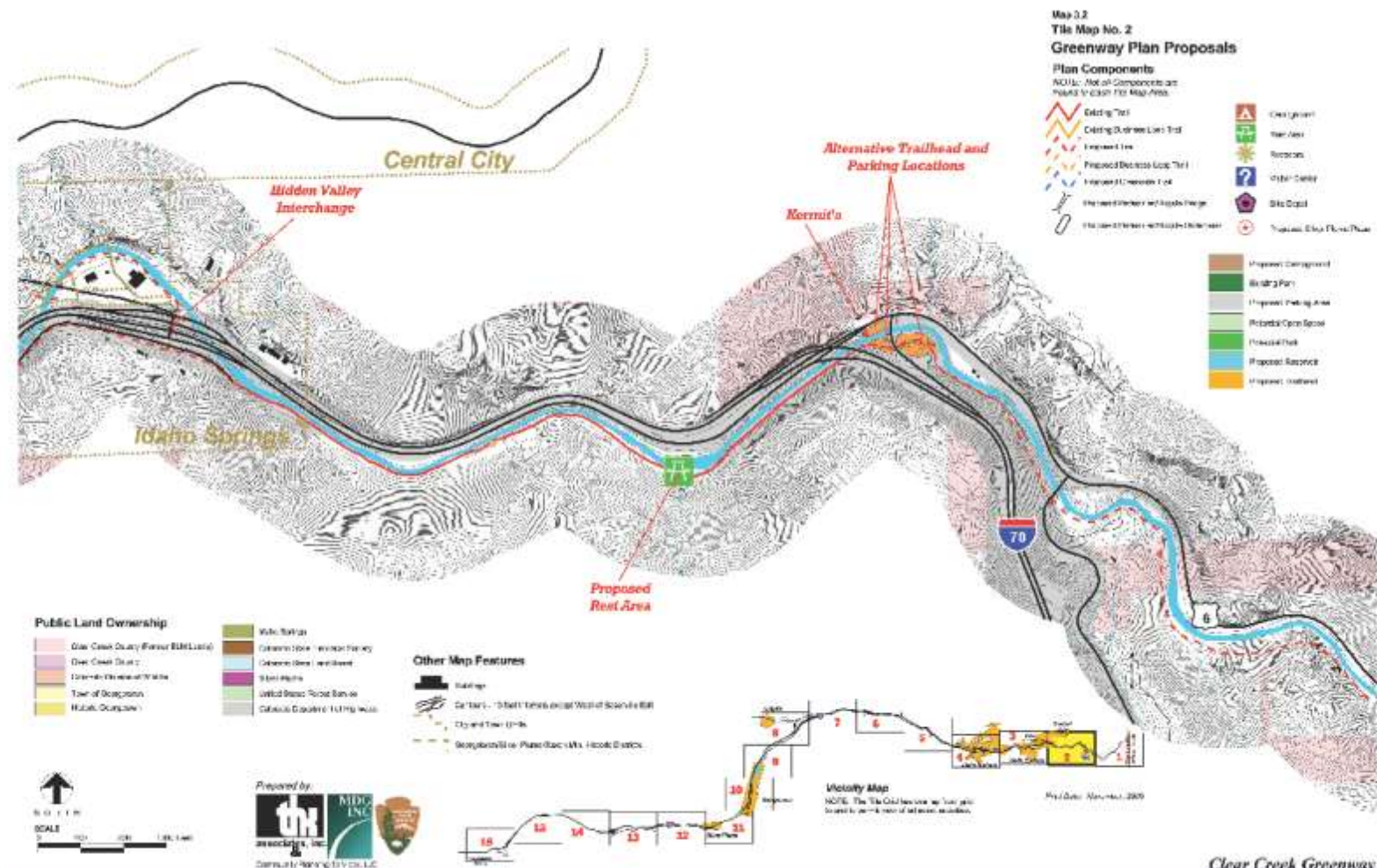
NOVEMBER 2005

THE CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY IS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
RECOMMENDATION OF THE 2030 CLEAR CREEK COUNTY MASTER PLAN.

Planning is Underway for a Connection from Golden (& *uninc. Jefferson County*) to Clear Creek County



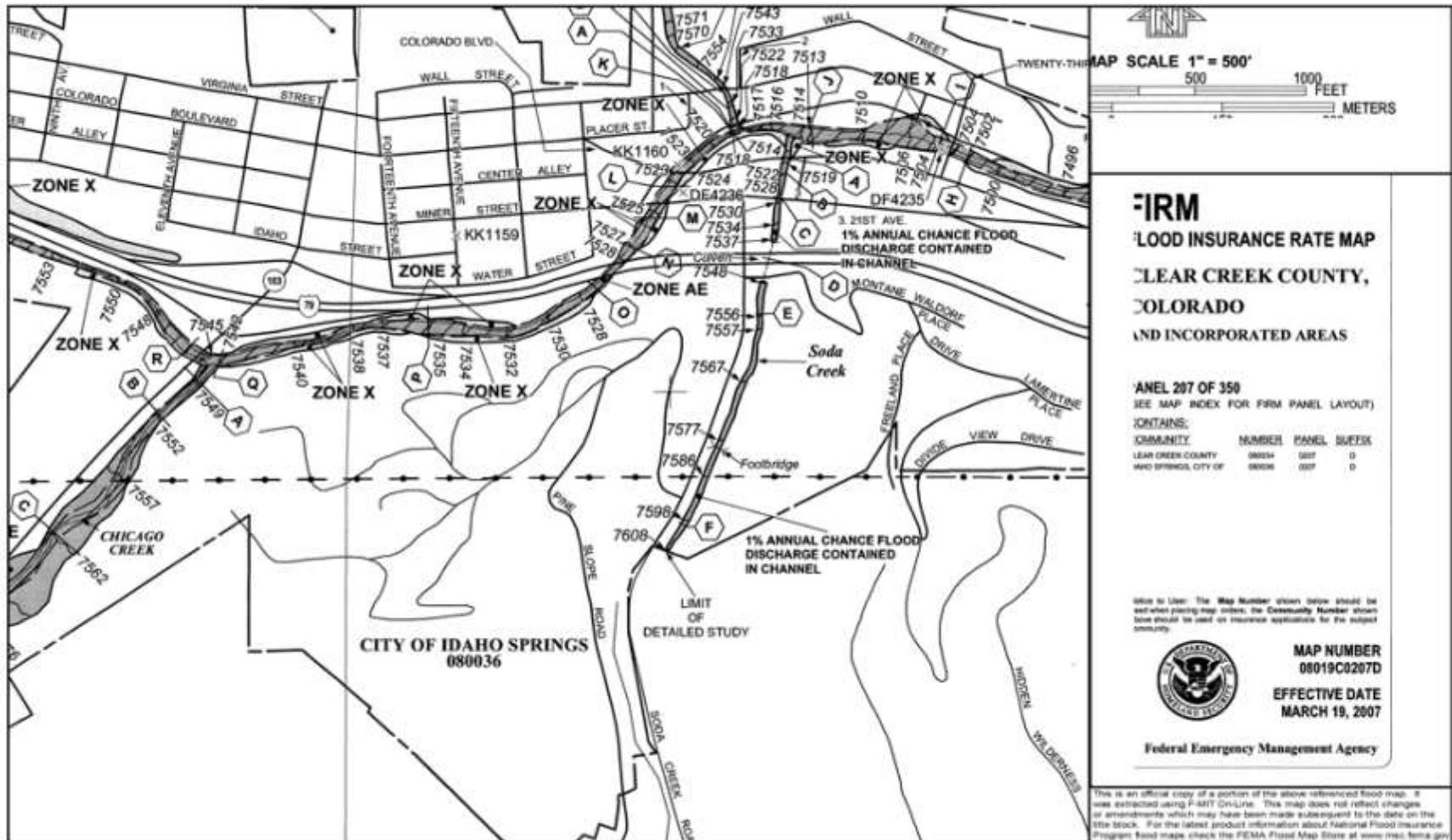
From the Bottom of Floyd Hill to Idaho Springs



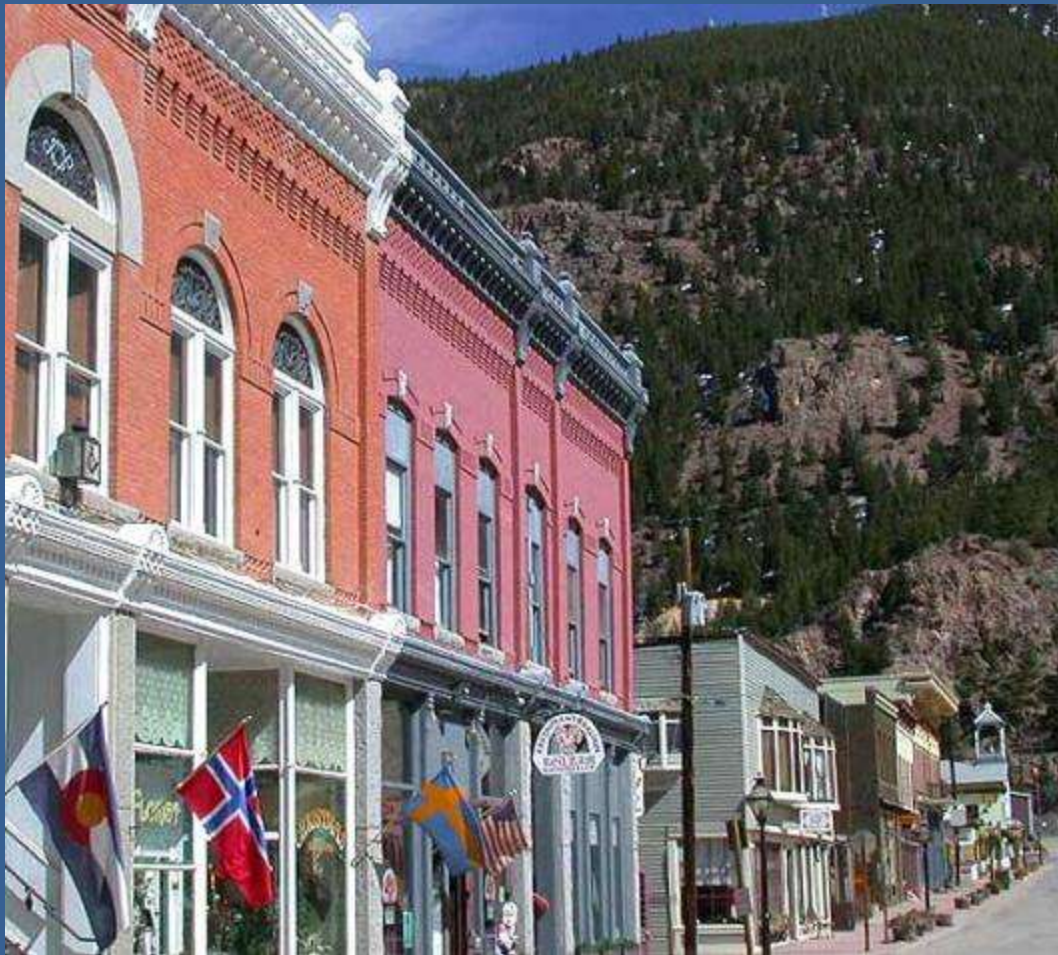
Idaho Springs



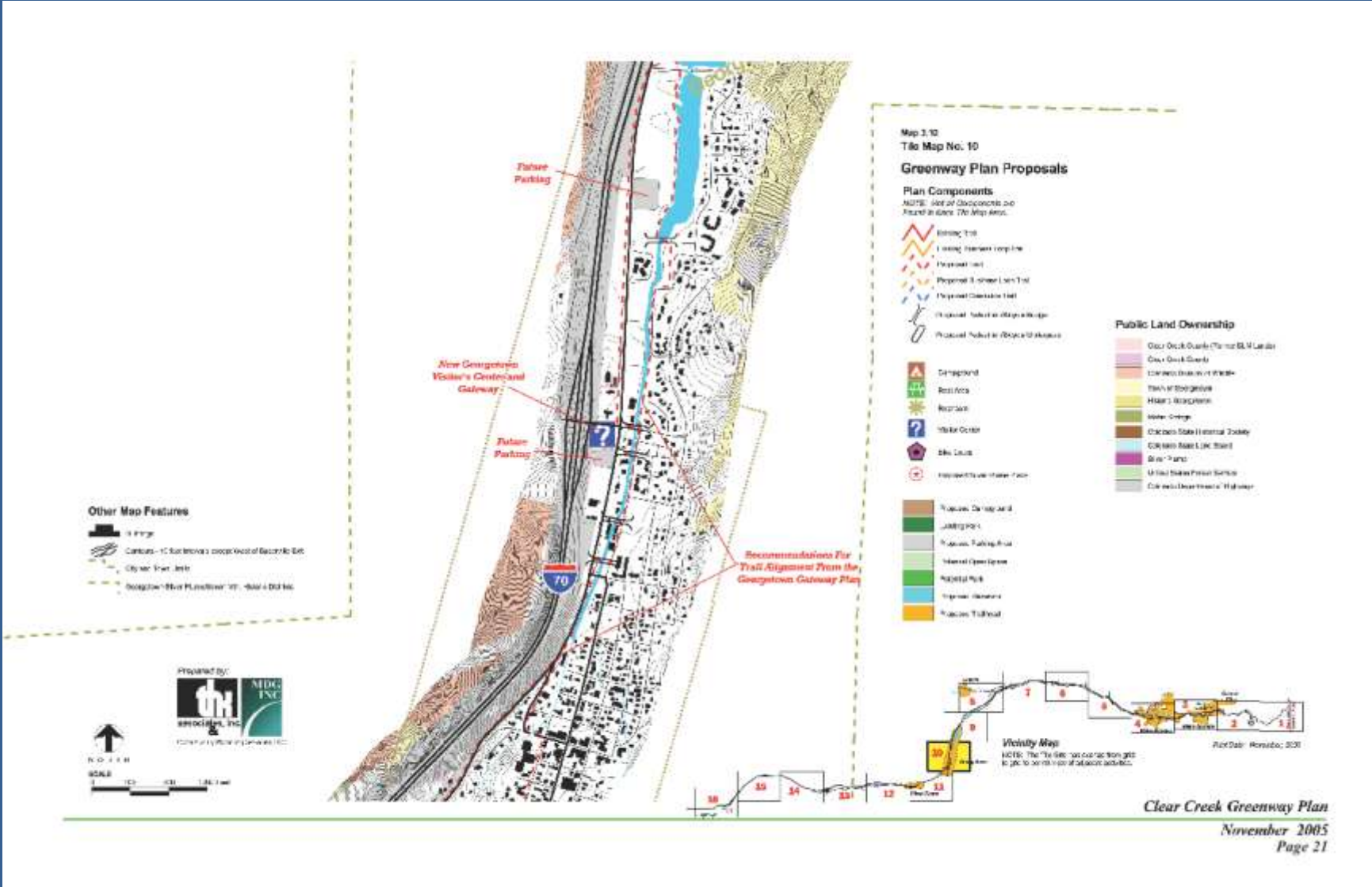
Official Floodplain Mapping for Idaho Springs



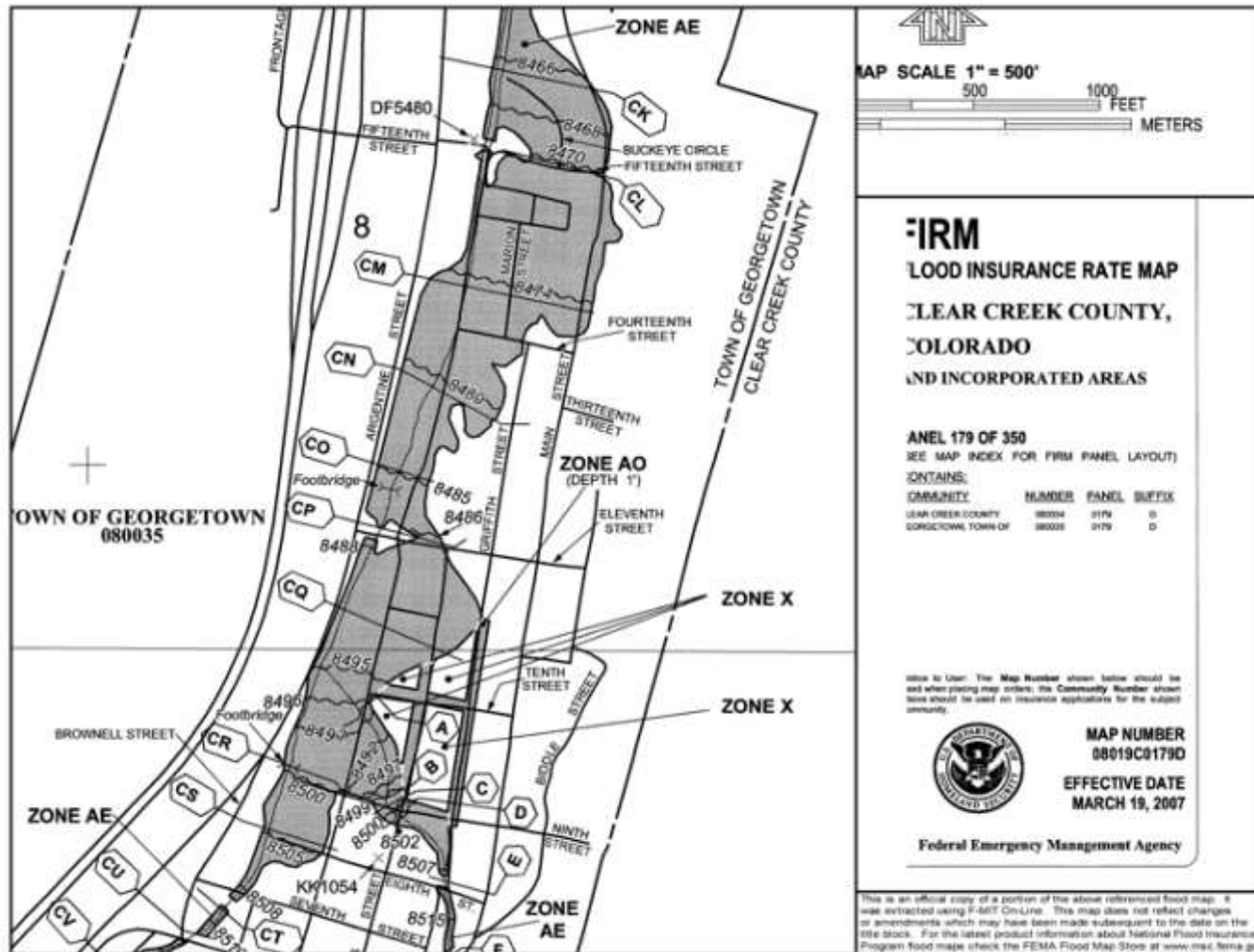
Georgetown



Georgetown and ...



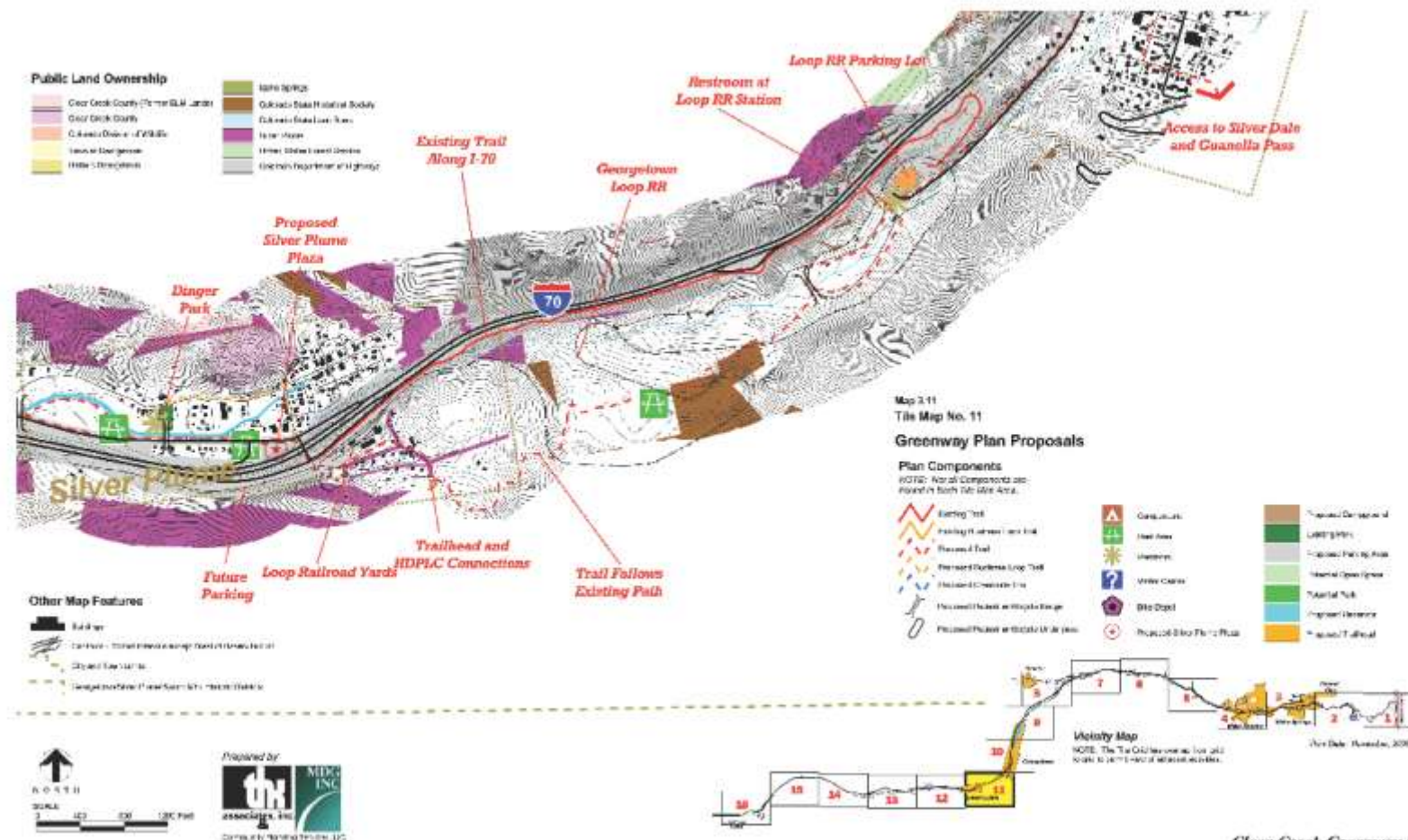
Official Floodplain Map for Georgetown



Silver Plume



Silver Plume and Beyond



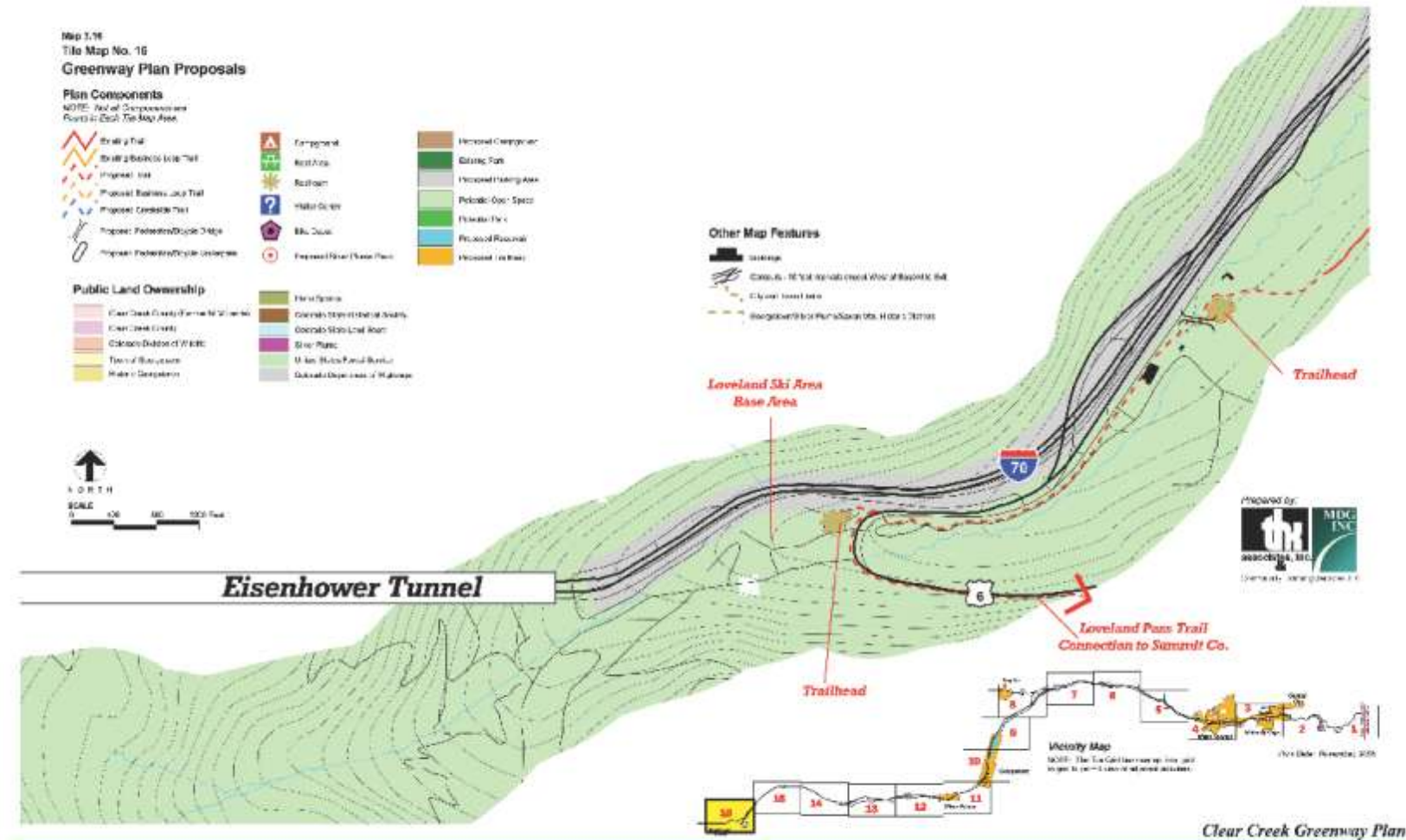
[illegible]



It extends 5 miles to Loveland Valley (*the beginner ski area*)



The Greenway Master Plan proposes connections to Summit County



Your Destination – The Headwaters



Clear Creek County

Summit County



Is there a legitimate nexus?

Could Denver Water and/or Aurora Water establish a valid set of reasons (*on behalf of their customers*) for:

- collaborating with Clear Creek County in implementing the Master Plan for the Clear Creek Greenway, and**
- collaborating on other greenways connecting the Denver Metro Area to its headwaters?**

Is there a legitimate nexus?

Could the U.S. Forest Service and/or the National Park Service (*as managers of public lands in the headwaters*) establish a valid set of reasons for:

- collaborating with Clear Creek County in implementing the Master Plan for the Clear Creek Greenway, and**
- collaborating on other greenways connecting the Denver Metro Area to its headwaters?**

Questions
Comments
Better Ideas

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