

Don't Sell the Ranch

Alternatives to Buy and Dry in the South Platte Basin

Panelists:

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Moderator:

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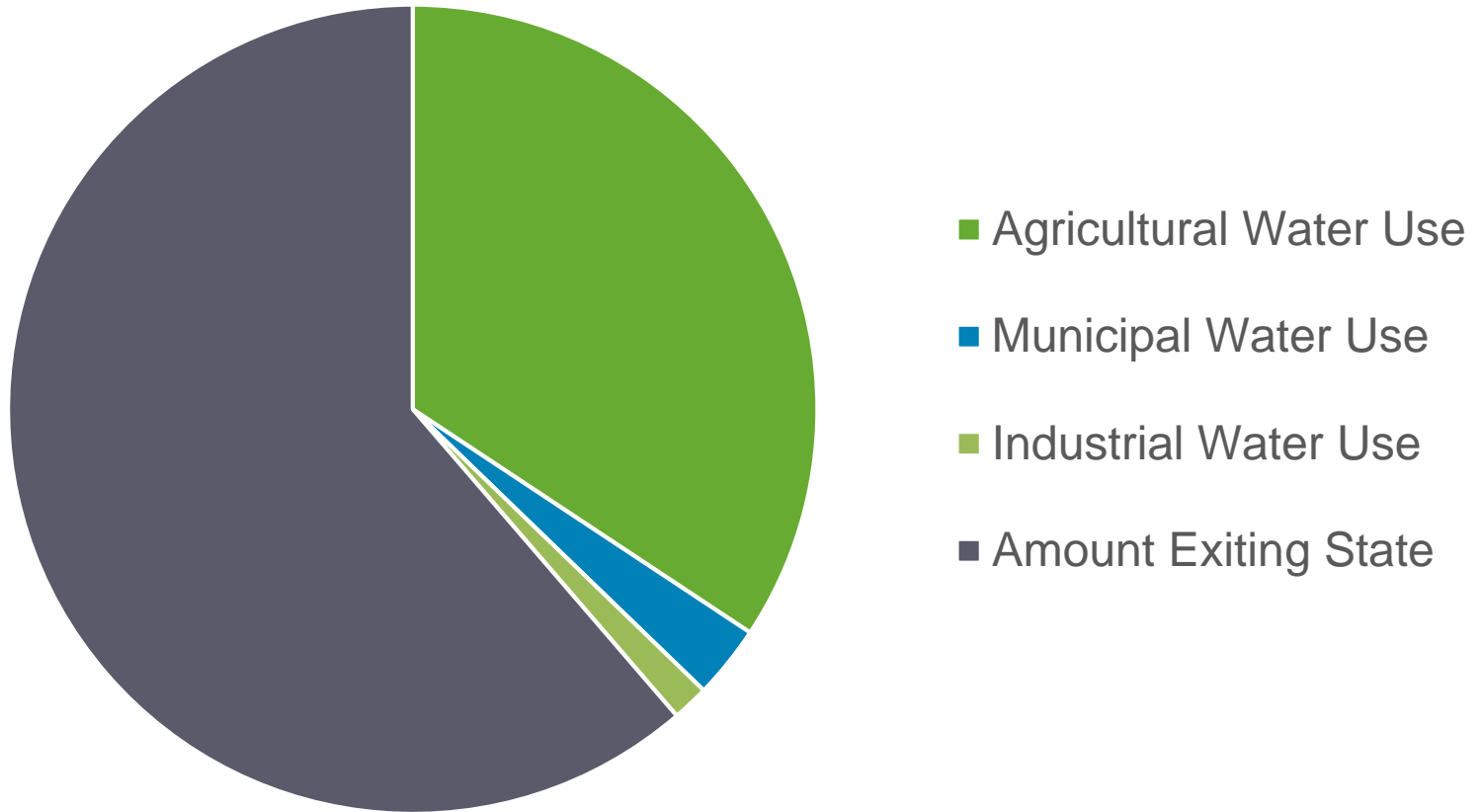


The Issue

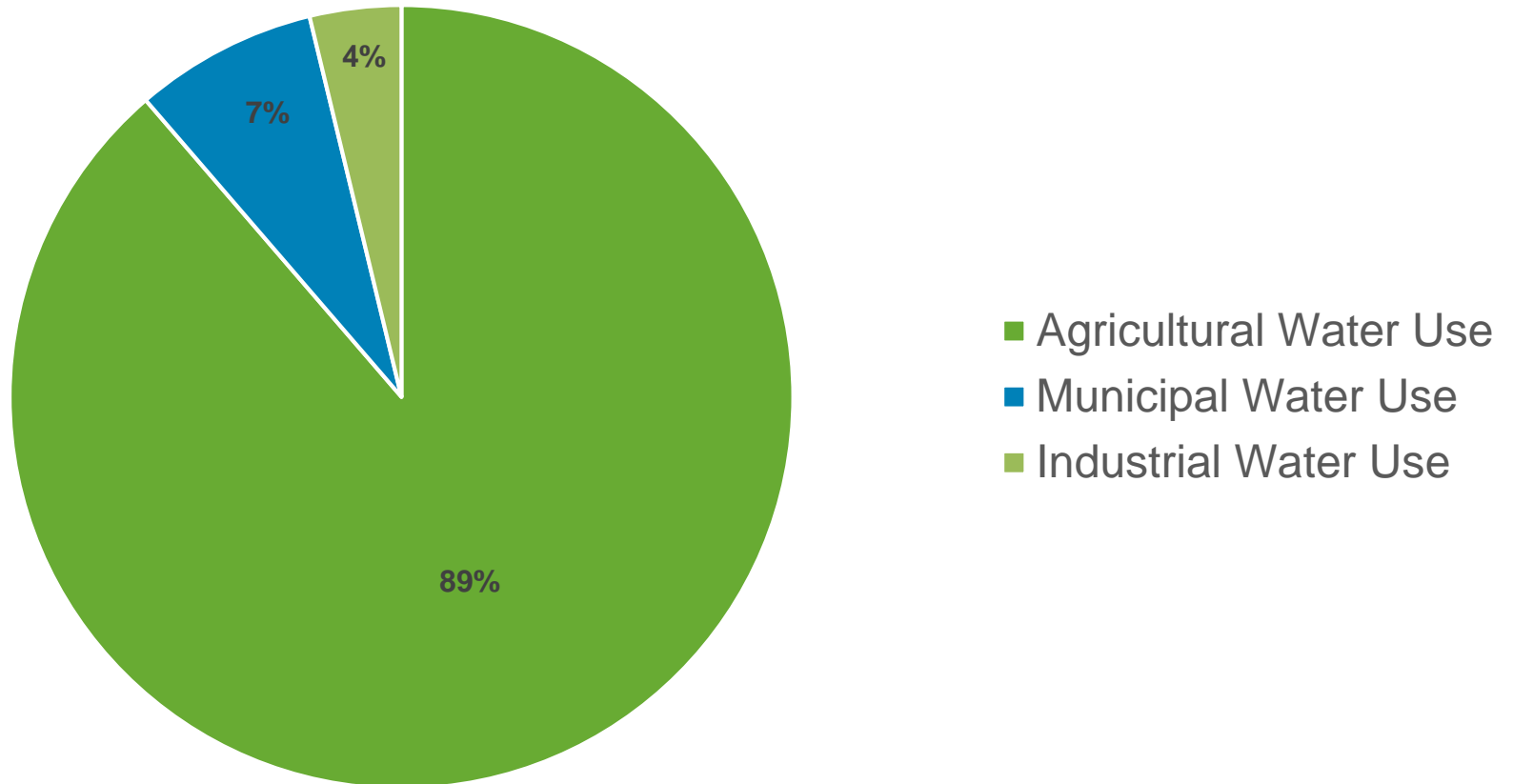


Source: Google Images

Colorado Water Use



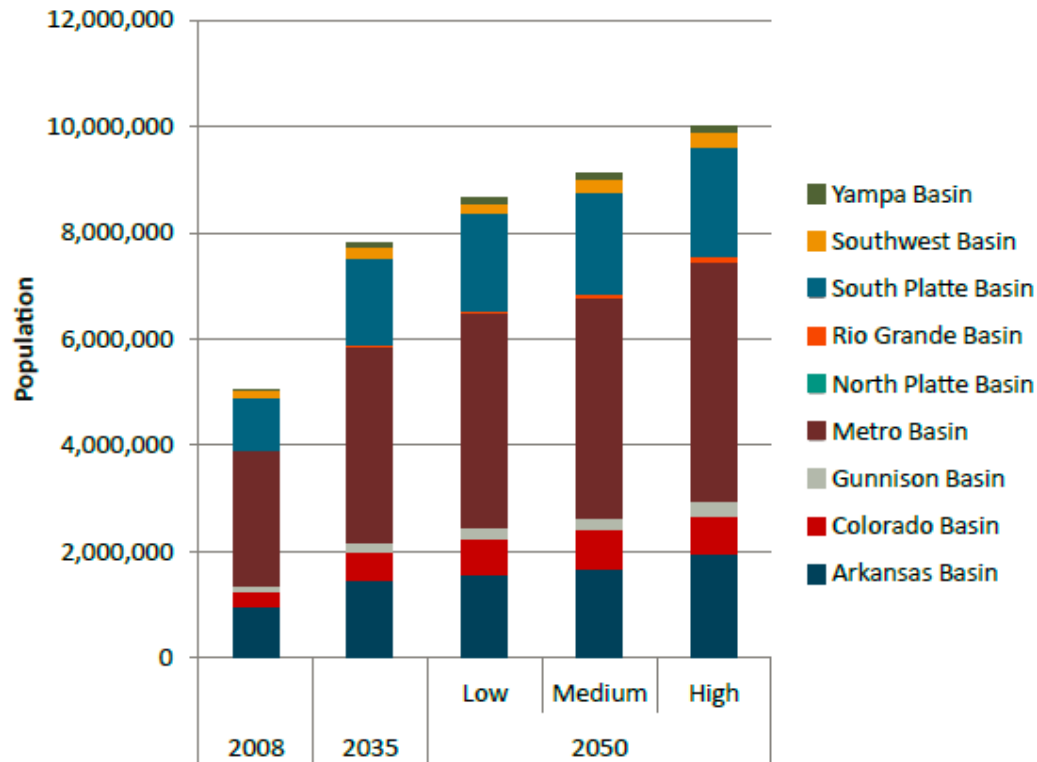
Colorado Water Use



Colorado Population Growth

FIGURE 5-2

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH 2050 POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY BASIN⁸



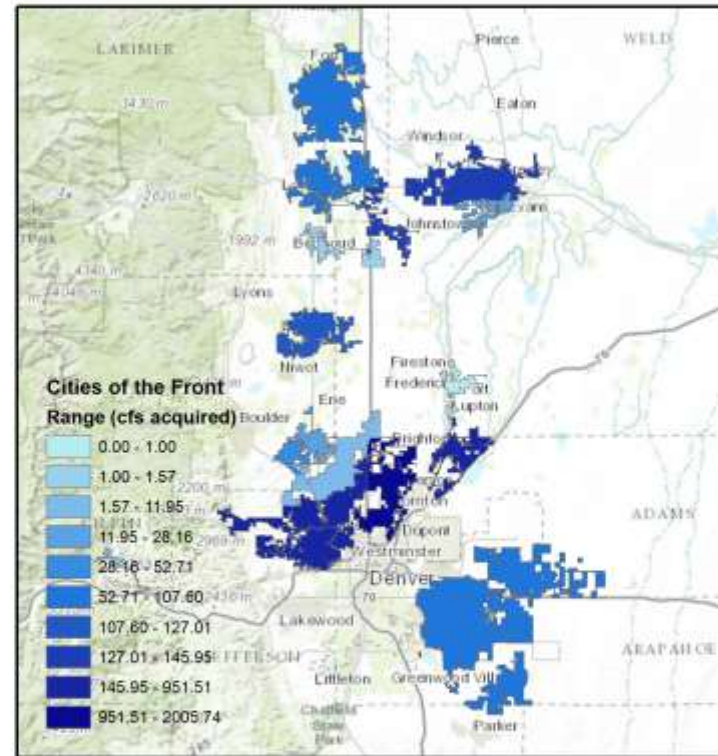
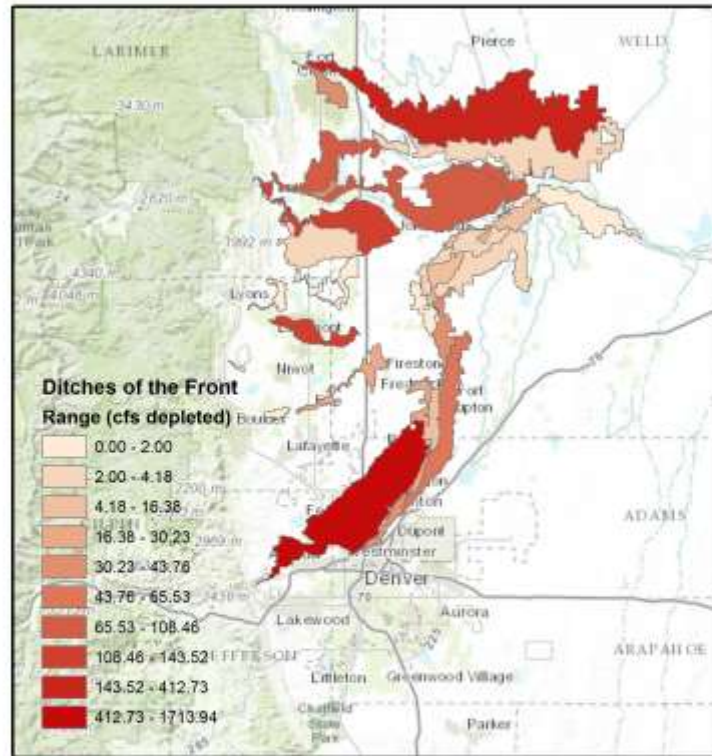
Source: Colorado Water Plan

The Result



Source: Google Images

Buy and Dry in the Front Range

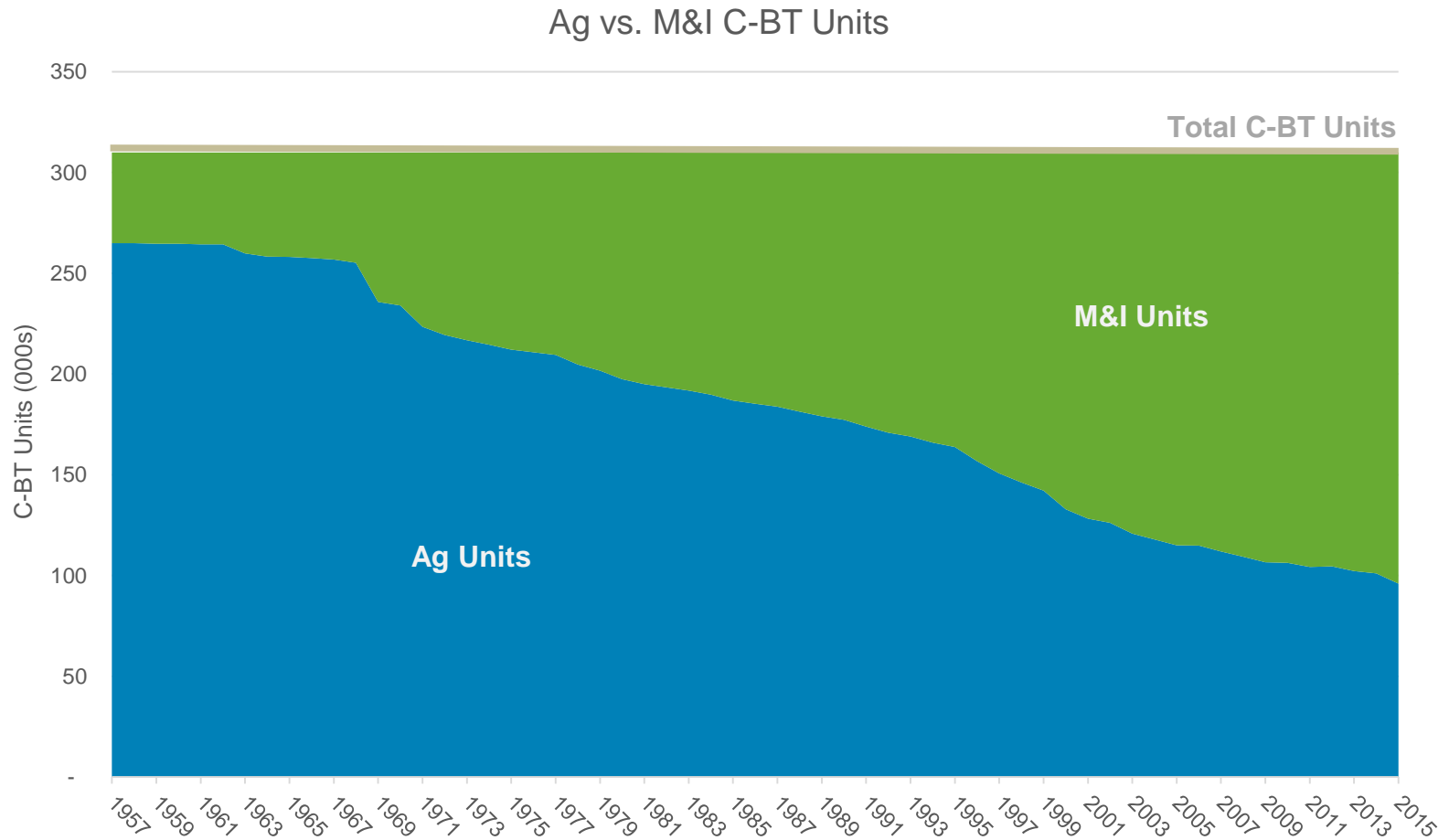


This map illustrates the depletion of ditches and the acquisition of water by cities in the Front Range. Water court decrees were reviewed to collect data and distinguish buy and dry trends.

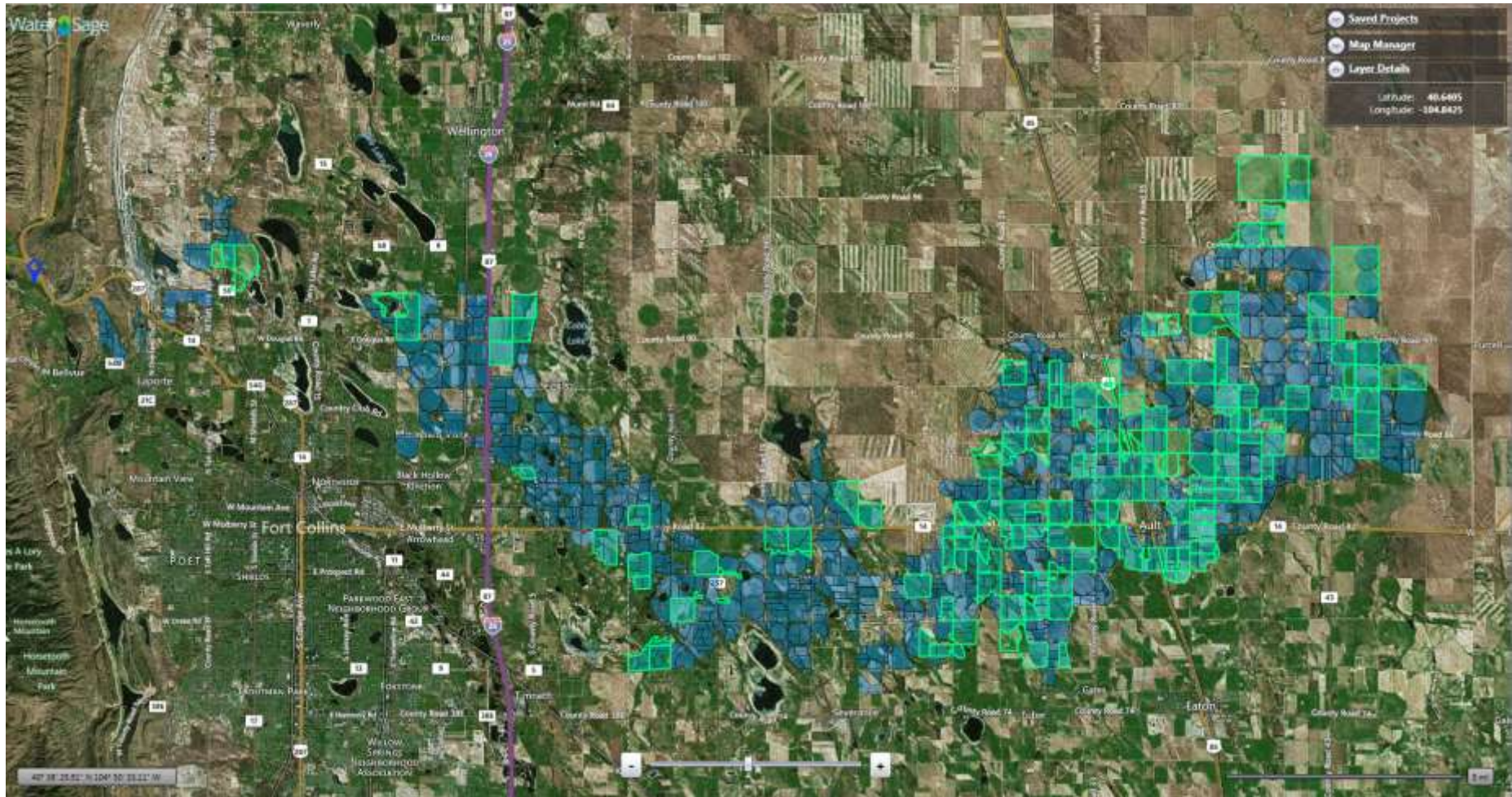
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The Result



The Result



The Colorado Water Plan

- *The South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables are concerned about maintaining the viability of agriculture in the South Platte against the pressure of agricultural transfers and urbanization.*
- *Pressures at state, national, and international levels threaten to reduce agricultural lands in the short term. Future municipal water demands contribute to an increasing pressure to transfer agricultural water rights to help satisfy urban demands and other non-agricultural water needs across the state.*
- *If Colorado continues down its current path, the South Platte River Basin could lose up to one-third of today's irrigated land by 2050.*
- *Across the state, water stakeholders want to minimize buy-and-dry in a way that respects property rights, recognizes the importance of agriculture in Colorado, and supports a sustainable agricultural industry—while identifying solutions to provide water for municipal needs.*

Possible Solutions

- Water Storage Projects
- Alternative Water Transfer Mechanisms (ATMs)
- Conservation Easements
- A combination of all three

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