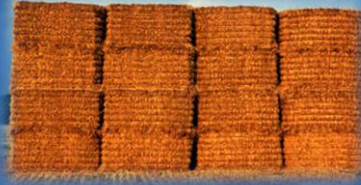


# Land=Resource Rich Reservoir



Ecosystem Services

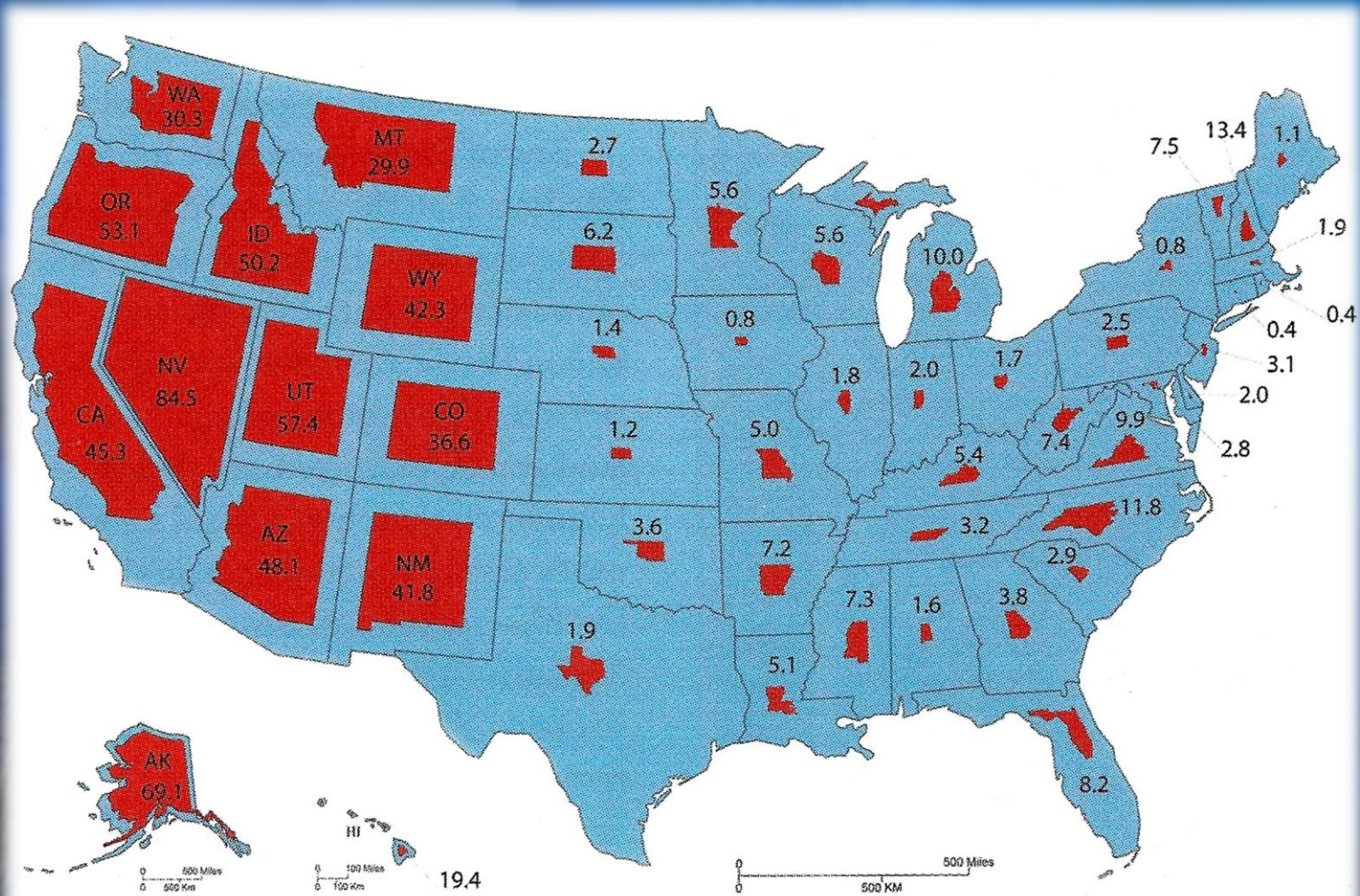


# Conservation Foothold

- CCALT – Conserved >350,000 acres
- Between 1997 and 2002 Colorado lost 1.26 million acres of agricultural land, averaging 690 acres per day
- By 2022 Colorado will lose 3.1 million more acres of agricultural land.
- The Colorado Conservation Trust estimates a greater than \$1 billion gap in funding to curb land conversion
- GOCO can only fund 1 in 3 projects
- More diverse tools and funding are needed



# 71% of Land In Private Ownership



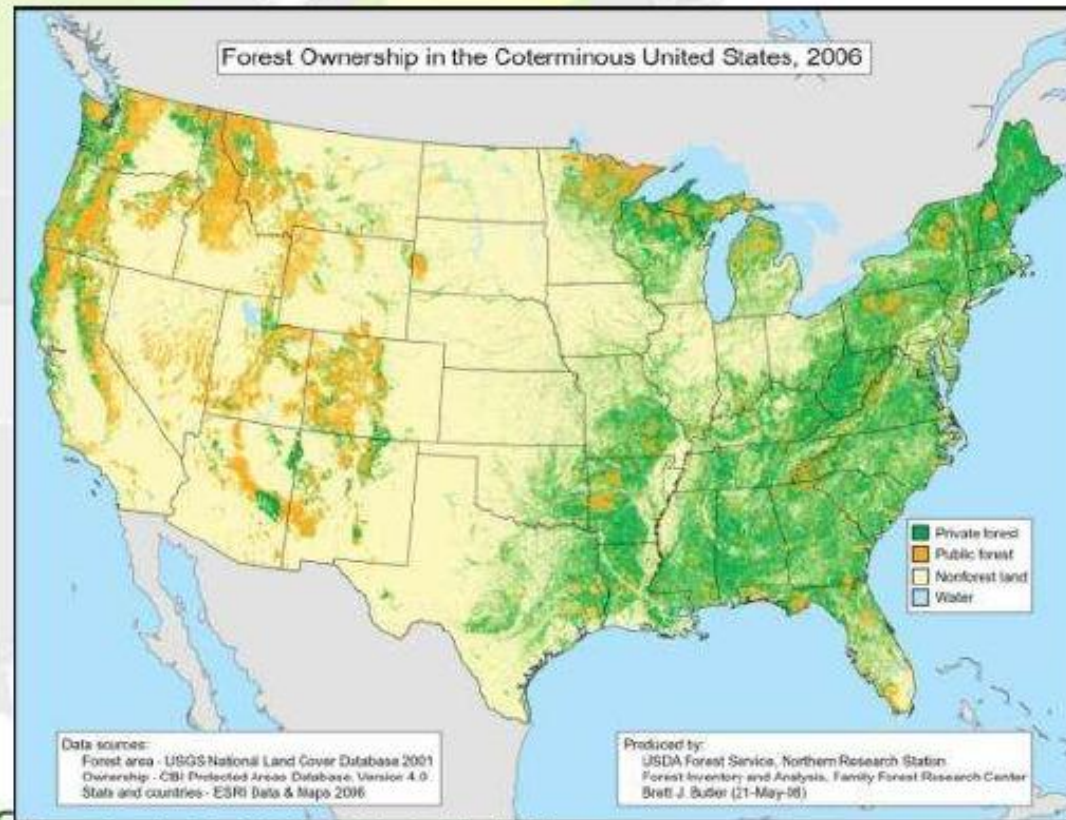
Data source: U.S. General Services Administration, *Federal Real Property Profile 2004*, excludes trust properties.



# PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ARE THE FUTURE

71% of U.S. land is in private ownership today

- Over 10.4 million individuals, partnerships and corporations manage over 264 million acres of private forestland.
- Over 938 million acres are cropland, pastureland, and rangeland owned and managed by over 2.1 million farmers and ranchers.
- The care of 50% of our land is in the hands of **less than 2% of our citizens**, primarily ranchers, farmers, and forest owners. *(Best, Wayburn, 2001)*
- Individual landowners steward 70% of our wetlands and over 75% of our endangered species habitats. *(Best, Wayburn, 2001)*
- National forests are the largest Federal ownership, making up 19% of U.S. timberland but accounting for only 2% percent of timber harvest in 2001.



**RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION**  
Private Sector Solutions for the Environment

Amos Eno President/ED

# Farm Bill Program Shortages

## Major USDA Working Land Stewardship Programs in Colorado

Program	FY2005 Funding	Number of Applicants	% of Applications not Funded	Budget Shortfall
Conservation Security Program	\$2,116,412	Data Not Available	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$39,185,835	1,920	38%	\$18,199,349
Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program	\$4,527,904	28	54%	\$8,500,000
Grassland Reserve Program	\$2,373,372	129	95%	\$106,238,210
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	\$609,889	67	51%	\$681,527
<b>All Programs</b>	<b>\$48,458,738</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>\$133,619,086</b>

More diverse tools

and

funding are needed





Partners  
for Western  
Conservation

*A New Way of Doing Business*



# PWC Mission Principles

- **Implement** Market-Based Conservation and Ecosystem Programs
- For the Benefit of **Wildlife**, the **Environment**, **Landowners**, and **Regulated** Community
- Through **Science**, **Assistance**, **Resources** and **Educational** Efforts
- Create a **Community** of **Partners**
- Committed to **Conservation** and **Stewardship** of **Land**, **Water**, **Air** and **Wildlife**



# Approaches

- **Independently Organized Private Transactions - *Privately Funded for Private/Regulatory Needs***



- **Publicly Organized for Public Benefit - *Public Agencies Fund Services***

- **Trading of Credits - *Compliance Credits, Banking, etc***



- **Consumer or Advocate Preferred - *Purchasing, Branding and Investing***





# PWC's Responsibility Flow

**Oil/Gas, Developers, DOT,  
DOI, USDA, Others**

*Funding  
Consultation  
Approves Agreements  
Mitigation/Credit Beneficiary*

**Colorado State University  
Cooperative Extension**

*Assessment  
Monitoring  
Research  
Accountability*

**Partners for Western  
Conservation 501(c)3**

*Negotiates Contracts  
Manages Systems  
Facilitates Contractors  
Maintains Agreements/Credits  
Technical Committees*

**U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service**

*Produce Guidance  
Conducts Consultations*

**Colorado Division of  
Wildlife**

*Oversees Wildlife  
Management Planning*

**Cattlemen/Ag Orgs**

*Landowner Recruitment  
& Outreach*

**Cons./Env. Orgs**

*Habitat Tools  
Rx Conversion Measures*

**Private**

**Landowners/Lessees/Permittees**

*Implement Contracts*

# Conservation Benefits

- **Secure habitat** across a wider geography to offset losses
- Overall **net gain in suitable habitat** for species
- **Increased knowledge** of species distribution, abundance and **habitat relationships** for management decisions
- Restoration of **important rangeland ecosystems** on private and public lands





# Business Benefits

- Keeps working lands in working hands = **Economic Benefit**
- **Operational certainty** for a variety of industries
- Long-term benefit of species **not being listed or listed species being recovered**
- **Proactive approach in addressing the public's species and habitat protection concerns**



**Maintains  
Land Use**



# Current Efforts

## Water Markets in the U.S.

- Water quality (N, P, sedimentation, temperature, quantity)
- 500 wetland mitigation banks in 42 states worth \$3 billion

## Species and Conservation Banking

- 113 banks total, operating in 12 states worth \$370 million
- 78 banks protect 63,000 acres for 30 federally listed species

## Carbon Sequestration and Mitigating

- Openly Traded
- Unstable and Not Well Defined

Regulatory

•Slow

•Costly

•Reactive

Driven



# Mitigation Agreements

- Widely used by federal, state and local governments
  - Based upon mutually agreed upon contracts
  - Can be banked – Can be competitively Bid
    - OGCC regulations acknowledge use

## CCA's

- Formal agreements with USFWS
- USFWS proven tool
- Proposed, candidate or likely candidates under ESA
- Agreements to implement voluntary actions to remove or reduce threats
- Used on federal lands and with federal, state and local agencies

## CCAA's

- Same tool as CCA's but...
- Provides future regulatory certainty to private and non-federal landowners
- CCAA's protect against conservation efforts requiring any future regulatory obligations



# Components of Credit System

*Most Credit Systems Are Built Upon a Group of Simple Contracts that Clearly Define Expectations.*

*Credit systems also allow for banking if so desired.*

**Habitat Management Program** – Management planning and habitat cost share

**Habitat Crediting Program** – Market based payments for suitable habitat

**Landscape Level Management** – Habitat/ecosystem improvements

**Monitoring System** – Effectiveness/validations monitoring and decision support for program adjustment



# Why PWC Is Needed

- Regulation isn't working...**but Regulators Are**
- Food = Ecosystem Service - **70% More by 2050**
- This is Business Diversification for Agriculture – **Does not sell out our heritage but reinvests in our future.**
- Active Conservation of Resources – **Not Passive and Hope for the Best**
- Sidelines Emotion – **Reinvestment in Science**
- Conduit for Agricultural **Literacy**

# Thank You

Partners for Western Conservation

303-431-6422

info@ThePWC.org

[www.ThePWC.org](http://www.ThePWC.org)

