



Growing Together

How the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Supports Rare Plant Conservation in Colorado

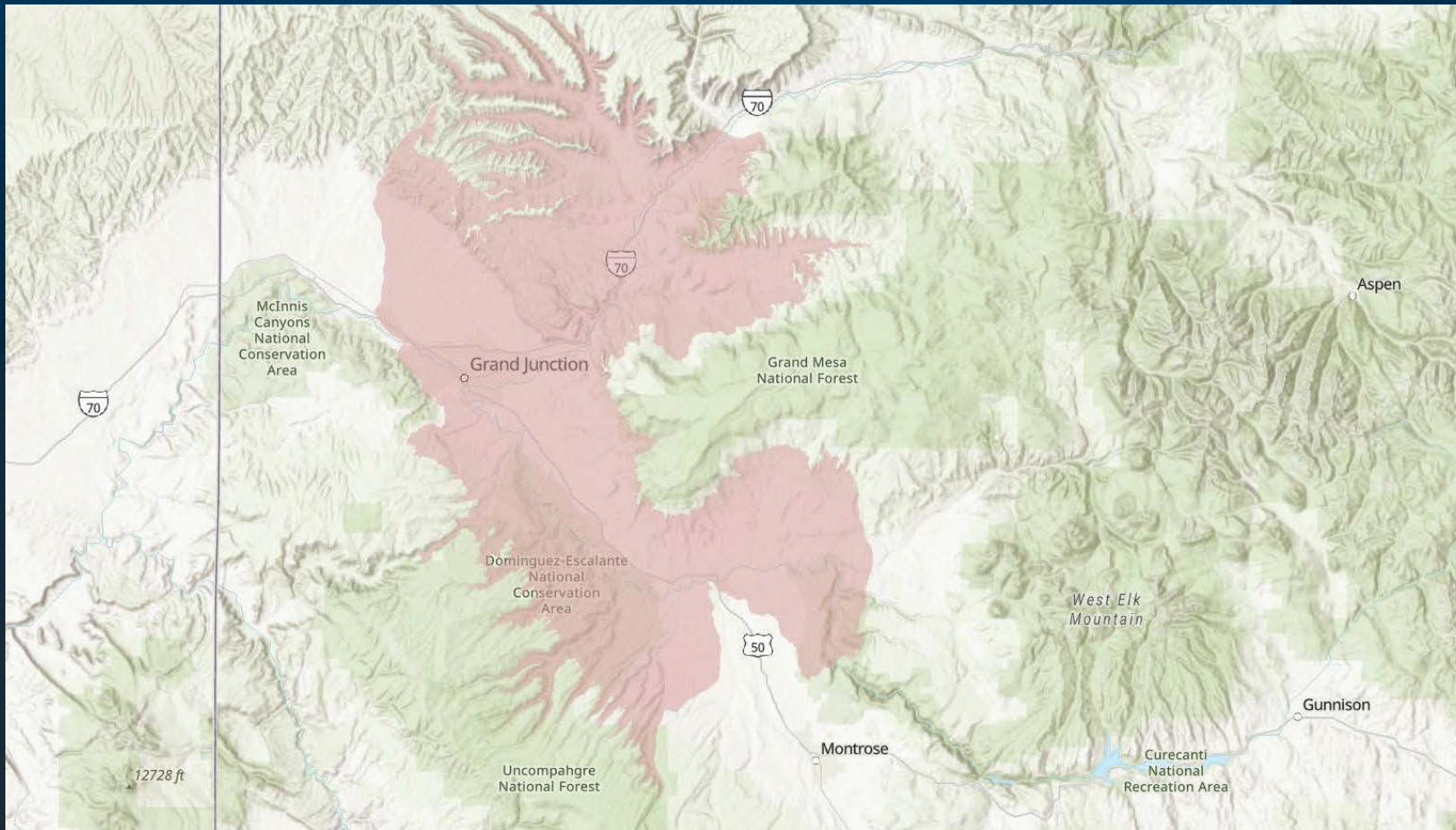
Sarah Quadt and Jay Ruebens, Fish and Wildlife Biologists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Success in Bloom

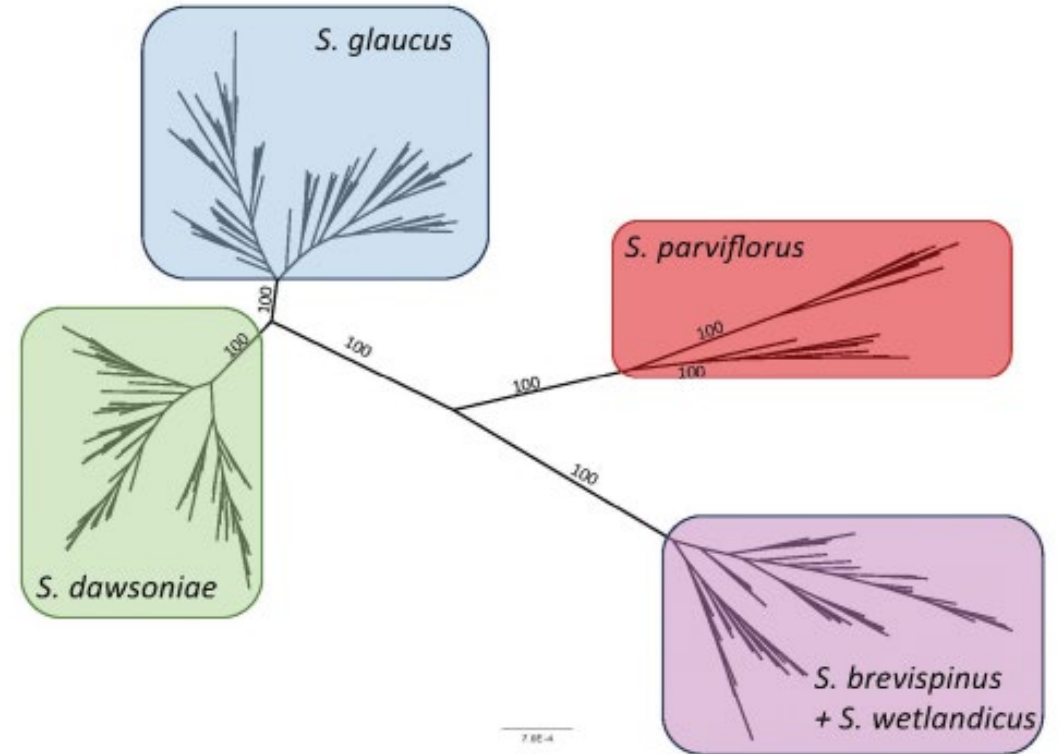
A closer look at
the recovery
success story of
the Colorado
Hookless Cactus





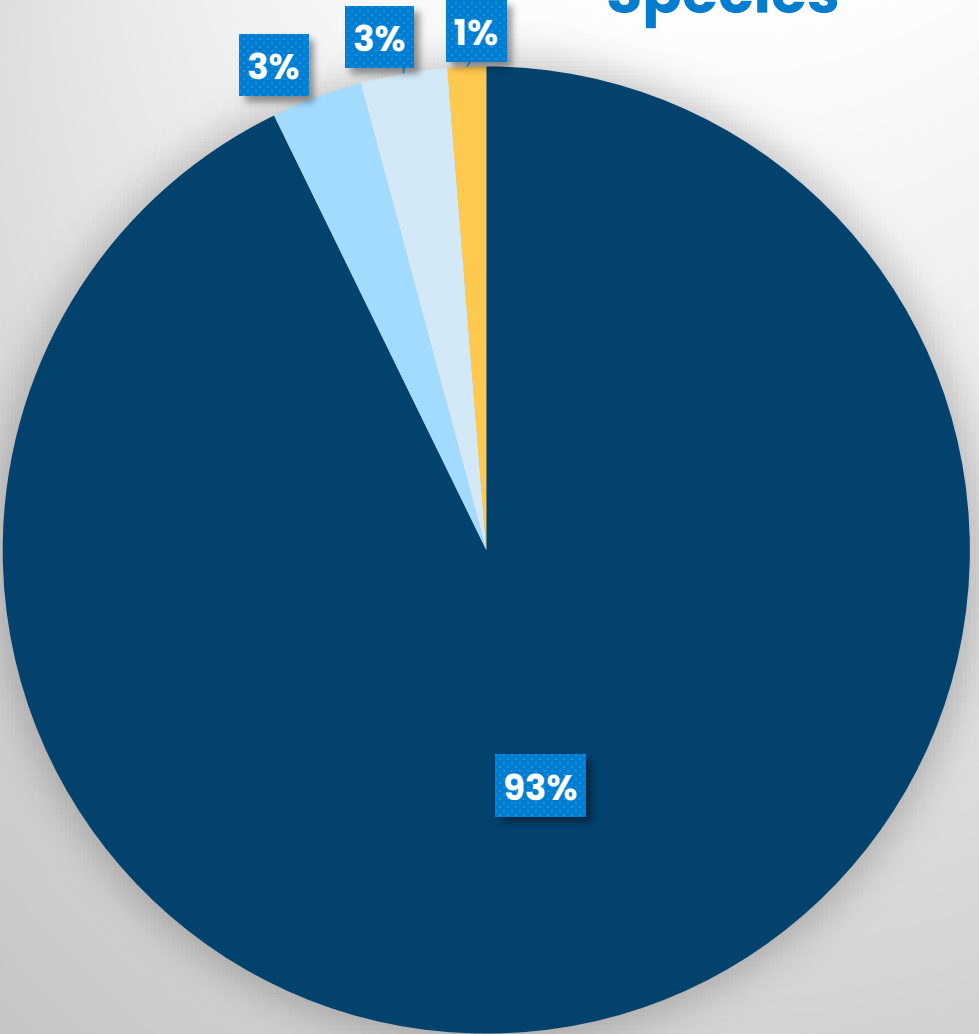


(BLM Colorado photo by Phil Krening)



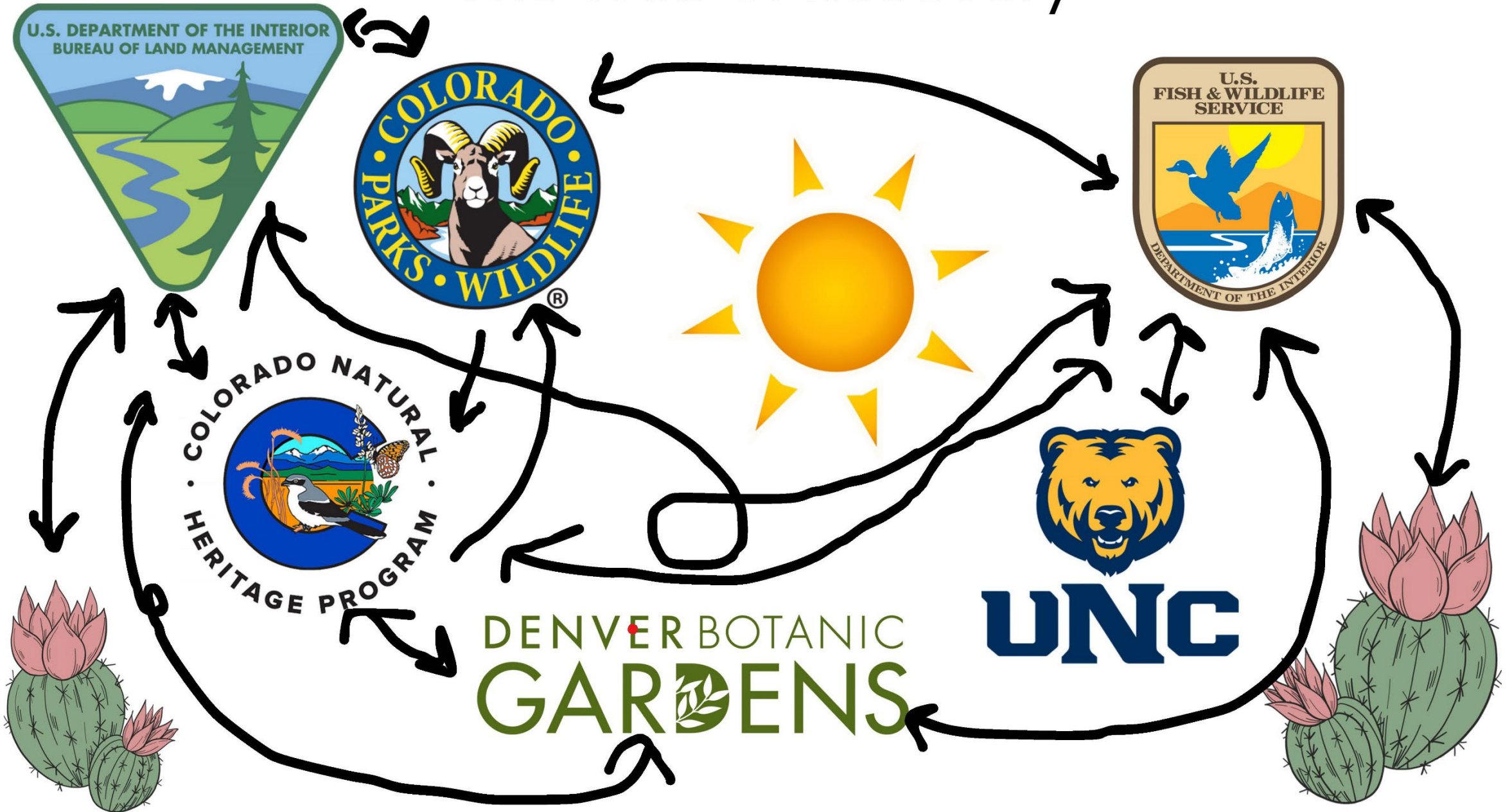
McGlaughlin, M.E. & Naibauer, S.K. 2023. Conservation genetics of Sclerocactus in Colorado: the importance of accurate taxonomy to conservation. University of Northern Colorado. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*. 4:1310985. doi: 10.3389/fcosc.2023.1310985

Species



- Ever Listed
- Delisted due to Recovery
- Delisted due to Extinction
- Delisted (other)

The Web of Recovery



We are USFWS

Our Mission

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of the American people

WHAT we do and for WHOM

Our Purpose

To protect the natural world so current and future generations can live with, live from, and find awe in lands, waters, and wildlife

WHY the Service exists

Our Vision

We envision a future where people and nature thrive in an interconnected way and where every community feels part of and committed to the natural world around us.

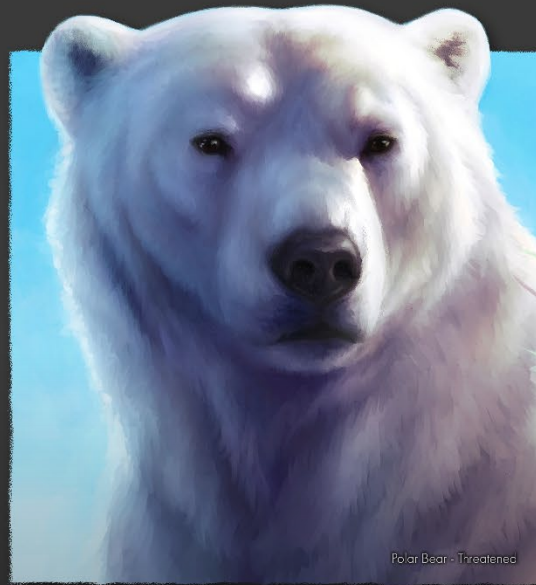
WHERE we hope to be in the future

Our Values

Stewardship, Integrity, Respect,
Collaboration, Innovation

HOW we work with others
to achieve our mission





THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AT 50

Core ESA Tools for Plant Protection

1. Listing and Recovery
2. Protection and Consultation
3. Proactive Conservation



Challenges

- Plants don't get the same level of protection as animals on private lands
- Plants receive far less recovery funding than animals
- Listing decisions often face long delays



The Power of Section 7(a)(1)

"All Federal agencies shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary [FWS], utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4 of this Act. "



What we do as ESA Biologists



- Preventing extinction, promoting recovery
- Conducting science-based species evaluations
- Fostering collaborative conservation partnerships
- Translating science into action
- Beyond just compliance, fostering possibility





Updates

- Reopening public comment period for North Park phacelia proposed delisting with an updated SSA
- 5-year reviews upcoming for Pagosa skyrocket, Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and DeBeque phacelia



Let's work together

If you're wondering how your work intersects with the ESA, or how we can help you help plants, please reach out.

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