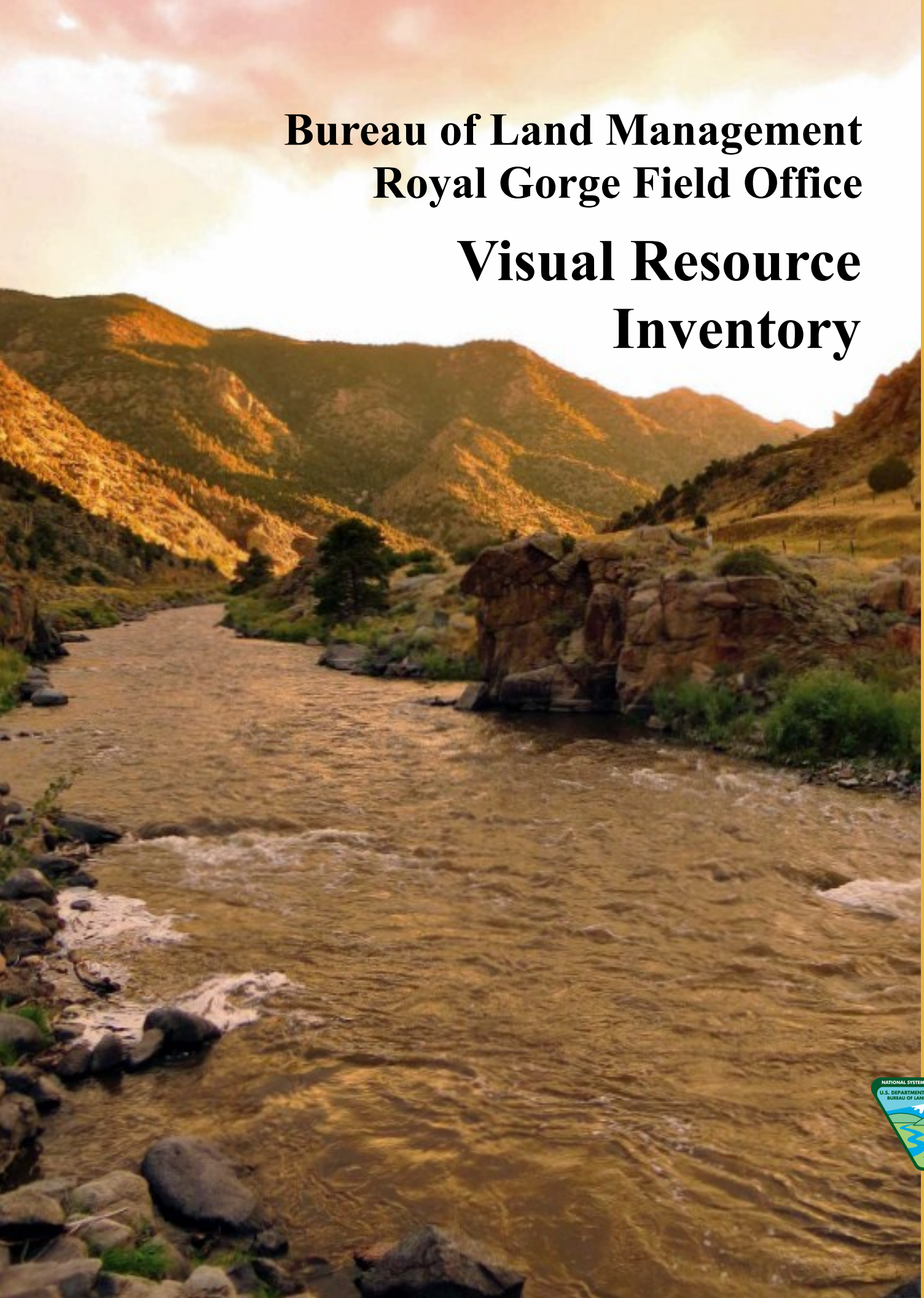
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office

Visual Resource Inventory



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Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office

Visual Resource Inventory

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April 2015

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ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
BG	background (distance zone)
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
FM	foreground-middleground (distance zone)
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	Global Positioning System
IOP	inventory observation point
KOP	key observation point
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
POP	photo observation point
RMP	resource management plan
SLRU	sensitivity level rating unit
SQFI	scenic quality field inventory
SQRU	scenic quality rating unit
SS	seldom seen (distance zone)
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
VCR	visual contrast rating
VRI	visual resource inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	wilderness study area

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1.0 Introduction of Inventory Area

1.1 Context of the Inventory Area

This Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) area encompasses the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) uncharacteristically large Royal Gorge Field Office, which is located within the Front Range District. The inventory area covers approximately 32,106,037 acres of land, including both surface estate and sub-surface estate that BLM is responsible for managing. Although BLM's surface estate management is generally concentrated in the western and southwestern portions of the inventory area, sub-surface estate management is widely spread throughout the field office—resulting in the need to inventory the entire field office area. Areas in which BLM's sub-surface responsibilities do not overlap their surface estate acres are known as "split estate". With regard to split estate lands, BLM is responsible only for managing potential underground mineral development. In total, BLM's surface estate responsibilities cover approximately 668,870 acres (2 percent) of the inventory area, while split estate covers approximately 3,322,498 acres (10 percent) of the inventory area. The inventory area is primarily bound by the Nebraska and Wyoming state boundaries to the north, the Nebraska and Kansas state boundaries to the east, the Oklahoma and New Mexico state boundaries to the south, and the Southern Rocky Mountain Front to the west (Figures 1a–1f).

The public lands in the inventory area contain a wide variety of scenic landscapes. This geologically and topographically diverse area contains mountainous slopes, scenic river canyons, expansive flat lands, and both rugged and rolling hills. The wide diversity of vegetative types within the inventory area also contributes to the scenic nature of the landscape, including grasslands and steppe, croplands, riparian corridors, and forested areas (Brown 1994). Prominent scenic areas associated with these public lands include the Southern Rocky Mountain Front, the Collegiate Peaks, Fisher's Peak, the Comanche National Grasslands, and the Arkansas River.

Typical Landscape of the Great Plains Physiographic Province

The inventory area can be divided into two general geographic areas, as delineated by the Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic provinces (Figure 2).

The Great Plains province extends from central Texas north to include portions of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

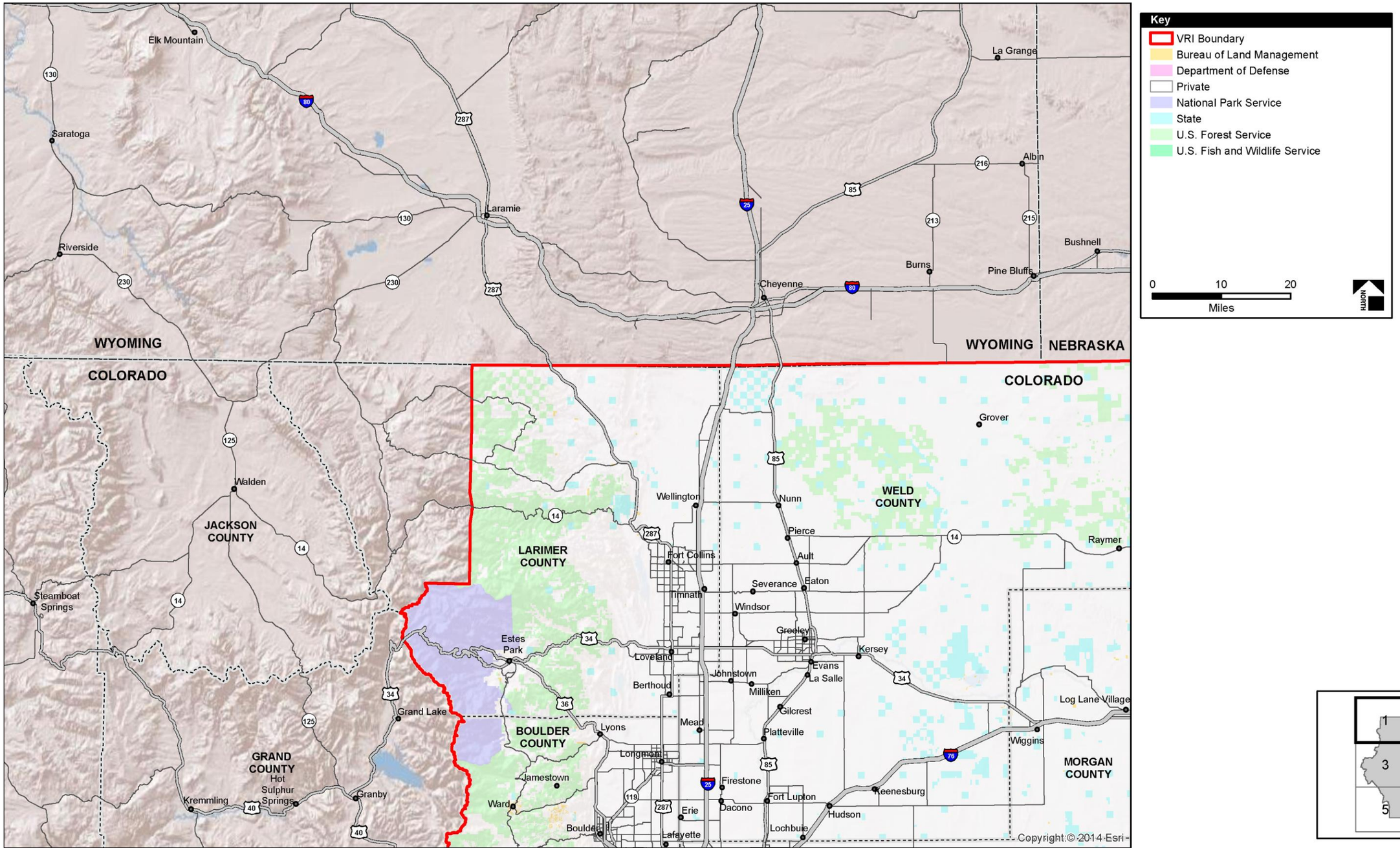
Elevations in this province are roughly 2,000 to 5,000 feet and are characterized primarily by rolling to rough grassy plains. The east-tilted surface has been formed by the deposition of sediment eroded from the uplifting Rocky Mountains beginning approximately 65 million years ago. Over time this region has been eroded by many east-flowing rivers that have exposed older rocks beneath, often exposing some of the nation's most spectacular dinosaur fossils.

Typical Landscape of the Southern Rocky Mountain Physiographic Province

Landforms consist of broad prairies and agricultural plains, badland-type formations, isolated buttes and mesas, and incised canyons.

The Southern Rocky Mountains province extends north and south through the center of Colorado, stretching into southern Wyoming and northern New Mexico. This province includes steep, rugged glaciated mountains, with high-elevation plateaus and intermontane depressions. Glacial activity and resulting meltwaters have shaped much of the ecoregion into high rugged mountains, plateaus, alpine cirques, glacial moraines, and broad valleys. Elevations range from approximately 3,500 feet to over 14,000 feet. Colorado contains the highest summits in the entire Rocky Mountain system, with 54 mountains exceeding 14,000 feet and 300 peaks over 13,000 feet. Notable topographic features include hogbacks, mesas, and rocky outcrops where the high mountains meet the plains on the Front Range.

Alpine tundra covers the highest elevations, below which Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir are dominant. As elevations decrease, alternating stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir appear, with integrated patches of aspen. Low areas and valley bottoms are often covered in pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and grassland.



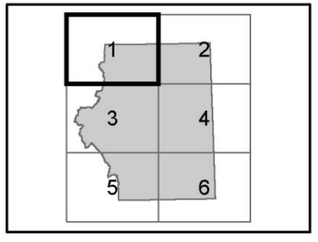


Figure 1a. Inventory Area, Segment 1

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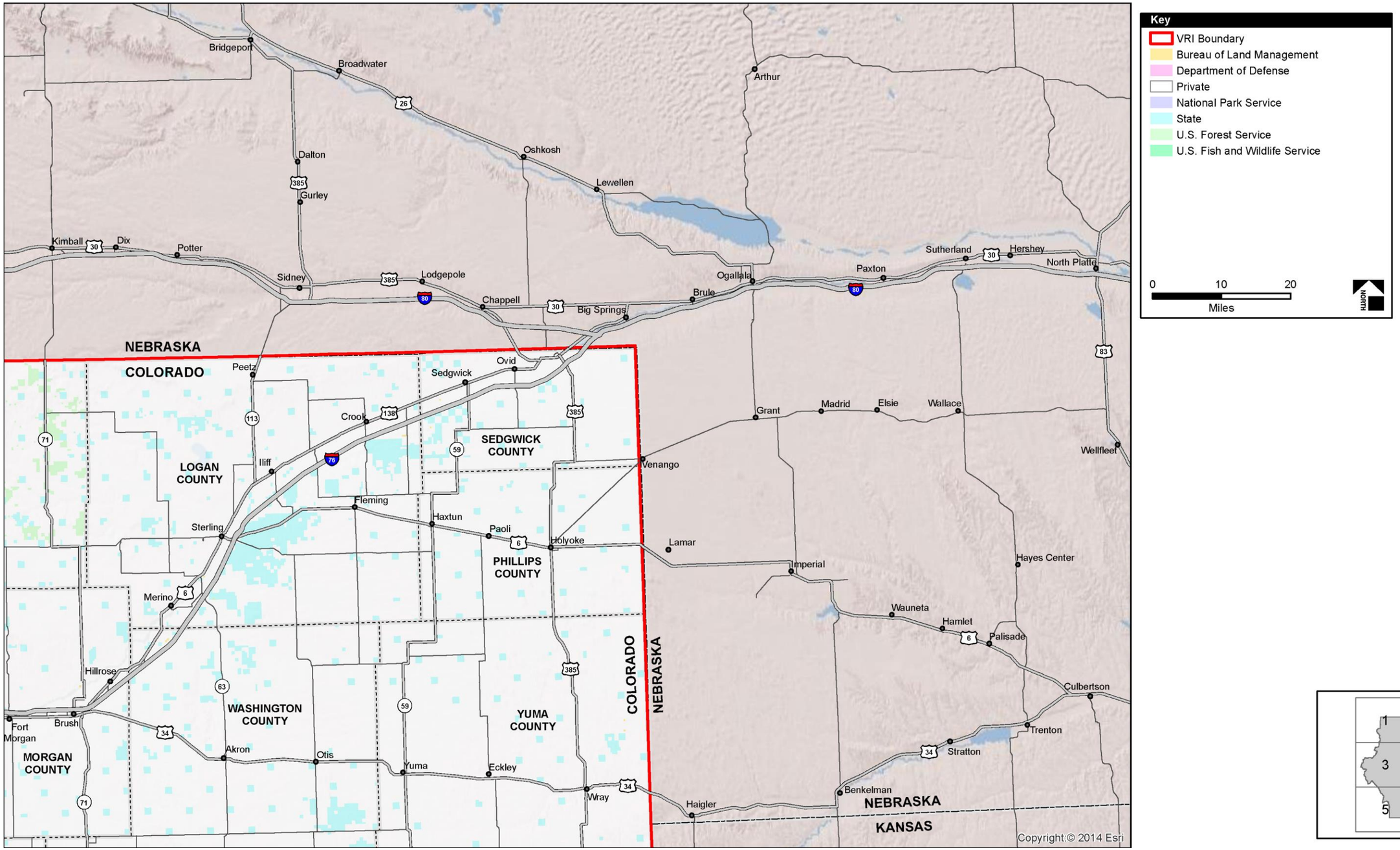

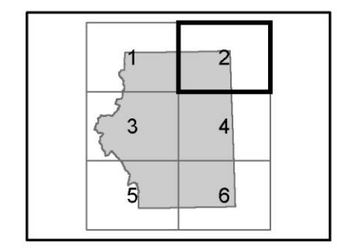

Figure 1b. Inventory Area, Segment 2

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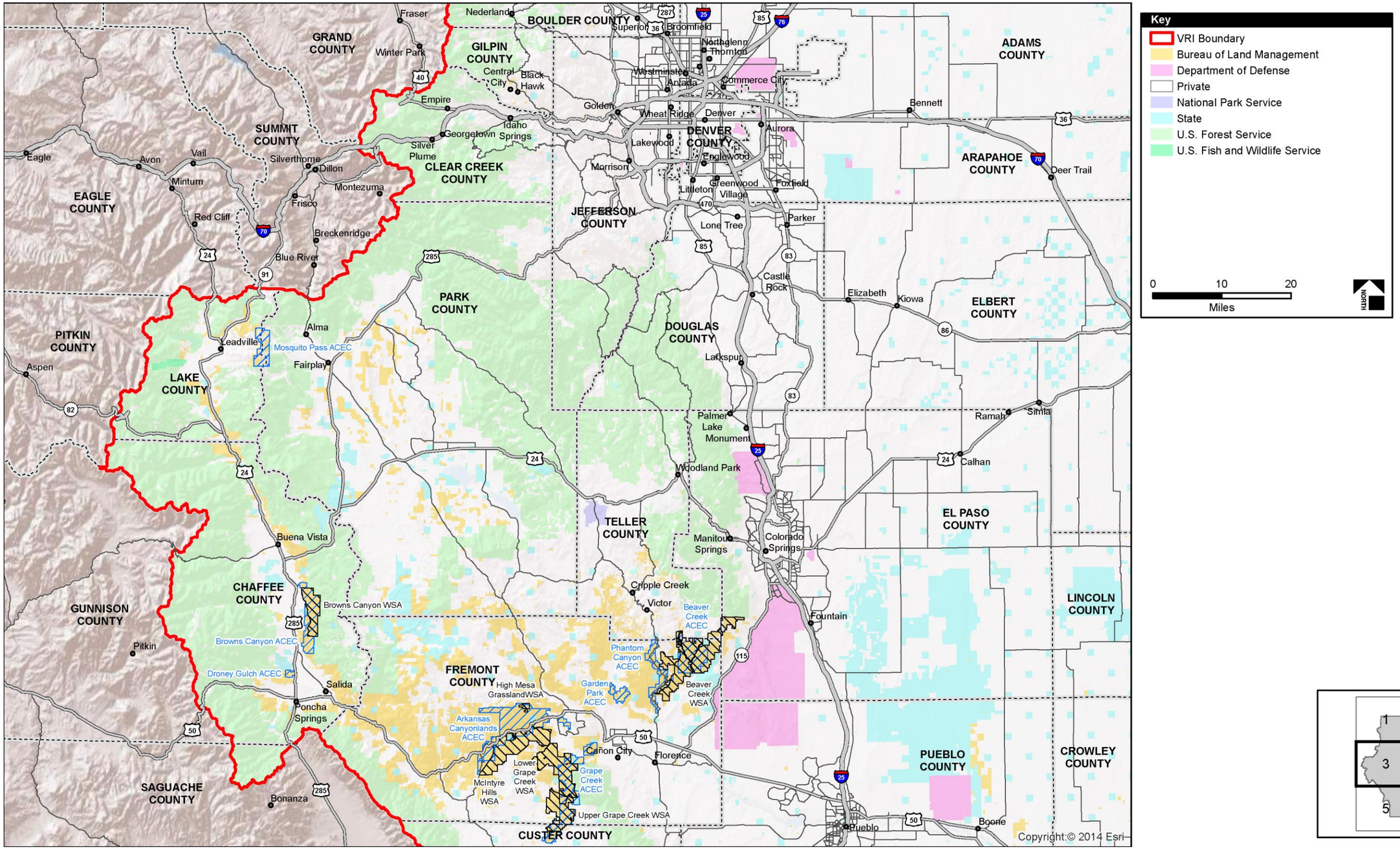

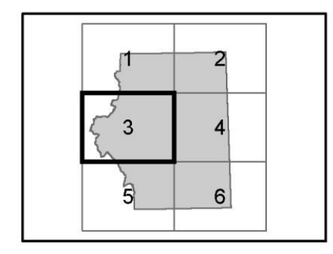

Figure 1c. Inventory Area, Segment 3

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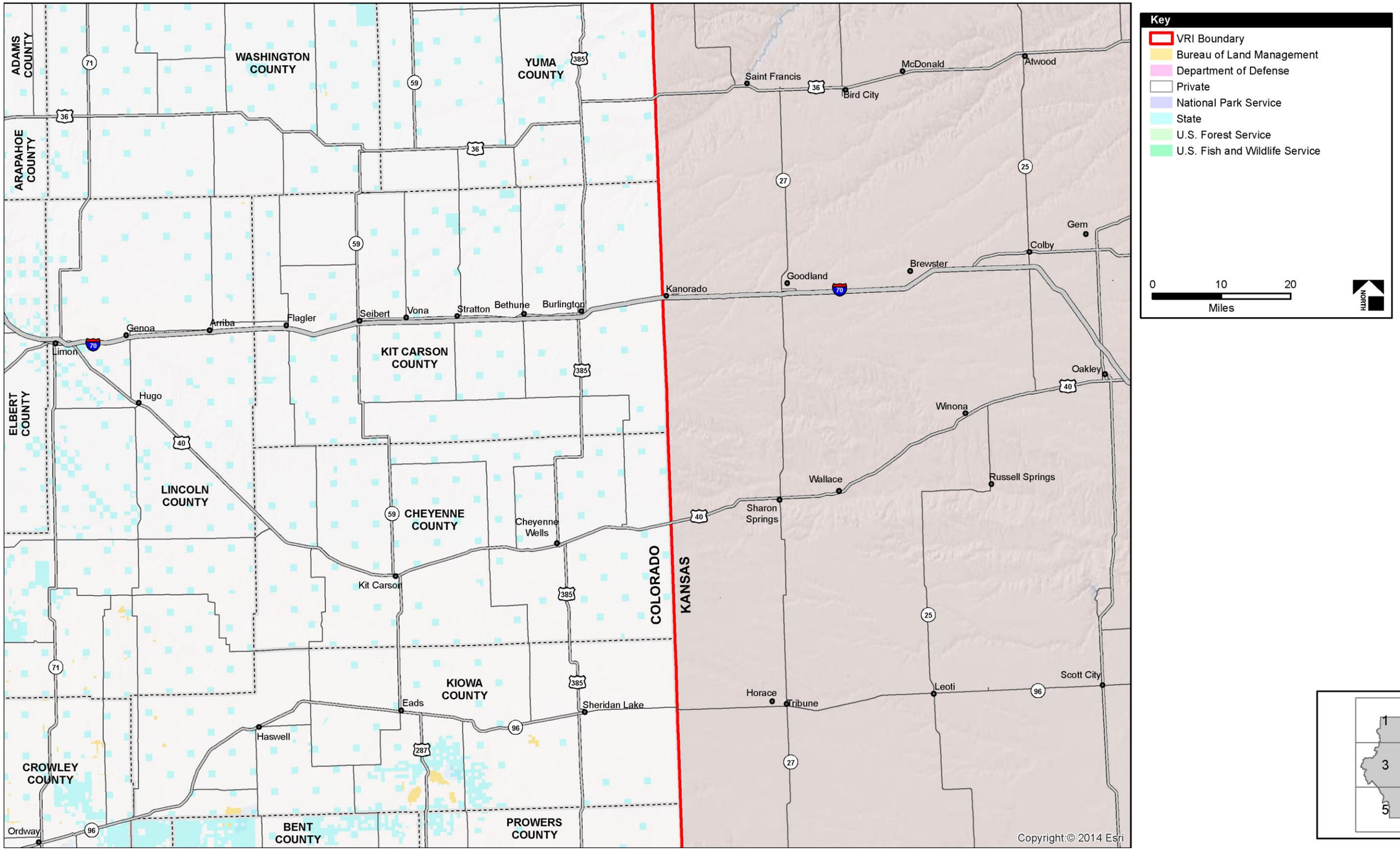

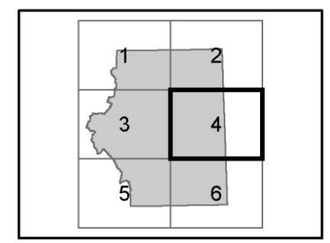

Figure 1d. Inventory Area, Segment 4

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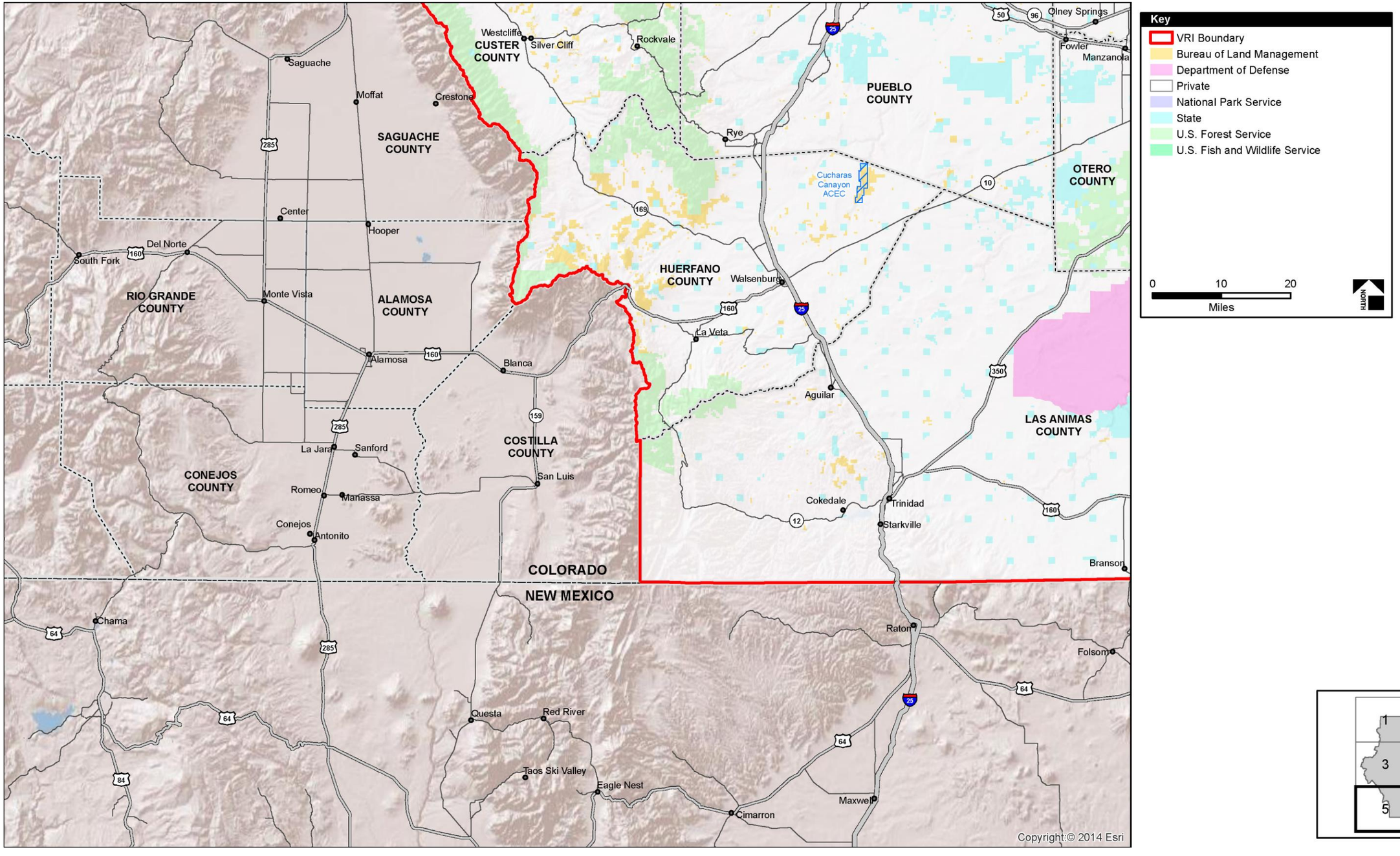

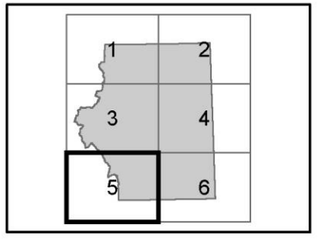

Figure 1e. Inventory Area, Segment 5

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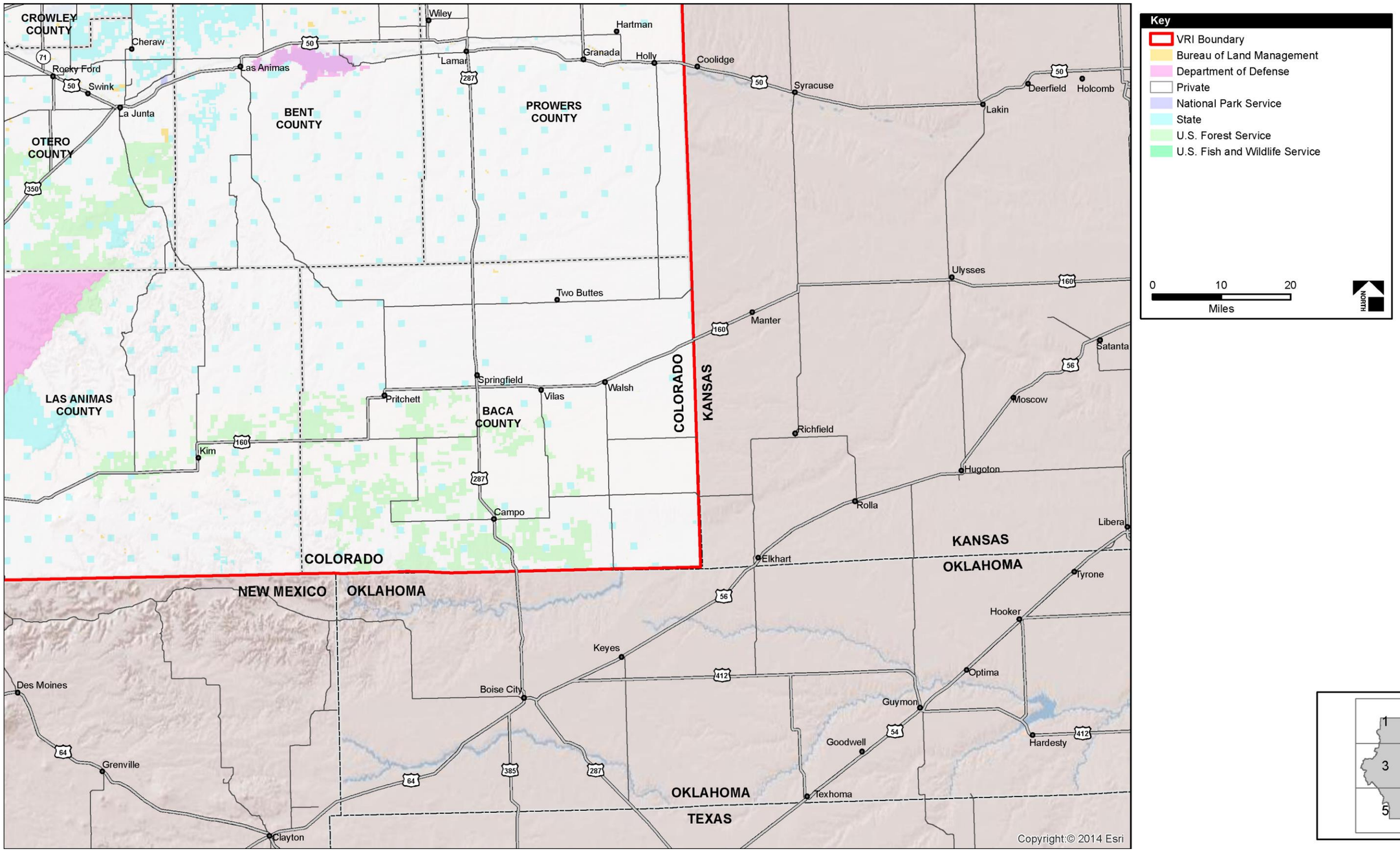

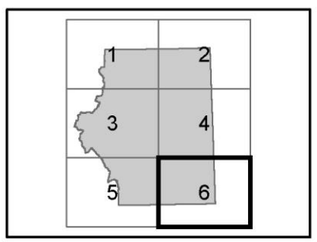

Figure 1f. Inventory Area, Segment 6

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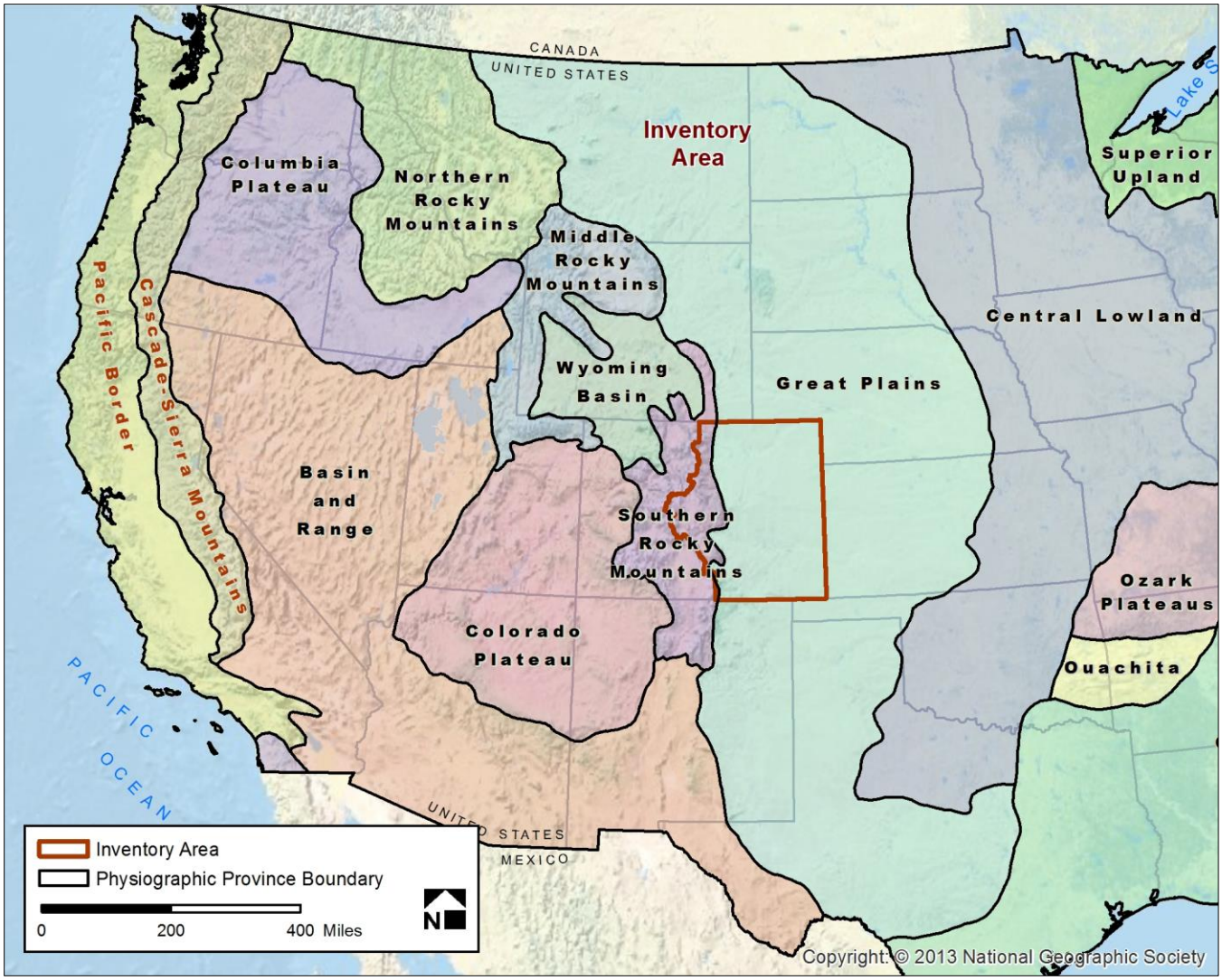

Figure 2. Physiographic Provinces Map

1.1.1 Administrative Boundaries

There are several types of administrative boundaries within the inventory area, which generally reflect land ownership and management (Figures 1a-1f). As mentioned in Section 1.1, BLM surface-managed lands compose approximately 2 percent of the overall land within the inventory area (not including BLM split estate, which underlies other surface management and include an additional 10 percent of the overall land within the inventory area). Privately owned lands compose approximately 80 percent and are dispersed throughout the entire inventory area. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) manages approximately 10 percent of land within the inventory area, and the State of Colorado, approximately 6 percent; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Department of Defense, and local municipalities manage smaller percentages of land in the inventory area. Lands administered by the USFS have been excluded from further VRI calculations in this document.

1.1.2 Settlement and Land Use Patterns

Diverse and extensive land resources strongly influenced land use and settlement patterns in northeastern Colorado. The first inhabitants of this area arrived approximately 15,000 years ago. These inhabitants hunted buffalo and gathered edible plants throughout areas near present-day Fort Collins and Greely. By the 1500s, the Native American Pawnee and Jicarilla Apache tribes inhabited this area and expanded throughout northeastern Colorado. Euro-Americans traveled through the area on expeditions as early as the 1700s. Though the prominent mountains of the Rockies originally attracted settlers, it was the ability to farm that sustained many of them. Settlement extended along the main waterways running east from the mountains due to the fertile land provided by broad floodplains of the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers and their tributaries (Denver Tourist and Visitor Information Center 2014). Settlers also practiced ranching and dryland farming throughout the plains. Over time, these agricultural practices became more intensive, and elaborate water conveyance and reservoir systems were developed (Mehls 1984). Today, most of the wide historic floodplains are in irrigated agricultural production, with dryland farming and ranching in highlands above floodplains and in more removed locations.

The Front Range mountain peaks and valleys offered a variety of resources that attracted settlers to the high country. Farming and livestock grazing extended to the natural meadows within the mountain valleys. However, it was the mineral resources that primarily attracted settlers to the high country in the 1800s. The discovery of gold and silver drew travelers to Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Boulder Counties hoping to “strike it rich,” while the mining of uranium, tungsten, iron, and lead attracted settlers to other areas within the high country. The coal, limestone, and gypsum industries influenced population growth along the foothills of these mountains. The higher elevations also attracted hunters and trappers due to the number and variety of game, including deer, beaver, and bighorn sheep (Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau 2014, History.com 2014).

Though the largest population centers in the inventory area originated out of agriculture and mining interests, they have since become more metropolitan, supporting the retail, manufacturing, and social and entertainment services. Colorado’s 10 largest communities continue to be concentrated along the

Front Range at the intersection of the Southern Rocky Mountains and Great Plains provinces. An estimated 4.5 million people currently reside along the Front Range corridor with nearly 3 million people in the Denver metropolitan region alone. Additional communities include the cities of Fort Collins (population 143,986), Colorado Springs (population 416,427), and Pueblo (population 106,595), according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Smaller cities and towns dot the eastern plains, surrounded by agricultural uses. As population growth continues, so too do rural residential uses beyond traditional city and town boundaries.

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2.0 Visual Resource Management System

The BLM has a responsibility to manage the quality of the public lands' visual environment and to reduce the visual impact of development activities on surface-managed lands. BLM is also responsible for disclosure of potential visual impacts with regard to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for their split estate responsibilities. The BLM's responsibilities for scenic values and the management of the visual environment are established in the following federal legislation:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires the BLM to manage scenic values with consideration equal to that given to other resources. This law also requires the BLM to prepare an inventory of the public land visual values and to maintain that inventory on a continuing basis.

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 establishes that it is the federal government's responsibility to "assure for all Americans safe, healthy, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings," and to include consideration of visual resources in environmental assessments, in land use planning decisions, and in the implementation of resource projects.

BLM accomplishes its statutory responsibilities through its Visual Resource Management (VRM) program. The VRM program involves inventorying scenic values to create a baseline understanding of the existing condition, establishing management objectives for allowable levels of modification to the visual environment through the resource management planning (RMP) process, and evaluating proposed activities to determine whether they conform to the management objectives. BLM policy and guidance for the VRM program is largely found in the 8400 series manuals and handbooks (BLM 1984). The VRM program's three parts are briefly described below.

2.1 Visual Resource Inventory—Baseline Condition

VRIs provide nationally consistent data sets that describe the existing condition and status of public land scenic values. The inventory approach is described in BLM Manual H-8410-1 (1986a). All BLM-administered lands, both surface and split-estate, and adjoining landscapes are inventoried. Exceptions to this are adjoining lands administered by other federal agencies in which the BLM is not responsible for the NEPA analysis and/or the other agency has a scenery management system in place, such as the USFS. Split-estate lands are those owned by states, counties, or private individuals but underlain with federally managed subsurface mineral estate. The BLM inventories these lands to fulfill NEPA directives to analyze federal actions on the human environment, including but not limited to rights-of-way, mineral lease sales, and Applications for Permits to Drill. VRIs provide information about existing scenic values in the human environment for NEPA analyses.

The VRI identifies and records information based on a scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and delineation of distance zones:

- *Scenic Quality*—an evaluation of the visual quality of the landscape
- *Sensitivity Levels*—an analysis to ascertain the general sentiment about where visual change to the public lands would be more or less accepted by visually sensitive publics
- *Distance Zones*—an assessment of how visually exposed the public lands are to the general public

On the basis of the three inventory factors *(scenic quality*, *visual sensitivity*, *distance zone)*, all BLM-administered lands are placed into one of four visual inventory classes (Class I, II, III, or IV):

- VRI Class I areas are assigned through existing management direction rather than through inventory. BLM policy requires that VRI Class I be assigned to areas where a federally binding management decision has been made to preserve or maintain a natural landscape. This includes areas such as wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, "wild" sections of wild and scenic rivers, and other congressionally and administratively designated areas. VRI Class I represents areas where, during the RMP process, VRM class decisions have already been made. Nonetheless, areas assigned VRI Class I still need to be inventoried to identify scenic values that exist and to identify their underlying VRI classification absent the automatic VRI Class I assignment afforded to them by policy. The "as inventoried" VRI class for all areas should be shown in the VRI class section appendix of each inventory report.
- VRI Classes II–IV are assigned through inventory. Based on observation and analysis, every square foot of BLM-managed lands is given a score for the three inventory factors. Those scores are then combined using the VRI Class Matrix from BLM H-8410-1. VRI Classes II–IV represent the relative value of the visual resource, with Class II areas having the highest scenic value and Class IV having lesser scenic value.

The inventory classes help to summarize the three inventory factors to ease the consideration of visual resource values during the RMP process. In effect, the VRI classes may be used as a basis for future management of the visual resources and for establishing balanced management of visual resources across the RMP planning area.

2.2 Visual Resource Management/Resource Management Plan—Managing Scenery

During the land use planning process, the VRM program helps to establish management objectives that describe allowable levels of visual modification to the land. Each class permits a level of noticeability by the public (the "casual observer"). VRM classes are established through the RMP process and that process is described in BLM H-1601-1, Appendix C, Section I (2005). VRM classes are subject to NEPA impact analysis and public comment. However, once a Record of Decision is signed for an RMP,

the VRM class decisions are fixed and mandated to be followed, as with any other resource allocation decision.

During the planning process, VRI classes are to be used as input information. They do not establish management direction. An update to the VRI does not affect established VRM classes in an active RMP. The decision maker has discretion to decide the degree to which VRM classes will follow VRI classes. The local decision maker is responsible for balancing resources and priorities. For instance, a tract of land could be inventoried as a VRI Class IV but could include considerable cultural values (such as visible section of the Oregon Trail) or biological values (such as sage-grouse nesting area). In such a case, the area could be assigned as VRM Class II to be compatible with the other resources and management activity considerations. Alternatively, a tract of land could be inventoried as a VRI Class II but could include scarce commodities. With due consideration of the multiple resources, a VRM Class III could be assigned to this area as a compatible balance for the varying resources.

The following are VRM class descriptions from BLM H-8410-1:

- **VRM Class I**—The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- **VRM Class II**—The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **VRM Class III**—The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- **VRM Class IV**—The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repetition of the basic elements.

2.3 Visual Resource Contrast Rating—Visual Assessment Plan Conformance

The Visual Contrast Rating (VCR) system, which is part of the VRM program, analyzes how a proposed activity is expected to alter the physical features and elements of the existing visual environment. The system is described in BLM H-8431 (1986b). The VCR system pulls from the other two parts of the VRM program, the VRI and RMP VRM class determinations.

The essence of the VCR system is to systematically understand the degree of change in order to contribute necessary data to assess conformance with the VRM class or classes established in the RMP. The systematic method identifies how a proposed activity or project will alter features of a landscape, such as land/terrain, water, vegetation, or built structures, in terms of their elements of form, line, color, and texture. The more these features become unlike those in the surrounding area due to changes caused by an activity or a project, the greater the visual contrast introduced.

Visual contrast is evaluated and rated from critical locations called key observation points (KOPs). KOPs are selected where public exposure is expected to be high, where public scenic values are of concern, or from locations in need of further study to fully understand the visual implications of a proposal. From each KOP, the degree to which the proposed activity or project will capture public (“casual observer” or “stakeholder”) attention is to be assessed. The evaluation is based on the consideration of the 10 human and environmental factors listed in the BLM H-8431.

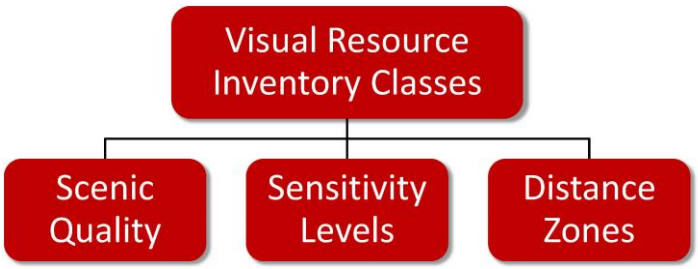
The results of the VCR system are used to determine conformance to VRM classes set in the RMP. The results also highlight tangible opportunities to reduce visual contrast by isolating the physical condition that is causing visual attention to be drawn to a proposed project. The VCR system is therefore a powerful tool to identify design solutions that may turn a nonconforming proposal into a conforming one. The tool eases the practitioner’s job to identify elements of a design that could be improved upon to reduce visual impacts and to promote best management practices for quality built environments on public lands (BLM 2010).

3.0 Visual Resource Inventory

3.1 Overview

This inventory of visual resources followed the BLM's VRI process and was based on the following three components—each of which is explained in further detail within its respective section of the document:

- **A scenic quality evaluation** to rate the visual appeal of the inventory area based on vegetation, landform, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. Scenic quality is rated as A, B, or C.
- **A sensitivity level analysis** to assess public concern of the inventory area's scenic quality and the public's sensitivity to potential changes in the visual setting. Evaluation is based on types of users, amount of use, public interest (local, regional, national, international), adjacent land uses, and presence of special areas. Sensitivity level is rated as high, moderate, or low.
- **A delineation of distance zones** to indicate the relative visibility of the inventory area's landscape from primary travel routes or observation points within the foreground-middleground zone (less than 3 to 5 miles away), background zone (to a distance of 15 miles away), and seldom-seen zone (more than 15 miles away or hidden from view in any zone).



As originally developed, the inventory process relied on the manual overlay of mapping layers and preparation of forms to document the data collected and used in the identification of the inventory classes. To increase the availability of inventory data for planning and project use and to make the information consistent and shareable across the agency, the BLM has developed geodata standards for storing the information collected and prepared in VRIs. This inventory follows the National VRI Data Standard and associated VRI Implementation Guide (geodatabase) updated as of August 18, 2010.

A specific progression of inventory efforts for this particular VRI is provided in the Process Record (Appendix G).

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4.0 Inventory Factor 1: Scenic Quality

4.1 Overview

The initial step in evaluating scenic quality is to divide the landscape into units that have generally similar characteristics based on the key factors, especially landform, vegetation, development, and sometimes water. These units are called scenic quality rating units (SQRUs). Each unit is subsequently described in terms of its landscape character elements of form, line, color, and texture and evaluated for seven key factors. The scenic quality factors are scored on a scale of 1 to 5—with the exceptions of the cultural modifications factor, which is scored on a scale of -4 to 2, and the scarcity factor, which is scored on a scale of 1 to 5+. The following information provides a more detailed discussion of the inventory process, the landscape character elements, and the scoring and evaluation criteria for the key scenic quality factors.

4.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2013, the inventory team took part in a scenic quality rating workshop that included an overview of scenic quality evaluation, delineation of draft SQRUs, and determination of approximate travel routes and inventory observation points (IOPs). The overview of BLM's scenic quality evaluation process included a review of the guidelines described in BLM H-8410-1. Following the overview, the inventory team delineated preliminary SQRUs on field maps, determined preliminary IOPs, and planned primary travel routes from which to access IOPs.

The field maps used during the workshop were developed using geographic information system (GIS) data provided by the BLM Colorado Royal Gorge Field Office and supplementary data from open sources. The inventory team worked collaboratively in the workshop to delineate the draft SQRUs based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the visual appearance of the landscape. The draft SQRU delineations divided the planning area into units with similar visual characteristics—based primarily on physiographic features; cultural modifications; and similar visual patterns, textures, colors, and variety.

Once the draft SQRUs were delineated, the inventory team planned the locations of preliminary IOPs using the field maps and BLM Surface Management Status topographic maps. Preliminary IOPs were determined using a variety of factors, including the general number of users visiting the area, accessibility, and logistical viewpoint locations. The preliminary IOPs were marked on the field maps to represent general locations from which the SQRUs would be inventoried.

The scenic quality field inventory was scheduled to be conducted in December 2013 shortly after the VRI workshop but was postponed due to weather-related concerns. The field inventory was rescheduled and conducted in May 2014. During fieldwork efforts, the team inventoried each of the SQRUs, traveling primarily on the routes designated in the travel planning process. Because field verification is required to determine the optimal viewing locations for IOPs, exact IOP locations for each SQRU were determined by the team in the field. The inventory team recorded views from the IOPs with

a GPS-enabled digital camera, which recorded geographical locations (latitude and longitude) for each photo. At the inventory team's discretion, additional photo observation points (POPs) were recorded throughout each SQRU to more fully characterize additional and/or unique elements that added to or detracted from the unit's scenic quality. Additional data was also recorded at each IOP/POP to provide the data required for the BLM's VRI geodatabase. A photo log from the field inventory is provided in Appendix D.

During the field inventory, the team completed modified BLM Scenic Quality Field Inventory (SQFI) rating forms (Form 8400-1, BLM H-8410-1) for each SQRU (see the two-page modified form in Figures 3a and 3b), which involved a three-step evaluation process.

In the first step of evaluating each SQRU, landscape character was defined in terms of form, line, color, and texture, as described below and as exemplified in Illustrations 4, 5, 6, and 7 in BLM H-8410-1:

- **Form**—The mass or shape of an object, or of objects that appear unified.
- **Line**—The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence. Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.
- **Color**—The property of reflecting light of a particular intensity and wavelength (or mixture of wavelengths) to which the eye is sensitive. It is the major visual property of surfaces.
- **Texture**—The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of a scene.

The second step included identification of general comments regarding the character, land use, or other aspects of the SQRU in the narrative section of the SQFI form. All notes were then summarized for use in the geodatabase.

In the final step, scores in increments of 0.5 were recorded for each of the seven scenic quality factors of the landscape within the SQRUs. The scores were based on the scales described in the Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart (Figure 4). As required by BLM Manual 8400, each of the factors was ranked on a comparative basis with similar features within the physiographic province. As previously noted, the inventory area falls within the Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountain physiographic provinces (see Figure 2). The scores for each factor were then totaled, and a scenic quality classification of A, B, or C was determined using the numeric scale on the SQFI form. Due to the use of 0.5-unit scoring increments, scores of 11.5 were rounded up to a scenic quality classification of "B," and scores of 18.5 were rounded up to a scenic quality classification of "A."

While in the field, the inventory team also reviewed the draft SQRU delineations and further refined the boundaries on the field maps. Each unit was given a name that generally reflected landscape features referred to by local residents. Several of the preliminary units were split or combined, resulting in a total

of 64 SQRUs (Figures 5a–5f). Unit boundaries were subsequently digitized and refined using digital aerial topography in order to more accurately portray the divisions in landscape character. As a result of the refining process, the numbers 009 and 010 were not used as SQRU numbers.

The number of IOPs per SQRU varied according to the size of each unit and/or the relative complexity of each unit. Final IOPs were determined by selecting the locations that were most representative of the unit as a whole (Figures 6a–6f). Due to limited access and/or limited views, the IOPs for some units were identified outside the SQRU boundaries—providing a view into the unit from an adjacent unit. The forms in Appendix A include maps that clarify which IOPs belong to each SQRU (this information is also provided in the geodatabase for this VRI). The information collected on the SQFI forms, along with IOP photos for each unit, is also provided in Appendix A. Appendix E includes scenic quality calibration photos for each physiographic province, which provide a general sense of the variety and associated scoring within the field office.

Form 8400-1
(September 1985
(Format modified October 11, 2010)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date:	
District/ Field Office:	
Resource Area:	
SQRU #:	IOP #:

1. EVALUATORS *(names)*

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM/WATER	b. VEGETATION	C. STRUCTURE (*General*)
FORM			
LINE			
COLOR			
TEXTURE			

3. NARRATIVE

Figure 3a. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 1)

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)**			SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	Rating	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform			___ A= 19 or more
b. Vegetation			___ B= 12-18
c. Water			___ C= 11 or less
d. Color			
e. Adjacent Scenery			
f. Scarcity			
g. Cultural Modification			
TOTALS			

Comments:

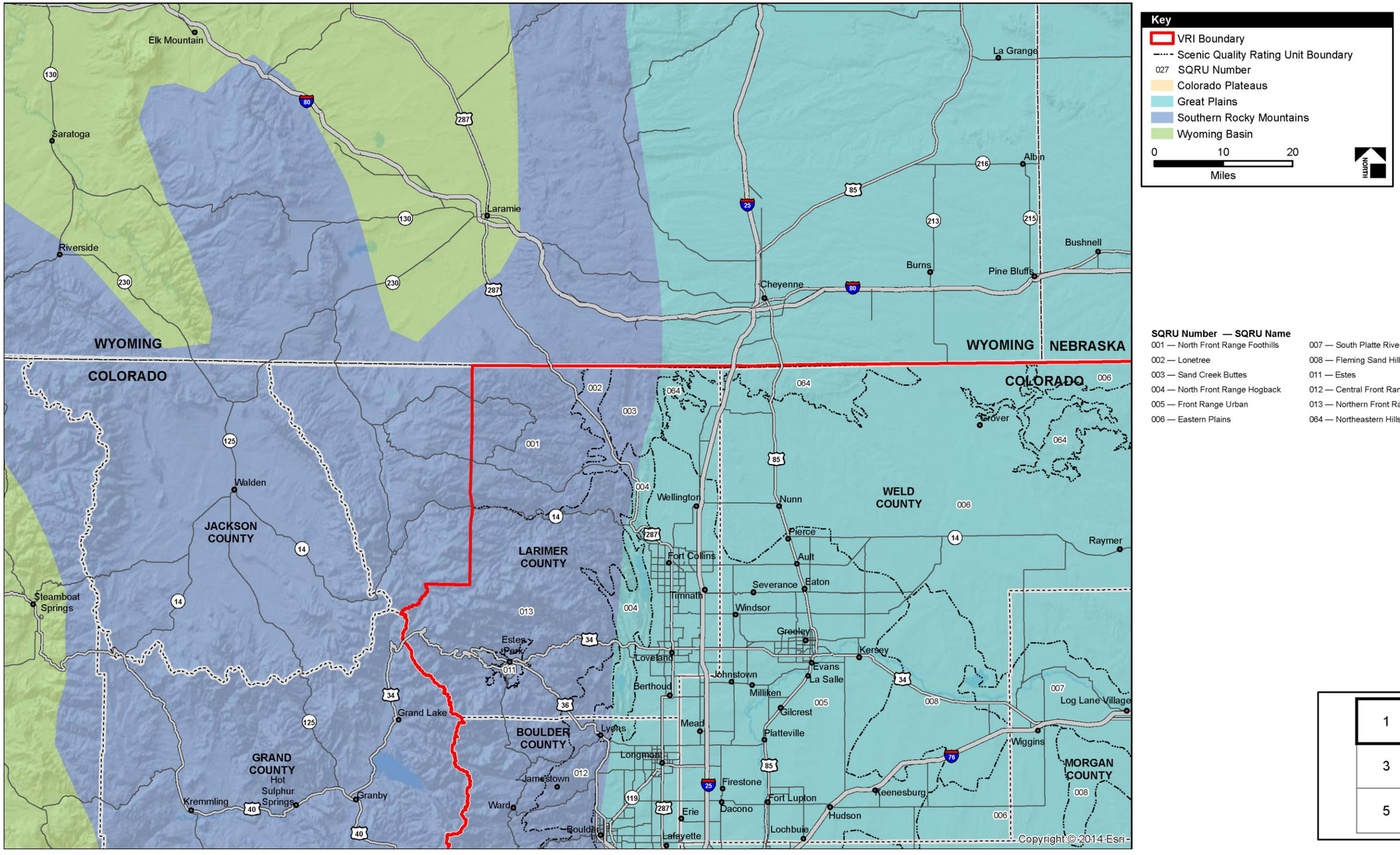
Figure 3b. Modified SQRU Rating Form (Page 2)

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops, or severe variation or highly eroded formations including major dune systems or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins, or interesting erosional patterns of variety in size and shape of landforms, or detail features which are interesting though not dominant. 3	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms, or few or no interesting landscape features. 1
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. 5	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3	Absent, or present, but not noticeable. 0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color, or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest, generally mute tones. 1
Influence of Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. 3	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0
Scarcity	One of a kind or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. *5+	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. 3	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. 1
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. 2	Modifications add little or no variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. 0	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. -4

Figure Source: Adapted from BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 2 (1986a).

* A rating of greater than 5 can be given but must be supported by written justification.

Figure 4. Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart



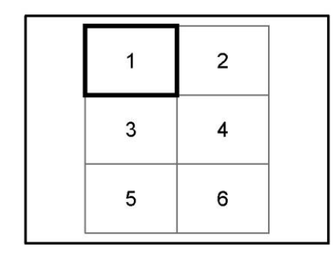


Figure 5a. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 1

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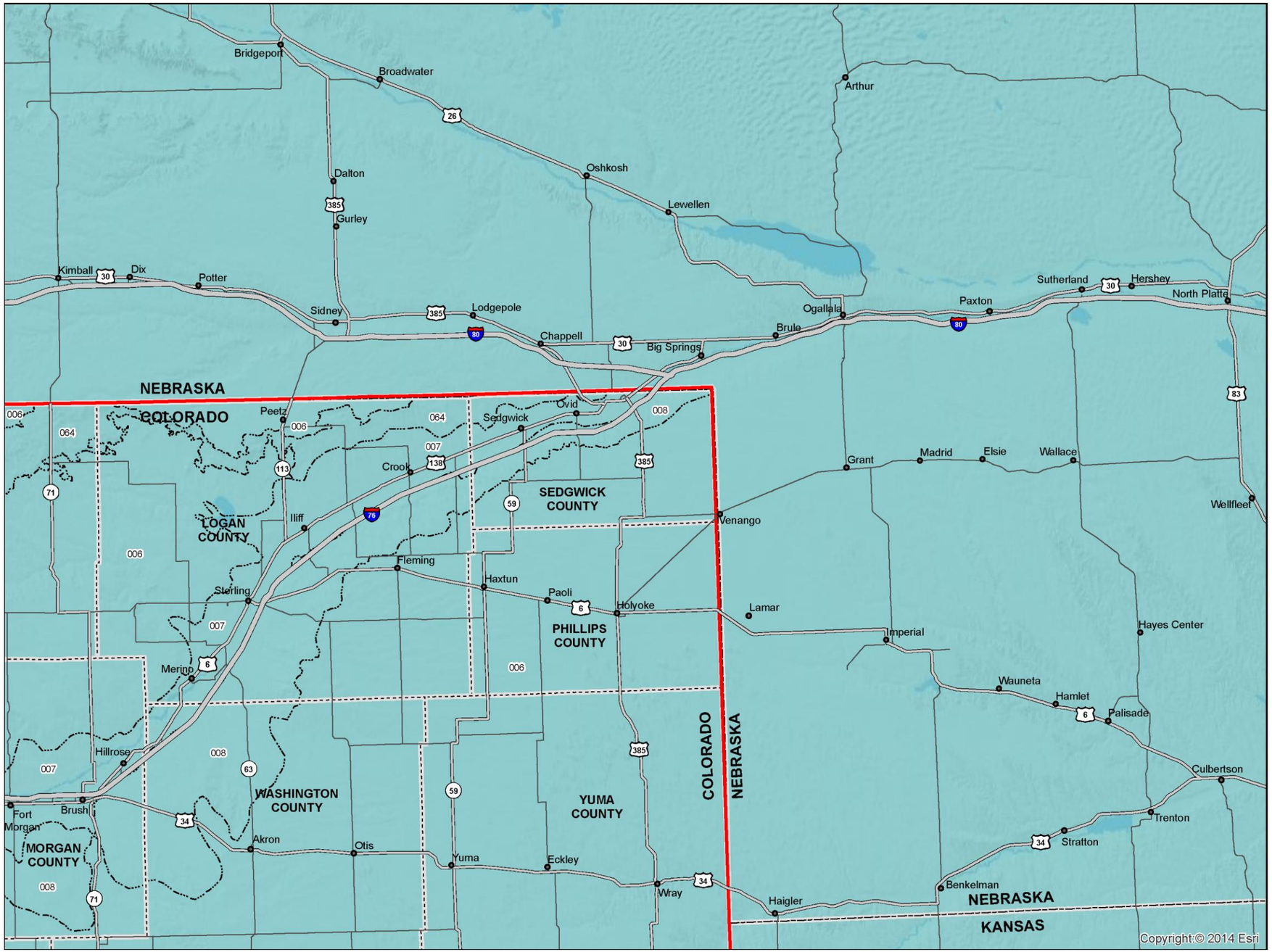

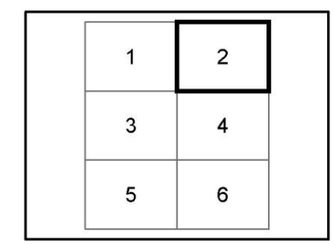

Figure 5b. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 2

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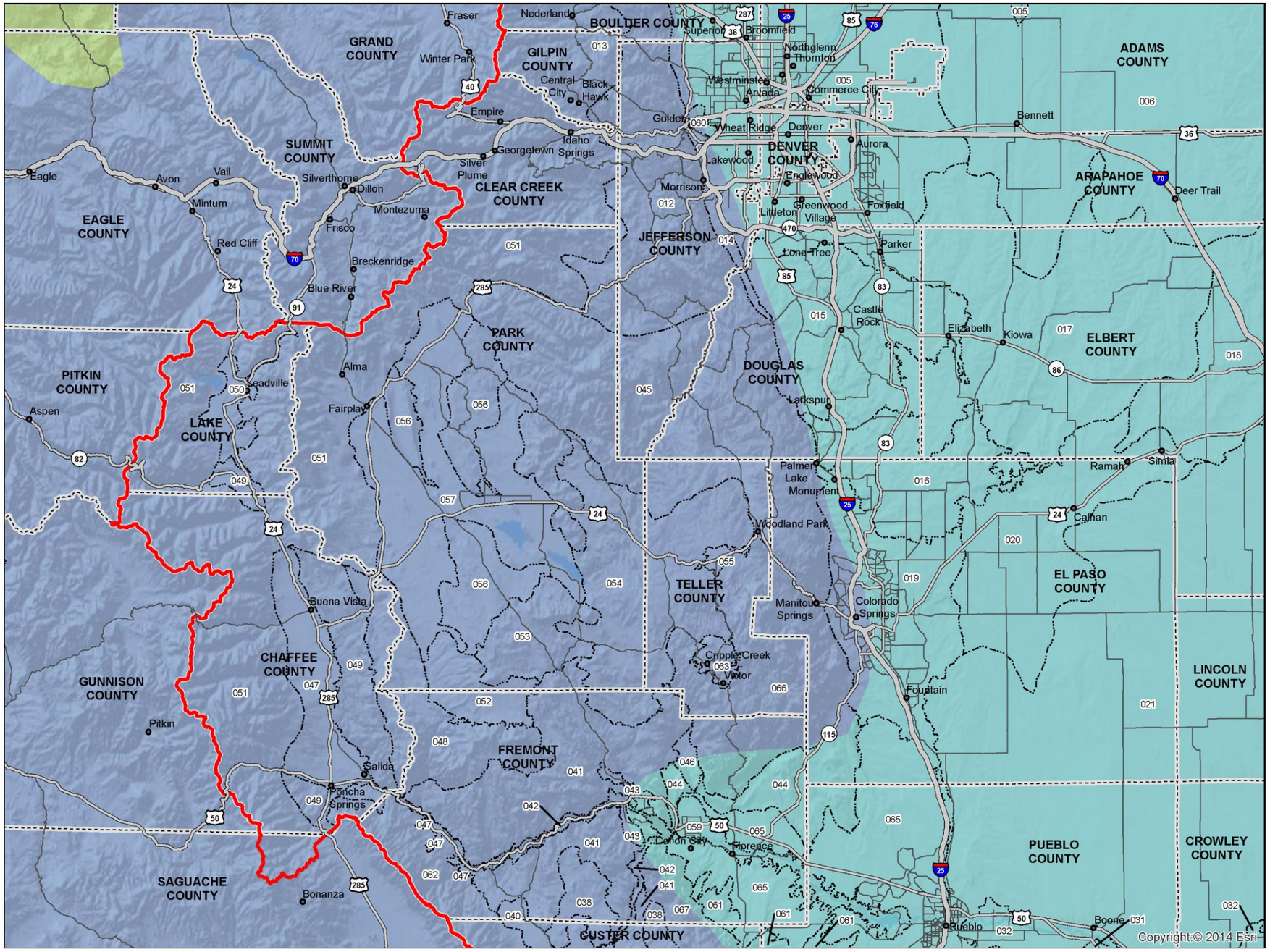

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

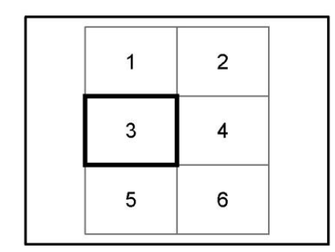

Figure 5c. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 3

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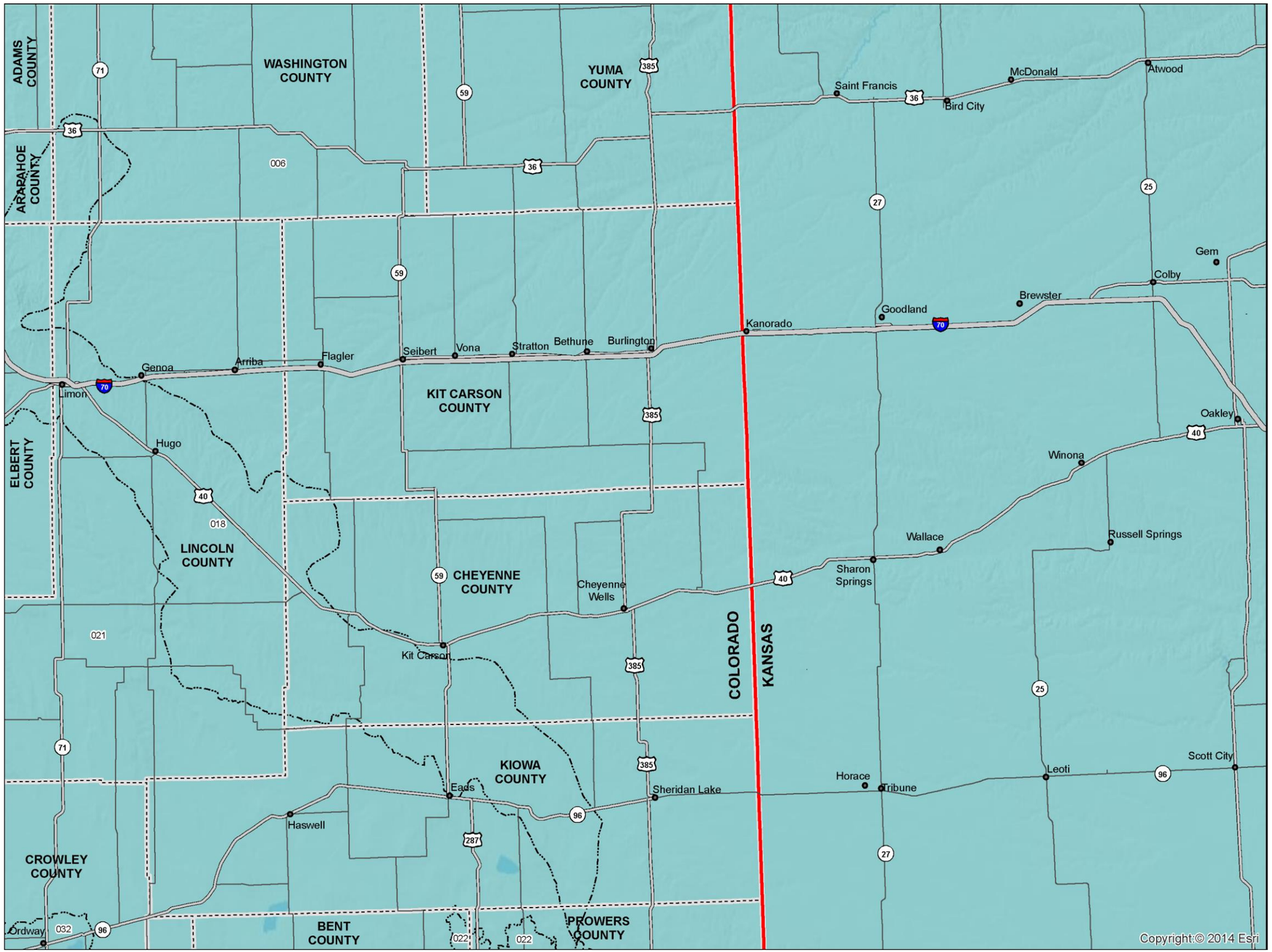

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- Colorado Plateaus
- Great Plains
- Southern Rocky Mountains
- Wyoming Basin

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

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Figure 5d. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 4

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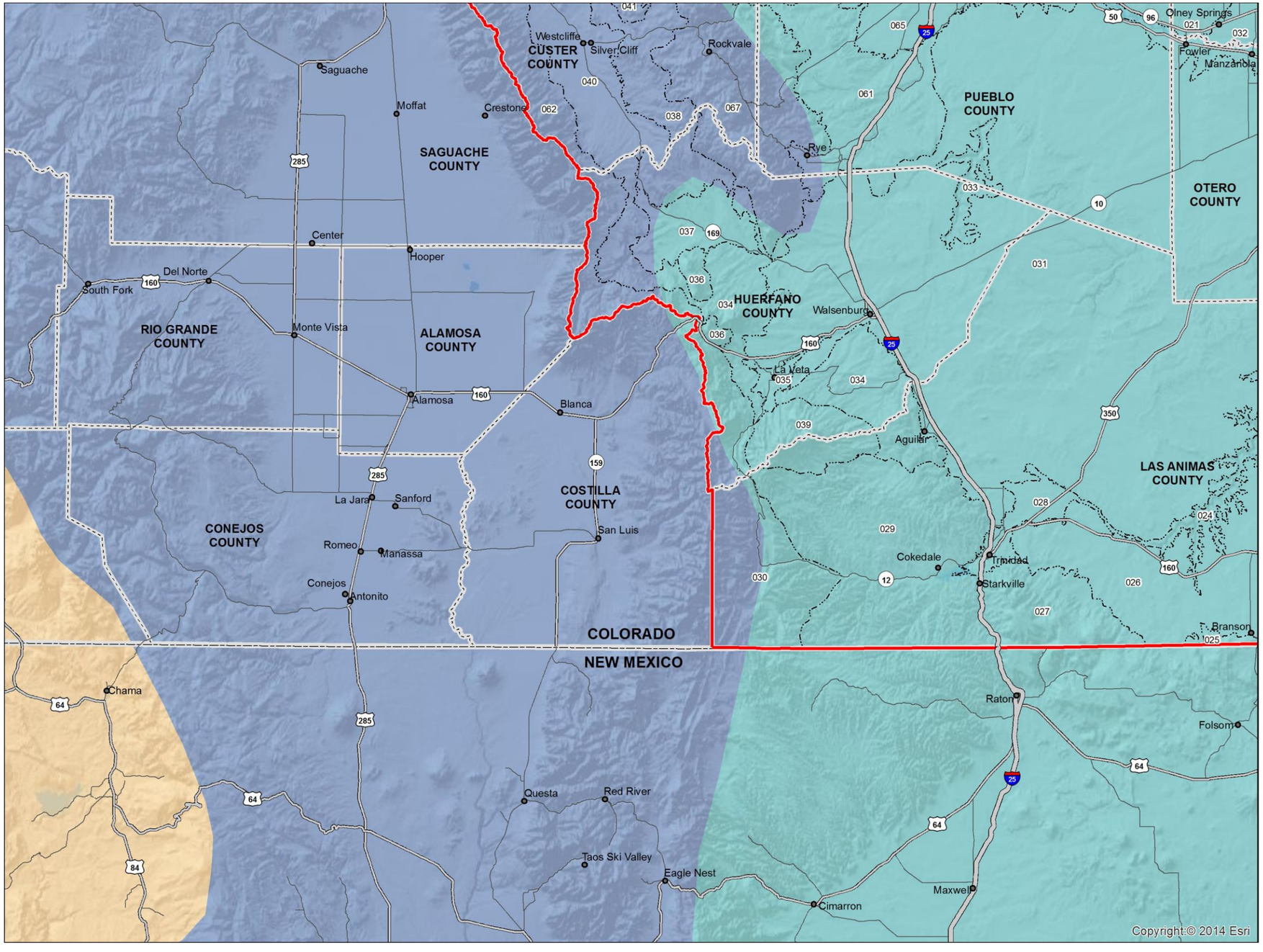

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- Colorado Plateaus
- Great Plains
- Southern Rocky Mountains
- Wyoming Basin

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

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5	6

Figure 5e. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 5

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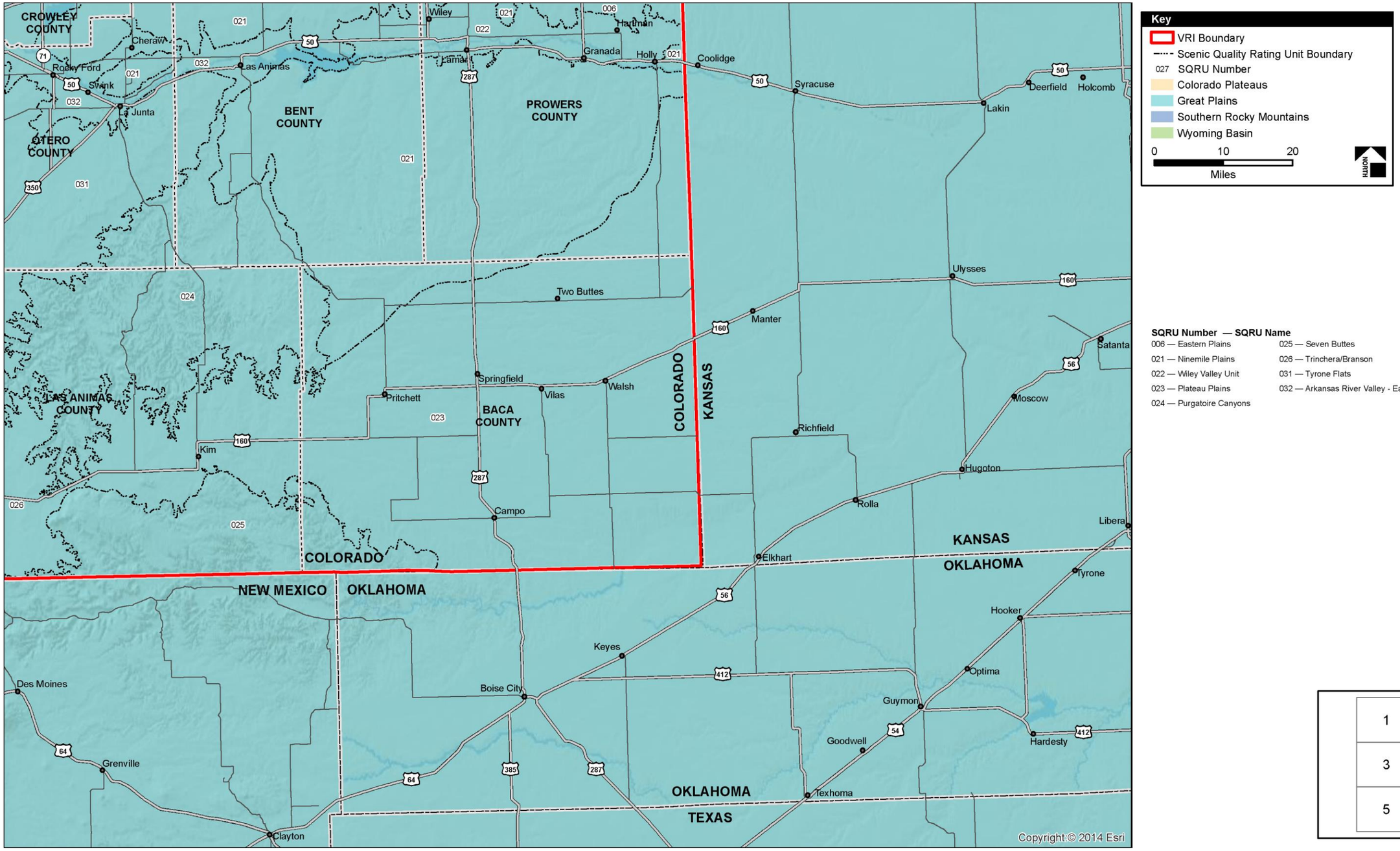

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Figure 5f. Scenic Quality Rating Units, Segment 6

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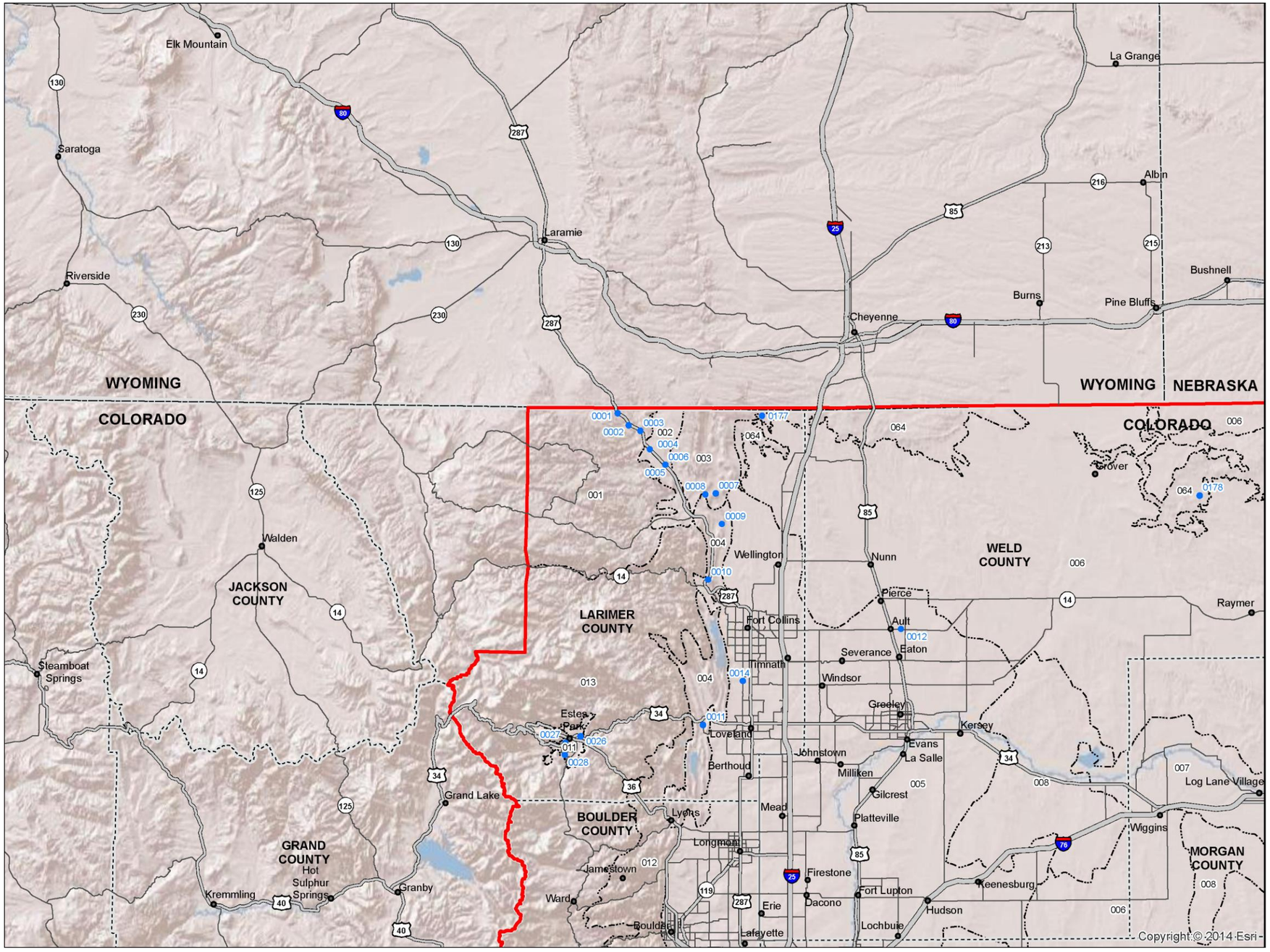

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- VRI Observation Points
- 0034 VRI Observation Point Number

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills	007 — South Platte River Valley
002 — Lonetree	008 — Fleming Sand Hills
003 — Sand Creek Buttes	011 — Estes
004 — North Front Range Hogback	012 — Central Front Range Foothills
005 — Front Range Urban	013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
006 — Eastern Plains	064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

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Figure 6a. IOP Location Map, Segment 1

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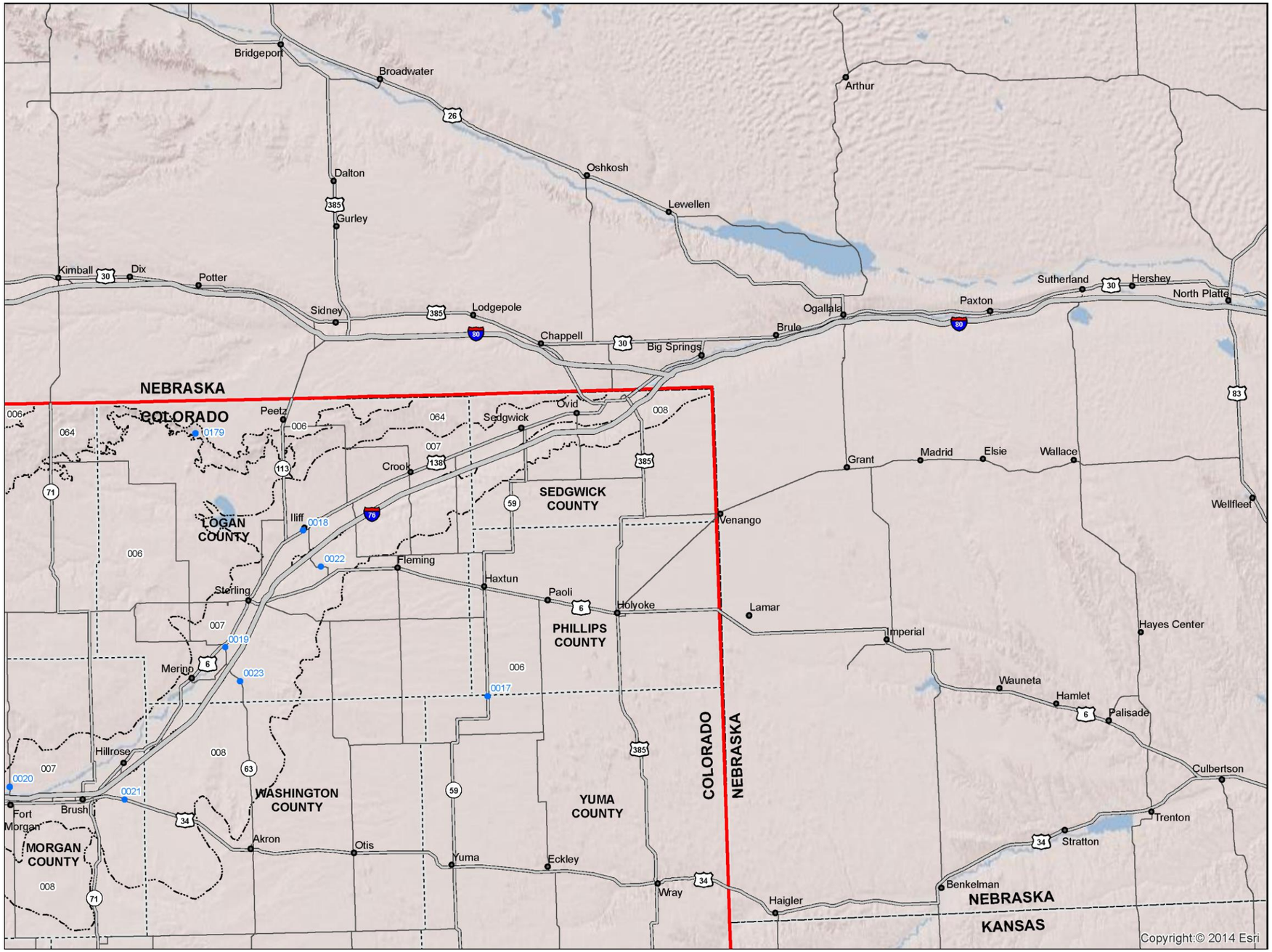

Figure 6b. IOP Location Map, Segment 2

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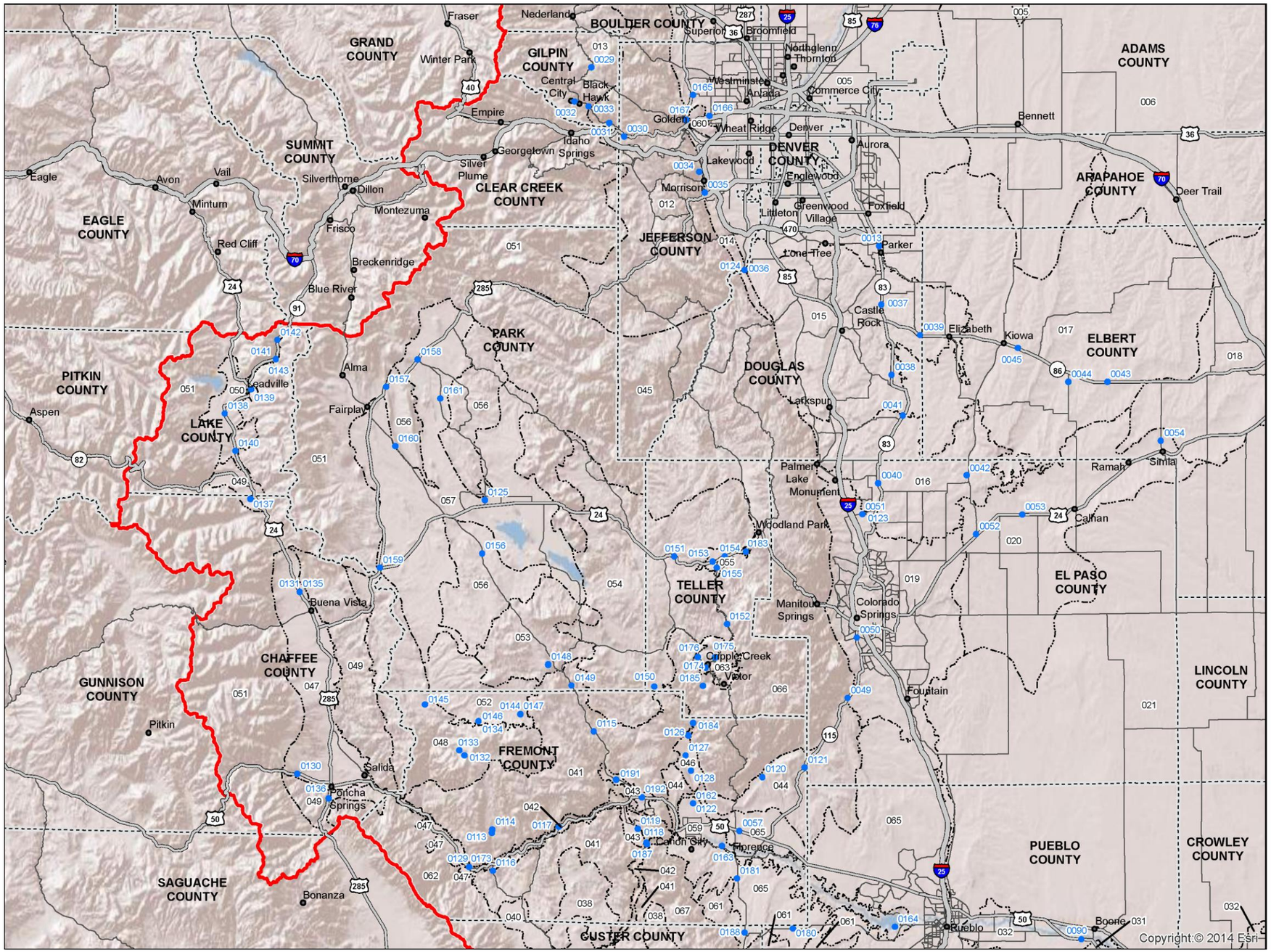

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- 0034 VRI Observation Points
- 0034 VRI Observation Point Number

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

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Figure 6c. IOP Location Map, Segment 3

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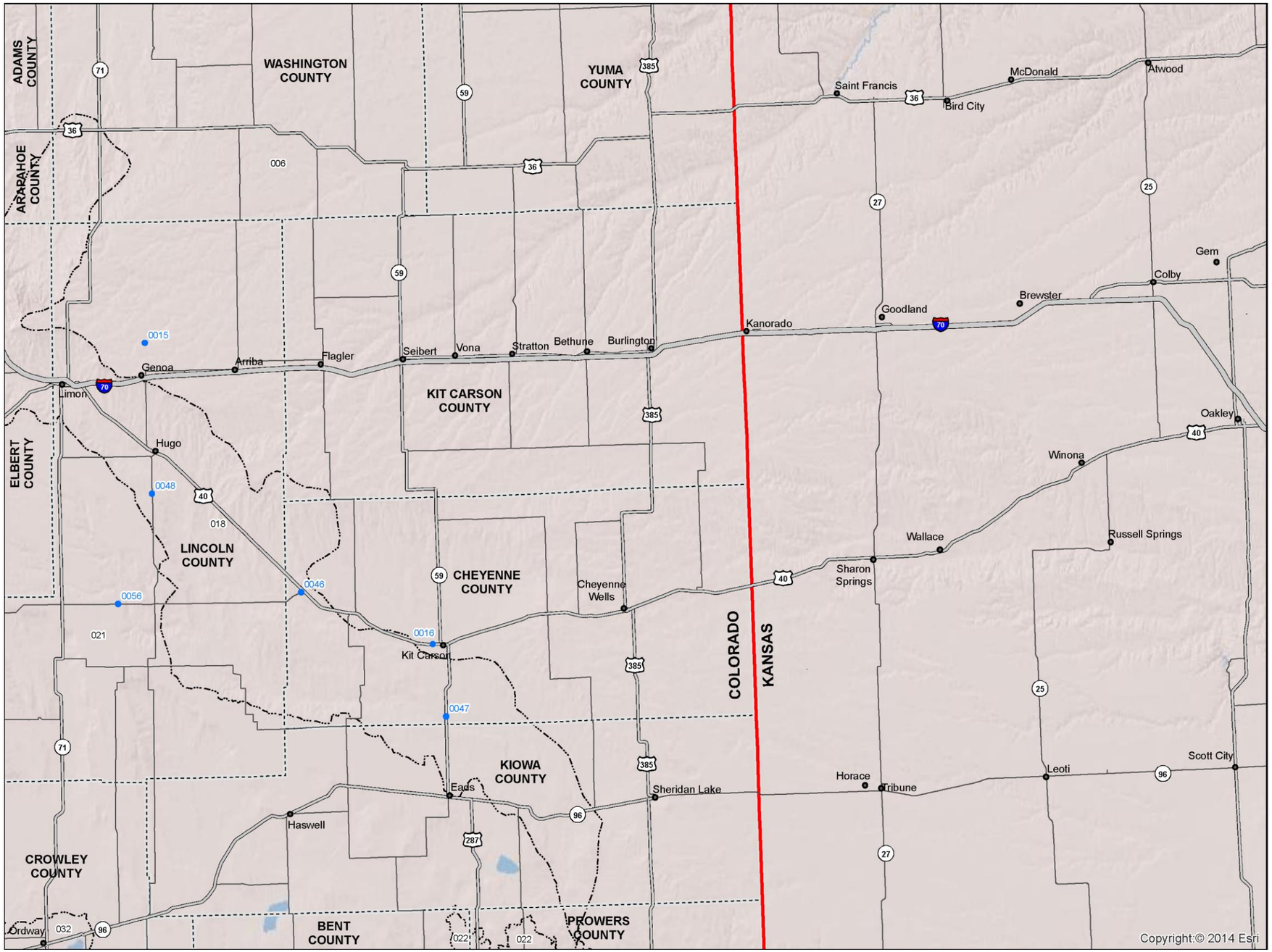

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- VRI Observation Points
- 0034 VRI Observation Point Number

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

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Figure 6d. IOP Location Map, Segment 4

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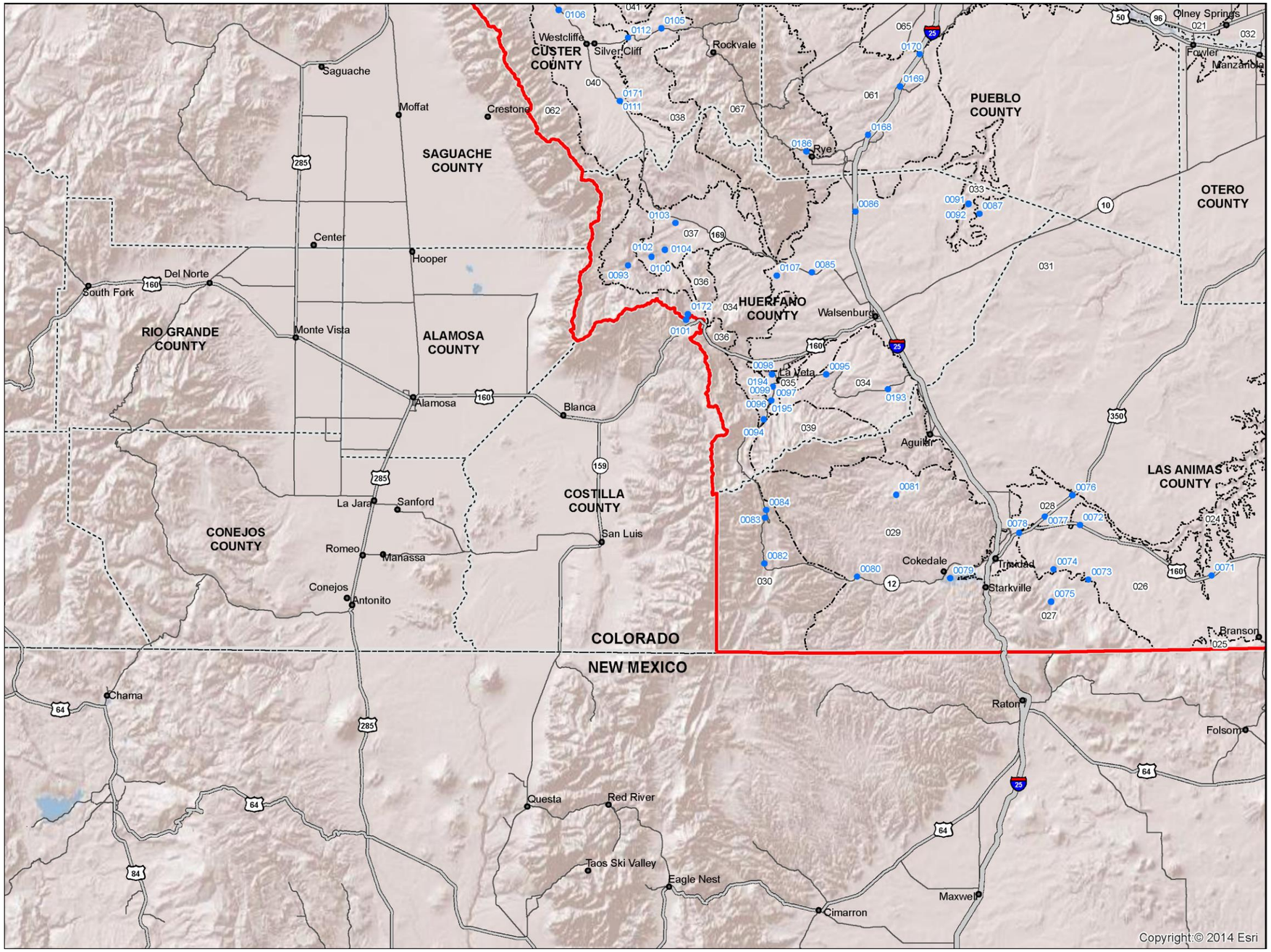

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number
- VRI Observation Points
- 0034 VRI Observation Point Number

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

1	2
3	4
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Figure 6e. IOP Location Map, Segment 5

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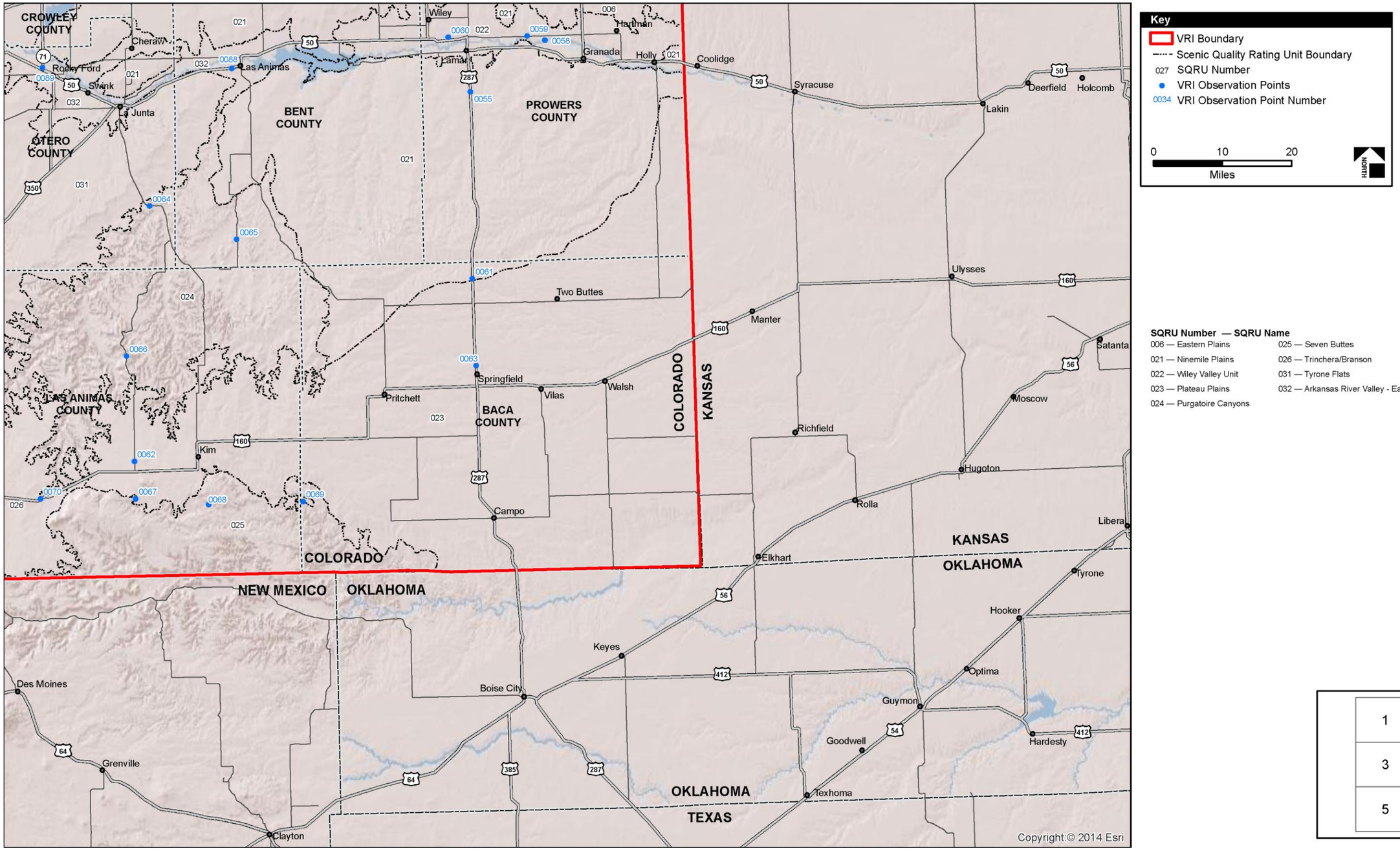

1	2
3	4
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Figure 6f. IOP Location Map, Segment 6

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4.3 Scenic Quality Summary

Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 summarize the overall key factor analysis and the final SQRU ratings and classifications within the inventory area as a whole, regardless of physiographic province. Table 1 presents the total acres by scenic quality rating, and Table 2 presents the key factor ratings, the total SQRU score, and the overall scenic quality ratings (A, B, or C) by unit number. Maps depicting the key factor ratings and the overall SQRU ratings for the inventory area are presented in Figures 7a–7f to Figures 14a–14f.

4.3.1 Key Factor Analysis

Landform

Ratings for landform were generally higher in the elevated mountains and where vertical changes were more noticeable in the inventory area. These areas are scattered throughout the entire project boundary area. Landforms within the inventory area range from rolling and undulating hills to steep vertical cliffs and mountains, such as the Front Range, Wet Mountains, and the Sangre De Cristo Range. The average SQFI score for the inventory area was approximately 2.8.

Prominent Landform of the Upper Arkansas River Valley (viewed from SORU #042)

In general, the areas with vertical mountain formations have more dramatic topographical relief. The higher degree of vertical relief in these areas introduces interesting shapes and forms into the landscape, which typically become dominating elements. A score of 5.0, which was the highest rating, was recorded for four units—Mestas and Sheep Mountains Unit (#036), Spanish Peaks Unit (#039), Sangre De Cristo Range Unit (#062), and Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#066); each of these units included dramatic mountain formations.

Landform ratings were generally lower for the rolling plains within the inventory area—which stretch from the base of the Front Range to the northern, eastern and southern boundaries of the field office. These areas consist mostly of flat, slightly sloping to rolling terrain, with few interesting topographical features. An SQFI score of 1.0, which was the lowest rating, was recorded for four units—Lonetree Unit (#002), Eastern Plains Unit (#006), La Veta Unit (#035), and Westcliffe Unit (#040).

Vegetation

Vegetation types within the inventory area are diverse in appearance. Flat to rolling lowlands are generally covered by grasses and small scrub vegetation, with cropland and deciduous trees clustered along rivers and drainageways. Vegetative diversity generally increases in mountainous uplands, where shrubs and grasses give way to ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and limber pine and

aspens. The upland and riparian areas generally received higher scores due to the visual variety that the vegetative types provide.

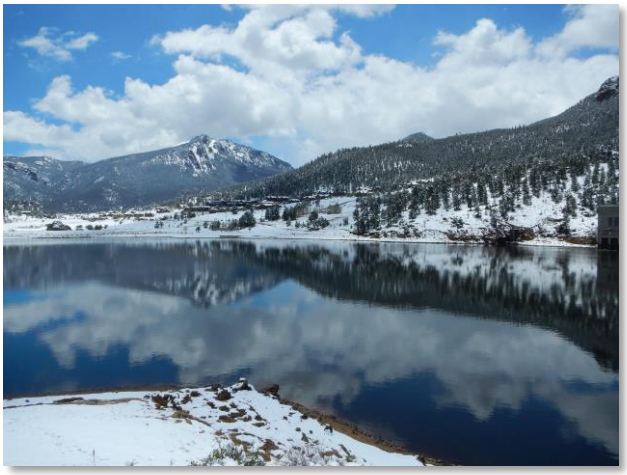
Since vegetative variety correlates closely with mountainous terrain and/or drainage corridors, ratings for vegetation generally parallel those of landform. Ratings for vegetation were generally higher in mountainous areas of the inventory area. The average SQFI rating for the inventory area was approximately 3.0.

In areas where vegetative variety is higher, the vegetative forms create interesting forms, textures, and patterns. This is particularly true in areas with vertical relief due to the increased contrast associated with scattered and clumped vegetation. A score of 5.0, which was the highest rating, was recorded for three units—Ute Hills Unit (#030) and Arkansas River Canyon Highlands Unit (#041) and Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#066) for its variety and combination of highland, riparian, and grass plant material found throughout the unit.

The flat to rolling lowlands generally received the lowest ratings since they often include vast stands of grasses and minimal varieties of vegetation. A score of 1.0 was the lowest rating, which was recorded for two units—Eastern Plains Unit (#006) and Table Mountains Unit (#060).

Water

Waterbodies within the physiographic provinces are numerous; they include but are not limited to the Arkansas River, Platte River, and various creeks and lakes. Many portions of the inventory area do not have noticeable waterbodies. Ratings for water were highest in areas associated with the Arkansas River. The average SQFI rating in the inventory area was approximately 1.5.



Marys Lake in Estes Park (SQRU #011)

Water was rated highest in the areas where the water is generally visible or flowing and sometimes a dominant factor in the landscape. A score of 5.0, which was the highest rating, was recorded for two units—Estes Park Unit (#011) and Lower Arkansas River Valley Unit (#059).

A total of 22 units received a score of 0.0 because no waterbodies were visible during the field inventory, nor are present or known to be present. Where water is present in a majority of the units, the significance to the unit varies according to location and source. Many areas, such as those with flat to rolling terrain, contain small amounts of water that are not generally visible. Intermittent creeks are the most common water features in these areas.

Color

Variety of Colors in the Purgatoire Canyons (SQRU #024)

Landform colors vary throughout the physiographic provinces, generally ranging from brown/beige to gray, white, and even green. In many areas, vegetation is dense and landform colors are not visible unless there is a unique formation. Vegetative color within the provinces varies throughout the year with seasonal changes. During the fall and winter, the colors of the vegetation are generally muted and contrast well with the colors of the evergreen vegetation and landforms in higher elevations and seasonal snow. Some seasonal early fall colors are visible where riparian corridors or deciduous vegetation is present. In spring and summer, the multiple dark to bright green tones of the vegetation create strong color contrasts with the landforms, and add a variety of color to the landscapes. The dark greens of the juniper, fir, and pine also add to the visual variety.

Ratings for color were generally highest in the higher-elevation portion of the inventory area. The vegetative patterns and colors create interesting contrasts with the surrounding landscape in these areas, and the rich color combinations are a dominant element in the landscape. A score of 4.5, which was the highest rating, was recorded for three units—Purgatoire Canyons Unit (#024), Sangre De Cristo Range Unit (#062), and Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#066).

Ratings varied from the open plains to the high mountainous vertical changes, with the average SQFI rating for the inventory area being approximately 2.7. The lower ratings for color generally occurred where lands are flat to rolling. Rock and soil colors are generally not visible in these areas, and many areas are uniformly covered with similarly colored vegetation. Variations in these areas are subtle, with generally muted tones. A score of 1.0, which was the lowest rating, was recorded for the Eastern Plains Unit (#006).

Influence of Adjacent Scenery

Higher ratings for adjacent scenery were generally recorded in areas where adjacent units included prominent landform changes. The average SQFI rating for adjacent scenery in the overall inventory area was approximately 3.0.

Ratings for adjacent scenery were generally higher for units that are near high vertical landforms and that therefore offer distant panoramic views of surrounding landforms. In these units, the forms, lines, and colors of the surrounding landscapes greatly enhance the scenic quality of the evaluated units. A score of 5.0, which was the highest rating, was recorded for five units—Estes Park Unit (#011),

Westcliffe Unit (#040), Coaldale/Howard Unit (#047), Leadville Unit (#050), and Arkansas Valley Unit (#065).

Lower ratings for adjacent scenery were generally recorded for units surrounded by vast, open, flat landscapes; units located within valleys and canyons where surrounding landscapes are not visible; and units that are scenic themselves and create the adjacent scenery for other units. In these cases, the surrounding scenery has little or no influence on the overall visual quality of the unit. A score of 0.0, which was the lowest rating, was recorded for six units—C South Platte River Valley Unit (#007), Fleming Sand Hills Unit (#008), Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys Unit (#018), Wiley Valley Unit (#022), Purgatoire Canyons Unit (#024), and the Arkansas River Valley - East Unit (#032).

Adjacent Scenery of Pike's Peak from State Highway 83 Plum Creek / Castle Rock Unit (SQRU #015)

Scarcity

Ratings for scarcity were highest where the inventory area exhibits varied landforms. The flat to rolling units contain landscapes more common to the Great Plains physiographic province and therefore generally received lower ratings. The average SQFI rating for the inventory area was 2.4.

Scarcity was generally higher for units with unique landforms, rock outcroppings, and large rivers. A score of 4.5 was recorded for the Purgatoire Canyons Unit (#024) due to the distinctive quality of its incised drainages and sloping landforms compared with the landscapes common to the Great Plains province.

Scarcity was generally lower for units with flat to slightly sloping landforms and somewhat monotype vegetation that are common features of the physiographic province. These areas were identified throughout the majority of the inventory area. A score of 1.0, which was the lowest rating, was recorded for 11 units.

Cultural Modifications

Ratings for cultural modifications were generally low throughout the entire inventory area. These ratings reflected the lack of cultural modifications in the primarily undeveloped uplands and cultural modifications that neither added nor detracted from the overall scenic quality. The average SQFI rating for the overall inventory area was approximately 0.0.

Units with higher ratings generally include built features that add favorably to the historical context of the region and/or fit within the context of the natural landscape setting. A score of 1.0, which was the highest rating, was recorded for the Le Veta Unit (#035).

A total of 48 units included a fairly even number of harmonic and discordant cultural modifications. These areas were given a score of 0.0 since the varying modifications offset one another or had no impact.

Negative scores were recorded for areas with discordant cultural modifications, such as highly visible and sometimes visually dominating infrastructure elements such as wind turbines or overhead transmission line towers. A score of -2.0, which was the lowest rating, was recorded for three units—North Front Range Hogback Unit (#004); Dinosaur Ridge Hogback Unit (#014); and Table Mountains Unit (#060), which each included discordant urban and suburban development.

Historic Schoolhouse Showing Visually Pleasing Cultural Modifications in Soda Springs/ Timber Mountain Unit (SQRU #044)

4.3.2 Scenic Quality Ratings

The scenic quality rating is the result of totaling the scores of the seven key factors on the SQFI form and assigning the rating based on points according to the following scale:

- Class A = score of 19 points or more
- Class B = score of 12 to 18 points
- Class C = score of 11 points or less

The analysis included the evaluation of the key factors for all 64 SQRUs. In numerous cases, increments of 0.5 were used to determine a more accurate score for a particular factor. As such, ratings falling between A and B (a score of 18.5) or B and C (a score of 11.5) were rounded up to the higher classification.

A total of 19 SQRUs received a Class A rating; these units account for approximately 2,994,907 acres, or 9.0 percent, of the inventoried area. The highest A rating, 25.0, was recorded for the Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#066). The scenic quality in these units scored high due primarily to the magnitude and diversity of their landforms. The variety of color and vegetation, influence from dominant water features, and general scarcity of the features within the landscapes also increased the scores. These units are located throughout the inventory area.

The majority of scores for the SQRUs in the overall inventory area were in the range of 11.5 to 18, which placed the unit ratings in Class B for overall scenic quality. Many of these units encompass rolling mountains or have variable topographic relief. Units with Class B ratings are disbursed throughout the inventory area. In total, 34 units have a Class B rating; these units account for approximately 8,111,422 acres, or 25.0 percent, of the areas inventoried. The highest B rating of 18.0 was recorded for two units—Dinosaur Ridge Hogback Unit (#024) and Lower Arkansas River Valley Unit (#005).

The remaining SQRUs received a Class C rating, with scores of 11 or less. These units generally included flat to slightly undulating landforms with indistinct visual patterns or elements. In total, 11 units have a Class C rating; these units account for approximately 21,070,538 acres, or 66 percent, of the inventoried areas within the overall inventory area. A score of 11.0, which was the highest C rating, was recorded for the Wiley Valley Unit (#022).

The SQRU “explanations” listed in Tables 1 and 2 are brief explanations derived directly from the geodatabase. The explanations are limited by character counts within the geodatabase and therefore do not consistently include detailed information regarding cultural modifications and special designations within the units. Detailed information for each SQRU is provided in Appendix A.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
066 Colorado Springs Area Front Range	5	5	3.5	4.5	3	4	0	**25**	**A**	This unit is composed of prominent mountains and steep, rugged canyons that hold a wide variety of vegetation and unique landforms. Cultural modifications are minimally present.
030 Ute Hills	4	5	3.5	4	3.5	4	0	**24**	**A**	Varied landscape with undulating landform features that includes a distinctive dike formation. Vegetation is varied as well consisting of evergreen, scrub oak, shrubs and grasses. Cultural modifications are minimal and dispursed throughout unit.
042 Upper Arkansas River Valley	4	4	4.5	4	3.5	3	0	**23**	**A**	This unit is dominated by the Arkansas River corridor, which includes rocky outcrops and steep valley walls, a variety of vegetation and contrasting colors. Development includes the towns of Cotopaxi, Texas Creek, and scattered recreation sites.
062 Sangre De Cristo Range	5	4.5	3.5	4.5	3	2.5	0	**23**	**A**	Distinctive mountain range unit that is prominent within the field office. Large, steep mountainswith numerous 14'ers. The unit has diverse vegetation and contains high mountain lakes and streams. Cultural modifications are minimal and do not detract.
049 Poncha Pass / Maysville	4	4	3	3.5	4.5	3.5	0	**22.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by steep, rocky hills and rolling foothills, which include riparian, pinyon/juniper, conifers, and grasses. Water exists in canyons and in the Twin Lakes Reservoir. Cultural modifications are minimal.
003 Sand Creek Buttes	4	4.5	4	3.5	2.5	3.5	0	**22**	**A**	Distictive butte formations with vibrant red tones troughout. Water bodies are visible and add to the visual quality. Vegetation is varied with numerous forms and types. Cultural modifications are scattered troughout and do not detract from landscape.
013 Northern Front Range Mountains	4.5	4.5	2	4	3.5	3.5	0	**22**	**A**	Tall, rounded mountains with predominently evergreen vegetation and short grasses. Cultural modifications include communities withties to early mining within the area.
051 Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges	4.5	4.5	2	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	**21.5**	**A**	This unit contains steep foothills and a flat valley floor, which narrows as unit continues north. Rock outcrops emerge out of dense coverage of conifers and aspen on slope faces, and valley floor contains riparian and sagebrush. Development is minimal.
067 Wet Mountains	4.5	4	3	4	3	3	0	**21.5**	**A**	Tall, rounded mountains with prominent rock outcroppings and cliffs. Tall evergreens and aspen dominate the vegetative cover, and cultural modifications are generally limited to dispersed ranches and abandoned mining and logging facilities.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
033 Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers	4	3.5	3	3	3	4	0	**20.5**	**A**	This unit contains the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers and surrounding canyon. The unit is mostly enclosed and winding with soft slopes and a rocky, horizontal band along the top of the canyon. Vegetation is scattered and random. Development is minimal.
011 Estes Park	3	3	5	3	5	1	0	**20**	**A**	Iconic landscape within the Colorado Rockies, includes the town of Estes Park. Landforms are large with distinctive rockoutcrops. Vegetation is dominated with evergreen and small shrubs. Cultural modifications exist, but are complimentary within area.
012 Central Front Range Foothills	4	4	3	2	3.5	3	0	**19.5**	**A**	Large linear unit that makes up the foothills from Denver to Longmont. Landforms are various and sloping with deep gorges and canyons. Vegetation consists primarily evergreen with shrubs and grasses. Cultural modifications do not add discordant features.
046 Garden Park	3.5	4	3	3.5	2.5	2.5	0.5	**19.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by an agricultural river valley and steep, colorful valley sidewalls. Red, brown, gray and beige rock provide contrast against the dark pinyon/junipers and bright riparian and agricultural vegetation.
004 North Front Range Hogback	4	3.5	4	3.5	2	4	-2	**19**	**A**	Distinctive sloping uplift formations that have exposed rock faces with a variety of color variations. Vegetations consists primarily of grasses and low shrubs with isolated riparian. Strip mines and residential development is present.
039 Spanish Peaks	5	3.5	1	3	3	3.5	0	**19**	**A**	Distinctive mountain formation south of La Veta. Vegetation consists of evergreens interspersed with aspen, riparian and low shrubs. High elevations consist of exposed rock faces and vegetation line at timberline. Minimal cultural modifications exist.
045 Hayman Area Mountains	4	3.5	3	3.5	2	3	0	**19**	**A**	Rounded mountains with prominent rock outcroppings and cliffs. Vegetation is highly varied, but dominated by dense evergreens, grassland parks, and revegetating burn areas. Unit is mostly undeveloped.
024 Purgatoire Canyons	4.5	4	1	4.5	0	4.5	0	**18.5**	**A**	This unit consists mainly of fingered drainages with flat to rolling valley bottoms and plateaus with moderate side slopes. Contrast in colors is strong between the vegetation and landform. This unit surrounds portions of the Comanche National Grasslands.
027 Fisher's Peak	3.5	3.5	2	3	2.5	4	0	**18.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by the dominant Fisher's Peak Mesa and neighboring Horseshoe Mesa. Pinyons and junipers are thick on the mesa slopes, gradually becoming less prominent as the elevation decreases. Cultural modifications are not dominant.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
036 Mestas and Sheep Mountains	5	3	0.5	3.5	3	3.5	0	**18.5**	**A**	Vegetation consists of evergreens interspersed with aspen, riparian and low shrubs. High elevations consist of exposed rock faces and vegetation line at timberline. Minimal cultural modifications exist.
014 Dinosaur Ridge Hogback	3.5	3.5	2.5	4	3.5	3	-2	**18**	**B**	Linear unit with long sloping uplifts that are buff to red in color. Vegetation consists of juiper, sage and short grasses with some riparian. Unit is heavily developed within suburban fringe of Denver which adds diverse and contrasting modifications
059 Lower Arkansas River Valley	2	3	5	3	3	2	0	**18**	**B**	Linear unit that includes Pueblo Reservoir and the eastern drainage of the Arkansas River with low rolling sloping hills and sinuous river bottom. Vegetation is varied to include pinion juniper, riparian and low shrubs. Cultural modifications are present.
005 Front Range Urban	2	4	3	2.5	4	2	0	**17.5**	**B**	Large expansive unit that consists of the Denver Metro Area as well as outlying areas. Landforms are varied with modification visible. Vegetation is varied with a wide mix of types and forms. Cultural modifications are present thoughout.
025 Seven Buttes	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	0.5	3.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized mainly by its variation in landforms, including flat plateaus, narrow river corridors and rocky drainages. Colors seen in the soil, vegetation and occasional water provide visual contrast. Development exists but is indistinct.
048 Stony Face / Waugh	3.5	4.5	0	3	4	2.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by prominent rolling hills with occasional rocky outcrops and cliff faces. The vegetation - including aspen, ponderosa, grasses, pinyon/juniper and sagebrush - provides color contrast. Development includes mostly random ranches.
054 Florissant Area Uplands	4	4	0.5	3	3.5	2.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is a landscape of rolling hills, conical buttes and rock outcrops with grasses, pinyon/juniper, conifers and some aspen and riparian vegetation. Development is random and clustered. Unit includes the town of Florissant and Mueller State Park.
041 Arkansas River Canyon Highlands	3	5	1	3	3.5	1.5	0	**17**	**B**	This unit is characterized by a wide variety of landforms and vegetation. Steep rolling hills, rock outcrops and cliff faces meet flat parks at higher elevations. Grasses, conifers, and riparian vegetation surround scattered, clustered ranch developments.
001 North Front Range Foothills	3.5	3	2	3	3.5	1	0	**16**	**B**	Distinctive , rolling foothills wth exposed rock outcrops and limited variety of vegeation. Cultural modifications are scattered are consist primarily of residences and small ranches.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
057 South Park	1.5	2	3	2	4.5	3	0	**16**	**B**	This unit is characterized by gently rolling hills with a flat valley bottom and an occasional curving river. Grasses dominate the unit; however, conifers, aspen and riparian vegetation exist in some areas. Ranching development is scattered and random.
016 Black Forest	3	3	0	2.5	3	3.5	0	**15**	**B**	This unit is characterized by rolling, undulating hills with soft grasses and patches of moderately dense evergreen forest coverage. Ranches and homes are common throughout the unit but are dispursed.
044 Soda Springs / Timber Mountain	2.5	3	1.5	2.5	3.5	2	0	**15**	**B**	This unit is characterized by rolling hills and the occasional butte, rocky outcrop and river valley. Vegetation consists of grasses, pinyon/juniper and some riparian. Development is relatively indistinct but includes a campground and an old schoolhouse.
047 Coaldale / Howard	2	2.5	2	2.5	5	2	-1	**15**	**B**	This unit is flat with rolling hills covered mostly in grasses and agricultural land. Farm equipment and utilities detract from the landscape but the surrounding scenery significantly enhances the scenic quality. Includes Buena Vista, Granite, and Howard.
028 Purgatoire River Corridor	1.5	3	2.5	2	2.5	3	0	**14.5**	**B**	This unit contains the Purgatoire River and the cities of Trinidad and Hoehne. Most development and farm land is concentrated along the river. Vegetation consists of riparian and cultivated agricultural fields.
015 Plum Creek/Castle Rock	2.5	3.5	0	3	3	2.5	-0.5	**14**	**B**	This landscape is characterized by flat to rolling hills with occasional buttes throughout the unit. Vegetation includes grasses and agricultural land with patches of pinyon/juniper and oak. Development is clustered in towns, includes Castle Rock.
034 La Veta Foothills	2	3.5	0	2.5	4	2	0	**14**	**B**	Low rolling pinion juniper foothills with some dramatic narrow dikes. Vegetation consists primarily of evergreens with occational cottonwood, grasses an low shrubs. Development is minimal and dispersed.
053 Currant Creek Uplands	3	4	1	3	1	2	0	**14**	**B**	This unit is characterized by steeply rolling hills, rocky outcrops and cliff faces. Vegetation varies from montane vegetation to grasses and shrubs. Development is random but includes clustered 40-acre subdivisions and the town of Guffey.
056 Reinecker Ridge / Buffalo Gulch	2	3	0	2.5	4	2	0	**13.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by deep, rolling hills with rocky outcroppings. Vegetation includes grasses in lower elevations with aspen and conifers on the tops of rounded peaks. Ranches are scattered throughout the unit.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
060 Table Mountains	4	1	0	3.5	3	4	-2	**13.5**	**B**	Distinctive butte formation within transition between mountain foothills and urban areas of Denver suburbs. Vegetation is minimal and cultural modifications are numerous.
007 South Platte River Valley	2	3.5	3.5	2	0	2	0	**13**	**B**	Developed river corridor with numerous small towns and agricultural development. Vegetation is varied and consists of riaprian, agricultural and grasses.
038 Wet Foothills / De Weese Plateau	3	3	1	2	4	1	-1	**13**	**B**	Rolling to undulating foothills and slopes adjacent to the Wet Mountains. Vegetation consists primarily of evergreeens, low shrubs, grasses and occational aspen. Residential subdivisions are present in some locations.
052 Cottonwood Highlands	1.5	2	0	2	4.5	3	0	**13**	**B**	This unit is characterized by the dominant park landform and vegetation: low rolling, grassy hills with interspersed aspen and conifers, occasionally. Development is random but contains clusters of 40-acre subdivisions.
017 Bijou Plains	2.5	2	1	2.5	3	2	-0.5	**12.5**	**B**	Broad plains unit with softly rolling hills covered with scattered evergreens and prarie grasses. Development is scattered and clustered near population centers.
035 La Veta	1	2	1	1.5	4.5	1.5	1	**12.5**	**B**	Broad agricultural unit surrounded by the Spanish Peaks and Sangre De Cristo mountain range. Vegetation is primarily agricultural with interspersed riaparian. Cultural modifications consist of the town of Le Veta and agricultural implements.
040 Westcliffe	1	2.5	0	2	5	2	0	**12.5**	**B**	Broad valley unit that is bordered by the Sangre de Cristo and Wet mountain ranges. Vegetation is minimal and consisits primarily of grasses and sagebrush. Cultural modifications are present, but not a dominant elelment.
032 Arkansas River Valley - East	1.5	3	2.5	2	0	3	0	**12**	**B**	This unit is characterized by a flat river valley containing the towns of La Junta, Las Animas, and Rocky Ford. Containing mainly agricultural and riparian land, the colors are mostly greens with some seasonal variation along the river.
061 Colorado City / Bronquist	3	2.5	0	2.5	3	1.5	-0.5	**12**	**B**	Transition landscape between foothills and plains units. Distinctive drainages and topography change enhances unit. Vegetation variety is minimal an consists primarily of juniper and grasses. Residential development is present within unit.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
063 Cripple Creek	2.5	2.5	0	2	3.5	1.5	0	**12**	**B**	Unit includes the communities of Cripple Creek, Victor, and Goldfield, as well as the large American Eagle Mine. Landforms vary from rolling park settings to steeply rounded mountains. Vegetation includes grassland parks and clusters of dense Ponderosa.
065 Arkansas Valley	1.5	2	0	2	5	1.5	0	**12**	**B**	Gently sloped lands draining toward the Arkansas River between Canon City and Pueblo. Dominant vegetation is grasslands and cultural modifications include ranches and small rural communities.
019 Colorado Springs	2.5	2.5	0	2	4.5	1.5	-1.5	**11.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by the rolling hills and flat lands containing Colorado Springs and surrounding suburbs. Vegetation is mostly grasses, but includes conifers and oak, as well. Development is very dominant and negatively influences the landscape.
029 Picketwire Hills	3	2.5	0	3	3	1	-1	**11.5**	**B**	Large unit along southern border of field office that consists of slopling and undulating medium height mountains/hills. Vegetation is predominately evergreen with some smaller vegetation throughout. Oil and gas development is dominant troughout.
037 Gardner Basin	1.5	3	0	2.5	3.5	1	0	**11.5**	**B**	Broad, expansive unit with minimal landform variation with views of Spanish Peaks and Wet Mountains. Vegetation variety is minmal consisting primarily of sagebrush, pinion juniper and grasses. Cultural modifications are scattered and isolated.
043 Webster and Twelvemile Parks	2	2	0	2	4	1.5	0	**11.5**	**B**	Small valley unit located west of Canon City that is flat with some rolling hills. Vegetation is predominately grasses and low shrubs with occational riparian pockets. Development is minimal and dispursed. Area is used for grazing.
050 Leadville	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	5	1.5	-0.5	**11.5**	**B**	This unit is a broad open valley that transitions into rolling foothills. Open ranch land, ranch homes and historic buildings are scattered throughout the unit. This unit contains the town of Leadville and stunning views of adjacent mountains.
064 Northeastern Hills and Buttes	3	2	0	2.5	1	3	0	**11.5**	**B**	Rolling hills and buttes (including Pawnee Buttes) with limited vegetation consisting mostly of grasses and localized clusters of pinyon and juniper. Wind turbines are prominent in some areas.
022 Wiley Valley Unit	1.5	2.5	2.5	2	0	2.5	0	**11**	**C**	This unit is composed of a flat river valley containing grasses, agricultural and riparian vegetation. The river is present throughout the unit but is not necessarily a dominant feature. Ranching and residential development is clustered throughout unit.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
023 Plateau Plains	1.5	2	1	2	2	1.5	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat/rolling plains interrupted occasionally with minor drainages. Vegetation is primarily grasses and agricultural land with some pinyon/juniper and riparian. Includes Springfield and the majority of Baca County.
026 Trinchera / Branson	1.5	1.5	1	2	3	1	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat to rolling plains and occasional agricultural land. The vegetation consists primarily of yellow/ green grasses with occasional cholla and brush. Ranches are clustered randomly throughout unit.
031 Tyrone Flats	1.5	1.5	0	2	3.5	1.5	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat to rolling plains with occasional shallow drainages. Vegetation is mostly grasses but includes some riparian and scattered agricultural land. Unit surrounds portions of the Comanche National Grasslands.
055 Divide	1.5	2.5	0	2	4	1	-1	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by grassy, shallow rolling hills and dominant human development. Rural developments spread throughout the unit detract attention from the landscape. Adjacent views of Pike's Peak dominate.
002 Lonetree	1	2	0	1.5	4	1	0	**9.5**	**C**	Expansive plateau that is gently rolling with few features. Vegetation is minimal consisting mostly of low grasses and yucca. Cultural modifications are minimal and isolated along major roadways.
021 Ninemile Plains	1.5	1.5	0.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	0	**9**	**C**	This unit is characterized by a large, flat to rolling landscape covered in grasses, sage, and pinyon/juniper. Ranching development and small towns are scattered throughout the unit. A windfarm in the southeast portion of the unit is dominant in the area.
018 Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys	1.5	1.5	1	2	0	2	0	**8**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat, rolling grasslands and agricultural lands. Though occasionally broken by gentle drainages, the landscape is simple and continuous. Clustered ranches and small towns are scattered throughout unit.
020 Ellicott / Peyton Plains	1.5	2.5	0	1.5	3	1	-1.5	**8**	**C**	Broad and expansive plains unit with minimal landform variety. Vegetation is minimal and consists primarily of prarie grasses with isolated riparian within drainages. Cultural modifications are scattered, consiting of infrastructure and residential.
006 Eastern Plains	1	1	0	1	1.5	1	0	**5.5**	**C**	Large, expansive flat to rolling landform with limited vegetation consisting mostly of grasslands and localized clusters of trees. Wind turbines are prominent in areas.

Table 1. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed in Order of Score (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
008 Fleming Sand Hills	1.5	1.5	0	1.5	0	1	-1	**4.5**	**C**	Sloping landforms that are adjacent to the South Platte River which are rolling to rounded. Vegetation variety is minimal and consists primarily of sagebrush and grasses. Cultural modifications consist of large transmissions lines and cattle feed lots.

Evaluators: C. Johnson, C. Bockey, W. May, K. Bruce, K. Lenard, D. Gilbert, J. Lamman, J. Nahomenuk, L. Skinner

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
001 North Front Range Foothills	3.5	3	2	3	3.5	1	0	**16**	**B**	Distinctive , rolling foothills wth exposed rock outcrops and limited variety of vegeation. Cultural modifications are scattered are consist primarily of residences and small ranches.
002 Lonetree	1	2	0	1.5	4	1	0	**9.5**	**C**	Expansive plateau that is gently rolling with few features. Vegetation is minimal consisting mostly of low grasses and yucca. Cultural modifications are minimal and isolated along major roadways.
003 Sand Creek Buttes	4	4.5	4	3.5	2.5	3.5	0	**22**	**A**	Distictive butte formations with vibrant red tones troughout. Water bodies are visible and add to the visual quality. Vegetation is varied with numerous forms and types. Cultural modifications are scattered troughout and do not detract from landscape.
004 North Front Range Hogback	4	3.5	4	3.5	2	4	-2	**19**	**A**	Distinctive sloping uplift formations that have exposed rock faces with a variety of color variations. Vegetations consists primarily of grasses and low shrubs with isolated riparian. Strip mines and residential development is present.
005 Front Range Urban	2	4	3	2.5	4	2	0	**17.5**	**B**	Large expansive unit that consists of the Denver Metro Area as well as outlying areas. Landforms are varied with modification visible. Vegetation is varied with a wide mix of types and forms. Cultural modifications are present thoughout.
006 Eastern Plains	1	1	0	1	1.5	1	0	**5.5**	**C**	Large, expansive flat to rolling landform with limited vegetation consisting mostly of grasslands and localized clusters of trees. Wind turbines are prominent in areas.
007 South Platte River Valley	2	3.5	3.5	2	0	2	0	**13**	**B**	Developed river corridor with numerous small towns and agricultural development. Vegetation is varied and consists of riaprian, agricultural and grasses.
008 Fleming Sand Hills	1.5	1.5	0	1.5	0	1	-1	**4.5**	**C**	Sloping landforms that are adjacent to the South Platte River which are rolling to rounded. Vegetation variety is minimal and consists primarily of sagebrush and grasses. Cultural modifications consist of large transmissions lines and cattle feed lots.
011 Estes Park	3	3	5	3	5	1	0	**20**	**A**	Iconic landscape within the Colorado Rockies, includes the town of Estes Park. Landforms are large with distinctive rockoutcrops. Vegetation is dominated with evergreen and small shrubs. Cultural modifications exist, but are complimentary within area.
012 Central Front Range Foothills	4	4	3	2	3.5	3	0	**19.5**	**A**	Large linear unit that makes up the foothills from Denver to Longmont. Landforms are various and sloping with deep gorges and canyons. Vegetation consists primarily evergreen with shrubs and grasses. Cultural modifications do not add discordant features.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
013 Northern Front Range Mountains	4.5	4.5	2	4	3.5	3.5	0	**22**	**A**	Tall, rounded mountains with predominently evergreen vegetation and short grasses. Cultural modifications include communities withties to early mining within the area.
014 Dinosaur Ridge Hogback	3.5	3.5	2.5	4	3.5	3	-2	**18**	**B**	Linear unit with long sloping uplifts that are buff to red in color. Vegetation consists of juiper, sage and short grasses with some riparian. Unit is heavily developed within suburban fringe of Denver which adds diverse and contrasting modifications
015 Plum Creek/Castle Rock	2.5	3.5	0	3	3	2.5	-0.5	**14**	**B**	This landscape is characterized by flat to rolling hills with occasional buttes throughout the unit. Vegetation includes grasses and agricultural land with patches of pinyon/juniper and oak. Development is clustered in towns, includes Castle Rock.
016 Black Forest	3	3	0	2.5	3	3.5	0	**15**	**B**	This unit is characterized by rolling, undulating hills with soft grasses and patches of moderately dense evergreen forest coverage. Ranches and homes are common throughout the unit but are dispursed.
017 Bijou Plains	2.5	2	1	2.5	3	2	-0.5	**12.5**	**B**	Broad plains unit with softly rolling hills covered with scattered evergreens and prarie grasses. Development is scattered and clustered near population centers.
018 Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys	1.5	1.5	1	2	0	2	0	**8**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat, rolling grasslands and agricultural lands. Though occasionally broken by gentle drainages, the landscape is simple and continuous. Clustered ranches and small towns are scattered throughout unit.
019 Colorado Springs	2.5	2.5	0	2	4.5	1.5	-1.5	**11.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by the rolling hills and flat lands containing Colorado Springs and surrounding suburbs. Vegetation is mostly grasses, but includes conifers and oak, as well. Development is very dominant and negatively influences the landscape.
020 Ellicott / Peyton Plains	1.5	2.5	0	1.5	3	1	-1.5	**8**	**C**	Broad and expansive plains unit with minimal landform variety. Vegetation is minimal and consists primarily of prarie grasses with isolated riparian within drainages. Cultural modifications are scattered, consiting of infrastructure and residential.
021 Ninemile Plains	1.5	1.5	0.5	2.5	1.5	1.5	0	**9**	**C**	This unit is characterized by a large, flat to rolling landscape covered in grasses, sage, and pinyon/juniper. Ranching development and small towns are scattered throughout the unit. A windfarm in the southeast portion of the unit is dominant in the area.
022 Wiley Valley Unit	1.5	2.5	2.5	2	0	2.5	0	**11**	**C**	This unit is composed of a flat river valley containing grasses, agricultural and riparian vegetation. The river is present throughout the unit but is not necessarily a dominant feature. Ranching and residential development is clustered throughout unit.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
023 Plateau Plains	1.5	2	1	2	2	1.5	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat/rolling plains interrupted occasionally with minor drainages. Vegetation is primarily grasses and agricultural land with some pinyon/juniper and riparian. Includes Springfield and the majority of Baca County.
024 Purgatoire Canyons	4.5	4	1	4.5	0	4.5	0	**18.5**	**A**	This unit consists mainly of fingered drainages with flat to rolling valley bottoms and plateaus with moderate side slopes. Contrast in colors is strong between the vegetation and landform. This unit surrounds portions of the Comanche National Grasslands.
025 Seven Buttes	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	0.5	3.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized mainly by its variation in landforms, including flat plateaus, narrow river corridors and rocky drainages. Colors seen in the soil, vegetation and occasional water provide visual contrast. Development exists but is indistinct.
026 Trinchera / Branson	1.5	1.5	1	2	3	1	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat to rolling plains and occasional agricultural land. The vegetation consists primarily of yellow/ green grasses with occasional cholla and brush. Ranches are clustered randomly throughout unit.
027 Fisher's Peak	3.5	3.5	2	3	2.5	4	0	**18.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by the dominant Fisher's Peak Mesa and neighboring Horseshoe Mesa. Pinyons and junipers are thick on the mesa slopes, gradually becoming less prominent as the elevation decreases. Cultural modifications are not dominant.
028 Purgatoire River Corridor	1.5	3	2.5	2	2.5	3	0	**14.5**	**B**	This unit contains the Purgatoire River and the cities of Trinidad and Hoehne. Most development and farm land is concentrated along the river. Vegetation consists of riparian and cultivated agricultural fields.
029 Picketwire Hills	3	2.5	0	3	3	1	-1	**11.5**	**B**	Large unit along southern border of field office that consists of slopling and undulating medium height mountains/hills. Vegetation is predominately evergreen with some smaller vegetation throughout. Oil and gas development is dominant troughout.
030 Ute Hills	4	5	3.5	4	3.5	4	0	**24**	**A**	Varied landscape with undulating landform features that includes a distinctive dike formation. Vegetation is varied as well consisting of evergreen, scrub oak, shrubs and grasses. Cultural modifications are minimal and dispursed throughout unit.
031 Tyrone Flats	1.5	1.5	0	2	3.5	1.5	0	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by flat to rolling plains with occasional shallow drainages. Vegetation is mostly grasses but includes some riparian and scattered agricultural land. Unit surrounds portions of the Comanche National Grasslands.
032 Arkansas River Valley - East	1.5	3	2.5	2	0	3	0	**12**	**B**	This unit is characterized by a flat river valley containing the towns of La Junta, Las Animas, and Rocky Ford. Containing mainly agricultural and riparian land, the colors are mostly greens with some seasonal variation along the river.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
033 Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers	4	3.5	3	3	3	4	0	**20.5**	**A**	This unit contains the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers and surrounding canyon. The unit is mostly enclosed and winding with soft slopes and a rocky, horizontal band along the top of the canyon. Vegetation is scattered and random. Development is minimal.
034 La Veta Foothills	2	3.5	0	2.5	4	2	0	**14**	**B**	Low rolling pinion juniper foothills with some dramatic narrow dikes. Vegetation consists primarily of evergreens with occational cottonwood, grasses an low shrubs. Development is minimal and dispersed.
035 La Veta	1	2	1	1.5	4.5	1.5	1	**12.5**	**B**	Broad agricultural unit surrounded by the Spanish Peaks and Sangre De Cristo mountain range. Vegetation is primarily agricultural with interspersed riaparian. Cultural modifications consist of the town of Le Veta and agricultural implements.
036 Mestas and Sheep Mountains	5	3	0.5	3.5	3	3.5	0	**18.5**	**A**	Vegetation consists of evergreens interspersed with aspen, riparian and low shrubs. High elevations consist of exposed rock faces and vegetation line at timberline. Minimal cultural modifications exist.
037 Gardner Basin	1.5	3	0	2.5	3.5	1	0	**11.5**	**B**	Broad, expansive unit with minimal landform variation with views of Spanish Peaks and Wet Mountains. Vegetation variety is minmal consisting primarily of sagebrush, pinion juniper and grasses. Cultural modifications are scattered and isolated.
038 Wet Foothills / De Weese Plateau	3	3	1	2	4	1	-1	**13**	**B**	Rolling to undulating foothills and slopes adjacent to the Wet Mountains. Vegetation consists primarily of evergreeens, low shrubs, grasses and occational aspen. Residential subdivisions are present in some locations.
039 Spanish Peaks	5	3.5	1	3	3	3.5	0	**19**	**A**	Distinctive mountain formation south of La Veta. Vegetation consists of evergreens interspersed with aspen, riparian and low shrubs. High elevations consist of exposed rock faces and vegetation line at timberline. Minimal cultural modifications exist.
040 Westcliffe	1	2.5	0	2	5	2	0	**12.5**	**B**	Broad valley unit that is bordered by the Sangre de Cristo and Wet mountain ranges. Vegetation is minimal and consisits primarily of grasses and sagebrush. Cultural modifications are present, but not a dominant elelment.
041 Arkansas River Canyon Highlands	3	5	1	3	3.5	1.5	0	**17**	**B**	This unit is characterized by a wide variety of landforms and vegetation. Steep rolling hills, rock outcrops and cliff faces meet flat parks at higher elevations. Grasses, conifers, and riparian vegetation surround scattered, clustered ranch developments.
042 Upper Arkansas River Valley	4	4	4.5	4	3.5	3	0	**23**	**A**	This unit is dominated by the Arkansas River corridor, which includes rocky outcrops and steep valley walls, a variety of vegetation and contrasting colors. Development includes the towns of Cotopaxi, Texas Creek, and scattered recreation sites.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
043 Webster and Twelvemile Parks	2	2	0	2	4	1.5	0	**11.5**	**B**	Small valley unit located west of Canon City that is flat with some rolling hills. Vegetation is predominately grasses and low shrubs with occational riparian pockets. Development is minimal and dispursed. Area is used for grazing.
044 Soda Springs / Timber Mountain	2.5	3	1.5	2.5	3.5	2	0	**15**	**B**	This unit is characterized by rolling hills and the occasional butte, rocky outcrop and river valley. Vegetation consists of grasses, pinyon/juniper and some riparian. Development is relatively indistinct but includes a campground and an old schoolhouse.
045 Hayman Area Mountains	4	3.5	3	3.5	2	3	0	**19**	**A**	Rounded mountains with prominent rock outcroppings and cliffs. Vegetation is highly varied, but dominated by dense evergreens, grassland parks, and revegetating burn areas. Unit is mostly undeveloped.
046 Garden Park	3.5	4	3	3.5	2.5	2.5	0.5	**19.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by an agricultural river valley and steep, colorful valley sidewalls. Red, brown, gray and beige rock provide contrast against the dark pinyon/junipers and bright riparian and agricultural vegetation.
047 Coaldale / Howard	2	2.5	2	2.5	5	2	-1	**15**	**B**	This unit is flat with rolling hills covered mostly in grasses and agricultural land. Farm equipment and utilities detract from the landscape but the surrounding scenery significantly enhances the scenic quality. Includes Buena Vista, Granite, and Howard.
048 Stony Face / Waugh	3.5	4.5	0	3	4	2.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by prominent rolling hills with occasional rocky outcrops and cliff faces. The vegetation - including aspen, ponderosa, grasses, pinyon/juniper and sagebrush - provides color contrast. Development includes mostly random ranches.
049 Poncha Pass / Maysville	4	4	3	3.5	4.5	3.5	0	**22.5**	**A**	This unit is characterized by steep, rocky hills and rolling foothills, which include riparian, pinyon/juniper, conifers, and grasses. Water exists in canyons and in the Twin Lakes Reservoir. Cultural modifications are minimal.
050 Leadville	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	5	1.5	-0.5	**11.5**	**B**	This unit is a broad open valley that transitions into rolling foothills. Open ranch land, ranch homes and historic buildings are scattered throughout the unit. This unit contains the town of Leadville and stunning views of adjacent mountains.
051 Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges	4.5	4.5	2	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	**21.5**	**A**	This unit contains steep foothills and a flat valley floor, which narrows as unit continues north. Rock outcrops emerge out of dense coverage of conifers and aspen on slope faces, and valley floor contains riparian and sagebrush. Development is minimal.
052 Cottonwood Highlands	1.5	2	0	2	4.5	3	0	**13**	**B**	This unit is characterized by the dominant park landform and vegetation: low rolling, grassy hills with interspersed aspen and conifers, occasionally. Development is random but contains clusters of 40-acre subdivisions.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
053 Currant Creek Uplands	3	4	1	3	1	2	0	**14**	**B**	This unit is characterized by steeply rolling hills, rocky outcrops and cliff faces. Vegetation varies from montane vegetation to grasses and shrubs. Development is random but includes clustered 40-acre subdivisions and the town of Guffey.
054 Florissant Area Uplands	4	4	0.5	3	3.5	2.5	0	**17.5**	**B**	This unit is a landscape of rolling hills, conical buttes and rock outcrops with grasses, pinyon/juniper, conifers and some aspen and riparian vegetation. Development is random and clustered. Unit includes the town of Florissant and Mueller State Park.
055 Divide	1.5	2.5	0	2	4	1	-1	**10**	**C**	This unit is characterized by grassy, shallow rolling hills and dominant human development. Rural developments spread throughout the unit detract attention from the landscape. Adjacent views of Pike's Peak dominate.
056 Reinecker Ridge / Buffalo Gulch	2	3	0	2.5	4	2	0	**13.5**	**B**	This unit is characterized by deep, rolling hills with rocky outcroppings. Vegetation includes grasses in lower elevations with aspen and conifers on the tops of rounded peaks. Ranches are scattered throughout the unit.
057 South Park	1.5	2	3	2	4.5	3	0	**16**	**B**	This unit is characterized by gently rolling hills with a flat valley bottom and an occasional curving river. Grasses dominate the unit; however, conifers, aspen and riparian vegetation exist in some areas. Ranching development is scattered and random.
059 Lower Arkansas River Valley	2	3	5	3	3	2	0	**18**	**B**	Linear unit that includes Pueblo Reservoir and the eastern drainage of the Arkansas River with low rolling sloping hills and sinuous river bottom. Vegetation is varied to include pinion juniper, riparian and low shrubs. Cultural modifications are present.
060 Table Mountains	4	1	0	3.5	3	4	-2	**13.5**	**B**	Distinctive butte formation within transition between mountain foothills and urban areas of Denver suburbs. Vegetation is minimal and cultural modifications are numerous.
061 Colorado City / Bronquist	3	2.5	0	2.5	3	1.5	-0.5	**12**	**B**	Transition landscape between foothills and plains units. Distinctive drainages and topography change enhances unit. Vegetation variety is minimal an consists primarily of juniper and grasses. Residential development is present within unit.
062 Sangre De Cristo Range	5	4.5	3.5	4.5	3	2.5	0	**23**	**A**	Distinctive mountain range unit that is prominent within the field office. Large, steep mountainswith numerous 14'ers. The unit has diverse vegetation and contains high mountain lakes and streams. Cultural modifications are minimal and do not detract.
063 Cripple Creek	2.5	2.5	0	2	3.5	1.5	0	**12**	**B**	Unit includes the communities of Cripple Creek, Victor, and Goldfield, as well as the large American Eagle Mine. Landforms vary from rolling park settings to steeply rounded mountains. Vegetation includes grassland parks and clusters of dense Ponderosa.

Table 2. Scenic Quality Rating—Listed by Unit Number (continued)

Scenic Quality Rating
Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office
March 2015

Unit Number	Landform	Vegetation	Water	Color	Adjacent Scenery	Scarcity	Cultural Modification	Score	Rating	Explanation
064 Northeastern Hills and Buttes	3	2	0	2.5	1	3	0	**11.5**	**B**	Rolling hills and buttes (including Pawnee Buttes) with limited vegetation consisting mostly of grasses and localized clusters of pinyon and juniper. Wind turbines are prominent in some areas.
065 Arkansas Valley	1.5	2	0	2	5	1.5	0	**12**	**B**	Gently sloped lands draining toward the Arkansas River between Canon City and Pueblo. Dominant vegetation is grasslands and cultural modifications include ranches and small rural communities.
066 Colorado Springs Area Front Range	5	5	3.5	4.5	3	4	0	**25**	**A**	This unit is composed of prominent mountains and steep, rugged canyons that hold a wide variety of vegetation and unique landforms. Cultural modifications are minimally present.
067 Wet Mountains	4.5	4	3	4	3	3	0	**21.5**	**A**	Tall, rounded mountains with prominent rock outcroppings and cliffs. Tall evergreens and aspen dominate the vegetative cover, and cultural modifications are generally limited to dispersed ranches and abandoned mining and logging facilities.

Evaluators: C. Johnson, C. Bockey, W. May, K. Bruce, K. Lenard, D. Gilbert, J. Lamman, J. Nahomenuk, L. Skinner

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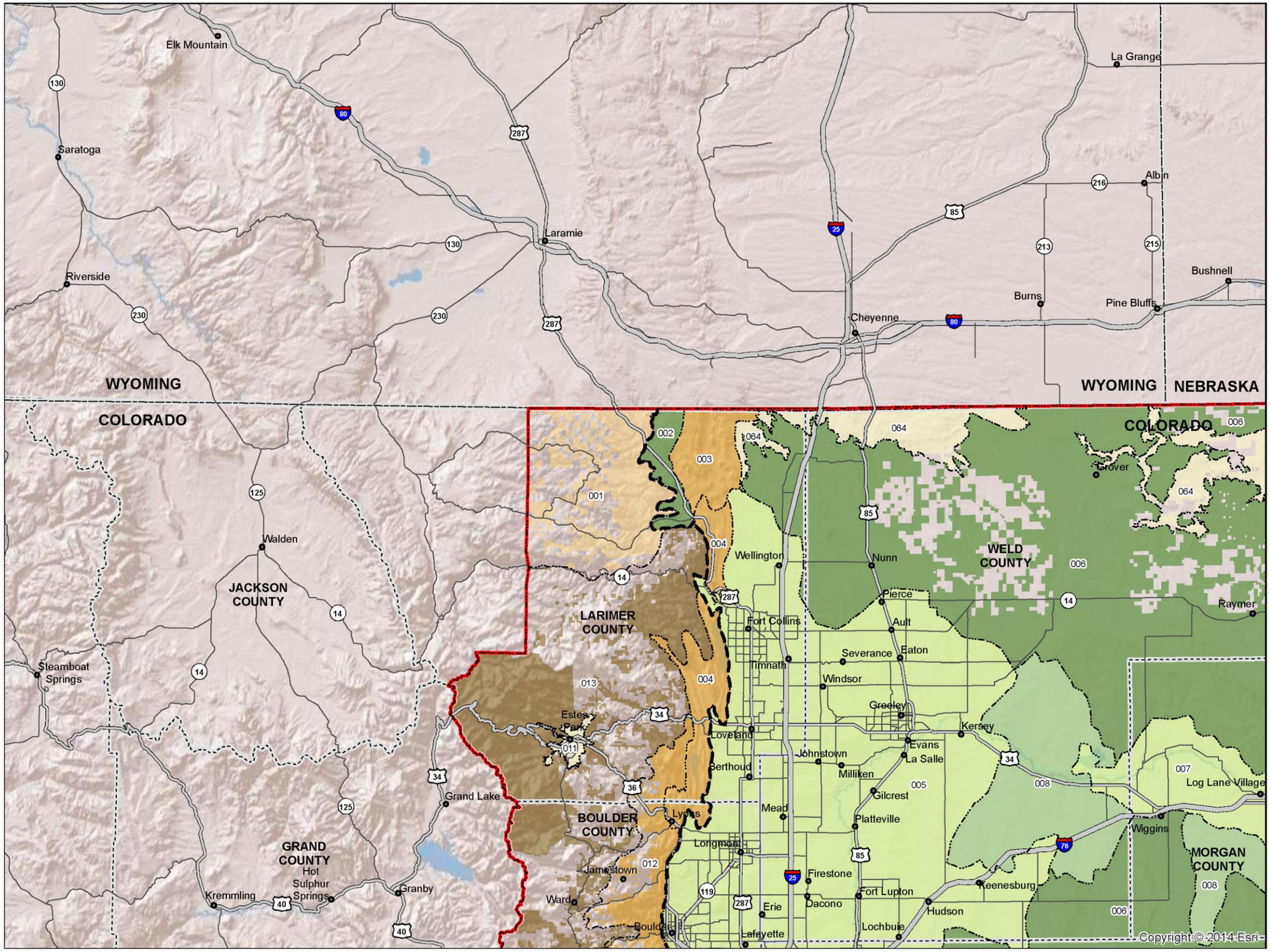

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Landform Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills
002 — Lonetree
003 — Sand Creek Buttes
004 — North Front Range Hogback
005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
011 — Estes
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

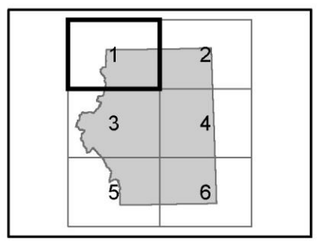

Figure 7a. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 1

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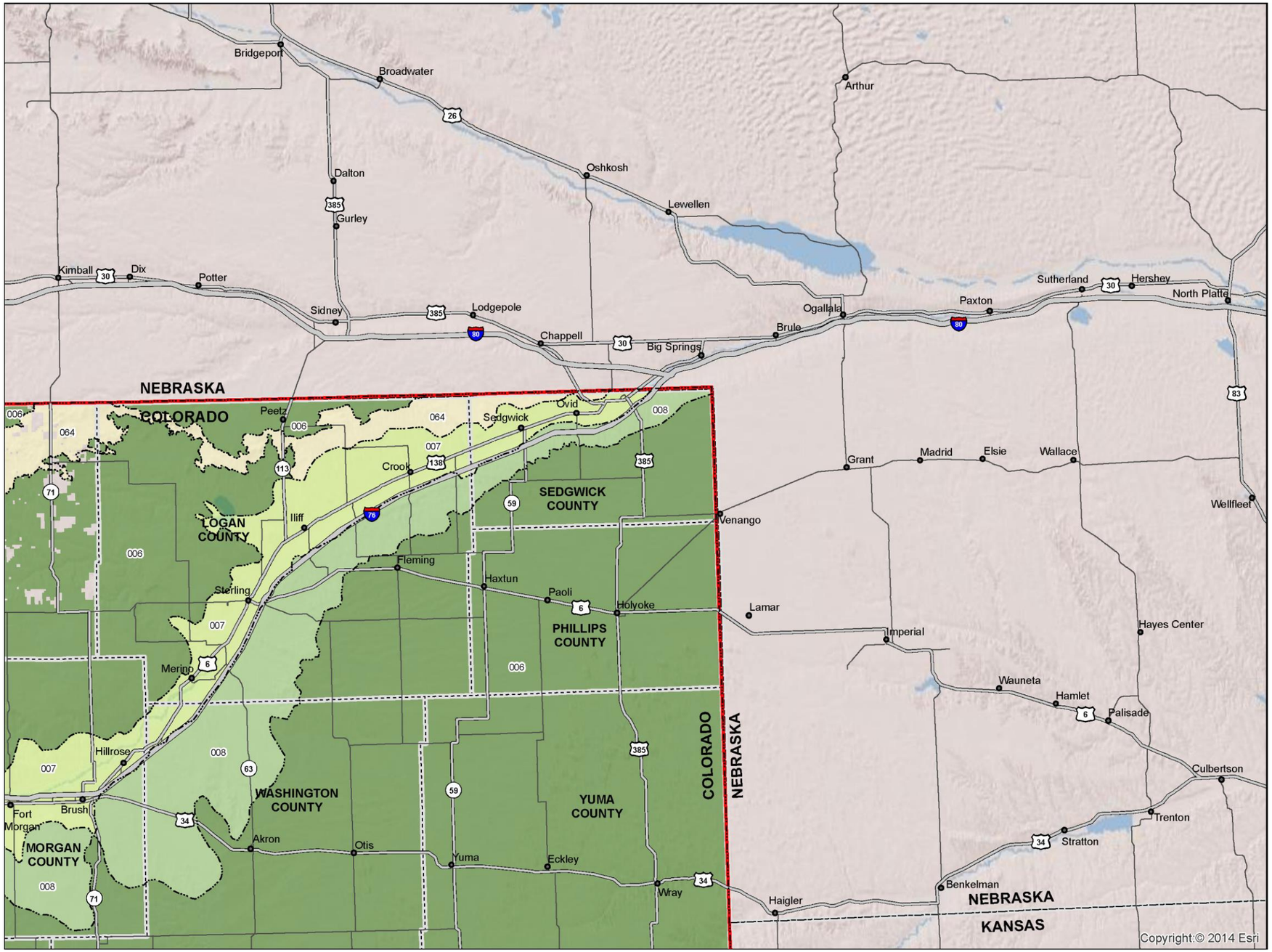

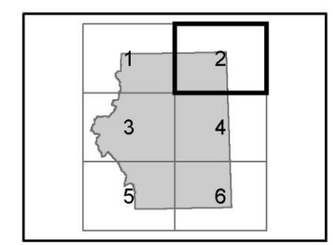

Figure 7b. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 2

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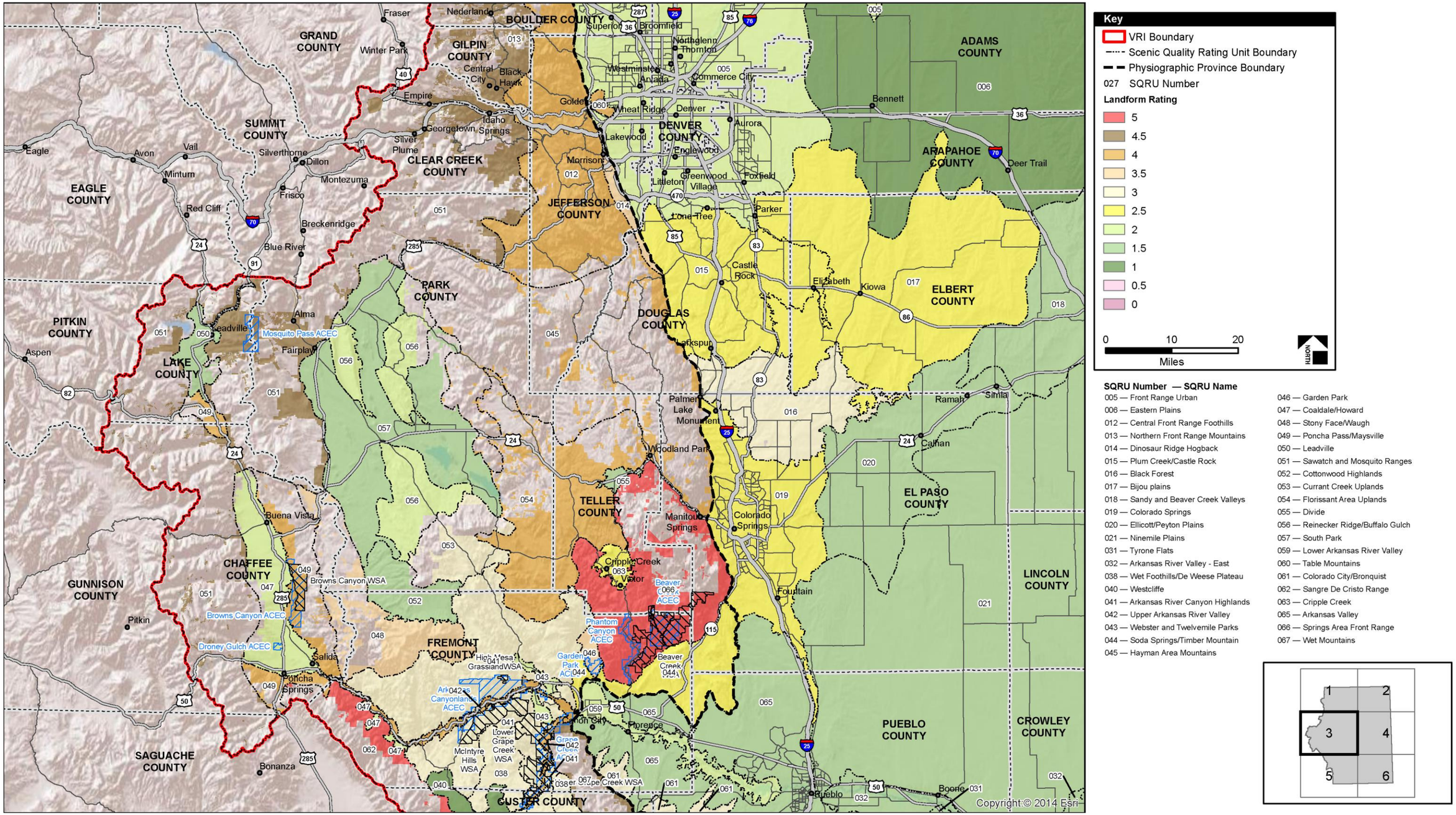

Figure 7c. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 3

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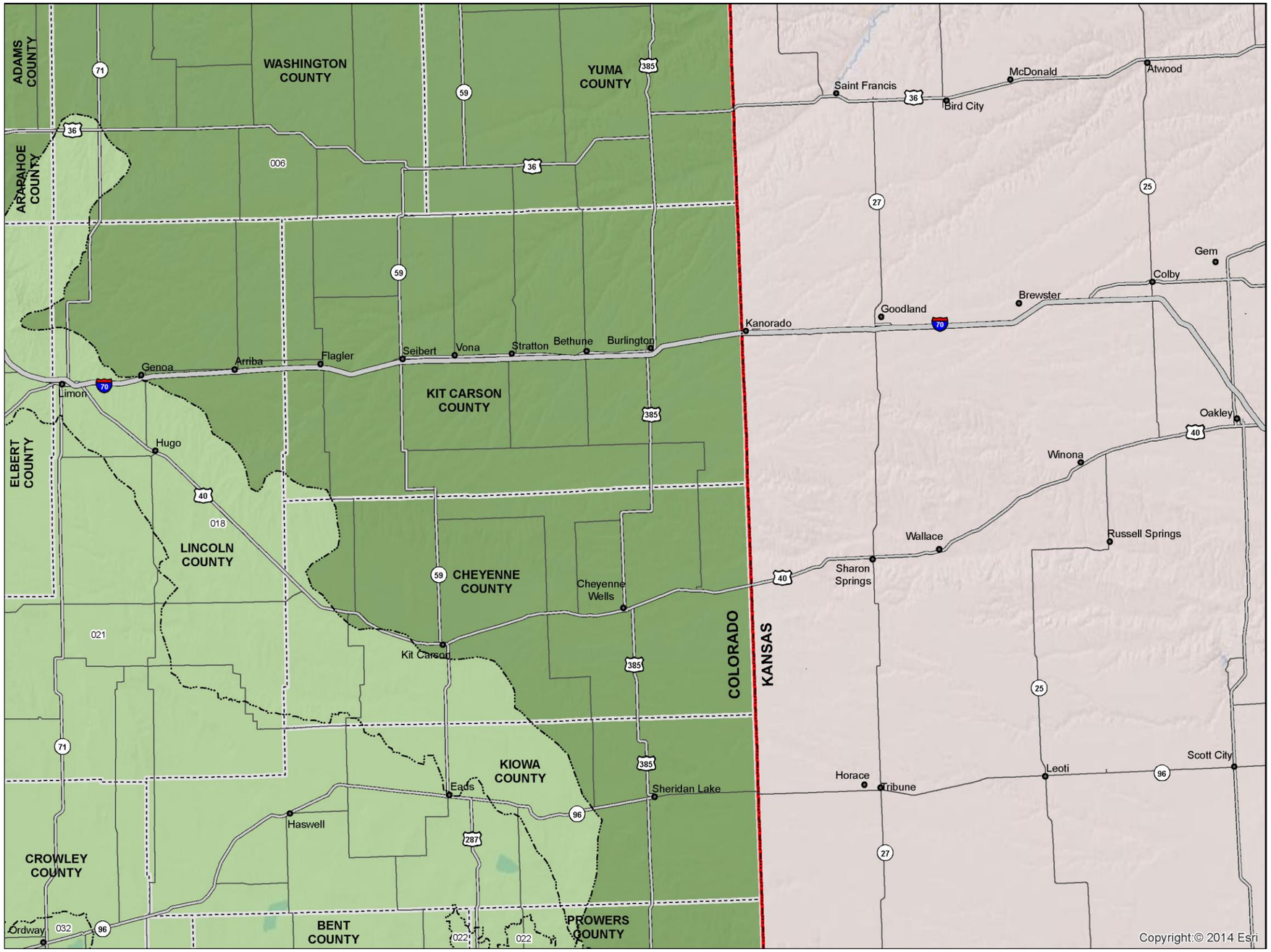

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Landform Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

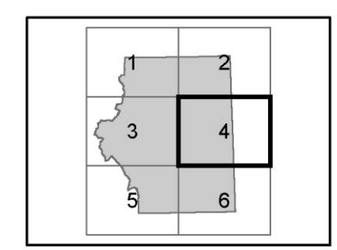

Figure 7d. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 4

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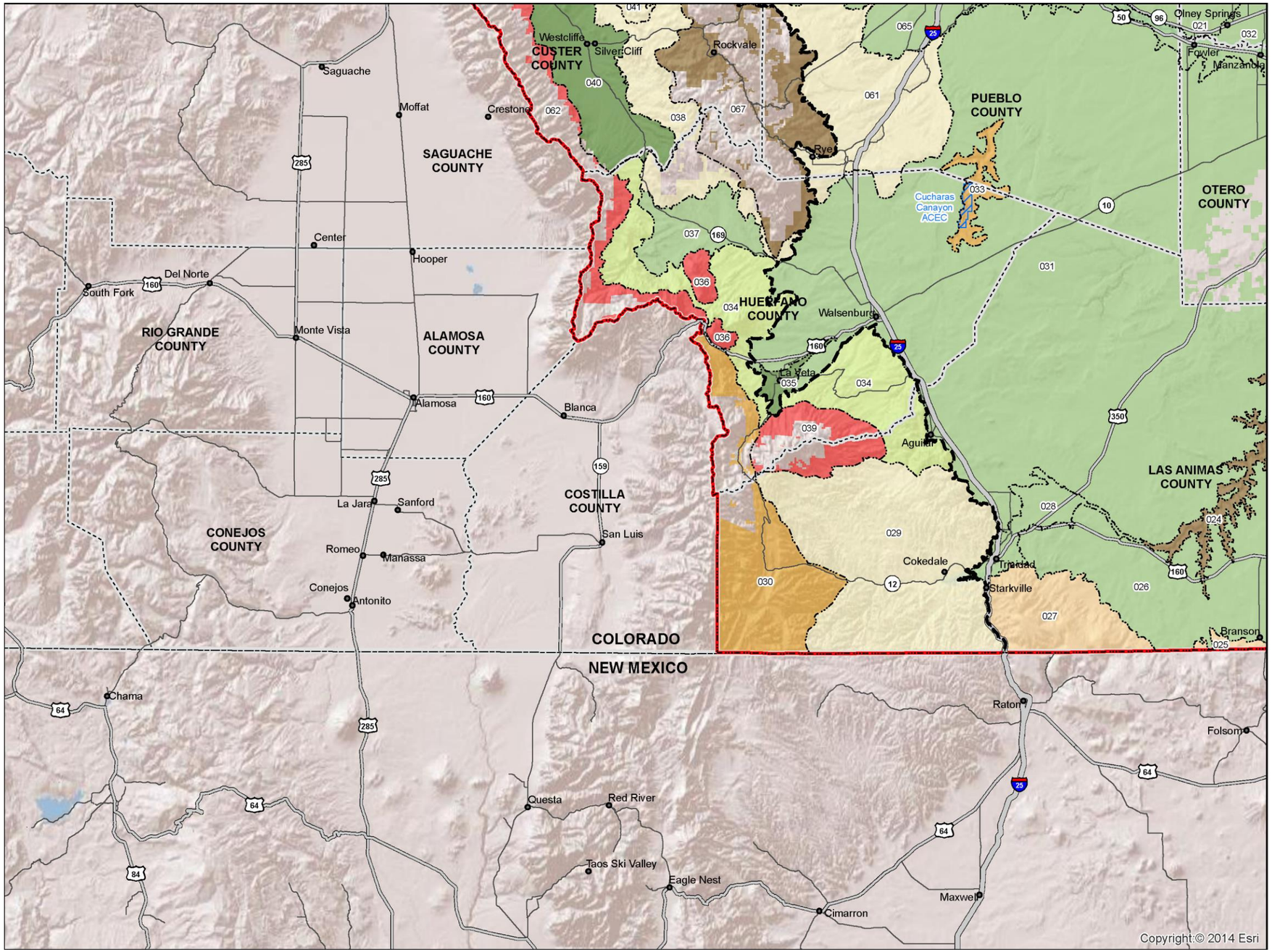

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Landform Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

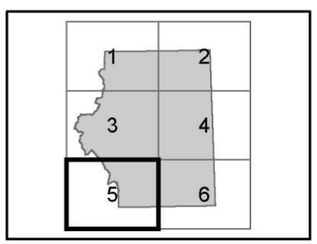

Figure 7e. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 5

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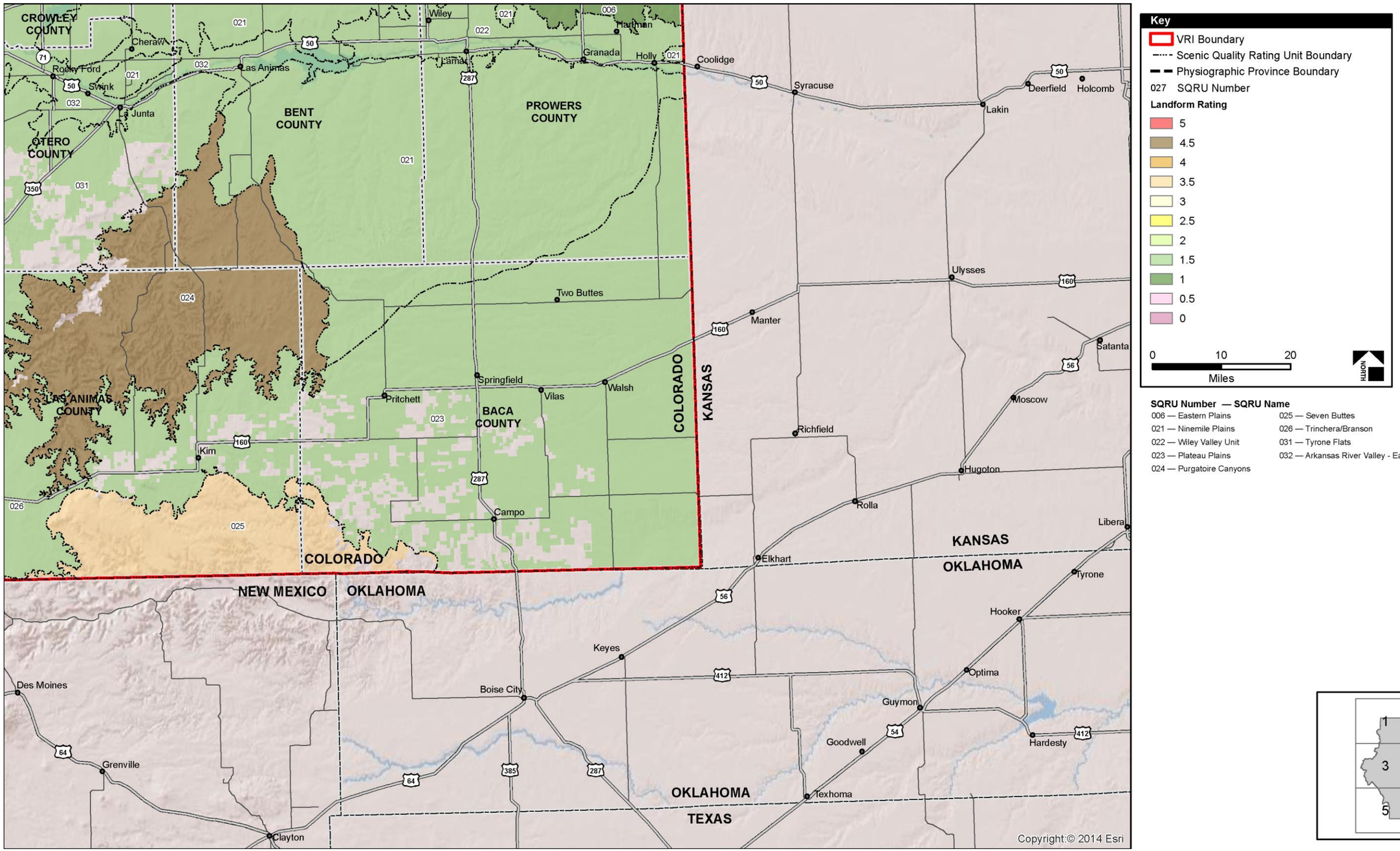

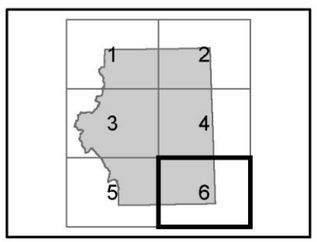

Figure 7f. Scenic Quality Rating: Landform, Segment 6

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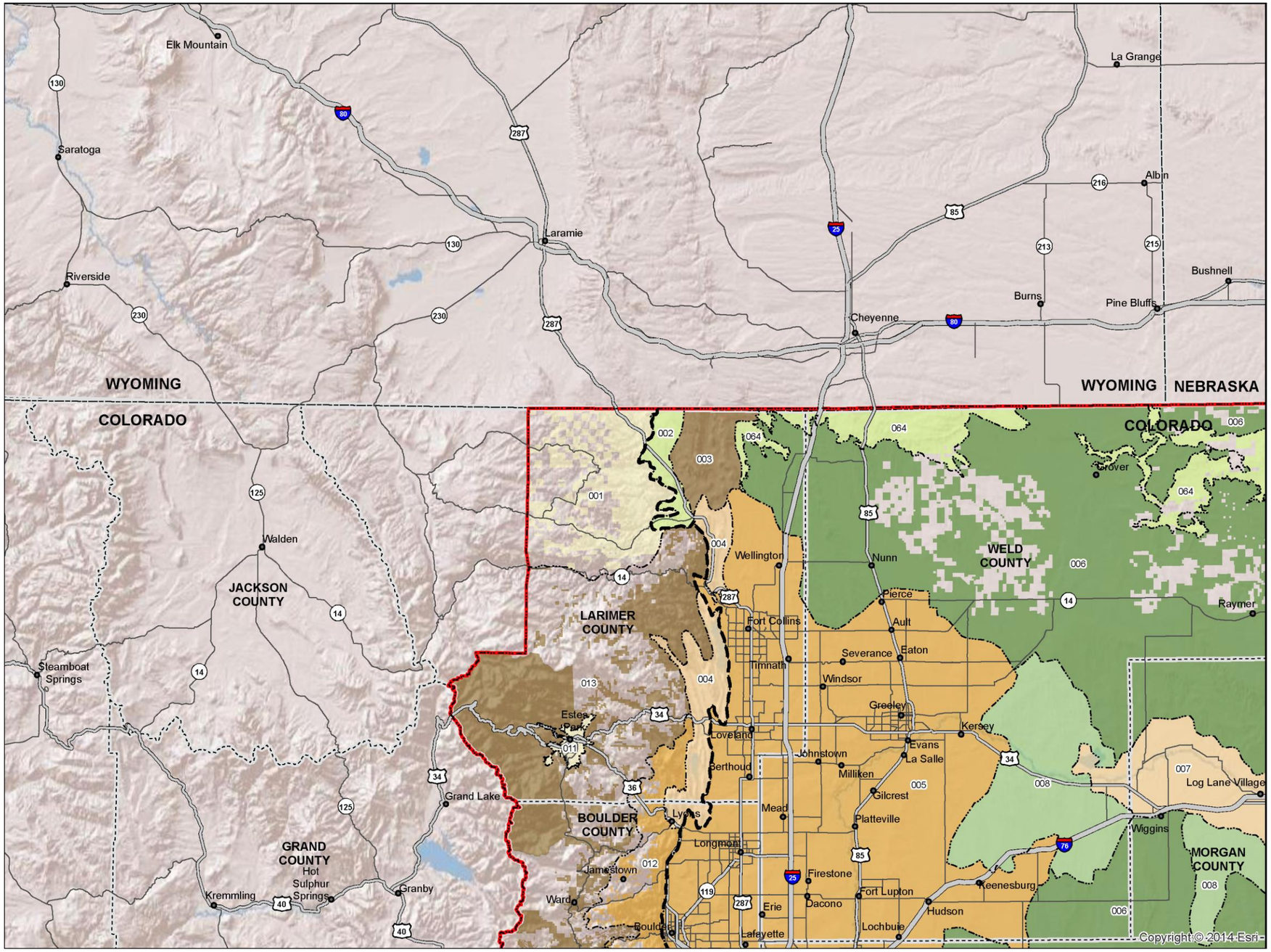

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Vegetation Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills
002 — Lonetree
003 — Sand Creek Buttes
004 — North Front Range Hogback
005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
011 — Estes
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

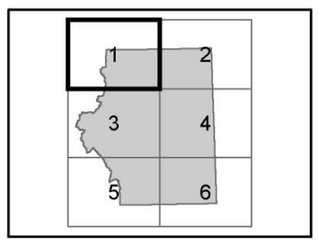

Figure 8a. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 1

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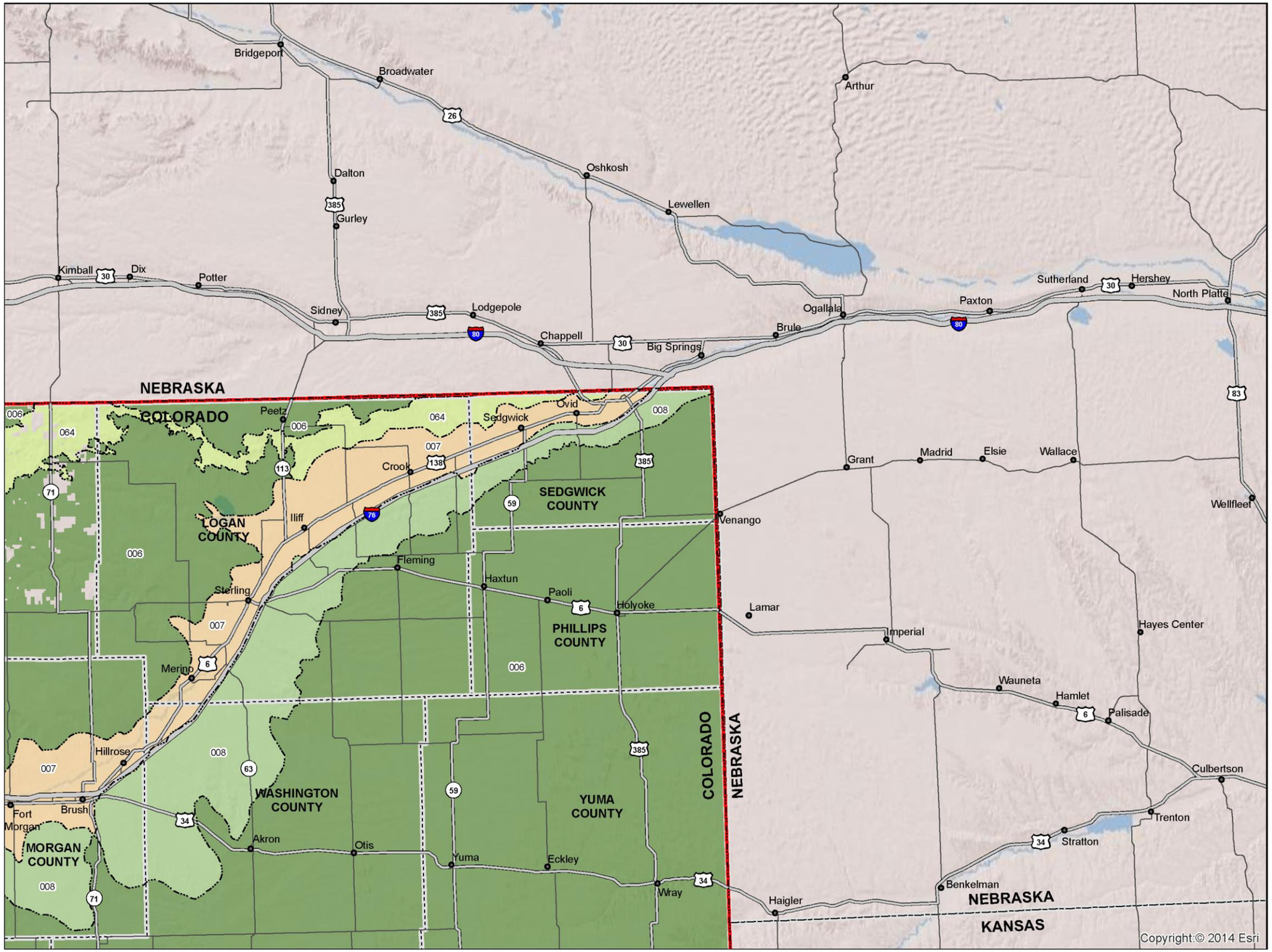

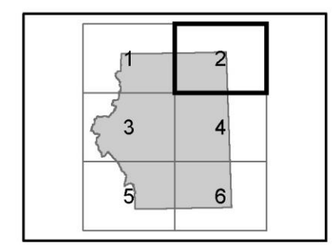

Figure 8b. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 2

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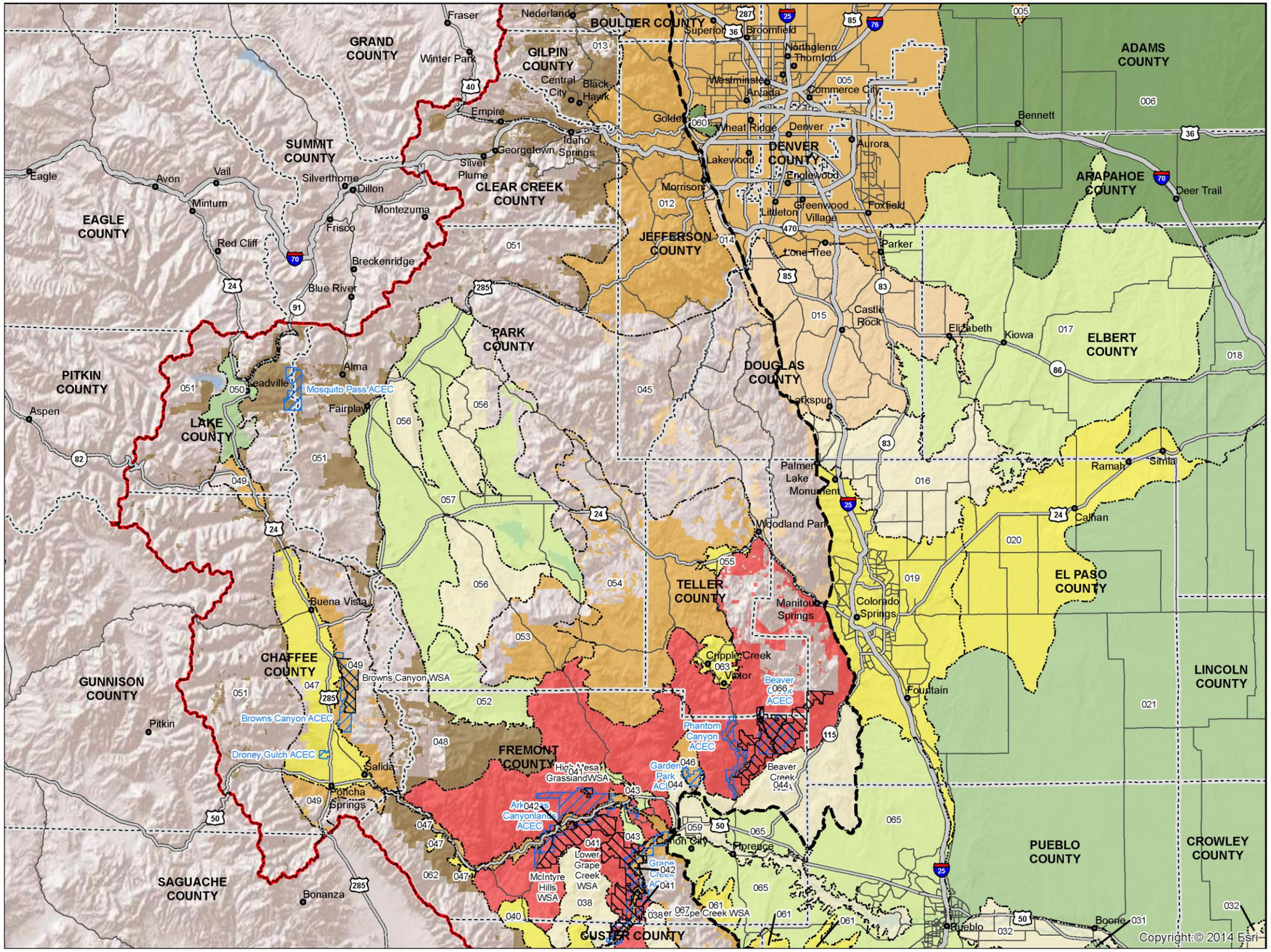

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Vegetation Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

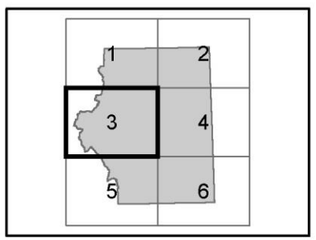

Figure 8c. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 3

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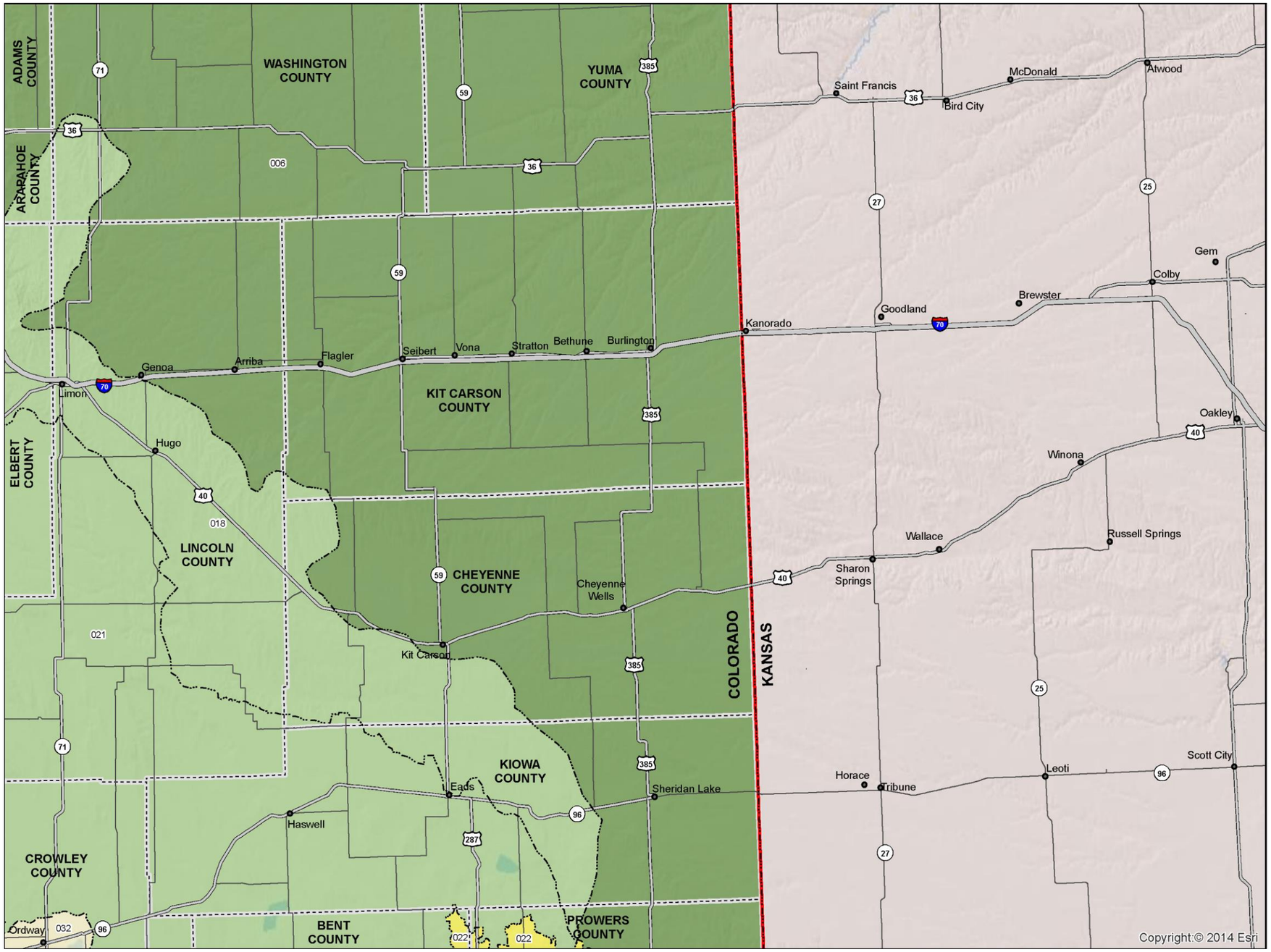

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Vegetation Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

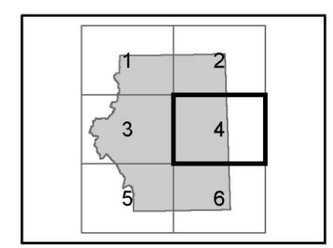

Figure 8d. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 4

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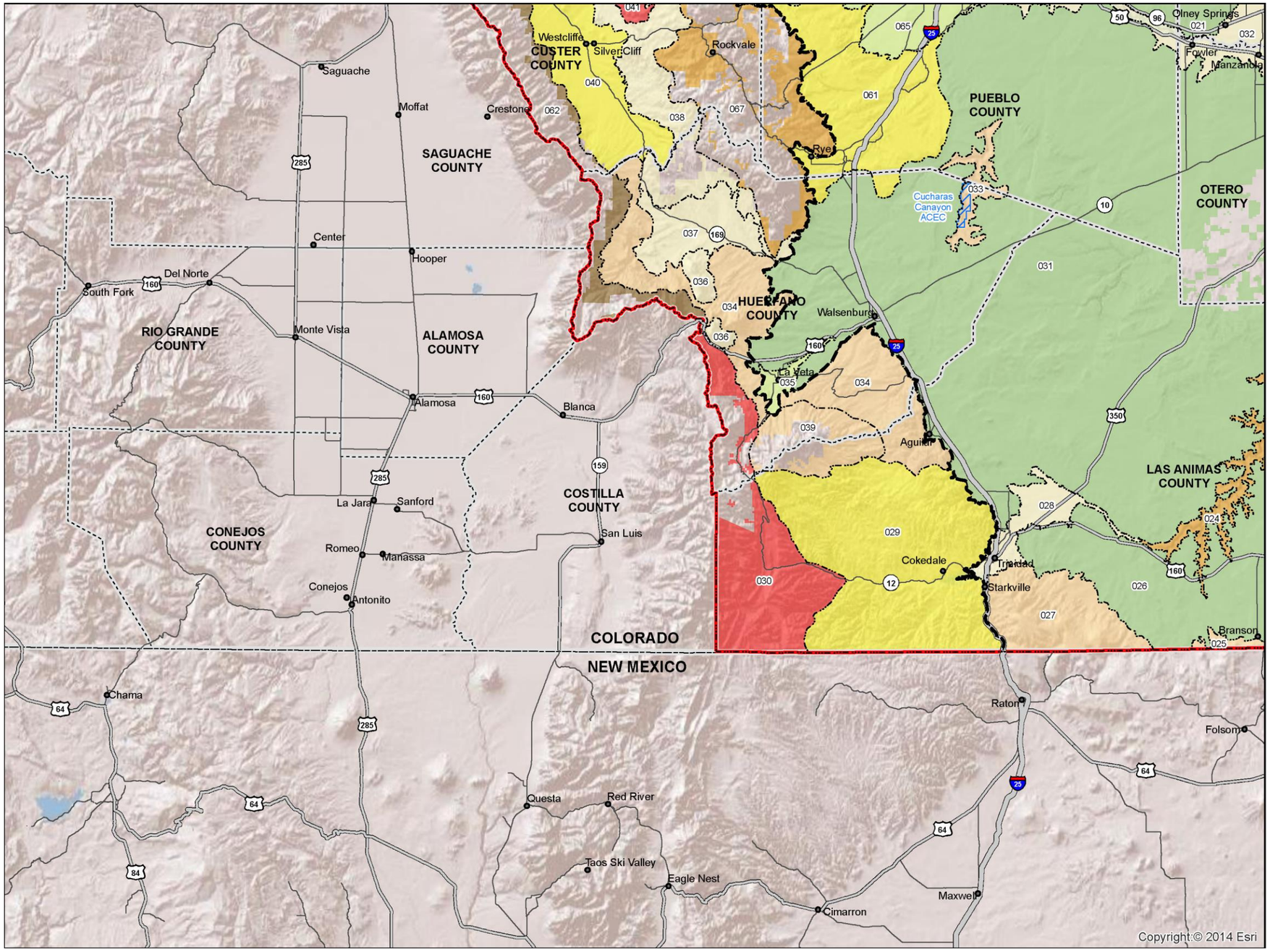

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Vegetation Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

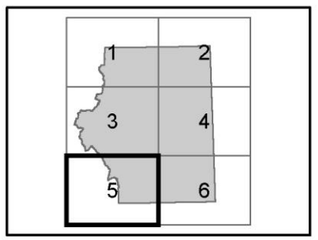

Figure 8e. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 5

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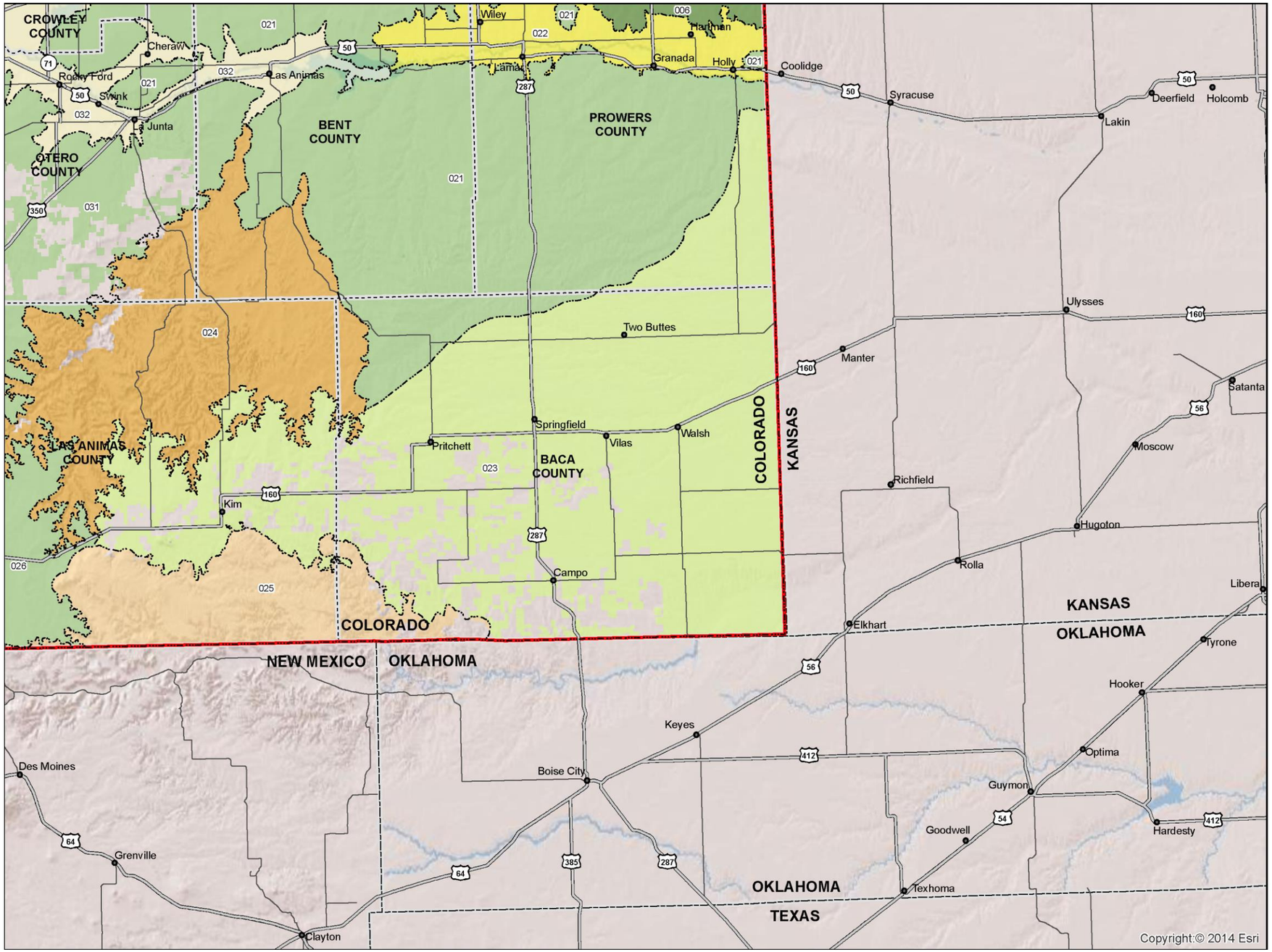

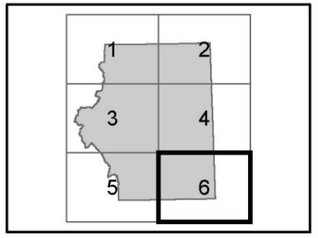

Figure 8f. Scenic Quality Rating: Vegetation, Segment 6

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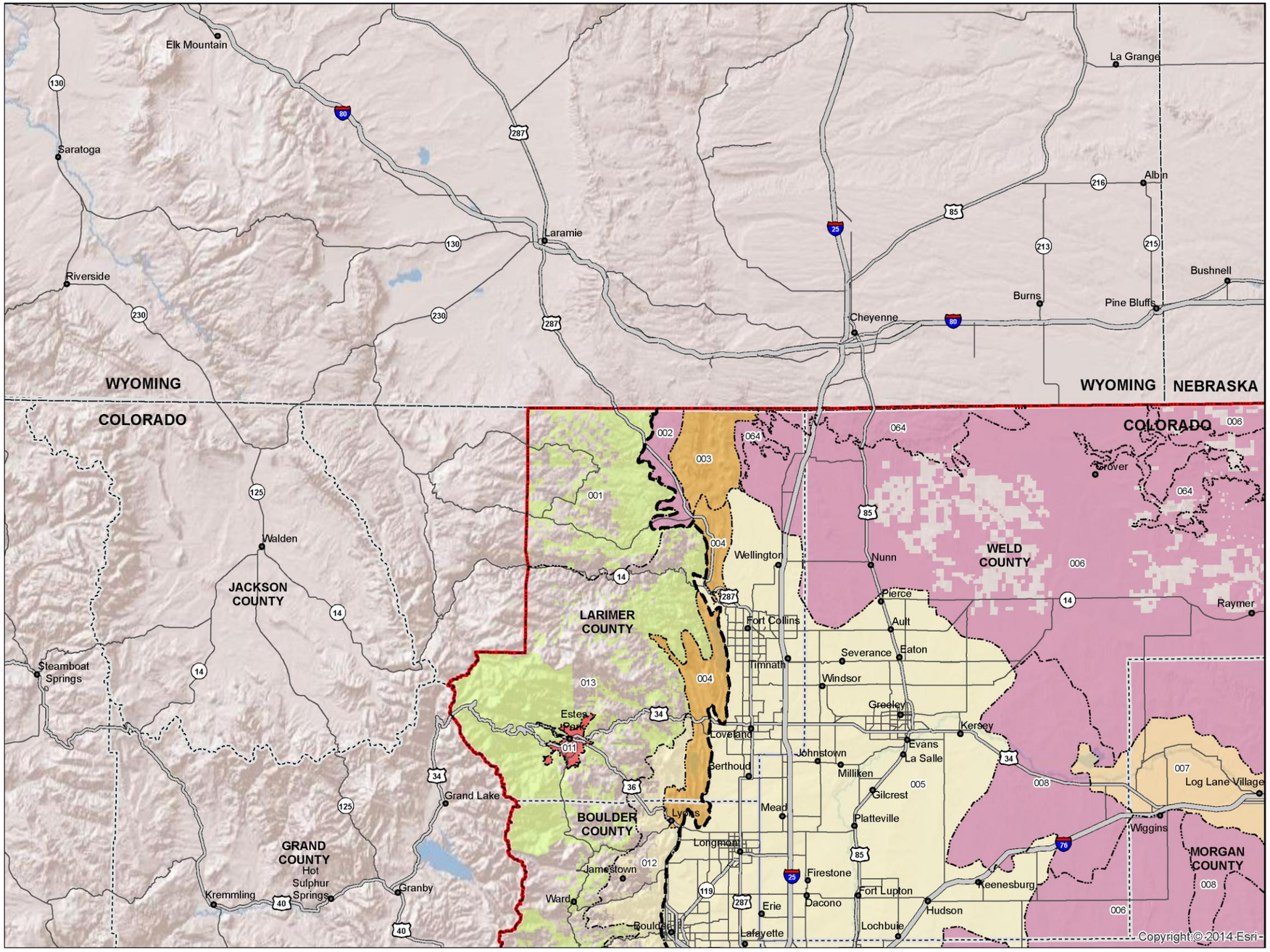

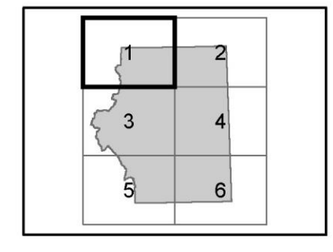

Figure 9a. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 1

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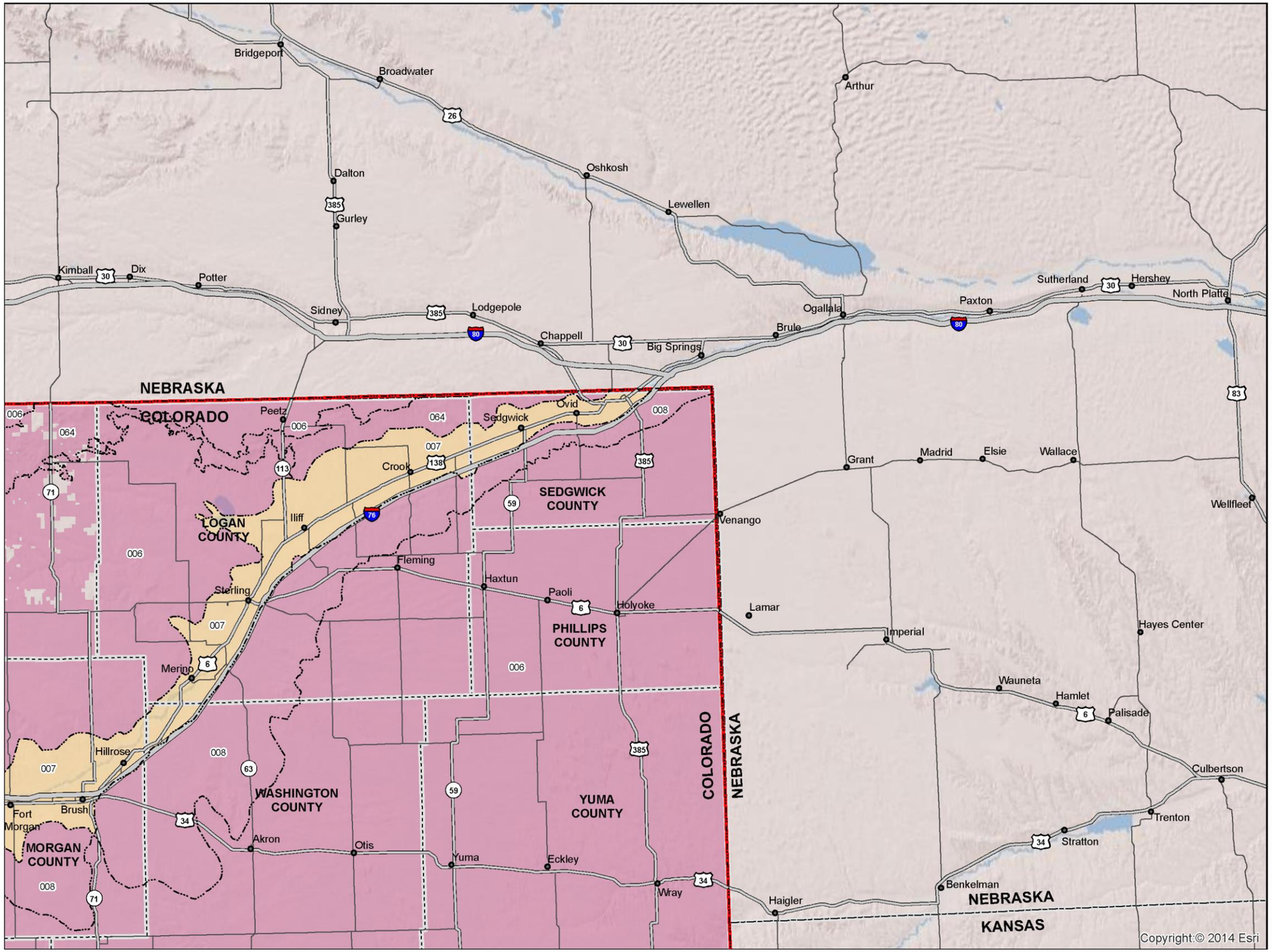

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Water Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

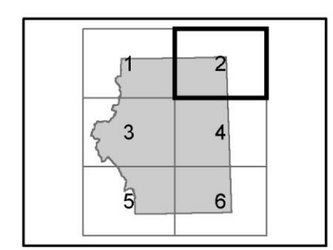

Figure 9b. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 2

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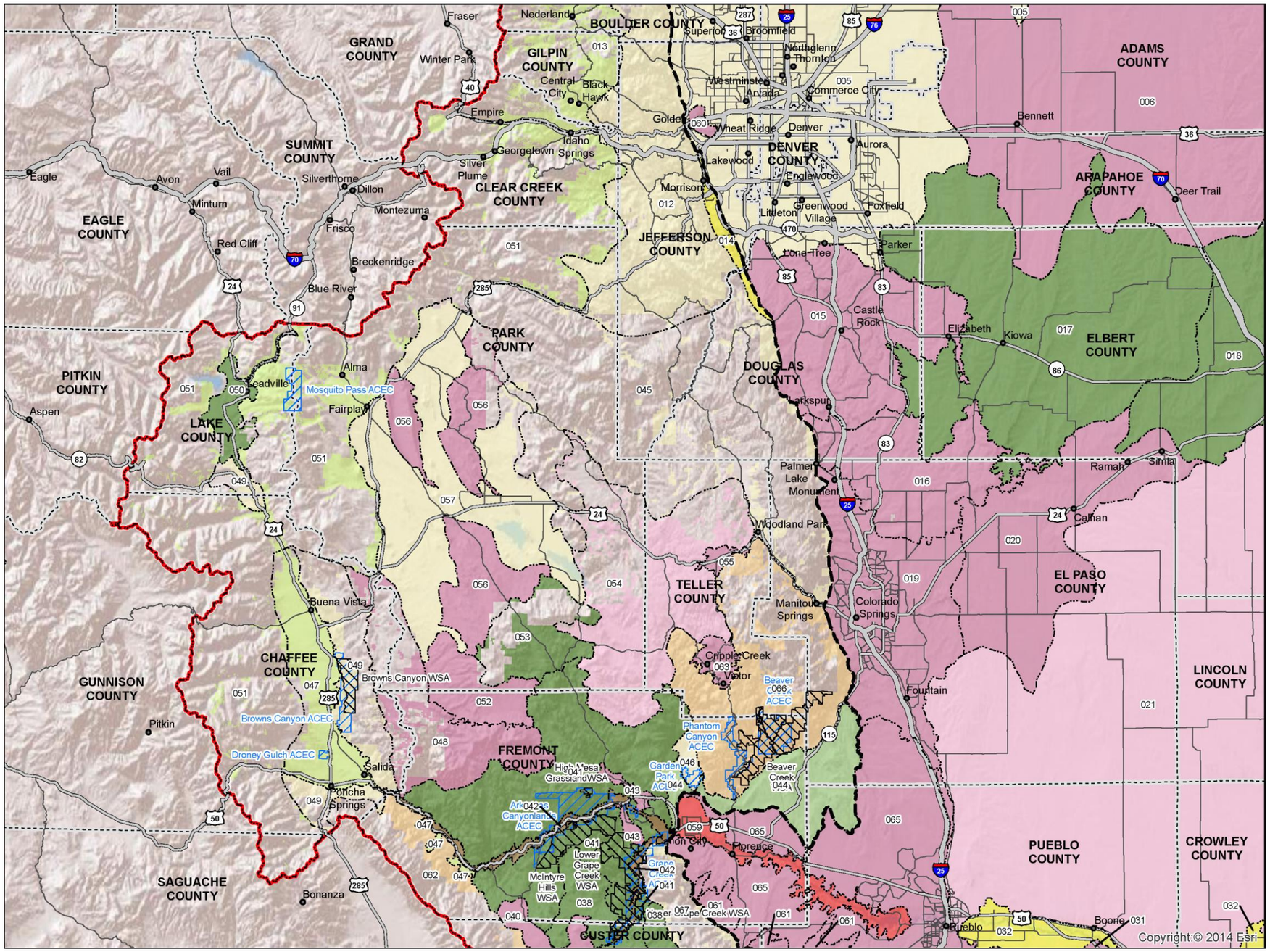

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Water Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

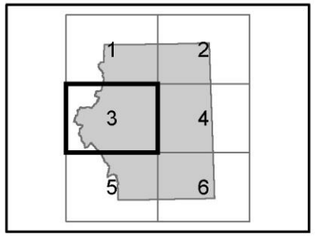

Figure 9c. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 3

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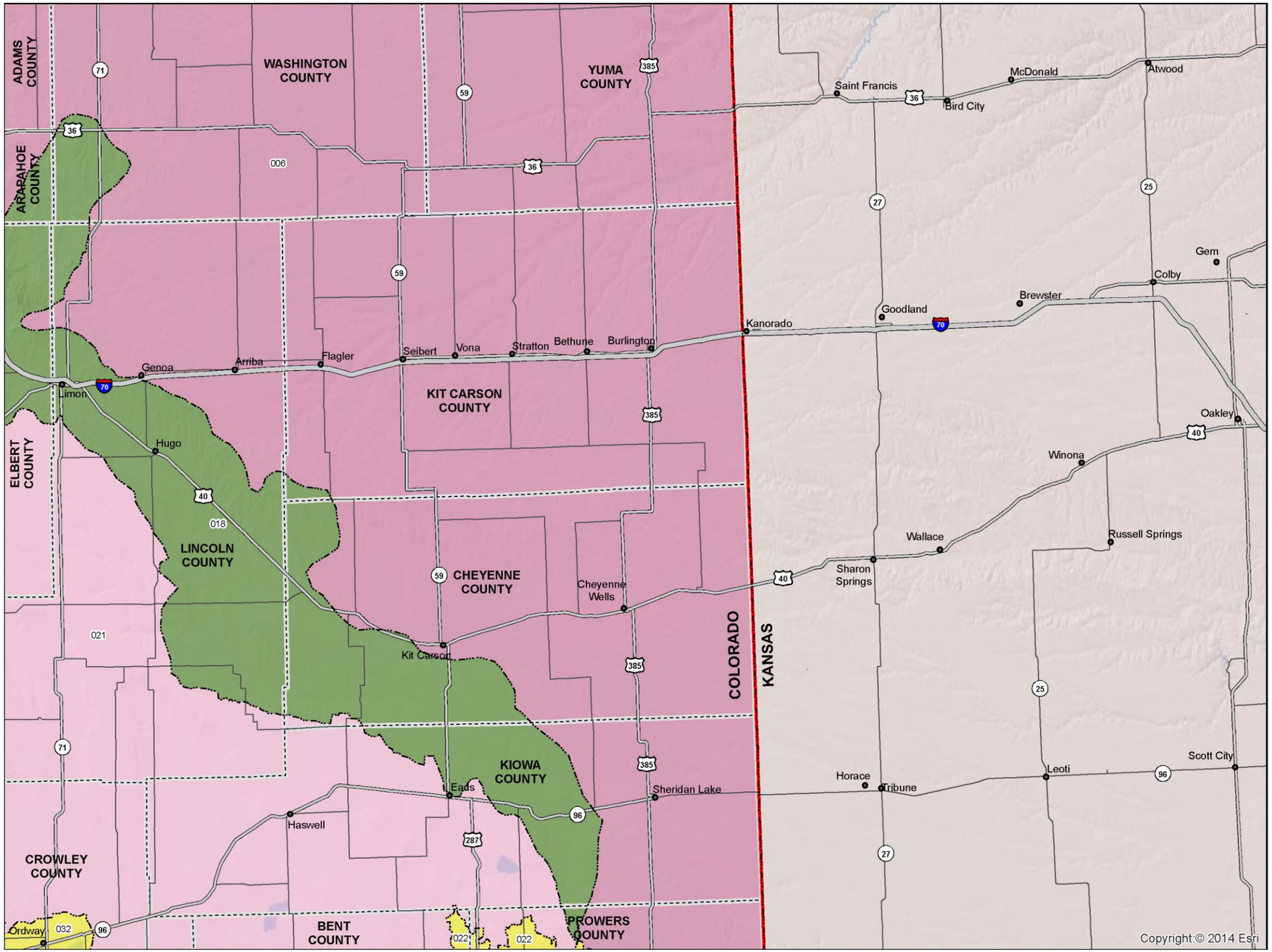

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Water Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

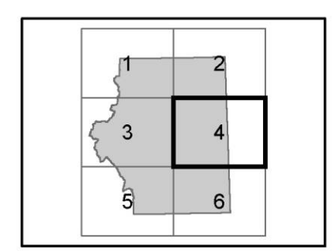

Figure 9d. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 4

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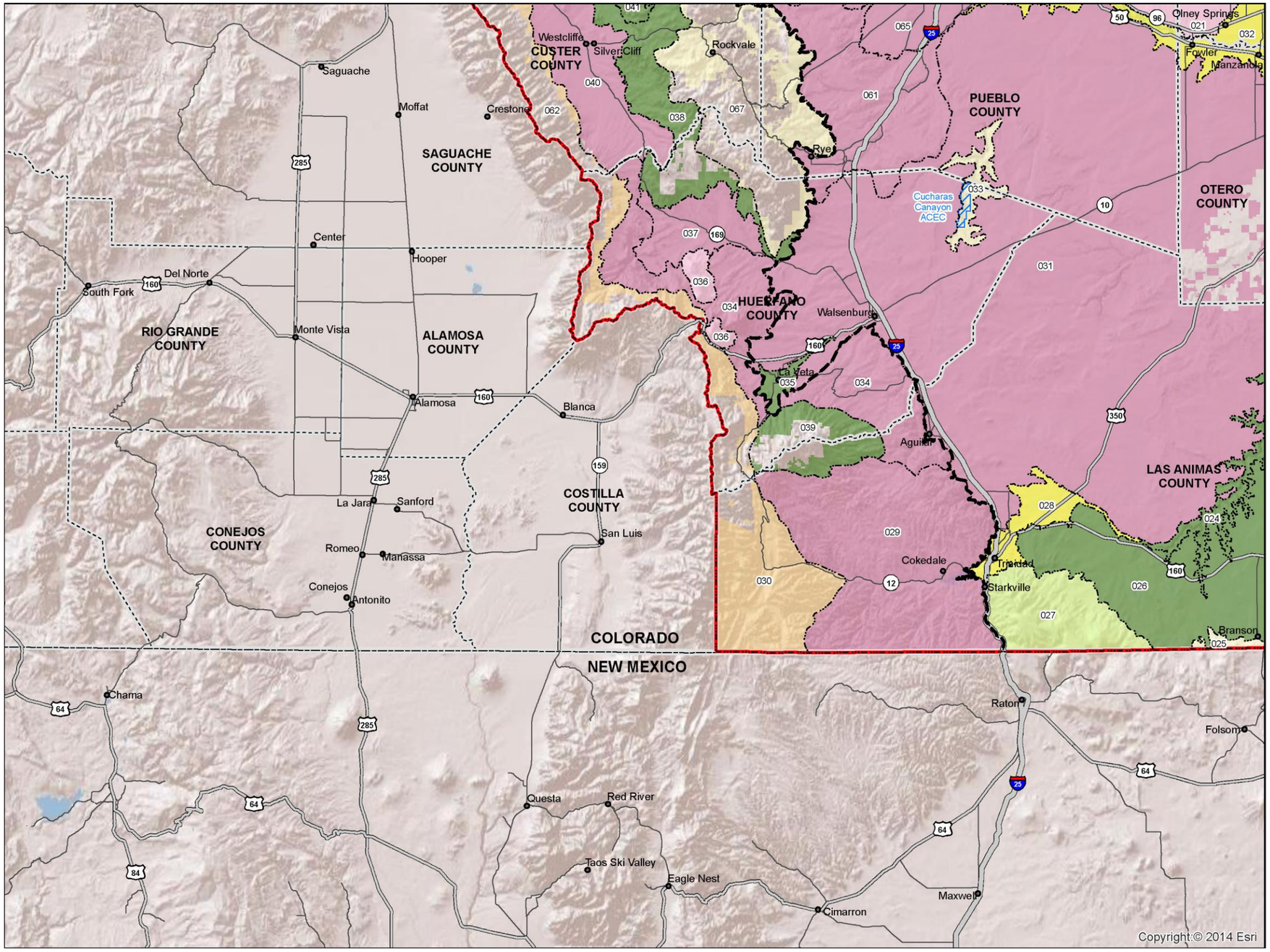

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Water Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

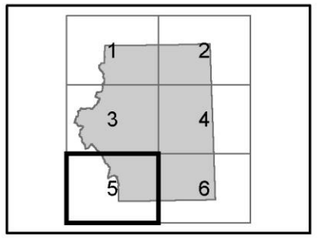

Figure 9e. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 5

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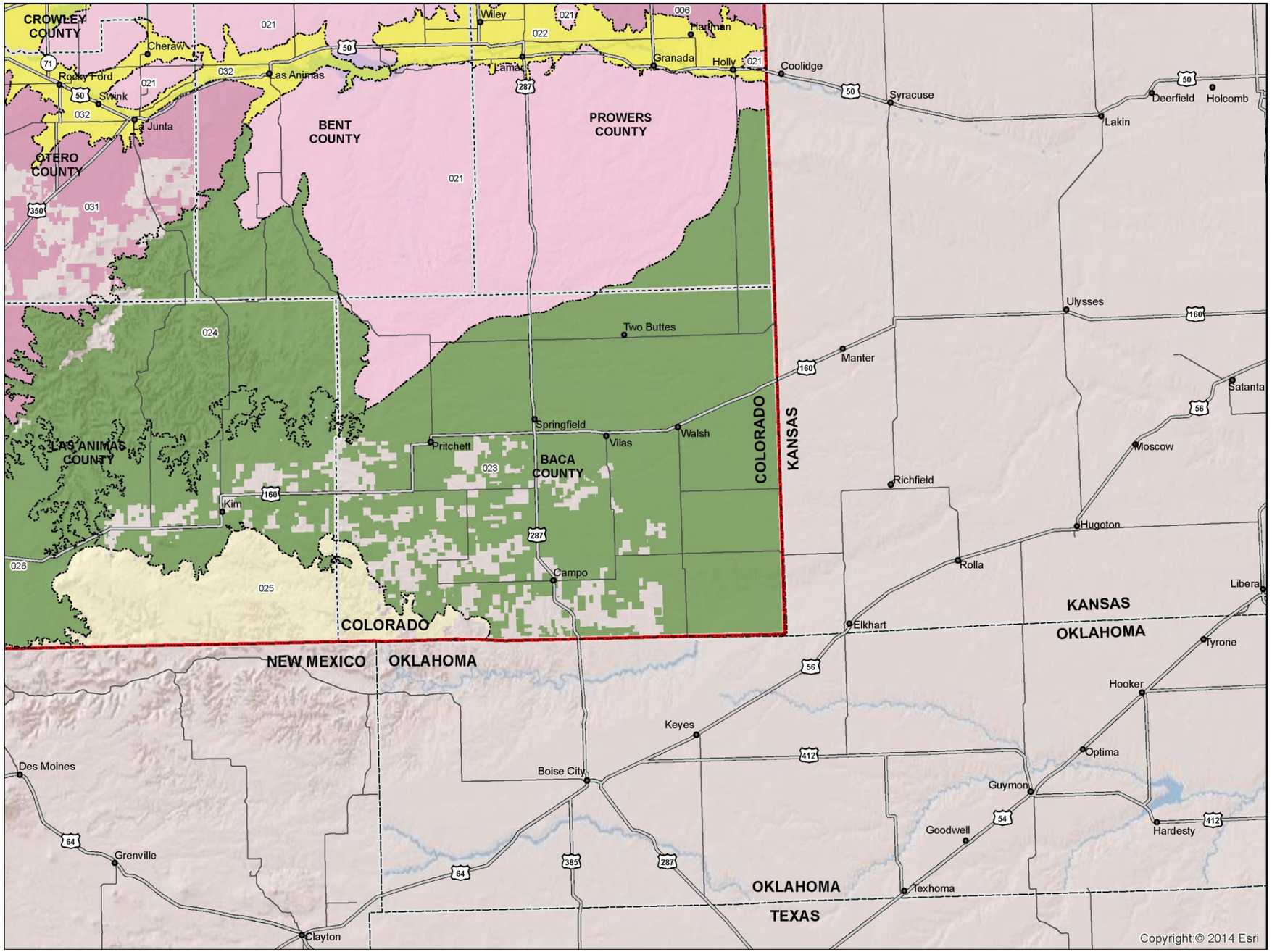

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Water Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
023 — Plateau Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

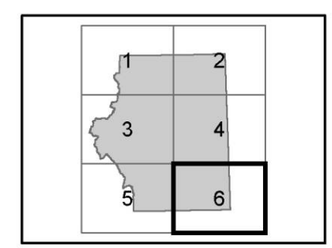

Figure 9f. Scenic Quality Rating: Water, Segment 6

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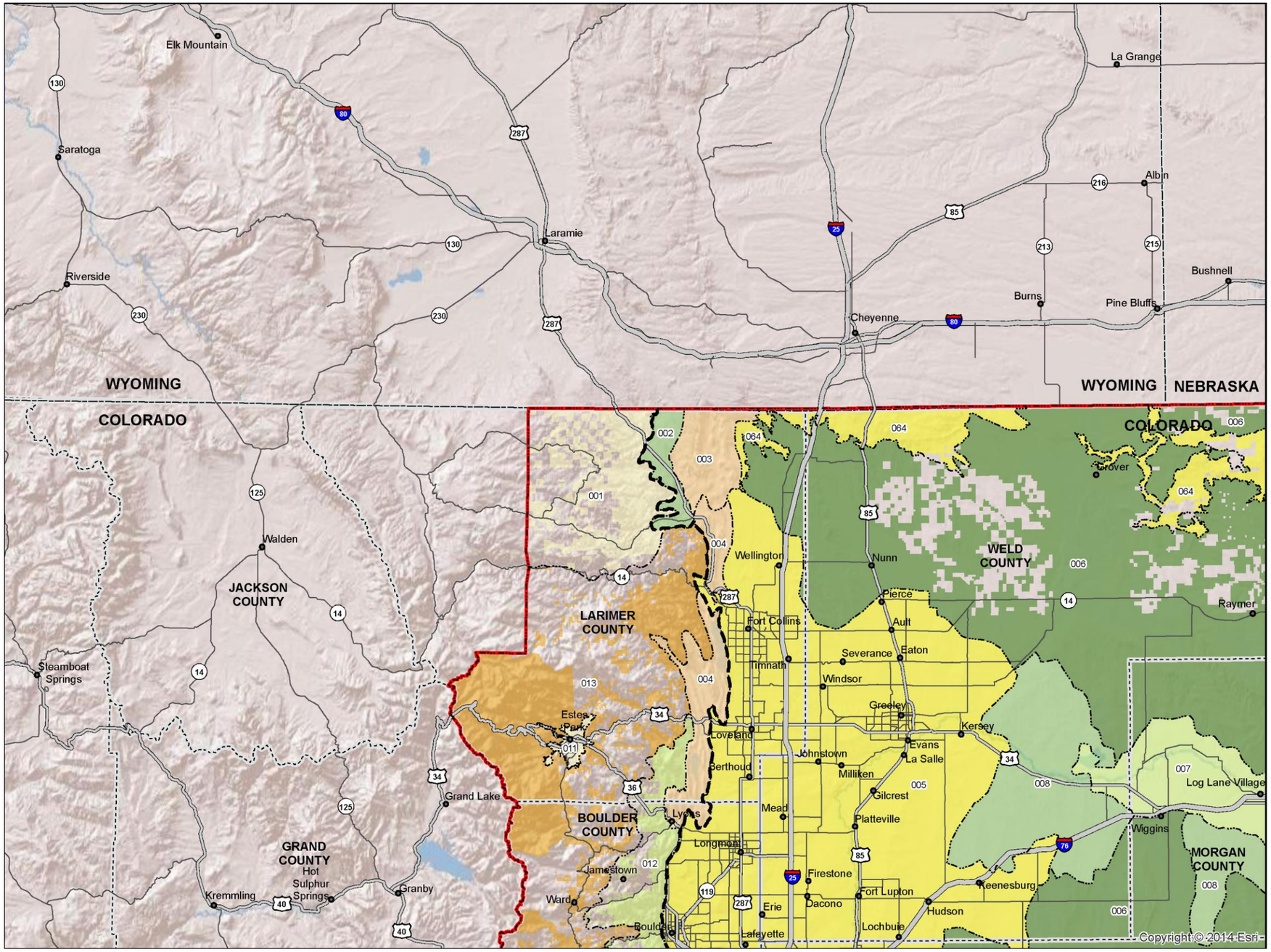

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Color Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills
002 — Lonetree
003 — Sand Creek Buttes
004 — North Front Range Hogback
005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
011 — Estes
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

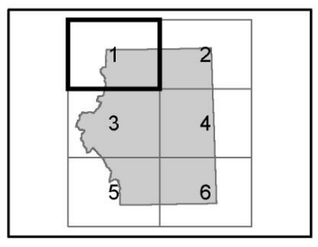

Figure 10a. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 1

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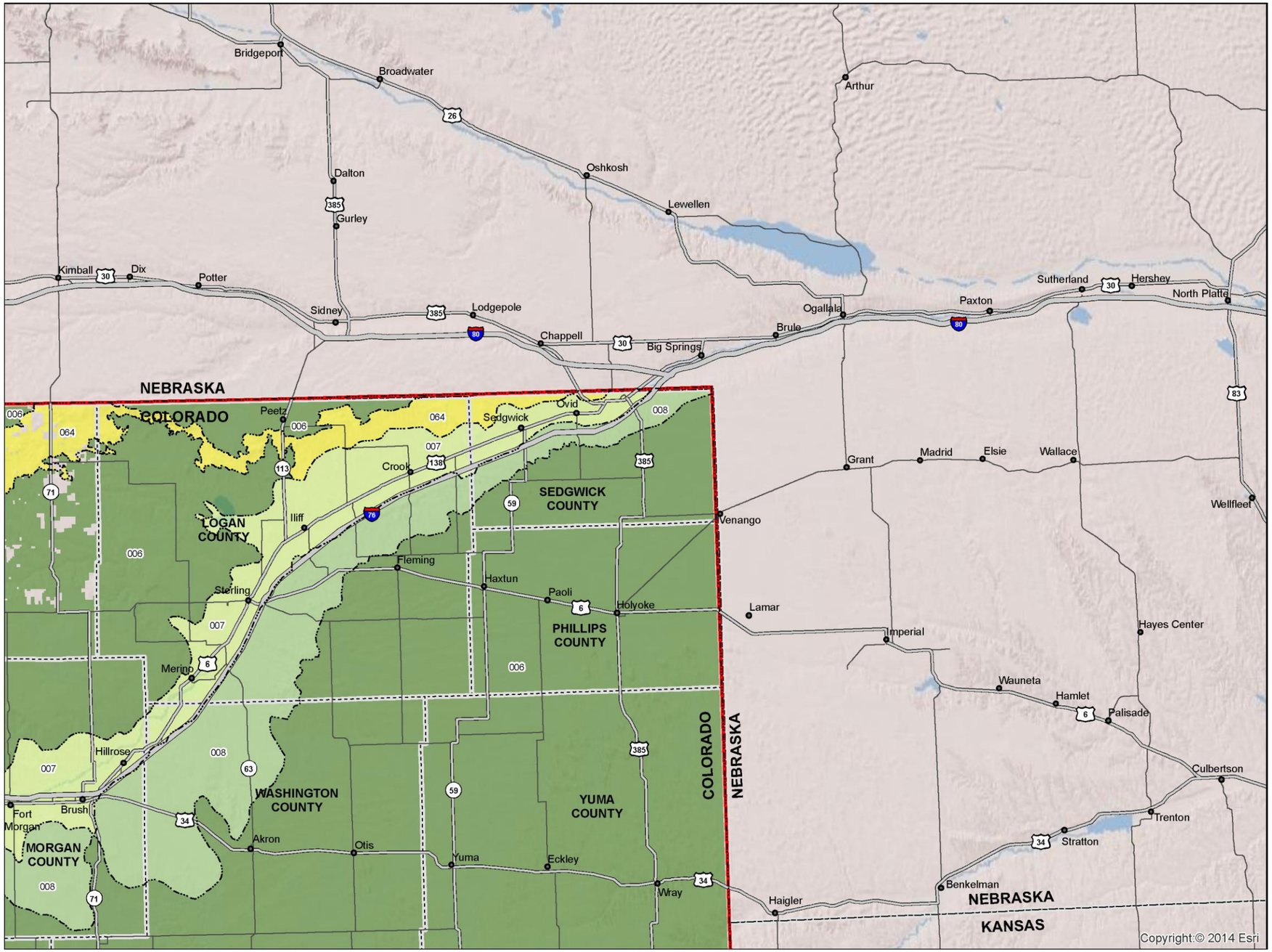

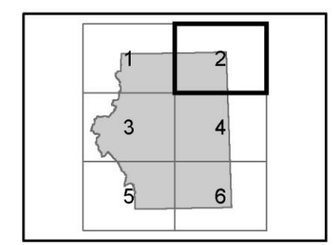

Figure 10b. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 2

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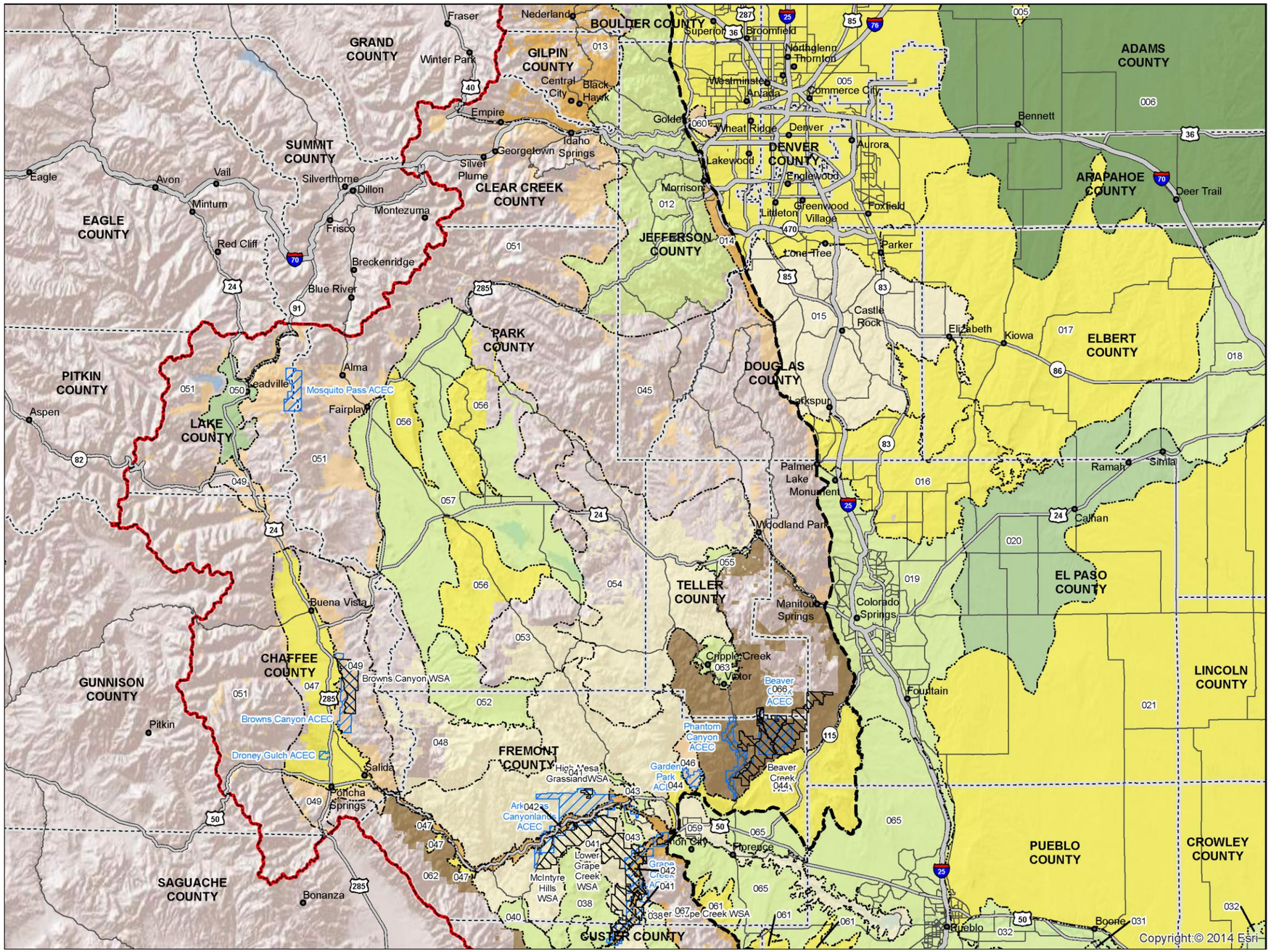

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Color Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

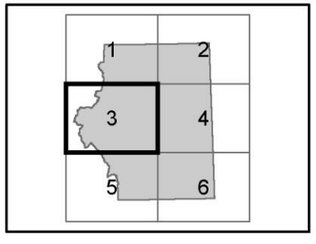

Figure 10c. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 3

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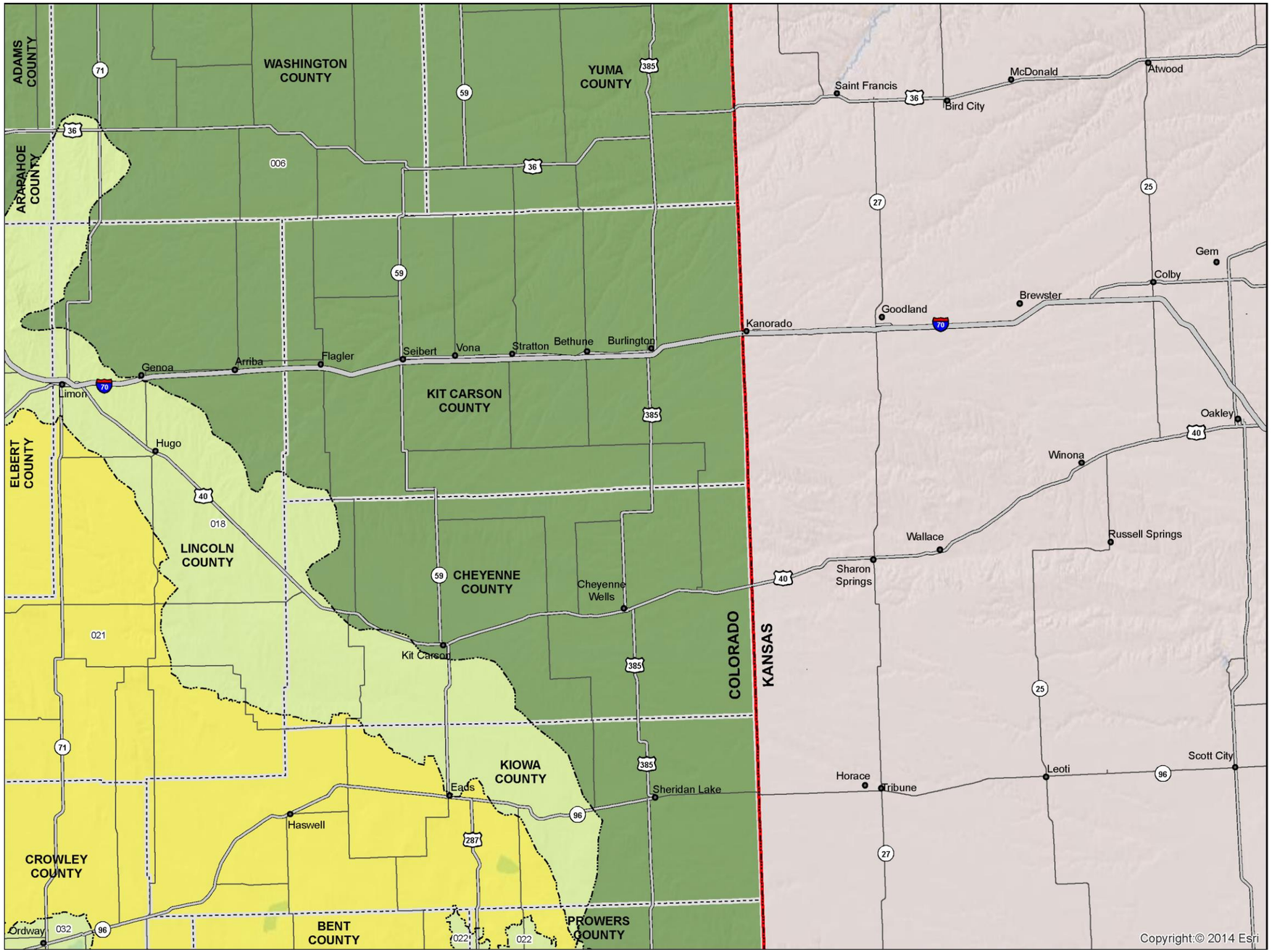

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Color Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

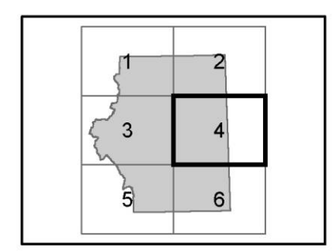

Figure 10d. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 4

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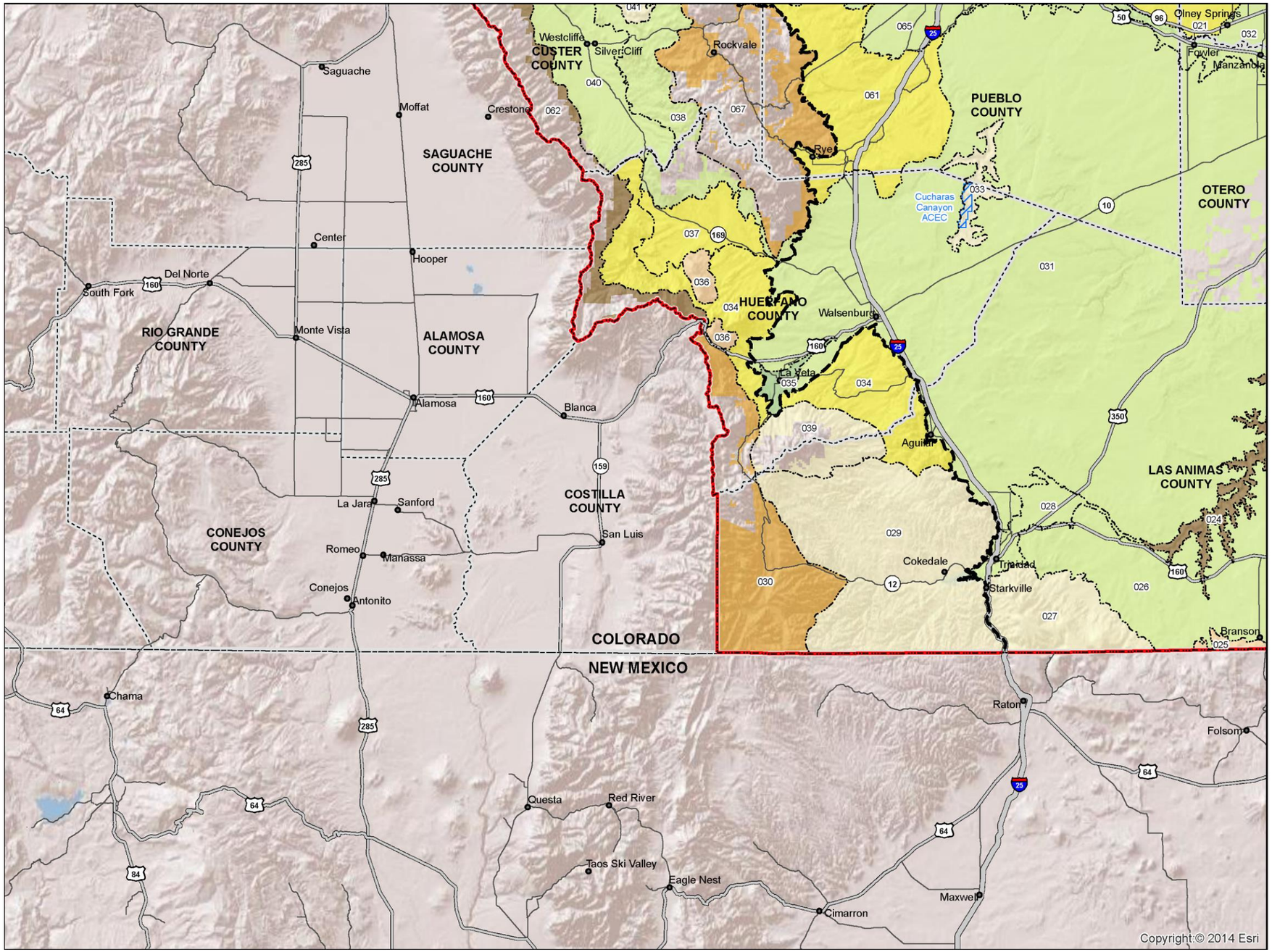

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Color Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

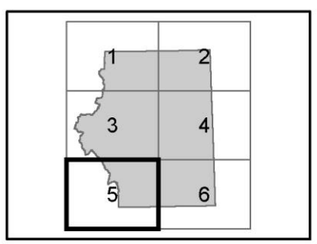

Figure 10e. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 5

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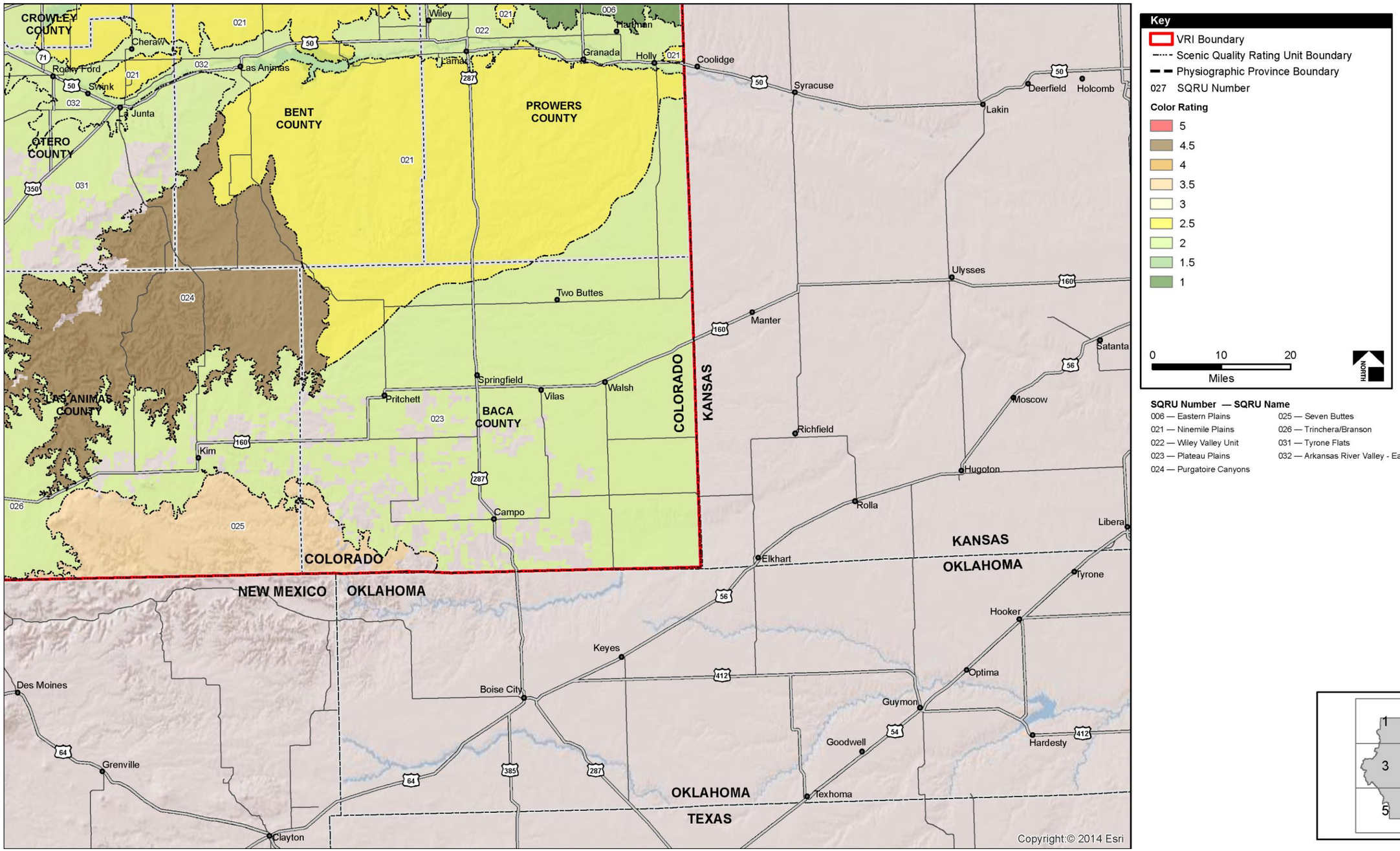

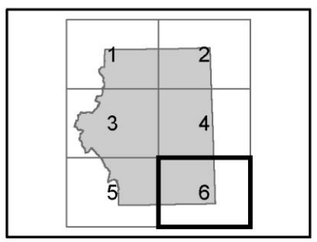

Figure 10f. Scenic Quality Rating: Color, Segment 6

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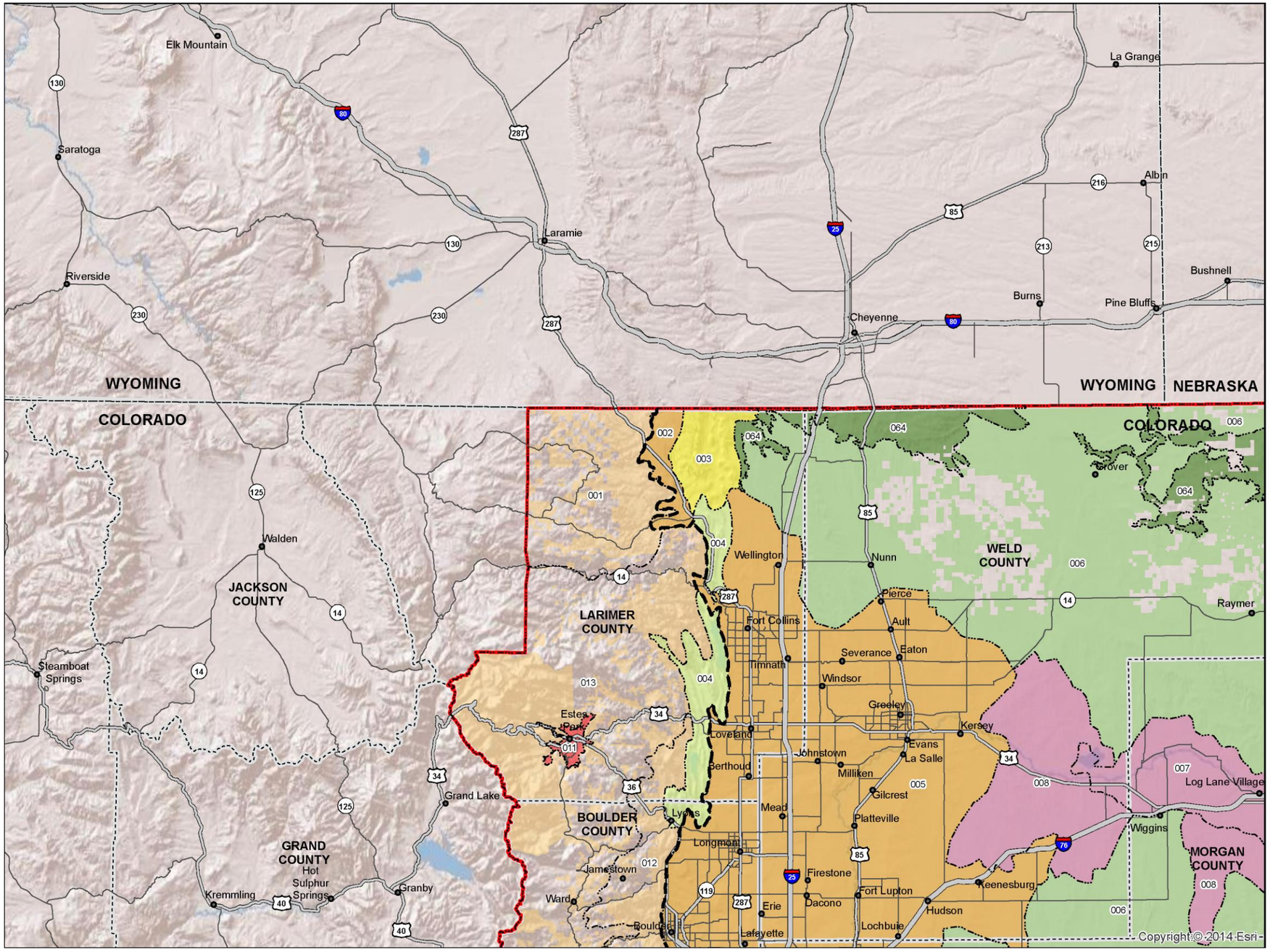

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Adjacent Scenery Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills
002 — Lonetree
003 — Sand Creek Buttes
004 — North Front Range Hogback
005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
011 — Estes
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

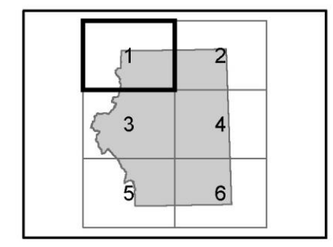

Figure 11a. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 1

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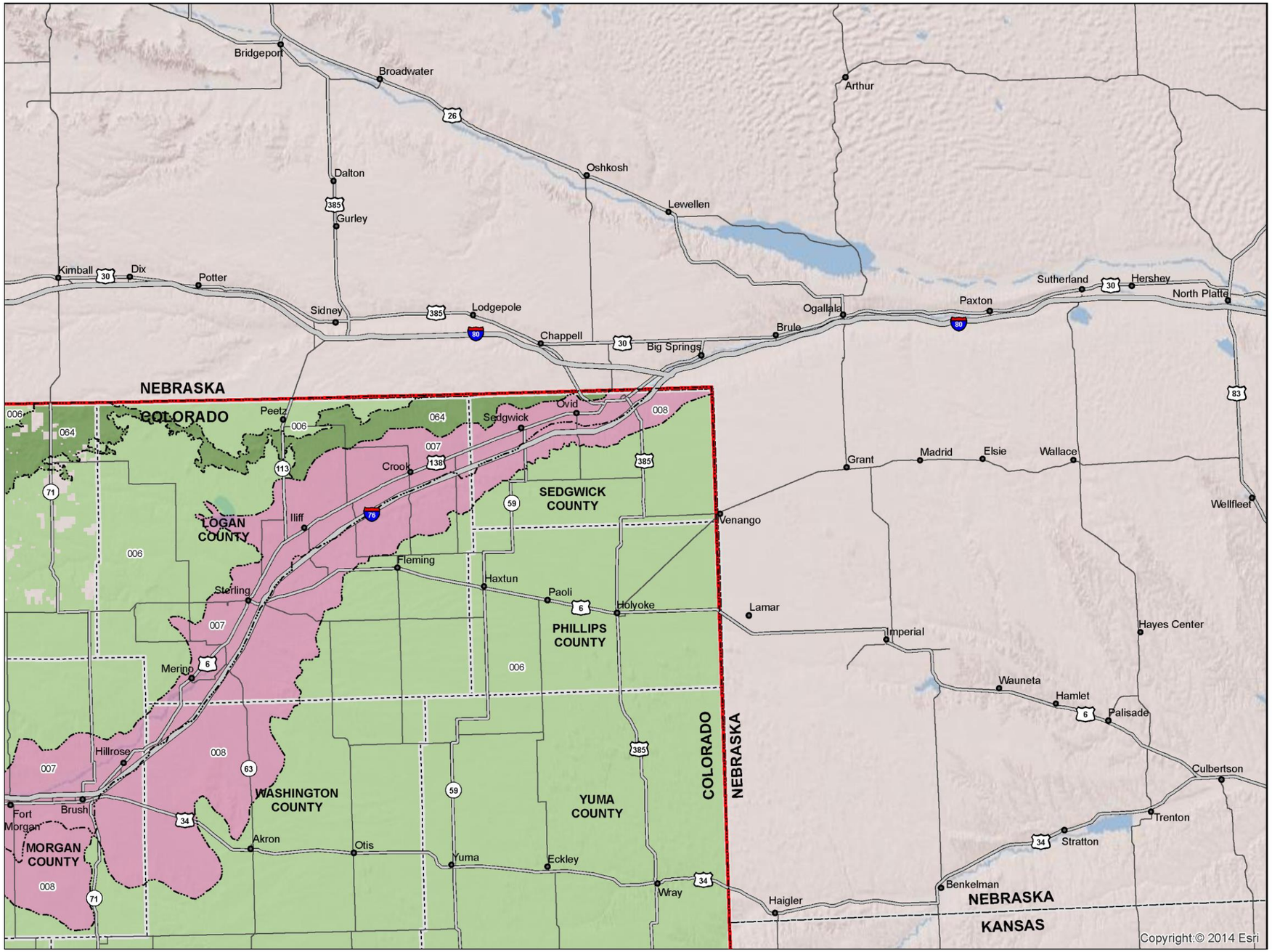

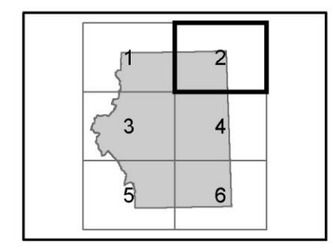

Figure 11b. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 2

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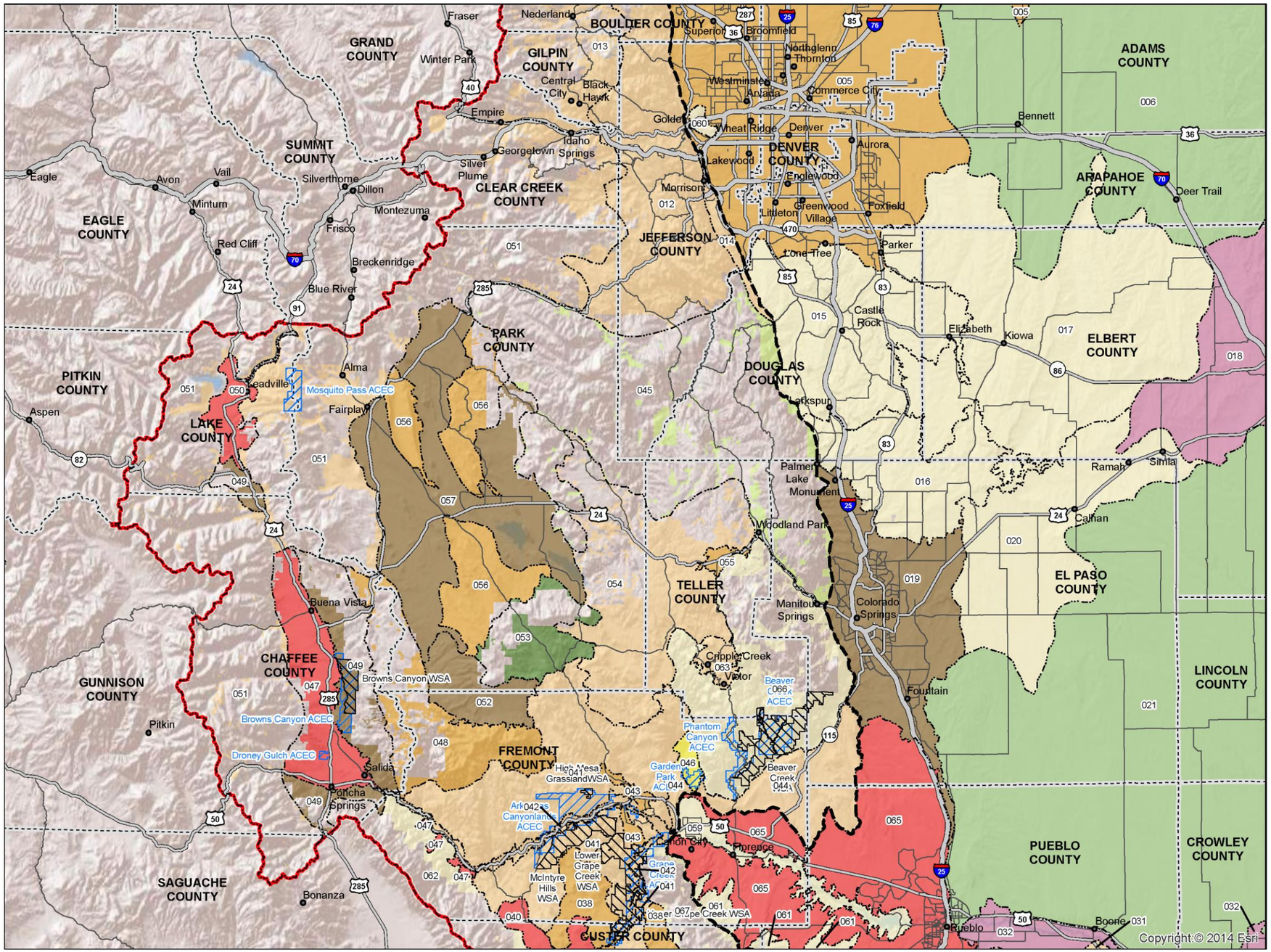

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Adjacent Scenery Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

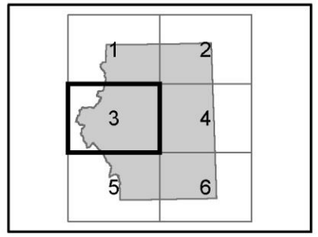

Figure 11c. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 3

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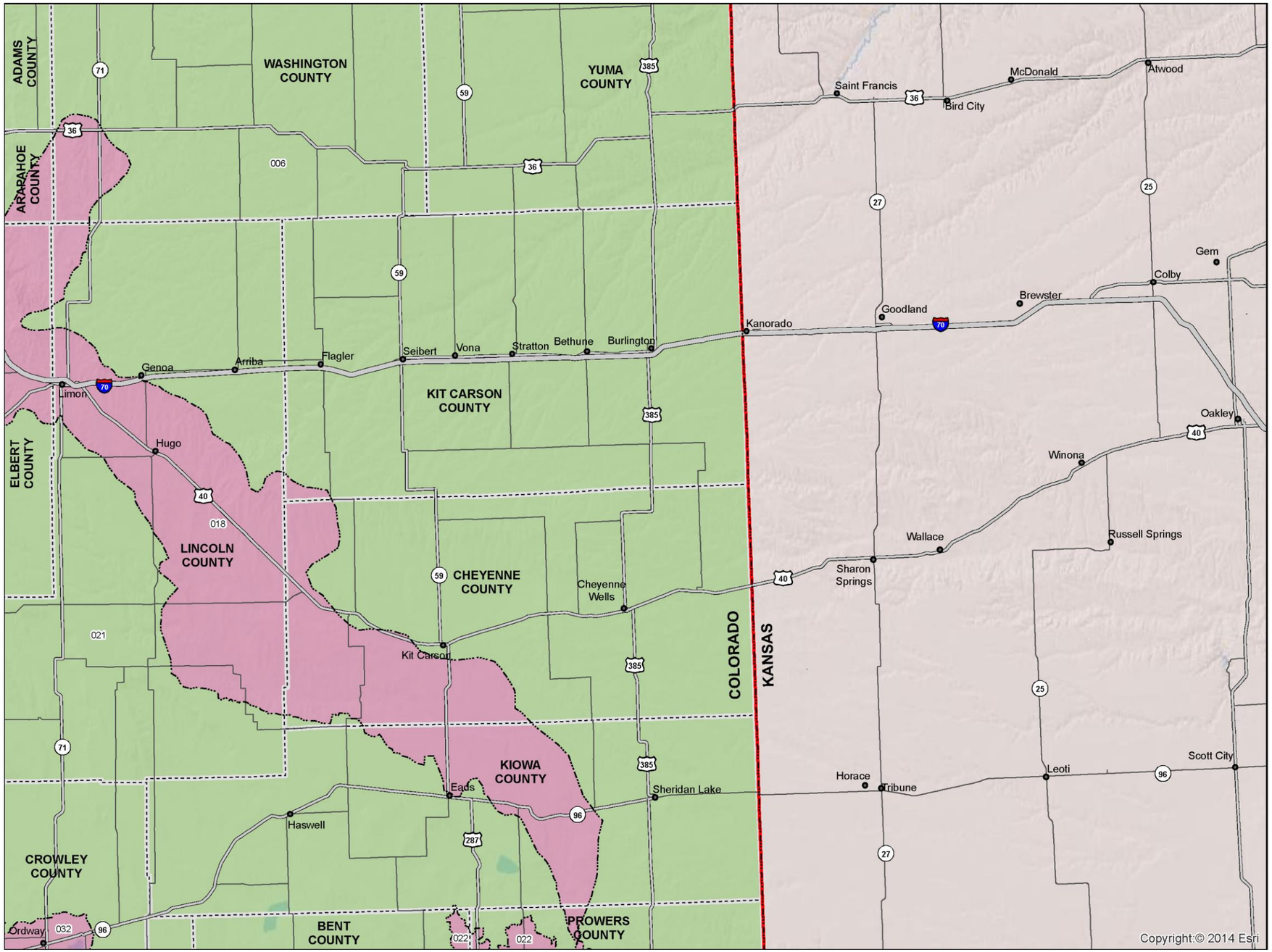

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Adjacent Scenery Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

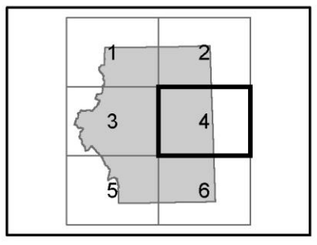

Figure 11d. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 4

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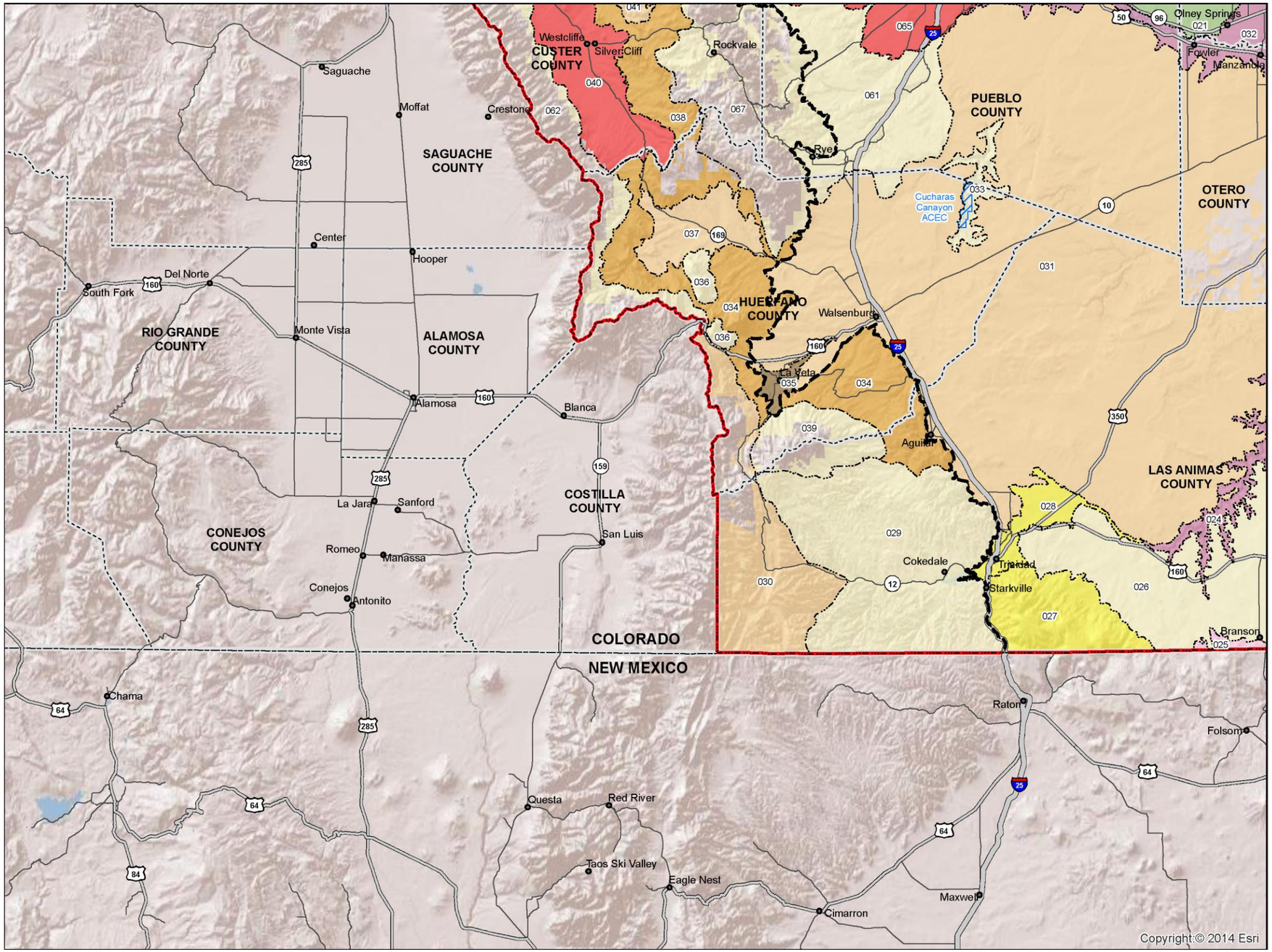

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Adjacent Scenery Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

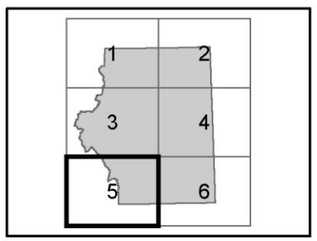

Figure 11e. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 5

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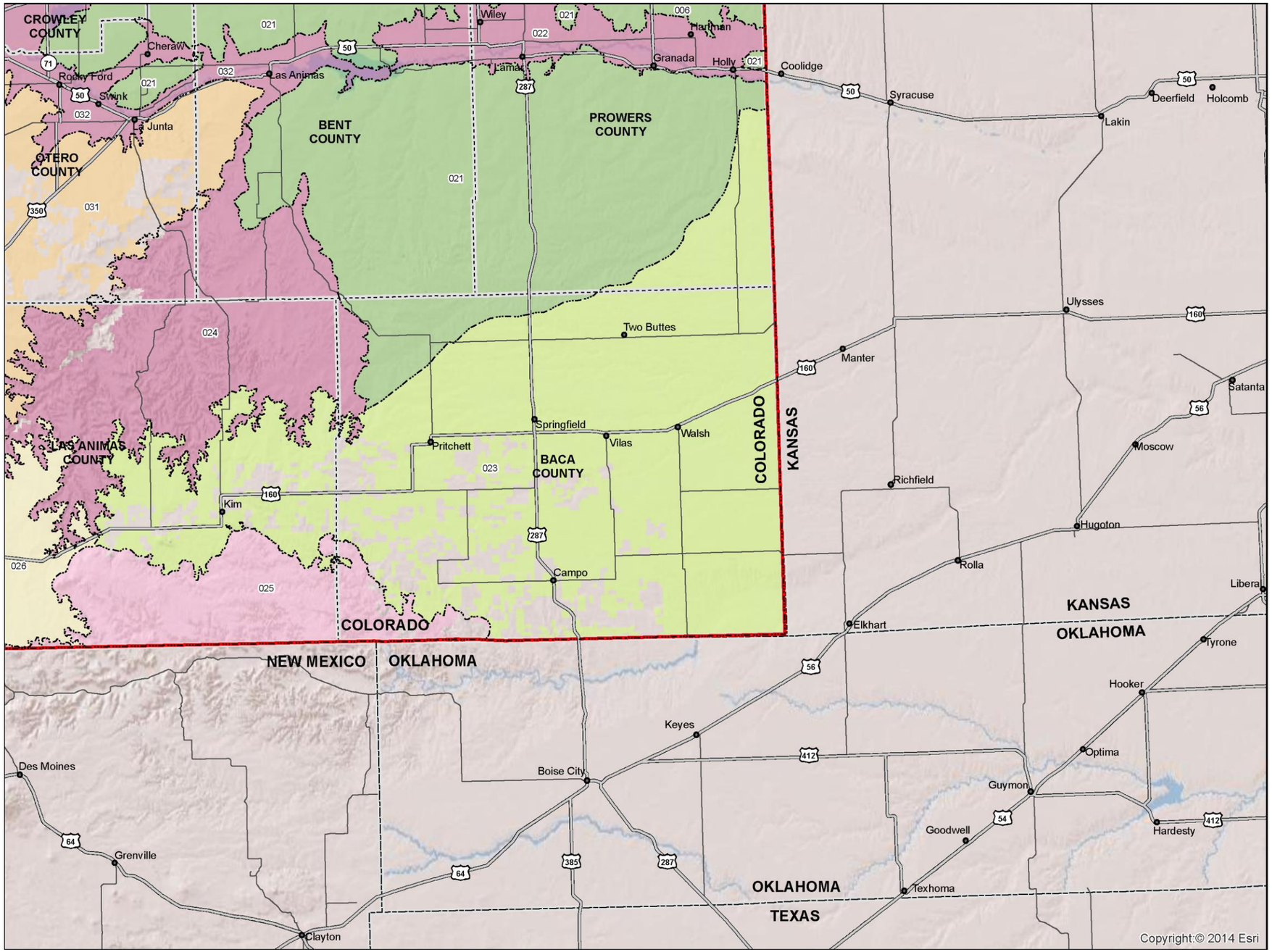

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Adjacent Scenery Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
023 — Plateau Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

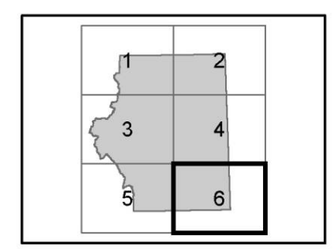

Figure 11f. Scenic Quality Rating: Adjacent Scenery, Segment 6

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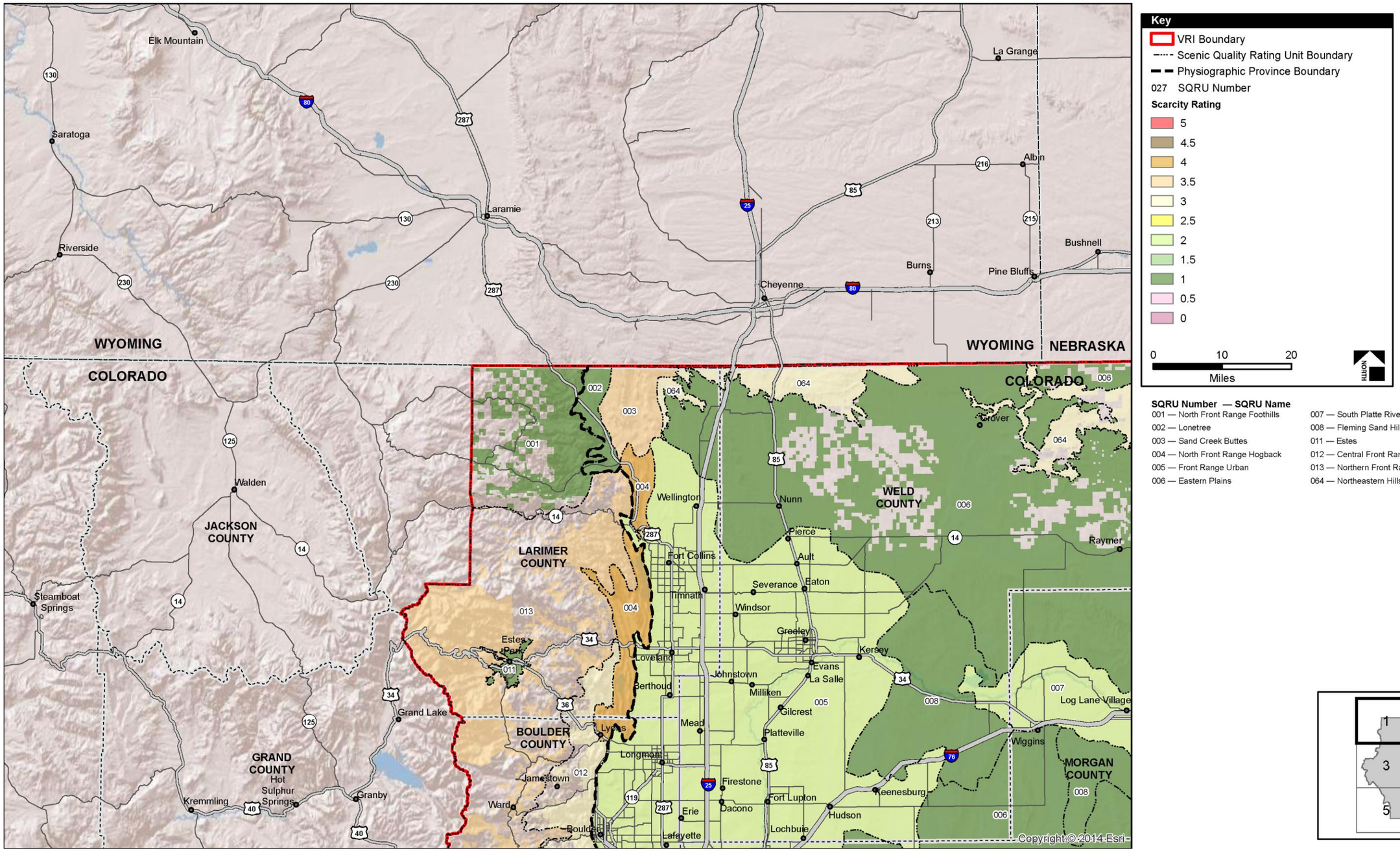

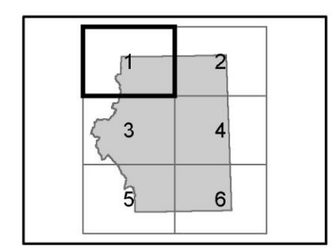

Figure 12a. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 1

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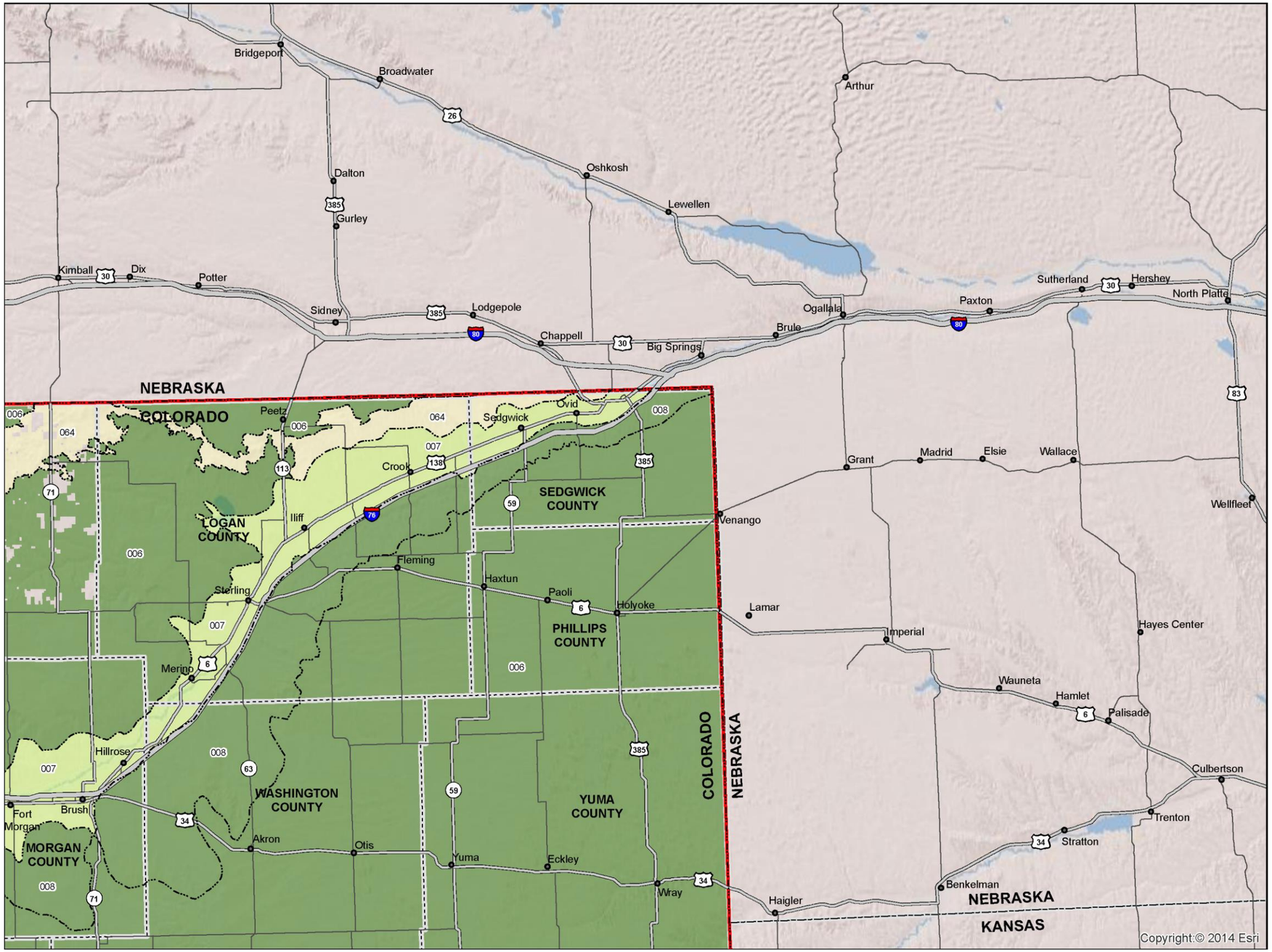

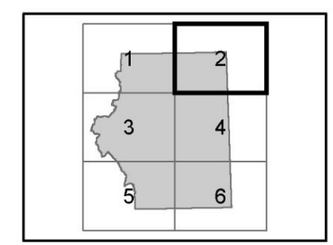

Figure 12b. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 2

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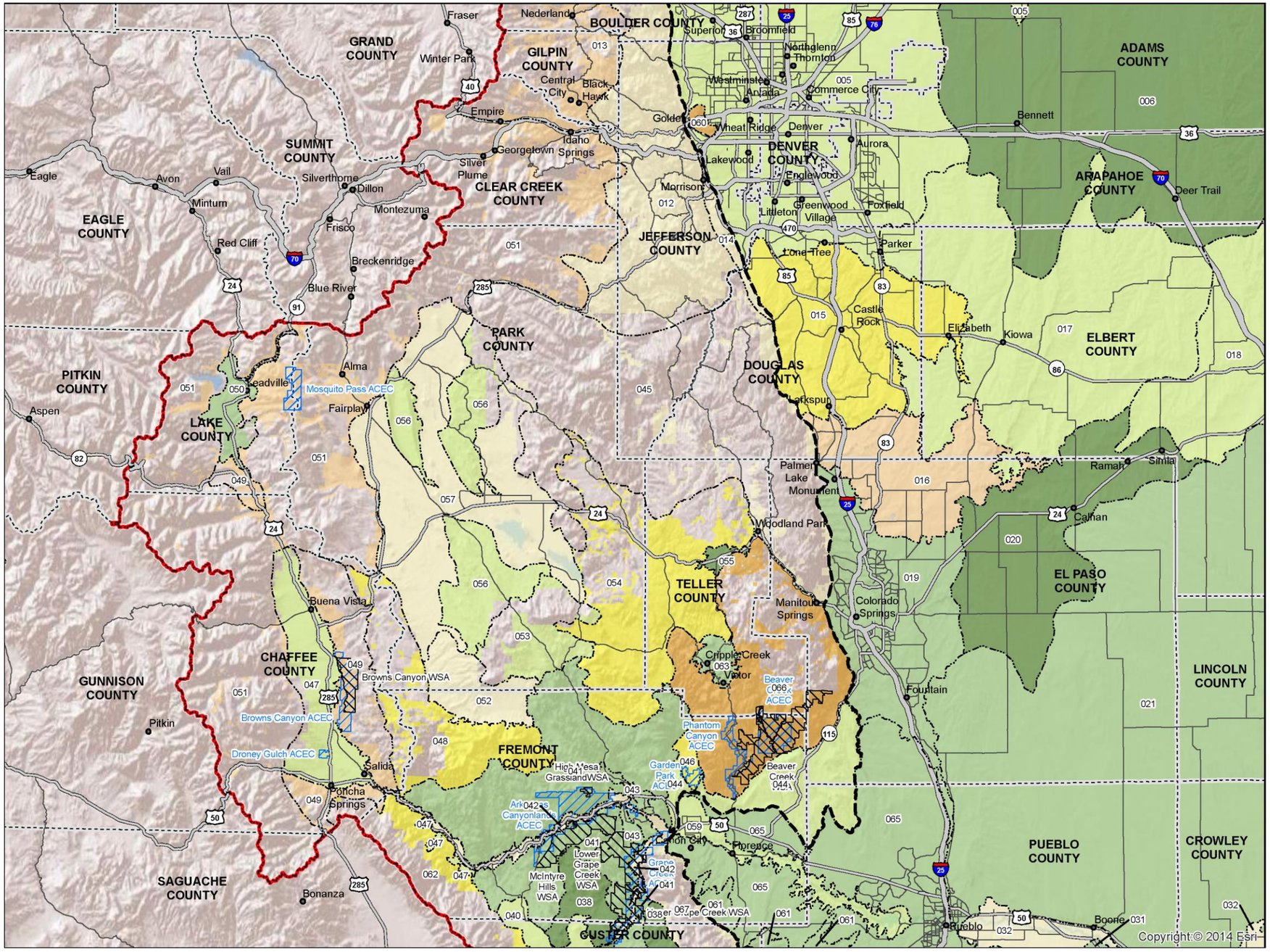

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Scarcity Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

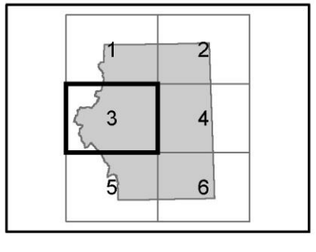

Figure 12c. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 3

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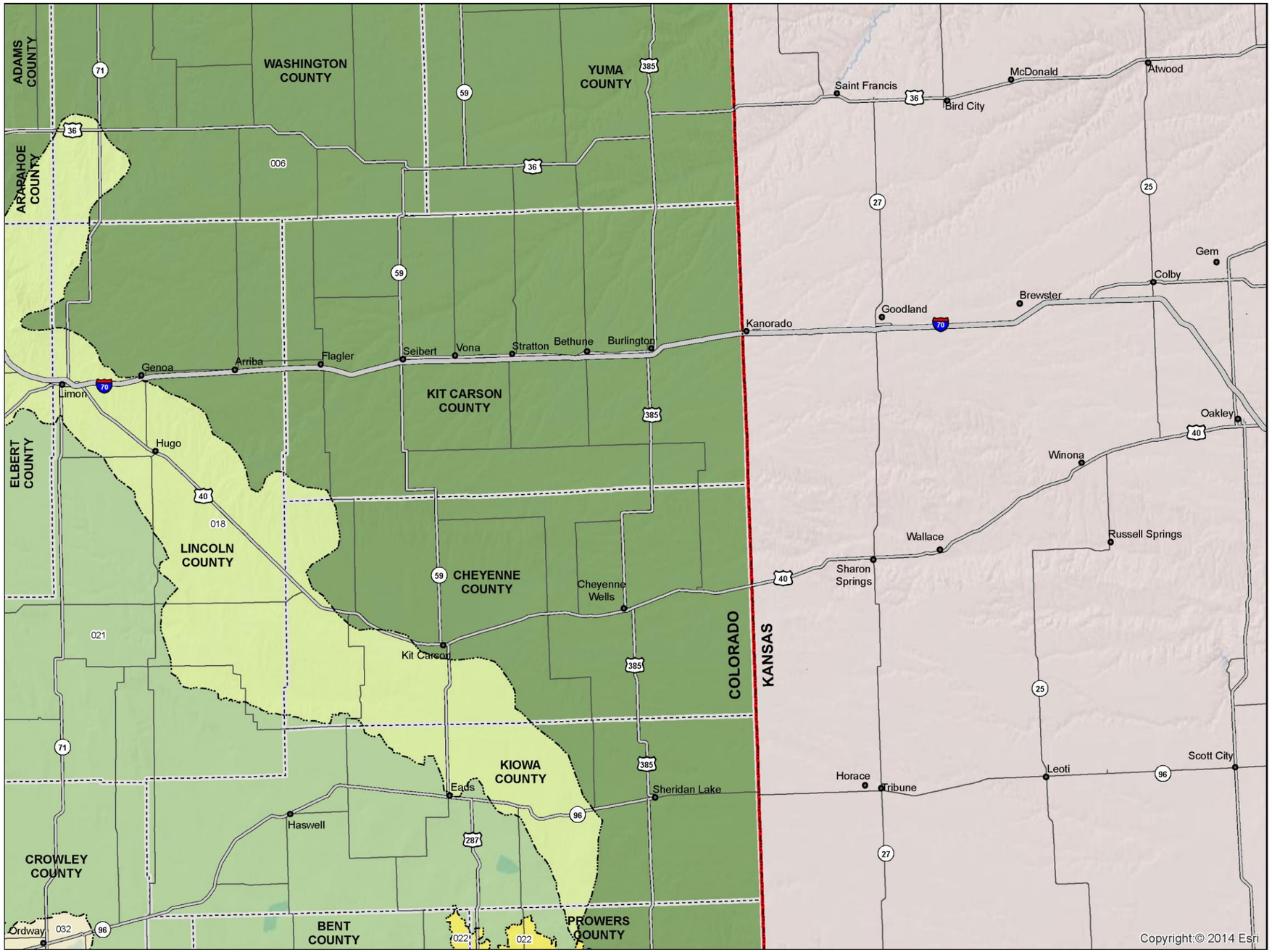

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Scarcity Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

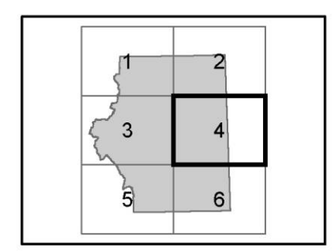

Figure 12d. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 4

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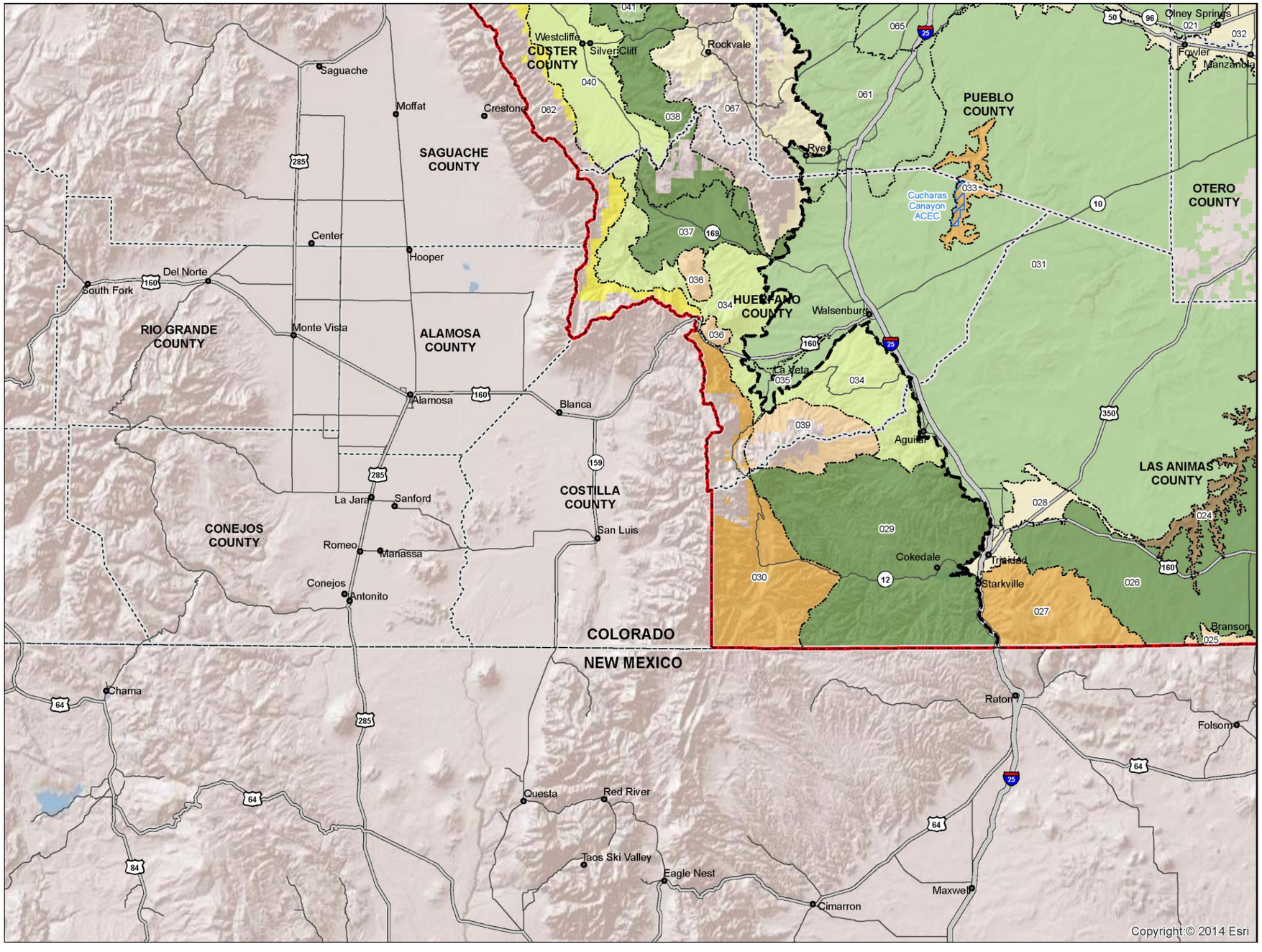

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Scarcity Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

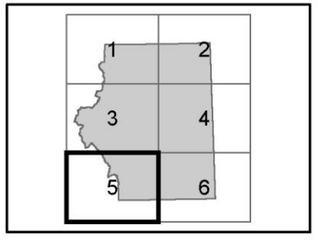

Figure 12e. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 5

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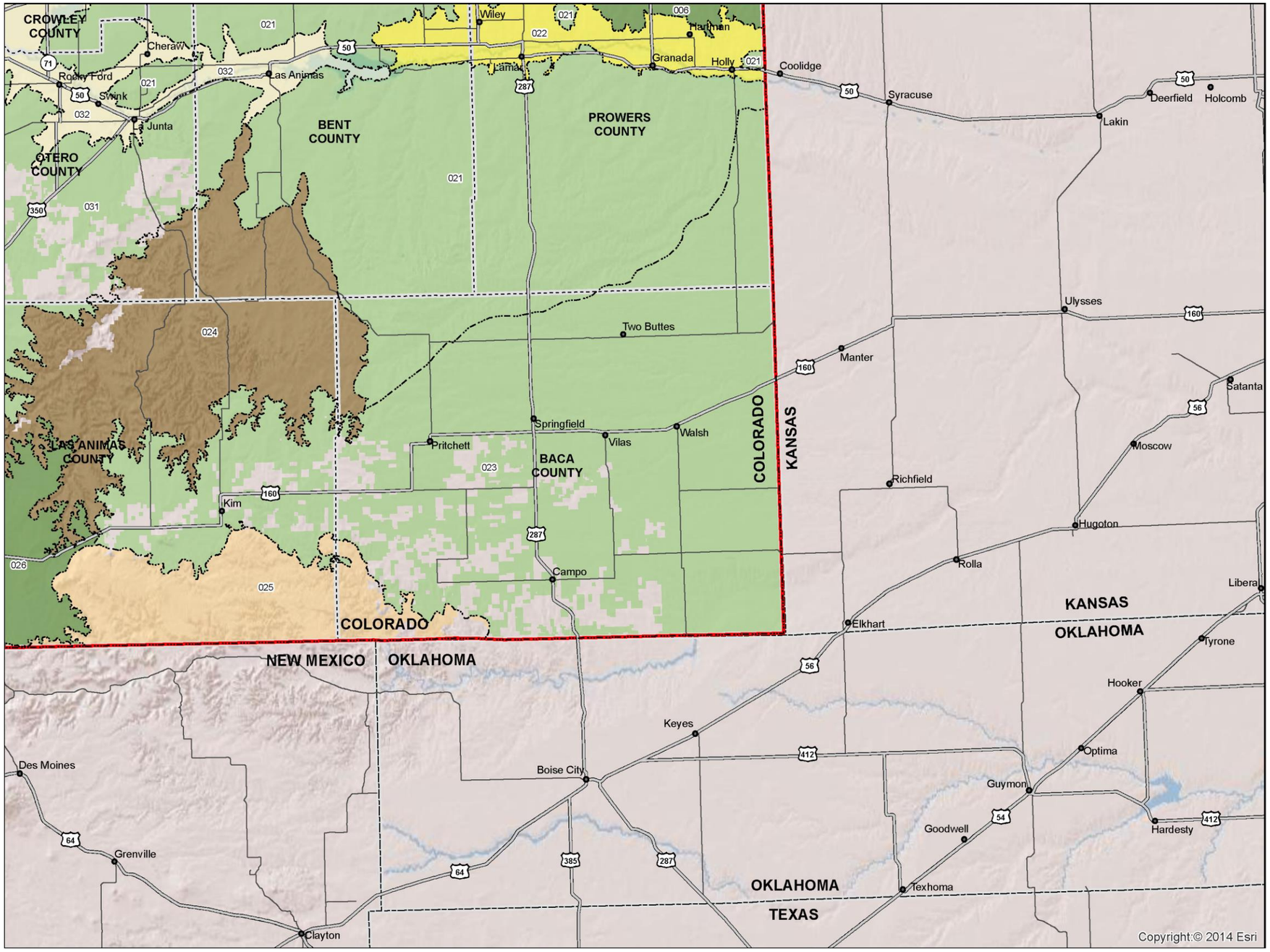

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Scarcity Rating

- 5
- 4.5
- 4
- 3.5
- 3
- 2.5
- 2
- 1.5
- 1
- 0.5
- 0

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
023 — Plateau Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

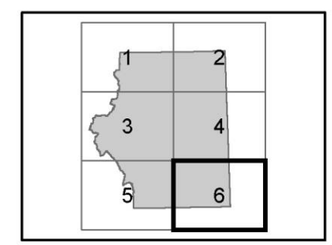

Figure 12f. Scenic Quality Rating: Scarcity, Segment 6

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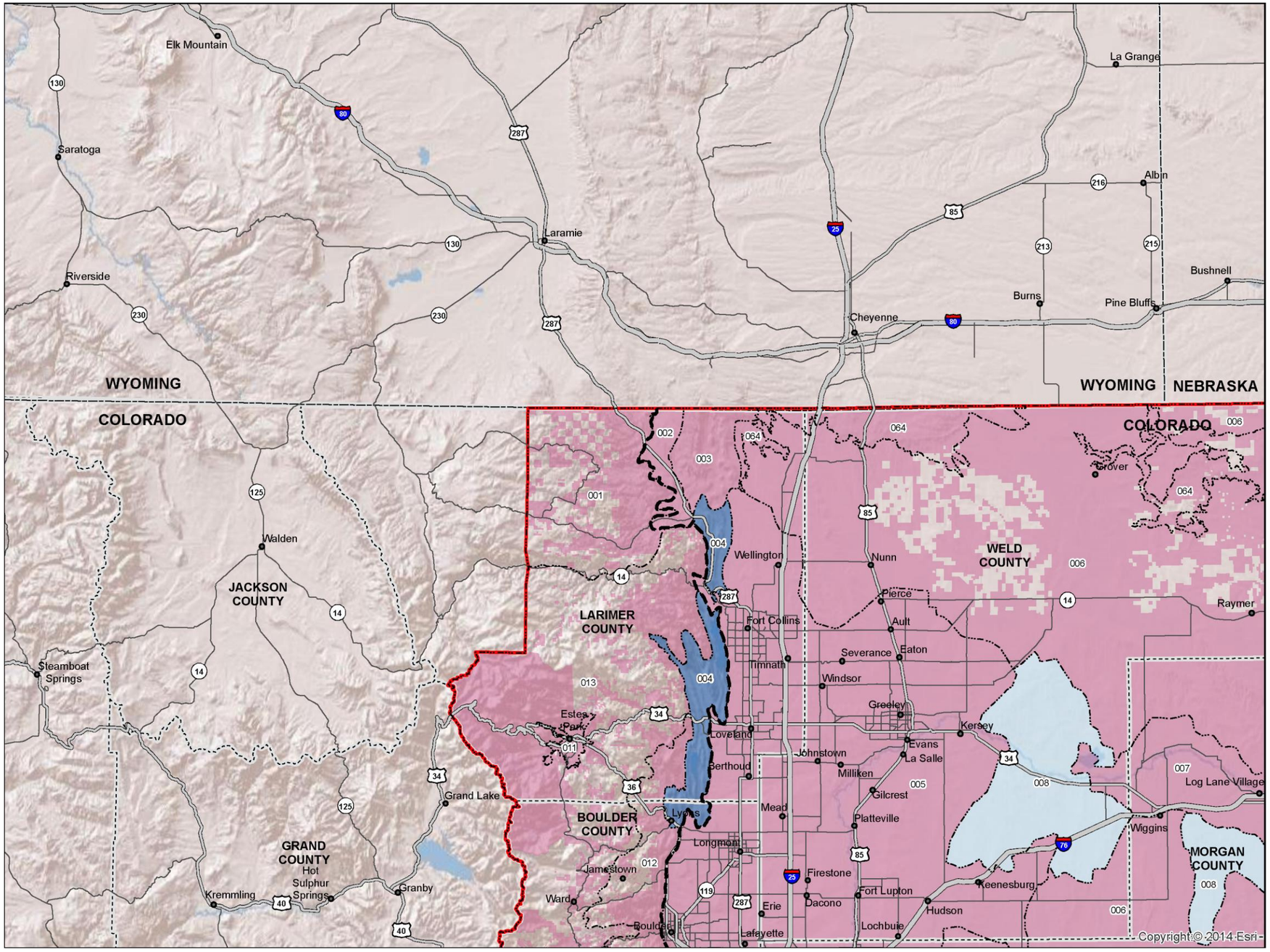

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Cultural Modification Rating

- 1
- 0.5
- 0
- -0.5
- -1
- -1.5
- -2

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

001 — North Front Range Foothills
002 — Lonetree
003 — Sand Creek Buttes
004 — North Front Range Hogback
005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
007 — South Platte River Valley
008 — Fleming Sand Hills
011 — Estes
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
064 — Northeastern Hills and Buttes

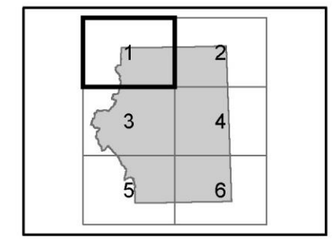

Figure 13a. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 1

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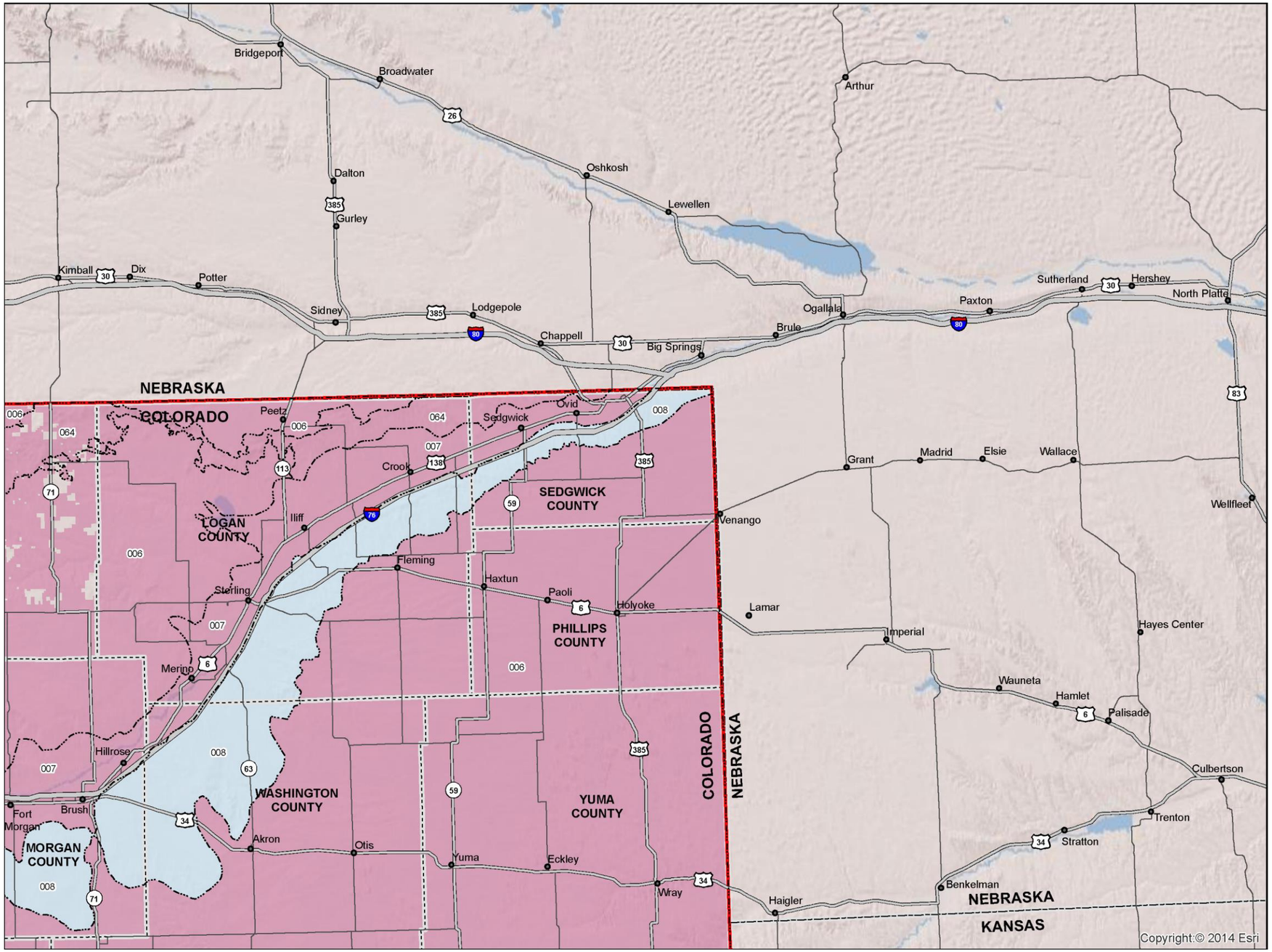

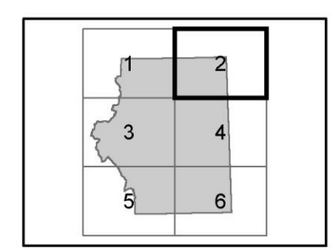

Figure 13b. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 2

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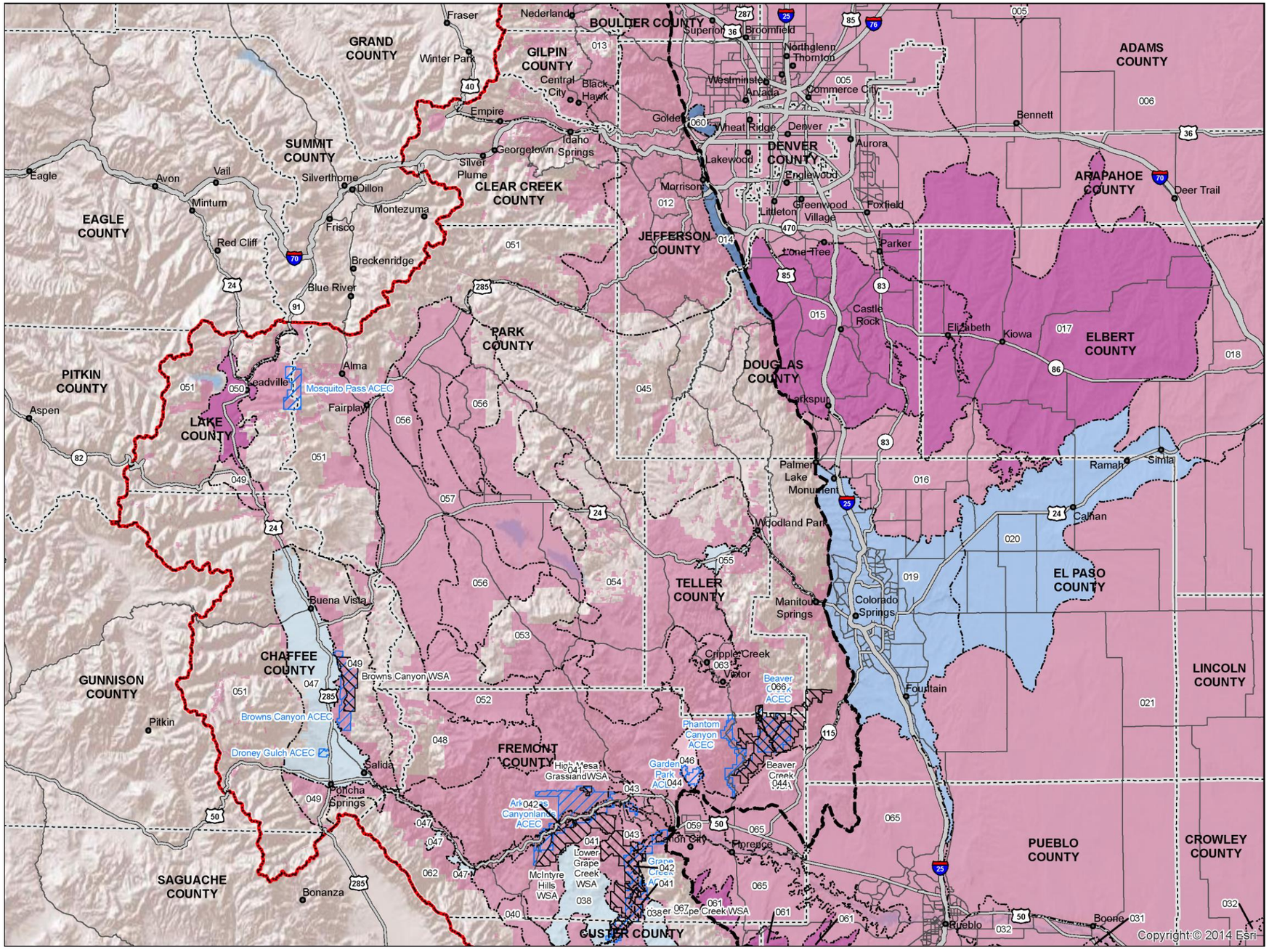

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Cultural Modification Rating

- 1
- 0.5
- 0
- -0.5
- -1
- -1.5
- -2

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

005 — Front Range Urban
006 — Eastern Plains
012 — Central Front Range Foothills
013 — Northern Front Range Mountains
014 — Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 — Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 — Black Forest
017 — Bijou plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 — Colorado Springs
020 — Ellicott/Peyton Plains
021 — Ninemile Plains
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 — Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 — Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 — Hayman Area Mountains
046 — Garden Park
047 — Coaldale/Howard
048 — Stony Face/Waugh
049 — Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 — Leadville
051 — Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 — Cottonwood Highlands
053 — Currant Creek Uplands
054 — Florissant Area Uplands
055 — Divide
056 — Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 — South Park
059 — Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 — Table Mountains
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
063 — Cripple Creek
065 — Arkansas Valley
066 — Springs Area Front Range
067 — Wet Mountains

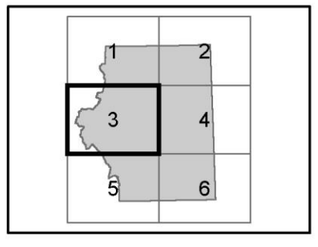

Figure 13c. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 3

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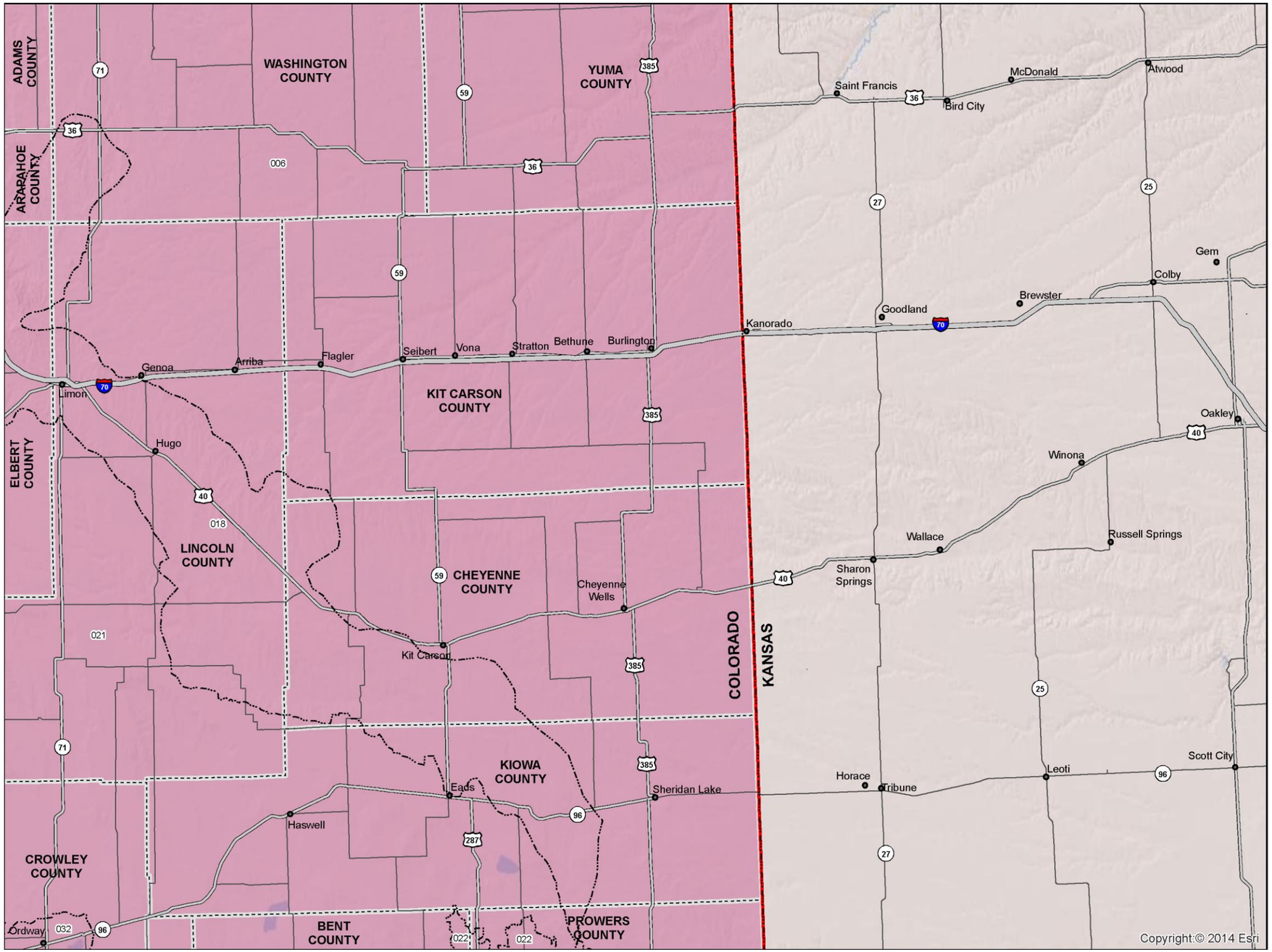

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Cultural Modification Rating

- 1
- 0.5
- 0
- -0.5
- -1
- -1.5
- -2

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

006 — Eastern Plains
018 — Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
021 — Ninemile Plains
022 — Wiley Valley Unit
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East

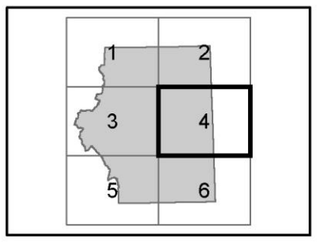

Figure 13d. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 4

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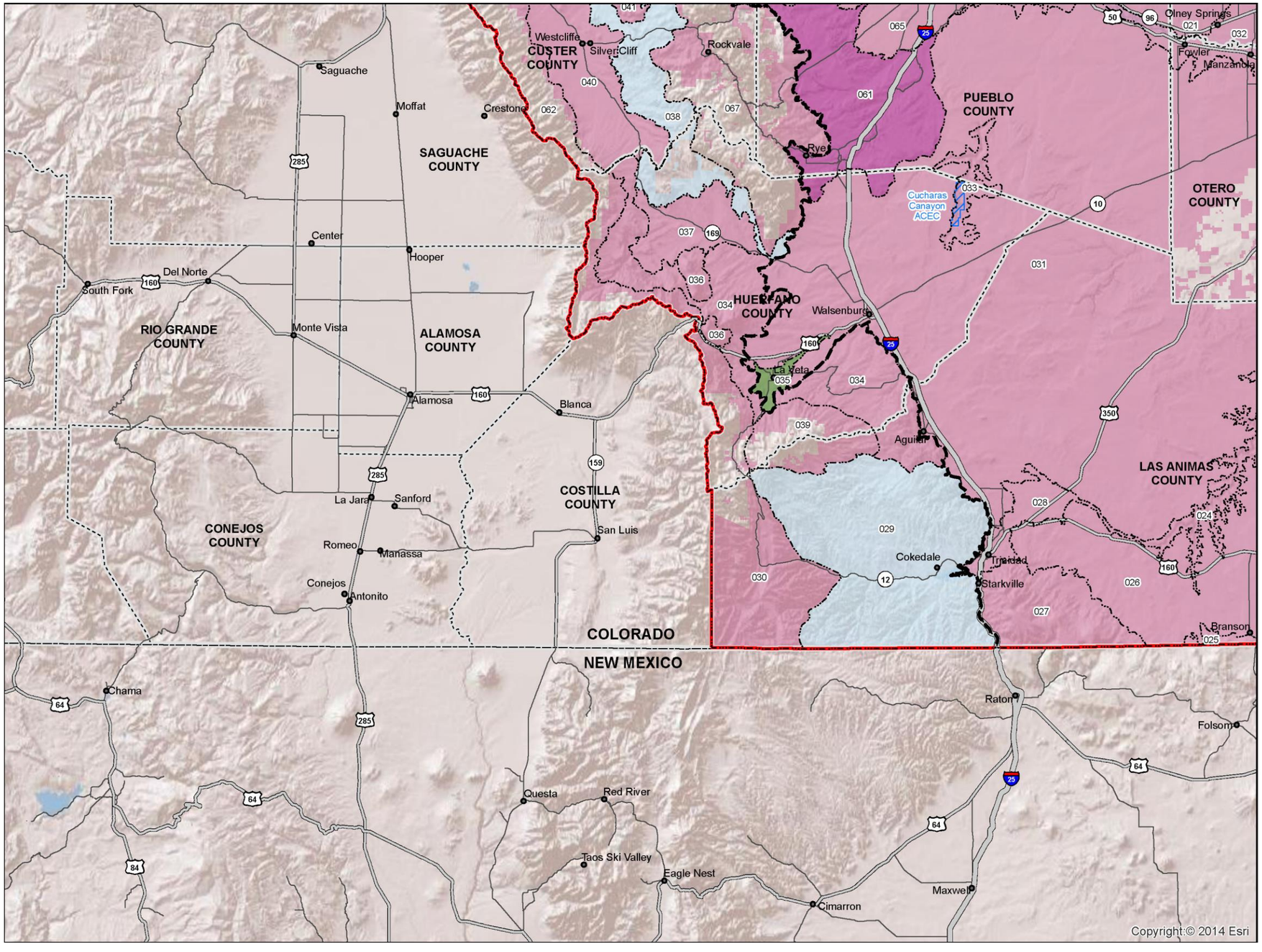

Key

- VRI Boundary
- Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
- Physiographic Province Boundary
- 027 SQRU Number

Cultural Modification Rating

- 1
- 0.5
- 0
- -0.5
- -1
- -1.5
- -2

0 10 20 Miles

NORTH

SQRU Number — SQRU Name

021 — Ninemile Plains
024 — Purgatoire Canyons
025 — Seven Buttes
026 — Trinchera/Branson
027 — Fisher's Peak
028 — Purgatoire River Corridor
029 — Picketwire Hills
030 — Ute Hills
031 — Tyrone Flats
032 — Arkansas River Valley - East
033 — Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 — La Veta Foothills
035 — La Veta
036 — Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 — Gardner Basin
038 — Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 — Spanish Peaks
040 — Westcliffe
041 — Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 — Upper Arkansas River Valley
061 — Colorado City/Bronquist
062 — Sangre De Cristo Range
065 — Arkansas Valley
067 — Wet Mountains

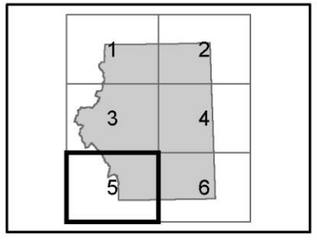

Figure 13e. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 5

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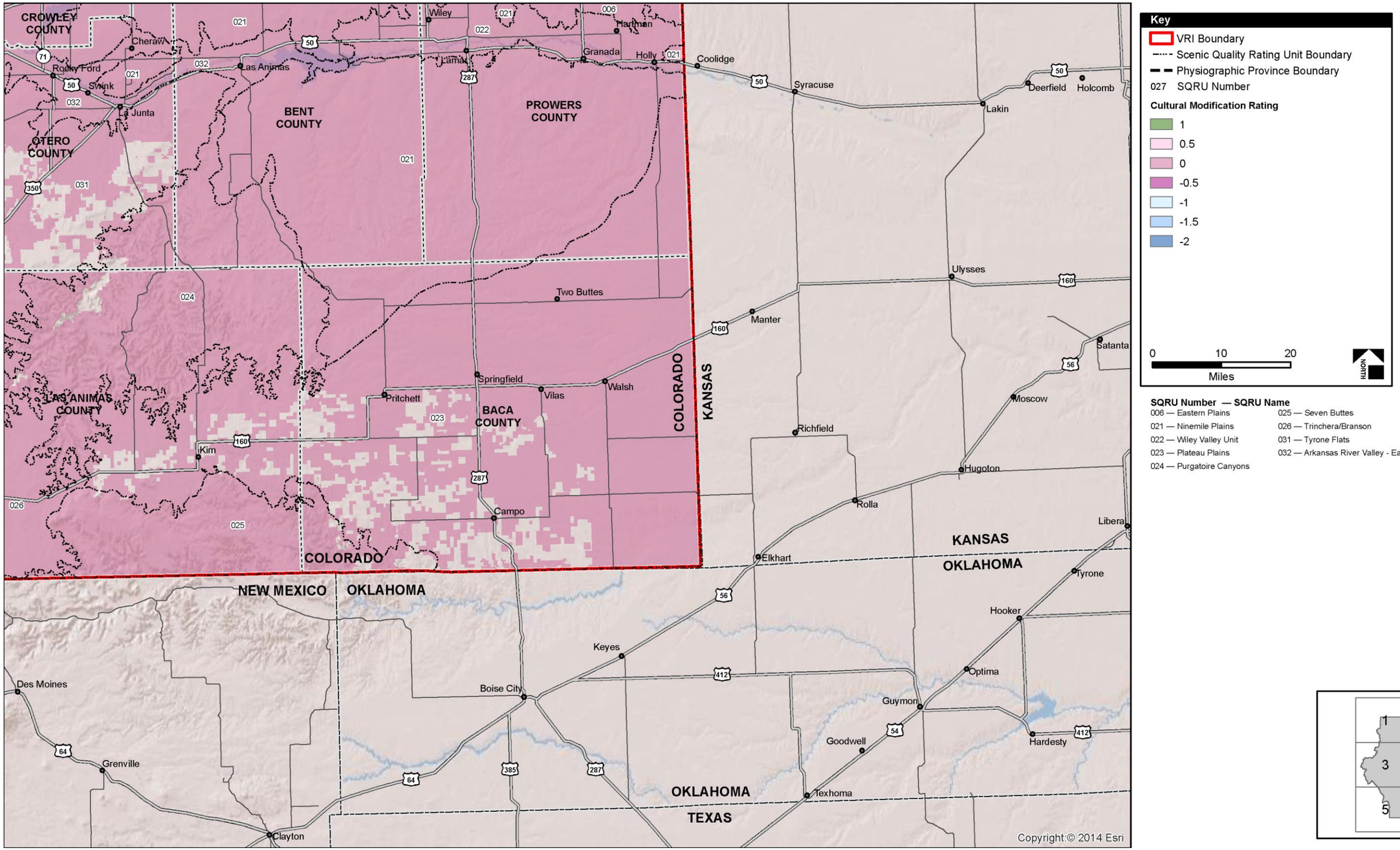

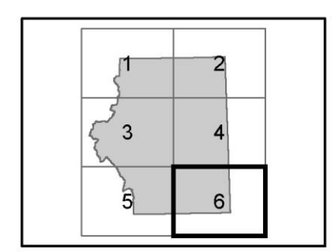

Figure 13f. Scenic Quality Rating: Cultural Modifications, Segment 6

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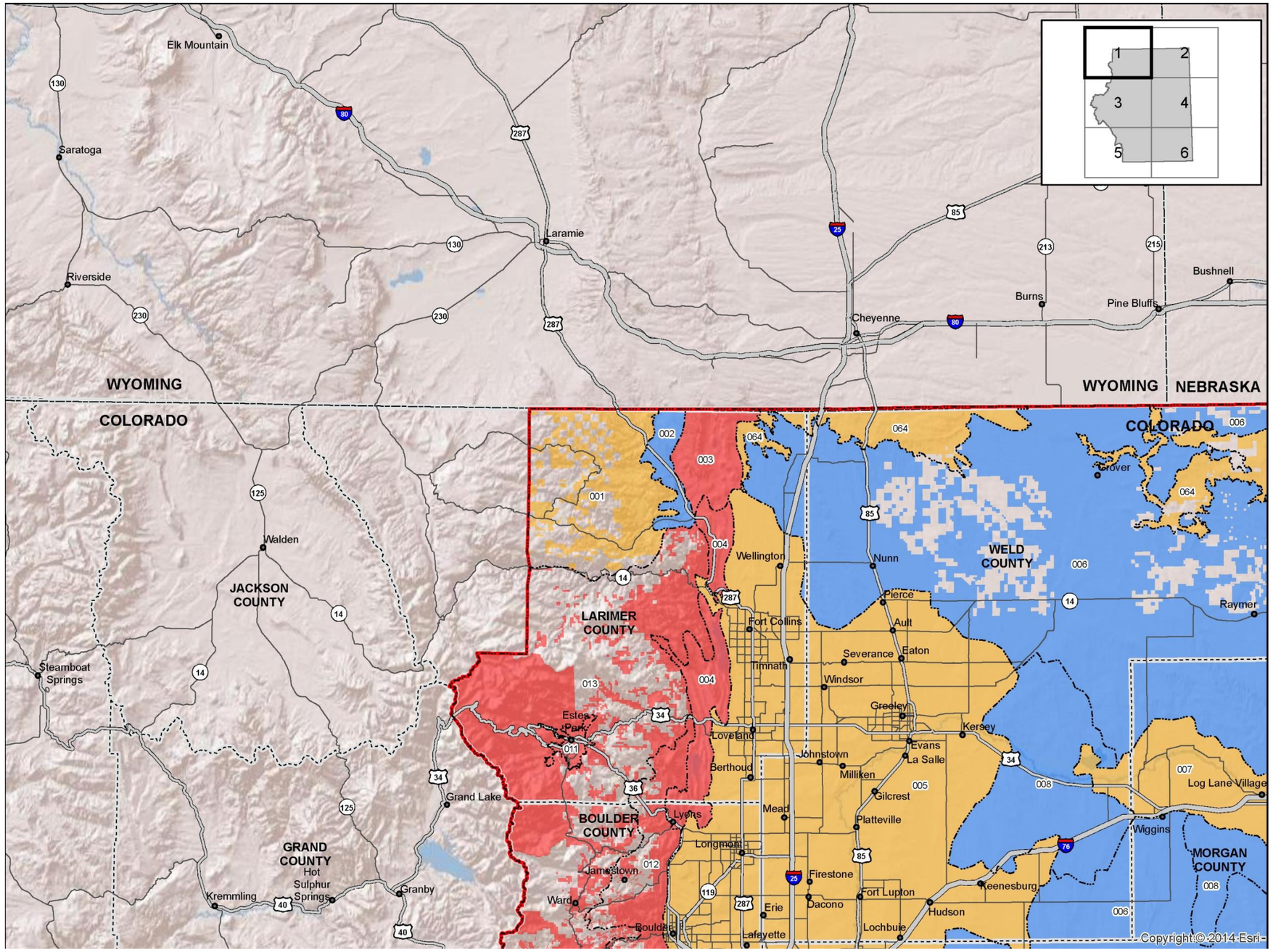

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary			
027	SQRU Number			
Administrative Boundaries				
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%	
	FO Non-BLM Acres	31,437,167	98%	
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%
	ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%
	WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%
	Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%
	ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%
	WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%
	Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%
	ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU #	SQRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills
002	Lonetree
003	Sand Creek Buttes
004	North Front Range Hogback
005	Front Range Urban
006	Eastern Plains
007	South Platte River Valley
008	Fleming Sand Hills
011	Estes
012	Central Front Range Foothills
014	Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015	Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016	Black Forest
017	Bijou plains
018	Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019	Colorado Springs
021	Ninemile Plains
022	Wiley Valley Unit
023	Plateau Plains
024	Purgatoire Canyons
025	Seven Buttes
026	Trinchera/Branson
027	Fisher's Peak
028	Purgatoire River Corridor
029	Picketwire Hills
030	Ute Hills
031	Tyrone Flats
032	Arkansas River Valley-East
033	Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034	La Veta Foothills
035	La Veta
036	Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037	Gardner Basin
038	Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039	Spanish Peaks
040	Westcliffe
041	Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042	Upper Arkansas River Valley
043	Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044	Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045	Hayman Area Mountains
046	Garden Park
047	Coaldale/Howard
048	Stony Face/Waugh
049	Poncha Pass/Maysville
050	Leadville
051	Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052	Cottonwood Highlands
053	Currant Creek Uplands
054	Florissant Area Uplands
055	Divide
056	Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057	South Park
059	Lower Arkansas River Valley
060	Table Mountains
061	Colorado City/Bronquist
062	Sangre De Cristo Range
063	Cripple Creek
064	Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065	Arkansas Valley
066	Springs Area Front Range
067	Wet Mountains

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

Figure 14a. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 1

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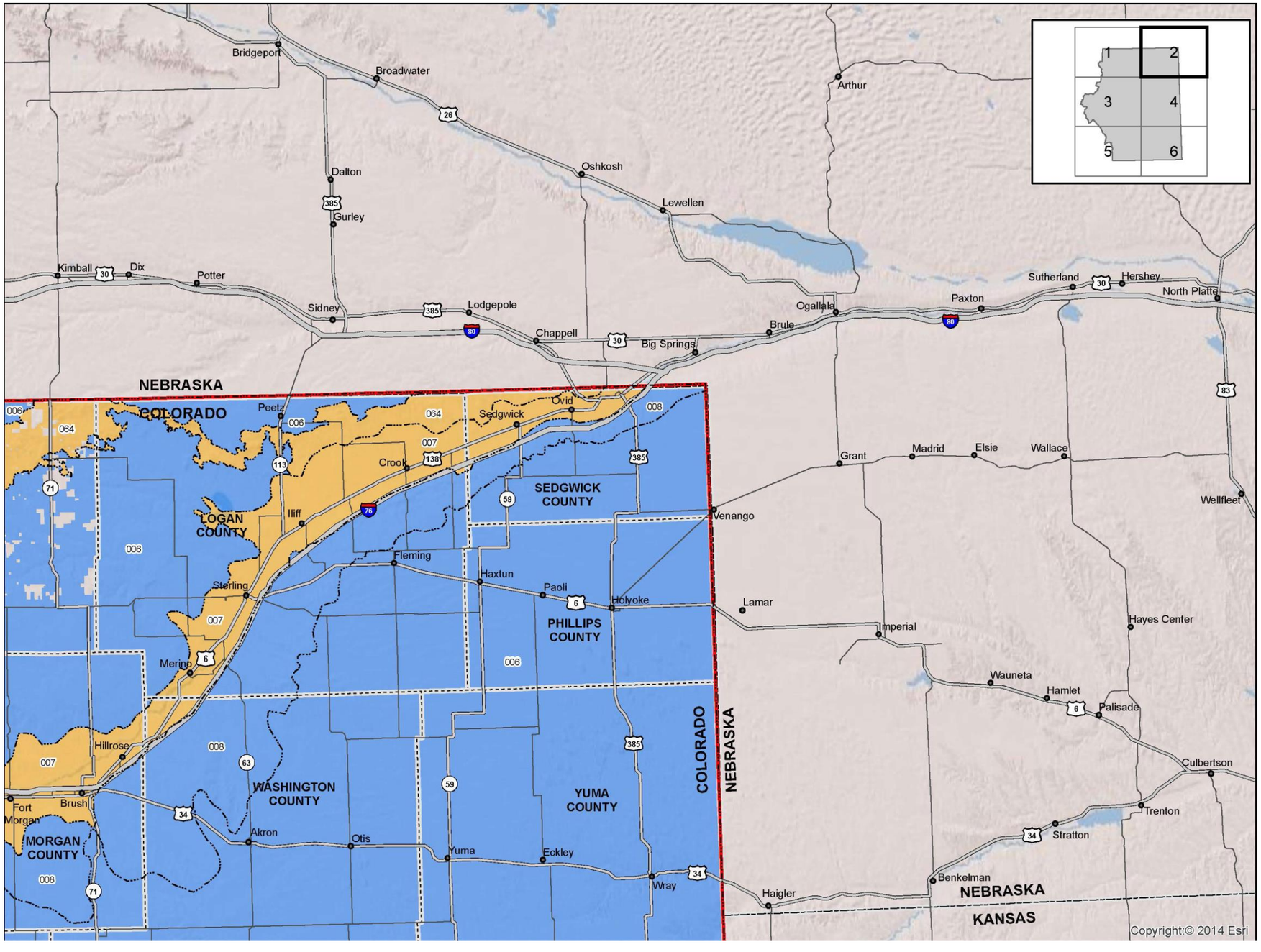

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
Physiographic Province Boundary
027 SQRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%	20%
	ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%	0%
	Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%	36%
	ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%	0%
	Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%	44%
	ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU #	SQRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills
002	Lonetree
003	Sand Creek Buttes
004	North Front Range Hogback
005	Front Range Urban
006	Eastern Plains
007	South Platte River Valley
008	Fleming Sand Hills
011	Estes
012	Central Front Range Foothills
014	Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015	Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016	Black Forest
017	Bijou plains
018	Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019	Colorado Springs
021	Ninemile Plains
022	Wiley Valley Unit
023	Plateau Plains
024	Purgatoire Canyons
025	Seven Buttes
026	Trinchera/Branson
027	Fisher's Peak
028	Purgatoire River Corridor
029	Picketwire Hills
030	Ute Hills
031	Tyrone Flats
032	Arkansas River Valley-East
033	Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034	La Veta Foothills
035	La Veta
036	Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037	Gardner Basin
038	Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039	Spanish Peaks
040	Westcliffe
041	Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042	Upper Arkansas River Valley
043	Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044	Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045	Hayman Area Mountains
046	Garden Park
047	Coaldale/Howard
048	Stony Face/Waugh
049	Poncha Pass/Maysville
050	Leadville
051	Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052	Cottonwood Highlands
053	Currant Creek Uplands
054	Florissant Area Uplands
055	Divide
056	Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057	South Park
059	Lower Arkansas River Valley
060	Table Mountains
061	Colorado City/Bronquist
062	Sangre De Cristo Range
063	Cripple Creek
064	Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065	Arkansas Valley
066	Springs Area Front Range
067	Wet Mountains

0 10 20
Miles
NORTH

Figure 14b. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 2

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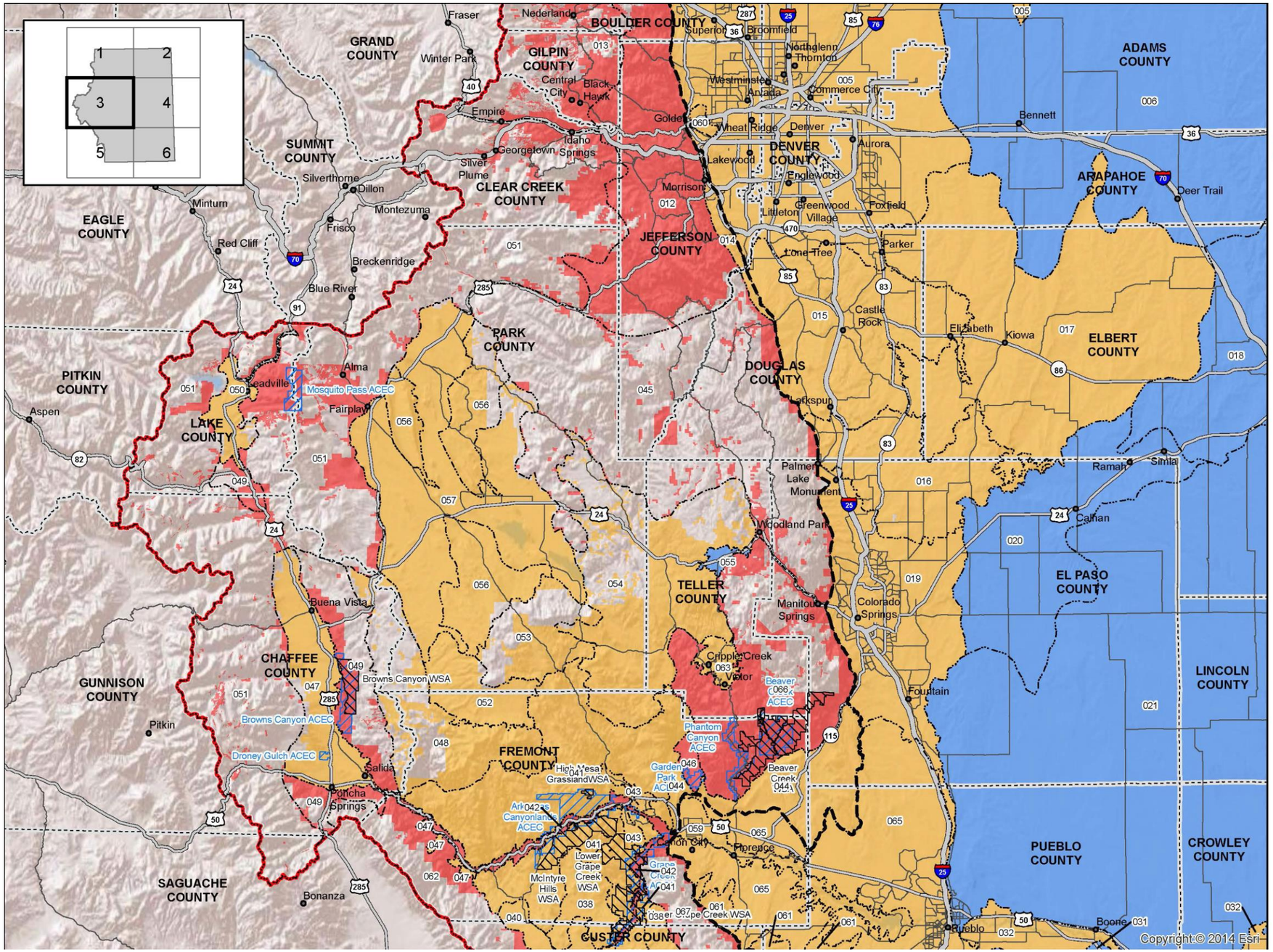

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
Physiographic Province Boundary
027 SQRU Number

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%	20%
ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%	0%
WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%	0%
Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%	36%
ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%	0%
WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%	0%
Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%	44%
ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%	0%
WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU # SQRU Name

001 - North Front Range Foothills
002 - Lonetree
003 - Sand Creek Buttes
004 - North Front Range Hogback
005 - Front Range Urban
006 - Eastern Plains
007 - South Platte River Valley
008 - Fleming Sand Hills
011 - Estes
012 - Central Front Range Foothills
014 - Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015 - Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016 - Black Forest
017 - Bijou plains
018 - Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019 - Colorado Springs
021 - Ninemile Plains
022 - Wiley Valley Unit
023 - Plateau Plains
024 - Purgatoire Canyons
025 - Seven Buttes
026 - Trinchera/Branson
027 - Fisher's Peak
028 - Purgatoire River Corridor
029 - Picketwire Hills
030 - Ute Hills
031 - Tyrone Flats
032 - Arkansas River Valley-East
033 - Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034 - La Veta Foothills
035 - La Veta
036 - Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037 - Gardner Basin
038 - Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039 - Spanish Peaks
040 - Westcliffe
041 - Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042 - Upper Arkansas River Valley
043 - Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044 - Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045 - Hayman Area Mountains
046 - Garden Park
047 - Coaldale/Howard
048 - Stony Face/Waugh
049 - Poncha Pass/Maysville
050 - Leadville
051 - Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052 - Cottonwood Highlands
053 - Currant Creek Uplands
054 - Florissant Area Uplands
055 - Divide
056 - Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057 - South Park
059 - Lower Arkansas River Valley
060 - Table Mountains
061 - Colorado City/Bronquist
062 - Sangre De Cristo Range
063 - Cripple Creek
064 - Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065 - Arkansas Valley
066 - Springs Area Front Range
067 - Wet Mountains

0 10 20
Miles
NORTH

Figure 14c. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 3

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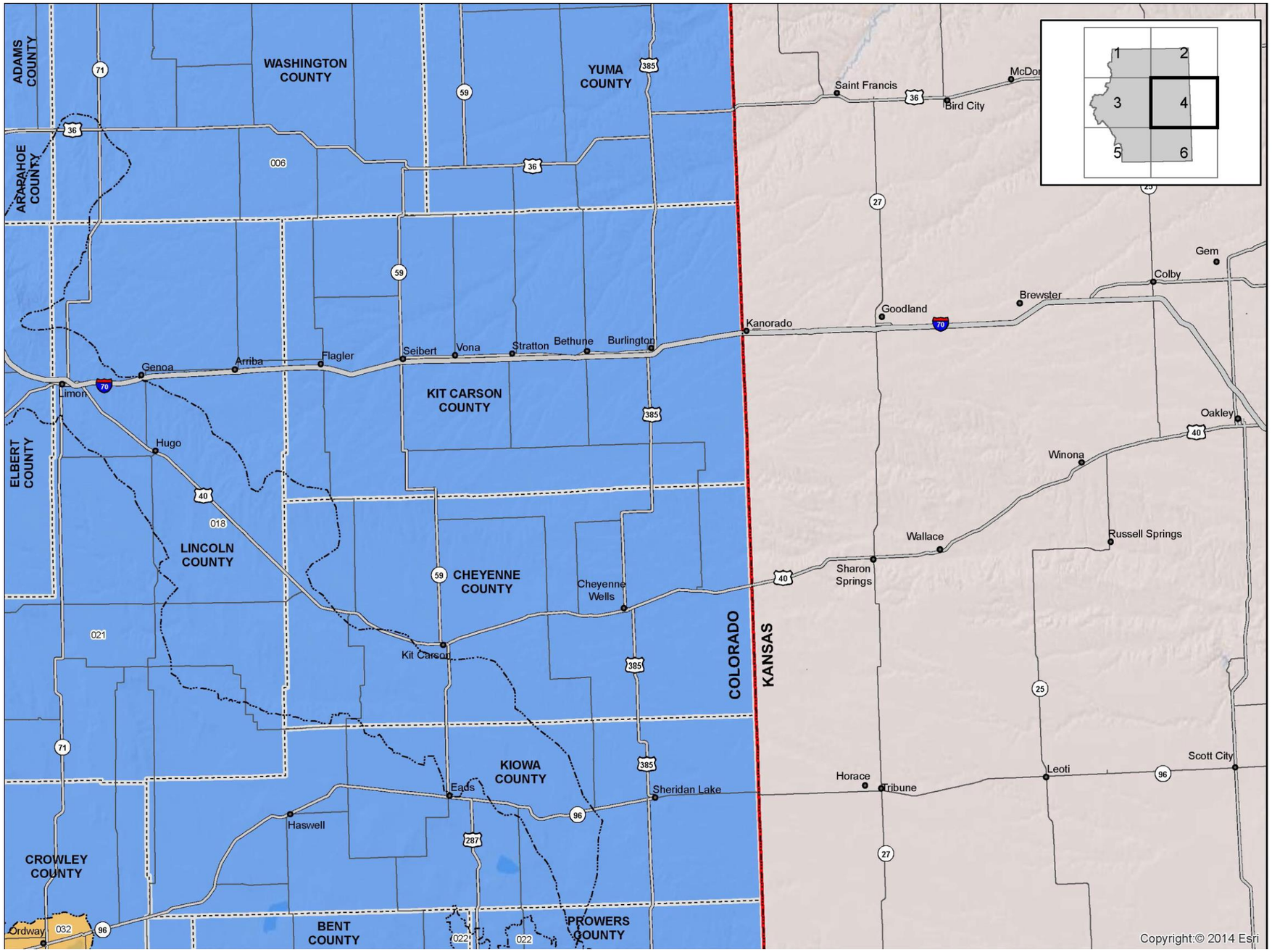

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
Physiographic Province Boundary
027 SQRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%	20%
	ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%	0%
	Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%	36%
	ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%	0%
	Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%	44%
	ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU #	SQRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills
002	Lonetree
003	Sand Creek Buttes
004	North Front Range Hogback
005	Front Range Urban
006	Eastern Plains
007	South Platte River Valley
008	Fleming Sand Hills
011	Estes
012	Central Front Range Foothills
014	Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015	Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016	Black Forest
017	Bijou plains
018	Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019	Colorado Springs
021	Ninemile Plains
022	Wiley Valley Unit
023	Plateau Plains
024	Purgatoire Canyons
025	Seven Buttes
026	Trinchera/Branson
027	Fisher's Peak
028	Purgatoire River Corridor
029	Picketwire Hills
030	Ute Hills
031	Tyrone Flats
032	Arkansas River Valley-East
033	Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034	La Veta Foothills
035	La Veta
036	Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037	Gardner Basin
038	Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039	Spanish Peaks
040	Westcliffe
041	Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042	Upper Arkansas River Valley
043	Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044	Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045	Hayman Area Mountains
046	Garden Park
047	Coaldale/Howard
048	Stony Face/Waugh
049	Poncha Pass/Maysville
050	Leadville
051	Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052	Cottonwood Highlands
053	Currant Creek Uplands
054	Florissant Area Uplands
055	Divide
056	Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057	South Park
059	Lower Arkansas River Valley
060	Table Mountains
061	Colorado City/Bronquist
062	Sangre De Cristo Range
063	Cripple Creek
064	Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065	Arkansas Valley
066	Springs Area Front Range
067	Wet Mountains

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

Figure 14d. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 4

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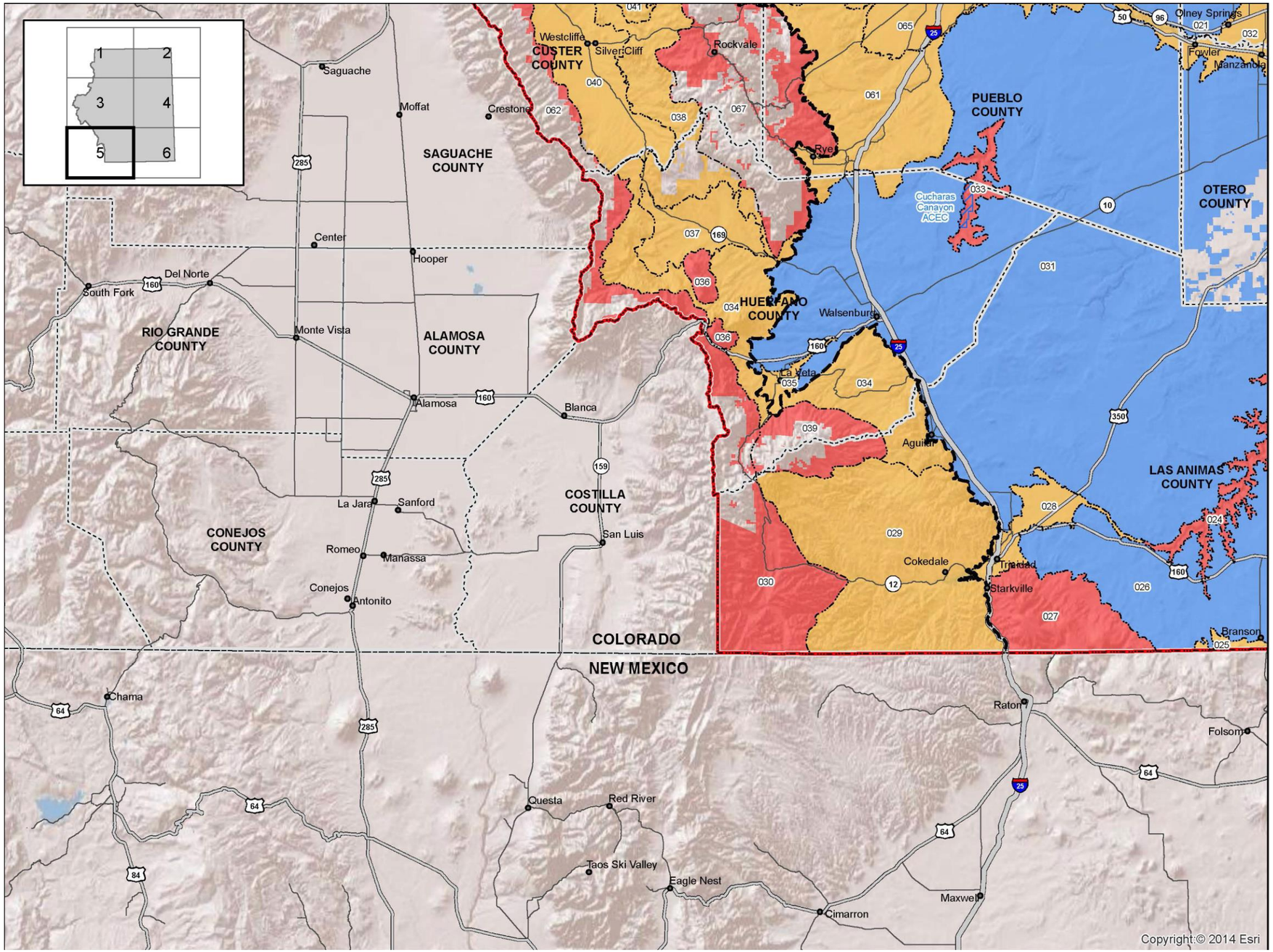

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
Physiographic Province Boundary
027 SQRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%	20%
	ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%	0%
	Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%	36%
	ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%	0%
	Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%	44%
	ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU #	SQRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills
002	Lonetree
003	Sand Creek Buttes
004	North Front Range Hogback
005	Front Range Urban
006	Eastern Plains
007	South Platte River Valley
008	Fleming Sand Hills
011	Estes
012	Central Front Range Foothills
014	Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015	Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016	Black Forest
017	Bijou plains
018	Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019	Colorado Springs
021	Ninemile Plains
022	Wiley Valley Unit
023	Plateau Plains
024	Purgatoire Canyons
025	Seven Buttes
026	Trinchera/Branson
027	Fisher's Peak
028	Purgatoire River Corridor
029	Picketwire Hills
030	Ute Hills
031	Tyrone Flats
032	Arkansas River Valley-East
033	Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034	La Veta Foothills
035	La Veta
036	Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037	Gardner Basin
038	Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039	Spanish Peaks
040	Westcliffe
041	Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042	Upper Arkansas River Valley
043	Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044	Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045	Hayman Area Mountains
046	Garden Park
047	Coaldale/Howard
048	Stony Face/Waugh
049	Poncha Pass/Maysville
050	Leadville
051	Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052	Cottonwood Highlands
053	Currant Creek Uplands
054	Florissant Area Uplands
055	Divide
056	Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057	South Park
059	Lower Arkansas River Valley
060	Table Mountains
061	Colorado City/Bronquist
062	Sangre De Cristo Range
063	Cripple Creek
064	Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065	Arkansas Valley
066	Springs Area Front Range
067	Wet Mountains

0 10 20
Miles
NORTH

Figure 14e. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 5

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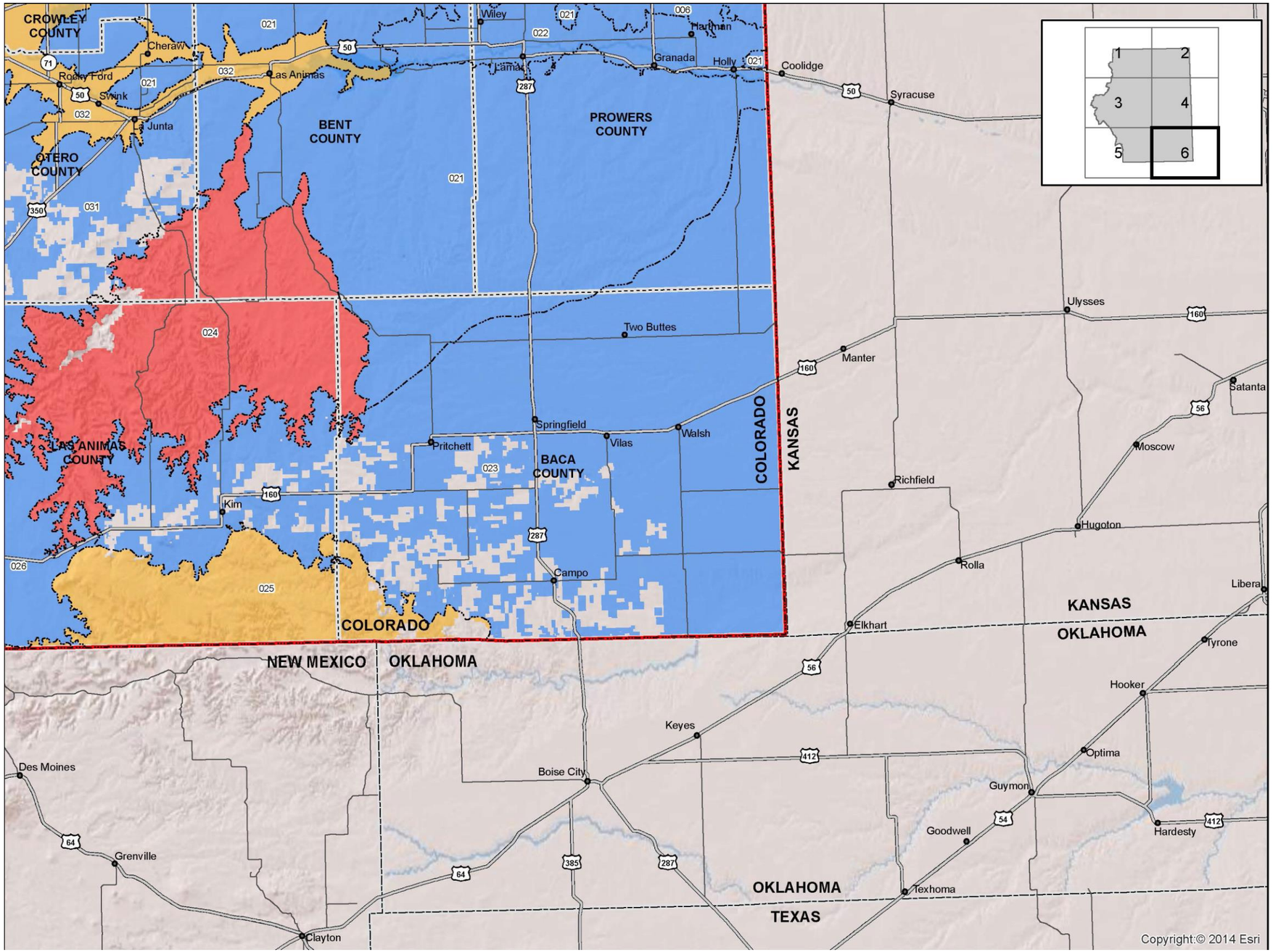

Scenic Quality Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Scenic Quality Rating Unit Boundary
Physiographic Province Boundary
027 SQRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Scenic Quality A	2,794,907	9%	21%	20%
	ACEC Scenic Quality A	60,628	0%	8%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality A	42,112	0%	6%	0%
	Scenic Quality B	8,111,422	25%	50%	36%
	ACEC Scenic Quality B	28,236	0%	4%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality B	34,455	0%	5%	0%
	Scenic Quality C	21,070,538	66%	6%	44%
	ACEC Scenic Quality C	96	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Scenic Quality C	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SQRU #	SQRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills
002	Lonetree
003	Sand Creek Buttes
004	North Front Range Hogback
005	Front Range Urban
006	Eastern Plains
007	South Platte River Valley
008	Fleming Sand Hills
011	Estes
012	Central Front Range Foothills
014	Dinosaur Ridge Hogback
015	Plum Creek/Castle Rock
016	Black Forest
017	Bijou plains
018	Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys
019	Colorado Springs
021	Ninemile Plains
022	Wiley Valley Unit
023	Plateau Plains
024	Purgatoire Canyons
025	Seven Buttes
026	Trinchera/Branson
027	Fisher's Peak
028	Purgatoire River Corridor
029	Picketwire Hills
030	Ute Hills
031	Tyrone Flats
032	Arkansas River Valley-East
033	Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers
034	La Veta Foothills
035	La Veta
036	Mestas and Sheep Mountains
037	Gardner Basin
038	Wet Foothills/De Weese Plateau
039	Spanish Peaks
040	Westcliffe
041	Arkansas River Canyon Highlands
042	Upper Arkansas River Valley
043	Webster and Twelvemile Parks
044	Soda Springs/Timber Mountain
045	Hayman Area Mountains
046	Garden Park
047	Coaldale/Howard
048	Stony Face/Waugh
049	Poncha Pass/Maysville
050	Leadville
051	Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges
052	Cottonwood Highlands
053	Currant Creek Uplands
054	Florissant Area Uplands
055	Divide
056	Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch
057	South Park
059	Lower Arkansas River Valley
060	Table Mountains
061	Colorado City/Bronquist
062	Sangre De Cristo Range
063	Cripple Creek
064	Northeastern Hills and Buttes
065	Arkansas Valley
066	Springs Area Front Range
067	Wet Mountains

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Figure 14f. Scenic Quality Classifications, Segment 6

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5.0 Inventory Factor 2: Sensitivity Levels

5.1 Overview

The evaluation of sensitivity levels in the VRM process provides an indication of the public's concern for the visual environment. In this part of the process, public lands are assigned high, moderate, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing certain factors that contribute to the public's overall concern of an area's scenic quality. These factors, as defined in BLM H-8410-1, include the following:

- **Types of Users**—Visual sensitivity will vary with the type of users. Recreational sightseers may be highly sensitive to any changes in visual quality, whereas workers who pass through the area on a regular basis may not be as sensitive to change.
- **Amount of Use**—Areas seen and used by large numbers of people are potentially more sensitive. Protection of visual values usually becomes more important as the number of viewers increase.
- **Public Interest**—The visual quality of an area may be of concern to local, State, or National groups. Indicators of this concern are usually expressed in public meetings, letters, newspapers or magazine articles, newsletters, land-use plans, etc. Public controversy created in response to proposed activities that would change the landscape character should also be considered.
- **Adjacent Land Uses**—The interrelationship with land uses in adjacent lands can affect the visual sensitivity of an area. For example, an area within the view shed of a residential area may be very sensitive, whereas an area surrounded by commercially developed lands may not be visually sensitive.
- **Special Areas**—Management objectives for special areas such as Natural Areas, Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Scenic Areas, Scenic Roads or Trails, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) frequently require special consideration for the protection of the visual values. This does not necessarily mean that these areas are scenic but rather that one of the management objectives may be to preserve the natural landscape setting. The management objectives for these areas may be used as a basis for assigning sensitivity levels.
- **Other Factors**—Consider any other information such as research or studies that includes indicators of visual sensitivity.

According to the VRM manual, there are no standard procedures for delineating sensitivity level rating units (SLRUs). The SLRU boundaries depend on the factors driving the sensitivity consideration at the time of the inventory and reflect public sentiment, which requires a qualitative analytical approach to understand and describe geospatially.

The most important aspect of preparing the units is a thorough review and understanding of the sensitivity factors described above. Rating units can be based on physical attributes of the land, delineation of viewsheds, or any other means that prove useful in capturing changes in sensitivity based on the sensitivity factors. Distance zones from population centers or high-profile landscape features can also play an important role in identifying the SLRU boundaries because sensitivity to change in the visual landscape can be moderated by the level of detail or visibility of a potential change.

Determining the overall sensitivity level of an area is a qualitative analysis that requires careful consideration of all of the above factors by BLM staff members who have the detailed knowledge of the use of public lands within their field office. Other agency and community input were incorporated with the BLM staff input into the sensitivity level analysis for this VRI. Both the rating of individual sensitivity factors and the relationship between factors were analyzed in determining the overall rating of an area.

5.2 Inventory and Evaluation Methodology

In coordination with the initial kickoff meeting in November 2013, staff from the Royal Gorge Field Office took part in a sensitivity level rating training and workshop conducted by National Operations Center VRM lead Karla Rogers, BLM Colorado VRM state lead Don Bruns, and Craig Johnson and Chris Bockey from Logan Simpson. The workshop included an overview of the sensitivity level evaluation process and potential contacts for public outreach. The overview of BLM's sensitivity level evaluation process included a review of the guidelines as described in BLM H-8410-1.

Logan Simpson conducted a literature search, and a series of in-person conversations were conducted within the inventory area to gain a detailed understanding of the public sensitivities within the geographic region of the area. The literature search identified specific policies, guidelines, goals, and/or strategies that local, regional, and state agencies and communities have for protecting scenic views and places. This search included review of agency and community websites and plans identifying visions, goals, destination locations, tourism information, etc., that would assist in determining visually important areas within the inventory area. The research also included review and synthesis of general articles relating to concerns for scenic resources. Articles regarding projects that have been planned in the inventory area were also reviewed, including public comments on visual sensitivity where available. Tourism sites were likewise researched to determine which areas were being marketed for their scenic attributes. In general, this research identified concerns for scenery and views, as well as visual sensitivities to proposed development within the inventory area.

In-person conversations were conducted for six core areas determined by the BLM—Greeley, Fairplay, Buena Vista, Cañon City, Wray, and Lamar. To the extent practicable, contacts made within each of these areas were balanced to cover the wide range of user interests in the areas. Potential contacts were generated with input from the BLM or outreach calls to potential representatives in each of the core areas based on research and referral. In general, user interests for the inventory area were based on the organizational structure of the citizen-based Resource Advisory Council, which provides advice on the management of public lands and resources managed by the BLM. This council is intentionally

balanced to reflect the interests and users of public lands within; it is divided into the following three categories. These categories provided the basic structure for making contacts in each of the core areas within the inventory area:

- Commodity interests, such as livestock grazing, timber, energy and mining, off-highway-vehicle groups, and developed recreation
- Environmental organizations, historic and cultural interests, wildlife organizations, wild horses and burros, and dispersed recreation
- Elected officials, tribes, state or other governmental agencies, academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public-at-large

Each individual was initially contacted by phone to determine interest in participating in the discussion process and to schedule a meeting time and location. Each discussion consisted of an exploratory conversation about the individual's knowledge and opinions on visual sensitivity within the inventory area. Logan Simpson was able to gather information from 22 contacts during 19 in-person meetings. To capture the full range of people that may have potential concerns, the process considered local, regional, national, and international concerns. Consideration was given to publics that use portions of the inventory area for recreation/tourism, business, or residential purposes, as well as publics that do not necessarily use these areas but are nonetheless concerned about the existence of the visual aspects of the landscape. The preliminary analysis also accounted for various types of concerns, including amount of exposure, adjacency of uses/landscapes, special identification of areas, and general significance to the public. Detailed notes were recorded during the discussions, and polygons were also drawn on a map to represent various areas of sensitivity that the respondents mentioned. Based on the conversations, the polygons were each assigned a specific relationship to the information provided by each respondent. These polygons and associated information were then entered into GIS format and provided to the BLM for determination and final delineation of SLRUs based on the BLM's knowledge of the inventory area combined with the results of the outreach and literature search. Each SLRU was then assigned a level of high, moderate, or low sensitivity. The culmination of the literature search, in-person interviews, and finalization of SLRUs using BLM Form 8400-6 are located in Appendix B.

Many of the areas with highest sensitivity were associated with prominent landforms and rivers, as well as areas from which these features are viewed. These prominent features—including the Pawnee and Comanche Grasslands, Central Front Range Foothills, Upper Arkansas River, Spanish Peaks, and Wet Mountains—were thought to have a high level of public concern from local, regional, and sometimes national and international publics since these groups are drawn to these features for their visual qualities and use them as reference points within the inventory area.

Moderate concerns for visual change encompassed an assortment of flat agricultural plains, rolling hills of rangeland, mountain ranges of lesser concern, and urbanized areas. Some areas identified were the North Front Range, the Denver metro area, Colorado Springs, Waugh Mountain, and the Lower Arkansas Valley. Although public interest and use within these areas varies, data collected for this

analysis consistently showed that the differing publics identify these areas as being moderately sensitive to visual change.

The data collected also supported the perspective that although residents were concerned with the views and scenery surrounding their communities, they have generally been more tolerant of visual changes within the flat to rolling plains. For this reason, many of the agricultural lands within the plains were rated as having the lowest degree of visual sensitivity. The agricultural lands are developed areas within the inventory area that represent general locations in which the public have already accepted visual alterations to the landscape—namely, the eastern, southeastern and southern plains, and Walsenburg. While the local publics are particularly concerned with visual quality in and around these areas in which they live and work, these areas represent an overall lower level of concern due to the presence of existing cultural modifications, and the increased ability of the landscape to absorb some types of visual change. Data collected also supported the notion that these landscapes were sometimes viewed by residents as “working landscapes”, in which the need for jobs and economic sustainability occasionally outweighed concerns for scenic quality.

It is important to note that low sensitivity does not indicate a lack of sensitivity in these areas and that some publics within these areas could hold a considerable level of concern. The intent of the sensitivity rating process is to provide three general ranges of visual sensitivity for planning purposes. It is also important to note that areas of high, moderate, and low sensitivity have been assigned at a large planning level for this process, and there are undoubtedly smaller site-specific areas of higher and lower sensitivities within each of the high, moderate, and low ratings.

5.3 Rating Criteria and Scoring Method

Sensitivity data gathered for the inventory was synthesized on Sensitivity Level Rating Sheets to allow for direct entry of data into the VRI database. This data was based on the integration of literature review, public outreach, and BLM input. Following entry into the VRI database, this information was then processed to create a preliminary sensitivity level rating map. The map displayed each of the sensitivity level units identified through the SLRU delineation process. Ratings of high, moderate, and low sensitivity were assigned to each SLRU based on the data gathered, as well as in accordance with the rating criteria identified in BLM Manual 8400. Final SLRU rating forms are provided in Appendix B.

5.4 Sensitivity Level Rating Summary

Sensitivity levels in the inventory area are generally higher in the elevated portions of the inventory area (notable mountain ranges). Approximately 29 percent of the inventory area was rated with high sensitivity. Areas rated as having moderate sensitivity—approximately 19 percent—accounted for the smallest percentage within the inventory area. These areas of moderate sensitivity are primarily found in the eastern portion of the inventory area and encompass foothill landforms. Approximately 52 percent of the inventory area was given the lowest level of sensitivity reflecting flat to rolling agricultural lands in which changes to the land have historically been accepted. Table 3 and Figures 15a–15f present the sensitivity level ratings for the inventory area. The SLRU “explanations” listed in Table 3 are brief explanations derived directly from the geodatabase. The explanations are limited by character

counts within the geodatabase and therefore do not consistently include detailed information regarding cultural modifications and special designations within the units. Detailed explanations/syntheses for each SLRU are provided in Appendix B.

Table 3. Sensitivity Level Ratings by Sensitivity Level Rating Unit

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office, March 2015

Evaluators: Kalem Lenard

Unit Number	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
001 Gateway North	H	H	H	H	M	N/A	H	This is a major travel corridor and entrance to Colorado. Landscape integrity is important to visitors/tourism industry and residents.
002 Cache La Poudre	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Unit is along a scenic byway traveled by residents and tourists important for recreation and economy.
003 Pawnee Pioneer Trails	H	H	H	N/A	H	H	H	Important landscape in this area for residents and tourists. High volumes of traffic and important for wildlife viewing.
004 Pawnee Grasslands	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	Landscape integrity of the Pawnee National Grasslands is important to the residents and visitors for this area; considered public valued scenery and open space which is becoming scarce in this region. Also valued for hunting, wildlife viewing and birding.
005 North Front Range	M	H	M	M	L	N/A	M	Dominated by towns, rural residences and agriculture. Viewshed and open space is important for quality of life and retention of local heritage.
006 Denver Metro	M	H	L	M	L	N/A	M	Dominated by cities, towns and rural residences. Viewsheds and open space are important for quality of life.
007 Mount Evans Byway	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Important landscape for residents who desire to live in rural areas as well as urban residents seeking recreation and escape from the developed environment. Tourist industry highly dependent upon intact iconic Colorado landscapes.
008 North Front Range Foothills	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Important landscape for residents who desire to live in rural areas as well as urban residents seeking recreation and escape from the developed environment. Tourist industry highly dependent upon intact iconic Colorado landscapes.
009 South Park	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Sensitive viewers include tourists/recreation who are dependent upon intact landscapes as well as residents working to preserve the heritage of the area and live here for the open vistas and iconic landscapes.
010 Palmer Divide	H	H	H	H	N/A	N/A	H	This is publically valued scenery important to the quality of life for local residents but also travelers and commuters.
011 Colorado Springs	M	H	L	M	N/A	N/A	M	Dominated by cities, towns and rural residences. Viewsheds and open space are important for quality of life.
012 Central Front Range Foothills	H	H	H	H	N/A	N/A	H	Being the backyard to the Front Range, home to residents where open space and viewsheds play an important role in the quality of life, and a major tourism draw for out of state visitors there is a high sensitivity to contrasts in this landscape.
013 Gold Belt Byway	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	Home to the Gold Belt Byway with rural ranches and residences spread throughout, the intact landscape and views are incredibly important to people.
015 Bighorn Sheep Canyon	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	The high volume of recreation use dependent upon the existing landscape and rural residences/ranches where viewsheds play an important role in the quality of life the overall sensitivity to changes is high.
017 Waugh Mountain	H	M	M	H	N/A	N/A	M	The limited residences and ranches in this area and lower volumes of recreation use result in a lower overall sensitivity when compared to other units in the region.
018 Upper Arkansas River	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	This is an area where people live, work, and play where retention of heritage landscapes and iconic Colorado vistas all play an important role.
019 Wet Mountain Valley	H	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	Due to the high volume of rural residences and ranches along with the recreation/tourism that are all dependent upon intact landscapes overall sensitivity to change is high.
020 Wet Mountains	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	While not as iconic as other mountain ranges this unit's landscape integrity is important for residences in the southern Front Range both as a backdrop and a recreation/tourism destination.

Table 3. Sensitivity Level Ratings by Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (continued)

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office, March 2015

Evaluators: Kalem Lenard

Unit Number	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
021 Pueblo Foothills	H	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	Serving as the backdrop for Southern Front Range urban communities the area is not as visually prominent or publicly valued as other similar units along the Front Range.
023 Spanish Peaks	H	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	The iconic landscapes of the Spanish Peaks are an important landscape in this area that local residents and tourists/recreation users are dependent upon.
024 Rincon Creek	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	Limited use and existing disturbance with limited public interest.
025 Pueblo	L	H	L	L	L	N/A	L	Urban area that demonstrates less importance on open space and open vistas as other Front Range communities.
026 Lower Arkansas River	M	M	M	M	L	N/A	M	Willingness to accept visual change as a working landscape but interested in retaining agricultural lands as part of ranching heritage.
027 Spanish Trail	H	H	M	H	H	N/A	H	Given the interest in ranching/agriculture heritage combined with the Santa Fe Trail there is interest in allowing for certain types of change but retention of basic character of the area.
028 South Platte River Trail	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Scenic byway combined with major state entrance and ranching heritage places high value of retention of landscape characteristics.
029 Wray	H	H	M	M	M	N/A	H	Proximity to the town of Wray and desire to protect ranching heritage, prominent landmarks and landscape integrity for birdwatching.
030 Beecher Island	H	M	H	H	H	N/A	H	Landscape integrity of the historic site is important to the local residents and history tourism.
031 Wray Viewshed	M	M	M	M	L	N/A	M	Tourism associated with greater prairie chicken is dependent upon intact landscapes and habitat. Change is tolerated but at levels associated with ranching heritage. Sensitivity to large scale landscape change.
032 East Gateway	H	H	H	H	N/A	N/A	H	Being a major entrance into the state and having a local recreation destination landscape integrity is important. Change is tolerated in context with the working landscape.
033 Sand Creek	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Landscape integrity is important for retaining the context of the historic site.
034 Two Buttes	H	H	M	M	N/A	N/A	H	Important area for wildlife viewing and related businesses along with locals who are dependent upon intact landscapes.
035 Comanche Grasslands	H	H	H	H	H	N/A	H	Comanche Grasslands play an important role in the rural residences quality of life along with ranching heritage and wildlife associated with birding and hunting.
037 East Pawnee Grasslands	M	H	M	M	L	N/A	M	Interest in the area for recreation and scenic driving. Concern that oil and gas development is changing nature of the landscape.
038 South Platte River	M	H	M	M	L	N/A	M	A major travel corridor for visitors and residents along with recreation along the South Platte River; some level of development is expected but there is a desire to retain the character of the landscape.
039 Wiggins North	M	H	M	M	L	N/A	M	Interest in the area for recreation and scenic driving. Concern that oil and gas development is changing nature of the landscape.
041 North Fork Cache La Poudre	H	M	M	H	L	N/A	M	Intact landscapes are important for recreation, scenic driving and rural residences, less interest than other similar areas along Front Range.
042 Peetz	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	Limited information provided about concerns with changes to the landscape in this area. No major travel corridors and limited ranches and rural residences.

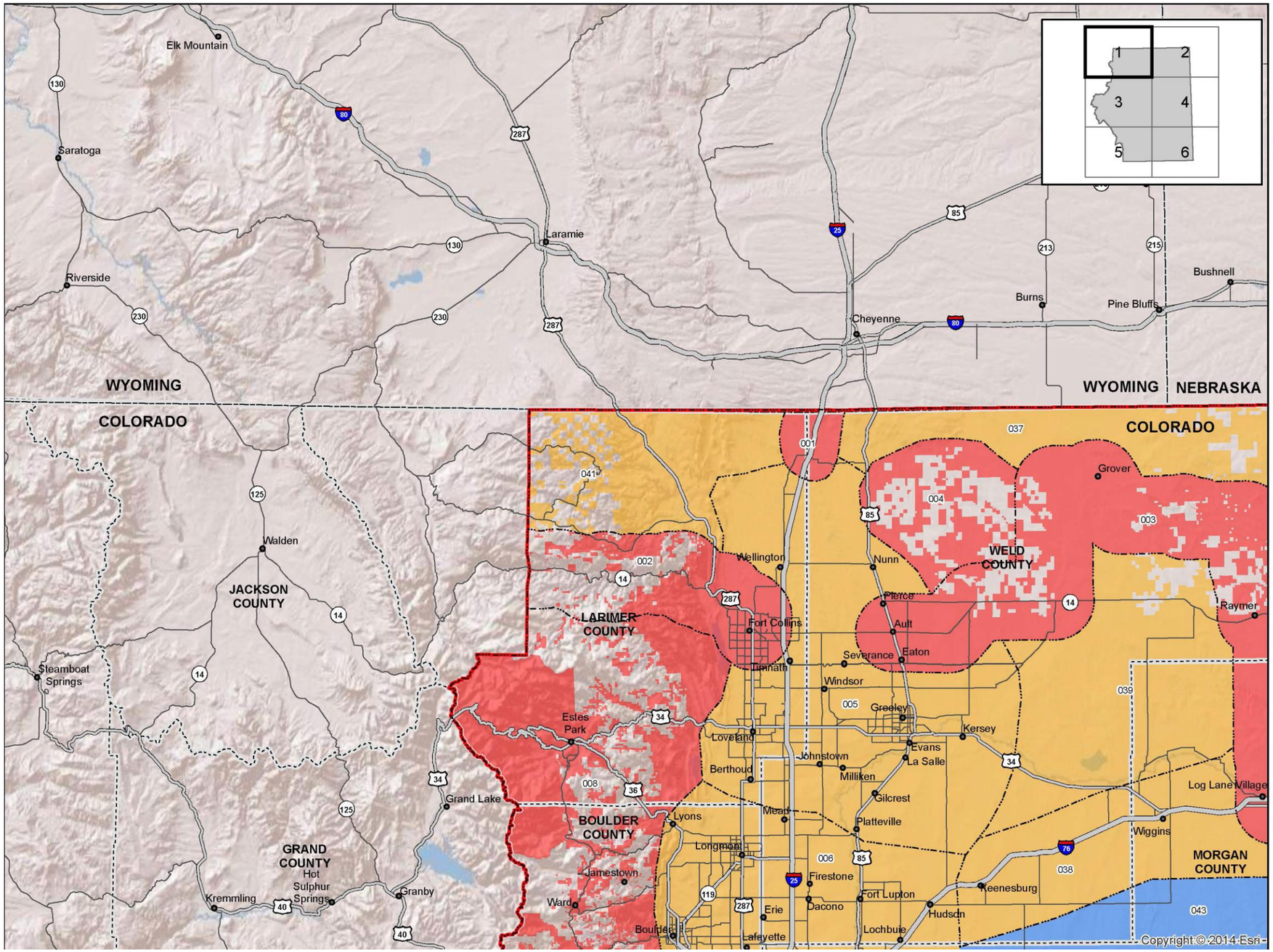
Table 3. Sensitivity Level Ratings by Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (continued)

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Summary

Royal Gorge Field Office, March 2015

Evaluators: Kalem Lenard

Unit Number	Type of Use	Amount of Use	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Uses	Special Areas	Other Factors	Overall Rating	Explanation
043 Eastern Plains	M	M	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to lifestyle.
044 Southeastern Plains	L	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to lifestyle.
045 South Central Plains	L	L	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to lifestyle.
046 Walsenburg	M	M	L	L	N/A	N/A	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to lifestyle.



Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary
027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - Moderate	2,620	0%	0%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - Moderate	246	0%	0%	0%
Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name		
001	North Front Range Foothills	024	Rincon Creek
001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

Figure 15a. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 1

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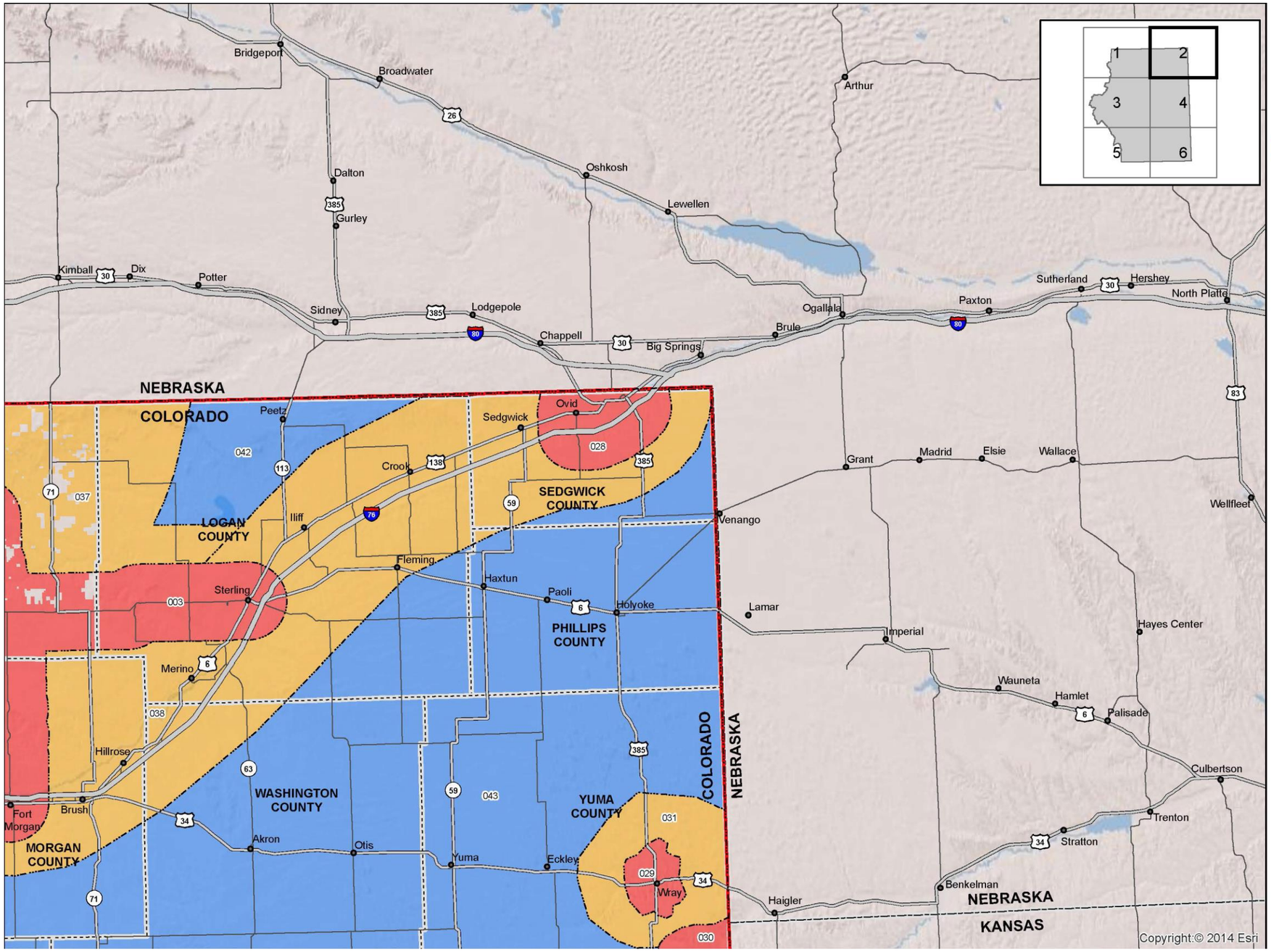

Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary

027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Moderate	2,620	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Moderate	246	0%	0%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name		
001	North Front Range Foothills	024	Rincon Creek
001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 15b. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 2

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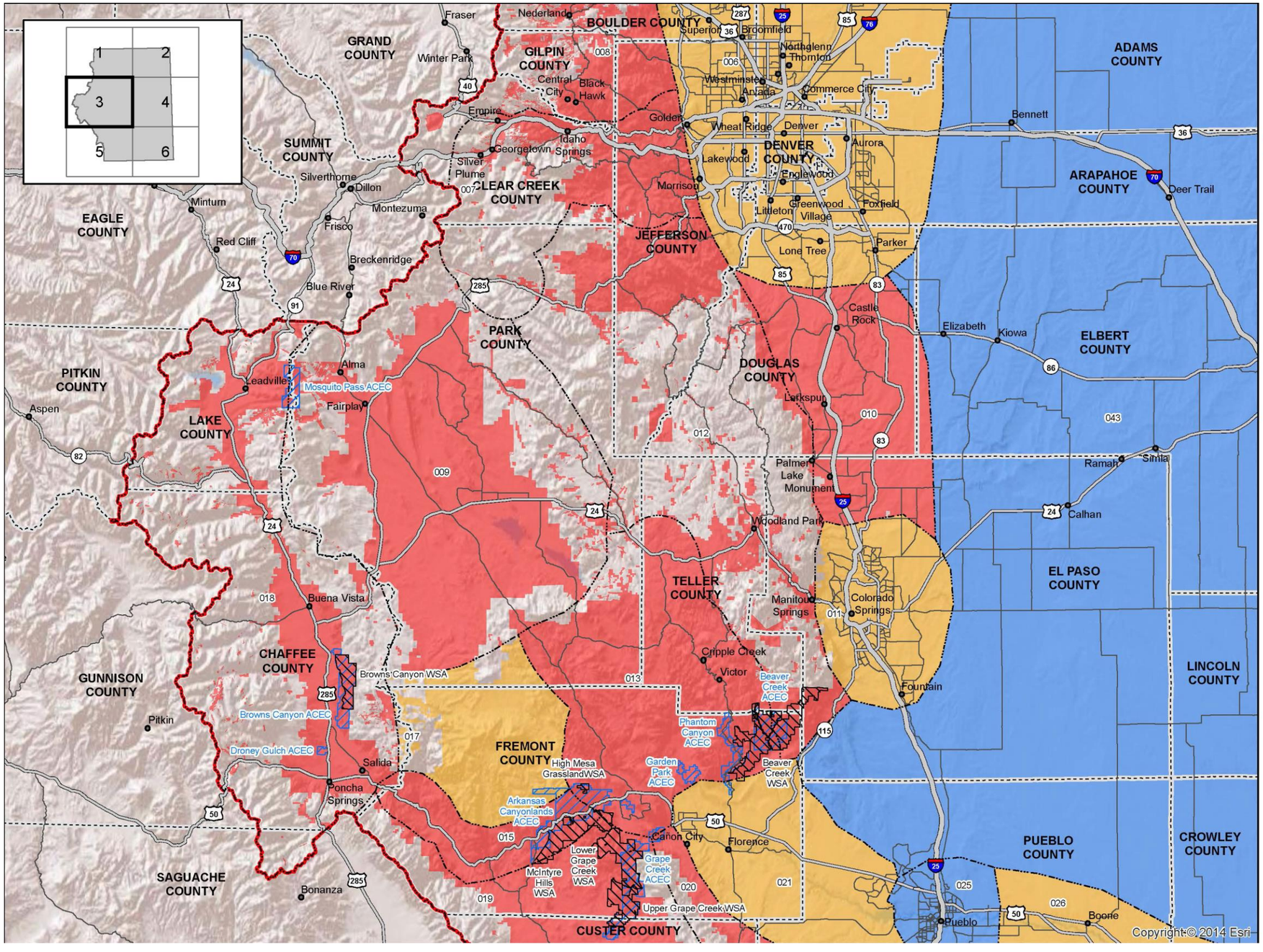

Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary
027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
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FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
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Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name		
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001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 15c. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 3

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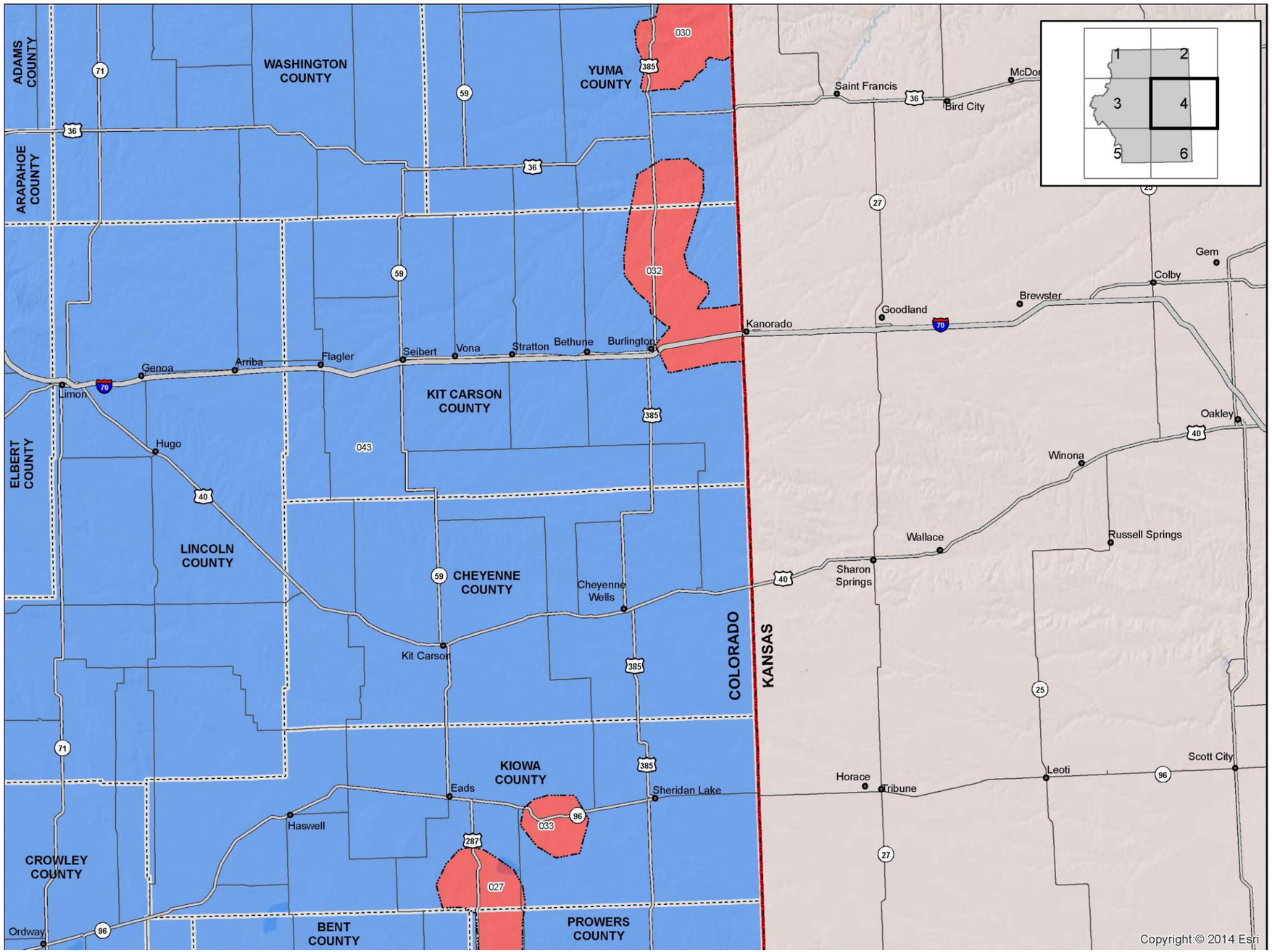

Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary
027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Moderate	2,620	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Moderate	246	0%	0%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name	SLRU #	SLRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills	024	Rincon Creek
001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

Figure 15d. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 4

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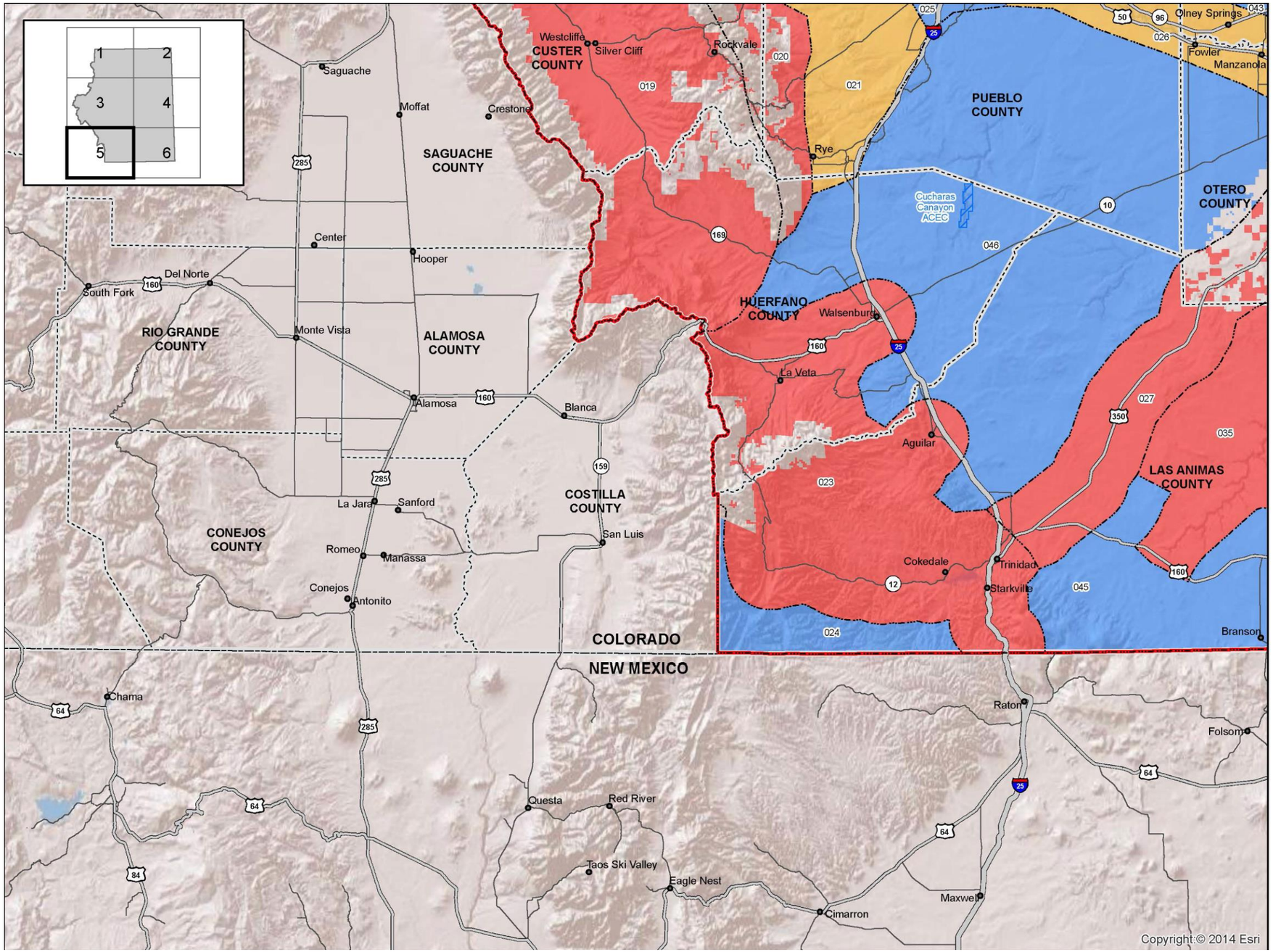

Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary
027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Moderate	2,620	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Moderate	246	0%	0%	0%
	Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
	ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name		
001	North Front Range Foothills	024	Rincon Creek
001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

Figure 15e. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 5

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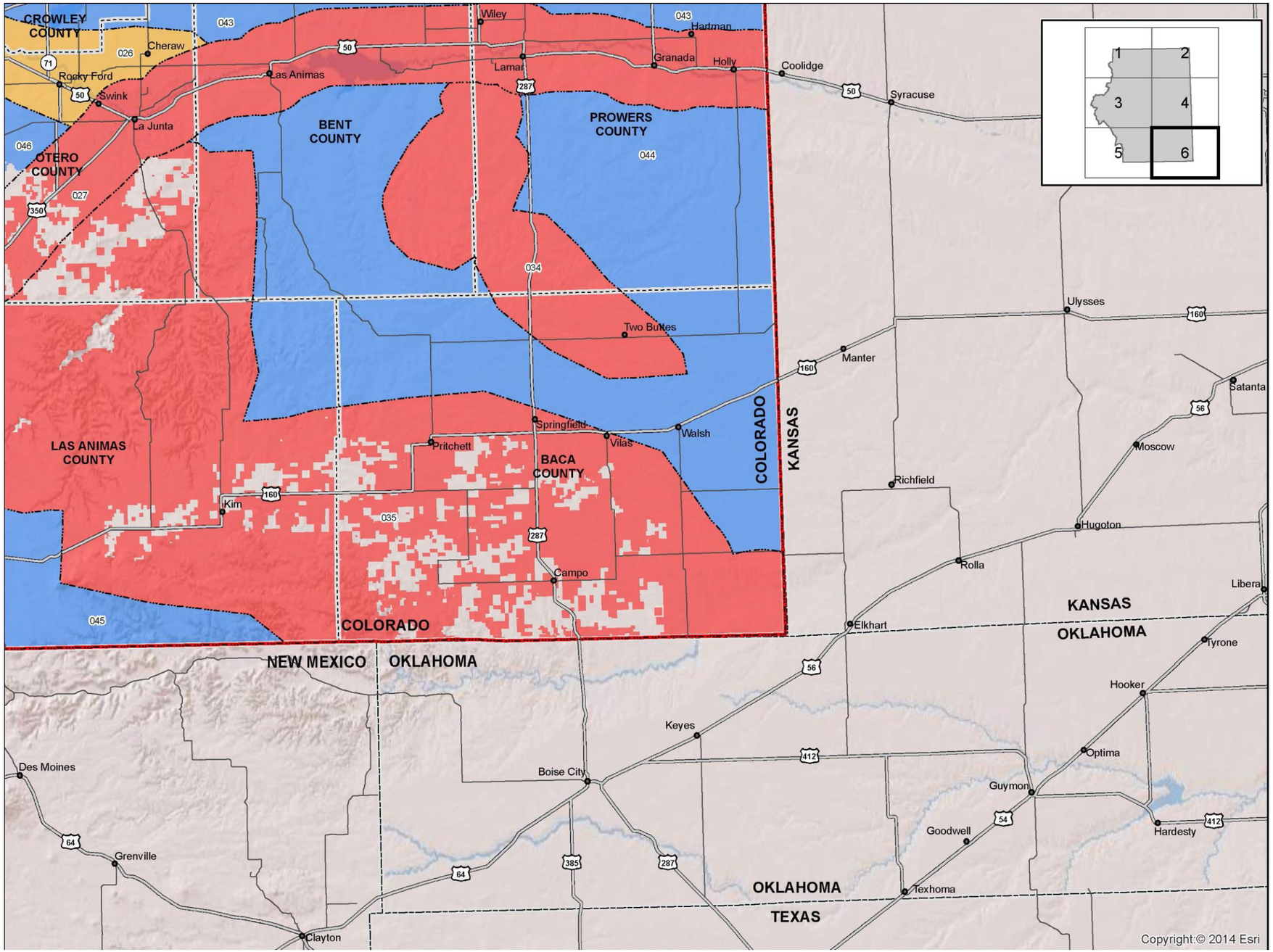

Sensitivity Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Boundary
027 SLRU Number

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Sensitivity Level - High	9,300,137	29%	61%	56%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - High	82,449	0%	11%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - High	76,320	0%	11%	0%
Sensitivity Level - Moderate	5,890,660	19%	12%	10%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - Moderate	2,620	0%	0%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - Moderate	246	0%	0%	0%
Sensitivity Level - Low	16,786,070	52%	5%	34%
ACEC Sensitivity Level - Low	3,892	0%	0%	0%
WSA Sensitivity Level - Low	0	0%	0%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

SLRU #	SLRU Name	SLRU #	SLRU Name
001	North Front Range Foothills	024	Rincon Creek
001	Gateway North	025	Pueblo
002	Cache La Poudre	026	Lower Arkansas River
003	Pawnee Pioneer Trails	027	Spanish Trail
004	Pawnee Grasslands	028	South Platte River Trail
005	North Front Range	029	Wray
006	Denver Metro	030	Beecher Island
007	Mount Evans Byway	031	Wray Viewshed
008	North Front Range Foothills	032	East Gateway
009	South Park	033	Sand Creek
010	Palmer Divide	034	Two Buttes
011	Colorado Springs	035	Comanche Grasslands
012	Central Front Range Foothills	037	East Pawnee Grasslands
013	Gold Belt Byway	038	South Platte River
015	Bighorn Sheep Canyon	039	Wiggins North
017	Waugh Mountain	041	North Fork Cache La Poudre
018	Upper Arkansas River	042	Peetz
019	Wet Mountain Valley	043	Eastern Plains
020	Wet Mountains	044	Southeastern Plains
021	Pueblo Foothills	045	South Central Plains
023	Spanish Peaks	046	Walsenburg

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Miles

Figure 15f. Sensitivity Level Ratings, Segment 6

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6.0 Inventory Factor 3: Visual Distance Zones

6.1 Overview

The analysis of distance zones in the VRM process considers the distance from which the area is generally viewed but does not take into account every possible viewing location. According to BLM H-8410-1, landscape areas are generally subdivided into three distance zones based on their relative visibility from travel routes or other observation points:

- **Foreground-middleground (FM) zone**—Areas that are seen from major highways and other primary travelways, rivers, trails, or other viewing locations that are less than 3 to 5 miles away. Management activities and proposed projects may be viewed in more detail in this zone.
- **Background (BG) zone**—Areas that are seen beyond the FM zone to a distance of about 15 miles away. Activities and changes to the landscape in the BG zone would be generally less visible.
- **Seldom-seen (SS) zone**—Areas that are beyond the BG zone, more than about 15 miles away from the viewing locations. Seldom-seen areas also may not be visible within the FM zone or BG zone or are generally hidden from view from those distances.

Distance zone delineations can provide valuable information during the visual sensitivity level analysis since landscape areas that are more visible (FM zone) to the public are more noticeable and may precipitate the public's concern for visual quality. Boundaries of the distance zones may also assist in defining the boundaries of an area's SLRUs.

Distance zone delineations can also be valuable during the RMP process when adjustments to VRM classes are made to resolve resource-allocation conflicts.

6.2 Mapping Methodology

BLM staff participated in a distance zone workshop at the inventory kickoff meeting in November 2013. Prior to commencing with the workshop, BLM's distance zone delineation process was reviewed, as described in BLM H-8410-1. During the workshop, roads, trails, or other locations were determined to be used as platforms in the distance zone delineation process. A number of primary travel routes were identified as being the locations from which the general public would most often view the landscapes within the inventory area. The distance zone platforms are represented on the map in Appendix C.

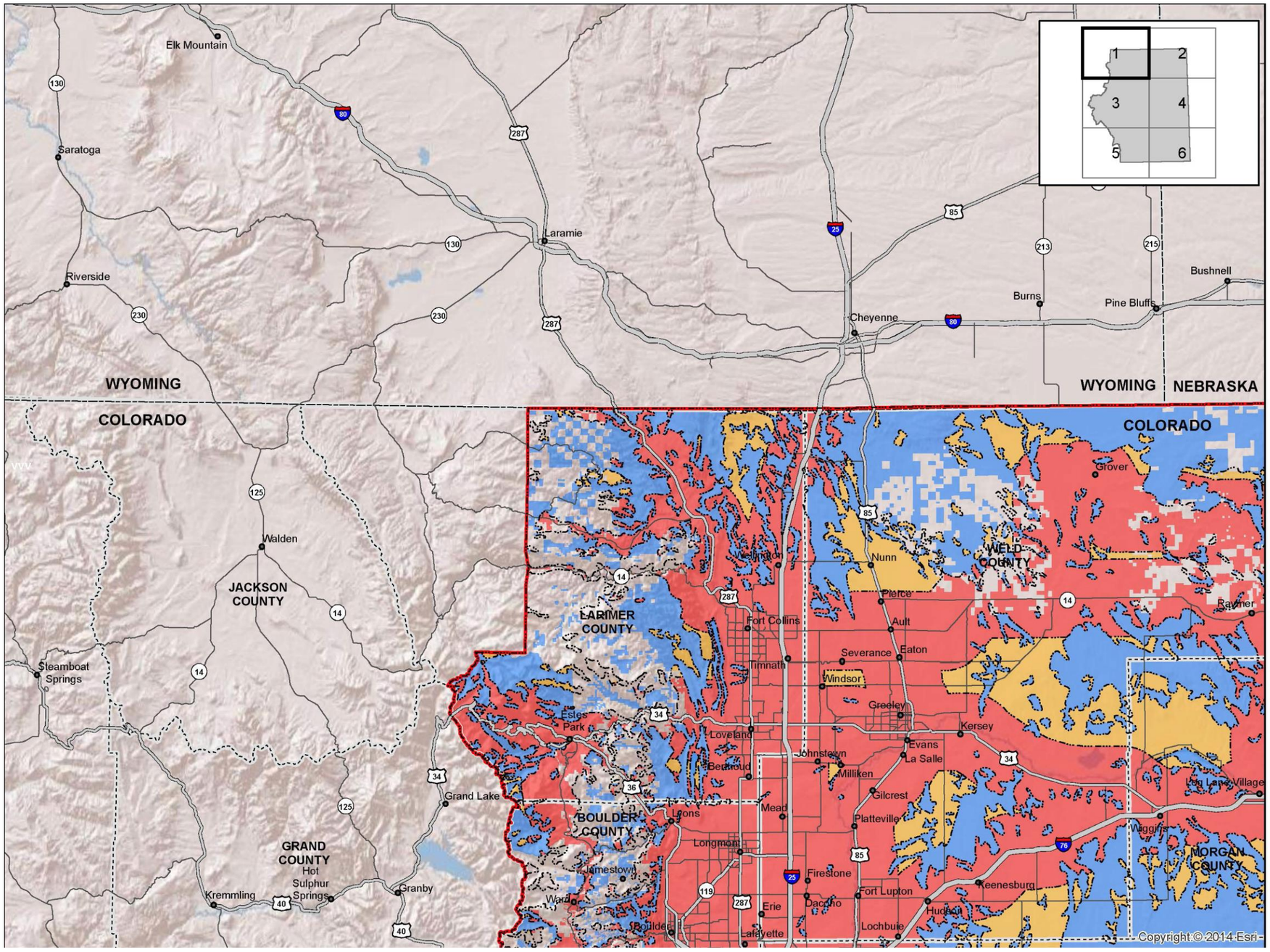
Following the workshop, Logan Simpson GIS specialists performed distance zone offsets according to BLM H-8410-1 using ArcGIS mapping. The distance zones were offset from the routes with a distance of 5 miles for the FM zone and 15 miles for the BG zone. In order to supplement the distance zone offset process, a viewshed, or visibility analysis, was performed from each of the identified distance zone platforms to identify portions within each zone that would not be visible. These visibility analyses

were performed using the best available digital elevation data for the inventory area, consisting of 10-meter digital elevation models in a GIS. These models do not reflect vegetation or structures within the planning area. Otherwise known as an analysis based on a “bald” landscape, this type of analysis provides a worst-case-scenario of visible areas. Based on the results of these analyses, polygons were created to represent areas that were not visible. Because the areas within these polygons were not visible from the platforms, they were added to the SS zone.

6.3 Distance Zone Summary

Approximately 27 percent of lands within the inventory area fall within the FM zone due to the relatively flat and open terrain along the transportation corridors chosen for the distance zone analysis (Figures 16a–16f). The transportation corridors chosen were based on their heavy use as primary access routes to destination areas throughout the inventory area. These platforms included roads such as Interstates 25 and 70 and Highways 24, 34 50, 285, and 287.

Approximately 65 percent of the inventory area falls within the SS zone, leaving approximately 8 percent of the inventory area in the BG zone. Designating areas as SS is a function of the key platforms selected for analysis rather than an indication that the areas are truly “seldom seen.” Other areas in the SS zone are generally less developed, have far fewer travel routes from which they could be viewed, or are totally inaccessible by vehicles. The BG zone areas are relatively few and are scattered throughout the inventory area.



Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
	ACEC Foreground/Middleground	42,658	0%	6%	0%
	WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
	Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
	ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
	Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
	ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
	WSA Seldom Seen	51,195	0%	7%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

Figure 16a. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 1

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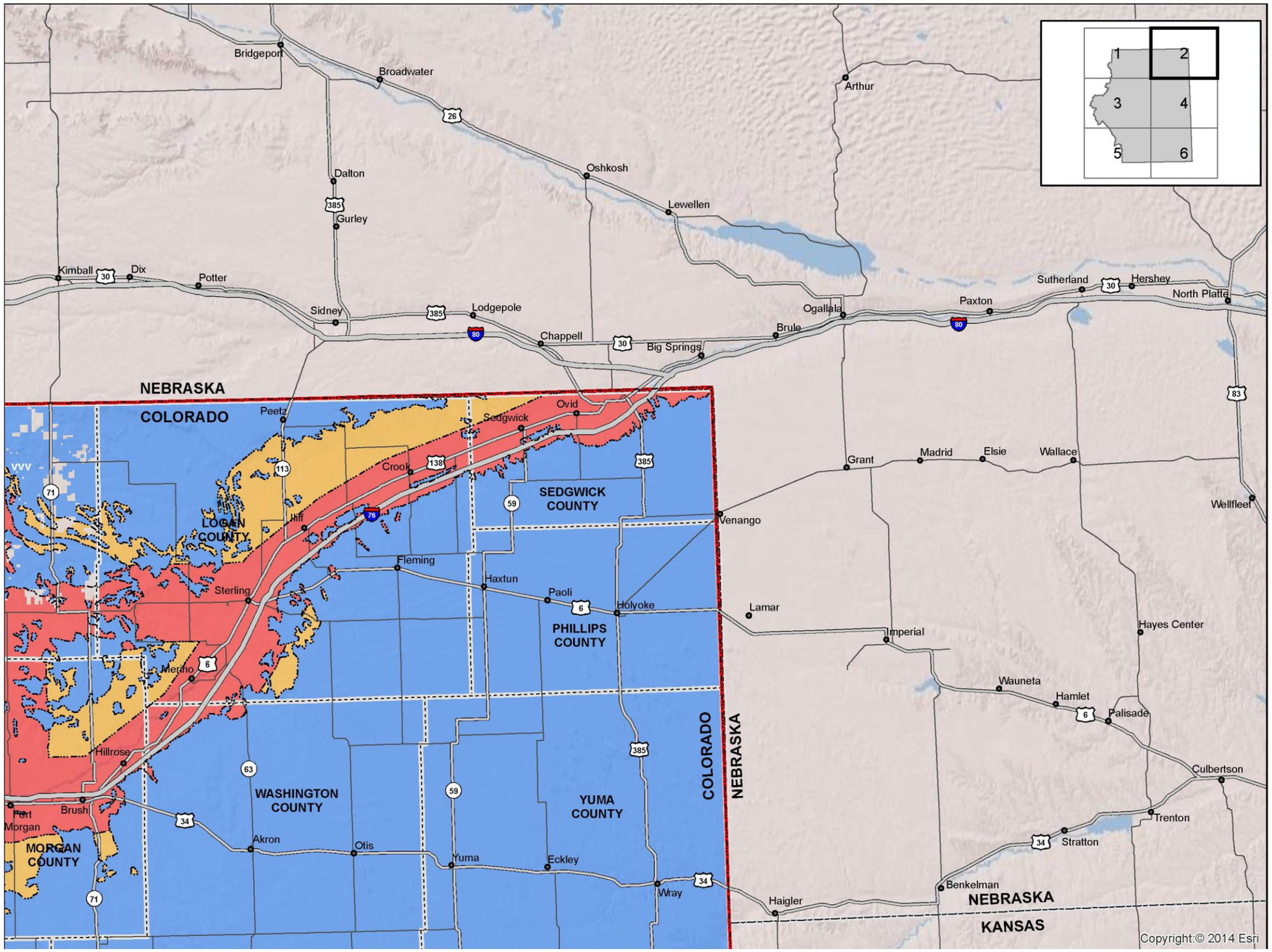

Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
	ACEC Foreground/Middleground	42,658	0%	6%	0%
	WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
	Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
	ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
	Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
	ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
	WSA Seldom Seen	51,195	0%	7%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 16b. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 2

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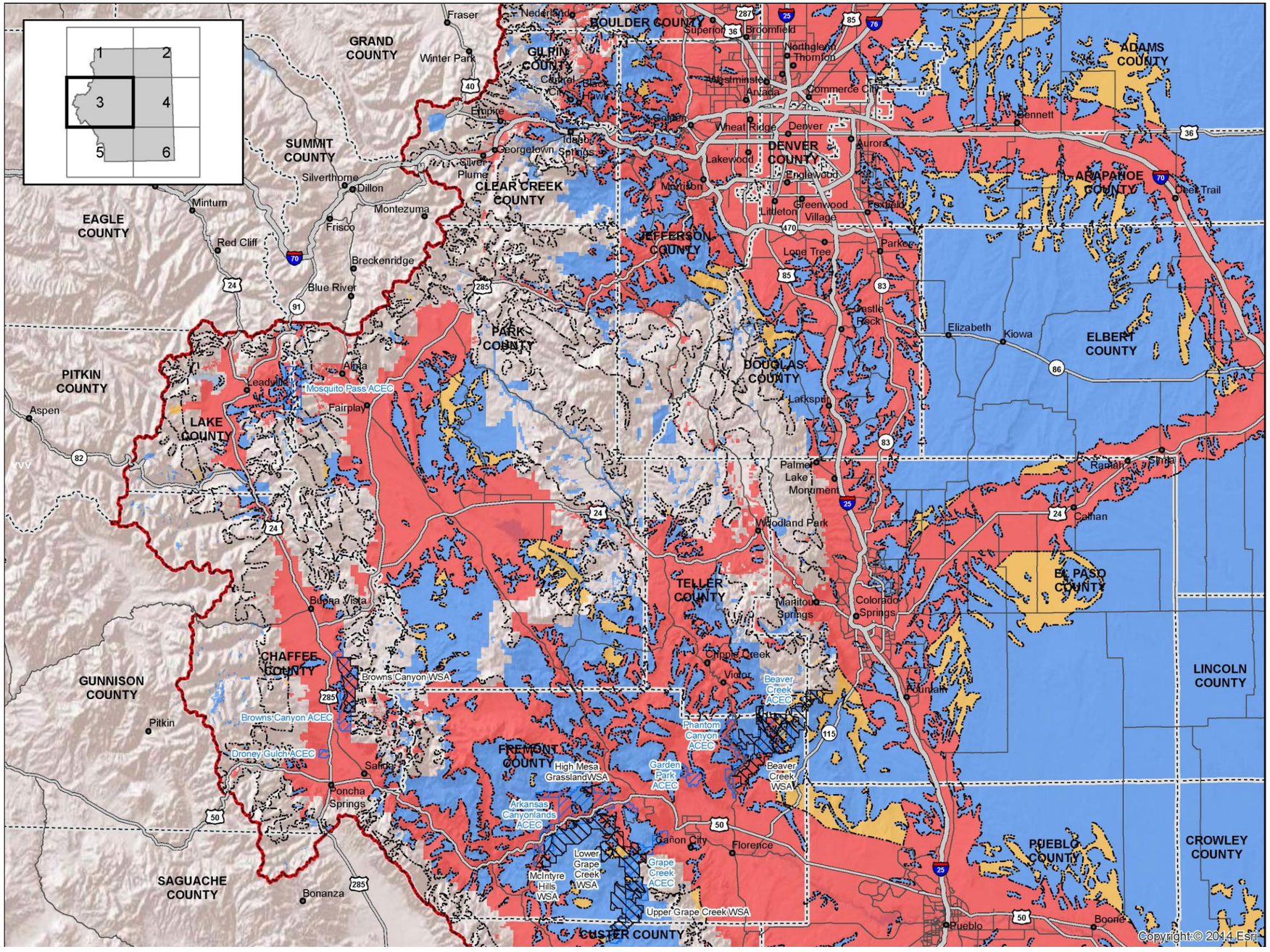

Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
ACEC Foreground/Middleground	42,658	0%	6%	0%
WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
WSA Seldom Seen	51,195	0%	7%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 16c. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 3

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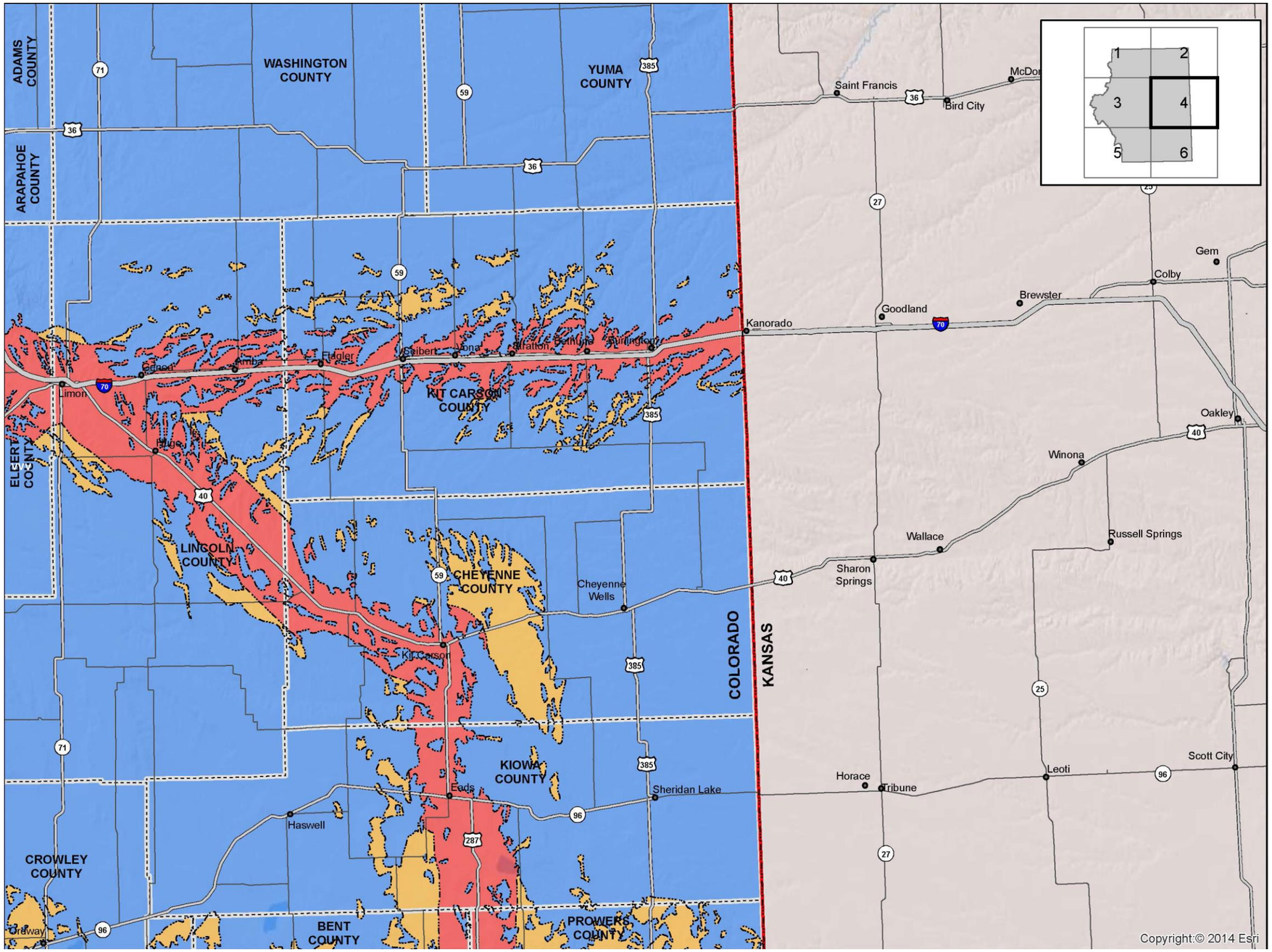

Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
ACEC Foreground/Middleground	42,658	0%	6%	0%
WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
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* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

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Miles

Figure 16d. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 4

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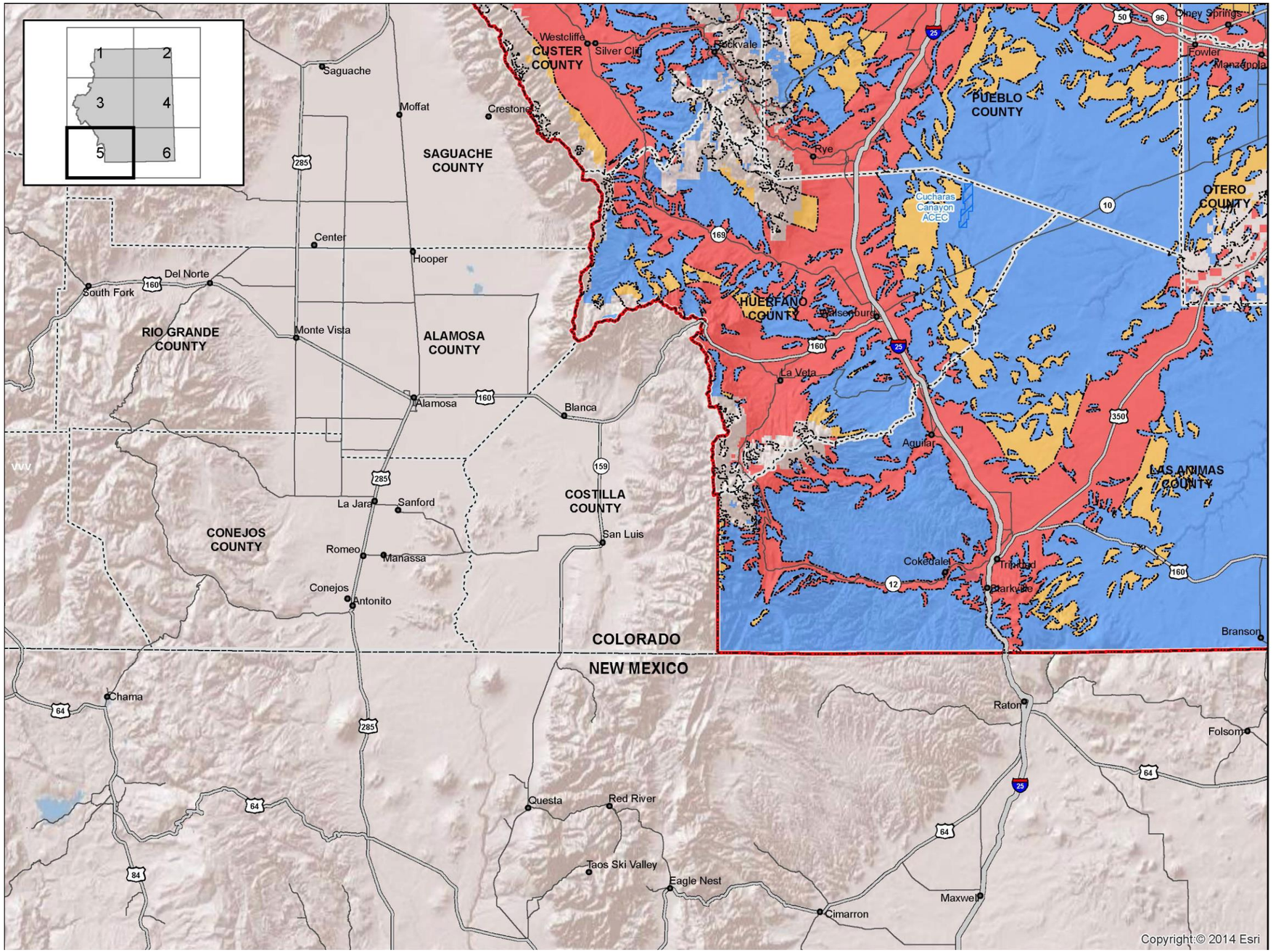

Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
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Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
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WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
WSA Seldom Seen	51,195	0%	7%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

Figure 16e. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 5

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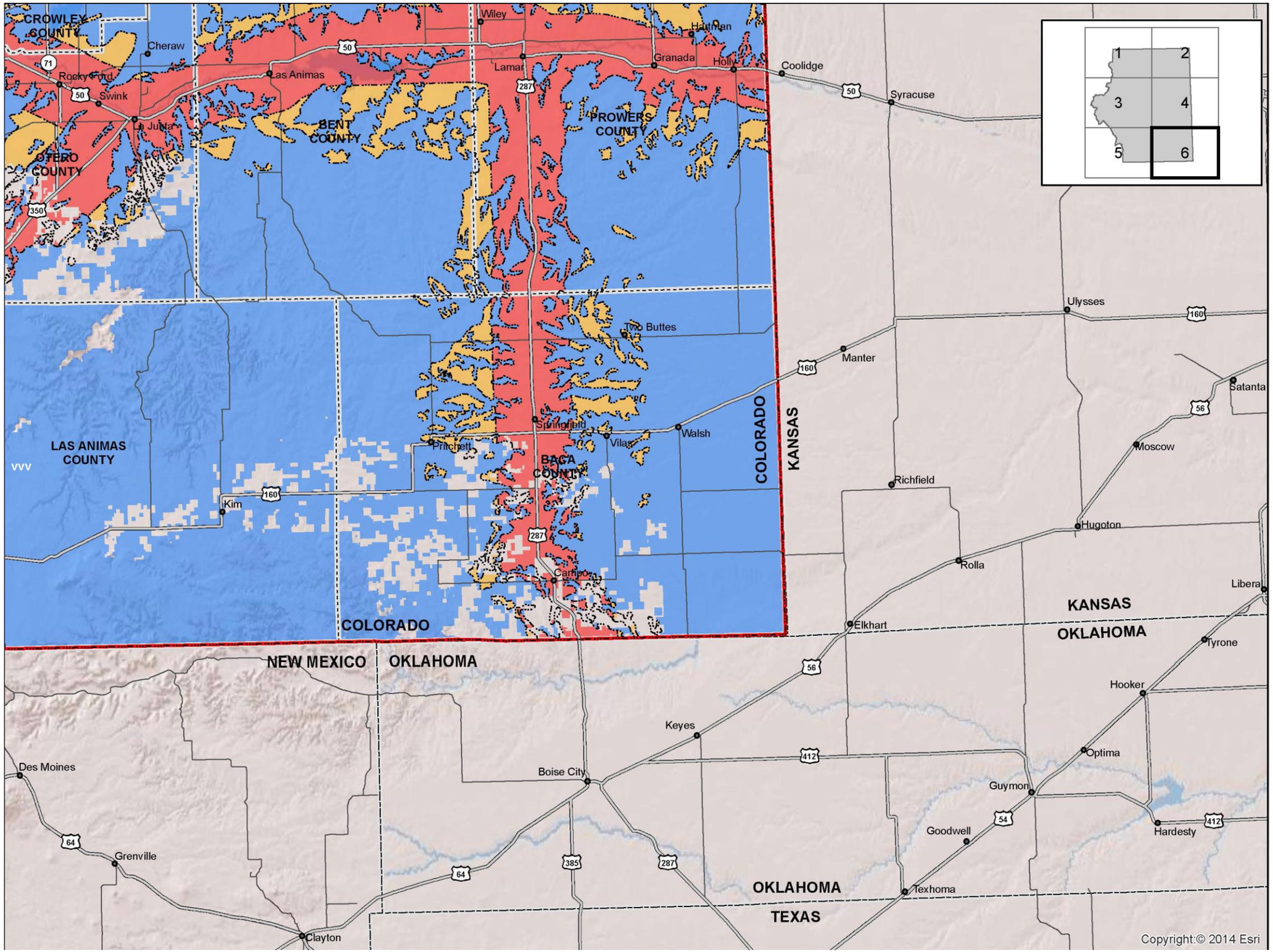

Visual Distance Zone Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	Foreground/Middleground	8,727,655	27%	40%	24%
	ACEC Foreground/Middleground	42,658	0%	6%	0%
	WSA Foreground/Middleground	18,941	0%	3%	0%
	Background	2,480,877	8%	3%	7%
	ACEC Background	2,553	0%	0%	0%
	WSA Background	6,430	0%	1%	0%
	Seldom Seen	20,768,335	65%	35%	69%
	ACEC Seldom Seen	43,748	0%	5%	0%
	WSA Seldom Seen	51,195	0%	7%	0%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

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Miles

Figure 16f. Visual Distance Zone Ratings, Segment 6

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7.0 Visual Resource Inventory Classes

7.1 Overview

The VRM system includes four VRI classes. Class I is assigned to wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild sections of wild and scenic rivers, and other areas where the current management situation requires maintaining a natural environment that is essentially unaltered by humans. Classes II, III, and IV are assigned according to combinations of scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones outlined in the BLM's Visual Resource Inventory Matrix (Figure 17).

The VRI classes were mapped by overlaying scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones in the ArcGIS platform. Figures 18a–18f depict the visual resource classes for the field office. Because the GIS mapping process results in overlapping, slivering, and small anomalies, all mapping areas of less than 200 acres in size were modified to fit with surrounding mapping units.

		Visual Sensitivity Levels						
		High			Medium			Low
Special Areas		Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I
Scenic Quality	**A**	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II
	B	Class II	Class III	Class III* Class IV*	Class III	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV
	C	Class III	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV	Class IV
		FM	**BG**	**SS**	**FM**	**BG**	**SS**	**SS**
		Distance Zones						

Figure Source: Adapted from BLM Manual H-8410-1, Illustration 11 (1986a).

Figure Note: FM = foreground/middleground, BG = background, SS = seldom seen.

***** If adjacent area is Class III or lower, assign Class III; if higher, assign Class IV.

Figure 17. Visual Resource Inventory Class Matrix

7.2 Visual Resource Inventory Classes

The majority of the inventory area, approximately 69 percent (22,212,347 acres) was designated as VRI Class IV—of which less than 1 percent (80,264 acres) is BLM surface management and approximately 8 percent (1,794,148 acres) is BLM split estate. These areas are VRI Class IV because they consist primarily of landscapes with C ratings for scenic quality and medium to low ratings for sensitivity levels—regardless of distance zone (Figures 18a–18f).

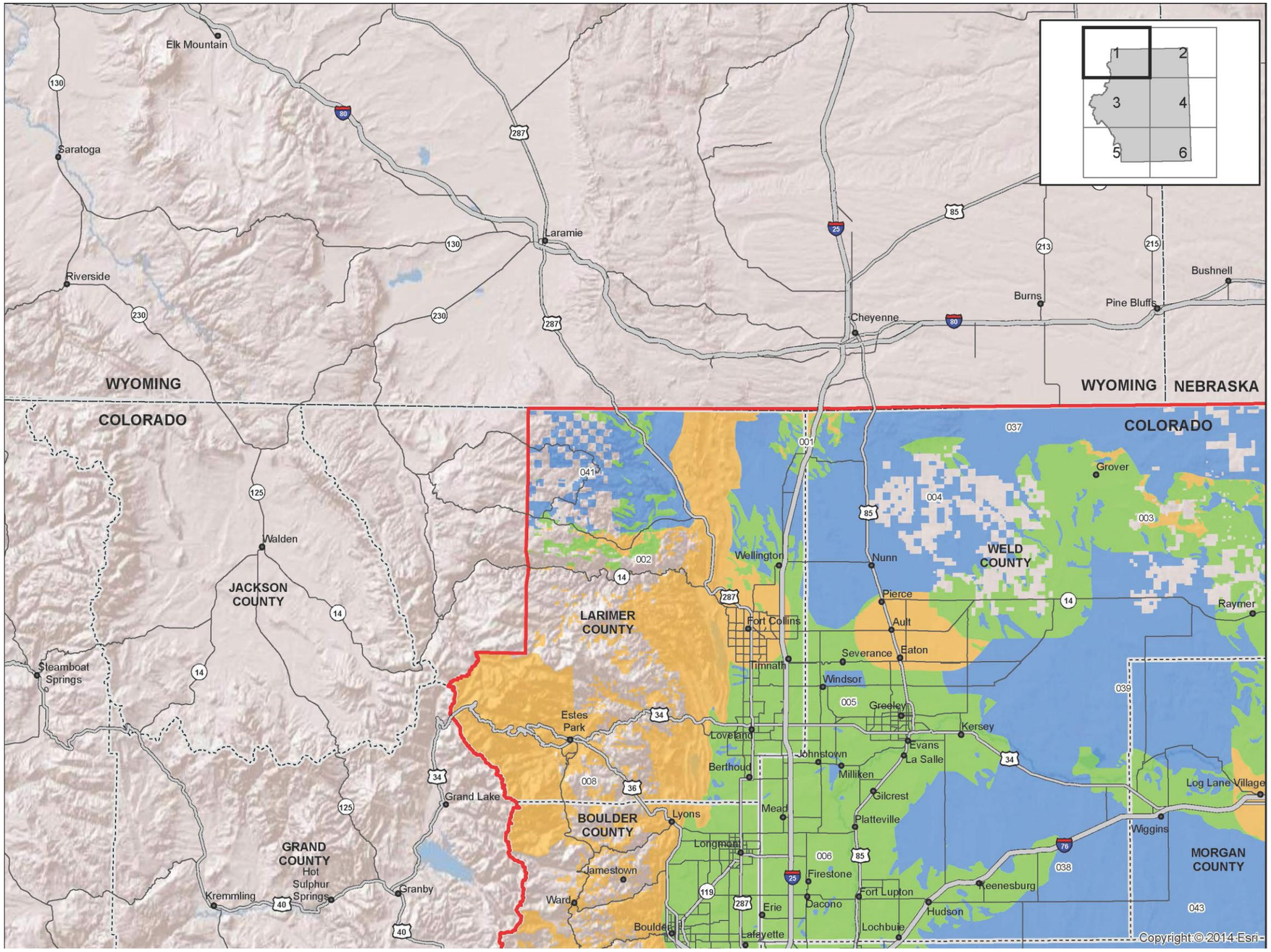
VRI Class III areas are located throughout the mountainous areas and foothills and where there is a greater variety in the landscape. These areas account for approximately 17 percent (5,333,970 acres) of the inventory area—of which approximately 4 percent (193,972 acres) are BLM surface management

and approximately 11 percent (598,049 acres) are BLM split estate. These lands are classified as VRI Class III primarily because they include a mix of scenic quality values and sensitivity levels.

Approximately 14 percent (4,483,153 acres) of the inventory area was designated as Class II—of which approximately 7 percent (321,057 acres) are BLM surface management and approximately 21 percent (930,299 acres) are BLM split estate. The Class II areas are found primarily within the mountains and along the Arkansas River portions of the inventory area. These locations tend to be associated with water that is not common within the region or with areas having distinct landforms that were determined to be scenic quality A or B landscapes with medium or high sensitivity levels.

Less than 1 percent (76,566 acres) of the inventory area was designated as Class I—of which 100 percent (76,566 acres) are BLM surface management. The VRI Class I lands are in areas that are currently being managed for preservation purposes, including wilderness study areas.

To illustrate VRI classes that theoretically underlie areas designated as VRI Class I, Appendix F includes a map that depicts VRI classifications without VRI Class I identified.



Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

Figure 18a. VRI Classifications, Segment 1

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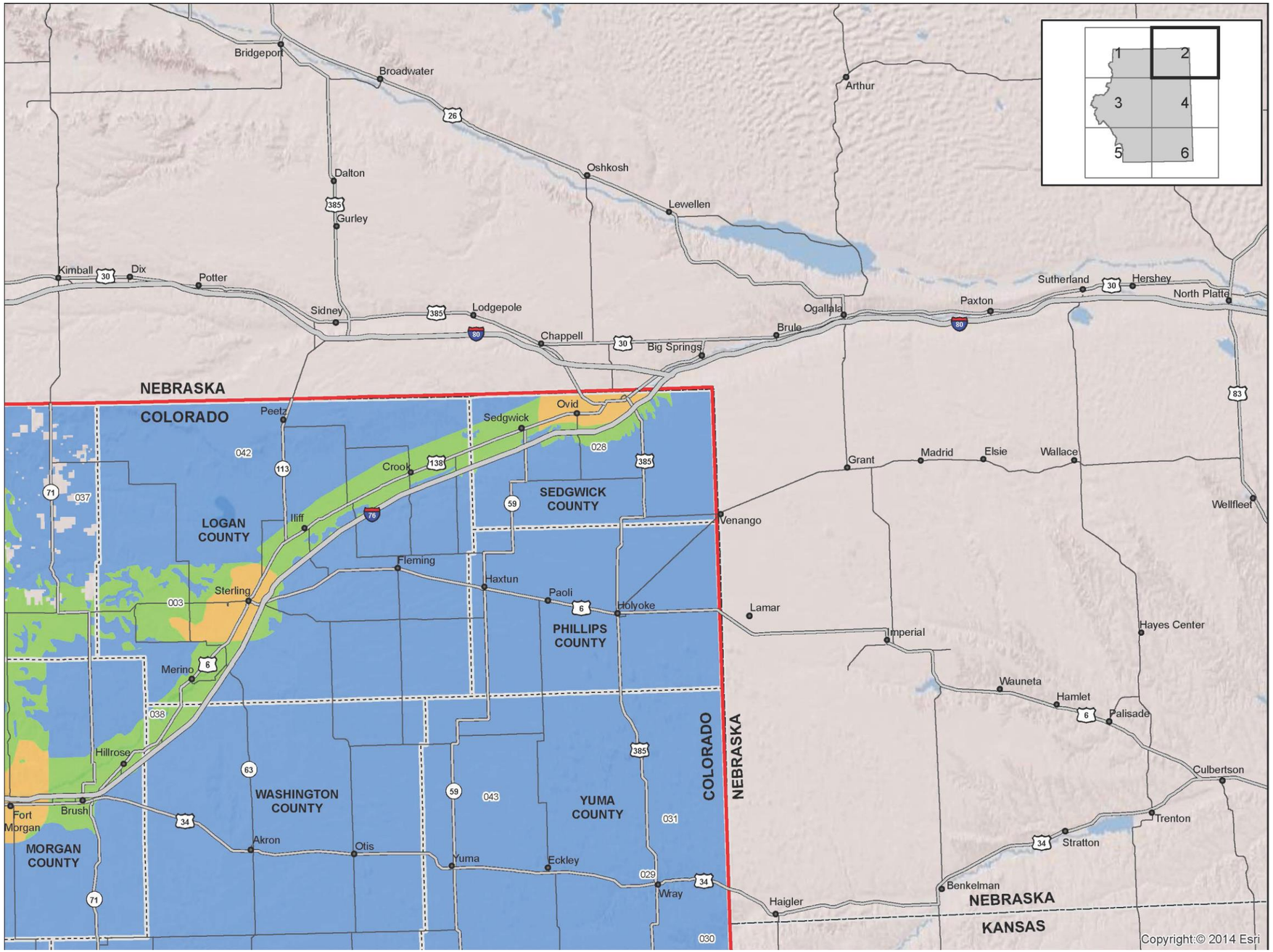

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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Miles

Figure 18b. VRI Classifications, Segment 2

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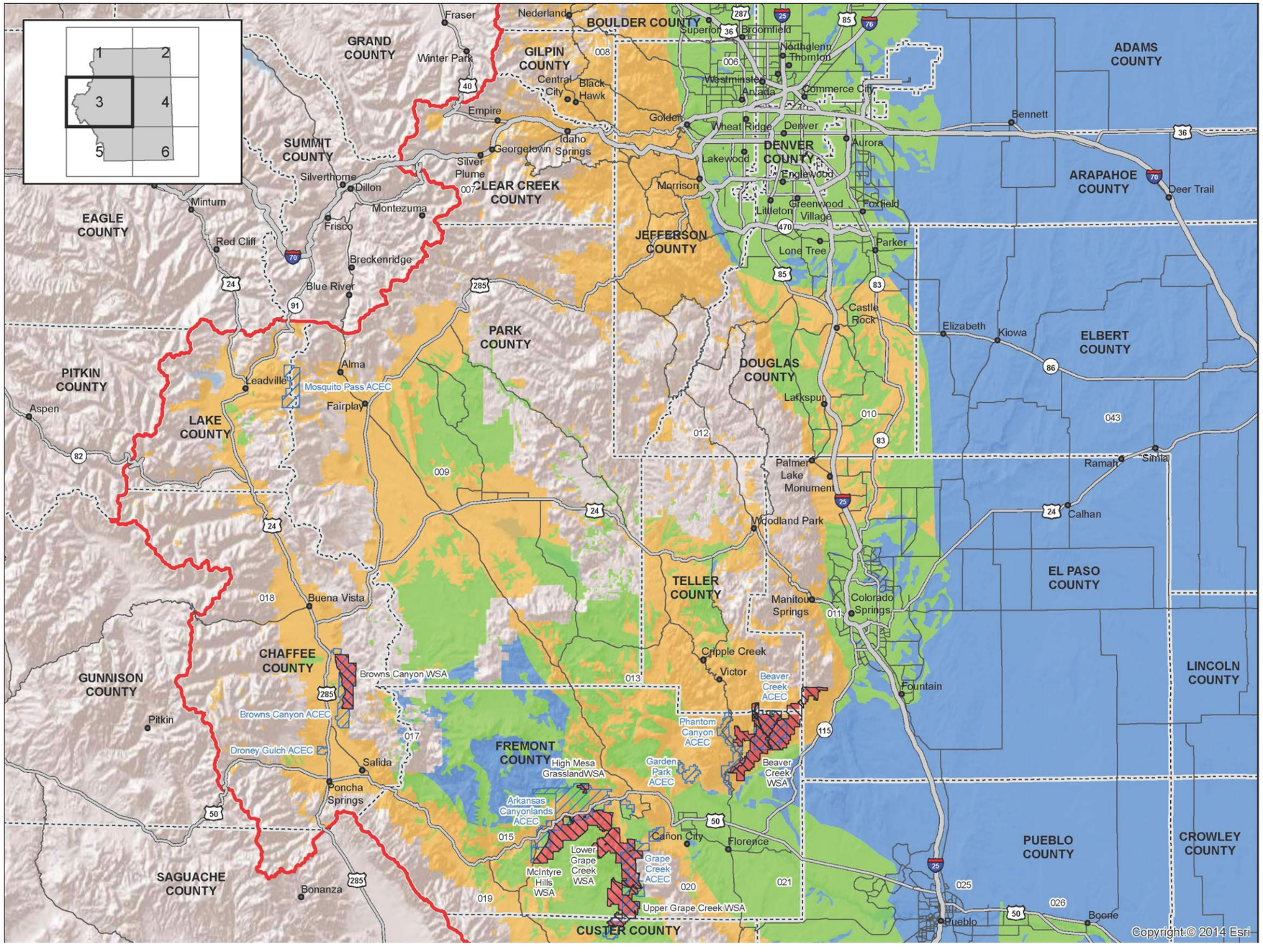

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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NORTH

Figure 18c. VRI Classifications, Segment 3

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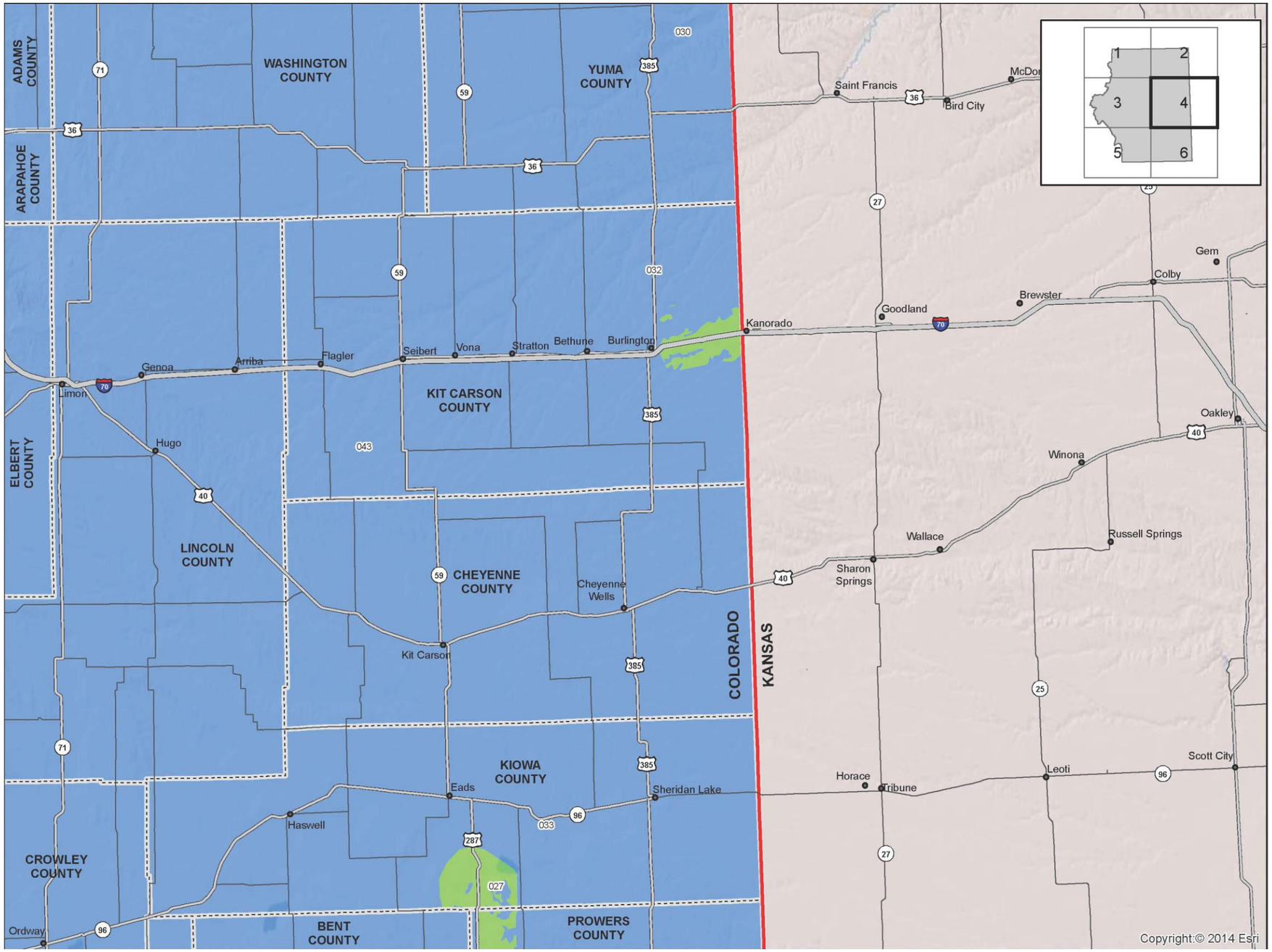

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 18d. VRI Classifications, Segment 4

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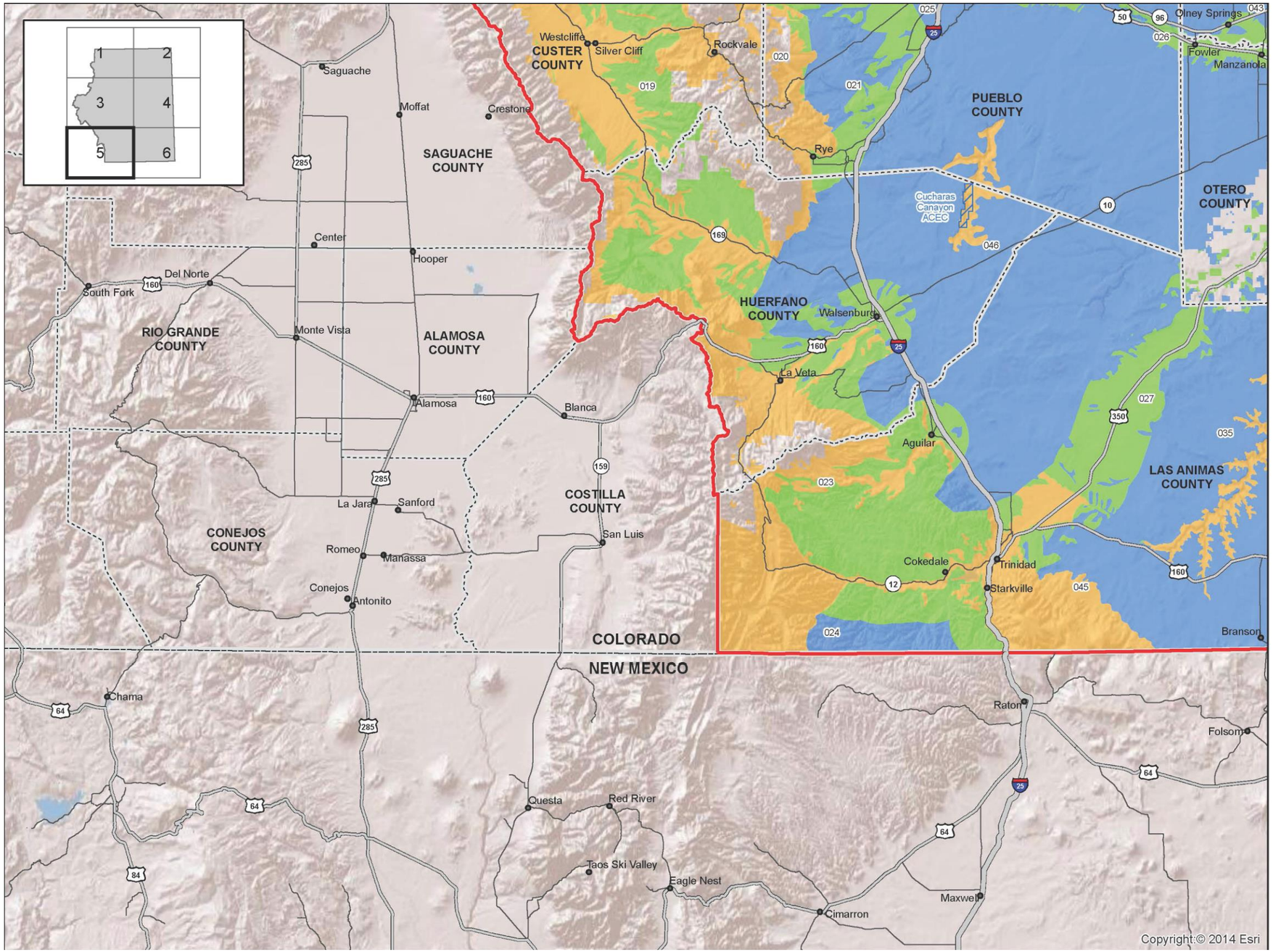

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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Miles

NORTH

Figure 18e. VRI Classifications, Segment 5

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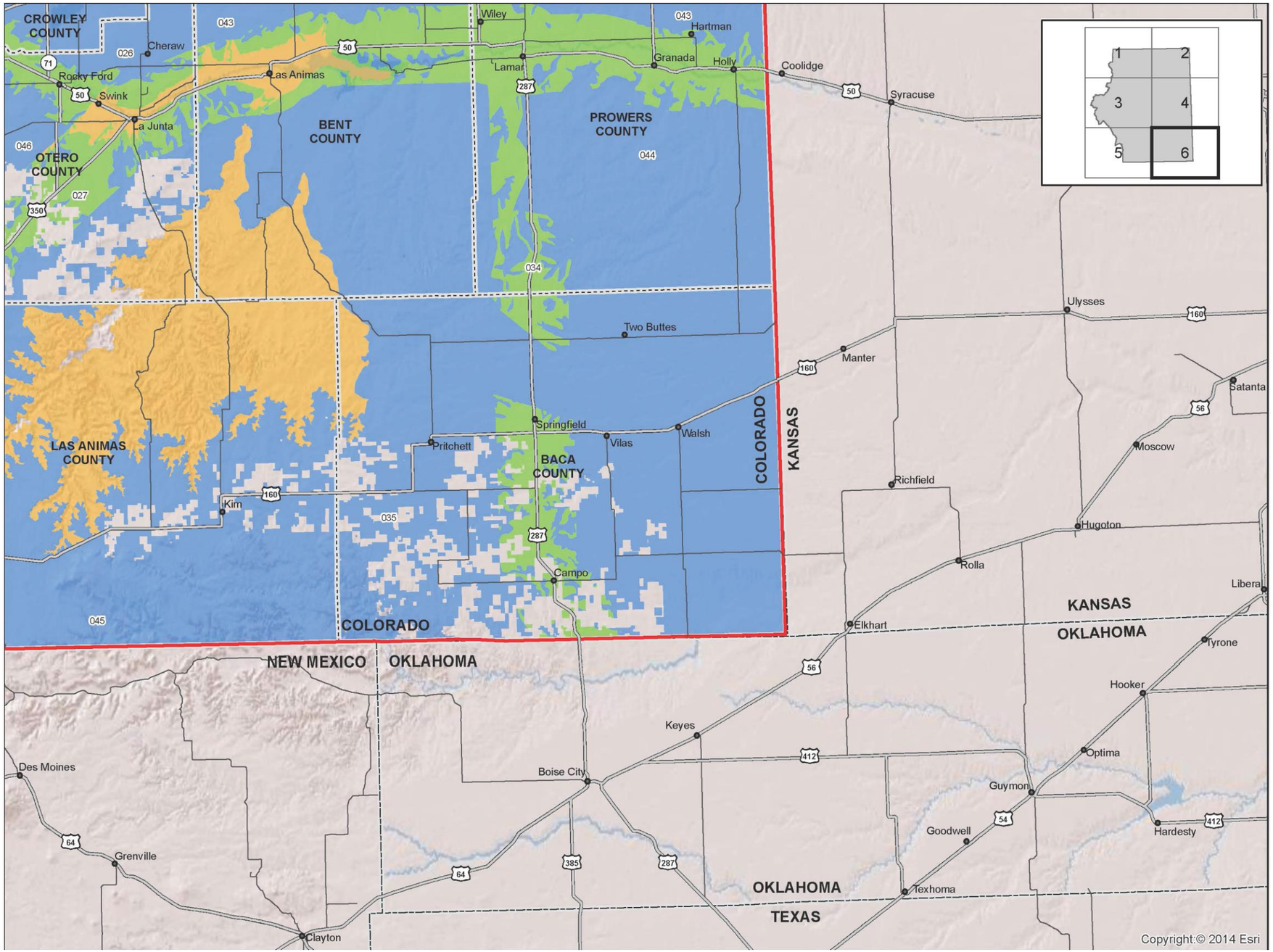

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	76,566	0%	11%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,483,153	14%	48%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,333,970	17%	29%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,347	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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Figure 18f. VRI Classifications, Segment 6

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Appendix A — Scenic Quality Rating Unit Evaluations

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SQRU Process Overview

As part of the inventory kickoff meeting in November 2013, BLM staff members from the Royal Gorge Field Office took part in a visual resource inventory (VRI) training and scenic quality rating unit (SQRU) workshop. The training included a review of BLM's scenic quality evaluation process as described in BLM Manual H-8410-1. The workshop was conducted by Craig Johnson and Chris Bockey from Logan Simpson, in coordination with the National Operation Center Visual Resource Management (VRM) lead. Approximately 12 interdisciplinary staff members from the Royal Gorge Field Office, along with Don Bruns from the Colorado State Office, participated in the training/workshop. During the workshop, BLM and Logan Simpson refined the draft SQRU delineations, determined potential inventory observation points (IOPs), and planned primary travel routes from which to access IOPs.

In preparation for the workshop, Logan Simpson developed working maps using base GIS data provided by the field office and supplementary data from open sources. These maps included draft SQRU delineations that had been prepared by Logan Simpson based primarily on landform, water, and development patterns. BLM and Logan Simpson then refined the draft SQRUs based on the BLM staff's knowledge of the visual characteristics of the landscape.

After the draft SQRUs were refined, BLM and Logan Simpson staff planned the locations of preliminary IOPs on the workshop maps. Preliminary IOPs were determined based on a variety of factors, including expected locations of characteristic landscape views, accessibility, and logistical viewpoint locations. The preliminary IOPs and travel routes were marked on the maps and later transferred to field maps. The following travel management schedule was developed at the kickoff meeting; it was further refined after the meeting in order to coordinate BLM staff availability for fieldwork efforts due to weather delays.

The scenic quality field inventory was originally scheduled to be conducted in December 2013, but due to weather-related concerns the inventory was postponed until spring 2014. The scenic quality field inventory was conducted in May 2014. During fieldwork, Logan Simpson and BLM staff divided into two separate field teams to effectively cover the inventory area. SQRU evaluations were completed in context with the Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountain physiographic provinces in which the inventory area lies. During field inventory, the teams completed modified versions of BLM Scenic Quality Field Inventory (SQFI) rating forms (Form 8400-1, BLM Manual H-8410-1) for each SQRU (see the two-page modified form in Figures 3a and 3b of this VRI report).

After fieldwork was completed, the information from the inventory forms was entered into a central database and merged with the final boundaries of the SQRUs for use in generating the scenic quality inventory maps and forms for this VRI report.

The information collected on the SQFI forms, along with IOP photos for each unit, are displayed on the final SQRU forms in this appendix. The SQFI information is presented in an 11″ x 17″ format that was designed to optimize readability of the forms and to incorporate the representative photographs of each unit.

Travel Management Schedule

Date	BLM Staff	Start Time	Meeting Place
Team 1—Craig Johnson and Whitney May (from Logan Simpson)			
Monday May 12, 2014	Pink	6:00 am	Cañon City
Tuesday May 13, 2014	Yellow	6:00 am	Cañon City
Wednesday May 14, 2014	Kalem (green)	6:00 am	Royal Gorge Field Office
Thursday May 15, 2014	Linda and John (green)	6:00 am	Royal Gorge Field Office
Friday May 16, 2014	Pink	6:00 am	Cañon City
Team 2—Chris Bockey and Kristy Bruce (from Logan Simpson)			
Monday May 12, 2014	Green	7:00 am	Golden
Tuesday May 13, 2014	Pink	7:00 am	Ft. Collins
Wednesday May 14, 2014	Yellow	7:00 am	Royal Gorge
Thursday May 15, 2014	Orange	7:00 am	Trinidad
Friday May 16, 2014	Orange	7:00 am	Pueblo

Appendix B — Sensitivity Level Rating Unit Evaluations

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Sensitivity Rating Evaluation Forms

The following sensitivity evaluation rating forms reflect the information gathered through research, agency and community coordination, and BLM staff knowledge of specific areas. These forms were completed by BLM staff, and were then generated directly from the database that was used to populate the geodatabase.

Field Office:	**Name:** Gateway North		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014		**001**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard		

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Travelers and residents including tourists traveling into Colorado
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Directly off the interstate with a high volume of traffic
Public Interest Rating:	H	Wide open vistas, classic Colorado scenery
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Landscape integrity is important for travelers along the gateway into Colorado
Special Areas Rating:	M	Gateway to Colorado
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	This is a major travel corridor and entrance to Colorado. Landscape integrity is important to visitors/tourism industry and residents.
Unit Narrative:		This units is the view corridor of I-25 as it enters the state of Colorado from the north. High volumes of tourists and residents travel through the unit which is characterized by wide open vistas and classic Colorado scenery.

Field Office:	**Name:** Cache La Poudre		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**002**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Recreation (tourism and leisure); cultural importance
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Scenic byway; high volume of traffic (recreation tourists and local residents)
Public Interest Rating:	H	Adjacent scenery along the byway, mountains, plains
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Scenic byway
Special Areas Rating:	H	Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Unit is along a scenic byway traveled by residents and tourists important for recreation and economy.
Unit Narrative:		Based on the viewshed of the Cache La Poudre-North Park Scenic Byway connecting Fort Collins and Walden. The scenery is important for recreation/leisure tourism visitors and the culture and traditions of the area.

Field Office:	**Name:** Pawnee Pioneer Trails	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**003**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Travelers, tourists and local residents
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Scenic byway along major travel corridors, located on plains with high visibility
Public Interest Rating:	H	Scenic byway that connects rural communities, grassland and prairies
Adjacent Lands Rating:	N/A	
Special Areas Rating:	H	Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic Byway, grasslands
Other Factors Rating:	H	Wildlife viewing, bird watching
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Important landscape in this area for residents and tourists. High volumes of traffic and important for wildlife viewing.
Unit Narrative:		Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic Byway and Pawnee National Grasslands are working landscapes important for local heritage and cultural tourism. Wildlife viewing is dependent upon intact landscapes. Oil and gas development has led to increased concerns

Field Office:	Name: Pawnee Grasslands	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**004**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Travelers, tourists and local residents
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Pawnee National Grasslands, integrity important for character of the area
Public Interest Rating:	H	Pawnee National Grasslands are important to residents and visitors
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Scenic byway is adjacent to grasslands, very visible with high volume of viewers
Special Areas Rating:	H	Pawnee National Grasslands
Other Factors Rating:	H	Wildlife viewing, bird watching
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Landscape integrity of the Pawnee National Grasslands is important to the residents and visitors for this area; considered public valued scenery and open
Unit Narrative:		Pawnee National Grasslands are important for local recreation including wildlife viewing and hunting along with local heritage and tourism. Recent increases in oil and gas activity in the region has increased awareness of development and open space.

Field Office:	**Name:** North Front Range	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**005**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Towns, urban communities, rural residences and ranches, commuters and travelers, recreation
Amount of Use Rating:	H	High volume of use, primarily local residents of cities, towns, and rural areas
Public Interest Rating:	M	Open vistas and viewsheds are important for quality of life. Limited open space is cherished.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Highly developed and changing area. Retention of culture/heritage is important in rural areas.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Dominated by towns, rural residences and agriculture. Viewshed and open space is important for quality of life and retention of local heritage.
Unit Narrative:		The landscape plays an important role in the agricultural heritage of the area and for urban residents who live and recreate within the region. Viewsheds and open space play an important role in quality of life.

Field Office:	**Name:** Denver Metro		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**006**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Towns, urban communities, rural residences and ranches, commuters and travelers, recreation. Includes greater Denver metro area.
Amount of Use Rating:	H	High volume of use, primarily local residents of towns and rural areas
Public Interest Rating:	L	Open vistas and viewsheds are important for quality of life. Limited open space is cherished.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Highly developed and changing area. Retention of culture/heritage is important in rural areas.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Dominated by cities, towns and rural residences. Viewsheds and open space are important for quality of life.
Unit Narrative:		The landscape plays an important role in the agricultural heritage of the area as well as urban residents who live and recreate within the region. Viewsheds and open space play an important role in quality of life and business environment.

Field Office:	**Name:** Mount Evans Byway		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014		**007**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard		

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Recreation (tourism and leisure); cultural/heritage importance; commuters and travelers; viewshed for urban residents
Amount of Use Rating:	H	High volume of use; commuters, travelers, recreation, businesses and industries dependent upon iconic Colorado landscapes; scenic byway;
Public Interest Rating:	H	Intact iconic mountain landscapes
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Trails, recreation destinations, towns and rural residences, scenic byways
Special Areas Rating:	H	Mount Evans, Lariat Loop, Guanella Pass Scenic Byways
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Important landscape for residents who desire to live in rural areas as well as urban residents seeking recreation and escape from the developed
Unit Narrative:		The scenic byways are a recreation travel artery. Small communities located within this unit are dependent upon the landscapes and views. The unit is a recreation/leisure destination and plays an important role in the economy of the state and region.

Field Office:	**Name:**	North Front Range Foothills	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**008**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Recreation (tourism and leisure); cultural/heritage importance; commuters and travelers; viewshed for urban residents
Amount of Use Rating:	H	High volume of use; commuters, travelers, recreation, businesses and industries dependent upon iconic Colorado landscapes; scenic byway;
Public Interest Rating:	H	Intact iconic mountain landscapes
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Trails, recreation destinations, towns and rural residences, scenic byways
Special Areas Rating:	H	Trail Ridge Road (Rocky Mountain National Park) and Peak To Peak Scenic Byways
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Important landscape for residents who desire to live in rural areas as well as urban residents seeking recreation and escape from the developed
Unit Narrative:		Unit is backdrop to urban areas and a major recreation destination and travel corridor highlighted by scenic byways. Small communities are dependent upon landscapes and views. The unit plays an important role in the economy of the state and region.

Field Office:	Name: South Park	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**009**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Recreation (tourism and leisure); cultural/heritage importance; commuters and travelers; viewshed for urban residents
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Heritage tourists; recreation (both destination and pass through); residents who live in the area for the views and open spaces
Public Interest Rating:	H	South Park National Heritage Area, sensitive residents who live in the area for the open spaces and vistas treasuring intact ranching landscapes, recreation
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Iconic landscape of South Park, heritage area, rural residents who live in the area for the vistas and open space
Special Areas Rating:	H	South Park National Heritage Area
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Sensitive viewers include tourists/recreation who are dependent upon intact landscapes as well as residents working to preserve the heritage of the area
Unit Narrative:		Home to the South Park National Heritage Area which focuses landscape and heritage preservation for quality of life and tourism. Viewsheds and slow pace of life are important to local residents.

Field Office:	Name: Palmer Divide	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**010**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Residents where open space plays a critical role in their quality of life and travelers (both commuters and visitors)
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Viewshed for a high volume of residents who choose to live further out for the open space and vistas and viewshed along the I-25 corridor with high
Public Interest Rating:	H	Considered publicly valued scenery that have purposefully been managed to retain the open space and character of the area. Important to quality of life
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Residents, commuters, and travelers all value the scenic vistas in this area. Municipalities have worked to preserve the open space character.
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	This is publically valued scenery important to the quality of life for local residents but also travelers and commuters.
Unit Narrative:		Deliberate landscape conservation efforts have retained the open space in this area which is important to residents of the area and travelers. Residents of the communities place high value on the open space and landscape.

Field Office:	**Name:** Colorado Springs		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**011**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Cities, Front Range communities, commuters and travelers, recreation. Includes Colorado Springs metro area.
Amount of Use Rating:	H	High volume of people in an urban environment
Public Interest Rating:	L	Largely urban/developed area. Open space and views are highly valued and often a deciding factor for living in the area.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Highly developed and changing area. Retention of open space and vistas is highly important for quality of life.
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Dominated by cities, towns and rural residences. Viewsheds and open space are important for quality of life.
Unit Narrative:		The unit is highly developed with residential, commercial and industrial. The limited open space and views play an important role in the quality of life of residents who also rely on the tourism trade focused on Colorado landscapes.

Field Office:	Name: Central Front Range Foothills	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**012**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Residents of rural communities where open space and viewsheds play important roles in quality of life; recreation destination for Front Range
Amount of Use Rating:	H	As the backyard of the Front Range and home to iconic Colorado landscapes, the area sees incredibly high volume of use. Rural residences and small towns
Public Interest Rating:	H	Iconic landscapes, viewsheds/vistas and landmarks are found to be of high public interest throughout the unit.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Residents, recreation/tourism are highly dependent upon intact landscapes
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Being the backyard to the Front Range, home to residents where open space and viewsheds play an important role in the quality of life, and a major
Unit Narrative:		Unit is an important viewshed for residents located along the I-25 corridor. Also a recreation destination valued for natural scenery and intact landscapes. Small communities rely on these same attributes along with ranching and mining heritage.

Field Office:	**Name:** Gold Belt Byway	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**013**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Residents of rural communities where open space and viewsheds play important roles in quality of life; recreation destination for Front Range
Amount of Use Rating:	H	As the backyard of the Front Range and home to iconic Colorado landscapes, the area sees a high volume of use. Rural residences and small towns are
Public Interest Rating:	H	Intact landscapes and viewsheds/vistas are found to be of high public interest throughout the unit.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Residents, recreation/tourism are highly dependent upon intact landscapes. Efforts are underway to retain heritage of the area.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Gold Belt National Scenic Byway, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
Other Factors Rating:	H	Gold Belt Special Recreation Management Area, Mueller State Park, Royal Gorge
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Home to the Gold Belt Byway with rural ranches and residences spread throughout, the intact landscape and views are incredibly important to
Unit Narrative:		Centered on the gold belt backcountry byway the natural scenery and intact landscapes are valued by tourists and local residents. The area serves as a recreation destination both heritage and active playing an important role in local economies.

Field Office:	Name: Bighorn Sheep Canyon	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**015**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	River recreation including water sports and fishing, rural residents, travelers, limited commuters.
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Arkansas River sees a high volume of recreation use and rural residences are spread throughout the unit.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Viewsheds are vistas are important for recreation use and especially rural residents who choose to live in the area. Changes in the landscape are a
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Recreation, travelers, and rural residences all depend on the existing landscape characteristics in this unit.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	The high volume of recreation use dependent upon the existing landscape and rural residences/ranches where viewsheds play an important role in the
Unit Narrative:		River corridor has high recreation volume dependent upon intact landscapes and natural scenery. Scenic quality is important for rural residences quality of life. It is a travel corridor for residents and tourists

Field Office:	**Name:** Waugh Mountain	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**017**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Rural residences and ranches, some dispersed recreation and travelers who like to get off the beaten path
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Lower density of residences and ranches in this unit with lower volumes of recreation use.
Public Interest Rating:	M	Due to the lower number of residences and less recreation the landscape is less known to the general public. For residences and ranches in the area there
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	The residences and ranches in this area are highly dependent upon the scenic qualities of this unit. The limited recreation use is also dependent upon these
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	The limited residences and ranches in this area and lower volumes of recreation use result in a lower overall sensitivity when compared to other
Unit Narrative:		No major travel corridors, low recreation use and overall fewer residences when compared to other units. Natural landscapes are important to quality of life and achieving recreation outcomes to people who live and/or recreate within the unit.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Upper Arkansas River **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **018**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	The Upper Arkansas Valley is home to several communities who cherish the wide open landscapes and viewsheds. It is also a major tourism and
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Multiple communities are located within the unit along with being a major tourist/recreation destination and travel corridors.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Changes in the landscape are a major public issue in this area both for residents, businesses, and tourists/recreationists.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	The area is home to iconic landscapes, pastoral landscapes with a high volume of recreation and tourism use that are all highly dependent upon retaining the
Special Areas Rating:	H	Top Of The Rockies and Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byways, Continental Divide National Trail
Other Factors Rating:	H	Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Overall Unit Rating:	H	This is an area where people live, work, and play where retention of heritage landscapes and iconic Colorado vistas all play an important role.
Unit Narrative:		Scenic byways are evidence of the importance of the viewshed. Several major recreation destinations within unit. This is where people live and recreate and businesses are dependent upon the landscapes within this unit.

Field Office:	**Name:** Wet Mountain Valley	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**019**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Home to small towns, ranches, and rural residences. The area sees some tourism/recreation but at lower volumes than other units in the region.
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Fairly high volume of rural residences and ranches spread throughout the region. Some recreation and tourism associated with heritage and recreation.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Retention of landscapes in this unit is a major issue where efforts are being taken to preserve the heritage and iconic vistas.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Ranches, rural residences and recreation/tourism are all dependent upon the intact landscapes in this unit.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Due to the high volume of rural residences and ranches along with the recreation/tourism that are all dependent upon intact landscapes overall
Unit Narrative:		Home to iconic Colorado landscapes where conservation efforts have retained viewsheds. Ranching heritage is important to quality of life and related tourism. Also a recreation destination for those looking to connect with nature.

Field Office:	Name: Wet Mountains	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**020**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Backdrop to communities along the southern Front Range who also travel to the unit for recreation.
Amount of Use Rating:	H	The unit is highly visible from communities along the Front Range and has communities spread throughout. Moderate level of recreation use when
Public Interest Rating:	H	While not as dramatic as other Colorado mountain ranges they still serve as a backdrop for communities and an icon of Colorado.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Urban area, rural residences and recreation/tourism are all dependent upon the intact landscapes in this unit.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	While not as iconic as other mountain ranges this unit's landscape integrity is important for residences in the southern Front Range both as a backdrop and
Unit Narrative:		The backdrop for communities and a recreation destination for front range residents. Some tourism associated with through travel but at lesser levels than other areas. There are some ranches and rural residences in this area but this is also limited.

Field Office:	**Name:** Pueblo Foothills	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**021**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Rural residences and ranches, travelers along I-25. Some tourists/recreation that travel through the unit but not necessarily a recreation destination
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Lower density of residences and smaller urban area; the overall exposure is lower than similar units along the Front Range.
Public Interest Rating:	M	As part of the viewshed for Front Range communities there is some interest in visual changes in the area but lower than in similar units along the Front
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Largely comprised of private land there a low volume of recreation use outside of traveling through the area. Ranches and rural residences rely on
Special Areas Rating:	M	Frontier Pathways and Gold Belt Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Serving as the backdrop for Southern Front Range urban communities the area is not as visually prominent or publicly valued as other similar units along
Unit Narrative:		The fore-ground of the foothills there is some sensitivity to change but less than other similar units. Viewshed is less prominent and the terrain is not as dramatic giving it less scenic sensitivity. Generally seen as a working landscape.

Field Office:	**Name:** Spanish Peaks	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**023**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Rural residences and ranches, communities, travelers along I-25. Tourists/recreation on scenic byways and Spanish Peaks, an iconic landscape.
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Lower density population and tourism when compared to other Front Range areas. High visitation in relation to the region.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Spanish Peaks serve as an iconic landscape of southern Colorado as evidenced by scenic byways traveling throughout the unit.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Adjacent communities, rural residences, ranches, and tourism/recreation are all dependent upon intact landscapes in this region.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area, Highway Of Legends Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	The iconic landscapes of the Spanish Peaks are an important landscape in this area that local residents and tourists/recreation users are dependent upon.
Unit Narrative:		There is a high sensitivity to the landscapes within the unit that includes the Spanish Peaks and the Highway of Legends byways. Communities rely on the scenery to enhance quality of life through community views, recreation and economic development.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Rincon Creek **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **024**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	L	Limited, appears to be high exploration area, would assume industry traffic in area
Amount of Use Rating:	L	Low level of use, limited recreation, few residences
Public Interest Rating:	L	High level of exploration occurring already in area. High willingness to accept change.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Limited adjacent use, outside of viewshed of scenic byway
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Limited use and existing disturbance with limited public interest.

Unit Narrative: Outside of the Spanish Peaks, this area has relatively low visitation and population. Industrial development is spread throughout the landscape.

Field Office:	**Name:** Pueblo		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**025**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	L	Largely based on Pueblo urban area and urban, surburban, and rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Urban area with high volumes of traffic. Limited tourism.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Open space and viewsheds are valued but at much lower levels than other Front Range communities.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Urban area where people live and work, limited tourism focused on built environment
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Urban area that demonstrates less importance on open space and open vistas as other Front Range communities.
Unit Narrative:		When compared with other similarly situated communities, Pueblo appears to rely less upon adjacent scenery in regards to quality of life, tourism visitation or economic development.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Lower Arkansas River **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **026**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Commuters, travelers, ranches and rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Predominantly residents of local areas and some travelers. Limited recreation destination.
Public Interest Rating:	M	Considered a working landscape where ranching heritage plays an important role. There is an interest in retaining agricultural lands.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Agriculture is largest adjacent use, open space and agriculture lands are important to heritage of area
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Willingness to accept visual change as a working landscape but interested in retaining agricultural lands as part of ranching heritage.
Unit Narrative:		Agriculture lands play an important role in the heritage of the area. There is interest in land preservation as it pertains to agricultural land. It is largely seen as a working landscape.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Spanish Trail **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **027**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Residents, heritage/history tourism, rural residences and ranches
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Portions along Highway 50 corridor with towns, rural residences and ranches. Major entrance in southern portion of the state. Important for historic
Public Interest Rating:	M	Working landscapes with value on retaining agriculture/ranching heritage and national historic trail interest.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Rural residences and ranches along with historic context are dependent upon some retention of landscape characteristics.
Special Areas Rating:	H	Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Given the interest in ranching/agriculture heritage combined with the Santa Fe Trail there is interest in allowing for certain types of change but retention
Unit Narrative:		The viewshed of the historic Spanish Trail which is important for local heritage and increasingly heritage tourism. Intact landscapes play an important role in interpreting the historic values of resources such as the Spanish Trail.

Field Office:	Name: South Platte River Trail	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**028**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Major travel corridor and entrance into the state; local residences and ranches along with travelers and sightseers.
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Scenic byway along major travel corridors located along the South Platte River. Residences and ranches where area is very visible.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Major entrance into the state combined with a scenic byway and desire to retain ranching heritage.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Scenic byway and ranching heritage are dependent upon maintenance of landscape
Special Areas Rating:	H	South Platte River Trail Scenic Byway
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Scenic byway combined with major state entrance and ranching heritage places high value of retention of landscape characteristics.
Unit Narrative:		The scenic byway highlights this unit which also serves as a major gateway into Colorado for travelers. The unit is seen as more of a working landscape where agriculture play an important role in local culture and heritage tourism.

Field Office:	**Name:** Wray		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**029**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Local residents, some travelers, bird watchers
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Prominent buttes and landmarks are important to community identity. Highly visible from the community of Wray.
Public Interest Rating:	M	Working landscape with value on prominent landmarks and retention of landscape integrity
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Ranching, community, bird watching, hunting place value on retention of landscapes, some tolerance for change allowed dependent upon type and
Special Areas Rating:	M	Buttes surrounding town are prominent landmarks
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Proximity to the town of Wray and desire to protect ranching heritage, prominent landmarks and landscape integrity for birdwatching.
Unit Narrative:		Ranching heritage and surrounding prominent landmarks are important for the culture and quality of life for its residents. Bird watching and hunting also play a role in the desire to retain landscapes in their natural setting.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Beecher Island **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **030**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Town, rural residences, heritage tourism, historic landmark, wildlife viewers
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Close to town and historic site
Public Interest Rating:	H	Heritage and historic landscapes where landscape integrity is important to locals and history tourism
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Landscape associated with historic landmark
Special Areas Rating:	H	Beecher Island Massacre Site
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Landscape integrity of the historic site is important to the local residents and history tourism.
Unit Narrative:		The Beecher Island Massacre site where the scenic integrity plays an important role of understanding the historical event. Associated landscapes are important for heritage tourism which can also contribute to small town economies.

Field Office:	**Name:** Wray Viewshed	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**031**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Tourism associated with wildlife viewing
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Tourism for greater prairie chicken, viewing from the landscape
Public Interest Rating:	M	Tourism associated with wildlife viewing is dependent upon landscape integrity and habitat, some changes would be accepted.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Wildlife viewing tourism dependent upon intact scenery and habitat
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Tourism associated with greater prairie chicken is dependent upon intact landscapes and habitat. Change is tolerated but at levels associated with
Unit Narrative:		Intact landscapes were identified as important for ranching heritage and culture but increasingly tourism associated with wildlife viewing. This is playing in increased economic role in the adjacent communities who depend upon tourism spending.

Field Office:	**Name:** East Gateway		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014		**032**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard		

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Travelers, residents, recreation
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Gateway into Colorado sees high volume of use, Bonnie Reservoir is local recreation attraction.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Gateway to Colorado and landscape surrounding Bonnie Reservoir is important to locals and travelers.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Travel, recreation, and residences are dependent upon landscape maintenance
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Being a major entrance into the state and having a local recreation destination landscape integrity is important. Change is tolerated in context
Unit Narrative:		Gateway to state important for tourism and associated economics. Bonny Reservoir is a recreation destination where visitors want to see the area preserved. Working ranch landscapes are important to local culture.

Field Office:	**Name:** Sand Creek	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**033**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Historic tourism, rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Home to Sand Creek Massacre Site where visitors view history in context of landscape.
Public Interest Rating:	H	Landscape integrity is important to visitors of the site
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Historic site is highly dependent upon landscape integrity
Special Areas Rating:	H	Sand Creek Massacre Site
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Landscape integrity is important for retaining the context of the historic site.

Unit Narrative: Focused on the Sand Creek massacre, site intact landscapes are important for the historical context. This is important for heritage tourism, both the participants and the local economies that benefit from these visitors.

Field Office:	**Name:** Two Buttes		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**034**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Local residents, tourists, tourist related industry, bird watchers/hunters
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Popular for locals and tourists for wildlife viewing and hunting
Public Interest Rating:	M	Landscape integrity is important to visitors in this unit, some allowance for change in context of current landscape of ranching heritage
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Wildlife viewing tourism dependent upon intact scenery and habitat, important for locals and visitors. Change allowance dependent upon type and
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Important area for wildlife viewing and related businesses along with locals who are dependent upon intact landscapes.
Unit Narrative:		Home to iconic landmarks and open landscapes that are important to local ranching heritage, hunting and wildlife viewing. Heritage tourism associated with open landscapes is playing an increasingly important role for the communities in this region.

Field Office:	Name: Comanche Grasslands	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	Evaluation Date: 12/18/2014	**035**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Local residences, ranches, heritage tourism, hunting and bird watchers
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Ranches and heritage tourism focus on landscapes
Public Interest Rating:	H	Interest from ranching and rural residences along with heritage tourism and wildlife to experience intact landscapes
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Heritage tourism and ranching dependent upon intact landscapes and retention of open space and vistas
Special Areas Rating:	H	Comanche Grasslands and portion of Sante Fe Trail
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	H	Comanche Grasslands play an important role in the rural residences quality of life along with ranching heritage and wildlife associated with birding and
Unit Narrative:		The Comanche National Grasslands play an important role in local recreation including wildlife viewing and hunting. Landscape integrity is an integral part of the local heritage which is also seeing increases in related tourism.

Field Office:	**Name:** East Pawnee Grasslands		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014		**037**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard		

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Recreation, scenic drivers, commuters and travelers, rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Visitors to area interested in sight-seeing and scenic landscapes
Public Interest Rating:	M	Concern about oil and gas development changing character of the landscape.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Recreation and scenic driving dependent upon intact landscapes and viewsheds. Some development tolerated.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Interest in the area for recreation and scenic driving. Concern that oil and gas development is changing nature of the landscape.
Unit Narrative:		The grasslands and landscapes are important for local recreation including wildlife viewing and hunting. Landscapes are part of local heritage and related tourism. Oil and gas activity has increased awareness of development and open space.

Field Office:	**Name:** South Platte River	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**038**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Travelers, recreation, towns, rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Major travel corridor along South Platte River.
Public Interest Rating:	M	Interest by communities, travelers and recreationists to have somewhat intact landscapes.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Along major travel corridor that is not a scenic byway. Rural residences and recreation dependent upon landscape integrity.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	A major travel corridor for visitors and residents along with recreation along the South Platte River; some level of development is expected but there is a
Unit Narrative:		This unit is largely scene as a working landscape with a desire to retain the ranching culture. Viewers traveling along the interstate corridor expect intact landscapes associated with Colorado and the ranching culture of the region.

Field Office:	**Name:** Wiggins North	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**039**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Recreation, scenic drivers, commuters and travelers, rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	H	Visitors to area interested in sight-seeing and scenic landscapes
Public Interest Rating:	M	Concern about oil and gas development changing character of the landscape.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	M	Recreation and scenic driving dependent upon intact landscapes and viewsheds. Some development tolerated.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Interest in the area for recreation and scenic driving. Concern that oil and gas development is changing nature of the landscape.
Unit Narrative:		Largely comprised of working ranches and rural residents with limited recreation, there has been an increased concern in landscape integrity as oil and gas development has occurred.

Field Office:	**Name:** North Fork Cache La Poudre	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**041**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	H	Recreation, tourists, front range residents, rural residences
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Some travel corridors, not major. Recreation volume not as high as other similar areas along the Front Range.
Public Interest Rating:	M	Public interest in landscape retention, less than other areas along the Front Range
Adjacent Lands Rating:	H	Recreation and tourism reliant upon intact landscapes and integrity. Important to quality of life for rural residences.
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	M	Intact landscapes are important for recreation, scenic driving and rural residences, less interest than other similar areas along Front Range.
Unit Narrative:		Part of the viewshed of the Front Range and travel corridors with less exposure than adjacent units. Some recreation with rural residences and ranches where working landscapes are expected but within context and are important to quality of life.

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Peetz **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **042**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	L	Rural residences and ranching
Amount of Use Rating:	L	Limited travel through area, rural residences and ranches.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Limited public interest in landscape changes in the area
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Ranching and rural residences have some interest in heritage landscapes but at lesser levels than others identified in the region
Special Areas Rating:	L	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Limited information provided about concerns with changes to the landscape in this area. No major travel corridors and limited ranches and rural
Unit Narrative:		Away from major travel corridors and iconic Colorado landscapes this area has little recreation attractions and rural residences. Changes to the landscape are expected especially when they are seen as a net benefit to quality of life.

Field Office:	**Name:** Eastern Plains		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:**	12/18/2014	**043**
	Evaluators:	J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Rural residences, towns, ranches, recreation, travelers
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Large area with rural residences and towns spread throughout.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Working landscape where change is tolerated for lifestyle improvements.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Recreation spread throughout in isolated areas, rural residences and ranches dependent upon intact landscapes but changes are tolerated for lifestyle
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to
Unit Narrative:		Spread out small communities where ranching and agriculture play large roles in lifestyles and economies. Seen as working landscapes. Wildlife viewing and hunting are important to local residents

Field Office: Royal Gorge	**Name:** Southeastern Plains **Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014 **Evaluators:** J. Lenard	SLRU Number **044**

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	L	Rural residences, towns, ranches, recreation, travelers
Amount of Use Rating:	L	Large area with rural residences and towns spread throughout.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Working landscape where change is tolerated for lifestyle improvements.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Recreation spread throughout in isolated areas, rural residences and ranches dependent upon intact landscapes but changes are tolerated for lifestyle
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to
Unit Narrative:		Spread out small communities where ranching and agriculture play large roles in lifestyles and economies and seen as working landscapes. Wildlife viewing and hunting are important to local residents

Field Office:	**Name:** South Central Plains		SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014		**045**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard		

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	L	Rural residences, towns, ranches, recreation, travelers
Amount of Use Rating:	L	Large area with rural residences and towns spread throughout.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Working landscape where change is tolerated for lifestyle improvements.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Recreation spread throughout in isolated areas, rural residences and ranches dependent upon intact landscapes but changes are tolerated for lifestyle
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to
Unit Narrative:		Spread out small communities where ranching and agriculture play large roles in lifestyles and economies and seen as working landscapes. Wildlife viewing and hunting are important to local residents

Field Office:	**Name:** Walsenburg	SLRU Number
Royal Gorge	**Evaluation Date:** 12/18/2014	**046**
	Evaluators: J. Lenard	

		Explanation Text
Use Type Rating:	M	Rural residences, towns, ranches, recreation, travelers
Amount of Use Rating:	M	Large area with rural residences and towns spread throughout.
Public Interest Rating:	L	Working landscape where change is tolerated for lifestyle improvements.
Adjacent Lands Rating:	L	Recreation spread throughout in isolated areas, rural residences and ranches dependent upon intact landscapes but changes are tolerated for lifestyle
Special Areas Rating:	N/A	
Other Factors Rating:	N/A	N/A
Overall Unit Rating:	L	Largely a working landscape with small population densities and limited recreation. Change to landscapes are tolerated if seen as improvements to
Unit Narrative:		Comprised of spread out small communities where ranching and agriculture play large roles in lifestyles and economies. The landscapes are typically working and beneficial changes are seen as positive.

Appendix C — Distance Zone Input

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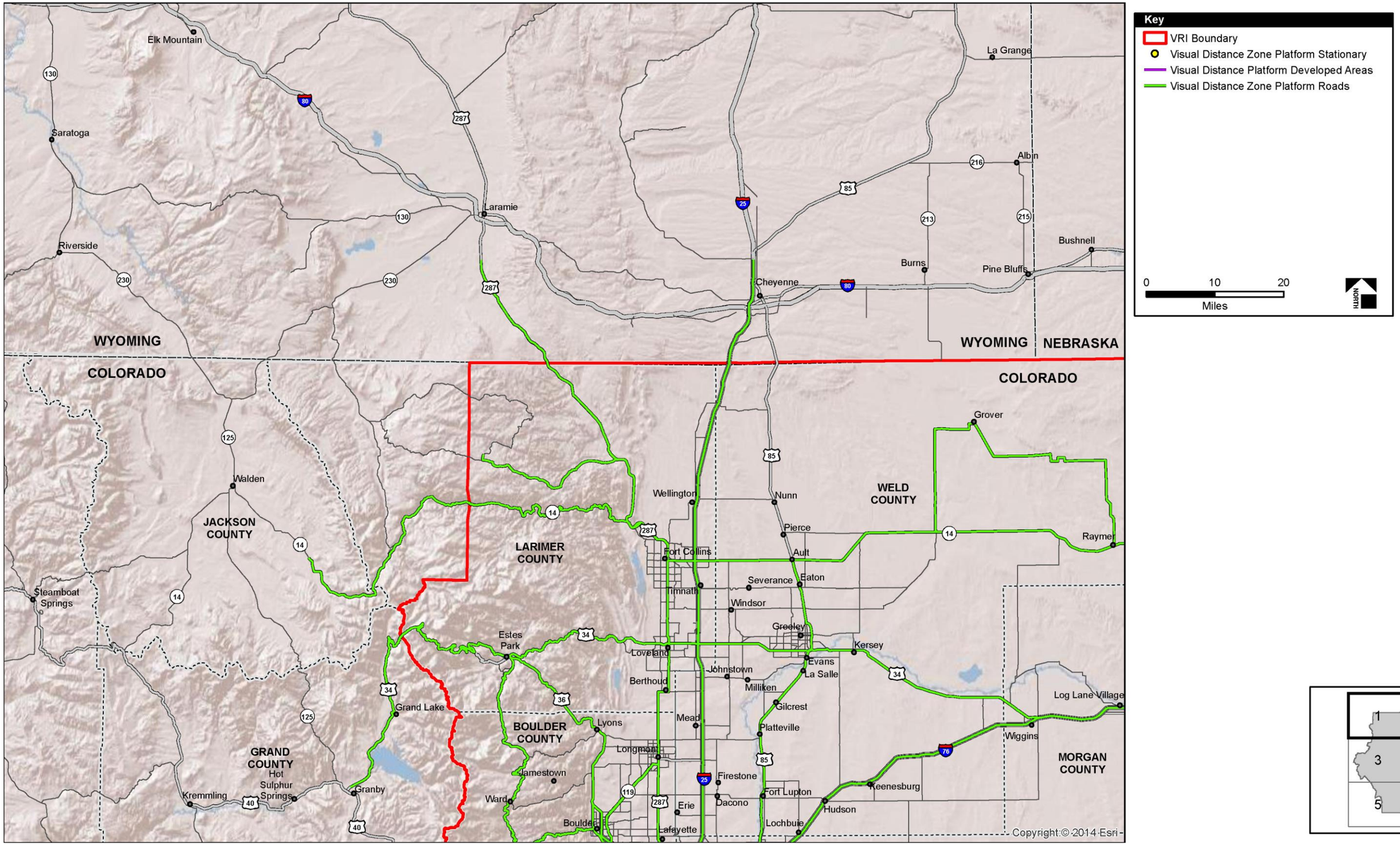

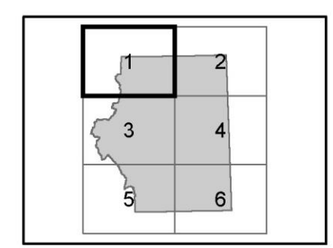

Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 1

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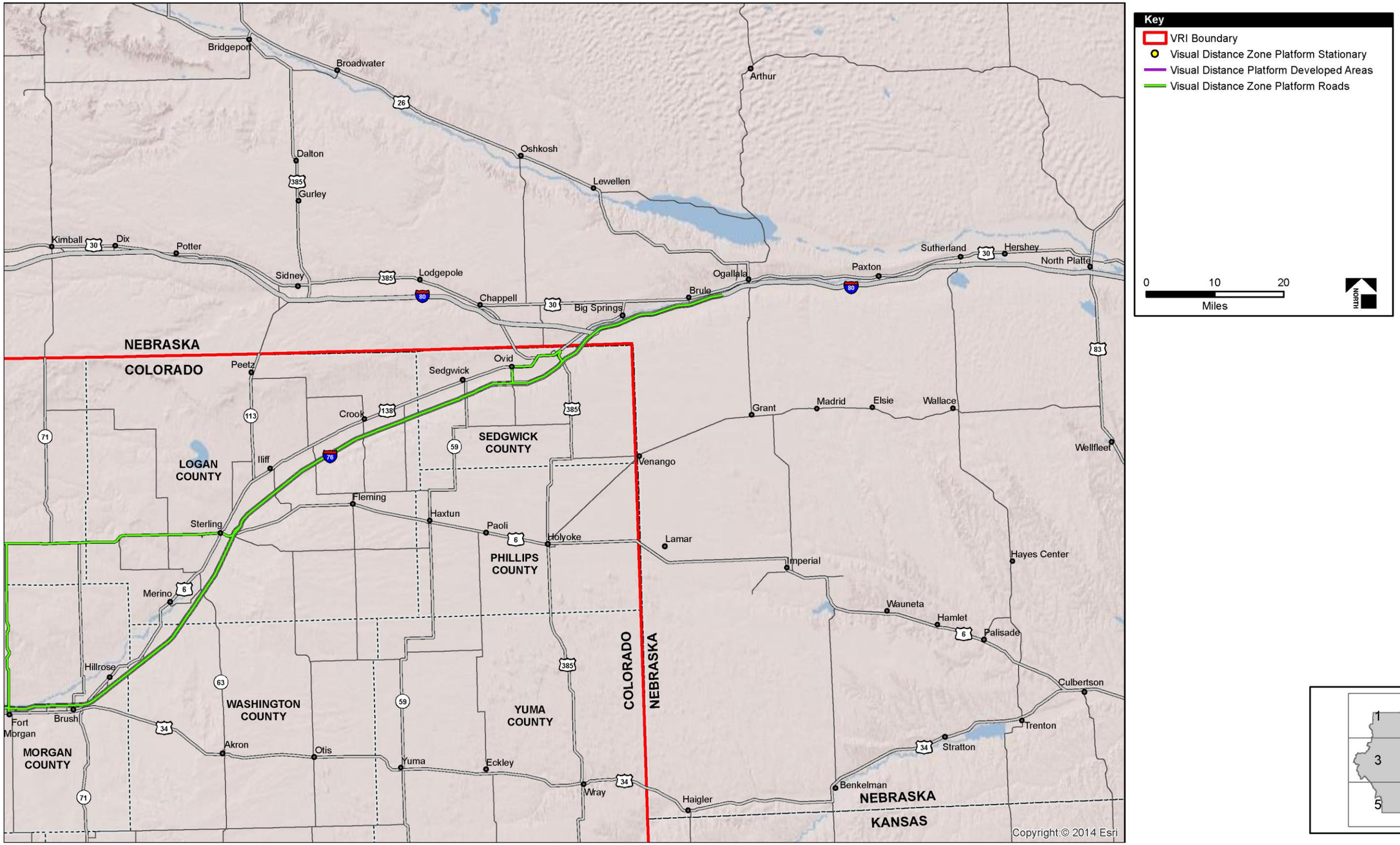

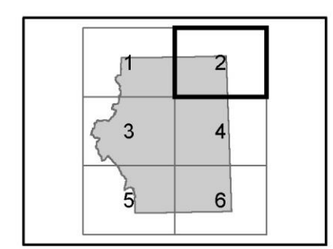

Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 2

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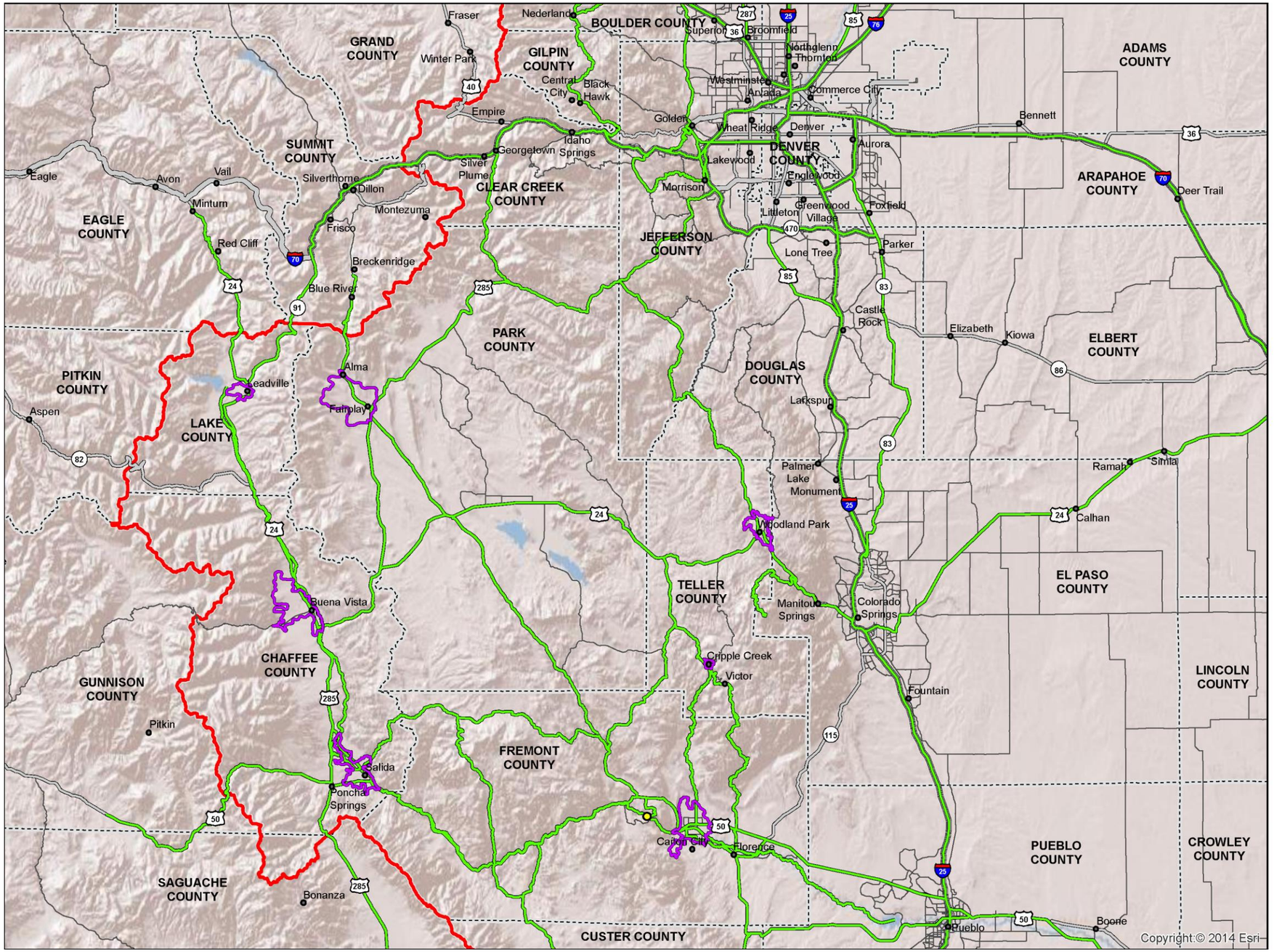
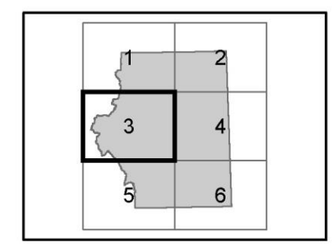


Key

- VRI Boundary
- Visual Distance Zone Platform Stationary
- Visual Distance Platform Developed Areas
- Visual Distance Zone Platform Roads

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH



Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 3

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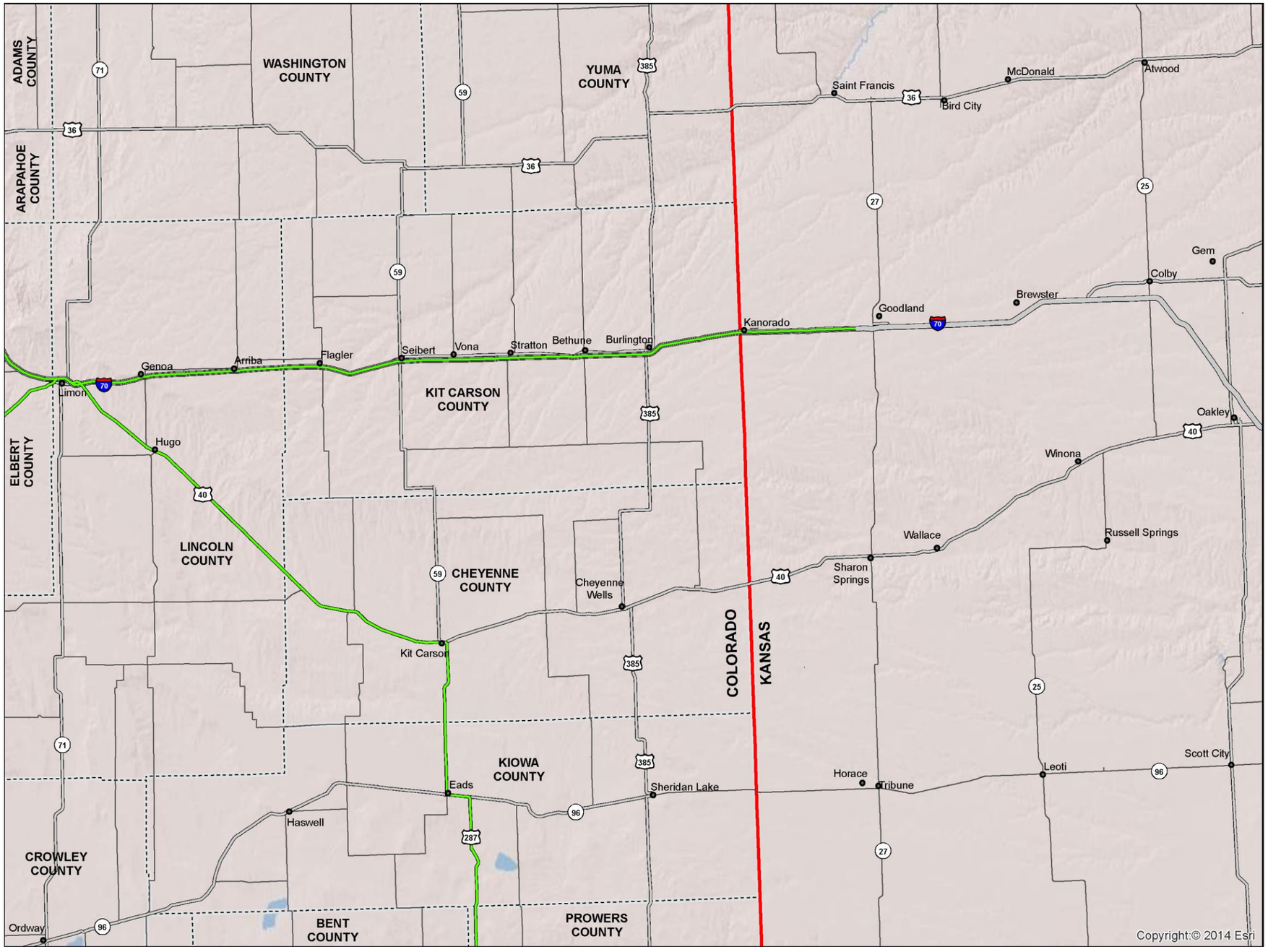

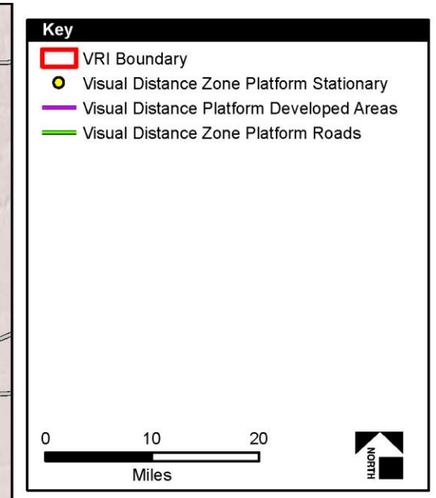

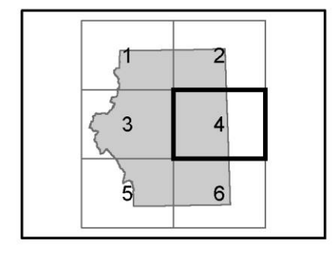

Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 4

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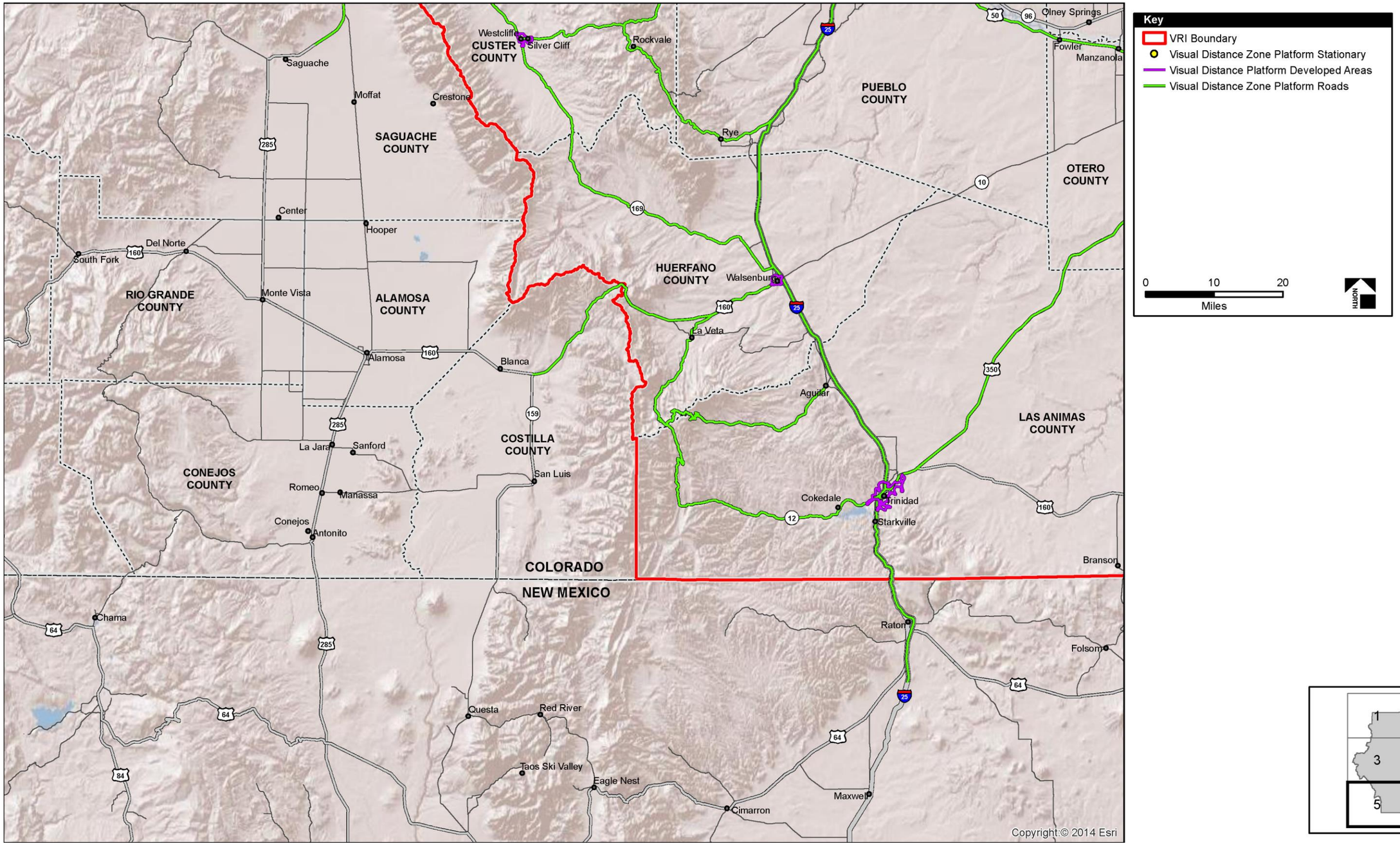

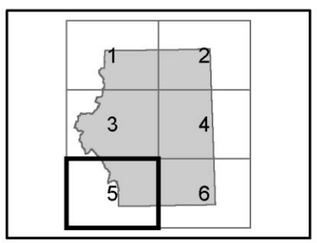

Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 5

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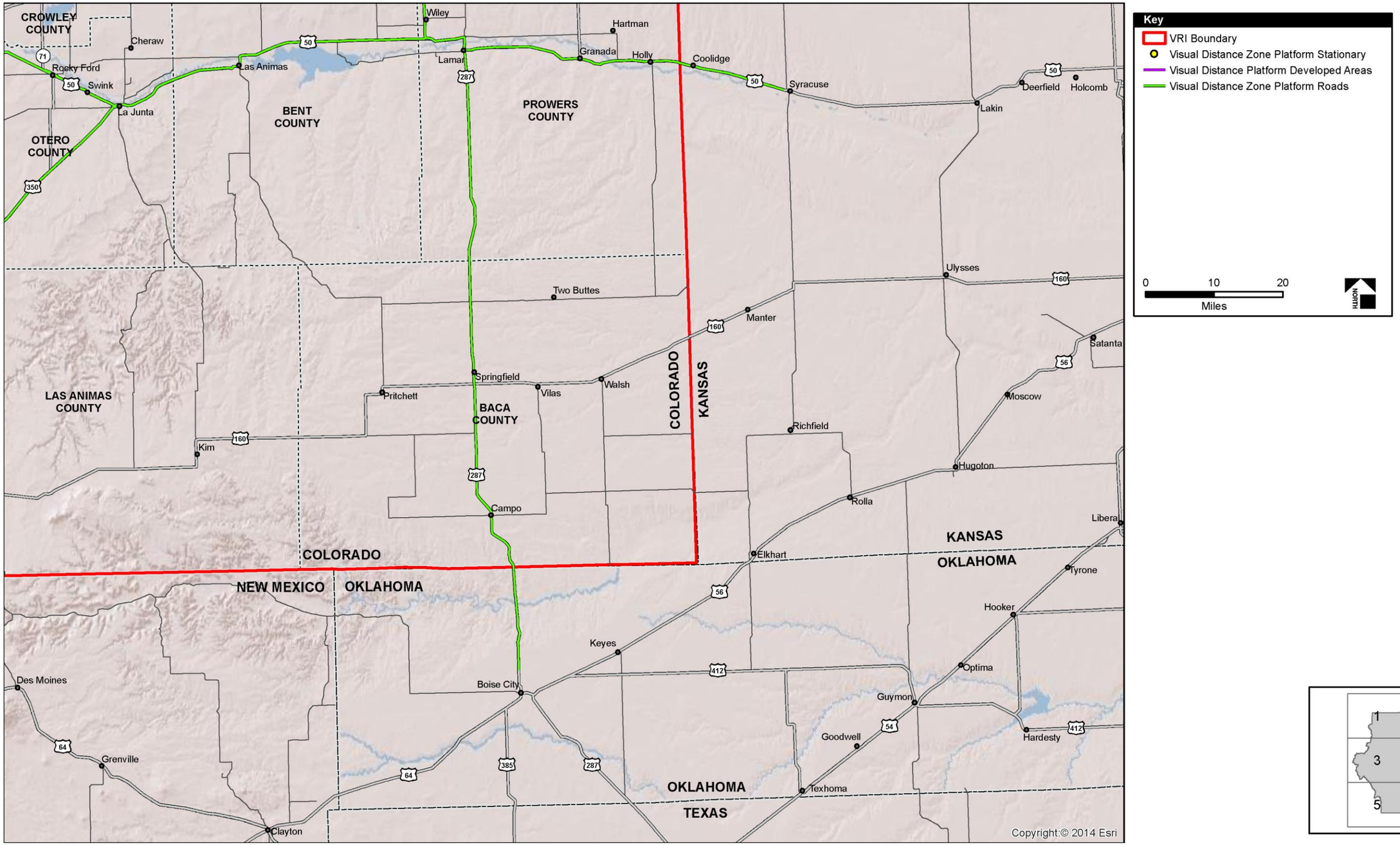

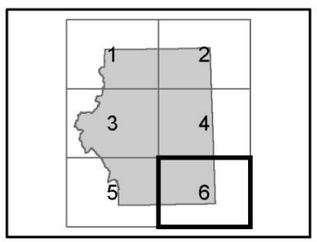

Visual Distance Zone Platforms, Segment 6

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Appendix D — Photo Log

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SQRU #	IOP #	IOP / POP	Field Team	Photo Folder in AR	Direction of First Photo	First Photo	Last Photo
1	001	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1384	1393
1	002	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1394	1403
1	003	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1404	1413
2	004	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1414	1423
2	005	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1424	1436
3	006	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1424	1436
3	007	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1447	1457
3	008	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1458	1466
4	009	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1478	1487
4	010	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1488	1496
4	011	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1506	1516
5	012	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1373	1383
5	013	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2745	2755
5	014	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1497	1505
6	015	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1270	1280
6	016	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1661	1671
6	017	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1281	1291
7	018	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1304	1314
7	019	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1325	1339
7	020	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1350	1359
8	021	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1340	1349
8	022	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1292	1302
8	023	IOP	Team 2	T2_140512	N	1315	1324
11	026	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1517	1526
11	027	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1527	1537
11	028	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1538	1548
12	029	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1571	1580
12	030	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1594	1603
12	031	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1581	1593
13	032	IOP	Team 2	T2_140625	N	2497	2510
13	033	IOP	Team 2	T2_140625	N	2511	2520
14	034	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1604	1613
14	035	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1614	1623
14	036	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1614	1623
15	037	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2732	2744
15	038	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2719	2731
15	039	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2395	2404
16	040	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2682	2693
16	041	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2706	2718
16	042	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2295	2307
17	043	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2353	2363
17	044	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2374	2383
17	045	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2384	2394
18	046	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1672	1684
18	047	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1649	1660
18	048	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1685	1696
19	049	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2622	2641
19	050	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2642	2653
19	051	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2654	2668
20	052	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2308	2320
20	053	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2321	2331
20	054	IOP	Team 2	T2_140516	N	2332	2341

SQRU #	IOP #	IOP / POP	Field Team	Photo Folder in AR	Direction of First Photo	First Photo	Last Photo
21	055	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1590	1600
21	056	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1697	1709
21	057	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	2131	2142
22	058	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1601	1611
22	059	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1612	1622
22	060	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1623	1636
23	061	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1565	1575
23	062	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1362	1378
23	063	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1553	1564
24	064	IOP	Team 1	T1_140608	N	2406	2415
24	065	IOP	Team 1	T1_140608	N	2416	2426
24	066	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1342	1361
25	067	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1379	1395
25	068	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1531	1541
25	069	IOP	Team 1	T1_140513	N	1542	1552
26	070	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1396	1410
26	071	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1411	1423
26	072	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1424	1434
27	073	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1447	1460
27	074	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1461	1473
27	075	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1474	1488
28	076	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1489	1505
28	077	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1506	1518
28	078	IOP	Team 1	T1_140512	N	1519	1530
29	079	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	1990	1999
29	080	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2002	2011
29	081	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2158	2168
30	082	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2022	2031
30	083	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2032	2040
30	084	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2041	2049
31	085	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1888	1897
31	086	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1898	1908
31	087	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2227	2238
32	088	IOP	Team 1	T1_140608	N	2427	2436
32	089	IOP	Team 1	T1_140608	N	2437	2445
32	090	IOP	Team 1	T1_140608	N	2465	2475
33	091	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2202	2215
33	092	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2216	2226
34	093	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1813	1823
34	094	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2050	2057
34	095	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2123	2133
35	096	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2069	2079
35	097	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2080	2091
35	098	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2092	2102
36	099	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2080	2091
36	100	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1824	1835
36	101	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2113	2122
37	102	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1824	1835
37	103	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1782	1792
37	104	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1836	1846
38	105	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1736	1746
38	106	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1725	1735

SQRU #	IOP #	IOP / POP	Field Team	Photo Folder in AR	Direction of First Photo	First Photo	Last Photo
38	107	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1879	1887
39	193	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2145	2157
39	194	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2080	2091
39	195	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2069	2079
40	111	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1758	1770
40	112	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1747	1757
41	113	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1733	1744
41	114	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1745	1756
41	115	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1891	1902
42	116	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1722	1732
42	117	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2176	2179
42	118	POP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1675	1694
43	119	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1653	1663
43	191	IOP	n/a	Screen capture KOPs	n/a	Unit 43_KOP 191	n/a
43	192	IOP	n/a	Screen capture KOPs	n/a	Unit 43_KOP 192	n/a
44	120	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2155	2166
44	121	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2582	2602
44	122	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2118	2130
45	123	IOP	Team 1	T1_140516	N	2654	2668
45	124	IOP	Team 2	T2_140513	N	1625	1633
45	125	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2496	2506
46	126	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2083	2094
46	127	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2095	2106
46	128	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2107	2117
47	129	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2199	2209
47	130	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2280	2293
47	131	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2320	2330
48	132	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1793	1803
48	133	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1805	1817
48	134	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1830	1841
49	135	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2320	2330
49	136	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2255	2279
49	137	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2331	2343
50	138	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2344	2355
50	139	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2393	2405
50	140	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2406	2416
51	141	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2356	2366
51	142	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2367	2377
51	143	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2356	2366
52	144	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1842	1853
52	145	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1818	1829
52	146	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1830	1841
53	147	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1842	1853
53	148	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1867	1878
53	149	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1879	1890
54	150	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1913	1924
54	151	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1938	1950
54	152	POP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1998	2009
55	153	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1951	1961
55	154	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1962	1973
55	155	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1986	1997
56	156	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2507	2518

SQRU #	IOP #	IOP / POP	Field Team	Photo Folder in AR	Direction of First Photo	First Photo	Last Photo
56	157	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2462	2472
56	158	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2473	2484
57	159	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2429	2439
57	160	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2452	2461
57	161	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2485	2495
59	162	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2118	2130
59	163	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1932	1944
59	164	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1980	1989
60	165	IOP	Team 2	T2_140625	N	2487	2496
60	166	IOP	Team 2	T2_140625	N	2521	2529
60	167	IOP	Team 2	T2_140625	N	2540	2549
61	168	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2239	2249
61	169	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2250	2260
61	170	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2261	2272
62	171	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1758	1770
62	172	IOP	Team 2	T2_140515	N	2103	2112
62	173	IOP	Team 1	T1_140515	N	2199	2209
63	174	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2022	2033
63	175	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2010	2021
63	176	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2034	2046
64	177	IOP	n/a	Screen capture KOPs	n/a	Unit 6A_KOP 1	n/a
64	178	IOP	n/a	Screen capture KOPs	n/a	Unit 6A_KOP 2	n/a
64	179	IOP	n/a	Screen capture KOPs	n/a	Unit 6A_KOP 3	n/a
65	180	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1962	1973
65	181	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1945	1956
65	182	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2131	2142
66	183	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	1974	1985
66	184	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2073	2082
66	185	IOP	Team 1	T1_140514	N	2047	2057
67	186	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1909	1918
67	187	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1664	1670
67	188	IOP	Team 2	T2_140514	N	1957	1967

Appendix E — Scenic Quality Calibration Photos by Province

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Southern Rocky Mountains Project-Area Photographs for Calibration of Scenic Quality Elements

Photos are based on IOP locations and may not be the most representative of specific scenic quality factors. See Figure 2 of this report for the geographic location of the physiographic province.

Landform

Location: Westcliffe Unit (#40)
Score: 1.0

Location: Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#066)
Score: 5.0

Vegetation

Location: Leadville Unit (#50)
Score: 1.5

Location: Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#66)
Score: 5.0

Water

Location: Reinecker Ridge/Buffalo Gulch Unit (#56)
Score: 0

Location: Estes Park Unit (#11)
Score: 5.0

Color

Location: Leadville Unit (#50)
Score: 1.5

Location: Sangre De Christo Range Unit (#62)
Score: 4.5

Influence of Adjacent Scenery

Location: Currant Creek Uplands Unit (#53)
Score: 1.0

Location: Estes Park Unit (#11)
Score: 5.0

Scarcity

Location: Divide Unit (#55)
Score: 1.0

Location: Colorado Springs Area Front Range Unit (#66)
Score: 4.0

Cultural Modifications

Location: Dinosaur Ridge Hogback Unit (#14)
Score: -2.0

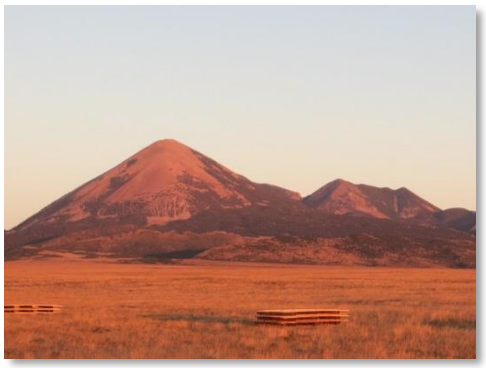
Location: Arkansas River Canyon Highlands Unit (#41)
Score: 0.0

Great Plains Project-Area Photographs for Calibration of Scenic Quality Elements

Photos are based on IOP locations and may not be the most representative of specific scenic quality factors. See Figure 2 of this report for the geographic location of the physiographic province.

Landform

Location: Eastern Plains Unit (#006)
Score: 1.0



Location: Mestas and Sheep Mountains Unit (#036)
Score: 5.0

Vegetation

Location: Eastern Plains Unit (#06)
Score: 1.0

Location: Ute Hills Unit (#30)
Score: 5.0

Water

Location: Fleming Sand Hills Unit (#08)
Score: 0

Location: Lower Arkansas River Valley (#59)
Score: 5.0

Color

Location: Eastern Plains Unit (#06)
Score: 1.0

Location: Purgatoire Canyons Unit (#24)
Score: 4.5

Influence of Adjacent Scenery

Location: Sandy and Beaver Creek Valleys Unit (#18)
Score: 0.0

Location: Arkansas Valley Unit (#65)
Score: 5.0

Scarcity

Location: Ellicot/Peyton Plains (#20)
Score: 1.0

Location: Purgatoire Canyons Unit (#24)
Score: 4.5

Cultural Modifications

Location: North Front Range Hogback Unit (#04)
Score: -2.0

Location: La Veta Unit (#35)
Score: 1

Appendix F — VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified

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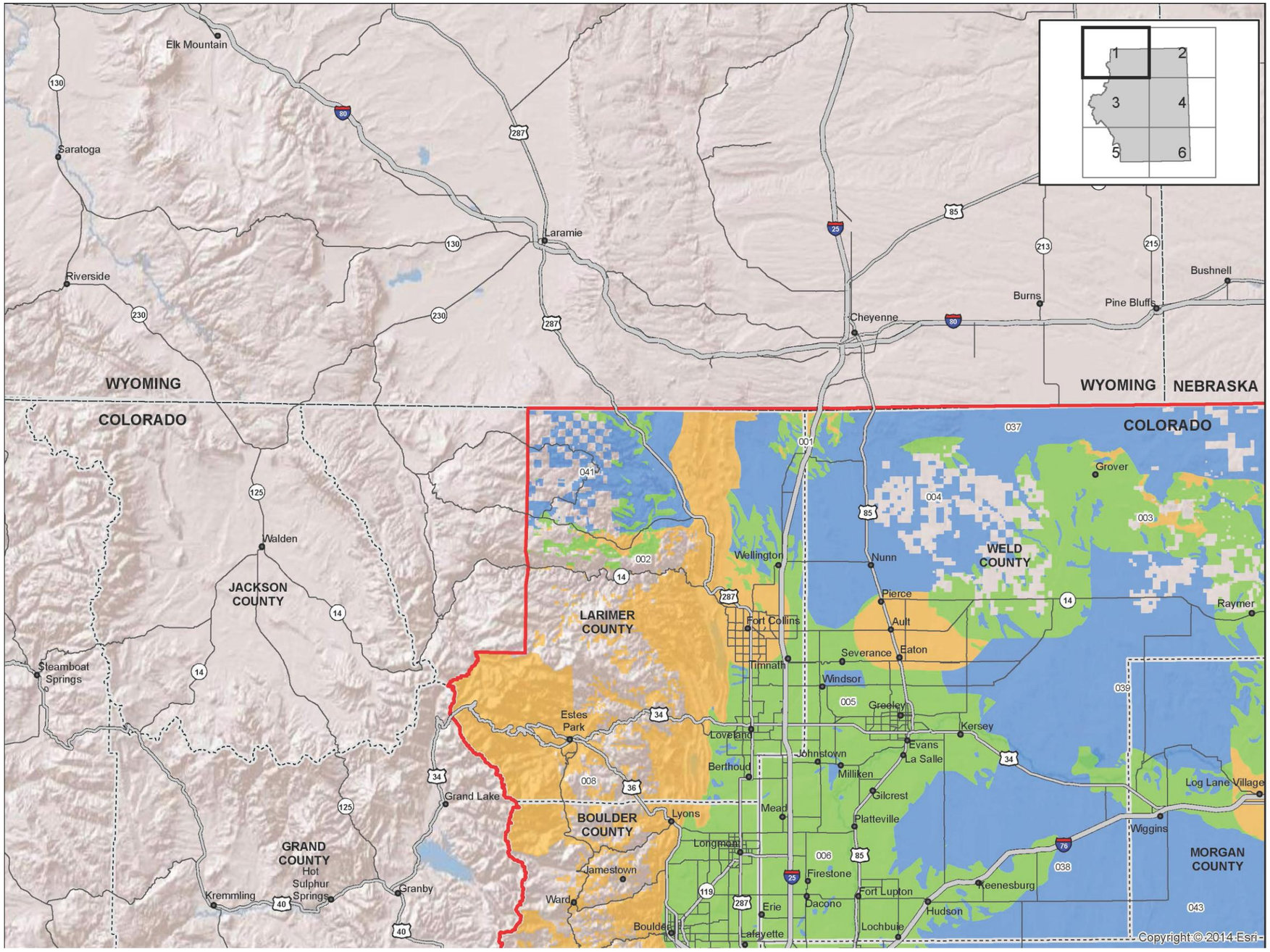

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries	Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory				
Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 1

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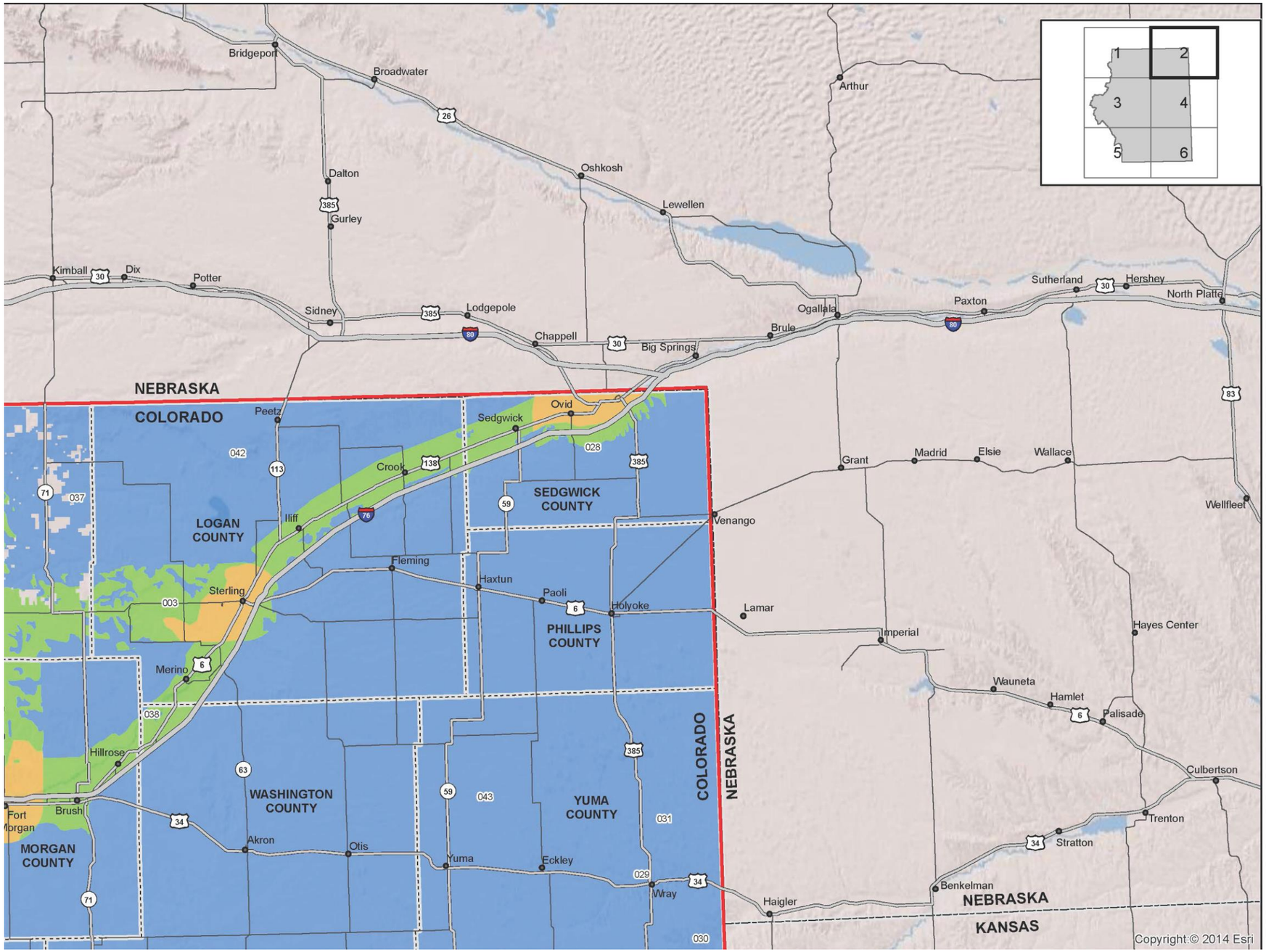

Visual Resource Inventory Classification Royal Gorge Field Office					
Administrative Boundaries		**Acres**	**% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary***	**% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary**	**% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary**
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 2

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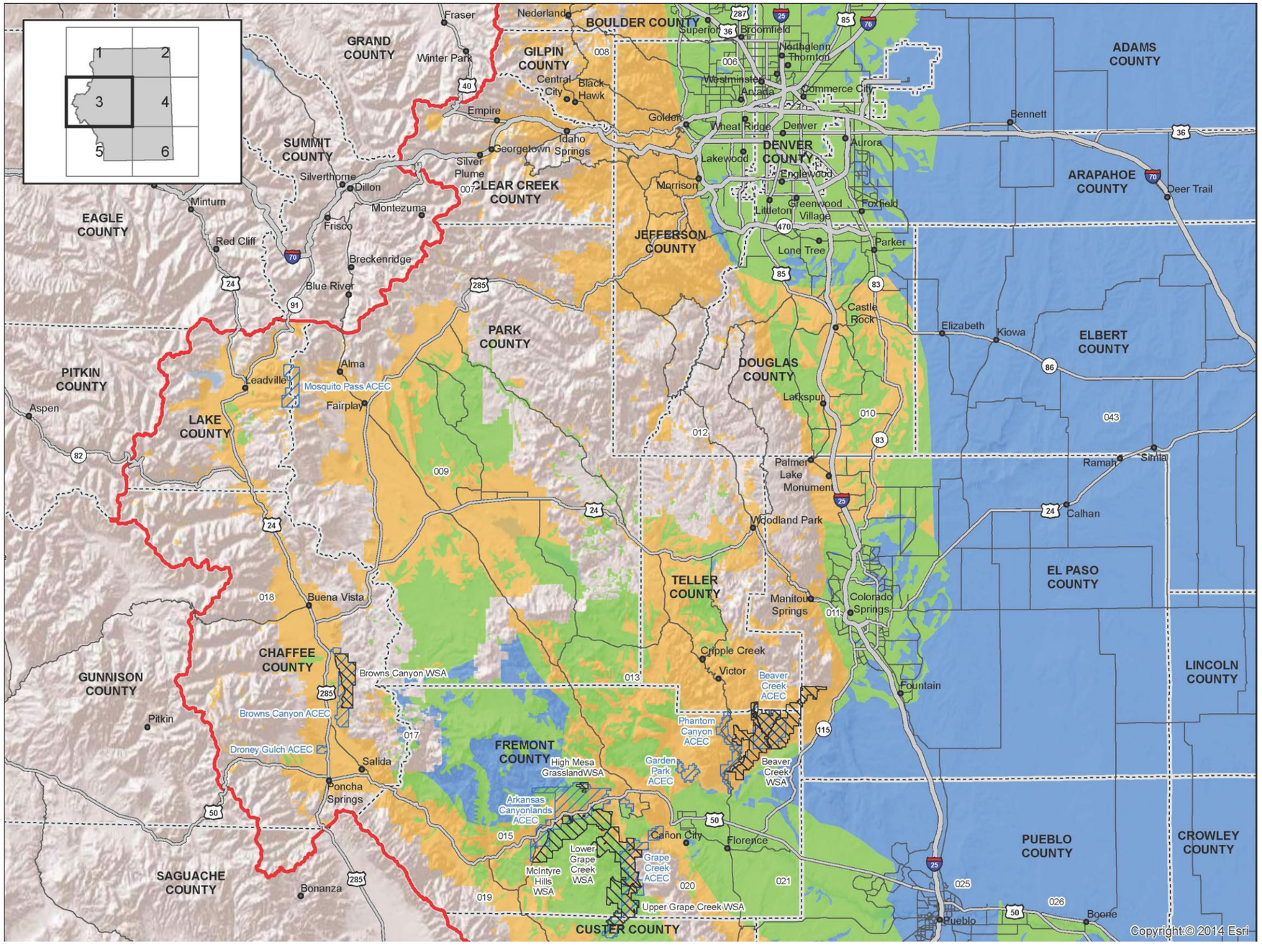

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage.
Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

0 10 20
Miles

NORTH

VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 3

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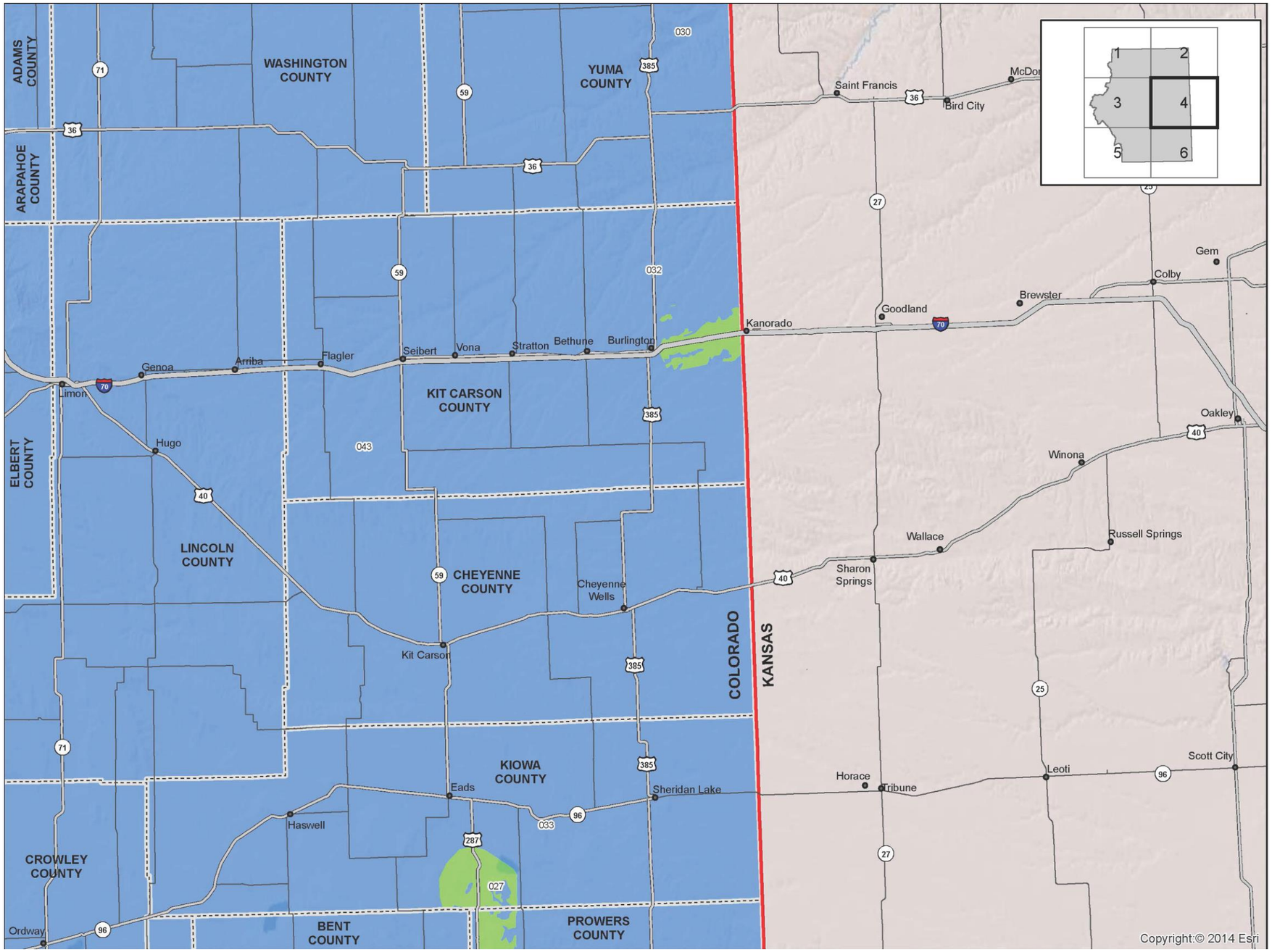

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 4

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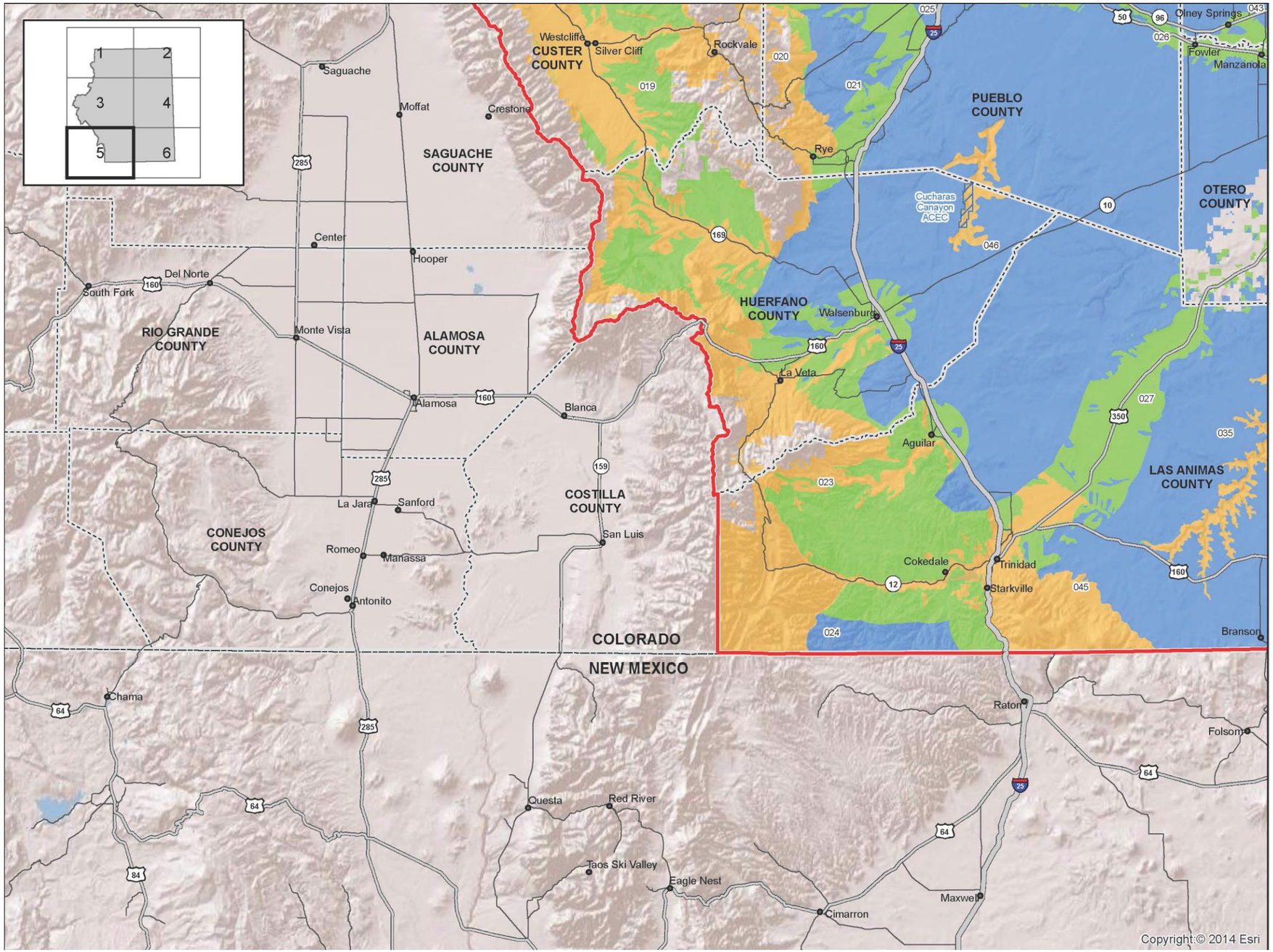

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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Miles

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VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 5

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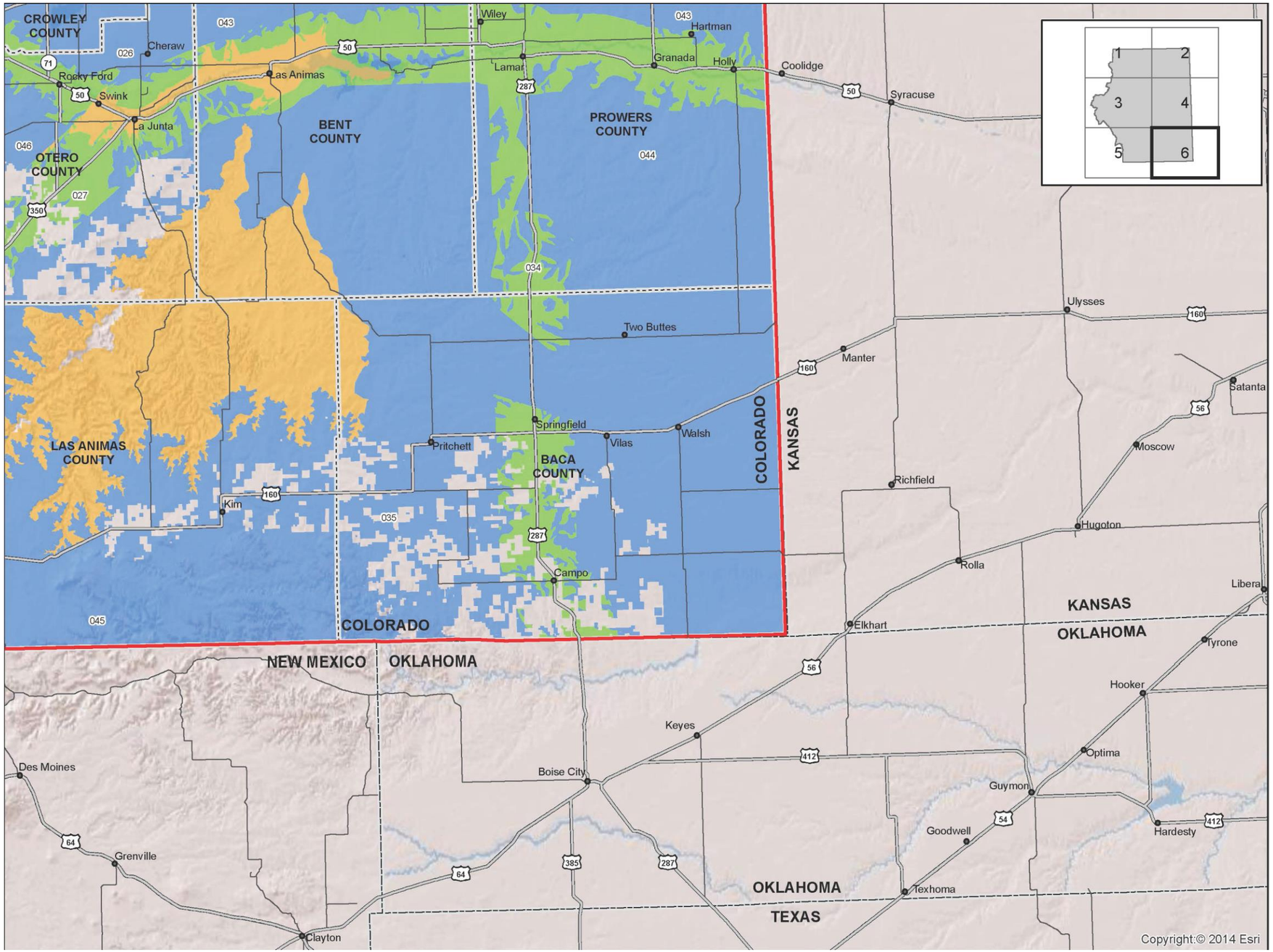

Visual Resource Inventory Classification
Royal Gorge Field Office

Administrative Boundaries		Acres	% of Total Acres w/in FO Boundary*	% of BLM Acres w/in FO Boundary	% of Split Estate Acres w/in FO Boundary
	Field Office (FO) Boundary*	32,106,037	100%		
	FO Non-BLM Acres	28,114,668	88%		
	FO BLM Acres	668,870	2%	100%	
	FO Split Estate Acres	3,322,498	10%		100%
Visual Resource Inventory					
	Total Area Inventoried*	32,106,037	100%	100%	100%
	VRI Class I**	0	0%	0%	0%
	VRI Class II	4,530,143	14%	55%	28%
	VRI Class III	5,363,546	17%	33%	18%
	VRI Class IV	22,212,348	69%	12%	54%

* Forest Service lands not considered as part of overall acreage. Total acreage will not equal total area inventoried because of ACEC and WSA overlap.

**Inventory includes Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), which are managed as VRM Class I. WSA's are managed as VRM Class I unless Congress releases the area from Wilderness consideration.

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VRI Classifications without VRI Class I Identified, Segment 6

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Appendix G — Process Record

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VRI Process Record

The following developments occurred during this Visual Resource Inventory process and represent the progression of the inventory efforts:

- Project awarded to Logan Simpson on September 12, 2013.
- Initial project kickoff conference call held on September 25, 2013.
- Kickoff meeting held at the Royal Gorge BLM Field Office on November 18–21, 2013.
- Determination to postpone fieldwork activities until spring 2014 (due to winter weather) made on December 2, 2014.
- Rescheduled fieldwork completed May 12–16, 2014.
- Draft report distributed to Royal Gorge Field Office on March 6, 2015.
- Final report, geodatabase, and administrative record distributed to BLM on May 15, 2015.

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