# 2020 COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE STATE FOREST ACTION PLAN
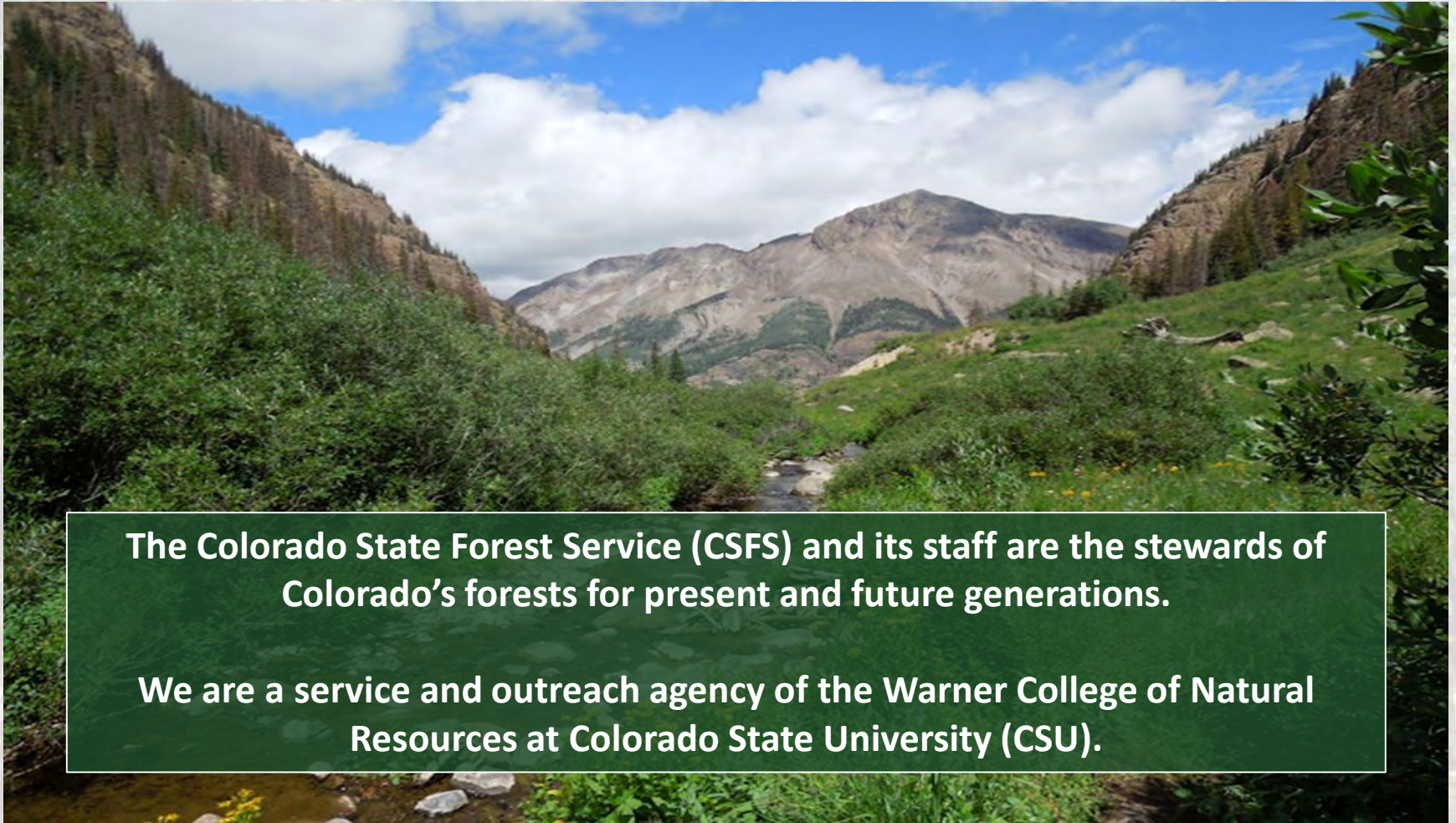
**Colorado Counties, Inc.**
**December 4, 2019**

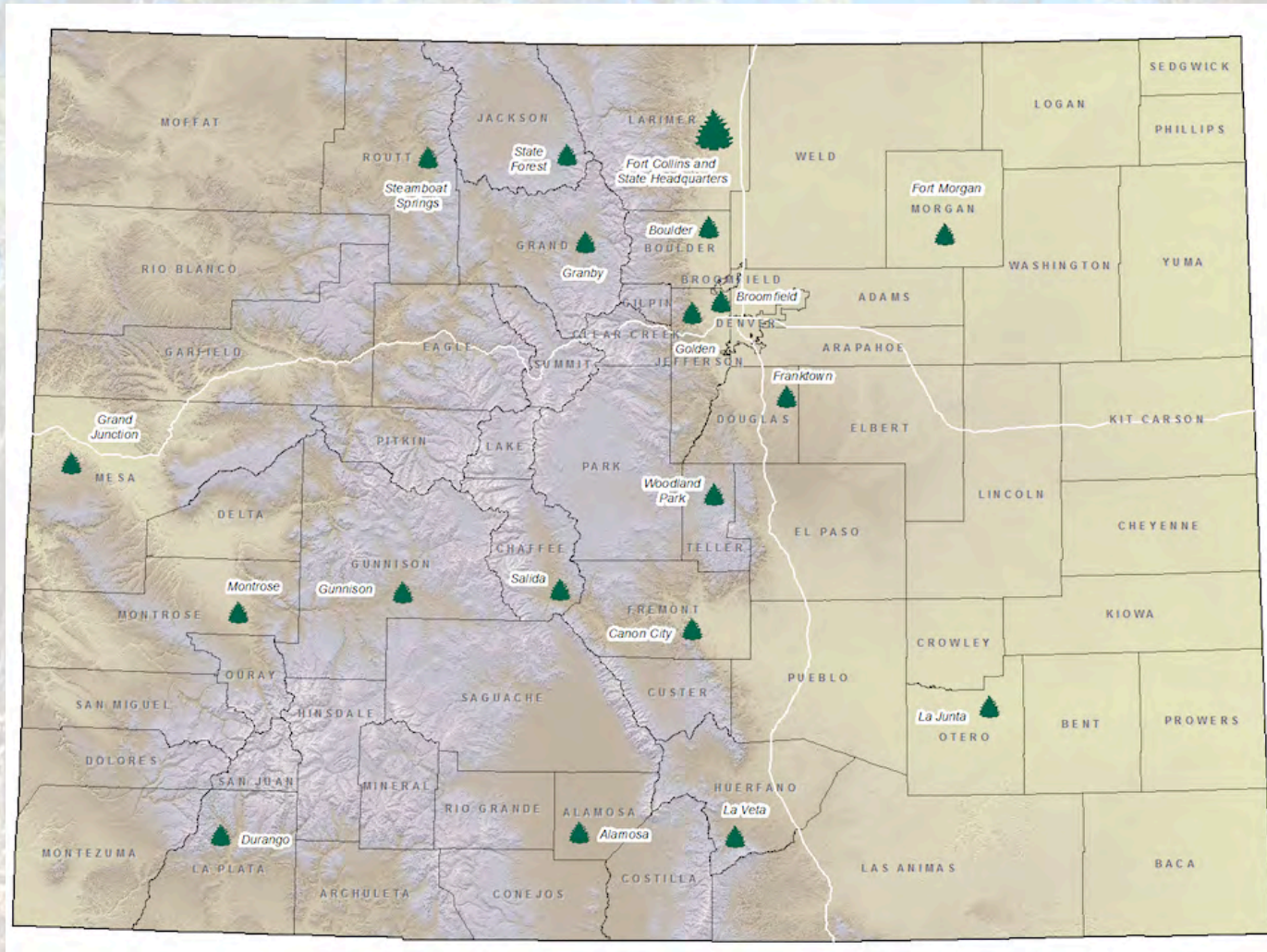**Colorado State Forester, Mike Lester**

csfs.colostate.edu

# The Colorado State Forest Service: Managing Forests Statewide



The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and its staff are the stewards of Colorado's forests for present and future generations.

We are a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU).

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Active management of Colorado's forests provides:

- clean air and water

- enhances wildlife habitat

- improved resiliency

- reduces wildfire risk

- supplies essential forest products to Colorado's citizens

# State Forest Action Plan Basics

What is it?

- SFAPs provide an analysis of:
  - ✓ forest conditions & trends
  - ✓ identify issues & priorities
  - ✓ outline strategies to ensure healthy forests into the future.
- 10 year plan that must be reassessed at year 5

- All lands assessment, not specific to any ownership

- Not specific to any natural resources management organization

- Required by the 2008 Farm Bill

# SFAP Goals

Assess the current and future potential forest conditions in the State of Colorado as a foundation to:

1. Develop a 10 year forest management plan to conserve, protect, and enhance forest conditions based on key resource issues, threats, vulnerabilities, and potential impacts.

   - The resource assessment goes beyond the 10 year period, priority treatments identified now will need to continue to address future conditions

2. Identify priority subwatersheds (10,000-40,000 acres) for forest management resources activities based on potential to achieve management strategy goals.

   - This plan will guide the work of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and partners in order to concentrate resources where activities can have the greatest impact.

# SFAP Goals

Assess the current and future potential forest conditions in the State of Colorado as a foundation to:

3. Guide where funding should be applied to ensure consistency of management activities with critical state forest resource issues, and goals.

4. Identify resources needed to treat priority acres (define the gap between desired and existing program levels).

# Development Strategy

Scope and Rationale for Stakeholder Engagement

Focus Group Approach

- This meeting structure for the 2020 SFAP process is intended to ensure the most focused and structured input possible to garner applicable feedback at a statewide scale.

- We chose to first draw primarily on internal expertise to update the assessment.

- We then shared the draft assessment with stakeholders to finalize input and prioritize issues and areas.

# Major Themes

🌲 Forest Conditions

🔥 Wildfire

💧 Watersheds

*These three themes have their own priority maps and are aggregated into an overall priority composite map*

🐾 Wildlife

🏞️ Urban and Community Forestry

⚠️ Forest Resources (Forest Legacy)

🪵 Forest Products

- *Considered to be the top themes, but not the only issues, threats & themes to be addressed (e.g. air quality, recreation & tourism, land conversion & fragmentation)*
- *Climate change is currently being incorporated into each working theme during the development of the management strategy*
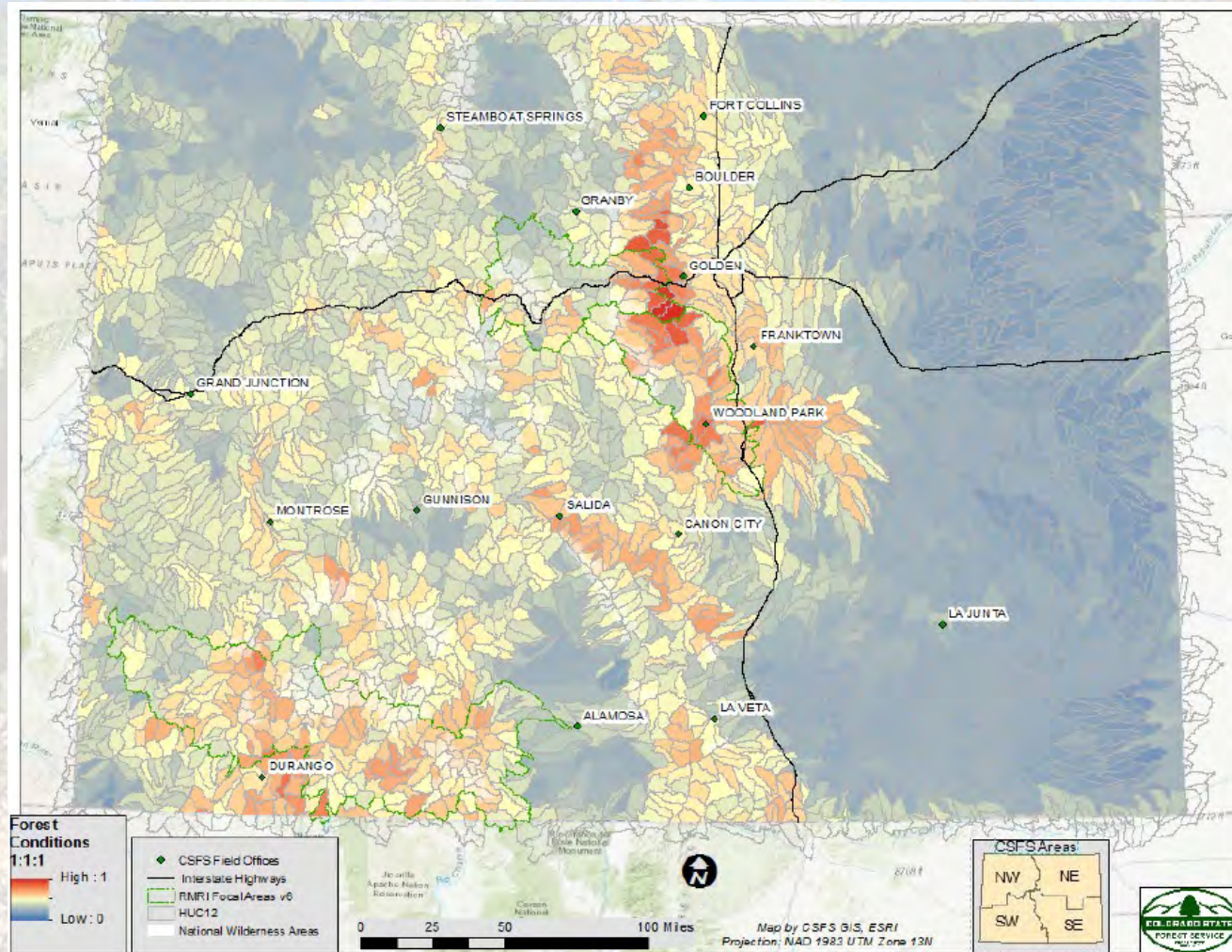
# Draft FAP Priority Map
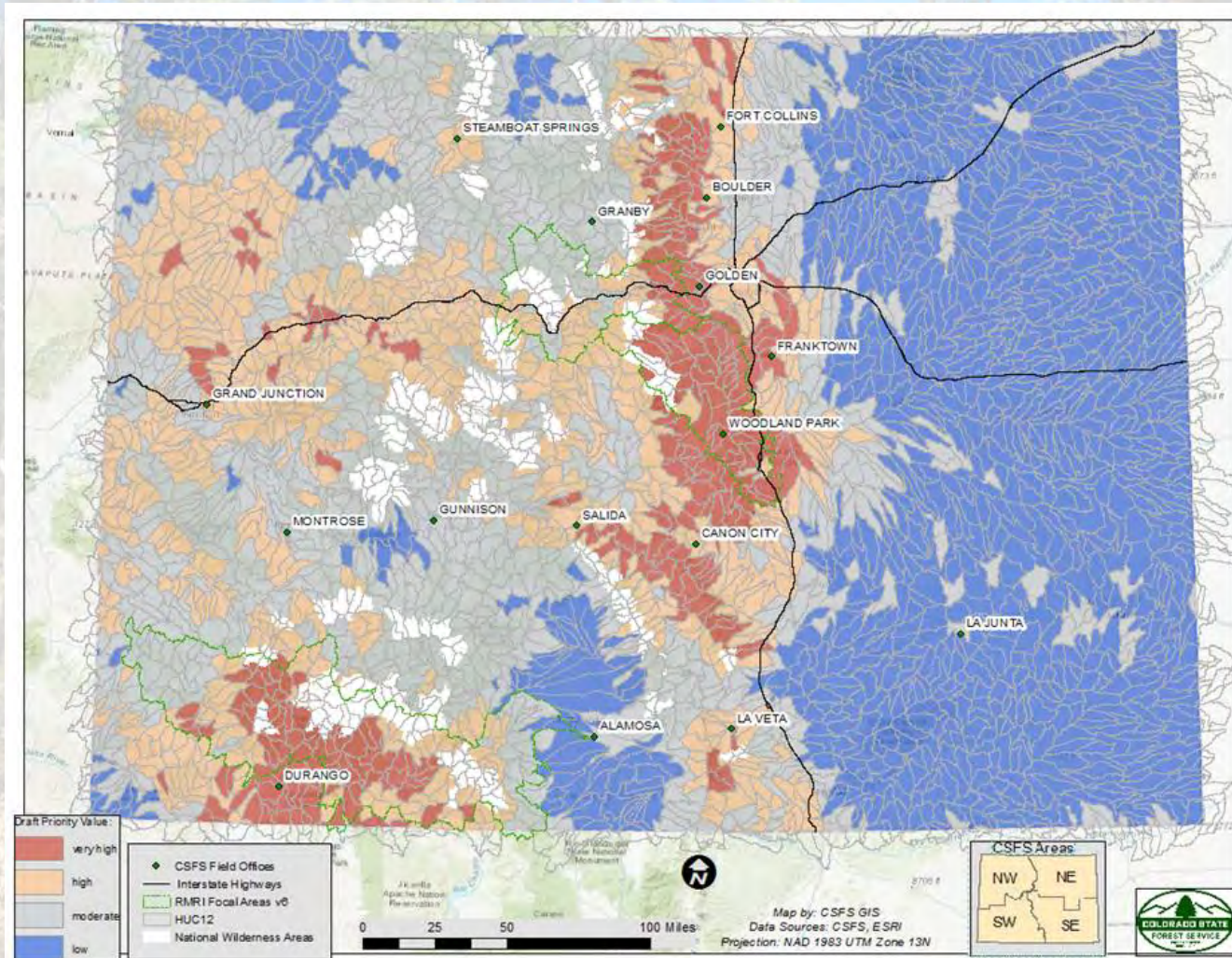
# Next Steps

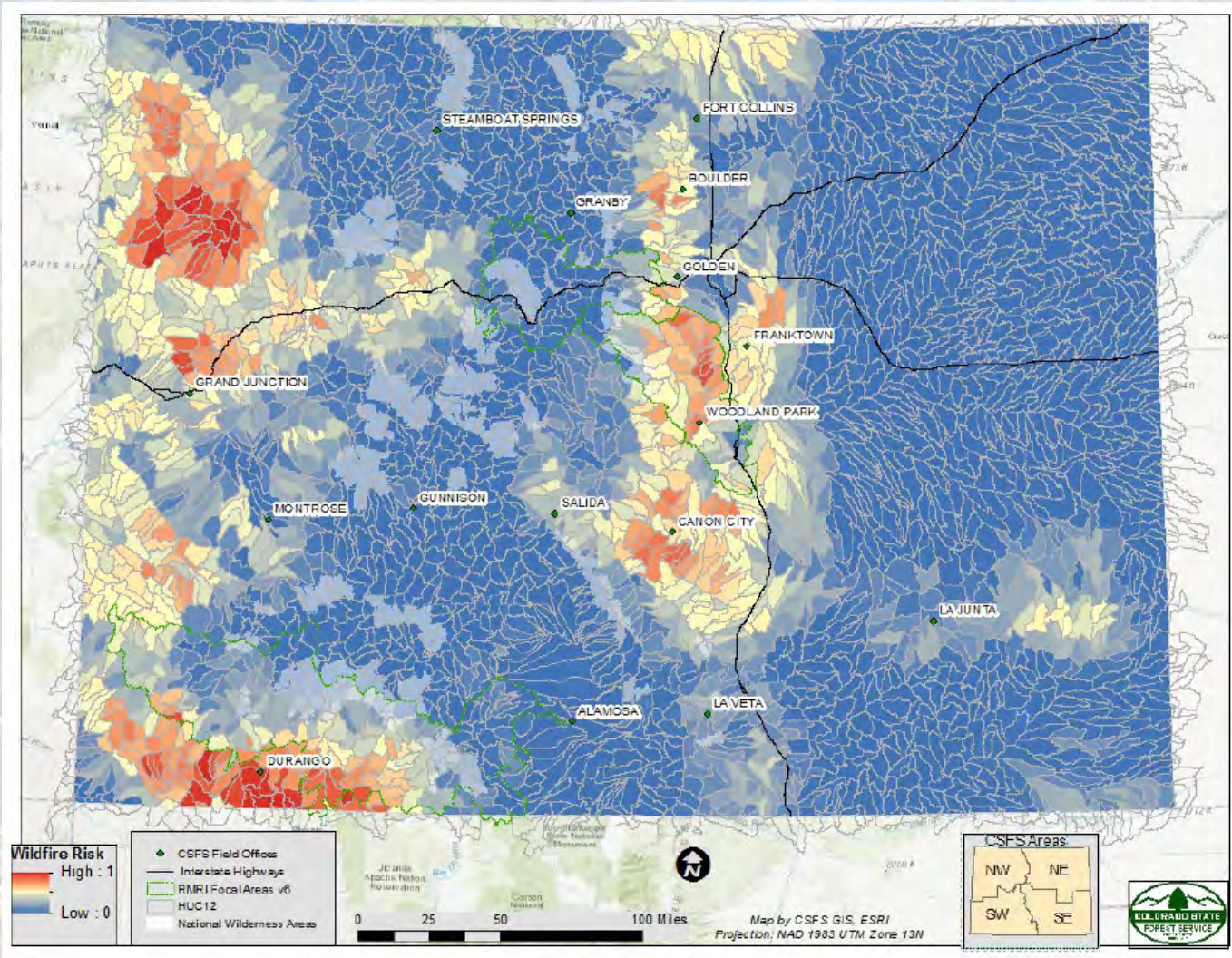| Action Items | Timelines | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Stakeholder scoping | August – October 2019 | Complete |
| Strategy section development | September 2019 | Initiated |
| Final FAP preparation based on stakeholder feedback | October - January 2020 | |
| Leadership feedback on draft SFAP & updates | February - March 2020 | |
| Final External Review – FHAC, CFRI | March 2020 | |
| Submit the SFAP Requirement Checklist to FS Regional Forester, NAS&PF Director | April 2020 | |
| Publishing and online data upload (CO Forest Atlas) | **June 2020** | |
| Final FAP Outreach | Summer 2020 | |

Questions?

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# Forest Conditions –
# Draft Priority Map

# Wildfire – Draft Priority Map

# Watersheds –
# Draft Priority Map