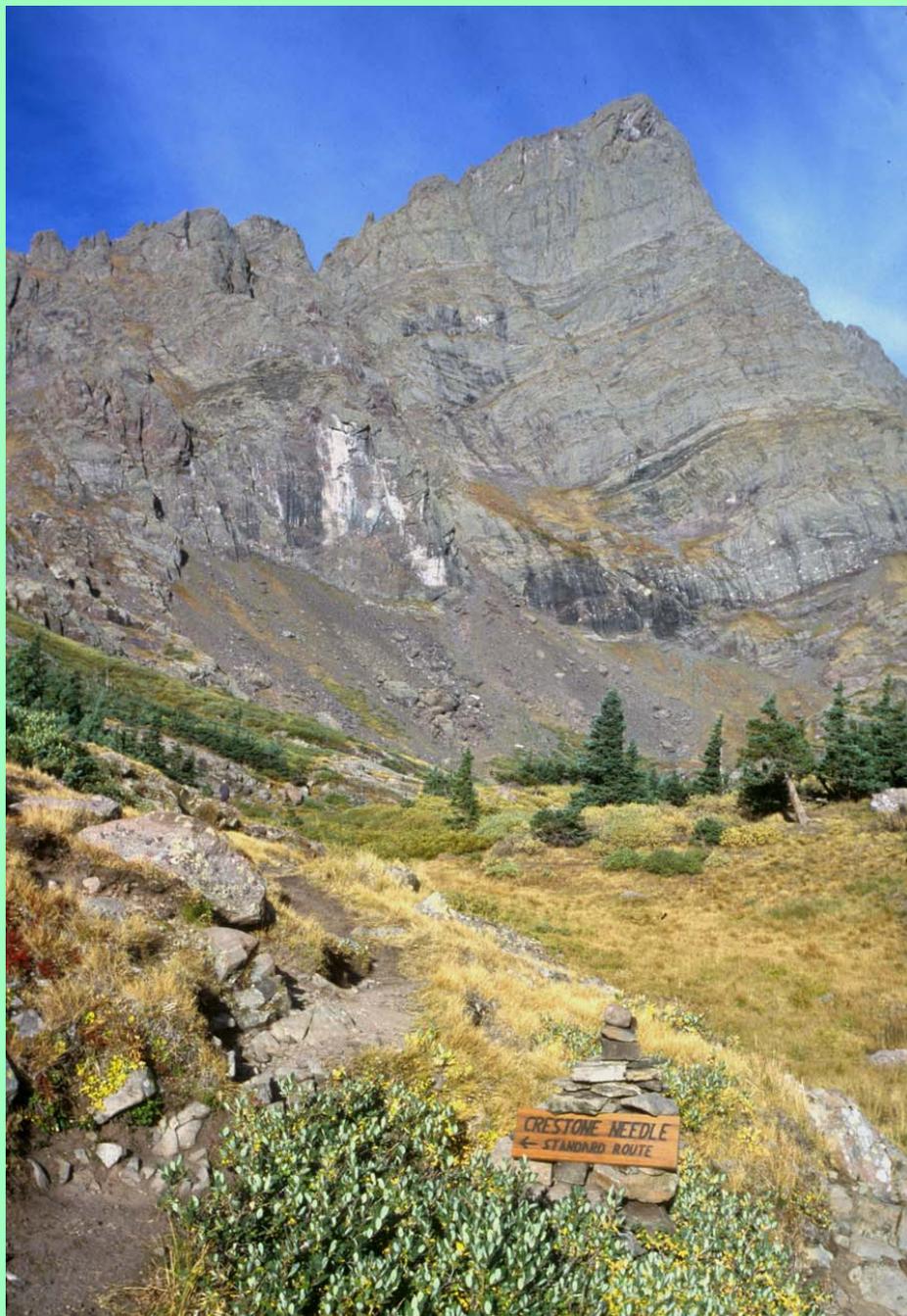




Rocky Mountain Field Institute



Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wildlands and key natural areas through exemplary environmental service, education, and research.



South Colony Lakes Basin Stewardship Project

Goals

- Preserve and restore wilderness values, i.e. conditions of naturalness and solitude.
- Protect the quality of the area's outstanding recreational opportunities.
- Establish South Colony Lakes Basin as a model for 'intensive use' wilderness.
- Contribute to the knowledge base for wildlands preservation and restoration.



2006- 10th Year Anniversary

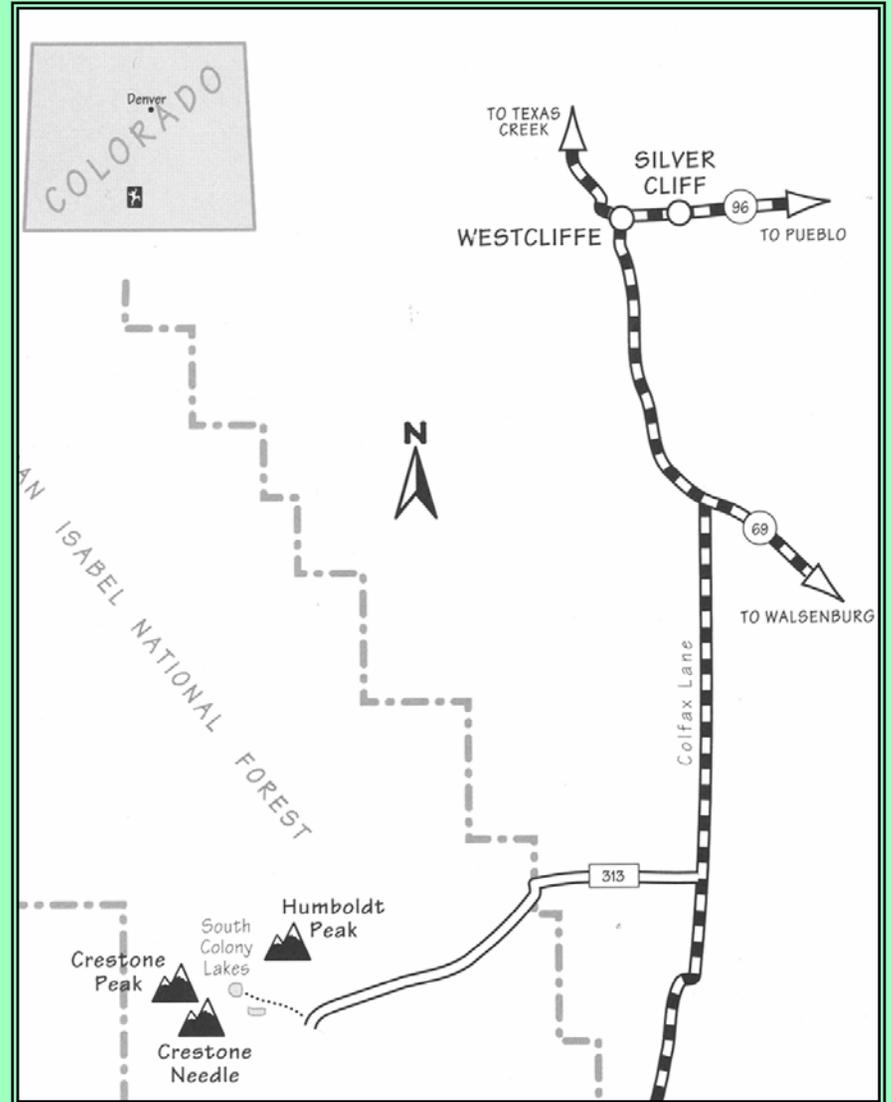
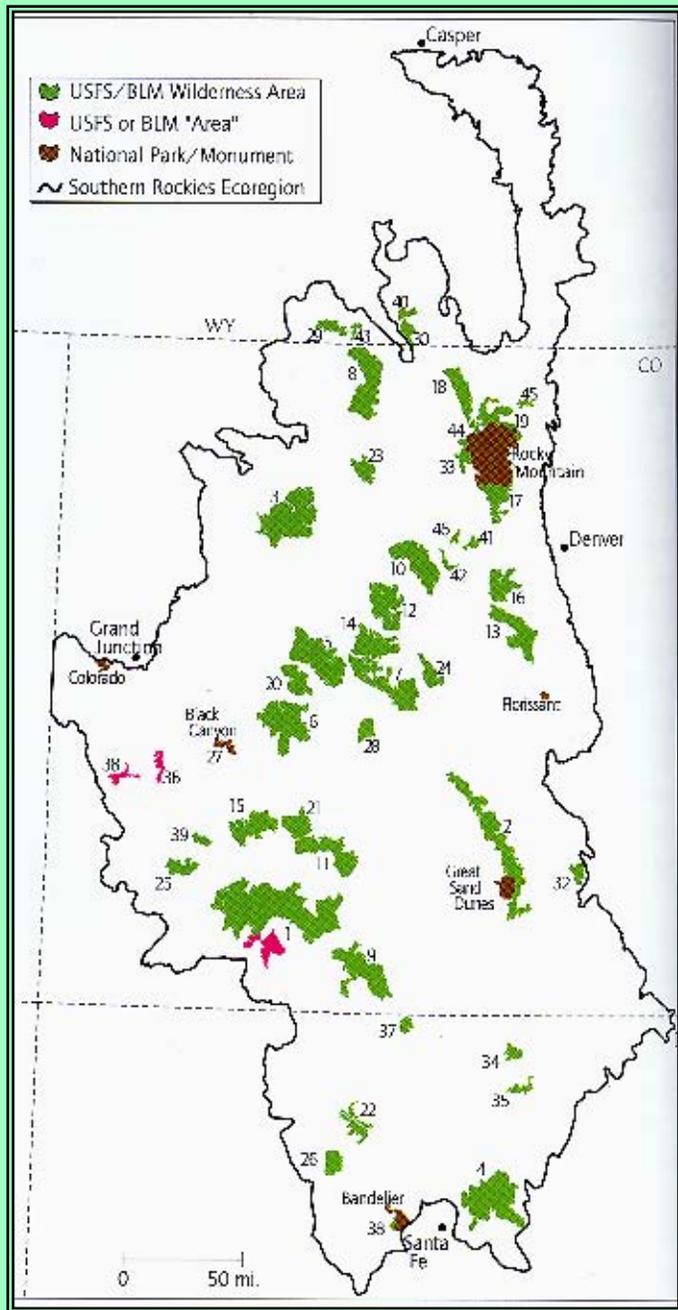


South Colony Lakes Basin (1,500 acres)

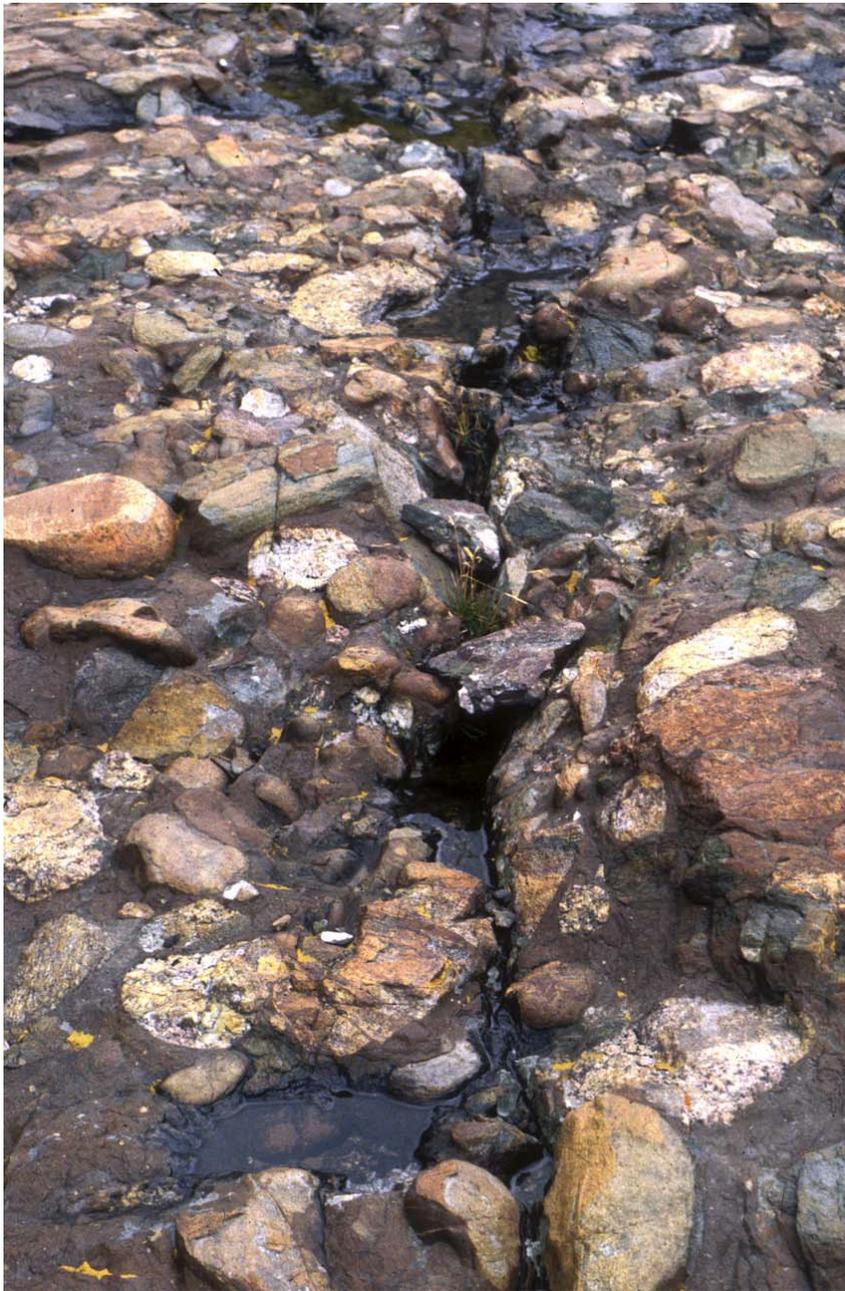
Access to four 14,000 ft. peaks

Climbing, hiking, backpacking, fishing and hunting

4,000- 5,000 visitors per year (seasonal)









Use Information

- 80% climbers
- <10% hunting, fishing, motorized (ATV-4X4)
- 40-50 people in the basin on summer weekday
- 90-150 people on weekends
- 400 people on one holiday
- 50%+ from Denver area
- 65% increase in visitation since early 1990s

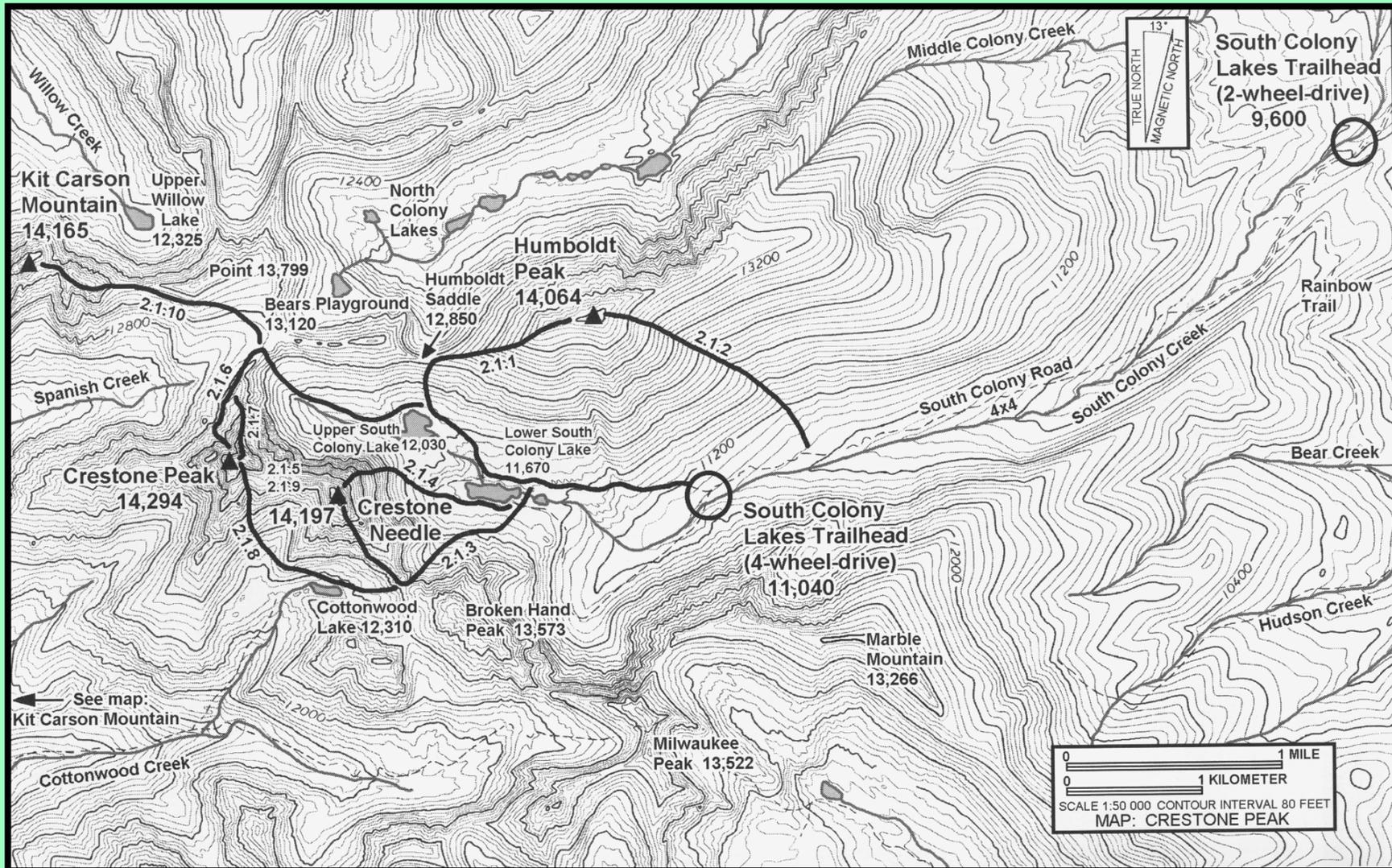
South Colony Lakes Basin Magnet Wilderness

Location within designated wilderness (or WSA) where high levels of recreational use or visitation has resulted in or pose a major threat to:

- Pristine condition or character of the site.
- Integrity of bio-physical resources and key ecological processes.
- Quality of the visitors' wilderness experience.

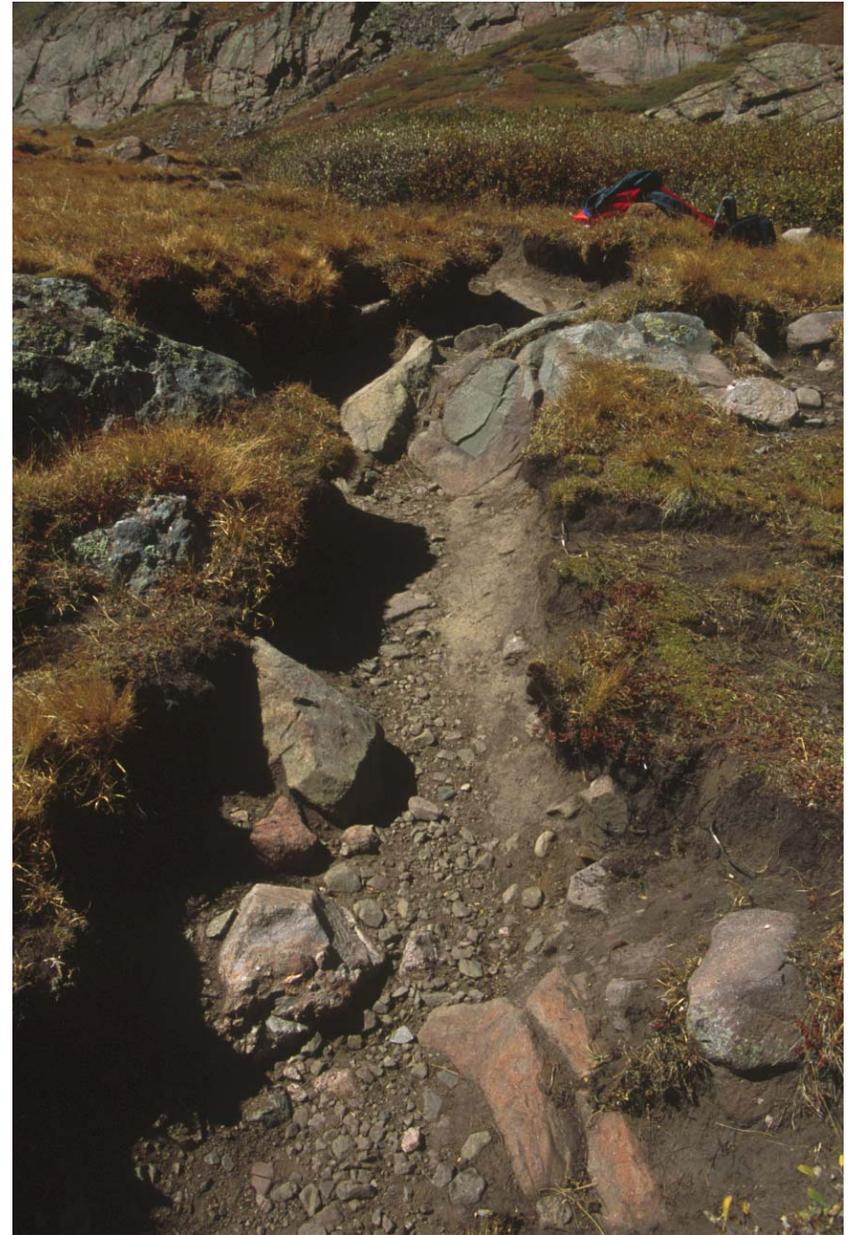
Indicators include:

- Damaged trails and campsites.
- Extensive 'social' trails, and 'braided' and denuded areas.
- Major impacts or disturbances to native flora and fauna.
- Social crowding, or lack of solitude and privacy.
- Visitor conflicts.



South Colony Lakes Basin- Magnet and Gateway













Soil: The Foundation for Life

Alpine Soil Development
1,000 years-first 20 cm
10,000 years-30 cm

"Once removed, there is no way to replace alpine soils within historical dimensions of time." - Korner

Objectives

- Develop a system of 'first class' trails and summit routes.
- Close and restore social trails and other damaged sites.
- Mitigate camping impacts.
- Increase public participation in the stewardship of the area.
- Assist the FS in identifying visitor use protocols and strategies for managing increases in use/ visitation.
- Identify means to provide a consistent revenue stream to support ongoing care and maintenance.
- Disseminate project results and lessons.
- Replicate work at other wilderness locations with similar issues.





Funding:

Forest Service

State Trails Program

National Forest Foundation

Hillsdale Fund

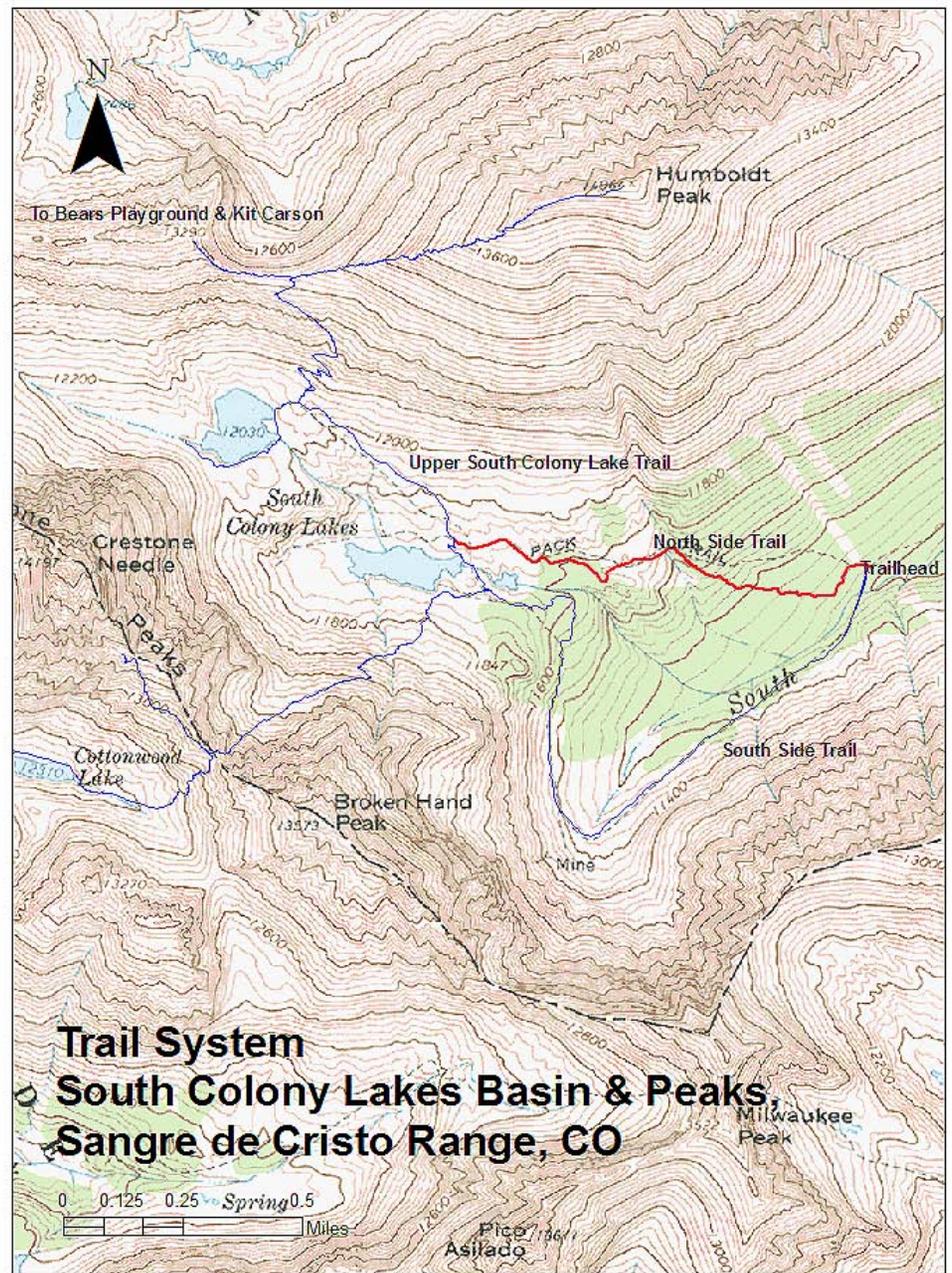
Conservation Alliance

REI

Mountain Hardwear

American Hiking Society

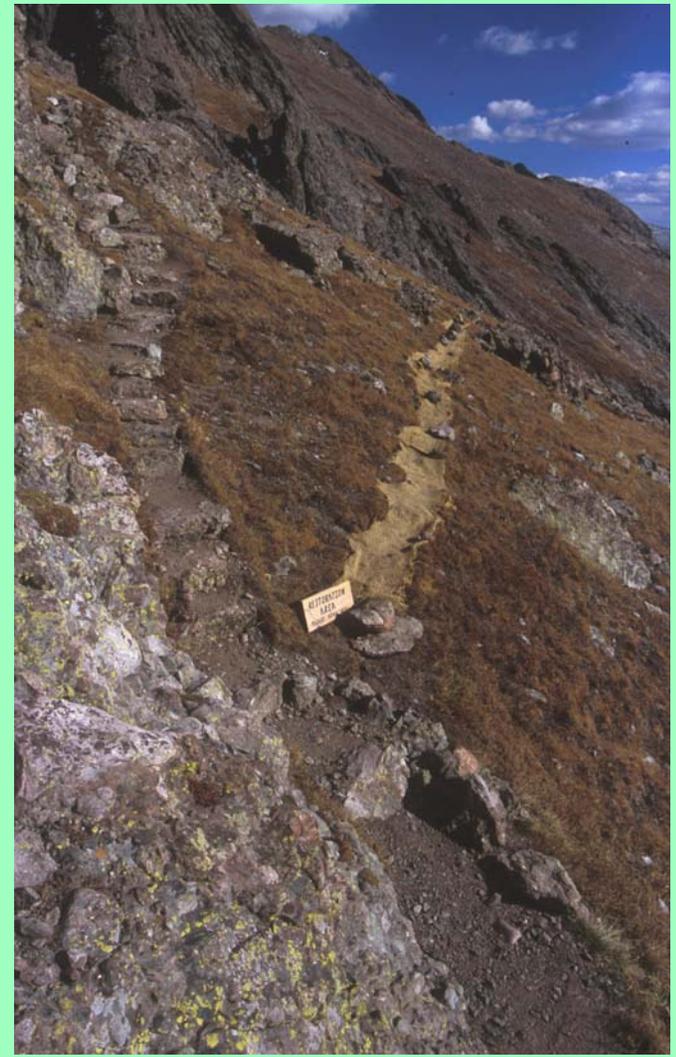
and many others. . .



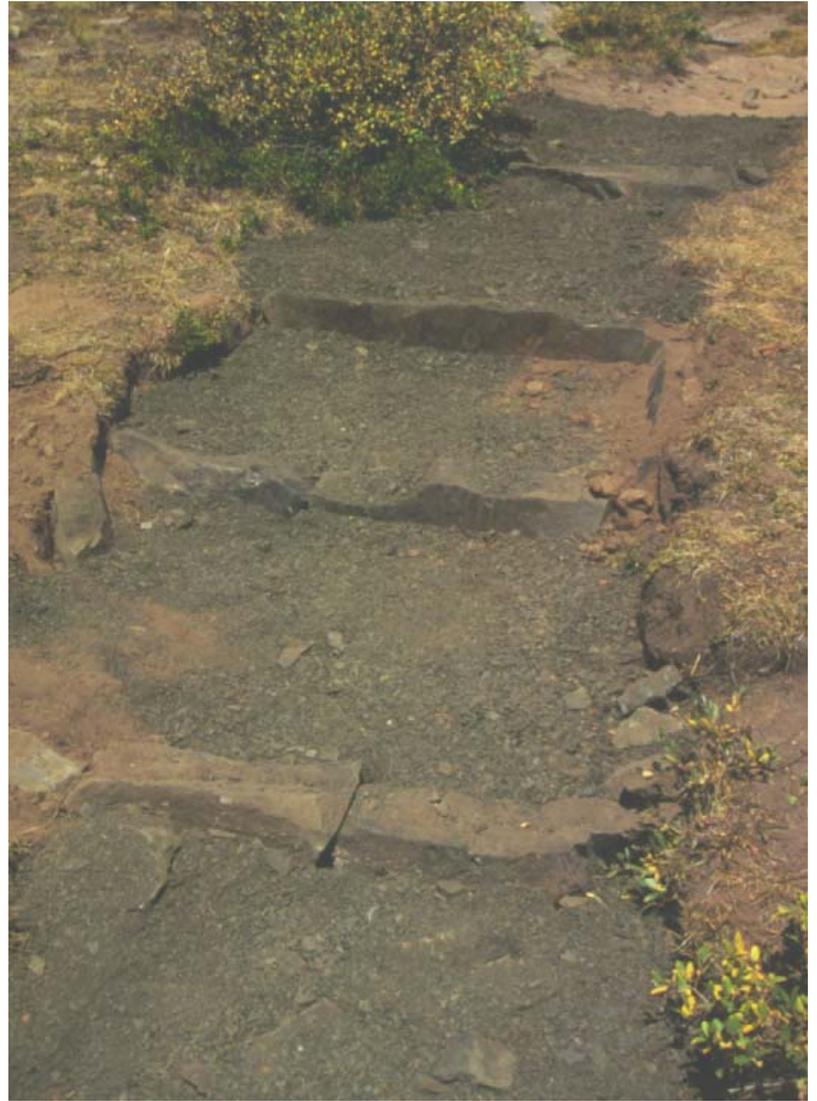
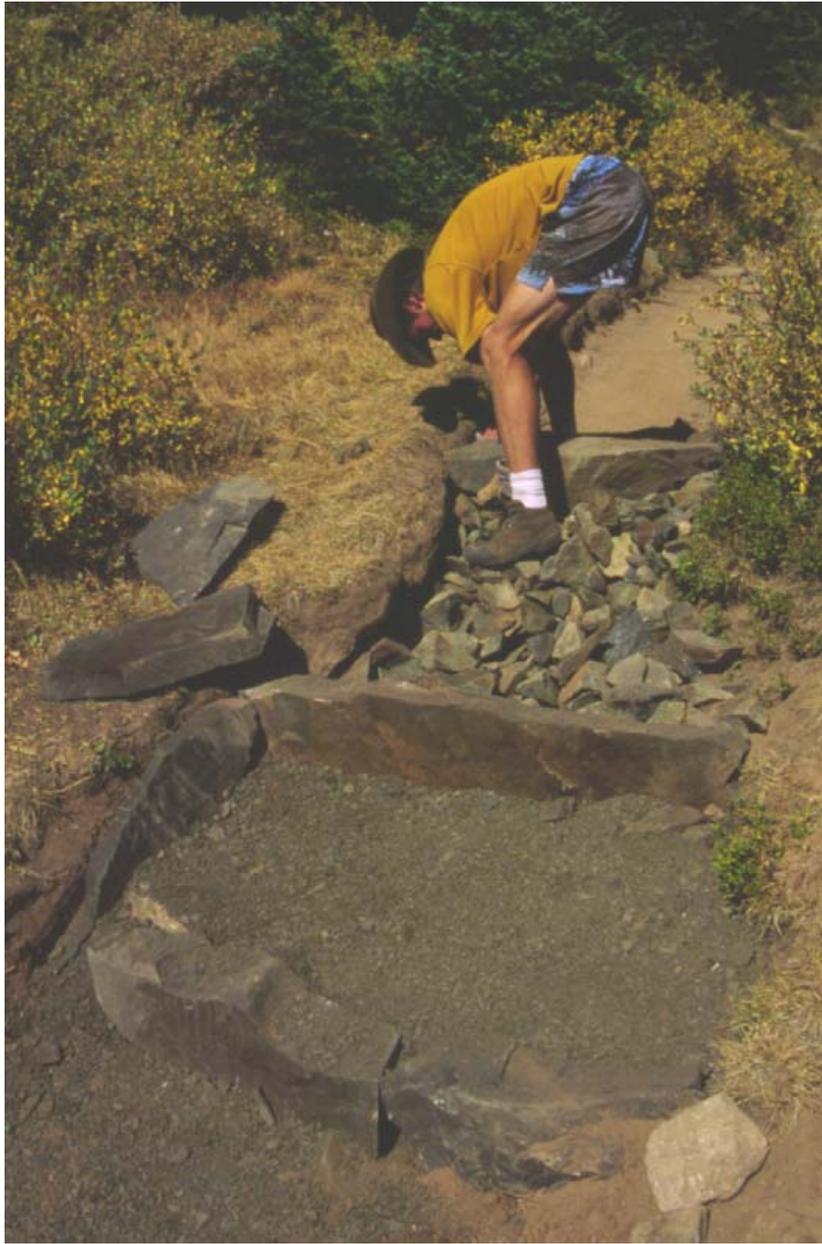
Prepared by: Mark B. Hesse, Rocky Mountain Field Institute



Methodology



Trails in wilderness should be viewed as conservation tools, and the principal and over-riding objectives for trail projects should be to reduce current disturbance levels and protect the landscape.











































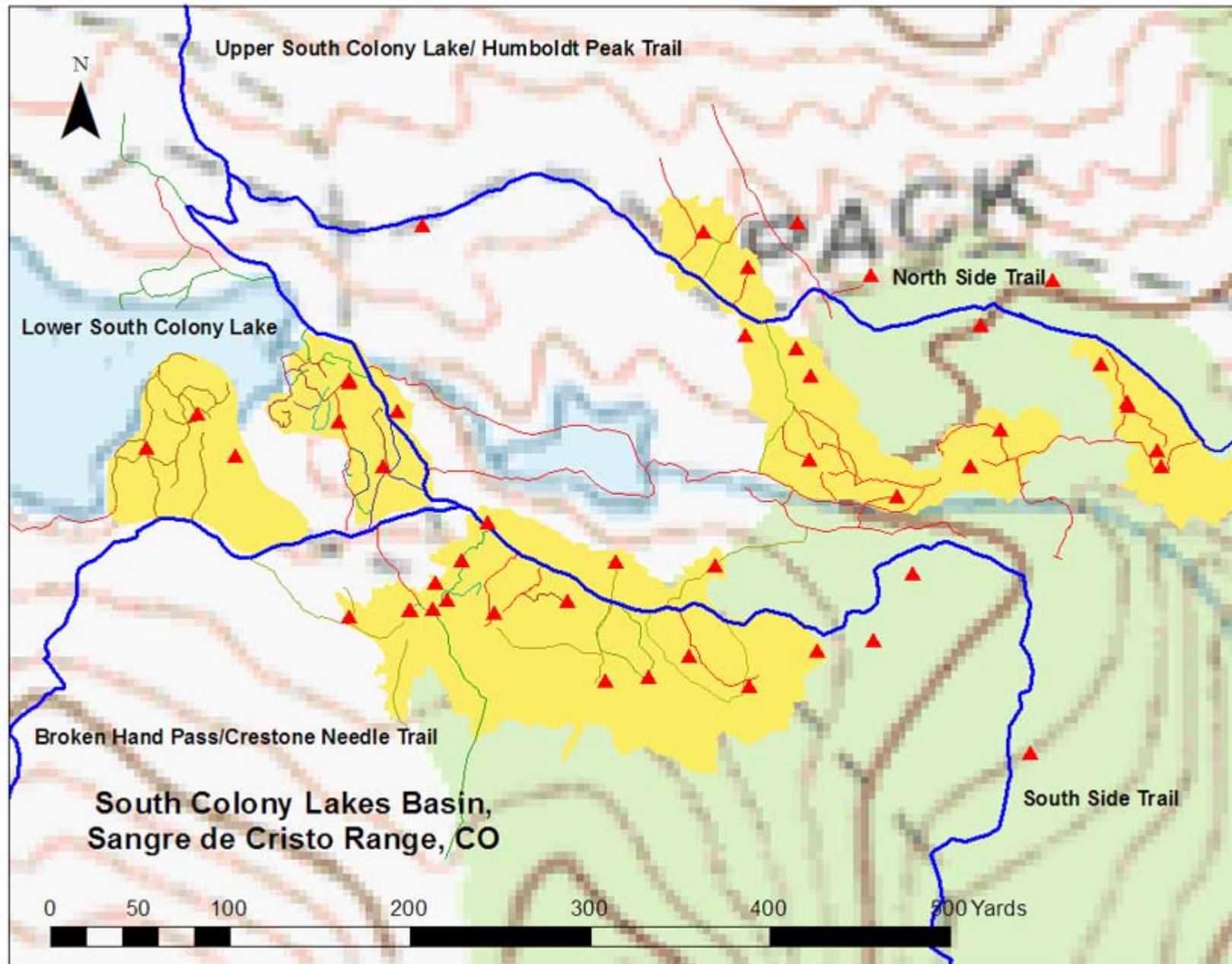


















QuickTime™ and a
H.264 decompressor
are needed to see this picture.









Resources over 10 Years

- \$350,000 cash
- \$250,000 in-kind
- 40,000 volunteer hours

Improvements Yet to be Completed:

- North Side Trail reconstruction
- Campsite stabilization and restoration
- Trailhead improvements



Think globally, *plan regionally*, act locally. . .

Roads within the SO Rockies Ecosystem

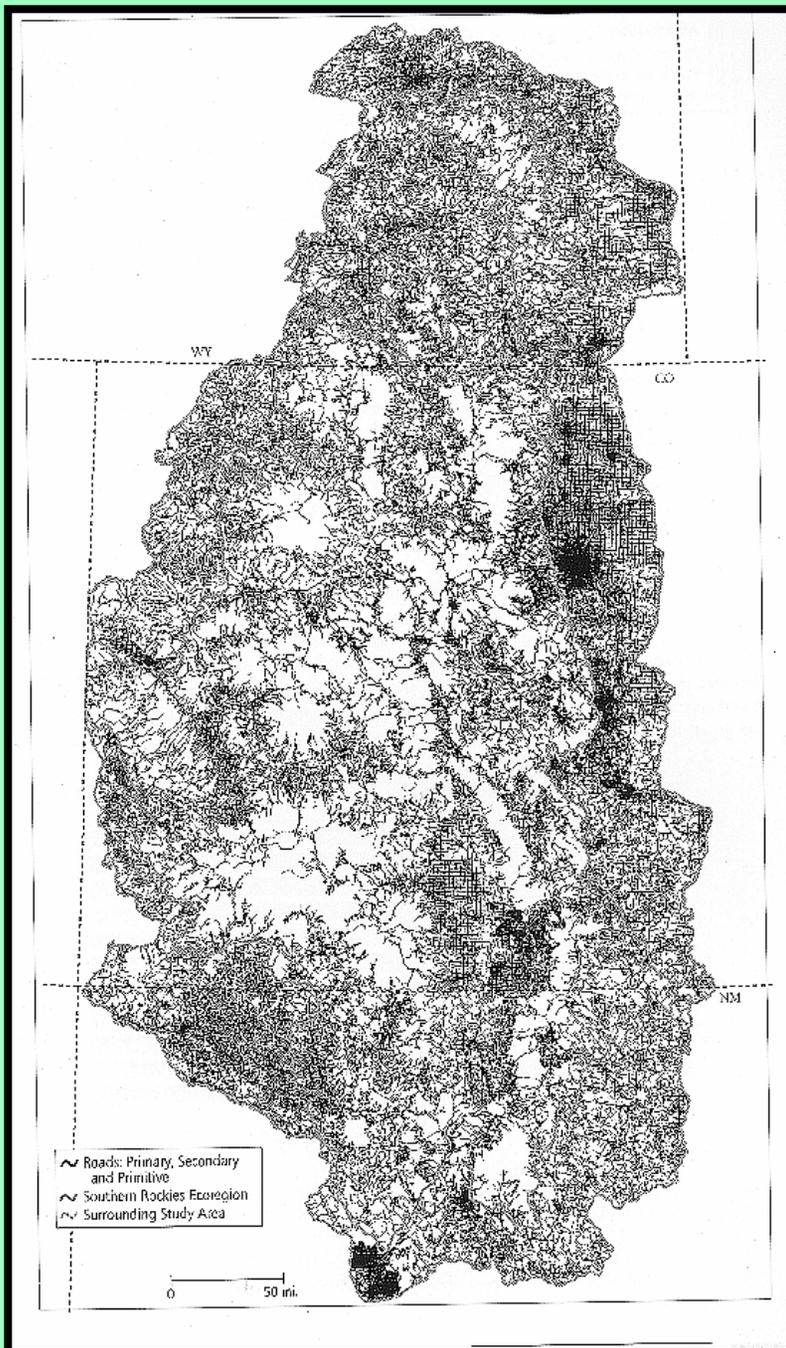
Primary- 6,328 miles

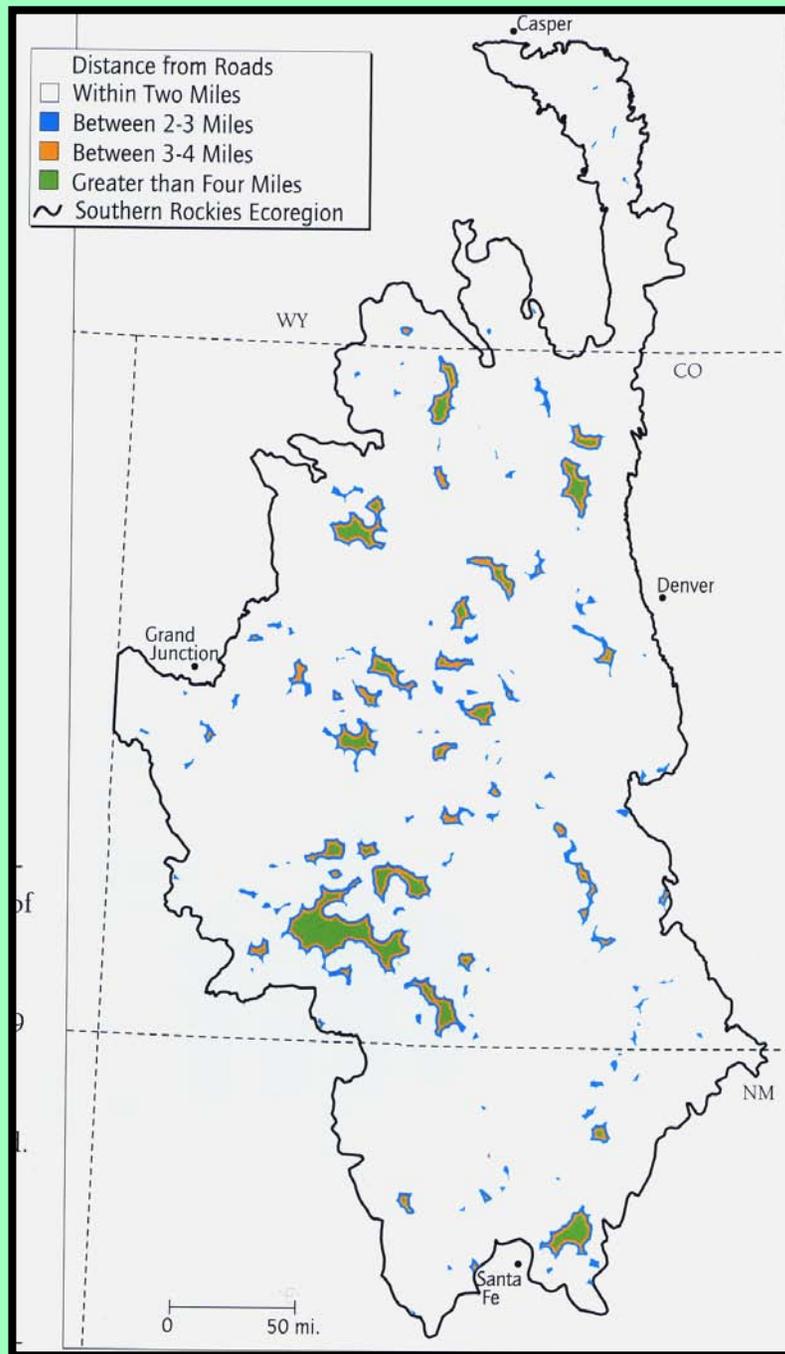
Secondary- 70,447 miles

Primitive- 1,911

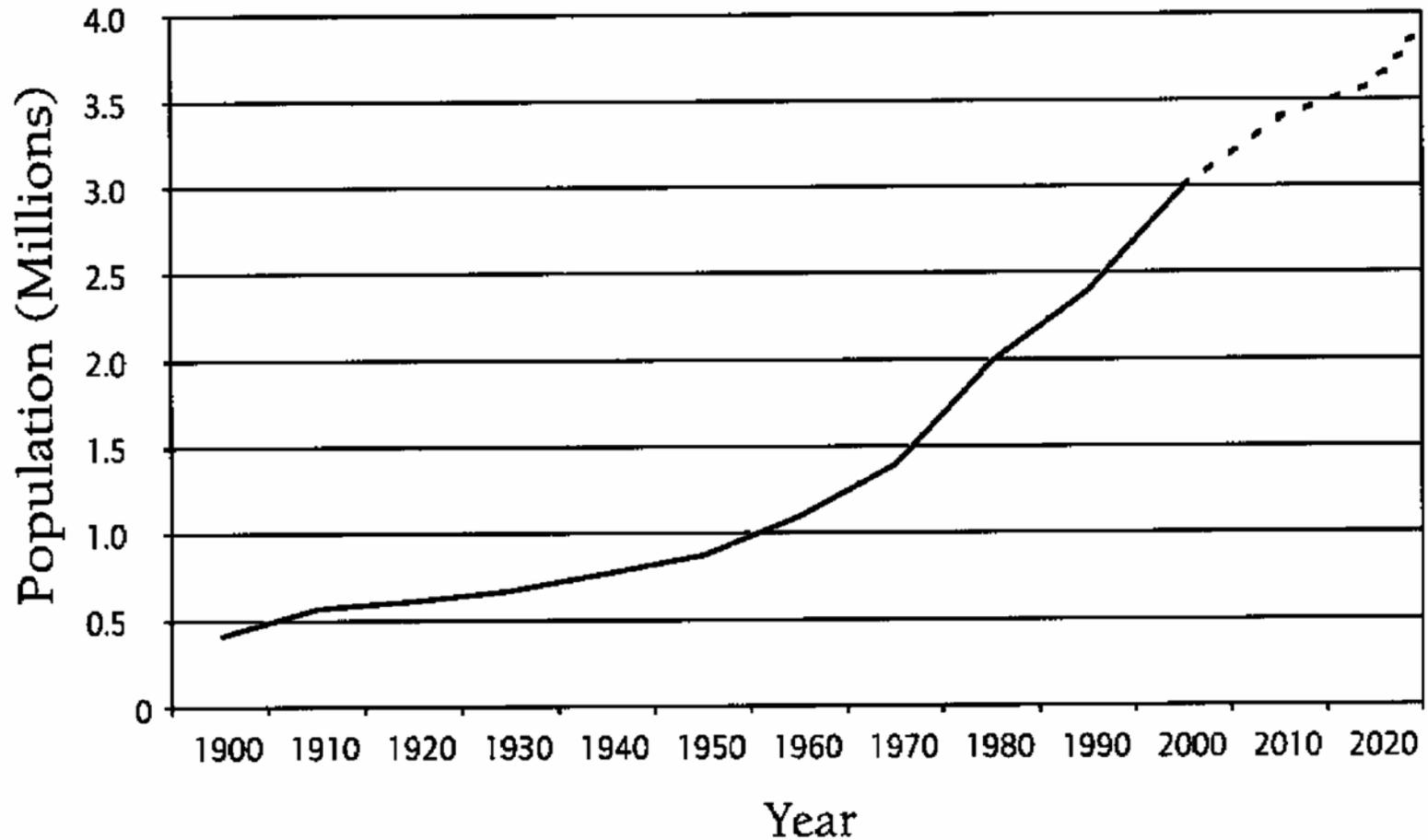
Total- 78,686 miles

*Area for SO Rockies Ecosystem-
63,654 square miles.





HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH IN THE SOUTHERN ROCKIES: 1900-2020





South Colony Lakes Basin is only one of many locations in the region that needs intensive care.

"If you look too far into the future, you'll scream."

Student, Colorado College, Indian Creek Canyon, UT