



Southern Mountain Loop

Highway 12 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study



Welcome!

Public Open House
(Study Introduction)

Southern Mountain Loop
Planning and Environmental
Linkages Study

September 18, 2019:
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

No Formal Presentation



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What is a PEL Study?

- Planning-level study for transportation issues and environmental concerns along a corridor.
- Decision-making tool for “projects”.
- Enables CDOT and local agencies to advance projects into next steps based on priorities and funding.

Note: Next steps would include funding, NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Studies, public meetings, design, and permitting, before construction of a project could begin.

Kinds of Decisions in Study

- Scope and limits of projects
- Environmental setting and issues
- Plan for implementation

Types of Analyses within Study

- Travel characteristics and demand
- Economic development and land use
- Natural and manmade environment
- Agency and public involvement





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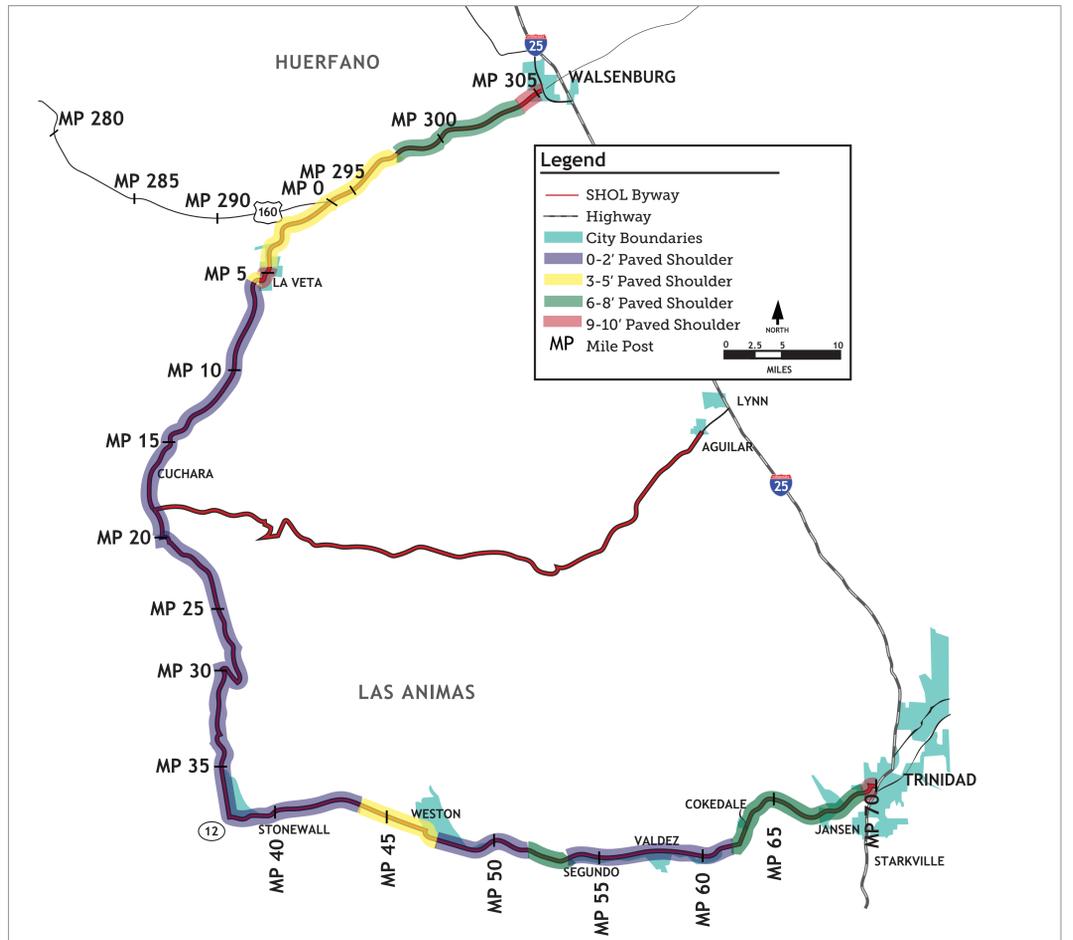


US 160 and SH 12 Traffic and Safety

1.

Roadway Section

The corridor has highly variable shoulder widths ranging from 0-feet to 10-feet

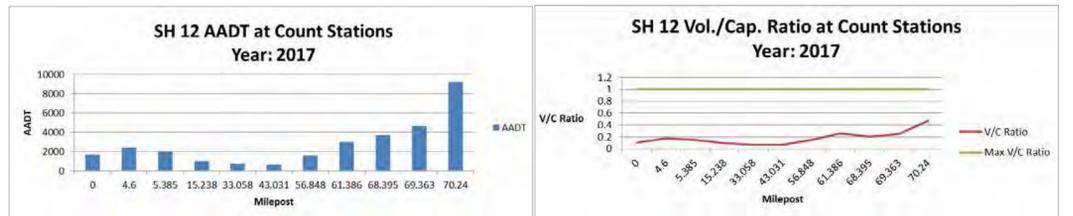
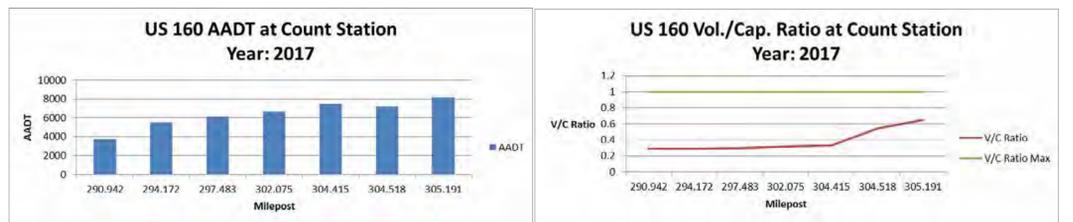


2.

Traffic Volumes

Current and projected traffic volumes do not exceed roadway capacities.

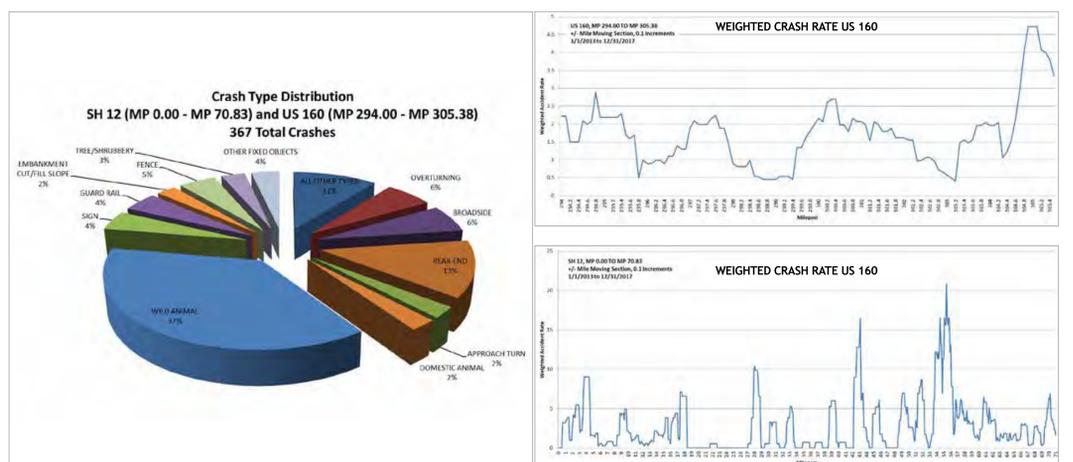
*Does not include possible future truck traffic from New Elk Mine.



3.

Crash History

Based on historical records from January 2013 through December 2017





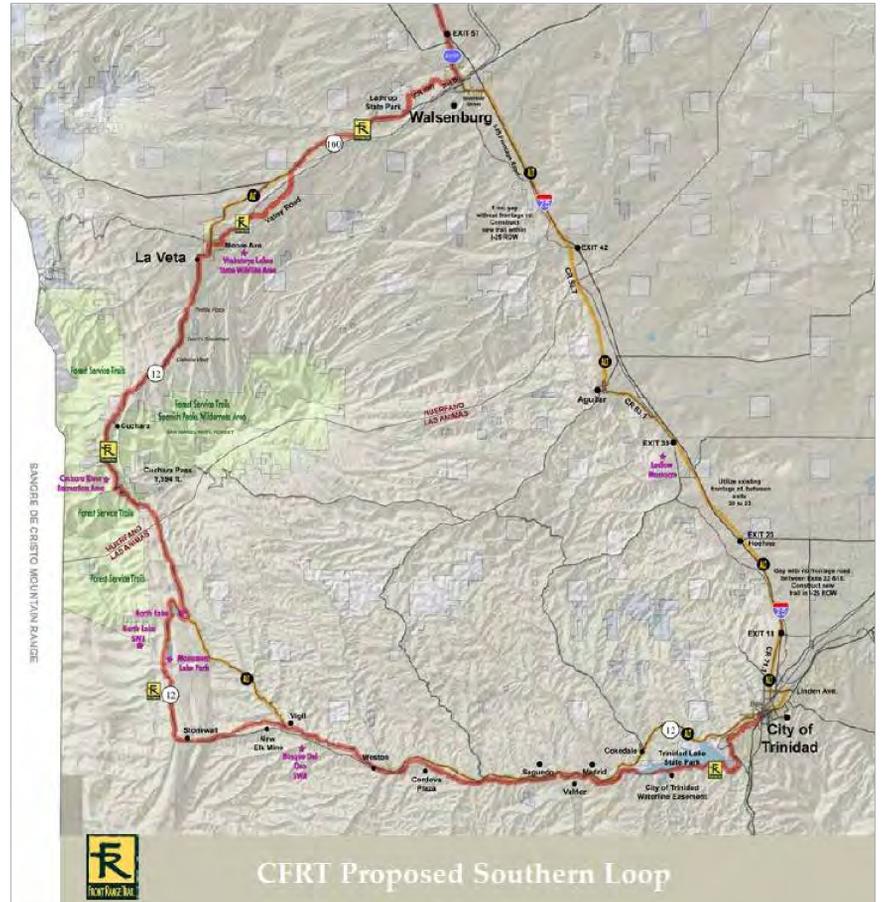
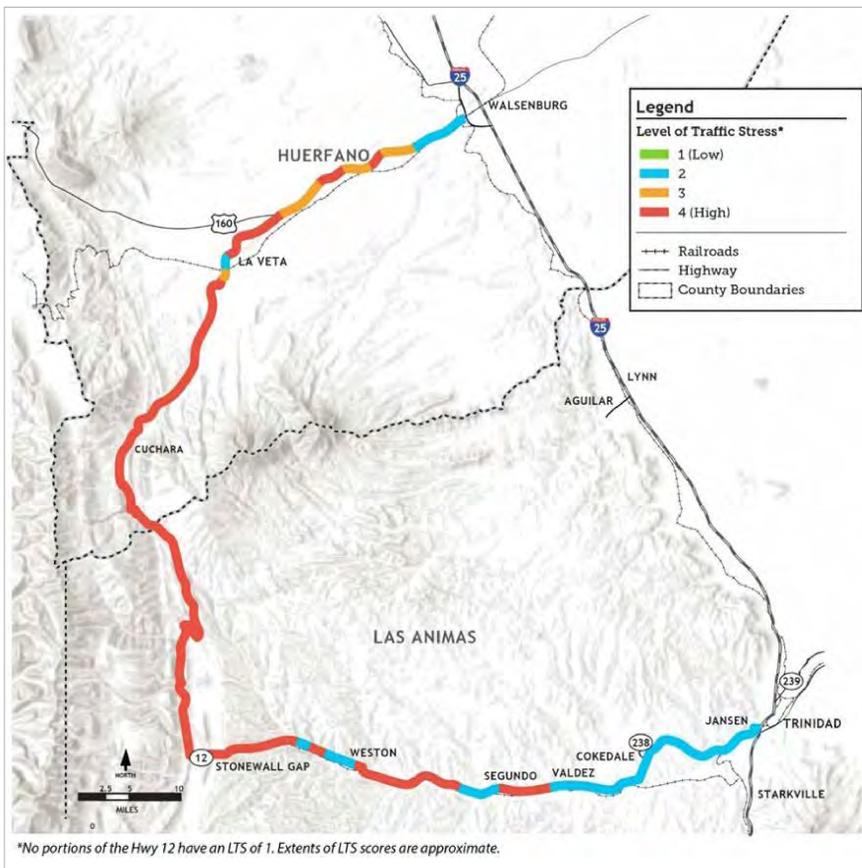
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Multi-Use Trail

COLORADO FRONT RANGE TRAIL
 Planned trail by Colorado Parks & Wildlife along Front Range from Wyoming to New Mexico.



LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS FOR BICYCLISTS
 Traffic volumes, number of lanes, pavement markings, shoulder widths, and posted speed limits affect stress levels for bicyclists.

CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS

- Local communities and resorts
- State Parks (Lathrop and Trinidad Lake)
- Trailheads and Trails
- State Wildlife Areas
 - Wahatoya
 - North Lake
 - Bosque del Oso
- San Isabel National Forest
- Spanish Peaks National Wilderness Area





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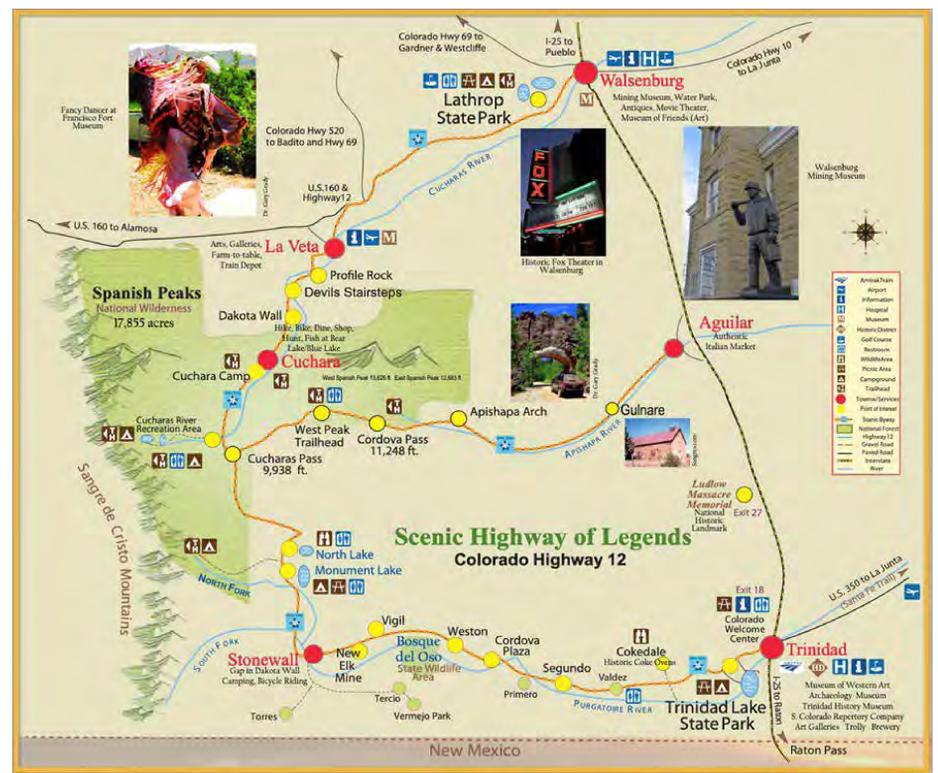
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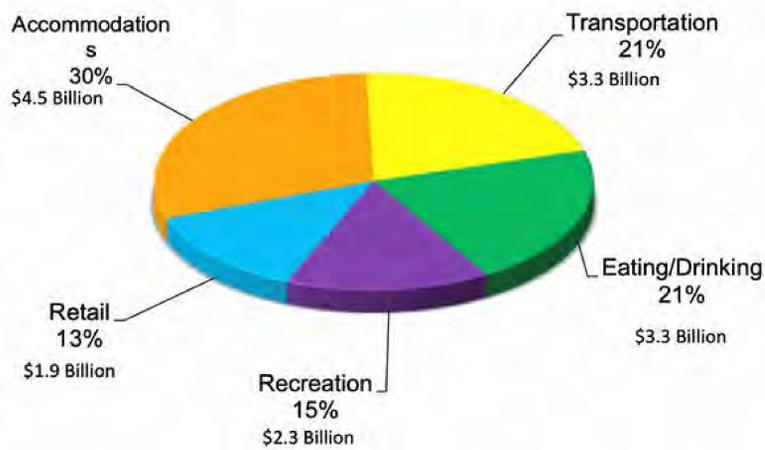
Scenic Byway Features

SCENIC HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS BYWAY

One of the first highways designated (1989) as a Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway.

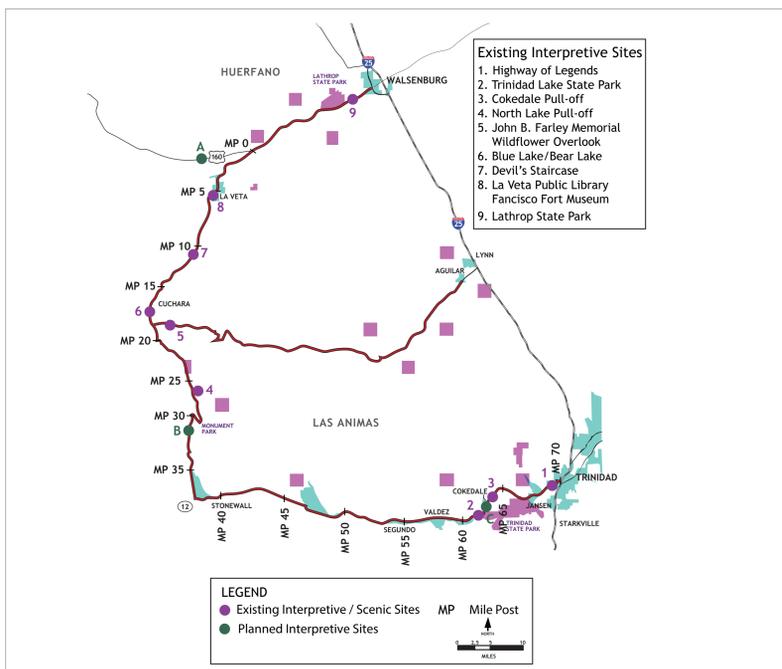


Total Spending (2017) = \$15.3 Billion



IMPACT OF TOURISM IN COLORADO

Tourism is a significant contributor to the state's economy.



BYWAY INTERPRETIVE SITES

The byway includes a number of existing and planned pull-offs with interpretive signs for tourists to enjoy the surrounding scenery and learn about the area's rich history.



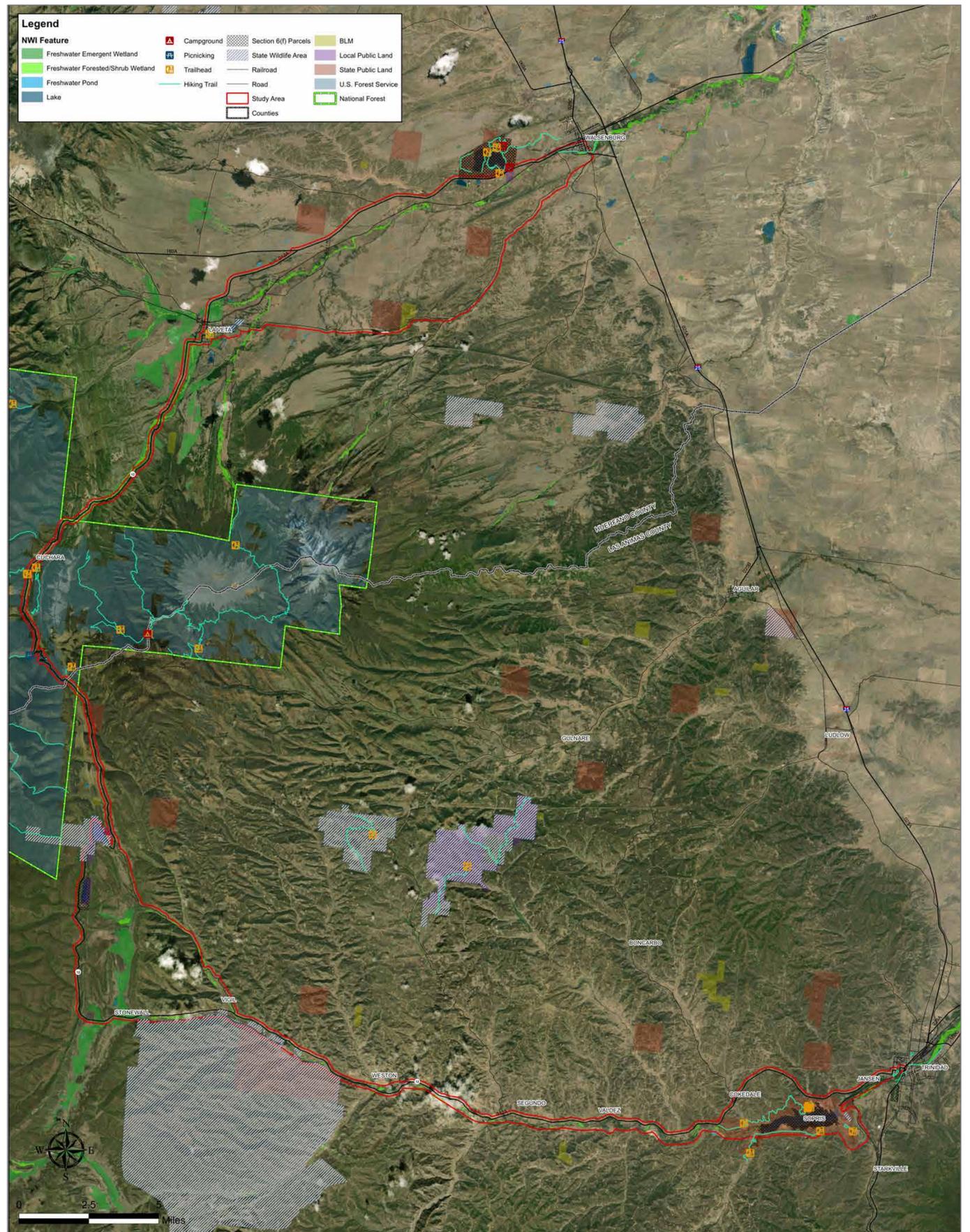
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Environmental Resources

- Archaeology
- Environmental Justice
- Farmlands
- Floodplains
- Geologic Resources and Soils
- Hazardous/Solid Wastes
- Historic Resources
- Land Use and Ecoregions
- Noise
- Public Lands and Recreation Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Threatened and Endangered Species, Other Special-Status Species, and Wildlife
- Visual Resources
- Wetlands and Other Waters of the US





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Thank you for attending!

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Comments may be provided:

- Comment form
- Email – SouthernMountainLoop@gmail.com

Stay Connected:

- <https://www.codot.gov/library/studies/co-12-sml-pel>
or
- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sccog>

Click on Development link to access additional information
about the SML PEL Study.

Questions?

- Call: 719-427-1078
- Email: SouthernMountainLoop@gmail.com