

Public Farm and Ranch Land Access: Boulder County, Colorado

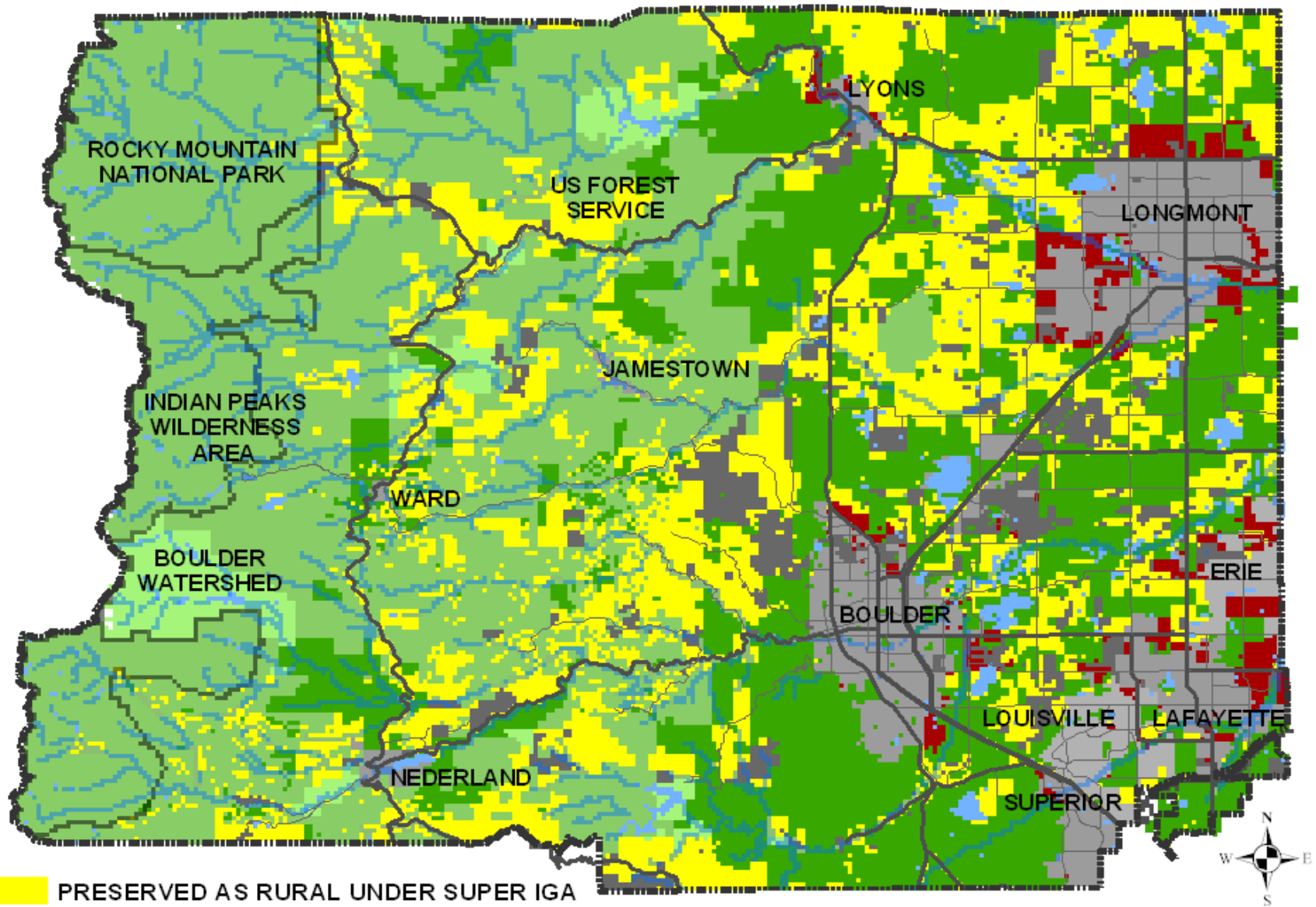


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Acquisition



- PRESERVED AS RURAL UNDER SUPER IGA
- MUNICIPAL INFLUENCE AREA
- PUBLIC LAND

Super-IGA

1993 voters approved \$0.25 sales tax

County issued bonds
for immediate funding



IMPORTANT FARMLANDS OF BOULDER COUNTY COLORADO

FARMLANDS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

PRIME (IRRIGATED)

FARMLANDS OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

IRRIGATED LAND (NOT PRIME)

IRRIGATED LAND (WATER SUPPLY
INADEQUATE)

HIGH POTENTIAL DRY CROPLAND -
PRIME IF THEY BECOME IRRIGATED

OTHER CATEGORIES

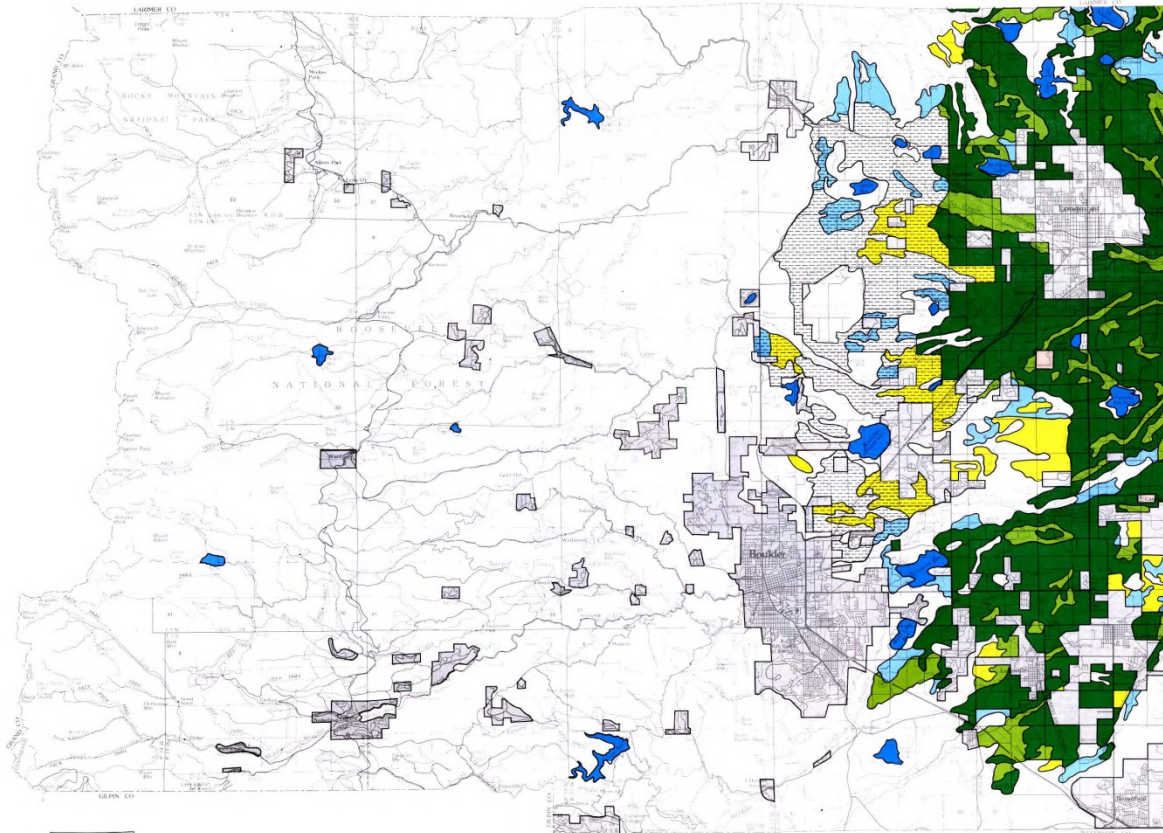
PRIME IF THEY BECOME IRRIGATED

URBAN AND URBAN BUILD-UP LAND

WATER

OTHER LAND

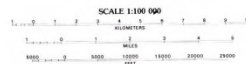
FOR EXPLANATION SEE BACK



LOCATION MAP

Compiled by USGS in 1976 from 1:24,000-scale topographic maps dated 1951-1977.
Placements revised from aerial photographs taken 1975.
Revised information not fully checked.
Projection and 10,000-meter grid ticks, zone 13 Universal Transverse Mercator.
25,000-foot grid ticks based on Colorado coordinate system, south zone, 1927 North American datum.
Federal boundaries represent jurisdiction lines and do not necessarily imply Federal jurisdiction.

APPROXIMATE MEAN
ELEVATION, 1976



This map complies with national map accuracy standards.

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

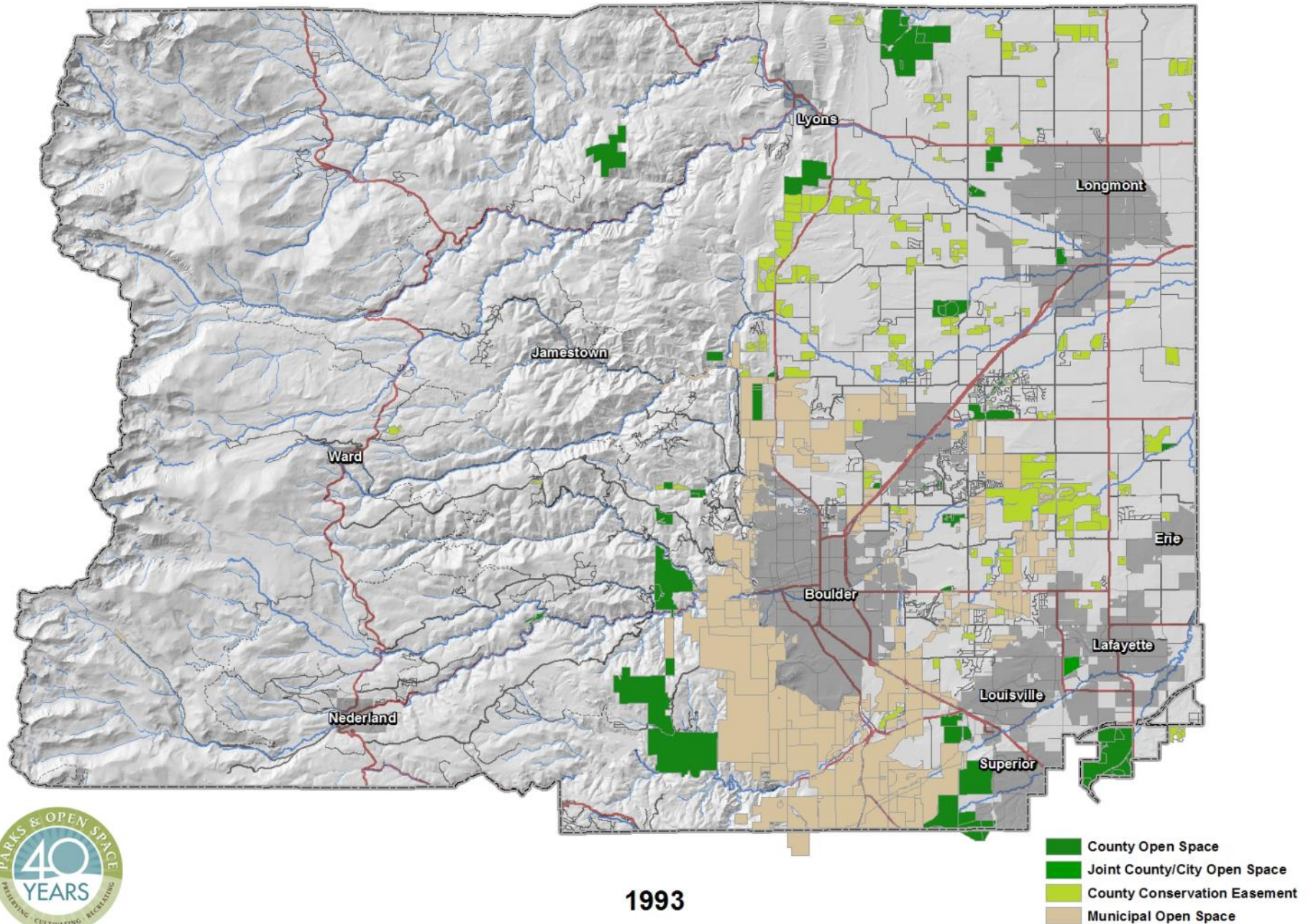


PREPARED BY USDA-SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION

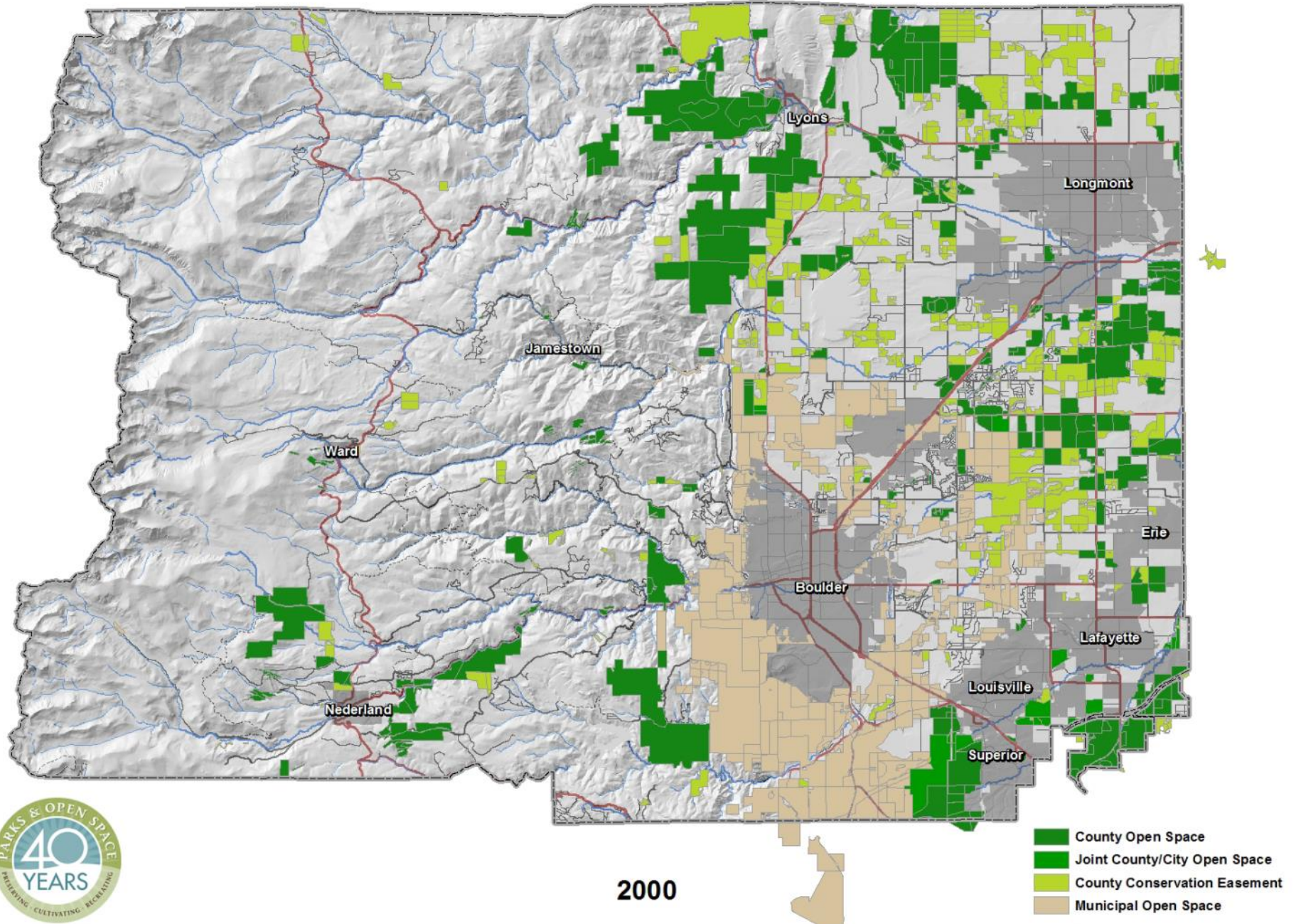
1979



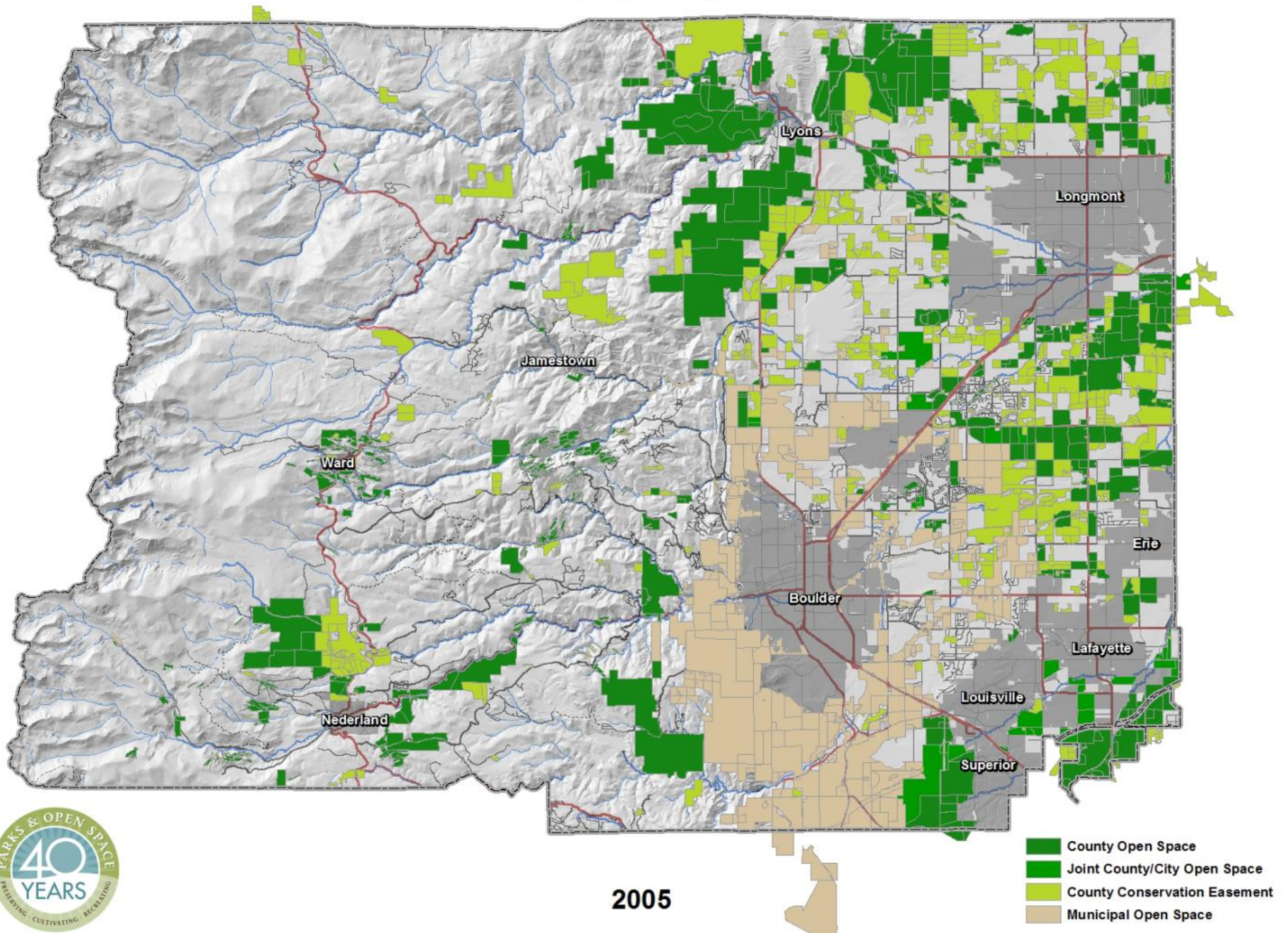
Boulder County Open Space Evolution



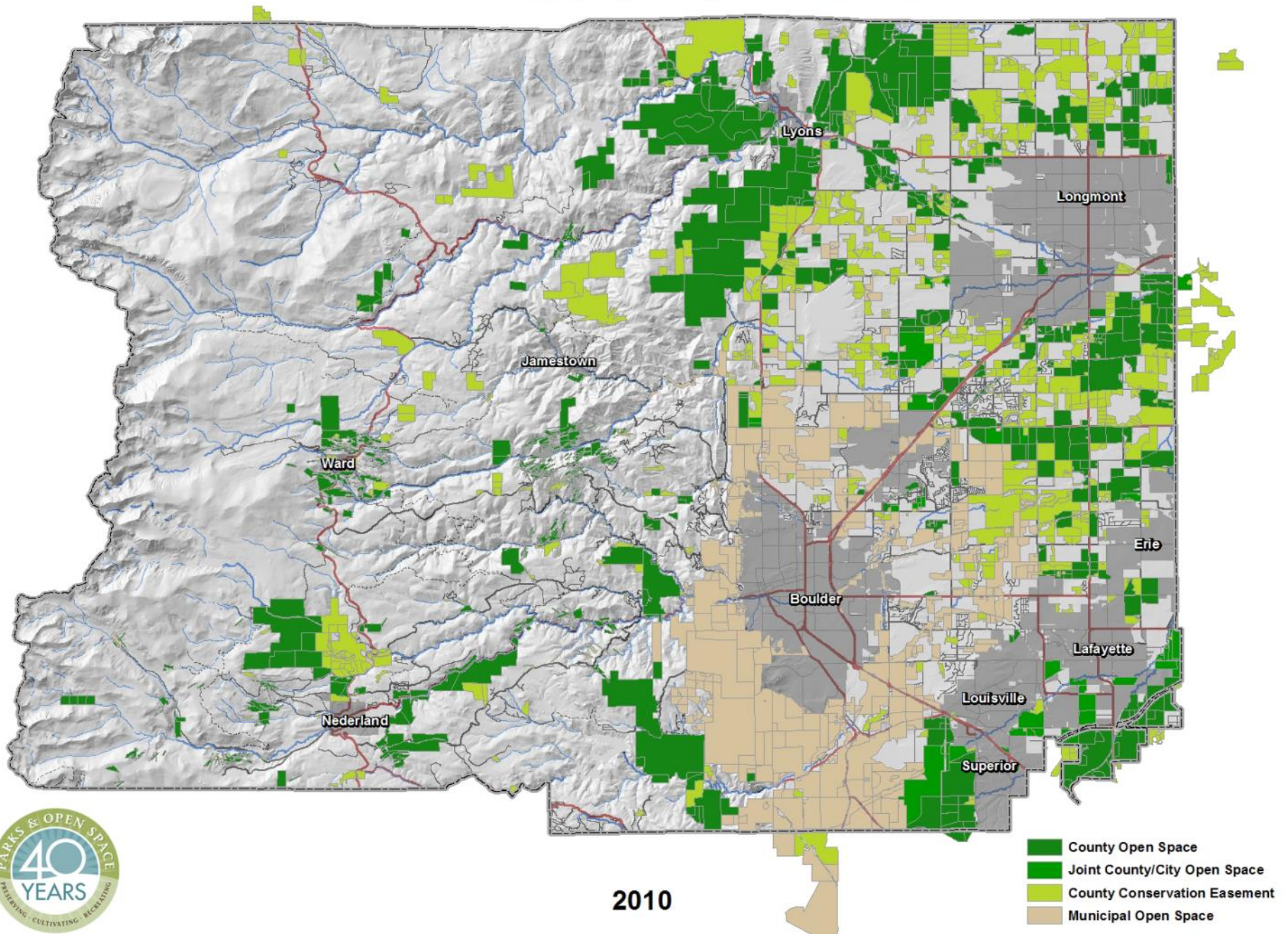
Boulder County Open Space Evolution



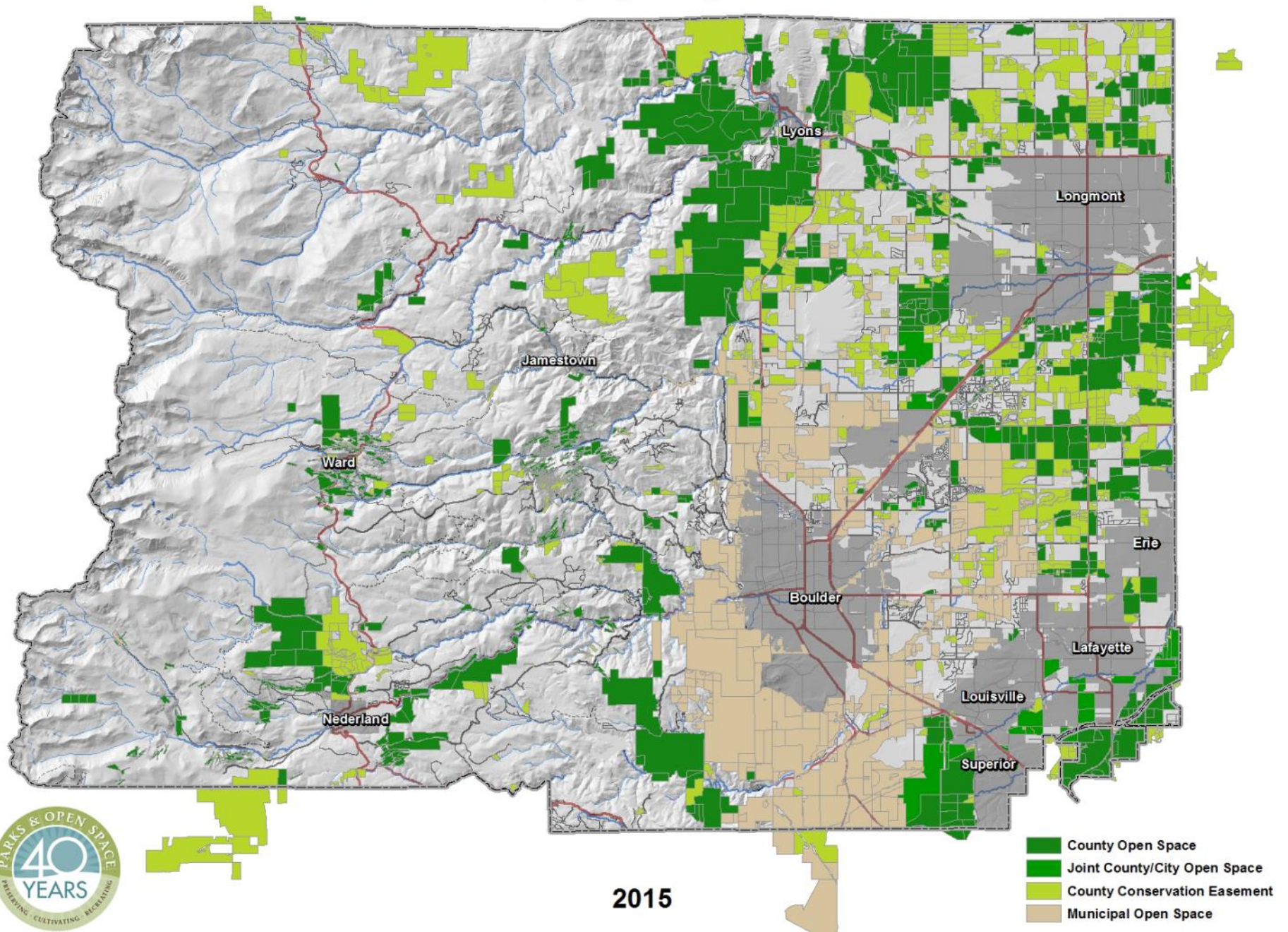
Boulder County Open Space Evolution



Boulder County Open Space Evolution



Boulder County Open Space Evolution



Current numbers for F and R

- >40 acres, prime ag land
- Water purchased with land
- 25,000 acres (15,000 acres irrigated)
- Fee simple purchases \$3000 - \$7000/acre
- Conservation easements at ~\$5800/acre
- \$321,900,000 purchase value of land

Resources required

- 9 real estate staff
- 12 ag staff
- 3 water staff
- Political support (public and elected officials)



Utilization

- 2 - 2000 acres
- Commodities, livestock, mixed vegetables
- Cash rents \$100/ac
- Crop share $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$
- Three year leases often renewed
- Producers viewed as “Partners in Stewardship”



Access

- Beginning Farmer Development
- “Growers Associations”



Unintended consequences

- Rising housing costs
 - Boulder \$500,000
median single family
home
 - Longmont \$400,000
median single family
home
 - Single bedroom
apartments start at
~\$1000/month



Policy Concerns

- Public interests regarding best practices
- Producer influence vs. private interest influence
- How to maintain large scale ag in the urban interface?



Thank you!

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