

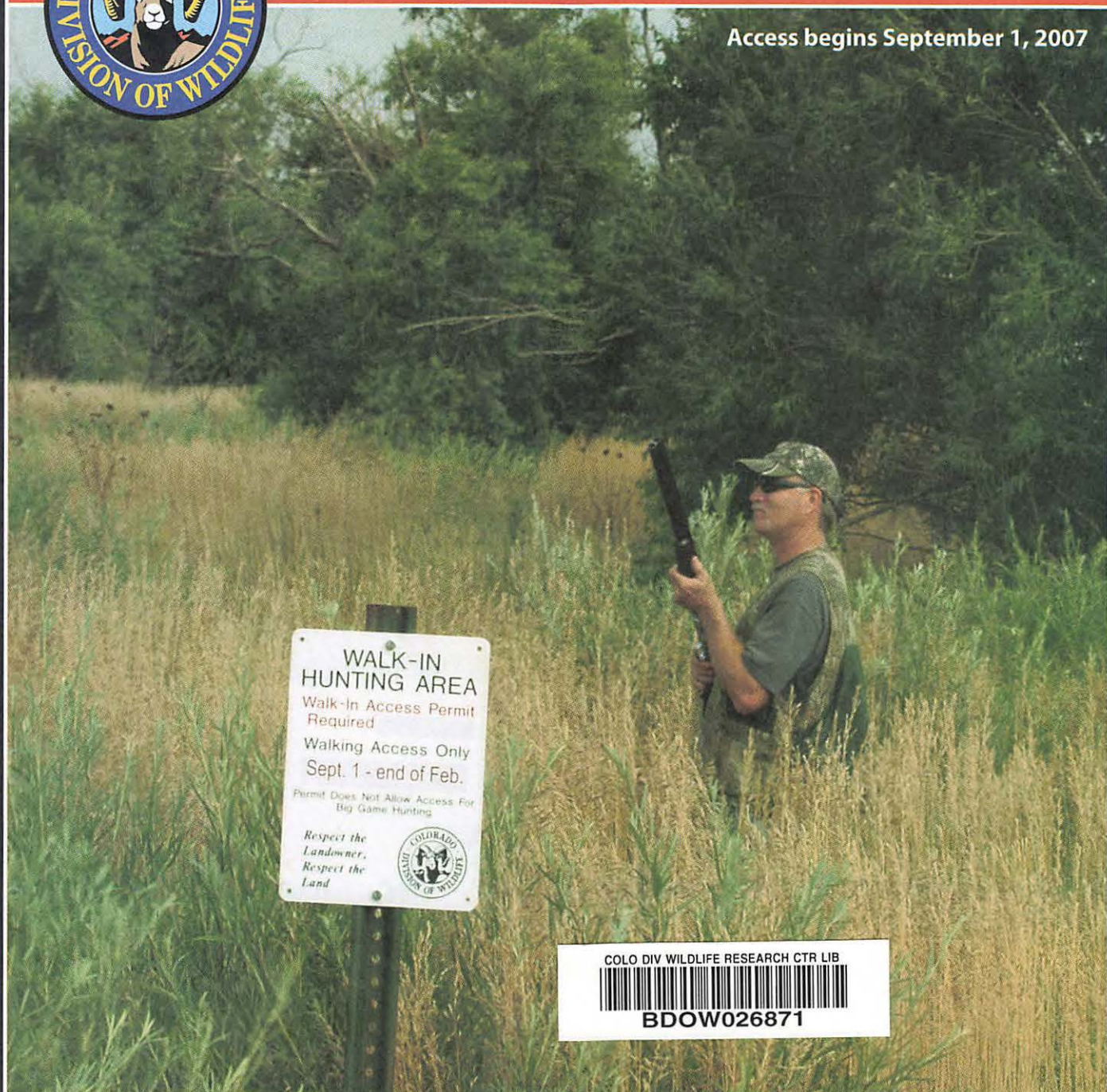
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Brochure
Walk
2007

2007 Small Game Walk-In Atlas



Access begins September 1, 2007



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BDOW026871

2007 WALK-IN ACCESS PROGRAM

The Walk-In Access (WIA) Program has become a very successful and important program to hunters, the Division of Wildlife, and landowners alike. With an eye towards improving an already popular program, the Division has expanded the Walk-In Program to include early season small game hunting opportunities. Hunters may access the properties listed in this atlas beginning September 1, 2007. Access to these properties continues through February, 28, 2008. The types of properties accepted into the Program has also been expanded to include habitat for not only pheasants and quail, but also doves, ducks and geese, grouse in northwestern Colorado, and rabbits.

Because Colorado's agricultural practices are very diverse, the early opening date does not work well for all landowners, especially those that are harvesting crops like corn, milo and millet. To avoid damaging standing crops and losing these important participants, cropland and some permanent cover adjacent to cropland will be enrolled later, for the pheasant and quail opening dates. Available in late October, the "Late" Walk-In Atlas will contain all properties open to Walk-In hunting.

Big game hunting permission is not included in the Walk-In Access Program. To hunt small game or waterfowl on enrolled properties, all hunters, regardless of age, must have in their possession a Walk-In Access Permit. Permits are available to hunters under age 18 at no charge. Similar to a hunting license, Walk-In Access permits expire at the end of the calendar year. Hunters must obtain a 2008 WIA permit to hunt on these properties on or after January 1, 2008. Proceeds from the sale of these permits go directly towards landowner payments, atlas printing, and other operating costs of the program. Hunters must also comply with Habitat Stamp regulations when hunting small game or waterfowl.

A variety of different types of habitat have been enrolled to offer hunters early season opportunities. Recognizing that early autumn hunting seasons can be highly variable, the intent of leasing some properties may include their potential for late season hunting as well, for species like cottontail rabbits, quail, or geese. It is also quite likely that some landowners will choose to sign up for the early period even though their land is better suited to pheasant or quail hunting. To assist you in finding the types of properties available, please see the Regional profile section of this atlas, which provides additional information detailing the opportunities available.

All fields enrolled in the program will be clearly marked at corners and along access points. Every attempt has been made to ensure that this atlas is as accurate as possible, however, some errors may have gone undetected, or landowners may have withdrawn a field after the atlas was published. Do not hunt on fields depicted in the atlas unless you also see Walk-In Access signs posted on the boundaries. Walk-In Atlases from previous years will not be accurate for hunting in 2007.

Look for these signs at properties enrolled in the Walk-In Hunting Program.



WALK-IN ACCESS REGULATIONS

In order to hunt small game, waterfowl or furbearers on the Walk-In Access Property, all hunters must first purchase, sign and have in their possession a small game license, a Walk-In Access Permit and comply with Habitat stamp regulations. In addition, hunters age 16 and older must possess state and federal migratory bird stamps prior to hunting waterfowl.

1. Public Access is permitted from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset. **For waterfowl hunting, access is allowed from 2 hours before sunrise to 2 hours after sunset.**
2. Statewide, take is restricted to small game, furbearers, and waterfowl. Hunters may not hunt or harvest Gambel's quail, Gunnison sage grouse, or Greater sage grouse from WIA properties.
3. Access is permitted:
 - a. September 1 through the end of February annually for lands enrolled and posted as Regular Season Walk-In Access properties;
 - b. From the opening day of pheasant season through the end of February annually for lands enrolled and posted as Late Season Cropland Walk-In Access properties, and;
 - c. From September 1 through the end of the mountain Sharp-tailed grouse season annually, for all lands enrolled and posted as Grouse Walk-In Access Properties.
4. Access shall be by foot only. Entry by horseback, motorized vehicle, or other means is prohibited.
5. Access is permitted for hunting only; all other activities are prohibited. Individuals may accompany hunters without obtaining or possessing a Walk-In Access permit provided they do not hunt.
6. Walk-In Access permits are not transferable to any other person, nor do they confer hunting privileges to any person other than the purchaser of the permit.

The Walk-In Access Program depends on private landowners that enroll property for Walk-In hunting, and maintaining good relations with those landowners and their neighbors. There are some additional guidelines, that if followed, will improve the opportunities for all hunters and contribute to future WIA enrollments.

- Where designated parking areas are established, use them. Do not block gates or roads for the landowner or his agents that may need to work on the property. Do not park along highways.
- Do not park in tall grassy or weedy areas where your catalytic converter can cause a fire. Do not smoke or extinguish cigarettes in these areas either, and make sure to completely extinguish cigarettes if you do smoke.
- Don't litter or clean harvested birds on the WIA property or along roadsides. If someone else left a mess, please pick it up.
- Don't shoot near or towards houses, farm buildings, livestock or equipment.
- Don't hunt if cattle are in or adjacent to enrolled parcels
- Don't track down landowners who have enrolled land in WIA to get access to other fields.

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Department of Natural Resources

6060 Broadway, Denver 80216

(303) 297-1192

www.wildlife.state.co.us

Created July 2007

Editor: Ed Gorman

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Cover Photo: Ed Gorman

Text: Ed Gorman

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Acting Director, Colorado Division of Wildlife: Mark Konishi

Wildlife Commissioners (as of July 2007): Tom Burke, Chair; Claire O'Neil, member; Brad Coors, member; Jeffrey Crawford, member; Tim Glenn, member; Harris Sherman, ex-officio member; John Stulp, ex-officio member.

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Gorman, Ed T.

2007 small game Walk-In atlas

BDOW026871



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SMALL GAME HUNTING INFORMATION

SMALL GAME REGULATIONS

Some small game and waterfowl regulations are included within this atlas for your convenience. A more complete synopsis of small game and waterfowl regulations is contained within the 2007 Small Game and Waterfowl brochures, available at license agents, Division of Wildlife Offices, or on line at www.wildlife.state.co.us.

HUNTING HOURS

One half hour before sunrise to sunset, except furbearers, which can be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. See sunrise/sunset chart below.

GUIDE TO LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

The table below is valid for Denver, CO through 2008. Subtract one minute from the opening and closing time for each 12^{1/2} miles east of Denver. Add one minute to opening and closing time for each 12^{1/2} miles west of Denver. The above changes are based on the assumption that each degree of longitude equals 50 miles and that a change of 1 degree of longitude equals 4 minutes change in sunrise and sunset times.

2007 Sunrise/Sunset Table

DAY	SEPT. Rise Set A.M. P.M. (DST)	OCT. Rise Set A.M. P.M. (DST)	NOV. Rise Set A.M. P.M.	DEC. Rise Set A.M. P.M.	JAN. Rise Set A.M. P.M.
1	6:27 7:31	6:55 6:42	7:28 5:58	7:01 4:35	7:20 4:45
2	6:28 7:30	6:56 6:41	7:29 5:56	7:02 4:35	7:21 4:45
3	6:29 7:28	6:57 6:39	7:30 5:55	7:03 4:35	7:21 4:46
4	6:30 7:27	6:58 6:38	6:31 4:54	7:04 4:34	7:21 4:47
5	6:31 7:25	6:59 6:36	6:32 4:53	7:05 4:34	7:21 4:48
6	6:32 7:23	7:00 6:34	6:33 4:52	7:06 4:34	7:21 4:49
7	6:33 7:22	7:01 6:33	6:35 4:51	7:07 4:34	7:21 4:50
8	6:34 7:20	7:02 6:31	6:36 4:50	7:08 4:34	7:20 4:51
9	6:34 7:18	7:03 6:30	6:37 4:49	7:09 4:34	7:20 4:52
10	6:35 7:17	7:04 6:28	6:38 4:48	7:09 4:34	7:20 4:53
11	6:36 7:15	7:05 6:27	6:39 4:47	7:10 4:34	7:20 4:54
12	6:37 7:14	7:06 6:25	6:40 4:46	7:11 4:35	7:20 4:55
13	6:38 7:12	7:07 6:23	6:41 4:45	7:12 4:35	7:19 4:56
14	6:39 7:10	7:08 6:22	6:43 4:44	7:12 4:35	7:19 4:57
15	6:40 7:09	7:09 6:20	6:44 4:44	7:13 4:35	7:19 4:58
16	6:41 7:07	7:10 6:19	6:45 4:43	7:14 4:36	7:18 4:59
17	6:42 7:05	7:11 6:18	6:46 4:42	7:14 4:36	7:18 5:00
18	6:43 7:04	7:12 6:16	6:47 4:41	7:15 4:36	7:17 5:01
19	6:44 7:02	7:14 6:15	6:48 4:41	7:16 4:37	7:17 5:02
20	6:45 7:00	7:15 6:13	6:49 4:40	7:16 4:37	7:16 5:04
21	6:46 6:59	7:16 6:12	6:50 4:39	7:17 4:37	7:16 5:05
22	6:47 6:57	7:17 6:10	6:52 4:39	7:17 4:38	7:14 5:08
23	6:48 6:55	7:18 6:09	6:53 4:38	7:18 4:38	7:15 5:07
24	6:49 6:54	7:19 6:08	6:54 4:38	7:18 4:39	7:14 5:08
25	6:49 6:52	7:20 6:06	6:55 4:37	7:19 4:40	7:13 5:09
26	6:50 6:50	7:21 6:05	6:56 4:37	7:19 4:40	7:12 5:11
27	6:51 6:49	7:22 6:04	6:57 4:36	7:19 4:41	7:12 5:12
28	6:52 6:47	7:23 6:03	6:58 4:36	7:20 4:42	7:11 5:13
29	6:53 6:46	7:24 6:01	6:59 4:36	7:20 4:42	7:10 5:14
30	6:54 6:44	7:26 6:00	7:00 4:35	7:20 4:43	7:09 5:15
31		7:27 5:59		7:20 4:44	7:08 5:17

2007 LICENSE COSTS

	Resident	Non Resident
Small Game.....	\$21.00	\$ 56.00
Small Game (one-day).....	\$11.00	\$ 11.00
Combo Small Game and Fishing.....	\$41.00	
Youth Small Game.....	\$1.00	\$ 1.00
Walk-In Access Permit.....	\$20.00	\$20.00
Youth Walk-In Access Permit.....	free	free
Federal Duck Stamp.....	\$15.00	\$15.00
Colorado Duck Stamp.....	\$5.00	\$ 5.00
Habitat Stamp.....	\$5.00	\$ 5.00

Annual Maximum of \$10; Lifetime \$200.00; Hunters 18 and under and over 65 do not need a Habitat Stamp

License costs include a 25-cent search and rescue fee and a 75-cent surcharge for the Wildlife Management Education Fund.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

If you hunt small game, furbearers, or migratory birds in Colorado, including by falconry, you must sign up with HIP before your license is valid. Hunters must write their HIP number in the space provided on the license. Hunters will be asked basic questions about their hunting, including how many birds they harvested the previous season and what species they plan to hunt this year. Both the phone line and web site run 24 hours a day, every day, and the process takes about 5 minutes. If you signed up with HIP for the 2007-08 hunting season and you intend to hunt during the January-March 2008 period, you must purchase a 2008 Small Game hunting license and transfer your 2007-08 HIP number to that license. If you don't have a 2007-08 HIP number, you must obtain one before hunting. To sign up for HIP, hunters need to call 1-866-265-6447 (1-866-COLOHIP) or go on line at www.colohip.com. For help getting your HIP number, call 1-800-368-4683, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST.

SMALL GAME HARVEST SURVEYS

The Division of Wildlife conducts several small game harvest surveys each year which are designed to estimate harvest, hunter numbers and recreation days. Harvest surveys are critical to monitor changing wildlife populations and are extremely valuable to hunters wanting to learn more about hunting small game in Colorado. Harvest survey reports are available on the Division's web site. Hunters are randomly selected to participate in specific small game surveys. All small game surveys conducted by telephone, however, some also employ notification by e-mail. If contacted, your participation is not required in any way, but responding to the survey, even if you did not hunt or harvest those specific species is encouraged to help the Division better manage our small game resources.

2007 WALK-IN ATLAS

Some small game season dates are included within this atlas for your convenience, however, all season dates are not listed. At press time, waterfowl season dates were not finalized. A complete synopsis of hunting season dates can be found within the 2007 SMALL GAME AND 2007 WATERFOWL Brochures. These brochures are available at license agents, Division of Wildlife Offices and on the internet at

www.wildlife.state.co.us

DOVES: MOURNING, WHITE-WINGED, & EURASIAN COLLARED

Dates: Sept. 1 - Oct.30

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: Mourning and White-winged, 15 singly or in aggregate. Eurasian Colored, Unlimited (see Small Game Brochure for details).

Possession Limit: 30 for mourning and white-winged. Unlimited for Eurasian (see Small Game Brochure for details)

MOUNTAIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Dates: Sept. 1 - 16

Areas: Closed statewide except units 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 131, 211, 214, and 441.

Daily bag limit: 2

Possession limit: 4

BLUE (DUSKY) GROUSE

Dates: Sept. 1 - Nov. 18

Areas: Only game management units west of I-25.

Daily bag limit: 3

Possession limit: 9

COTTONTAILS, SNOWSHOE HARE, WHITE-TAILED & BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBITS

Dates: Oct. 1 - end of February, 2008

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: 10 of each species

Possession limit: 20 of each species

FOX & PINE SQUIRRELS:

Dates: Oct. 1 - end of February, 2008

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: 5 of each species

Possession limit: 10 of each species

DOW OFFICES:

Division of Wildlife Headquarters 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216 (303) 297-1192	Hot Sulphur Springs Serv. Center 346 Grand County Road 362 Hot Sulphur Springs, 80451 (970) 725-6200
--	---

Northeast Region Service Center 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216 (303) 291-7227	Lamar Service Center 2500 S. Main Lamar, 81052 (719) 336-6600
--	--

Northwest Region Service Center 711 Independent Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81505 (970) 255-6100	Meeker Service Center 73485 Hwy 64 Meeker, 81641 (970) 878-6090
---	--

Southeast Region Service Center 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907 (719) 227-5200	Monte Vista Service Center 0722 S Road 1E Monte Vista, 81144 (719) 587-6900
---	--

Southwest Region Service Center 151 East 16th St. Durango, CO 81301 (970) 247-0855	Montrose Service Center 2300 S. Townsend Montrose, 81401 (970) 252-6000
---	--

Brush Service Center 122 East Edison, Box 128 Brush, 80723 (970) 842-6300	Pueblo Service Center 600 Reservoir Road Pueblo, 81005 (719) 561-5300
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Fort Collins Service Center 317 W. Prospect Ave. Fort Collins, CO 80526 (970) 472-4300	Salida Service Center 7405 Hwy. 50 Salida, 81201 (719) 530-5520
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Glenwood Springs Service Center 50633 Hwys. 6 and 24 Glenwood Springs, 81601 (970) 947-2920	Steamboat Springs Serv. Center 925 Weiss Drive Steamboat Springs, 80477 (970) 870-2197
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Gunnison Service Center
300 W. New York Ave.
Gunnison, 81230
(970) 641-7060

For recordings on season dates and other information:

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, Bear	(303) 291-7529
Fishing	(303) 291-7533
Small Game, Upland Game	(303) 291-7546
Turkey	(303) 291-7547
Waterfowl	(303) 291-7548
Hunter Education	(303) 291-7530
Mobility Impaired Licenses	(303) 291-7528
For a list of recordings	(303) 291-1192

www.wildlife.state.co.us

SMALL GAME WALK-IN ATLAS

HUNTERS PLEASE NOTE:

Regulation prohibits the take of Gambel's quail and sage grouse from all WIA properties.

Gambel's quail occur only in western Colorado, primarily in the Grand and Uncompaghe valleys, and may inhabit some WIA properties in this area. Gambel's quail have a distinctive plume feather on the head, males have a black face and copper feathers on top of the head, while females have mostly gray plumage with a tannish gray face and beige plumage underneath.



Sage grouse also occur in western Colorado and may inhabit the property enrolled for mountain sharp-tailed grouse. Sage grouse are a large, grayish bird with a slow wing beat in flight. Sage grouse have distinctly pointed tail feathers and black breast feathers, both of which are visible when flushed. Sage Grouse tend to be silent when flushed.



Sage Grouse

Plains sharp-tailed grouse are known to occur in Weld, western Logan and northern Morgan counties. Plains sharp-tailed grouse are not a legal game bird in Colorado but have been transplanted into some areas to re-establish populations. When hunting in these counties, please take special care to clearly identify the target before shooting. Sharp-tailed grouse are much lighter in color than cock pheasants and have a short, distinctly pointed tail, which shows white when in flight. Sharp-tailed grouse often emit a low pitched series of clucks when flushed.

Sharp-tailed Grouse



LANDOWNERS!

Interested in enrolling land in the Small Game Walk-In Access Program? The Colorado Division of Wildlife is interested in enrolling quality small game hunting lands. Eligible types of cover and areas of interest include:

Northeast Colorado - tall grass CRP, pivot corners, standing cover crop, tall crop stubble, abandoned farmsteads, tree rows and windbreaks, wooded creek bottoms, seasonal wetlands and goose hunting fields.

Southeast Colorado - tall grass CRP, pivot corners, standing cover crop, tall crop stubble, abandoned farmsteads, tree rows and windbreaks, wooded creek bottoms, seasonal wetlands, goose hunting fields, sand sage rangelands and cholla grasslands.

Northwest Colorado - waterfowl hunting fields including harvested corn stubble, alfalfa fields, and wheat, river bottom lands, and other small game habitat including lands for grouse hunting. **Also available - Spring Turkey Leases!**

Southwest Colorado - waterfowl hunting fields including harvested corn stubble, alfalfa fields, and wheat, river bottom lands, and other small game. **Also available - Spring Turkey Leases!**

To obtain more information, please contact your local CDOW office, or complete and return the following form.

Please contact me with more information on enrolling my land in the Small Game Walk-In Access Program.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Day Phone: _____
Evening Phone: _____
Property is located in _____ County
Type of Land: _____

Send to:
CDOW
Attn: WIA
8118 CR 370
Sterling, CO 80751

SMALL GAME WALK-IN ATLAS ~ REGIONAL PROFILES

NORTHWEST

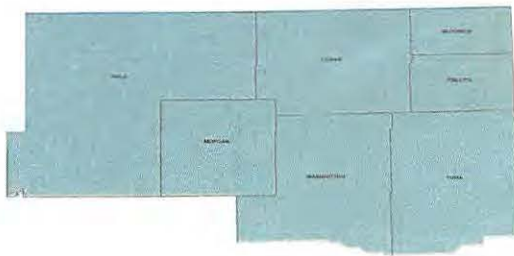
Properties enrolled in Northwest Colorado provide opportunity in Mesa, Garfield and Routt Counties. Properties in Mesa and Garfield Counties are enrolled for waterfowl hunting primarily, although opportunity does exist for other small game species. Waterfowl properties in the NW are governed by Pacific Flyway seasons and bag and possession limits. By regulation, Gambel's quail and sage grouse cannot be hunted on WIA properties, although they may occur on or near enrolled properties. The Northwest also has a unique opportunity for hunters in 2007. The property enrolled in Routt County gives hunters a chance to hunt Mountain Sharp-tailed and Blue (Dusky) grouse from September 1-16.



NORTHEAST

Walk-In Access in the Northeast Colorado offers properties in Weld, Morgan, Logan, Washington, Yuma, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties.

In total, approximately 57,000 acres have been enrolled to provide early season hunting



opportunity. Additional acres will be enrolled for the opening of pheasant season. Much of the cover enrolled in the Northeast is primarily for pheasant, although opportunities for doves and other small game are common. Dove hunting opportunity tends to be relatively short in the northeast, because doves are often migrating south by September 1. Rarely will doves be present in huntable numbers by the 3rd week in September. Waterfowl hunting opportunity on Walk-In Properties in the northeast is highly variable. Occasionally, late summer thunderstorms fill seasonal playas and

season teal hunting that can extend through the early duck seasons until freeze up. Very few NE Region WIA properties provide opportunity to hunt geese.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Wide-ranging opportunity characterizes Walk-In Access in the Southeast Region, with properties in Pueblo, Las Animas, Crowley, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Prowers, Baca, and Bent Counties.

Approximately 80,000 acres are available for September 1, with more to be enrolled for the pheasant



and quail seasons. Kit Carson County is very similar the NE Region in that most of the properties enrolled are for pheasant with opportunity for dove and other small game. Other counties in the SE offer hunters opportunity to hunt multiple species on enrolled properties, for instance, scaled quail and dove, or bobwhite quail and pheasant. Dove hunting opportunity is normally excellent in the SE, both in terms of the numbers of birds, but also the fact that huntable populations can be found 3-4 weeks after doves have left areas to the north. Good potential also exists for waterfowl hunting in the SE, primarily pass shooting snow geese later in the season, but with some early season duck action over water, an opportunity that is dependent on late summer thunderstorms that fill seasonal playas. The SE region also offers some excellent opportunity to hunt close to the front range, with large properties near Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

SOUTHWEST REGION

The Southwest Region also offers a small game property for the early season, with 1,000 acres available to hunters for small game including doves on September 1, and cottontails when the rabbit



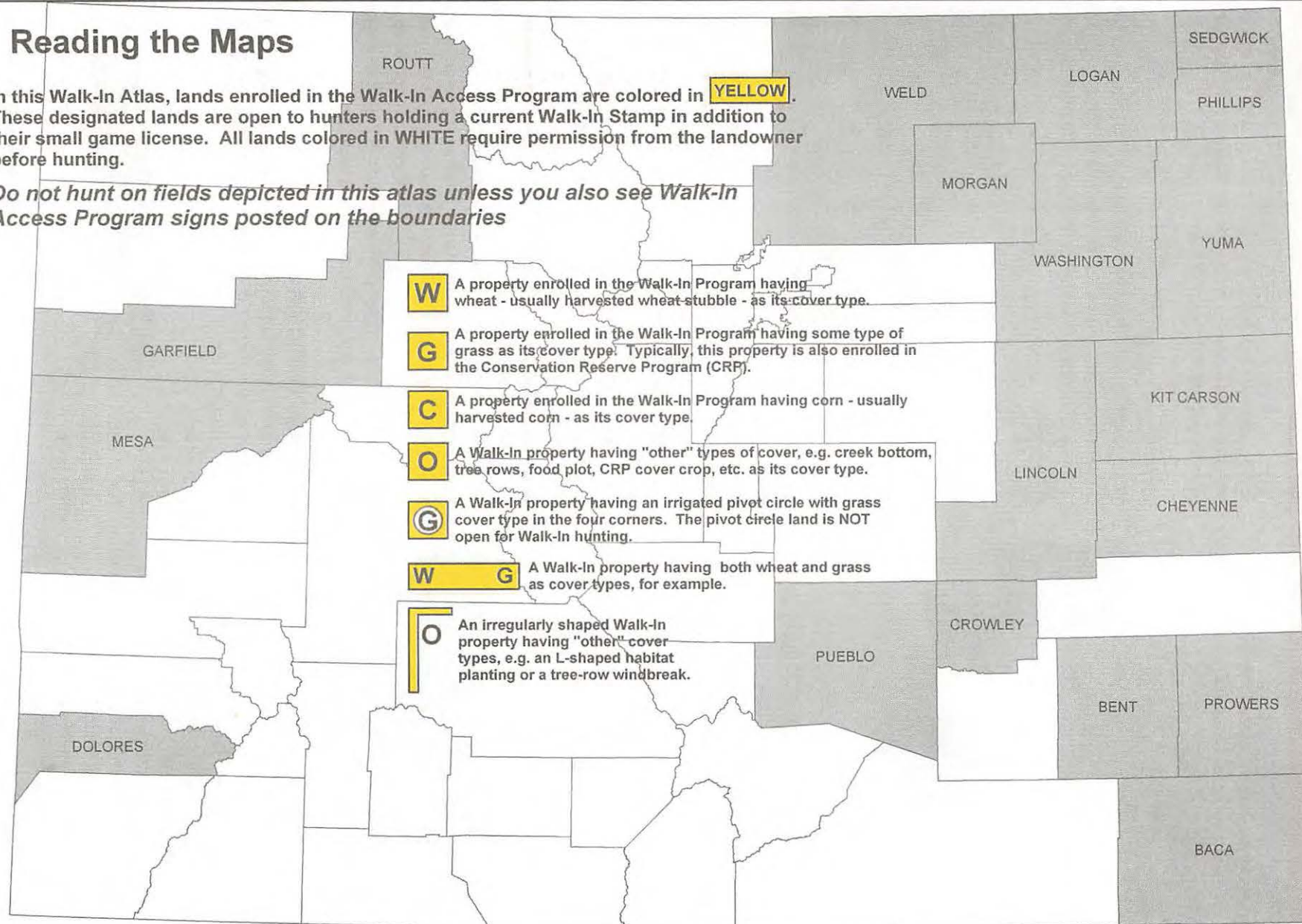
season opens in October. Potentially, more properties may be added for the late opener, targeting ducks and geese.

Reading the Maps

In this Walk-In Atlas, lands enrolled in the Walk-In Access Program are colored in **YELLOW**. These designated lands are open to hunters holding a current Walk-In Stamp in addition to their small game license. All lands colored in **WHITE** require permission from the landowner before hunting.

Do not hunt on fields depicted in this atlas unless you also see Walk-In Access Program signs posted on the boundaries

- W** A property enrolled in the Walk-In Program having wheat - usually harvested wheat stubble - as its cover type.
- G** A property enrolled in the Walk-In Program having some type of grass as its cover type. Typically, this property is also enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- C** A property enrolled in the Walk-In Program having corn - usually harvested corn - as its cover type.
- O** A Walk-In property having "other" types of cover, e.g. creek bottom, tree rows, food plot, CRP cover crop, etc. as its cover type.
- G** A Walk-In property having an irrigated pivot circle with grass cover type in the four corners. The pivot circle land is NOT open for Walk-In hunting.
- W G** A Walk-In property having both wheat and grass as cover types, for example.
- O** An irregularly shaped Walk-In property having "other" cover types, e.g. an L-shaped habitat planting or a tree-row windbreak.



Counties with Regular Walk-In Access



Paved Highway



Secondary Roads
(may be paved or gravel)

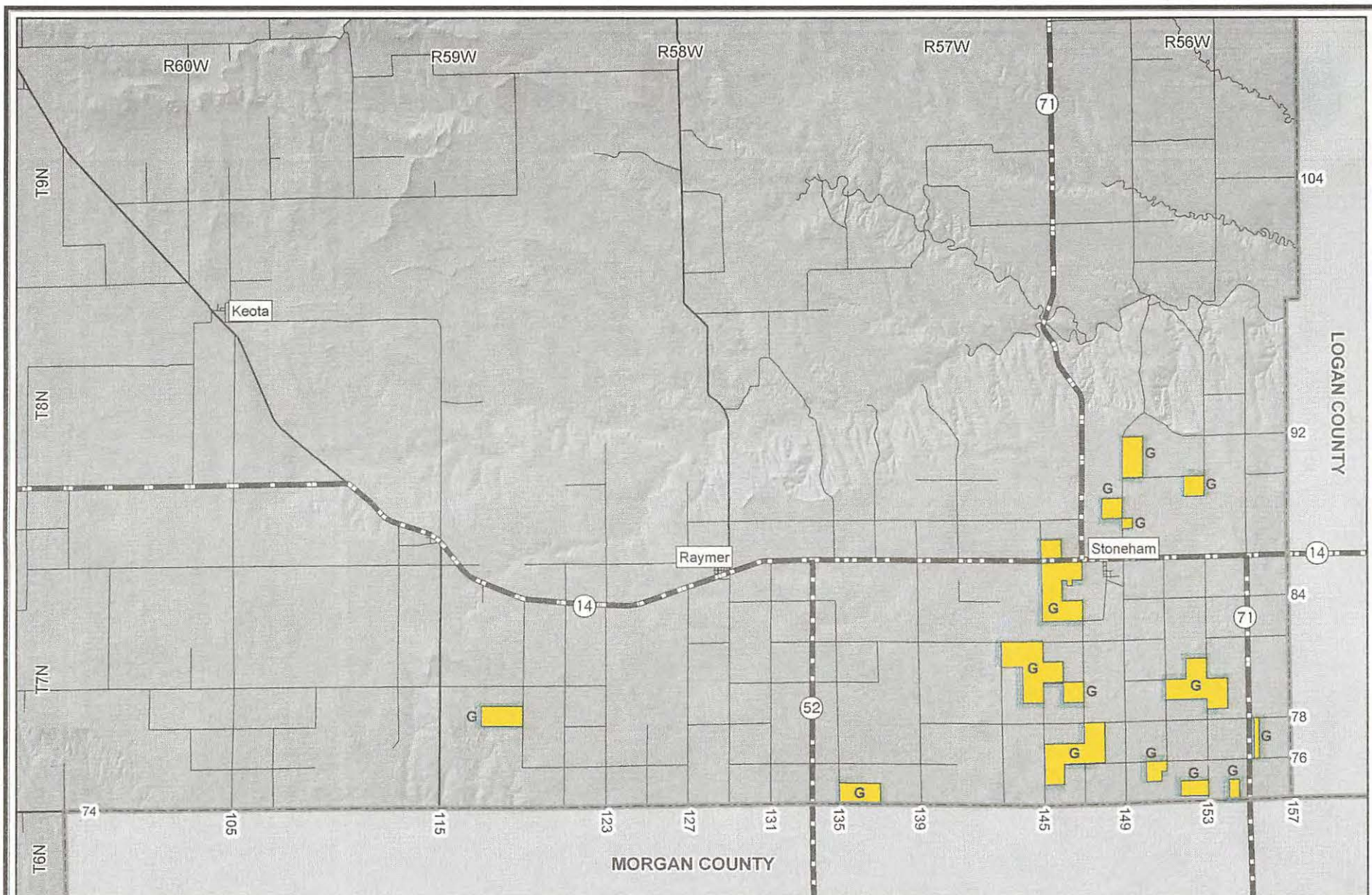


Local Roads
(gravel county roads)

123

County road number

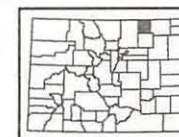


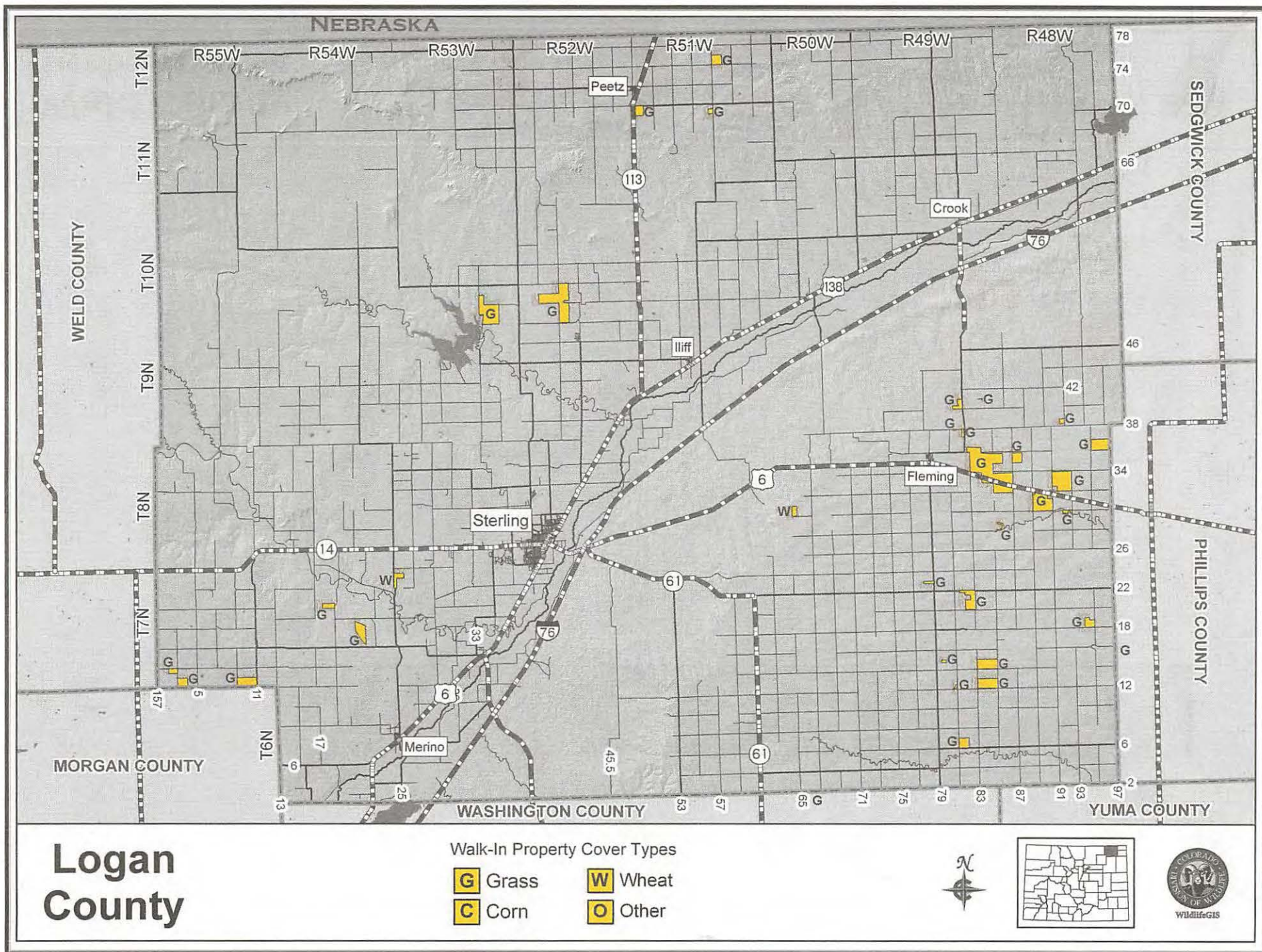


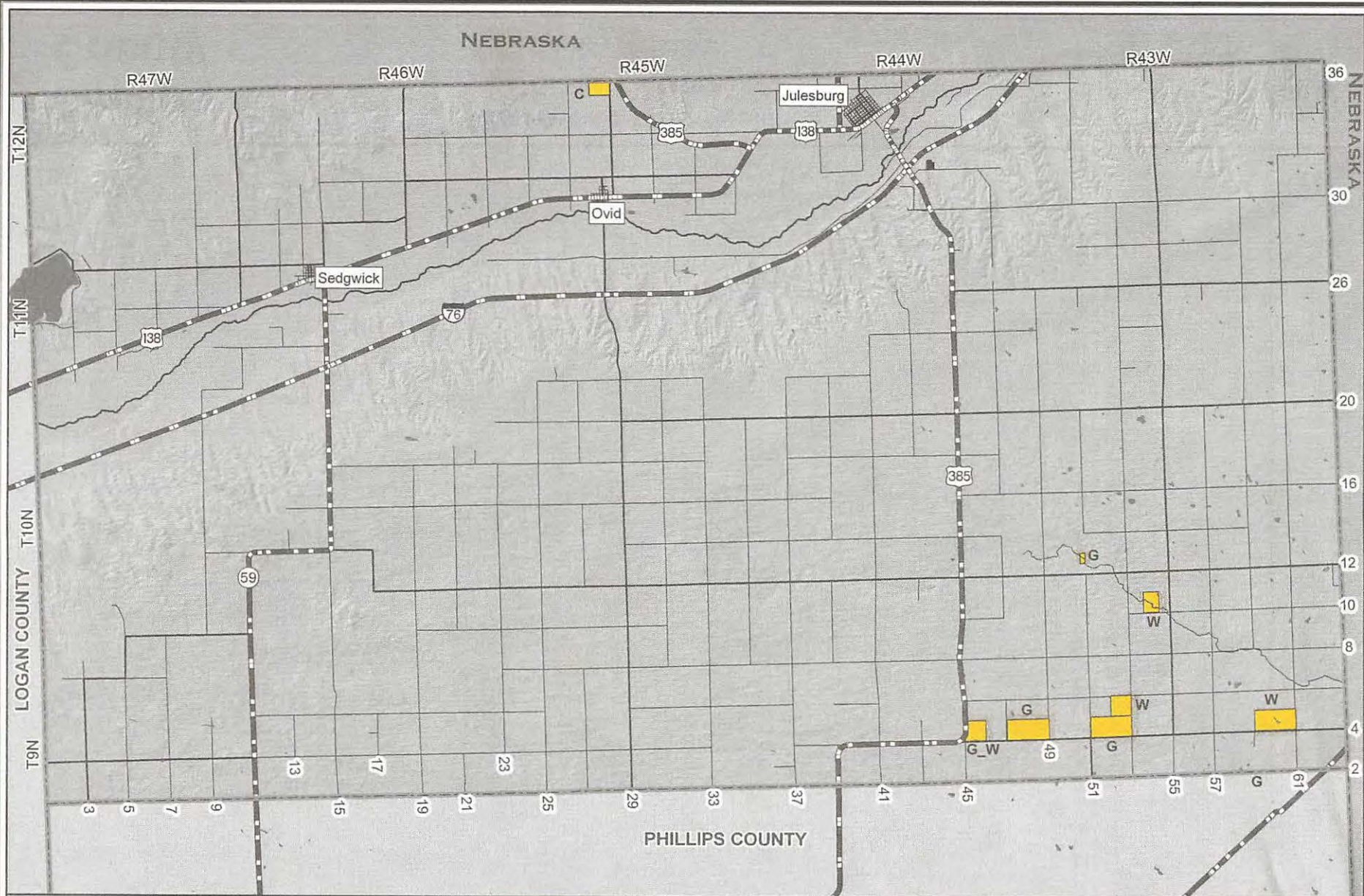
Weld County Northeast Corner

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |



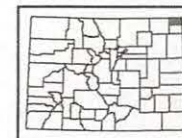


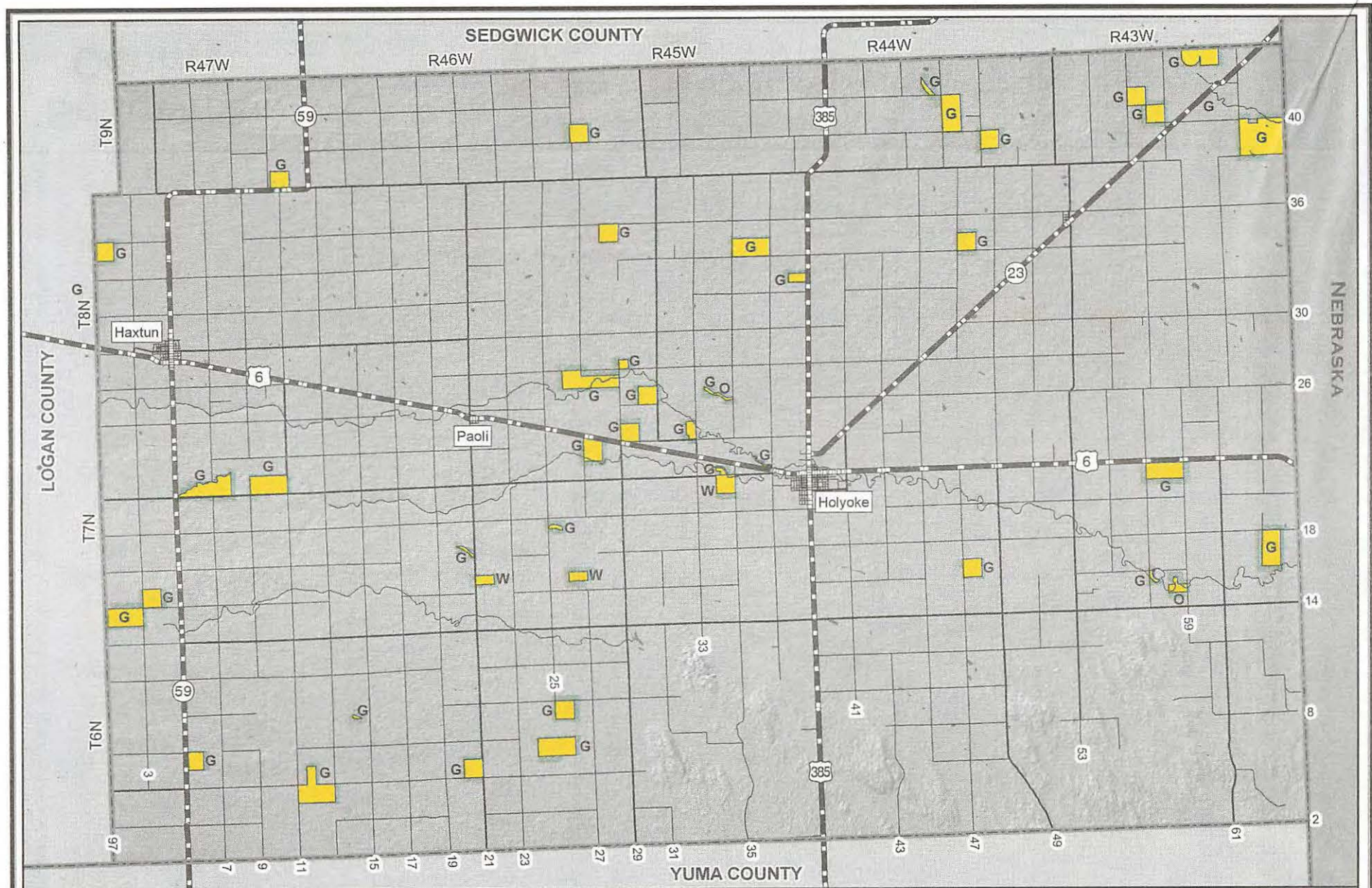


Sedgwick County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|---|---|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

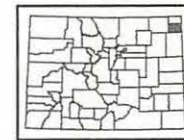


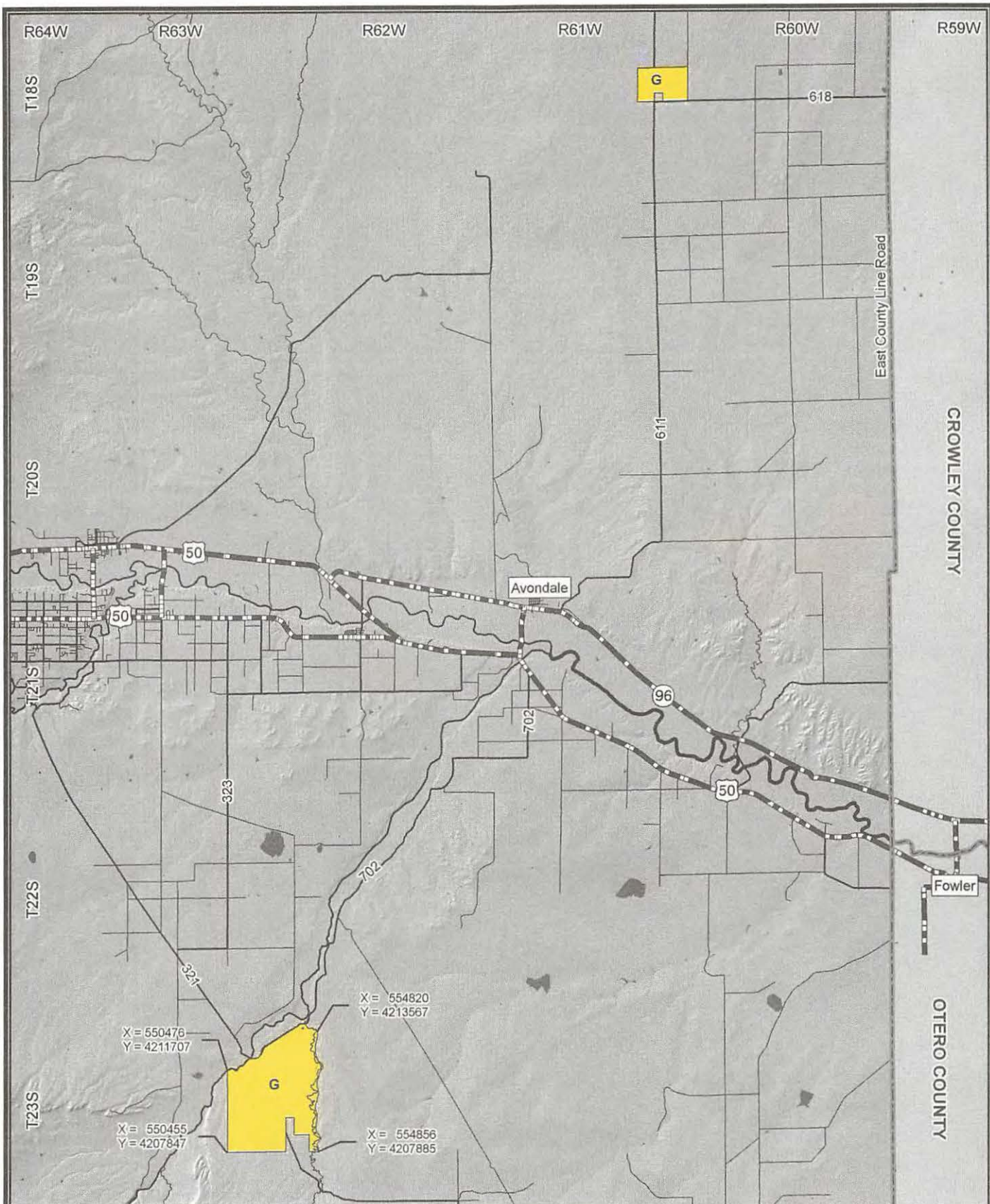


Phillips County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |





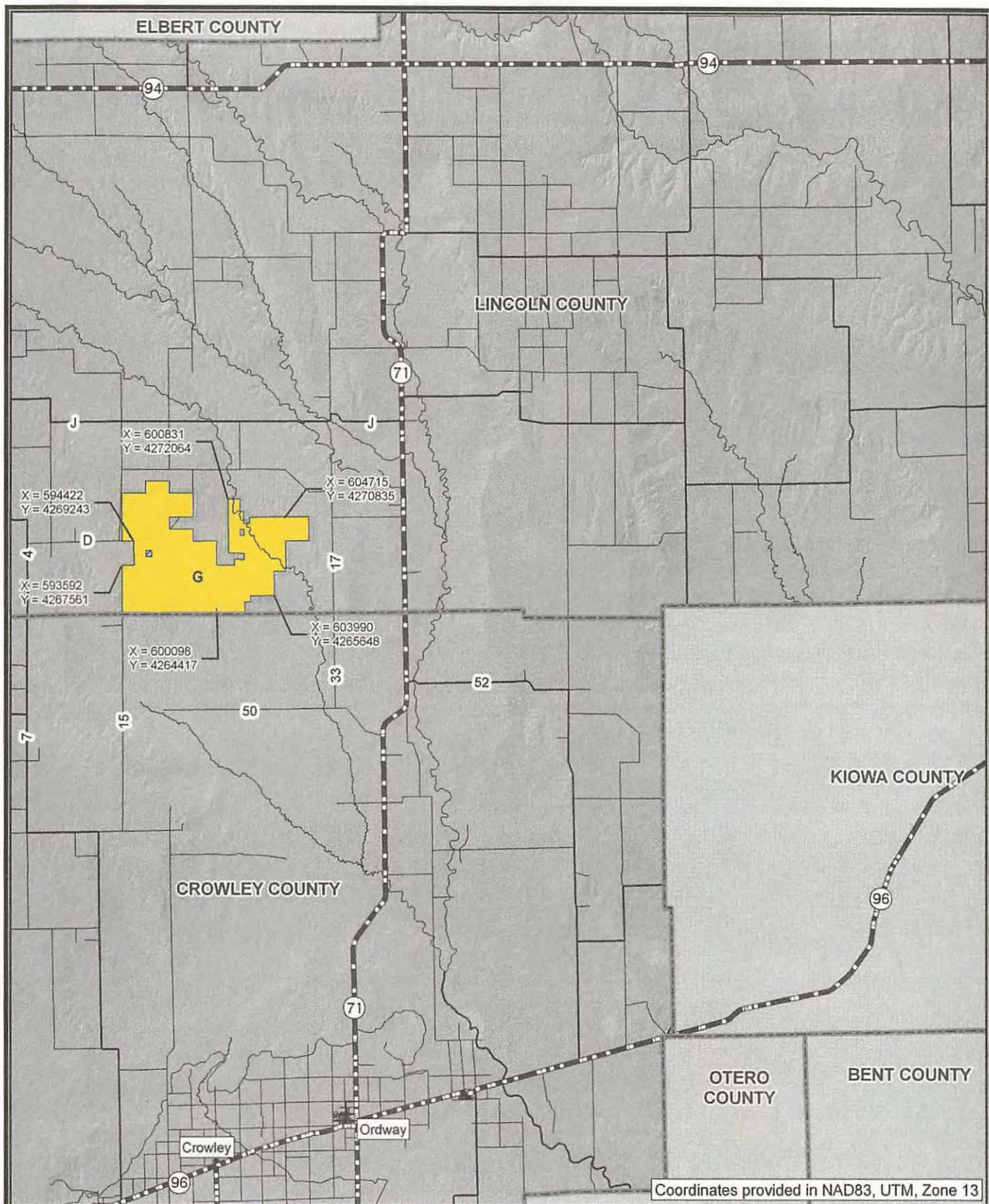
Pueblo County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

Coordinates provided in
NAD83, UTM, Zone 13

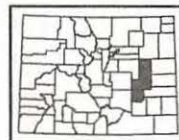


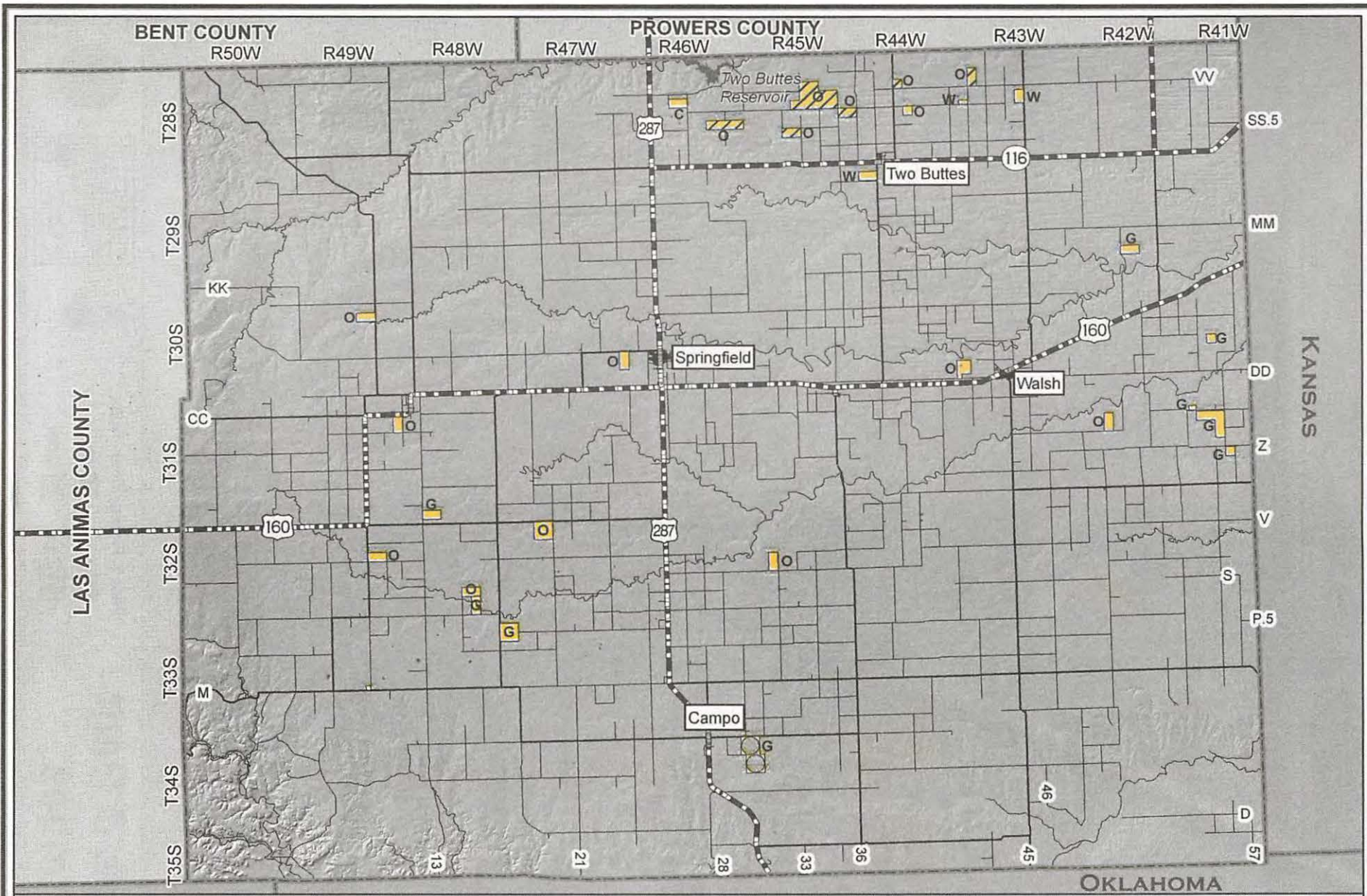


Lincoln & Crowley Counties

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass **C** Corn **W** Wheat **O** Other





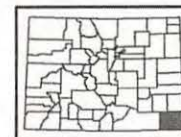
Baca County

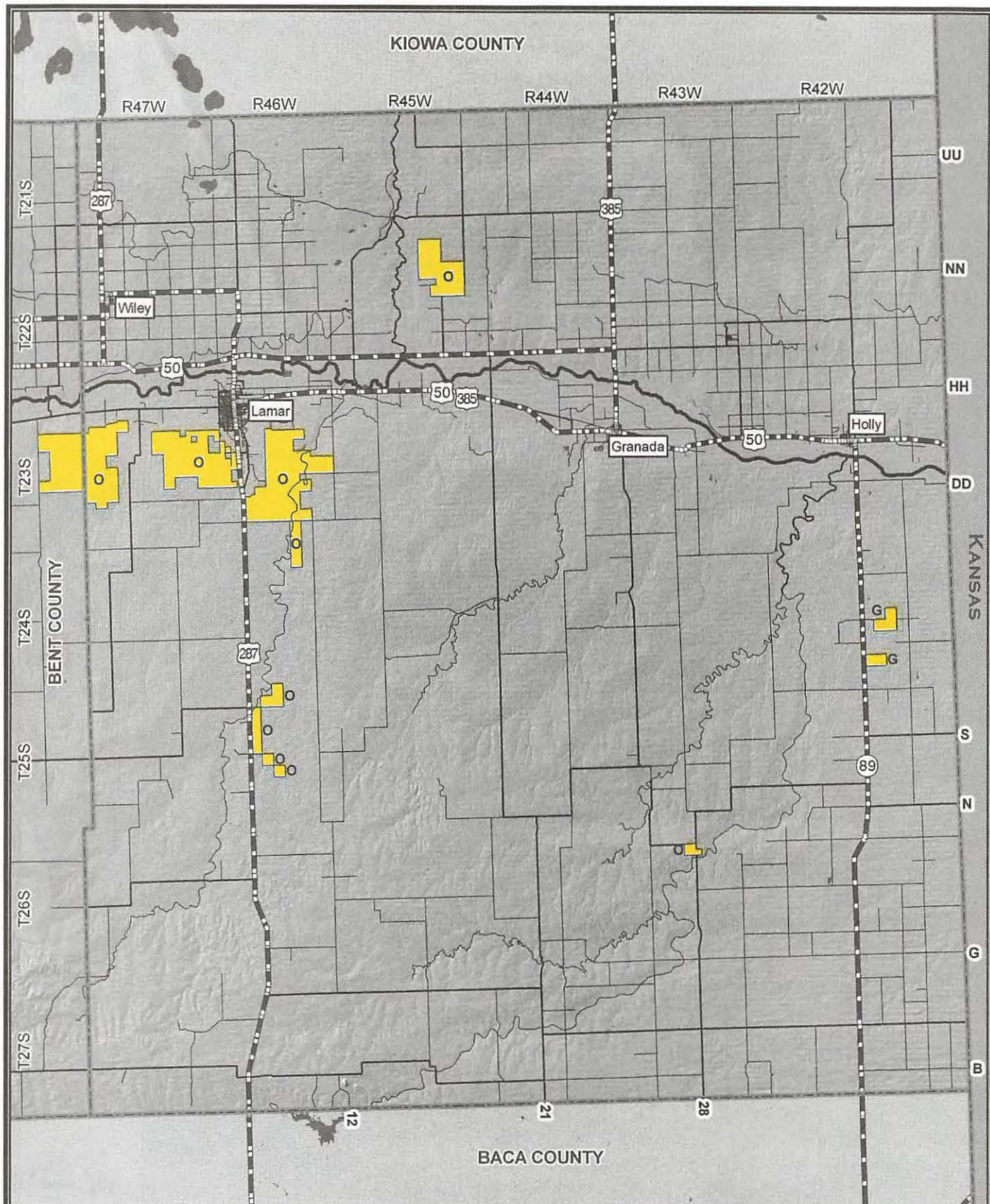
Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

Open to hunting - No Walk-In Stamp Required

GRAZING EXCHANGE





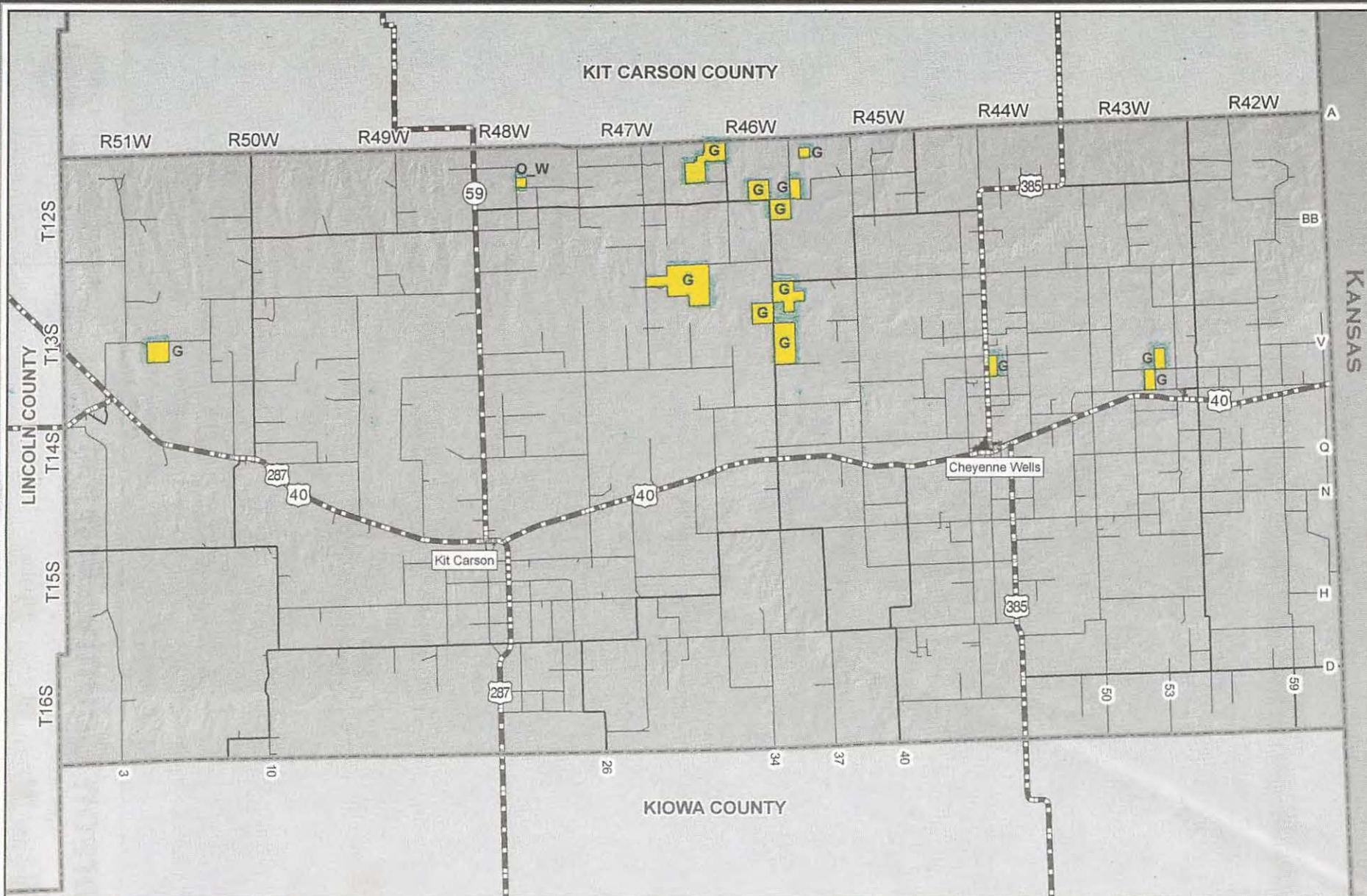
Prowers & Bent Counties

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |



KIT CARSON COUNTY



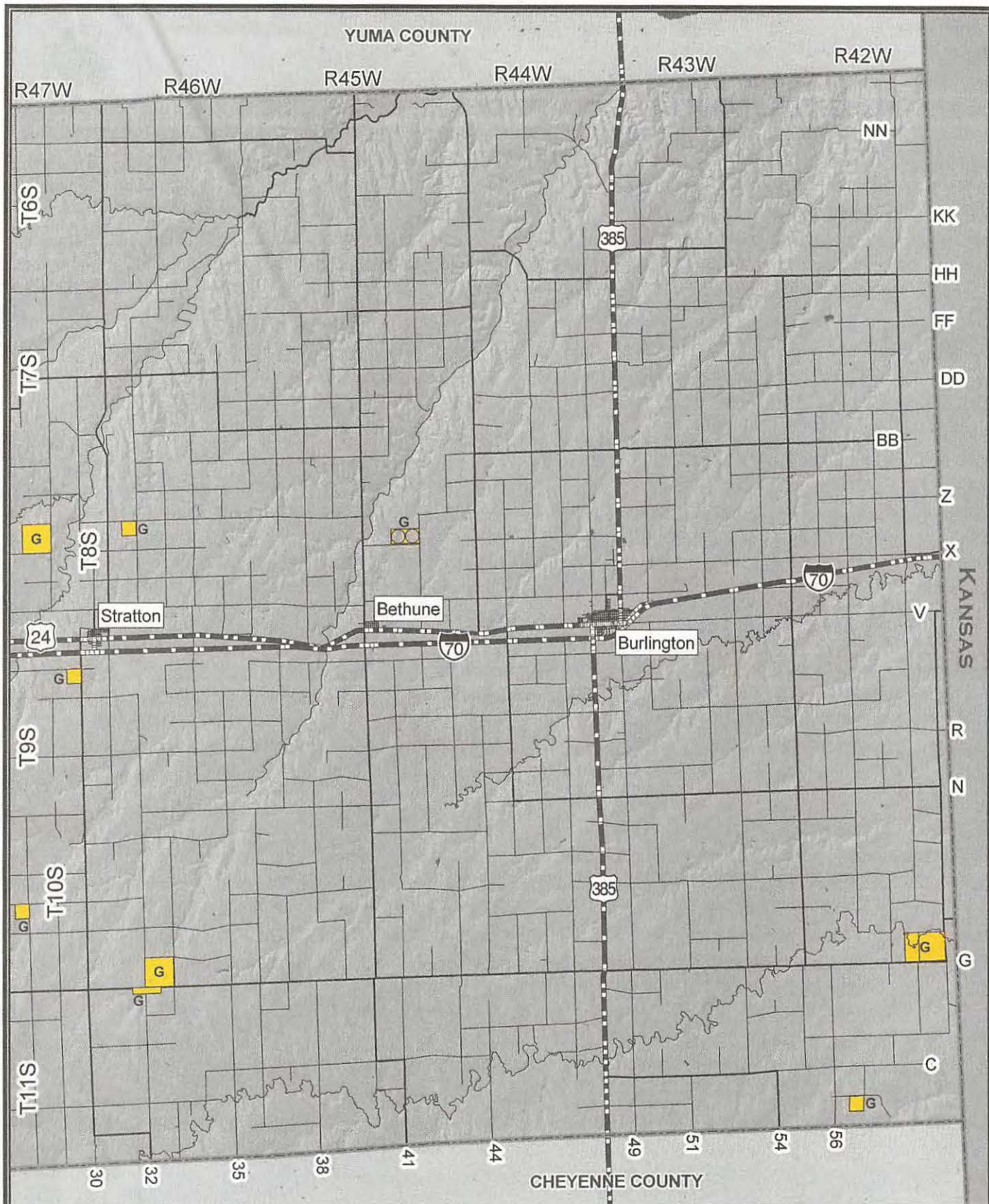
Cheyenne County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|---|--|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |



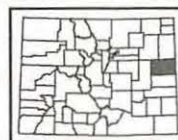
WildlifeGIS

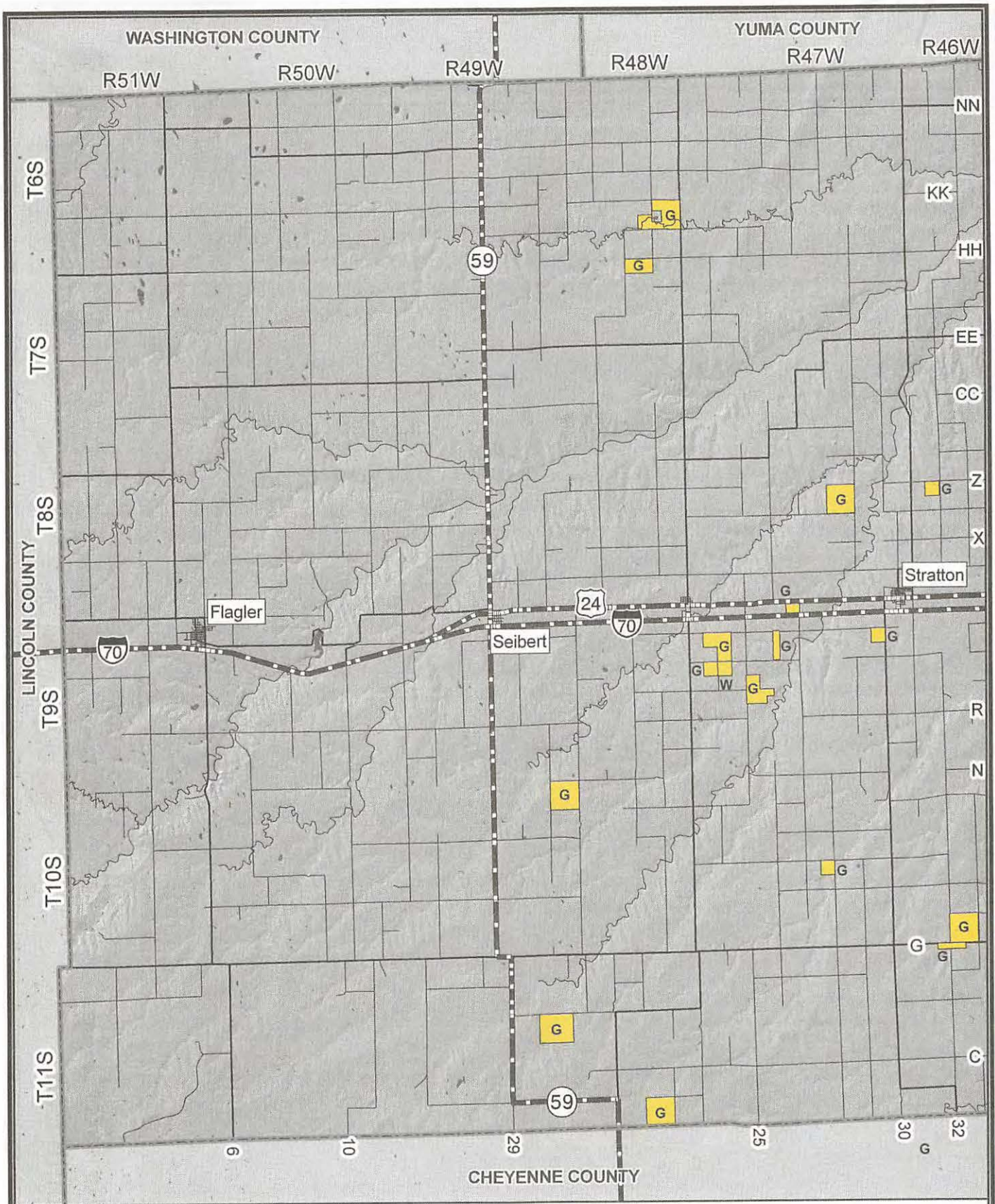


Kit Carson County - East Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass **C** Corn **W** Wheat **O** Other

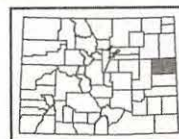


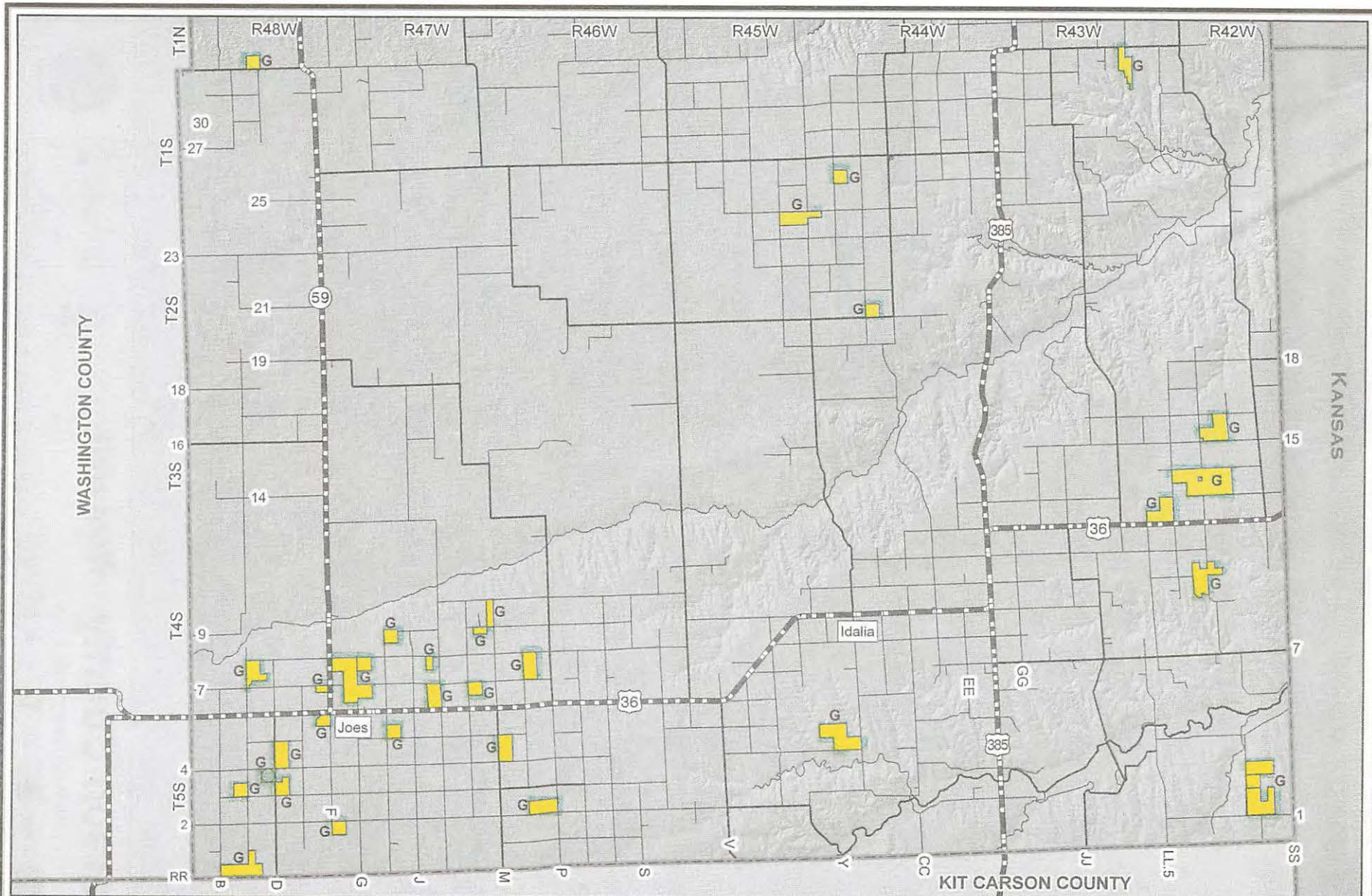


Kit Carson County - West Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass **C** Corn **W** Wheat **O** Other

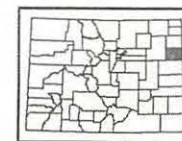




Yuma County South Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |



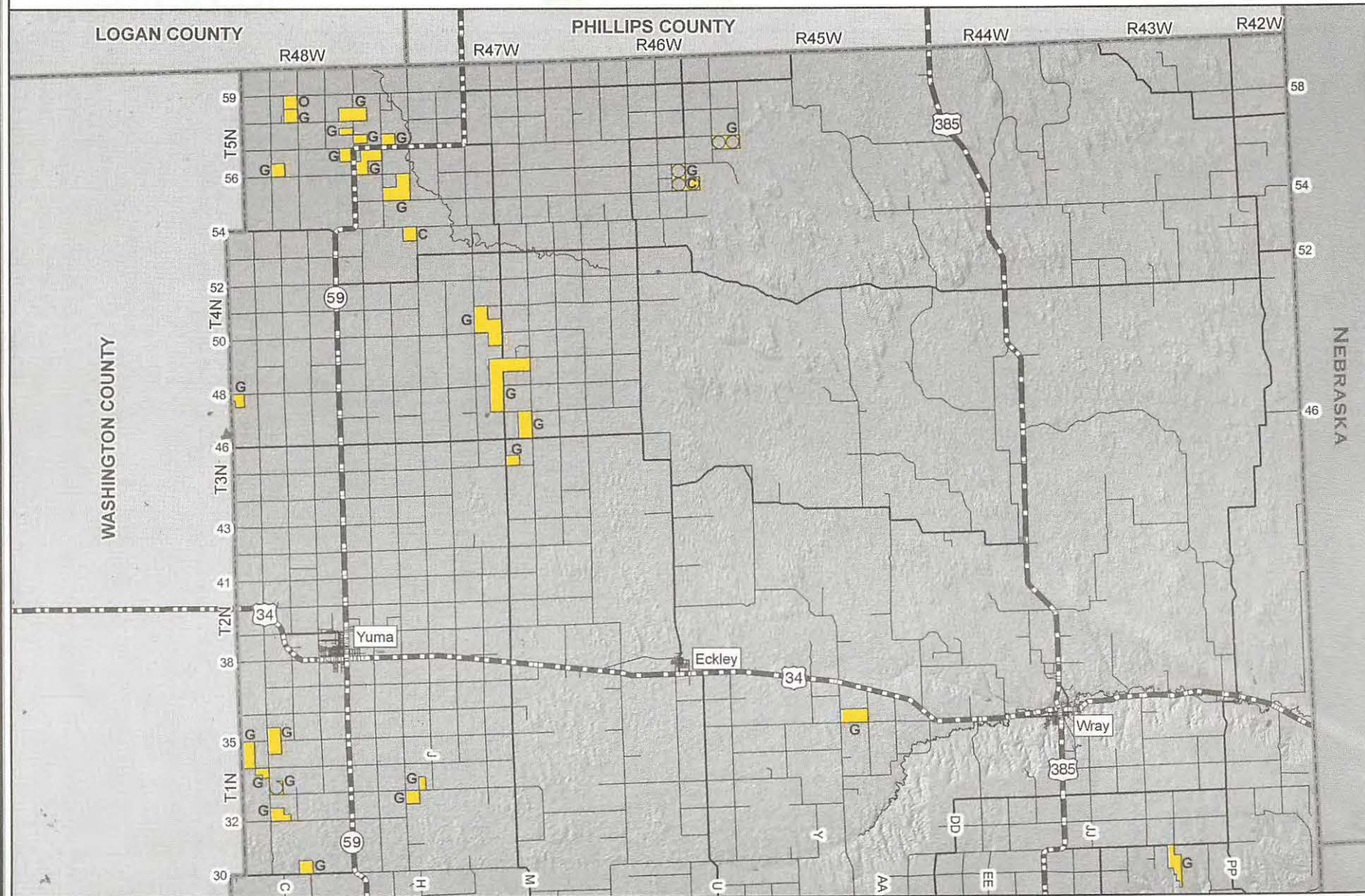
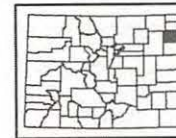
Wildlife-GIS

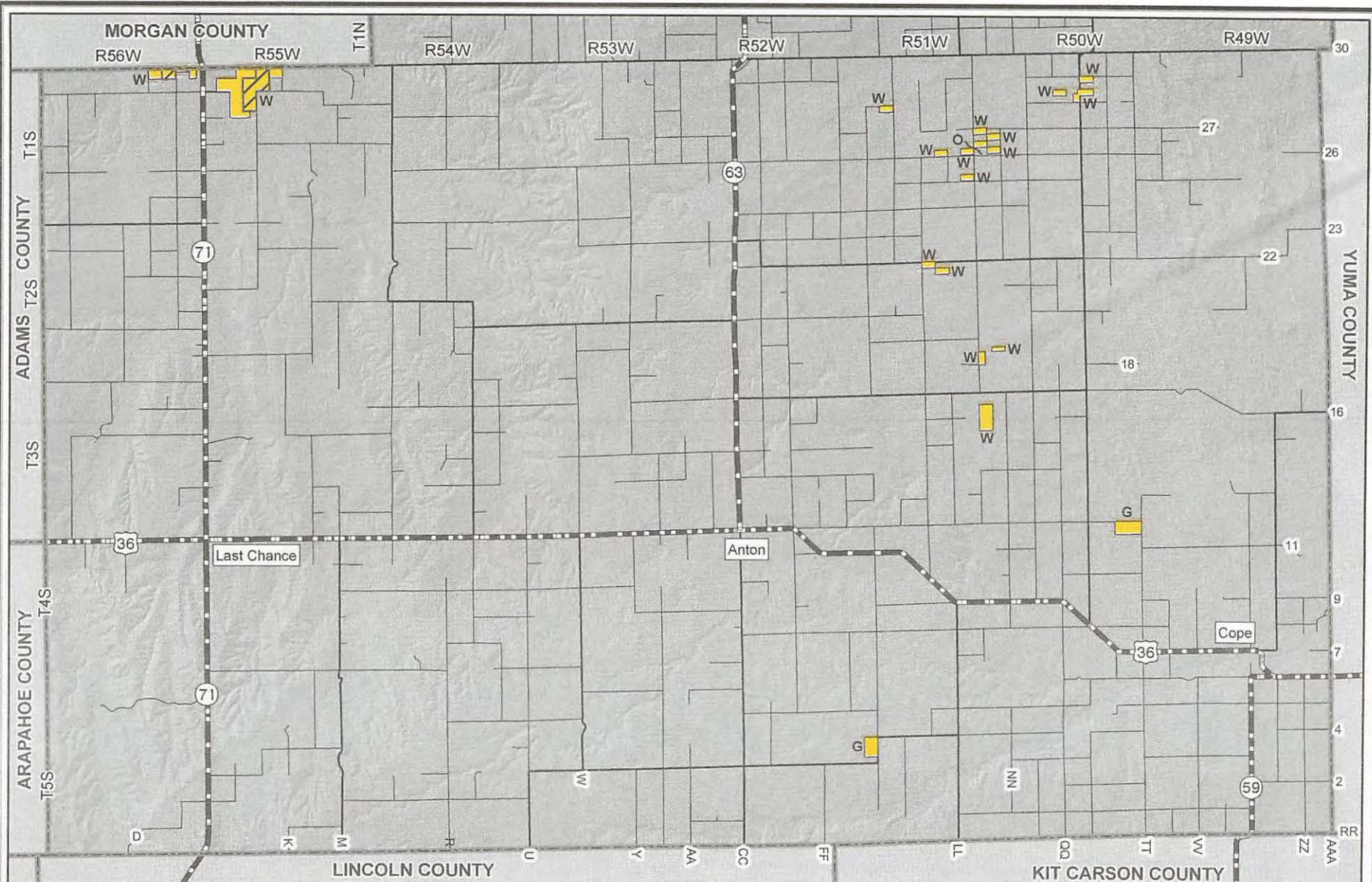
Yuma County

North Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

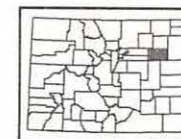




Washington County South Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

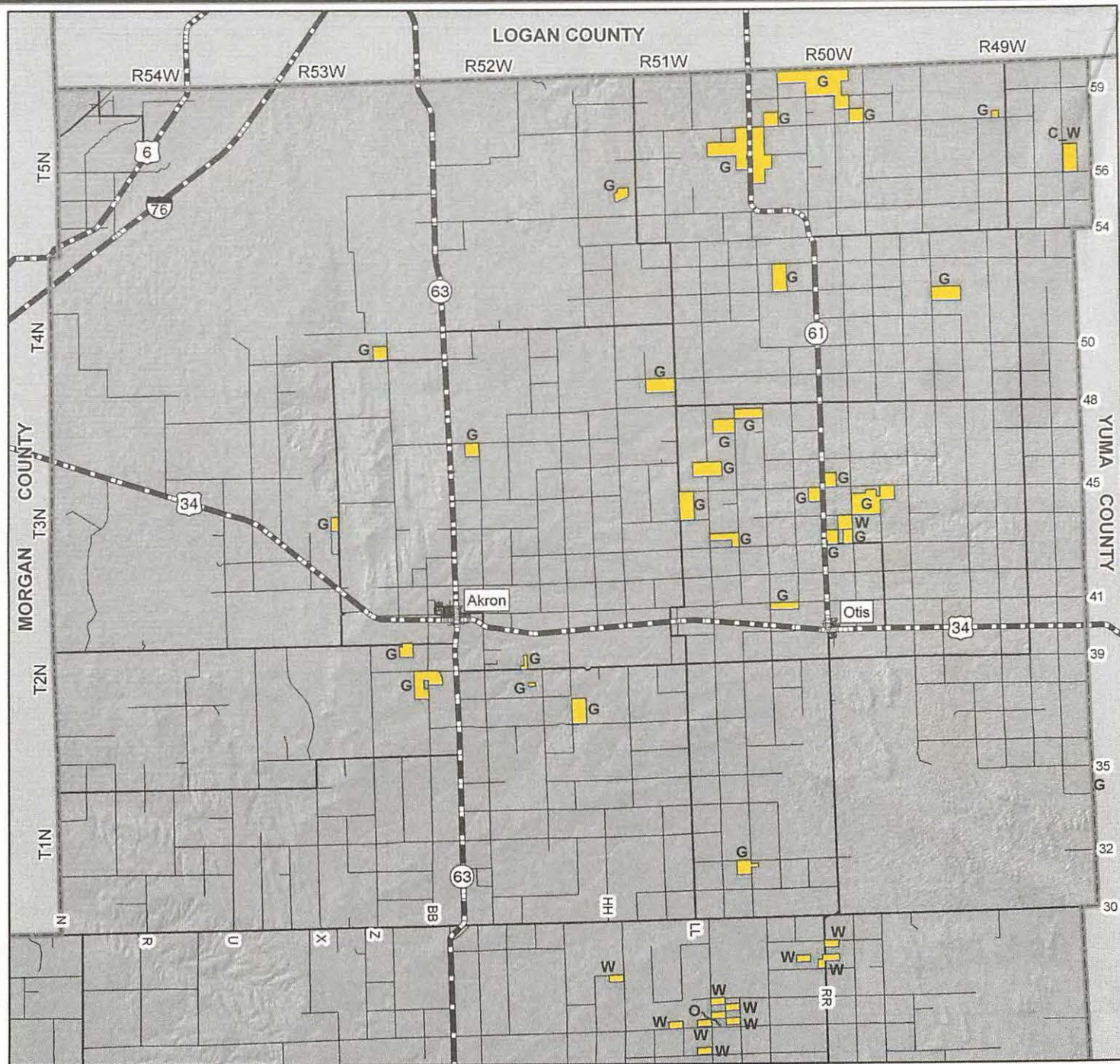
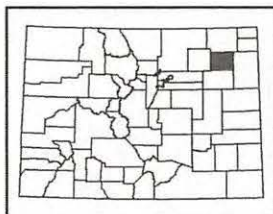
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

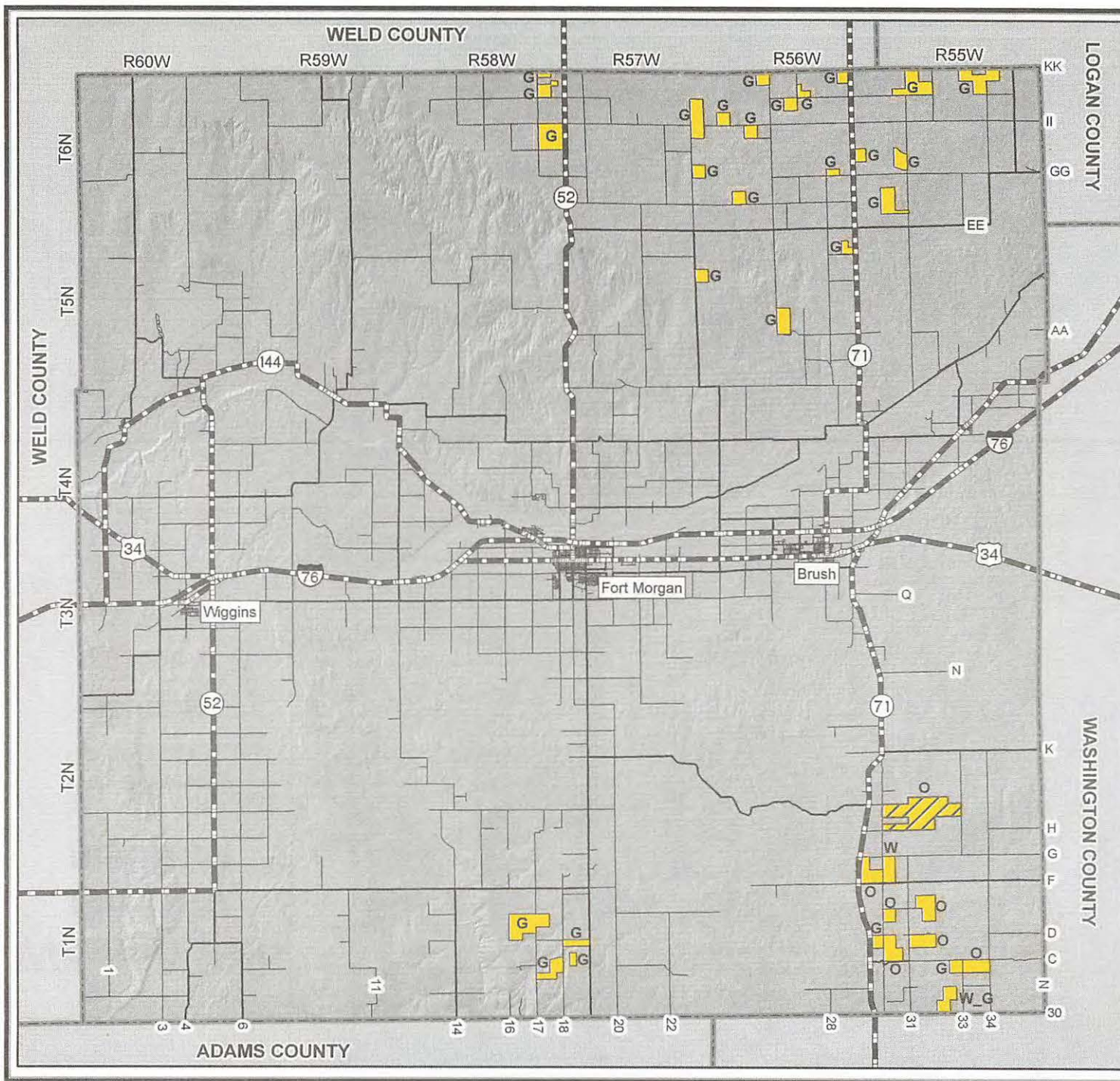


Washington County North Half

Walk-In Property
Cover Types

- G** Grass
- C** Corn
- W** Wheat
- O** Other




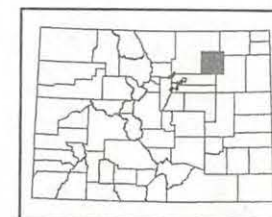


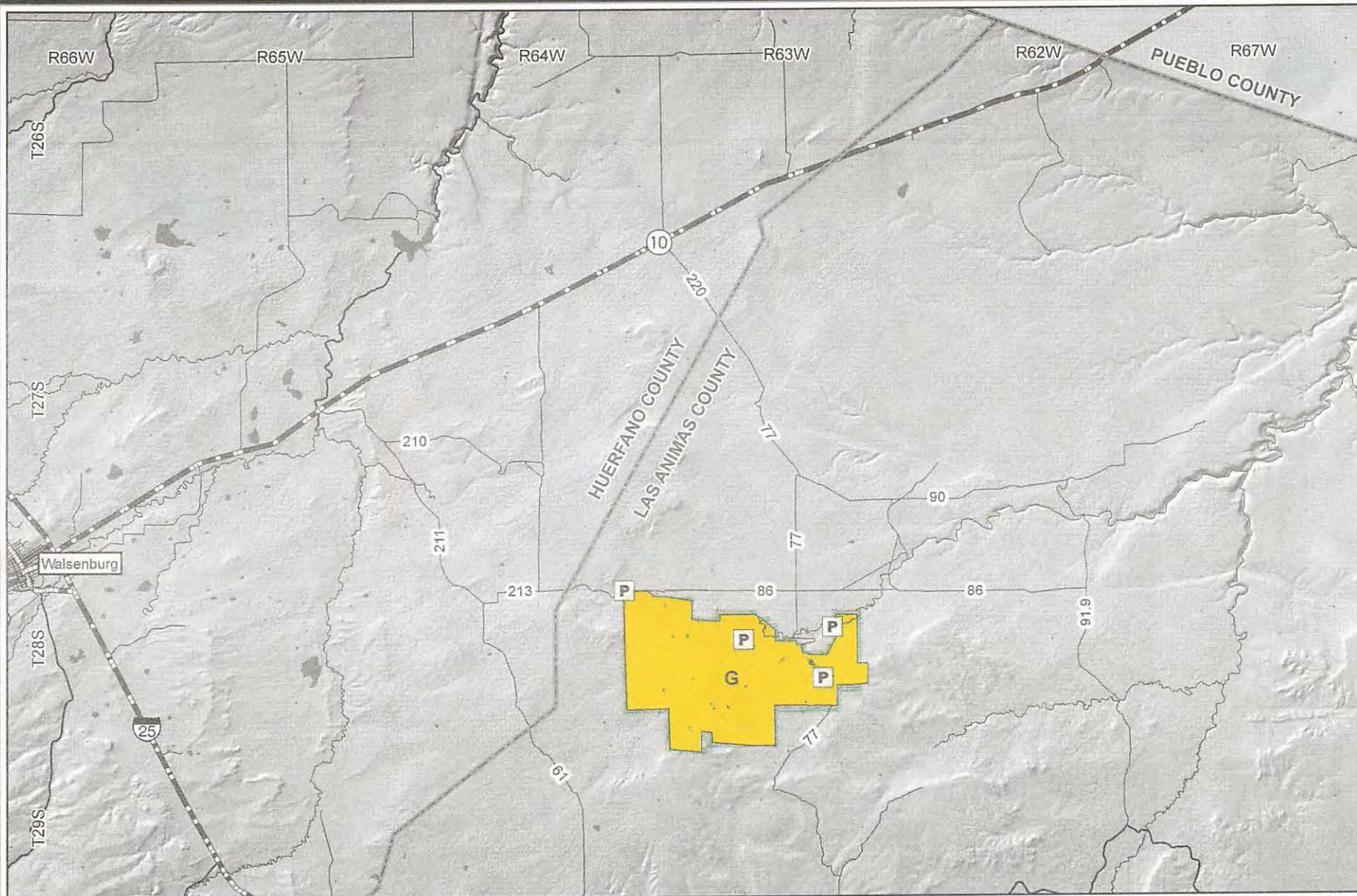
Morgan County

Walk In Property
Cover Types

- G** Grass
- C** Corn
- W** Wheat
- O** Other

 We thank Robert Parker for donating an additional 2,393 acres to the Walk-In Program.





Las Animas County

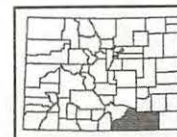
Walk-In Property Cover Types

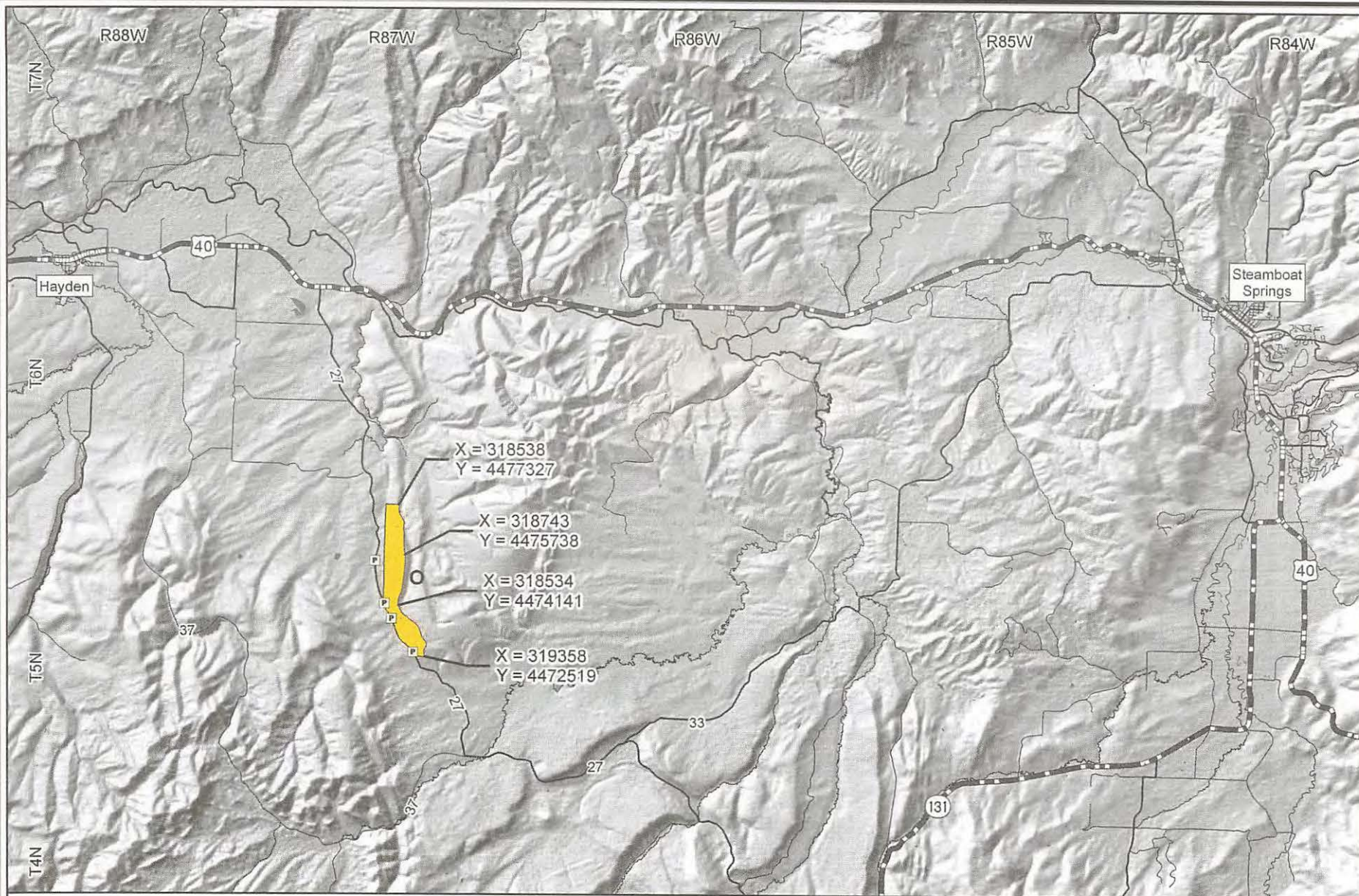
G Grass

C Corn

W Wheat

O Other



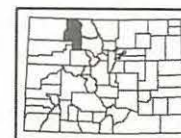


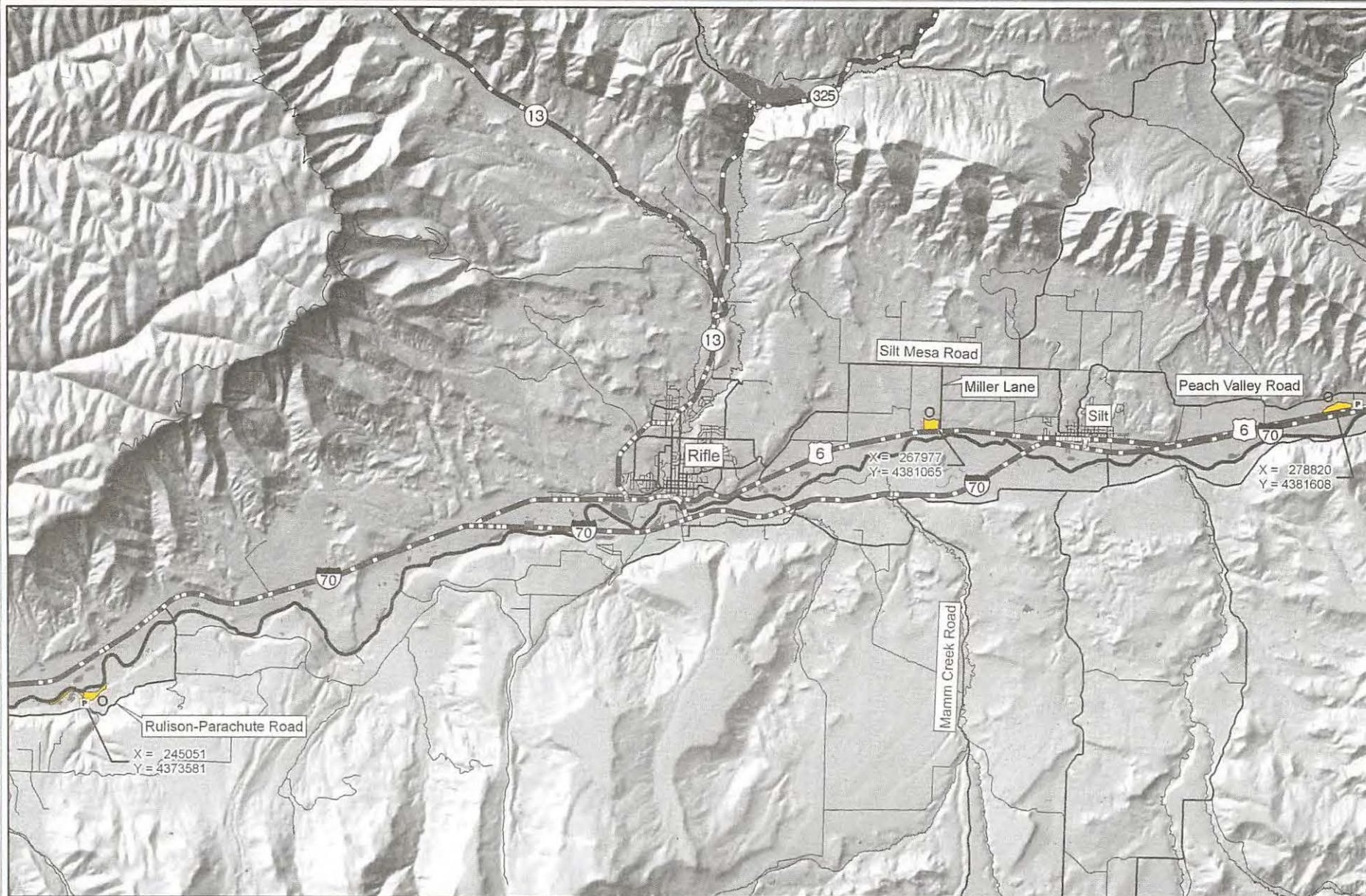
Routt County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

Coordinates provided in
NAD83, UTM, Zone 13



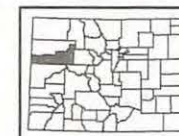


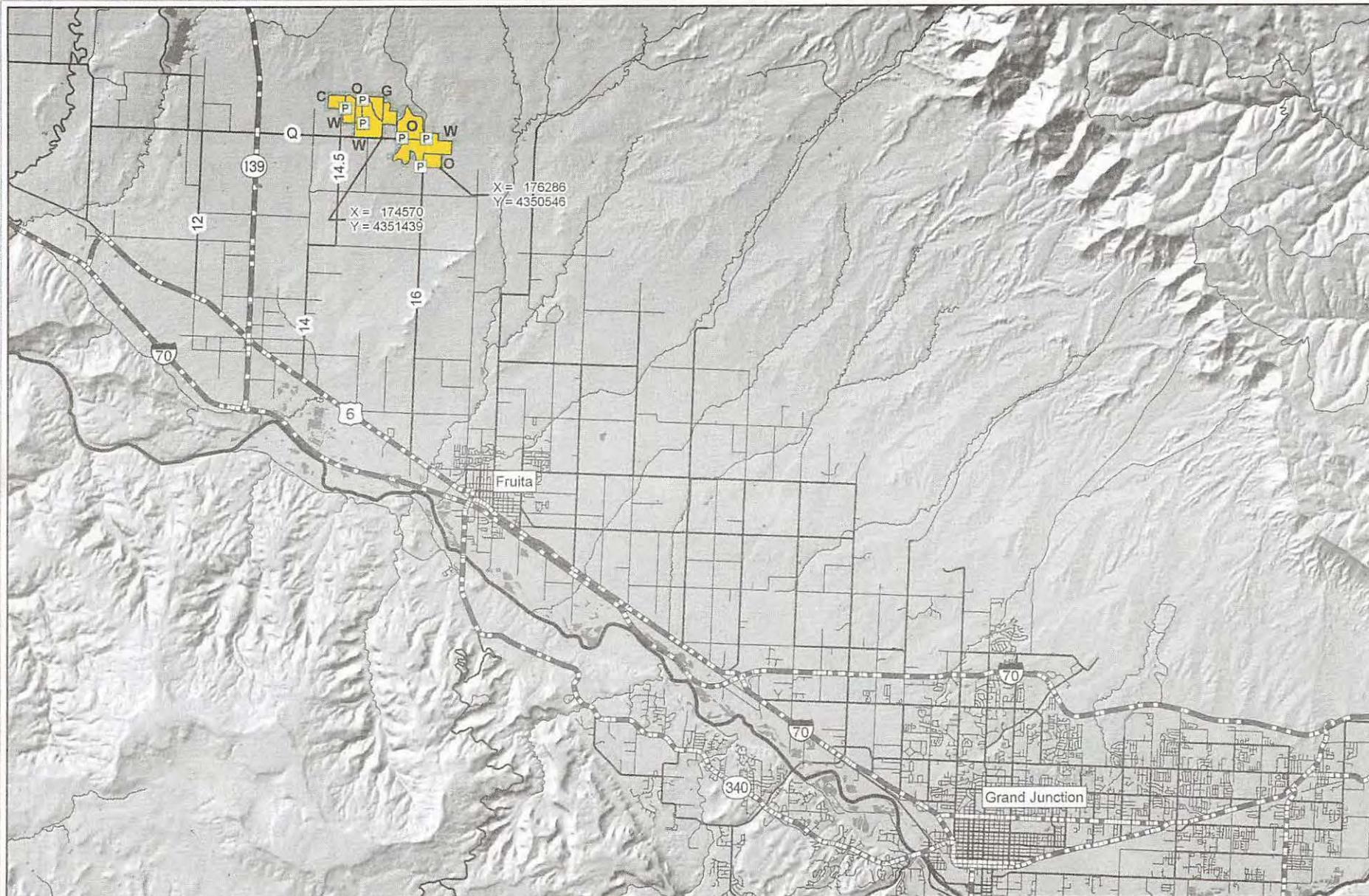
Garfield County

Waterfowl Walk-In Properties

G Grass **O** Other **W** Wheat

Coordinates provided in Zone 13, UTM, NAD83



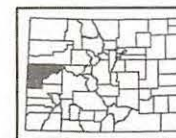


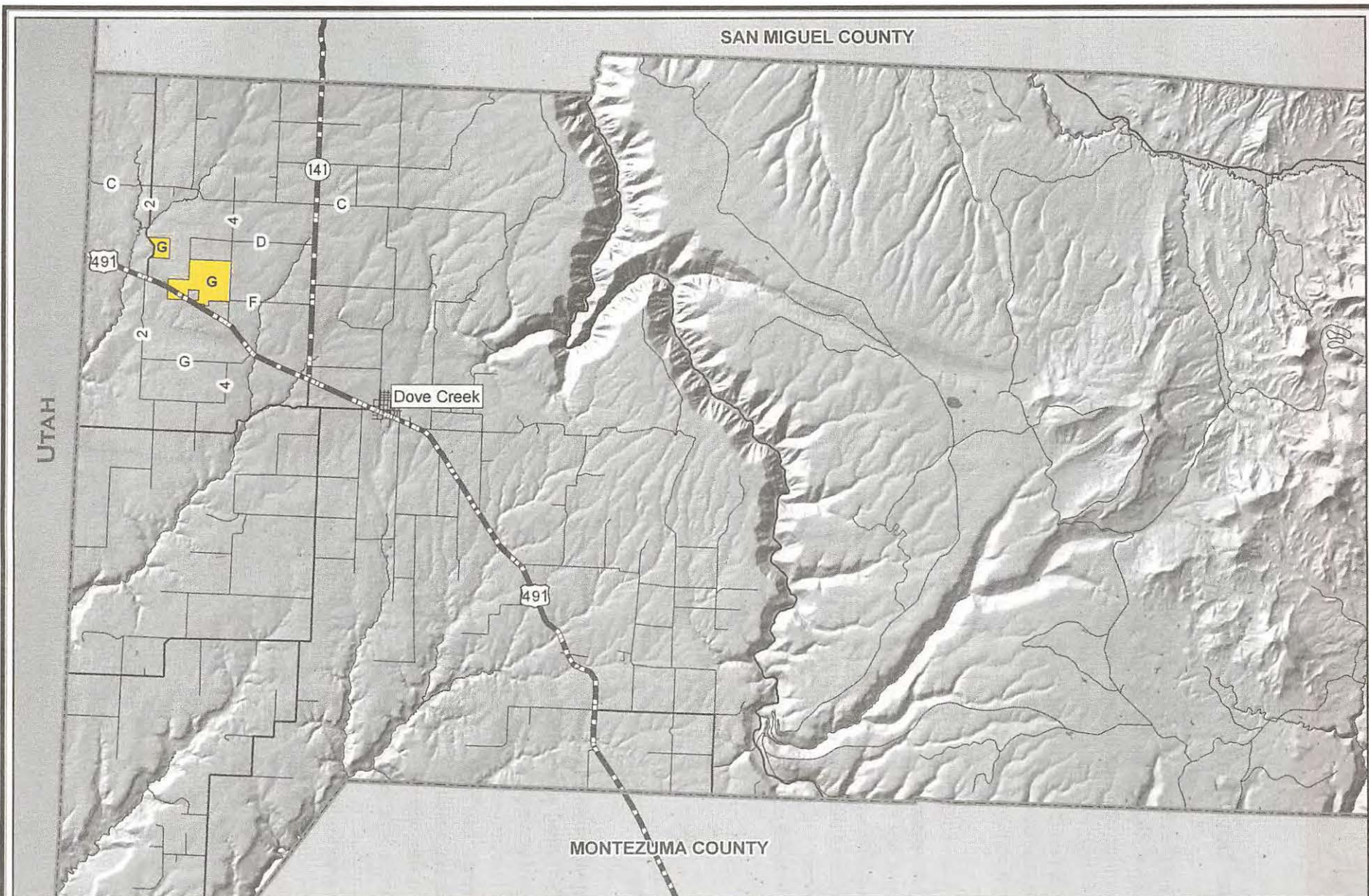
Mesa County

Waterfowl Walk-In Properties

G Grass
 O Other
 W Wheat

Coordinates provided in Zone 13, UTM, NAD83

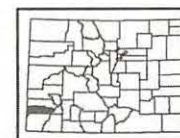




Dolores County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |



SMALL GAME WALK-IN ATLAS

Finding a Better Dove Hunt:

Mourning doves are the most widespread game bird in Colorado, occurring in all of Colorado's counties. Doves were harvested in 45 Colorado counties during the last harvest survey period. With such a wide distribution, the trick to successful dove hunting becomes finding concentrations of doves during the season. While some areas may consistently provide better dove hunting than others, county harvest numbers are influenced by hunter numbers as much as dove abundance, and hunters that are willing to seek out less popular areas might find excellent action and less hunting pressure. In most cases the best dove hunting occurs on both public and private land, and the Walk-In Access Program is a great opportunity for a hunter to get started.

So what makes a good dove hunting location? Well, there are some general things that hunters should pay attention to when looking for a place to hunt. For lone hunters or small parties, fifty doves in a specific area might be enough to enjoy a good hunt, but find a concentration of several hundred or a thousand doves, and a great hunt should ensue. Generally speaking, doves concentrate around three primary features, roosting areas, a convenient food source, and water sources. Find any of these alone and you should find some doves – finding two or three in combination can mean a large number of doves and the potential for some great action. Studying these three primary features and understanding how doves relate to them is helpful in paring down the list of potential dove spots.

Roosting Areas

Of the three, acceptable roosting areas are generally the easiest to find. Nearly any farmstead with a windbreak and a few dead snags can provide an acceptable dove roost. Seemingly, the species of tree isn't terribly important, as doves concentrate in any type that meets their needs, but cottonwood, elm, ash, locust and even Rocky Mountain junipers are known to hold large numbers of doves, when they occur in the right place. For hunting purposes, look for sites that offer doves a variety of micro-habitats, including shade and wind protection. By far, the best roost sites for hunting are those that are close to water or food. Old corrals, gravelly areas, and dusting sites all add to the attractiveness of a roost sites. Isolated tree groves are equally valuable as hunting cover in farmland or in range-land settings, and their value seems to be inversely proportional to their occurrence on the land.

Roost sites can be effectively hunted throughout the day, but the mid-morning period beginning around 10 a.m. can be excellent as doves come to the roost after the morning feeding period.



This woodlot is an excellent roosting site in eastern Colorado.

Photo by Mike Trujillo

Food Sources

Dove foods can be categorized into two types; cultivated crops and natural food sources. In most years, cultivated crops provide a predictable food source for doves. Hunters often find good-sized concentrations of doves around wheat stubble, proso millet stubble, and domestic sunflowers fields. In any of these fields, doves shy away from dense cover at ground level, so look for fields that have bare ground underneath the growing crop.

While doves do utilize agricultural food sources, over much of the range in Colorado, doves rely on natural food sources, including croton, bee plant, kochia, and pig-weed seeds. Each of these can support a good concentration of mourning doves when precipitation patterns and disturbance encourage their growth, but in many years, these pale in comparison to annual sunflowers. When conditions are right, and eastern Colorado range and croplands are covered with sunflowers, hunters can find some amazing concentrations of local and migrating doves. Again, look for sunflower patches that have a thin under-story, with a good amount of bare ground. Also, pay attention to the maturity of the sunflowers. The best fields for dove hunting are those that have a good mixture of actively blooming sunflowers and already matured sunflower seeds that are falling to the ground and available to doves. In sunflower fields that are pulling in a good number of doves, hunters can pass-shoot birds coming to and leaving the field or, a hunter can walk the field for opportunities at flushing doves, akin to hunting pheasants. Hunter are well advised to mark downed doves precisely when hunting weedy fields, and pick them up immediately instead of shooting at other doves. Doves blend in amazingly well and can be difficult to find if a hunter waits for even a few minutes before retrieving. Sunflower fields don't have to be large, even a small patch a few acres in size can pull in a surprising number of doves.



Note the clean understory in this domestic sunflower field.



Rocky Mountain Bee Plant



The bare ground and sunflowers in this CRP field equals great dove hunting potential.

Water

A variety of water sources are used by doves. Similar to food sources, doves seem to prefer water sources that have little or cover at water's edge or in the adjacent uplands. Good areas that should catch your eye include cattle watering tanks, stock ponds, gravel pits, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) guzzlers, flooded creek bottoms or small depressions that simply catch rainfall. Even a small puddle of water can pull in large numbers of doves, especially if the water is near a good food source or roosting site. While morning hunts can be productive at watering areas, often the best activity occurs afternoon and into the early evening. On days that are unseasonably hot, hunting can be consistent throughout the afternoon, but the last 45 minutes of legal shooting hours can be fantastic at a well-used water site. Many eastern Colorado water sources are short-lived at best, but once doves start using a watering source, a good number of birds will continue to use an ever-shrinking site as long as some water is present.



This creek is a well-used dove watering site in southeast Colorado
Photo by Trent Verquer

Hunting Concepts

Like pheasant or duck hunting, preparation plays an important role in a successful dove hunt. Experienced dove hunters consider dove hunting as serious as any other hunting opportunity, right down to the techniques of scouting and watching the weather forecast. Knowing how doves react to weather patterns and even individual weather events is an important concept to master, if the goal is a successful hunt. Here are some concepts that are well worth considering before a dove hunt.

1. Habitat Composition - A proven tactic used by dove hunters is to determine which primary habitat requirement is in the least supply in a given area, and focus hunting efforts on that habitat requirement. In any year or area, limiting factors change, but figuring out which requirement is most limited across the landscape is paramount to a good hunt. In an arid climate like eastern Colorado, water is not very prevalent in a normal year and often provides a good focal point for doves. Yet, if an area happens to be unusually wet resulting in a large number of seasonal lagoons or stock ponds, each individual water source is simply less attractive to doves because they can find water in multiple locations. Even though water may not be as important in your hunting location, that same area might only have one or two fields that doves use for feeding, or only a few good roost sites. Wise hunters focus on the habitat requirement that is most limited within their hunting area.
2. Weather Effects - As the previous paragraph describes, weather can play a huge role in dove hunting. Without a doubt, weather is the most significant factor that affects doves, including their distribution and how long they remain in a certain area. Most seasoned dove hunters are well aware of the impacts a late August cold front can have on dove numbers in the northern parts of Colorado. While an August cold front is rarely severe enough to send all the doves south prior to the season, even a mild front can hurry the migration. In southern Colorado, severe cold fronts are even less common until October. More important than severe cold fronts, run of the mill weather events can significantly effect how doves use the landscape and in turn, affect what hunters find in the field. For instance, consider the impacts that a drought year can have on food availability and a hunter's choice of hunt location. Extremely dry seasons can reduce dove numbers in rangeland settings, because in these areas, doves are quite reliant on annual forb seeds for food,

like annual sunflowers or buffalo burs, which need some precipitation to compete with rangeland grasses. When these foods aren't available, doves often move to an area with more food, which often means an area dominated by cropland, primarily wheat and millet. Even in the driest years, cultivated crops produce some food for doves, and harvesting operations leave a good amount of waste grain available. In addition, grain food sources are often supplemented by broad-leaf forb seeds that grow in road ditches, fence rows, and abandoned farmsteads.

3. Season timing - September 1 is the earliest date in which the Migratory Bird Treaty Act allows migratory bird hunting, including doves. In turn, mourning doves begin migrating to southern wintering areas beginning in August, although this can be early or later depending on the year. In a normal year, good numbers of doves are found in northern Colorado when the season begins in September; however, migration has normally started by this time. In northeast Colorado, it is unusual to find large numbers of doves after the 3rd week of September, with noticeable differences in numbers between the first few days of September and the 15th, meaning that hunters in the northeast must hunt early to find lots of doves. By October 1, only a few doves are left in northeast Colorado and hunting opportunity for doves has ended for the year. Conversely, southern Colorado populations of doves are bolstered by migrating doves throughout the month of September. In many years, decent numbers of doves remain in southeast Colorado into October, providing hunters with a great opportunity to extend their season. Considering this, hunters interested in maximizing their dove hunting opportunity may choose to hunt early in the northeast, and then consider a trip or two to southern parts of the state later in the season, with a good chance at still finding large numbers of birds.

Hunters - this space provided for notes taken while scouting

Where to Hunt

By thinking about the factors that contribute to a good dove hunt, the question becomes what parts of Colorado provide good dove hunting. And the answer to that question can only be answered by the expectations of an individual dove hunter in relation to number of doves, hunter pressure, driving distance from home, or any number of other factors that affect hunt satisfaction. Consider driving distance, for example. Doves are one of the few small game species, along with ducks, geese and cotton-tail rabbits, that can be successfully hunted within a short drive of the front range of Colorado, whereas pheasants, and in many cases quail require a significantly longer drive to find good opportunity. The tradeoff of hunting close to home, however, is that the vast majority of hunters prefer to hunt close to home too, which means that access is more difficult and crowding can be a much larger concern.

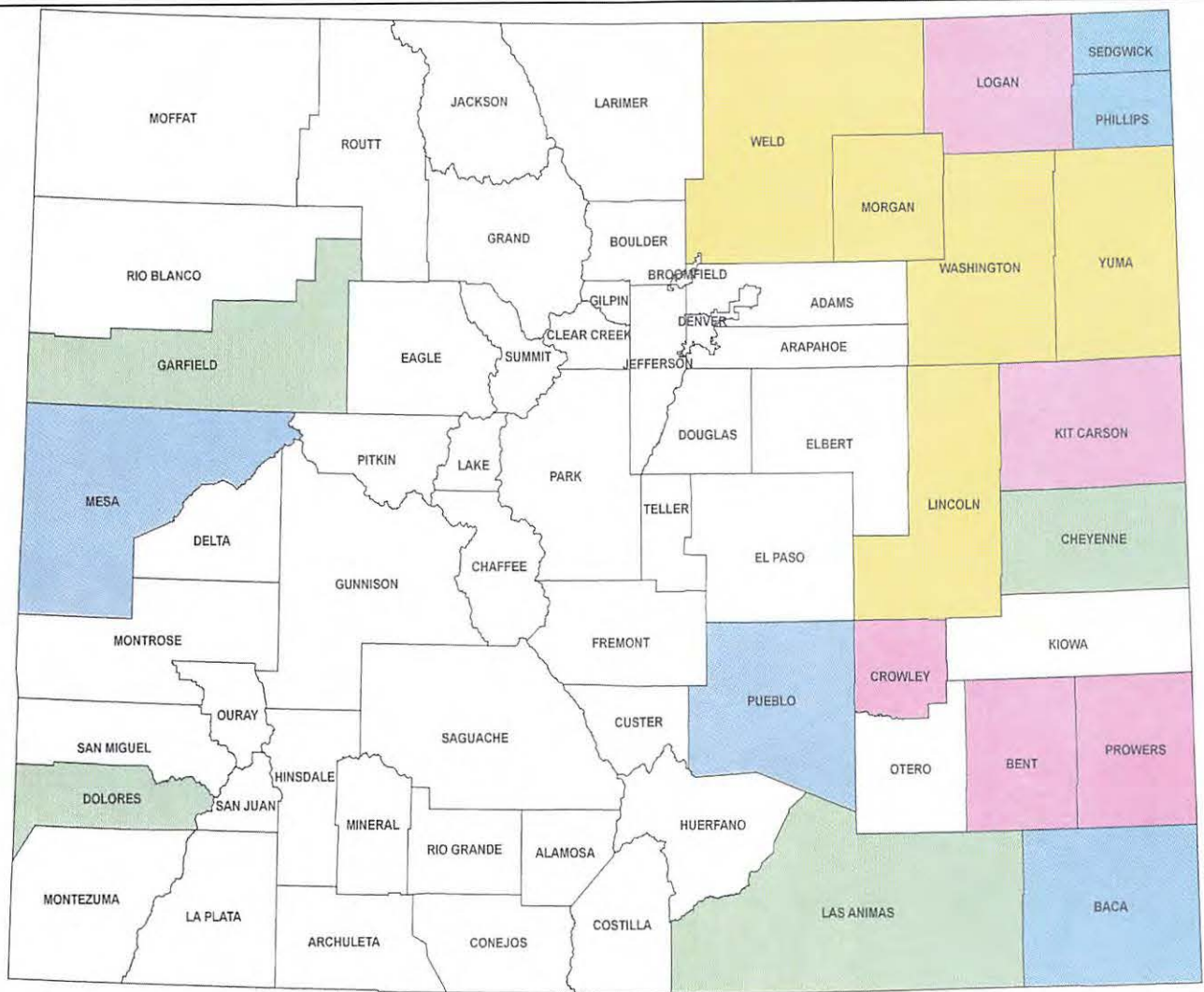
Dove harvest numbers follow a similar pattern in that the high harvest counties often correlate to high hunter numbers –again, a poor choice for the hunter that doesn't want to see lots of other hunters. The point is, with each expectation comes a tradeoff, and a hunter must make their own decision regarding those tradeoffs. There are some general rules that can help you decide where to start looking for dove hunting areas, including:

- Don't overlook areas that are not well known for dove hunting or are not represented well by dove harvest estimates. The rear inside cover of this atlas presents a map that depicts dove harvest on a county basis, which provides you with some information on where to start. More important than the actual harvest numbers, however, consider the fact that the counties that report high dove harvest are also the counties that tend to have more hunters. Conversely, many of the areas that report lower harvest might have large numbers of doves at some point during the season, but few hunters to pursue them.

- Consider what opportunities can be incorporated into a dove hunt. The west slope offers a unique chance to incorporate a dove hunt with an early season Canada goose hunt or a combination dove-grouse excursion. Depending on the area, a hunter whom wants to incorporate an early teal hunt with a dove outing might find that opportunity in eastern Colorado if water is present. Maybe the best opportunity to incorporate with an early September dove hunt is pre-season scouting for pheasants, quail and waterfowl.

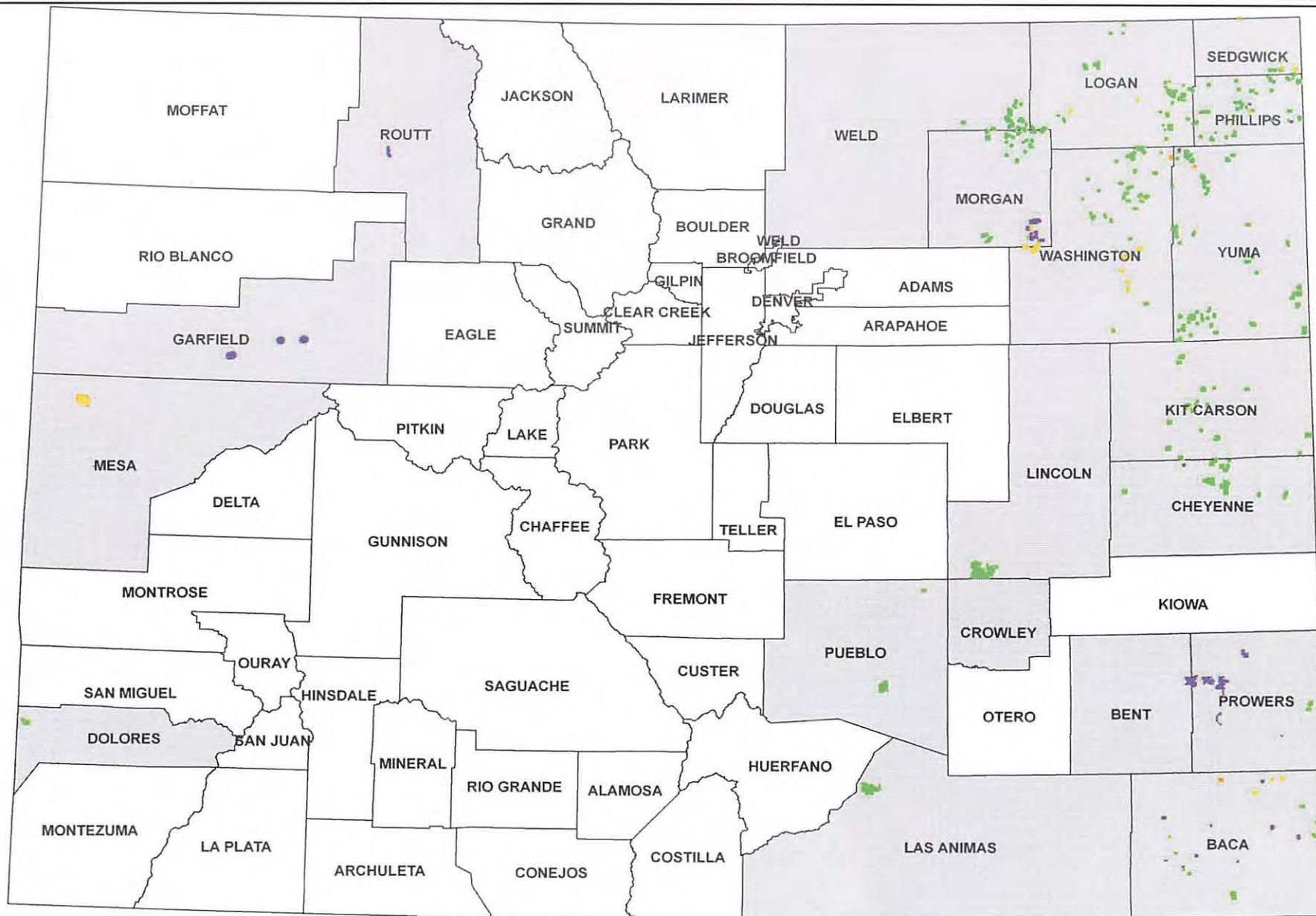
- Think about access potential. Is there public land in addition to Walk-In Access lands, in the form of State Wildlife Areas, State Trust Lands, or federal public lands? What are the opportunities to obtain permission on private land? Each of these can make a successful outing, and it is important to rely on several access opportunities as opposed to one or two.

Doves offer hunters an excellent opportunity to increase their days in the field, yet an opportunity that allows a hunter to tune up before the duck, pheasant and quail seasons. It is also a great time to introduce a new hunter to the tradition of hunting, at a time when weather conditions are optimal instead of during the colder weather that comes with seasons later in the fall. By considering what mourning doves do and require on a daily basis, and by applying some of the concepts discussed early, hunters have a good chance at harvesting some birds, and enjoying a great fall day in Colorado.



**Dove Harvest Tiers in
Counties with Walk-In Access (2007)**





Counties with Acreage in the Regular
Colorado Walk-In Program - 2007

Cover Type

Corn
 CRP - Grass
 Wheat
 Other