

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2009 Small Game Walk-In Atlas



Access to properties listed within
begins Sept. 1, 2009



2009 WALK-IN ATLAS

The Walk-In Access Program (WIA) is designed to help hunters find good places to hunt, by easing the difficulty and time-consuming task of acquiring permission to hunt private land. To maximize hunter opportunity and convenience, the Division targets a diverse mix of properties, including properties that offer pheasant, scaled quail, dove, cottontail rabbit, and waterfowl hunting. Access to the properties listed within this atlas begins Sept. 1, 2009, and continues through the end of February 2010. Access to WIA properties is for hunting only. The Division of Wildlife holds an exclusive lease to these properties for small game hunting.

WIA offers access for small game hunting only, while big game hunting remains completely at the discretion of the landowner. Two properties in southeast Colorado are enrolled in both small game WIA and the Big Game Access Program (BGAP). These properties are signed with both small game and big game access signs. **Hunters please note:** During big game seasons, big game hunting will be occurring on these properties. Small Game hunters are encouraged to wear hunter orange during these seasons.

NEW FOR 2009: To offer as much access as possible and efficiently use funding, the Division will not reprint the entire atlas in the *Late Cropland Atlas*. Only the maps that have properties added for the beginning of pheasant season, including extended waterfowl properties, will be printed in a smaller **supplemental** atlas. Updated maps and the entire supplemental *Late Cropland Atlas* will be available at license agents in late October, and for download from the Division's Web site, at:

wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/SmallGame/WalkInAccess/

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COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Department of Natural Resources

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www.wildlife.state.co.us

Created July 2009

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Cover Photo by: Vic Schendel



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Wildlife Commissioners (as of July 2009): Brad Coors, Chair; Tim Glenn, Vice Chair; Dennis Buechler, Secretary; Members: Jeffrey Crawford • Dorothea Farris • Roy McAnally • John Singletary • Mark Smith • Robert Streeter Harris Sherman, ex-officio member; John Stulp, ex-officio member.

WALK-IN ACCESS REGULATIONS

In order to hunt small game, waterfowl or furbearers on WIA properties, all hunters must first purchase, sign and have in their possession a small game license, and a valid Walk-In Access Permit. 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 one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. **For waterfowl hunting, access is allowed from two hours before sunrise to two 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. Sept. 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.
 - c. From the opening day of pheasant season through the end of March annually for lands enrolled and posted as Extended 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 WIA properties or along roadsides. If trash is present, 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.

LANDOWNERS!

Interested in enrolling land in the small game Walk-In Access Program? The Division of Wildlife is interesting in enrolling quality small game hunting lands across the state. To offer land for the 2010-11 season, please contact your local CDOW office, or detach this form, complete, and mail to the address included below.

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

2009 WALK-IN ATLAS

Some small game season dates are included within this atlas for your convenience, however, all season dates are not listed. A complete synopsis of hunting season dates can be found within the *2009 Small Game* and *2009 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 - Nov. 9, 2009

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: Mourning and white-winged, 15 singly or in aggregate. Eurasian collared, unlimited (see Small Game brochure for details).

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

*See page 6 for more information

****DOVE BANDING:** Mourning doves are being banded in Colorado and other states as part of a nationwide program to monitor their status. Hunters should report banded mourning doves to the USGS Bird Banding Lab: www.reportband.gov or 1-800 327-BAND.

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

Dates: Oct. 1 - end of February

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: 10 of each species

Possession limit: 20 of each species

FOX & PINE SQUIRRELS:

Dates: Oct. 1 - end of February

Areas: Statewide

Daily bag limit: 5 of each species

Possession limit: 10 of each species

TEAL

Sept. 12-20

Areas: In Lake and Chaffee counties and east of I-25.

Daily bag limit: 4 singly or in aggregate.

Possession limit: 8 singly or in aggregate.

SANDHILL CRANE

Oct. 3-Nov. 29

Areas: East of the Continental Divide except North Park (Jackson County) and San Luis Valley.

Daily bag limit: 3

Possession limit: 6

CDOW 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
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
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
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 HUNTING INFORMATION

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 2009. 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.

2009 Sunrise/Sunset Table

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN.	
	Rise A.M. (DST)	Set P.M.	Rise A.M. (DST)	Set P.M.	Rise A.M. (DST)	Set P.M.	Rise A.M. (DST)	Set P.M.	Rise A.M. (DST)	Set P.M.
1	6:27	7:31	6:55	6:42	6:28	4:58	7:01	4:35	7:20	4:45
2	6:28	7:30	6:56	6:41	6:29	4:56	7:02	4:35	7:21	4:45
3	6:29	7:28	6:57	6:39	6:30	4:55	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

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 are 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.

2009 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. 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.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunter orange is not required by law to hunt small game in Colorado, however, its use is highly recommended to increase your safety and visibility in the field.

2009 WIA - HUNTERS PLEASE NOTE

NO TAKE OF THESE SPECIES:

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 Uncompaghre 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, copper feathers on top of the head, while females have mostly gray plumage with a tannish gray face and beige plumage underneath.

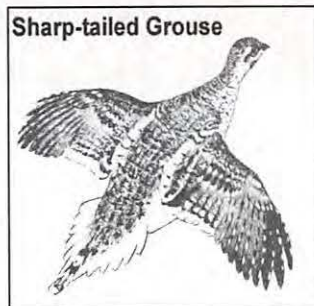


Photo courtesy Dan Williams,
New Mexico Game and Fish Dept.

Sage-grouse also occur in western Colorado and may inhabit some properties. 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.



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.



EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES

Eurasian collared doves are a relative newcomer to most hunters in Colorado. They are found sporadically across Colorado, and it is not uncommon to see them using the same habitats as mourning doves. Regulation allows the take of collared doves during the established dove season and the special late collared dove season (Dec. 1 through the end of February).



Eurasian collared dove



Mourning dove

NOTE: While in the field or during transport, all dressed (not fully feathered) doves count against the daily bag and possession limit for **mourning and white-winged doves** during the Sept. 1-Nov. 9 dove season. During the special Eurasian collared-dove season, Dec. 1-end of February, all birds must be fully feathered while in the field or during transport.

CRP EXPIRATIONS

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields, which make up a large percentage of the land enrolled in WIA, are governed by the United States Department of Agriculture. As of Sept. 30, 2009, thousands of acres will expire and potentially return to cropland. While the Division has done everything possible to ensure that expiring CRP has not been enrolled, it is possible that some will be converted to cropland between the signup period and the end of the small game season. In accordance, WIA payments rates will be adjusted to compensate for the loss in hunting access.

BEWARE OF HITCH-HIKING SEEDS

Many 'noxious' weeds reproduce primarily by seed. These seeds are often transported by wind, and occasionally by birds, rodents and other animals, but they could be carried in the shoelaces or pant cuffs of humans. Please help control their spread by taking a few minutes, as you leave the field, to clean your shoelaces and pant cuffs of any seed. Also, don't forget to give your hunting dog a quick brush over to remove any hitchhiking seeds before traveling to a new hunting spot!

2009 WALK-IN ATLAS

SAFE HANDLING OF GAME MEAT

Concern has grown recently about diseases affecting wild animals that could potentially make humans sick. Most of the time, properly handled and prepared game meat poses no greater risk than domestic meat of causing disease in humans. Hunters are encouraged to contact their local public health department or DOW office for information on wildlife diseases that may be present where they plan to hunt. Public health officials recommend the following precautions when handling and preparing game meat:

- Do not handle animals that are obviously sick or found dead. Report sick or dead animals you find to a DOW office.
- Keep game cool, clean and dry.

- Do not eat, drink or smoke while dressing game.
- Use disposable gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use alcohol wipes after dressing game.
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward. Use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
- Cook game meat to an internal temperature of at least 165° F to kill disease organisms and parasites. Juices from adequately cooked game meat should be clear.
- Do not eat any raw portions of wild game.
- Do not feed raw wild game to domestic pets.

A GUIDE TO WALK-IN ACCESS SIGNS

Look for these signs at WIA properties:



Walk-In Access Program Boundary signs come in three varieties. In the field you will see signs that have an access date of Sept. 1 through the end of February and signs that have an access date of "The opening day of pheasant season" through the end of February. Properties that are posted to open on the opening day of pheasant season cannot be accessed prior to Nov. 14, 2009. Extended Access properties are posted to close at the end of March, annually. Two other signs are used on or near Walk-In Access Properties. **Parking signs** are used to designate where hunters should park at some Walk-In areas. A large majority of WIA properties do not have established parking areas, instead hunters should park along the road, taking care to stay out of the traveled portion of the road but also to not park in tall weeds and grass where a fire hazard exists. **Safety Zone signs** are also common on or near WIA properties. These signs are used to delineate safety zones around buildings, homesteads, livestock corrals or neighboring homes and properties. Please respect safety zone signs wherever you find them posted.

Rarely, it becomes necessary to remove a property from the Walk-In Access Program after this brochure is printed. When that happens, Walk-In Access boundary signs are removed and replaced with yellow Warning signs to notify hunters that the property is no longer available for Walk-In hunting. Do not hunt if fields are posted with yellow **WARNING SIGNS!** And remember, if you find a WIA property depicted in the brochure but boundary signs are not present at the field corners, please do not hunt that field!

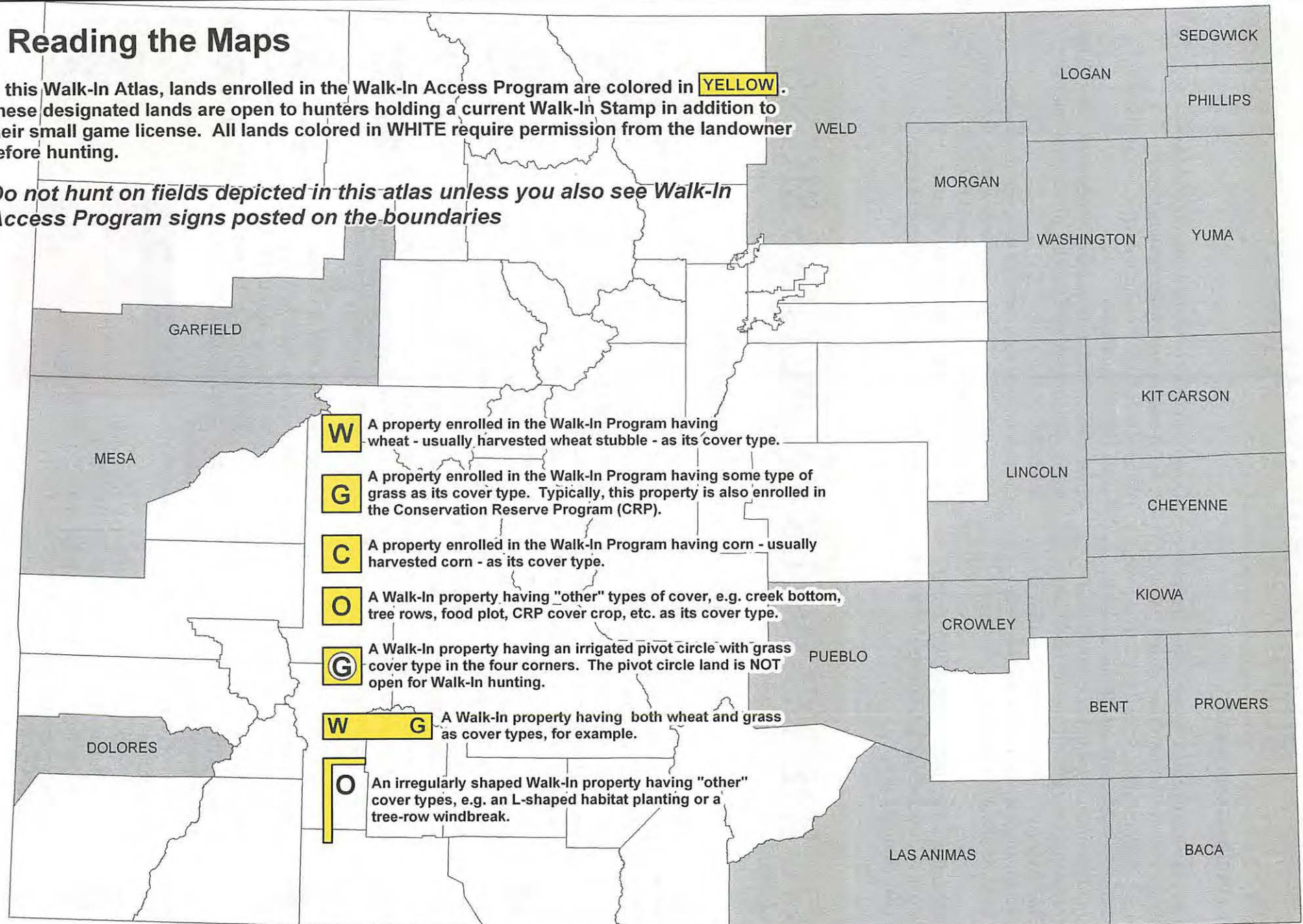
You may also see Pheasant Habitat Project Signs when hunting in eastern Colorado. These signs **DO NOT** open the land or habitat project to public WIA hunting, unless the orange **HABITAT PROJECT** signs are also accompanied by a WIA Boundary Sign.



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



 Counties with Regular Walk-In Access



Paved Highway



Secondary Roads
(may be paved or gravel)

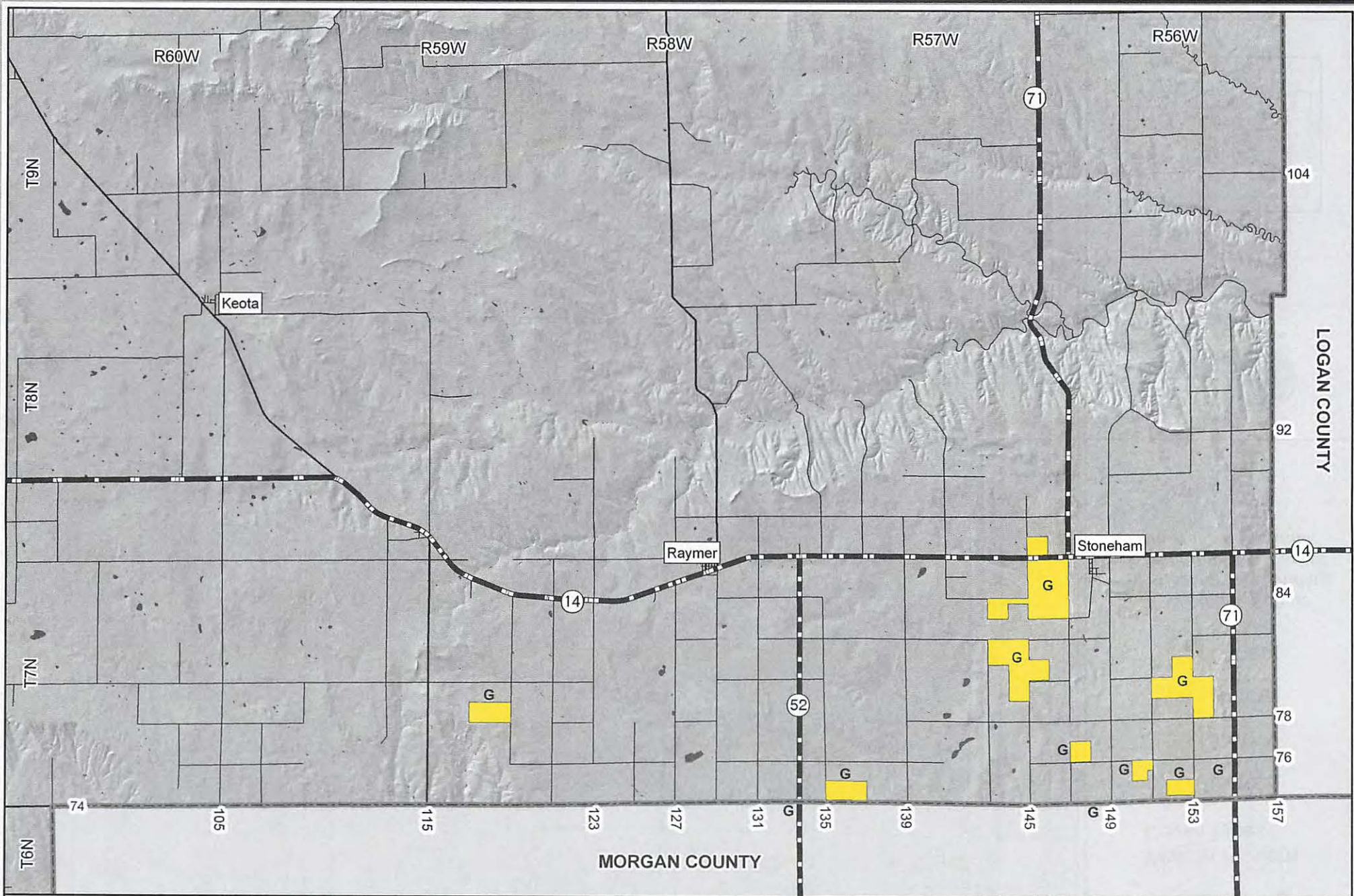


Local Roads
(gravel county roads)



County road number





Weld County Northeast Corner

Walk-In Property Cover Types



Grass



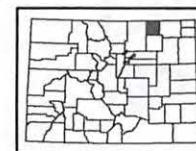
Wheat

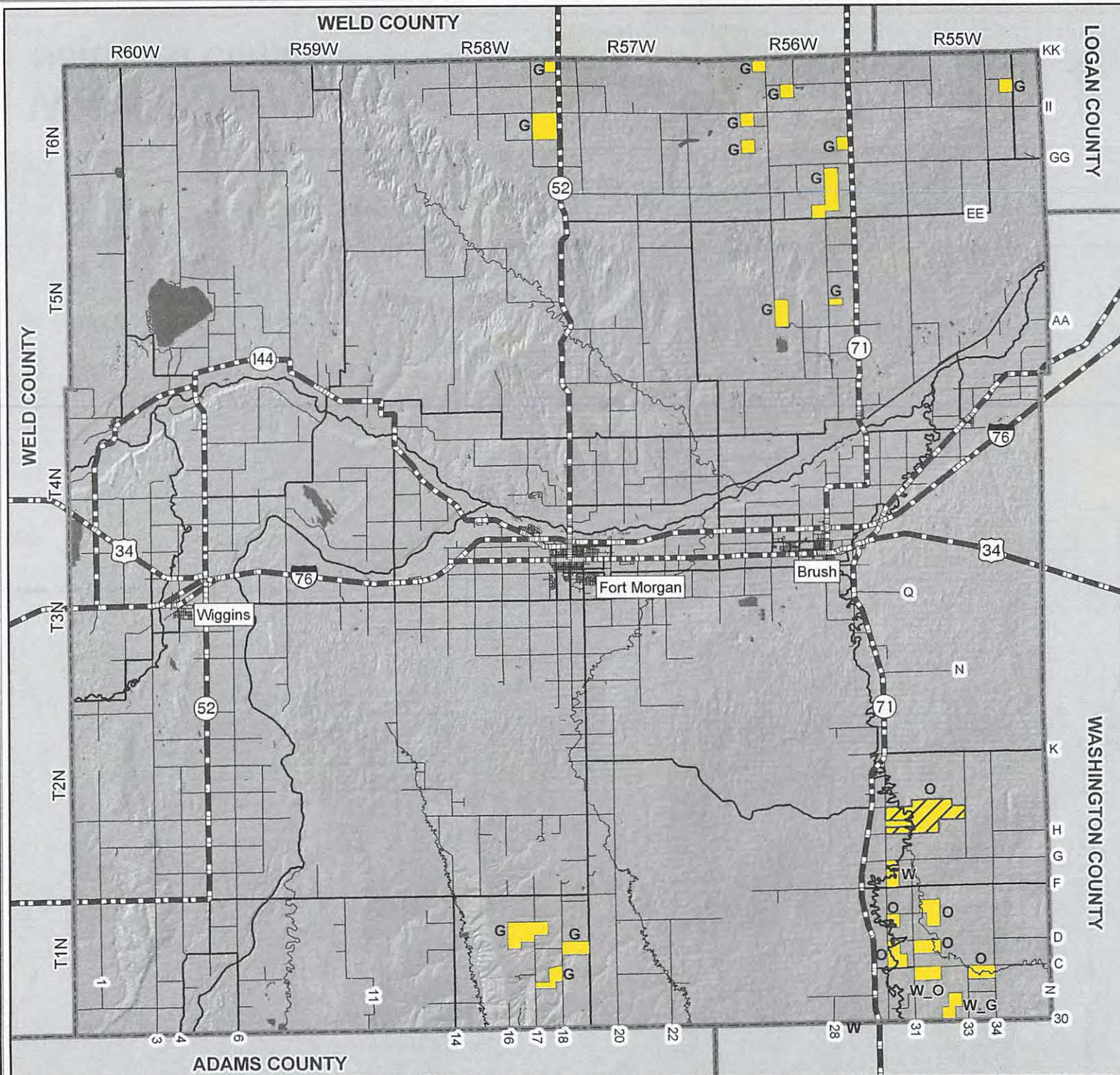


Corn



Other



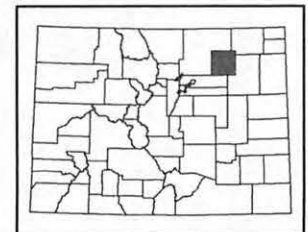


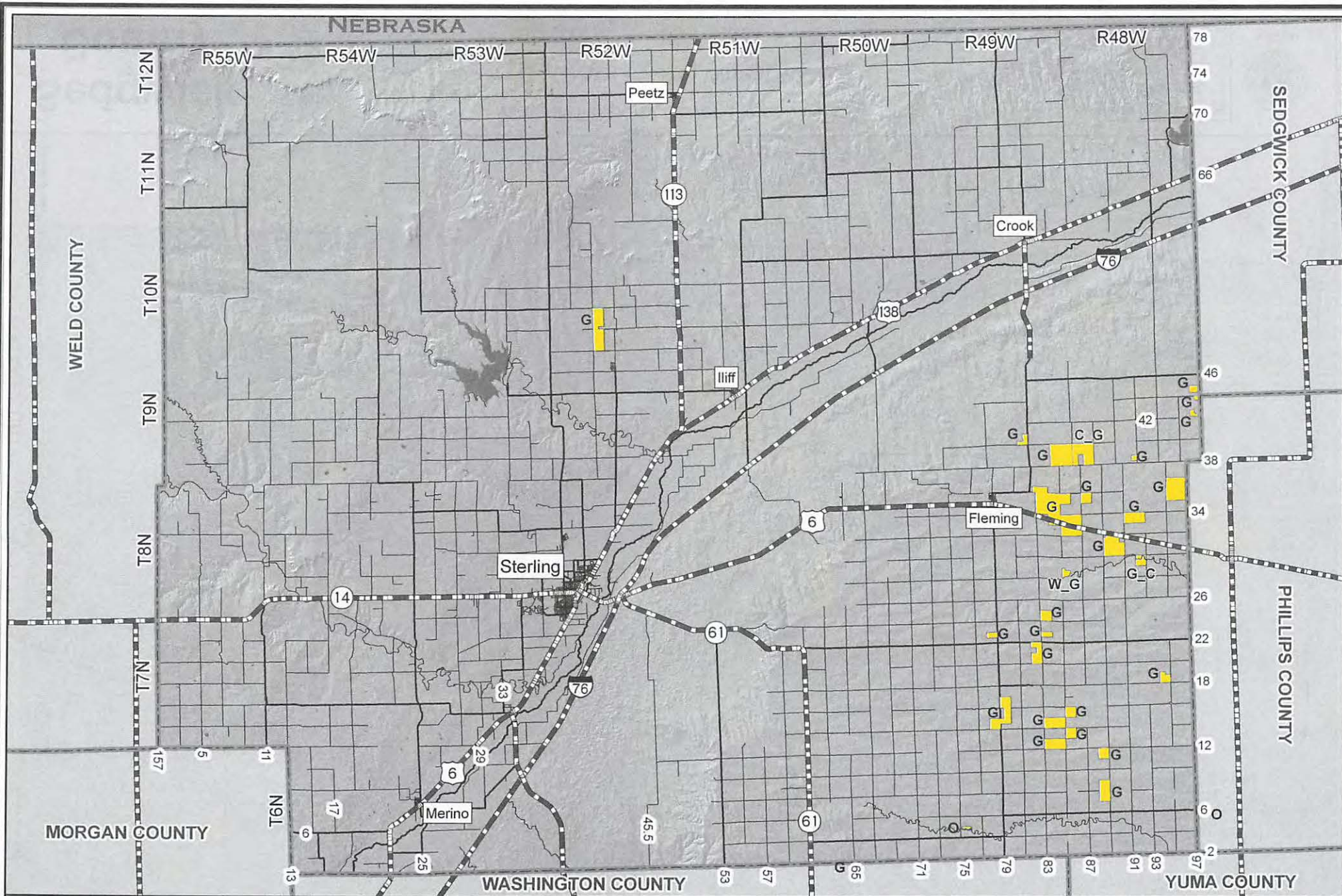
Morgan County

Walk In Property
Cover Types

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

/ / / / / We thank Robert Parker for donating an additional 2,497 acres to the Walk-In Program.

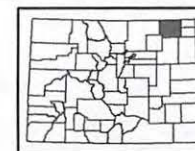


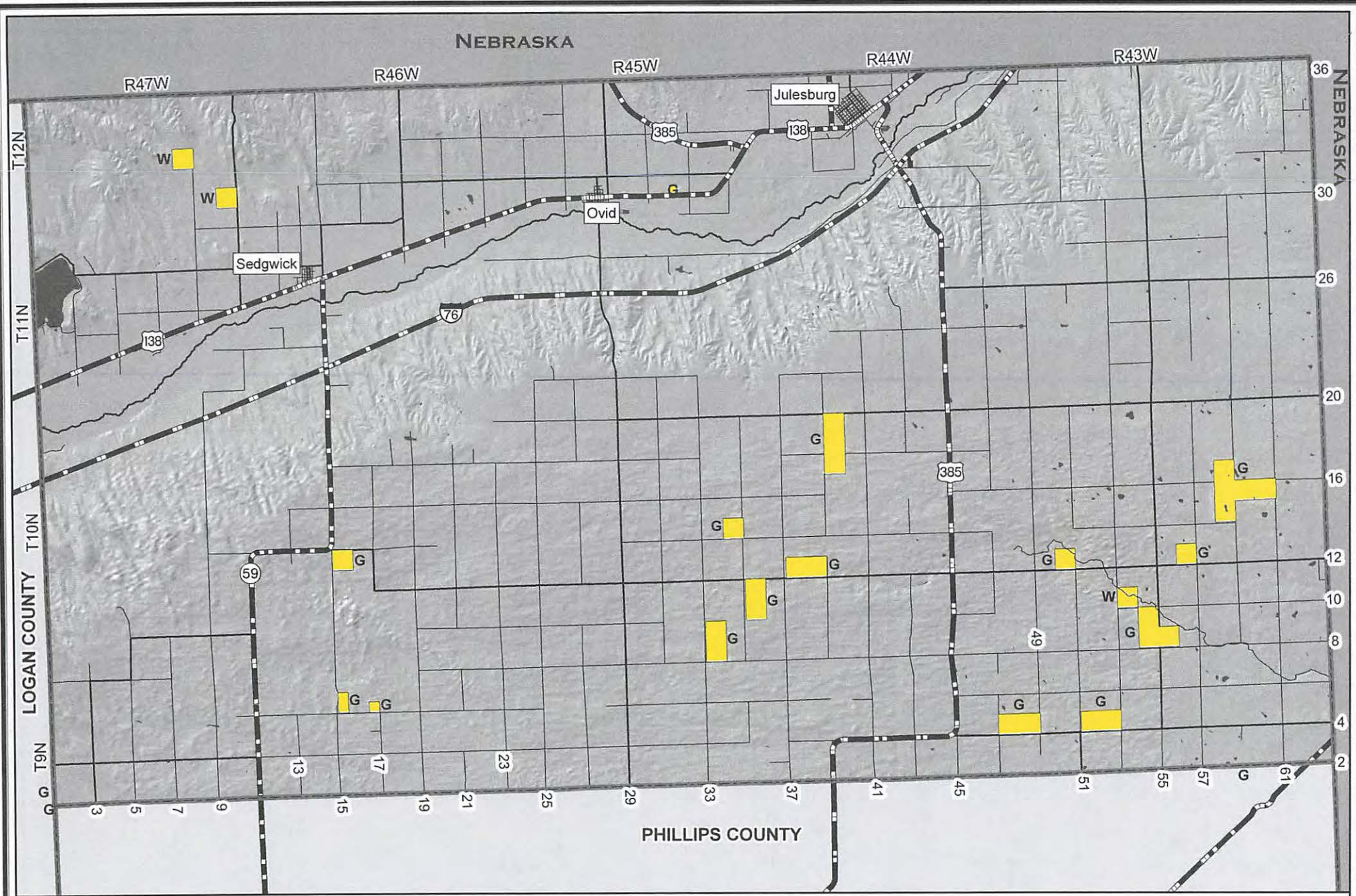


Logan County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

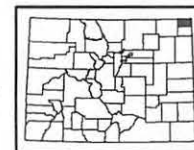


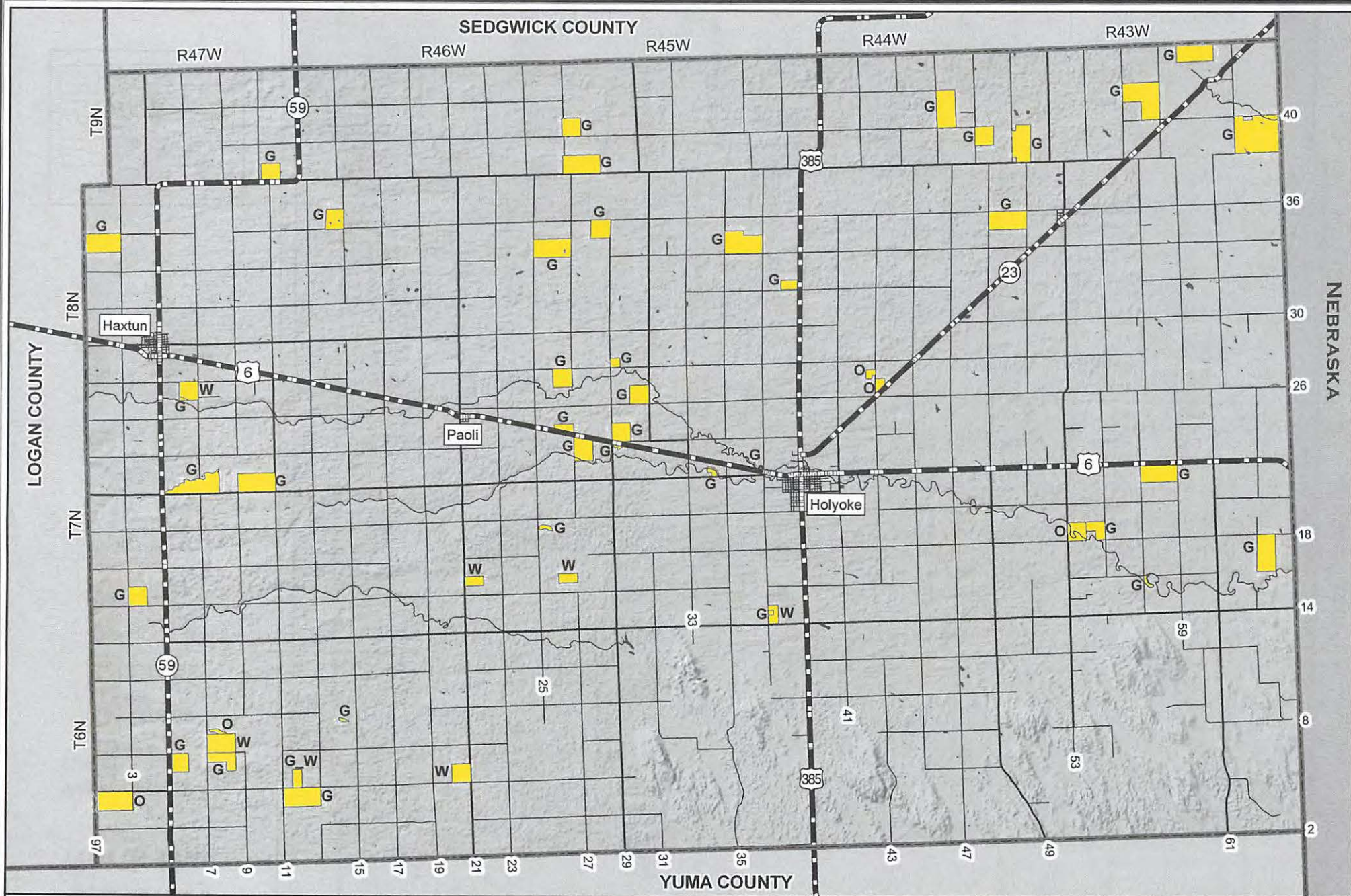


Sedgwick County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

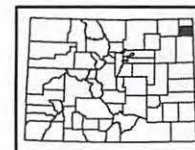




Phillips County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass	W Wheat
C Corn	O Other



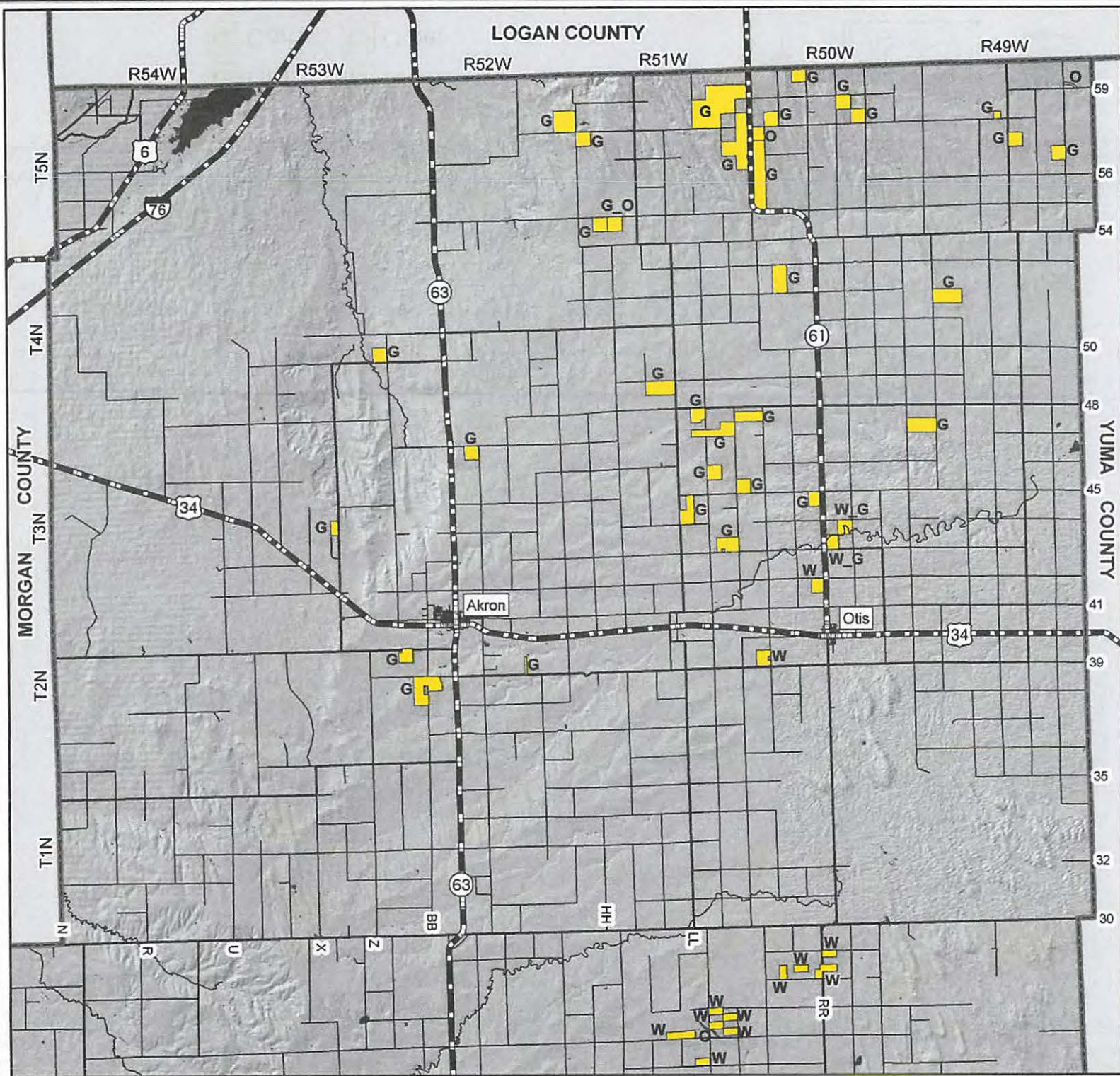
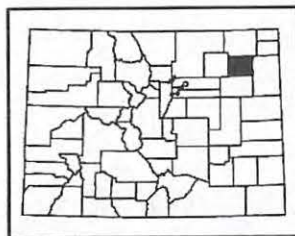
Washington County North Half

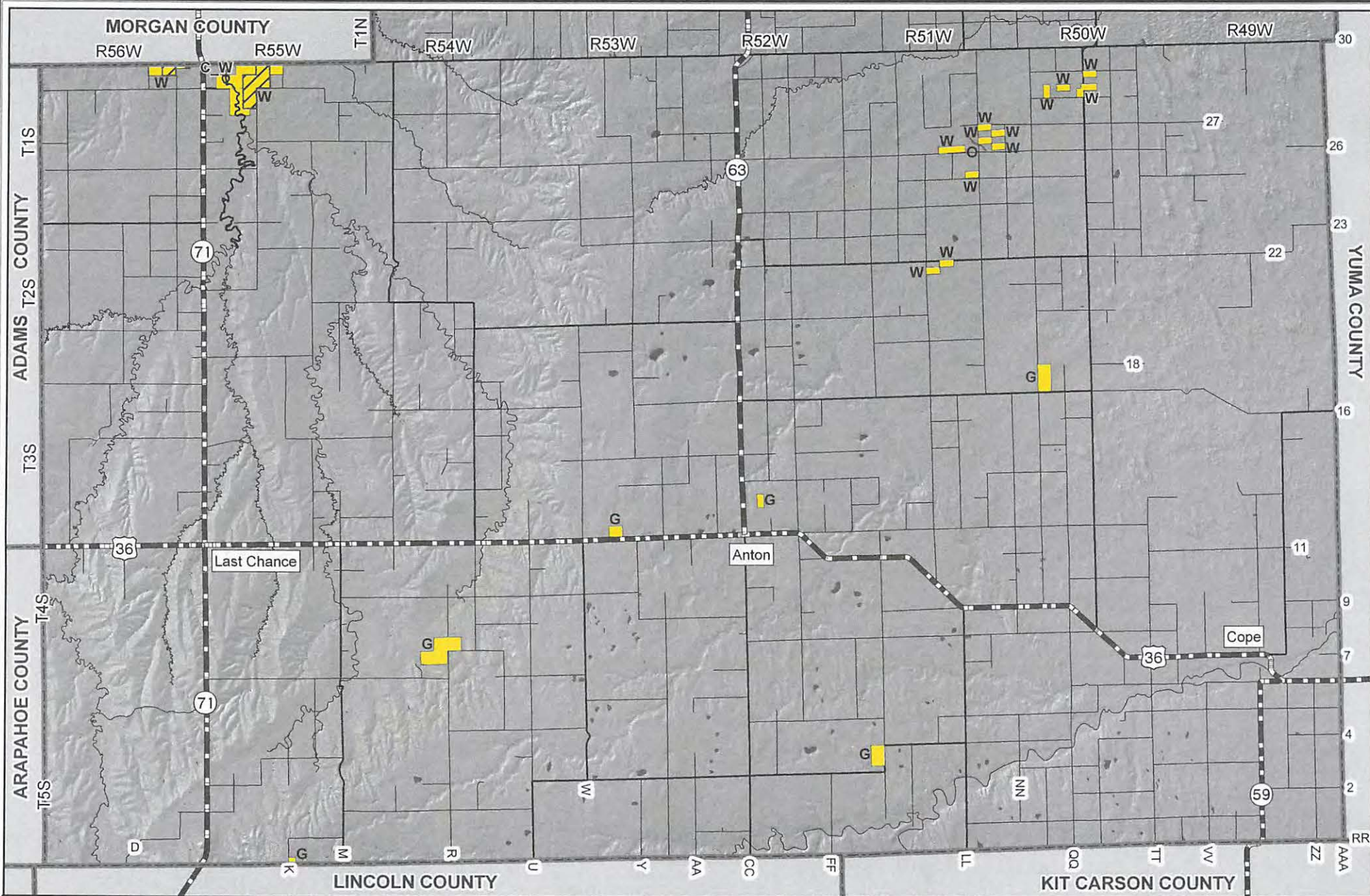
Walk-In Property
Cover Types

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



WildlifeGIS



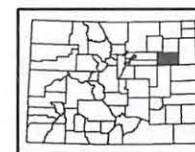


Washington County South Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass	W Wheat
C Corn	O Other

We thank Robert Parker for donating an additional 2,497 acres to the Walk-In Program.



WildlifeGIS

Yuma County

North Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types



Grass



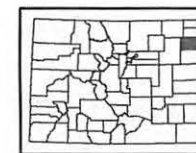
Wheat



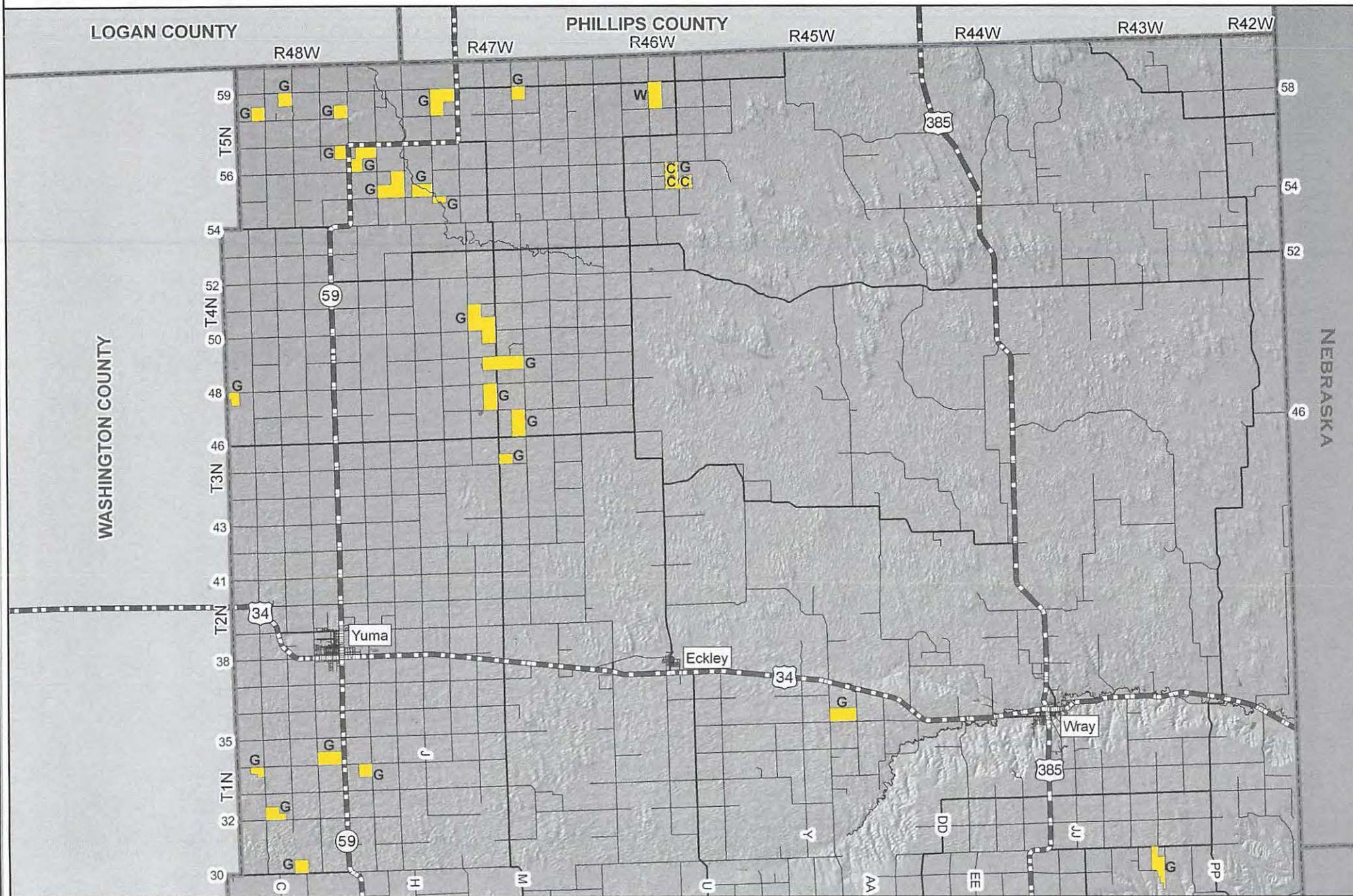
Corn

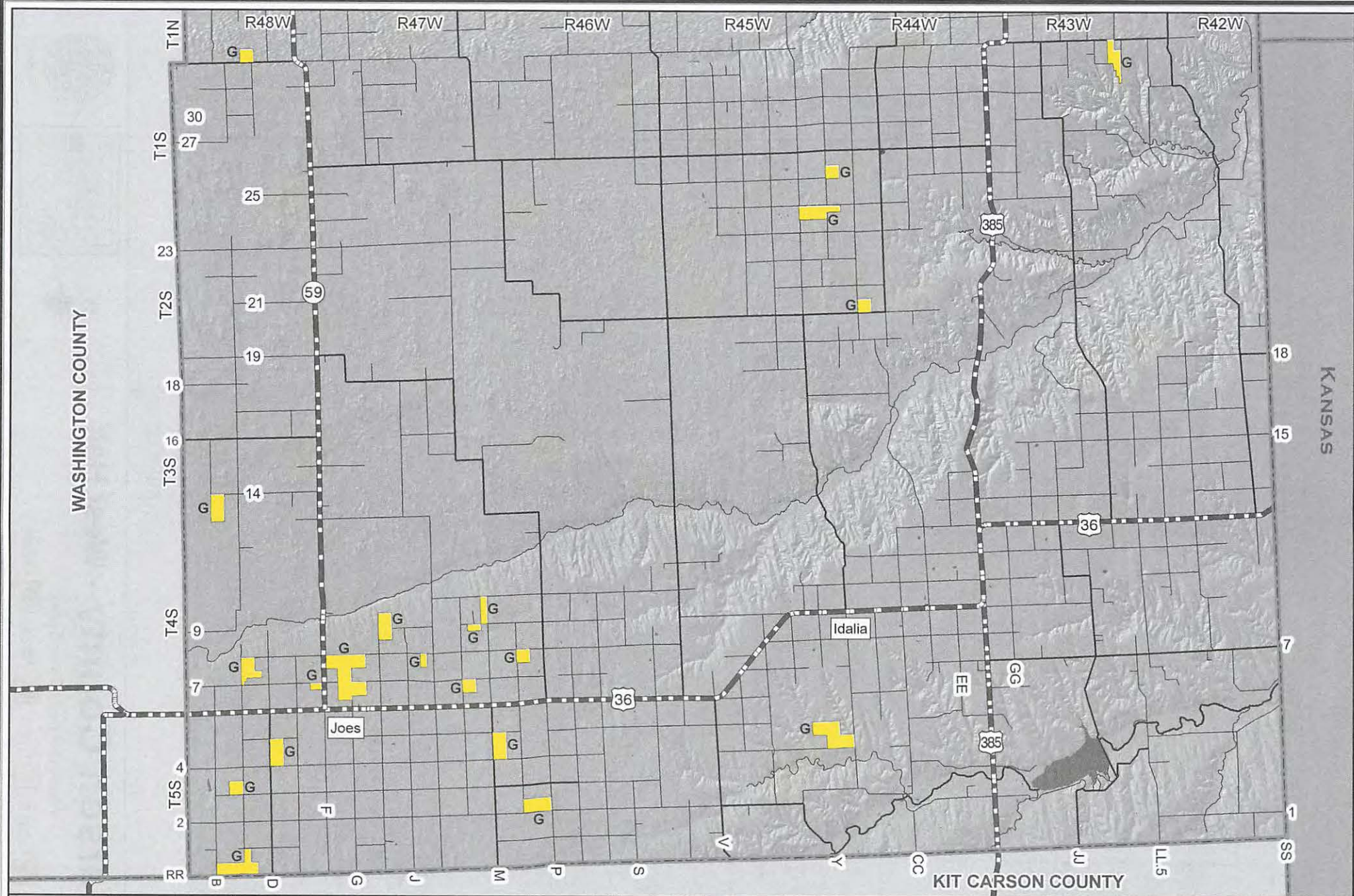


Other



WildlifeGIS

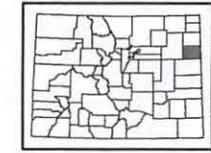


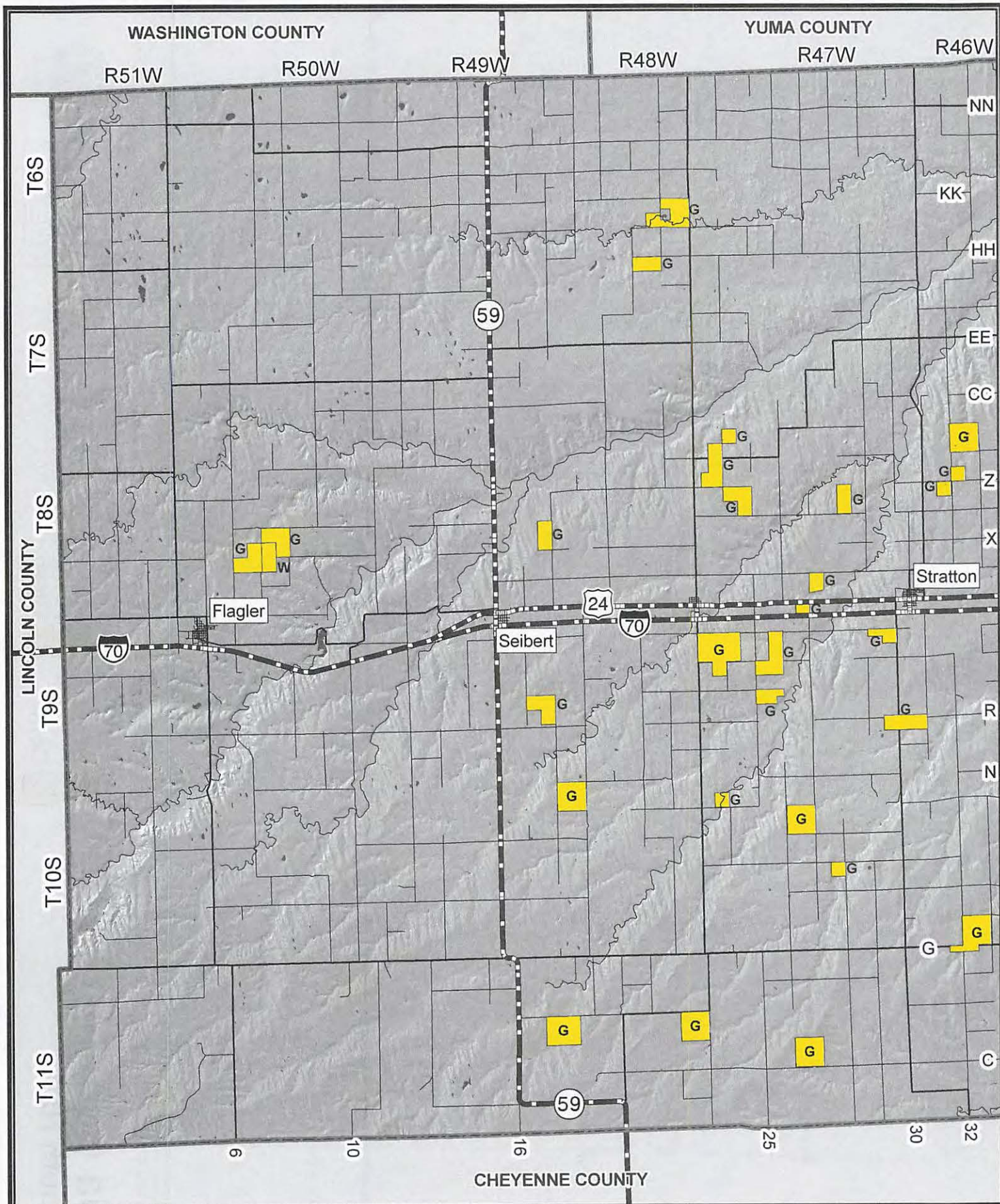


Yuma County South Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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



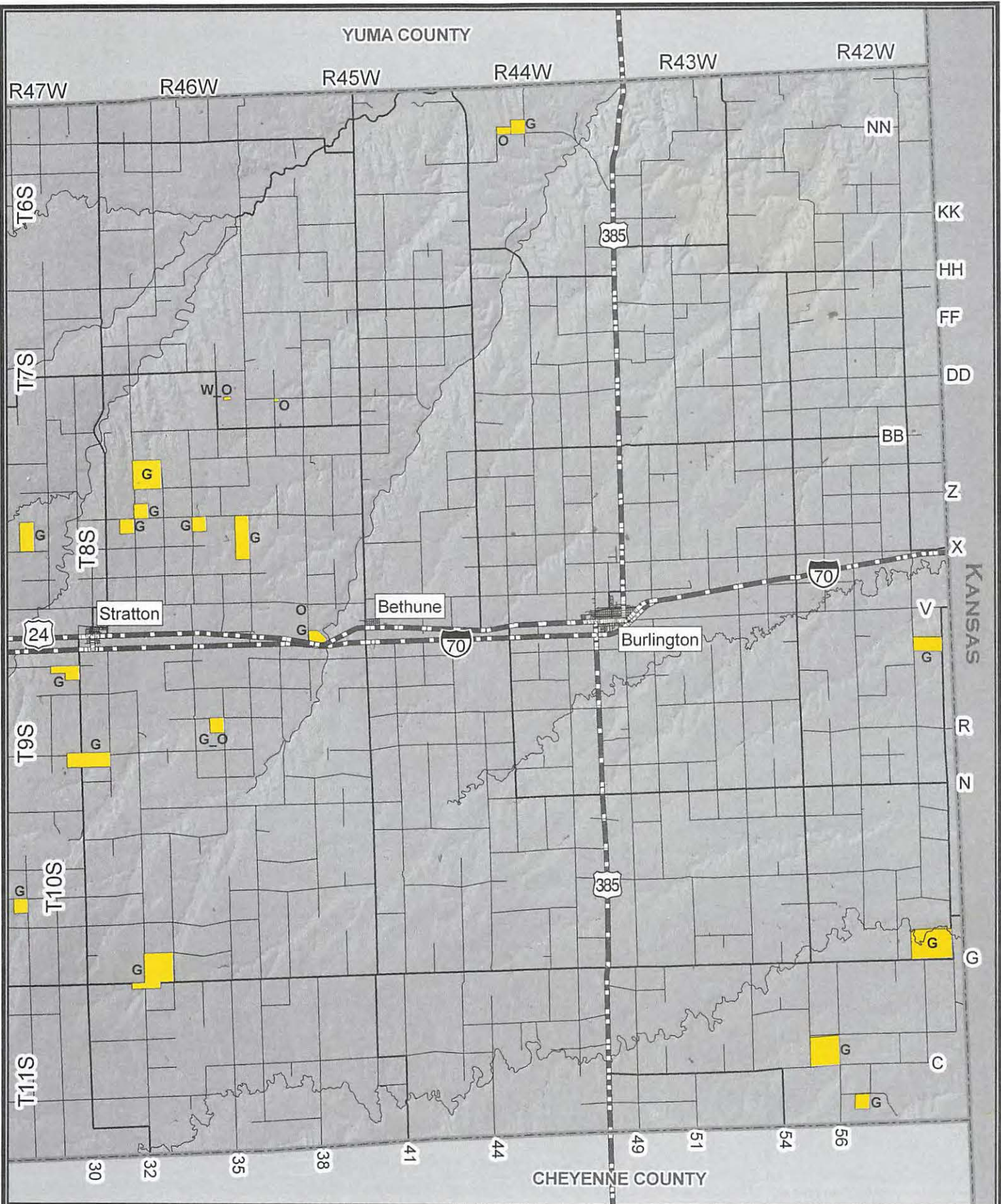


Kit Carson County - West Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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





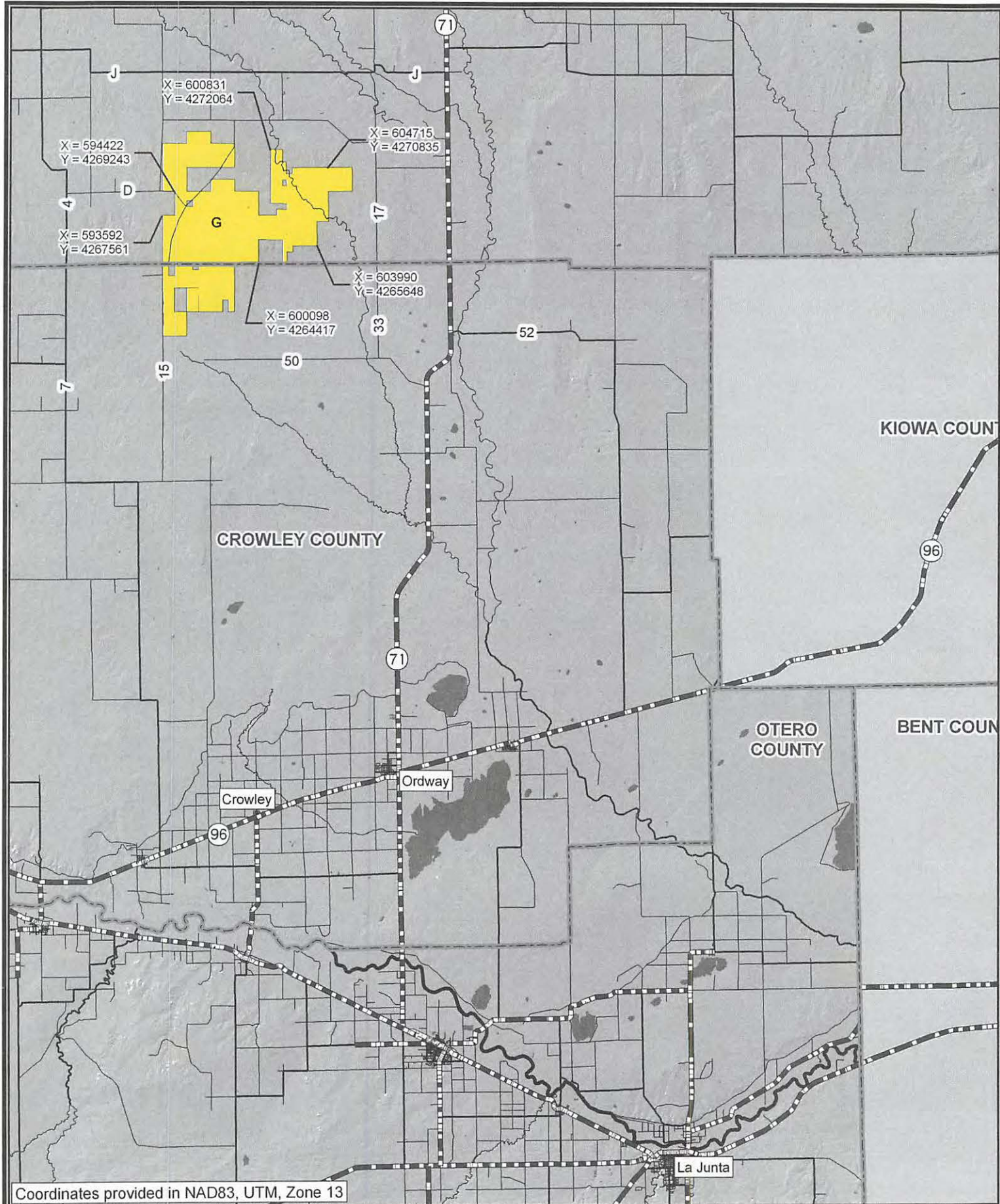
Kit Carson County - East Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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



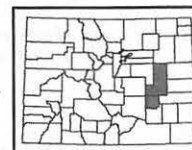
WildlifeGIS

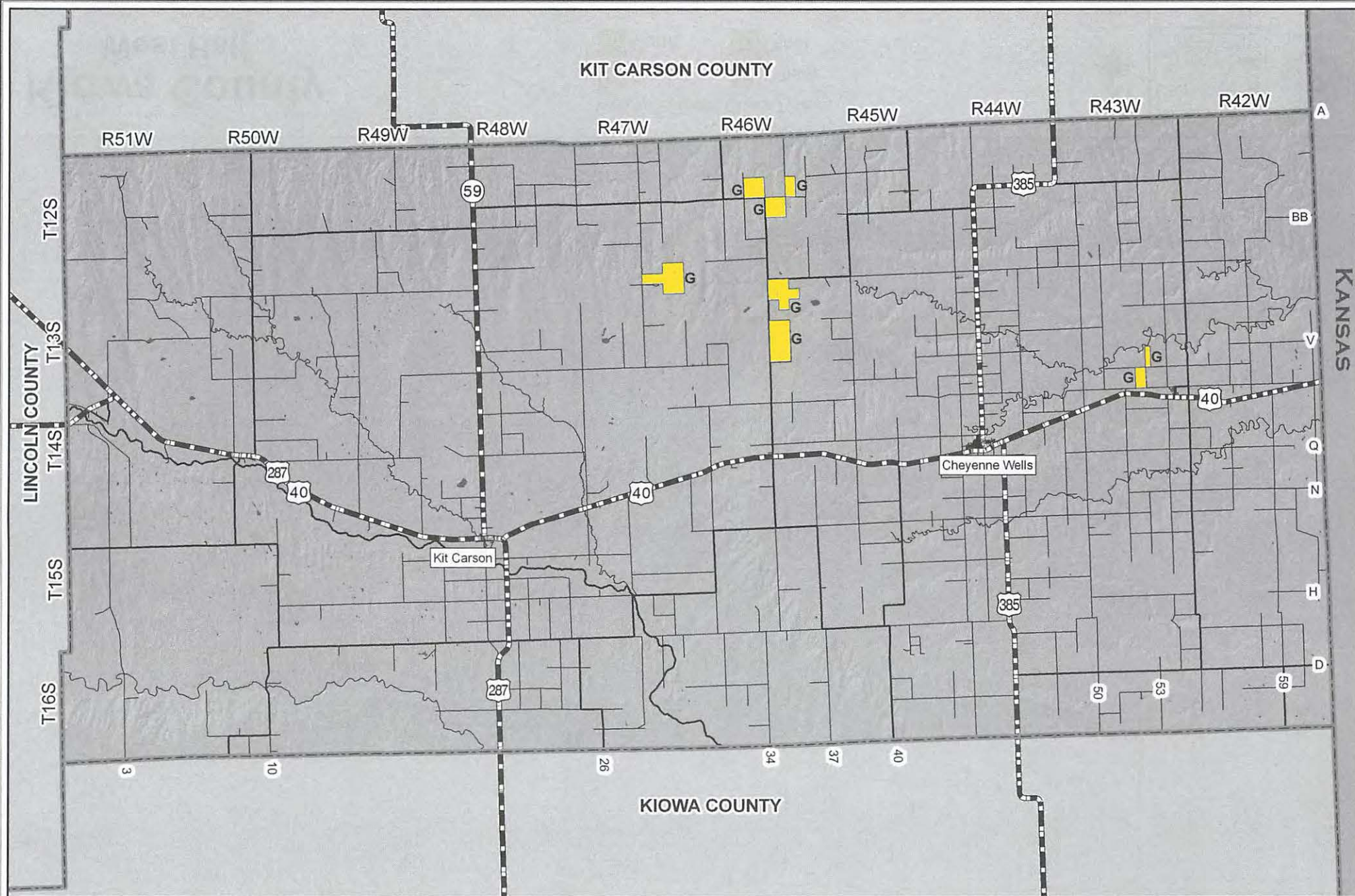


Lincoln, Crowley & Otero Counties

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

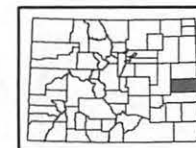




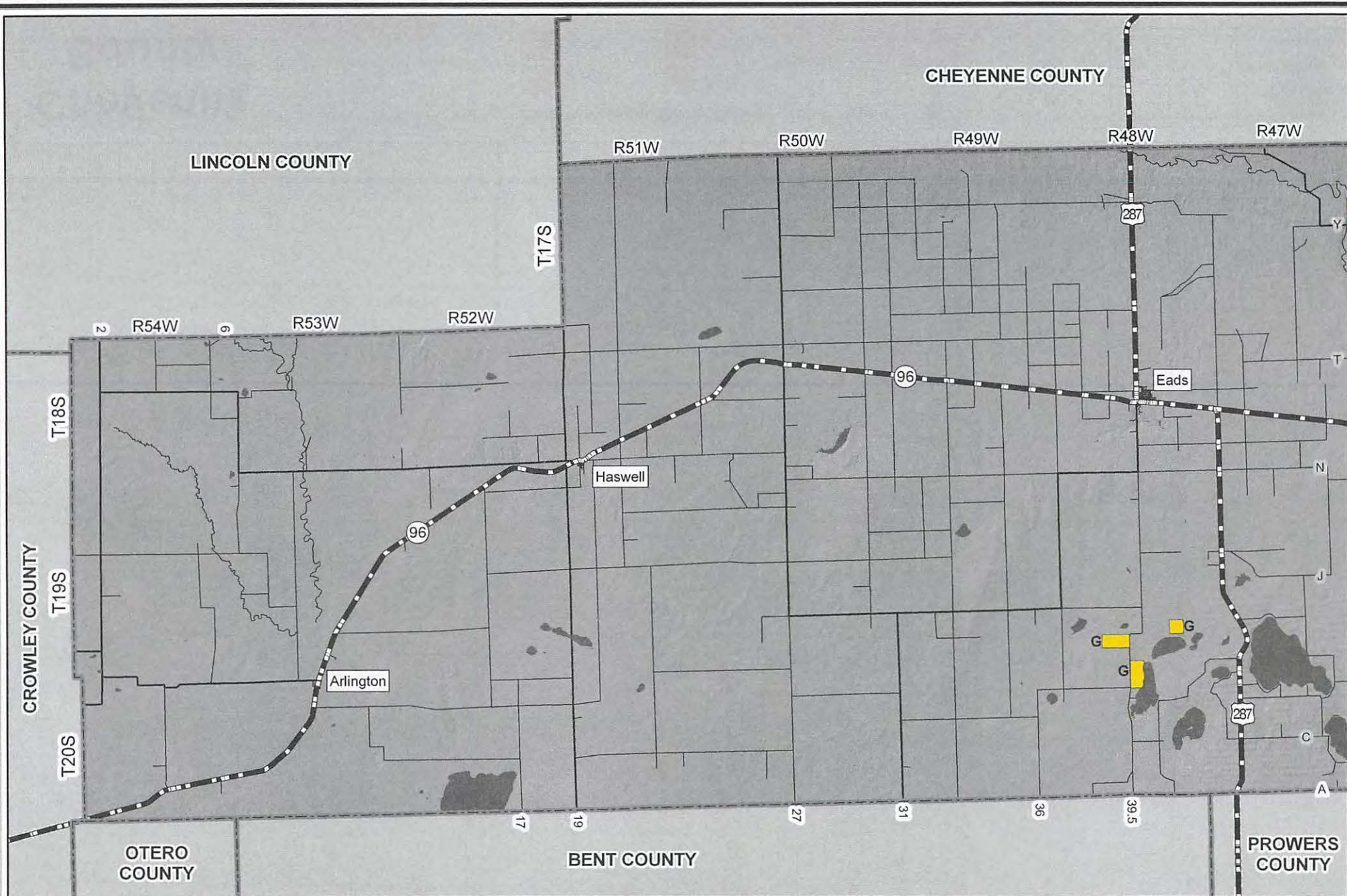
Cheyenne County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

G Grass	W Wheat
C Corn	O Other



WildlifeGIS

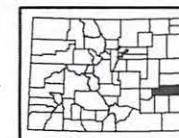


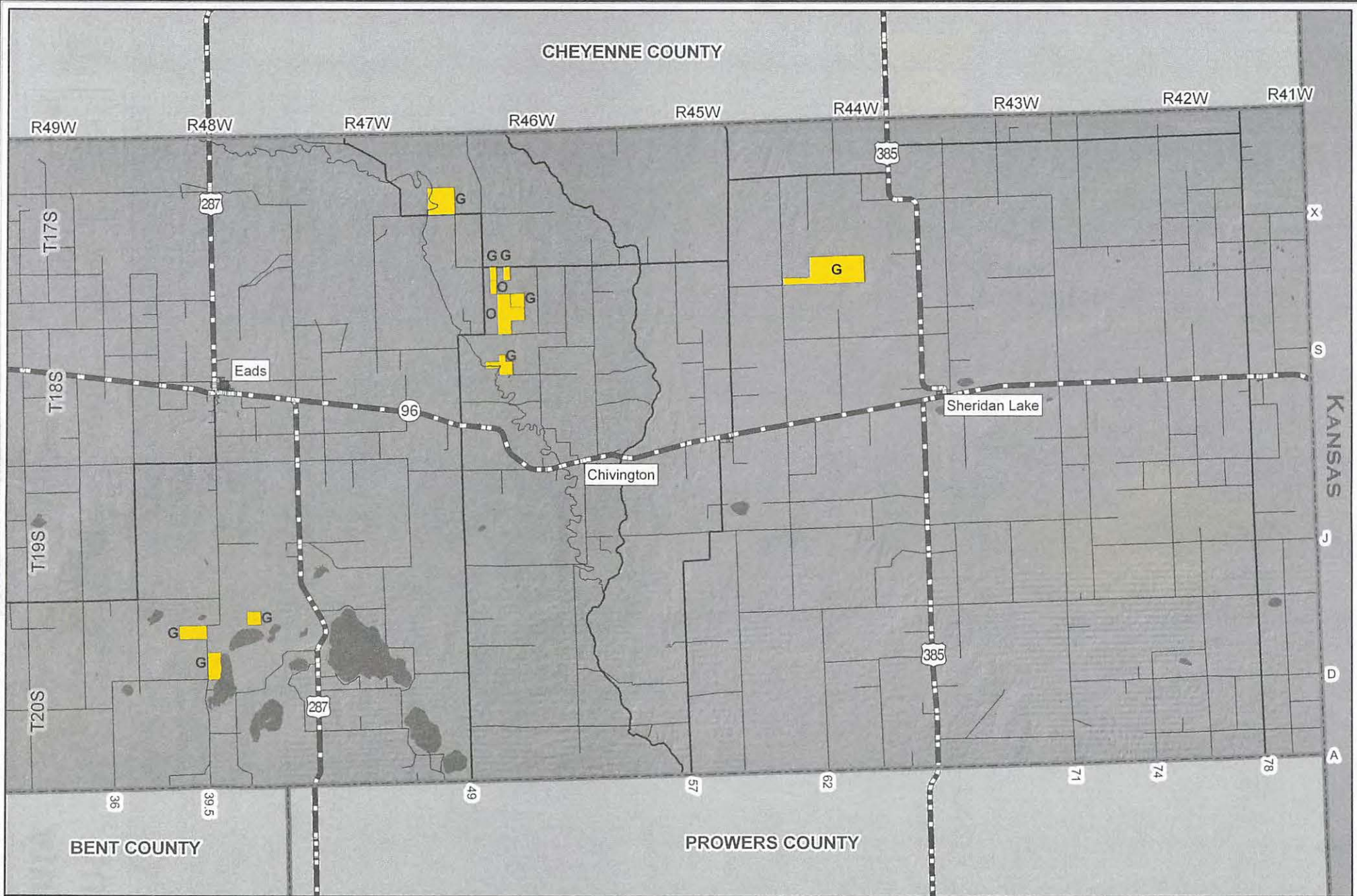
Kiowa County

West Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

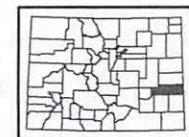




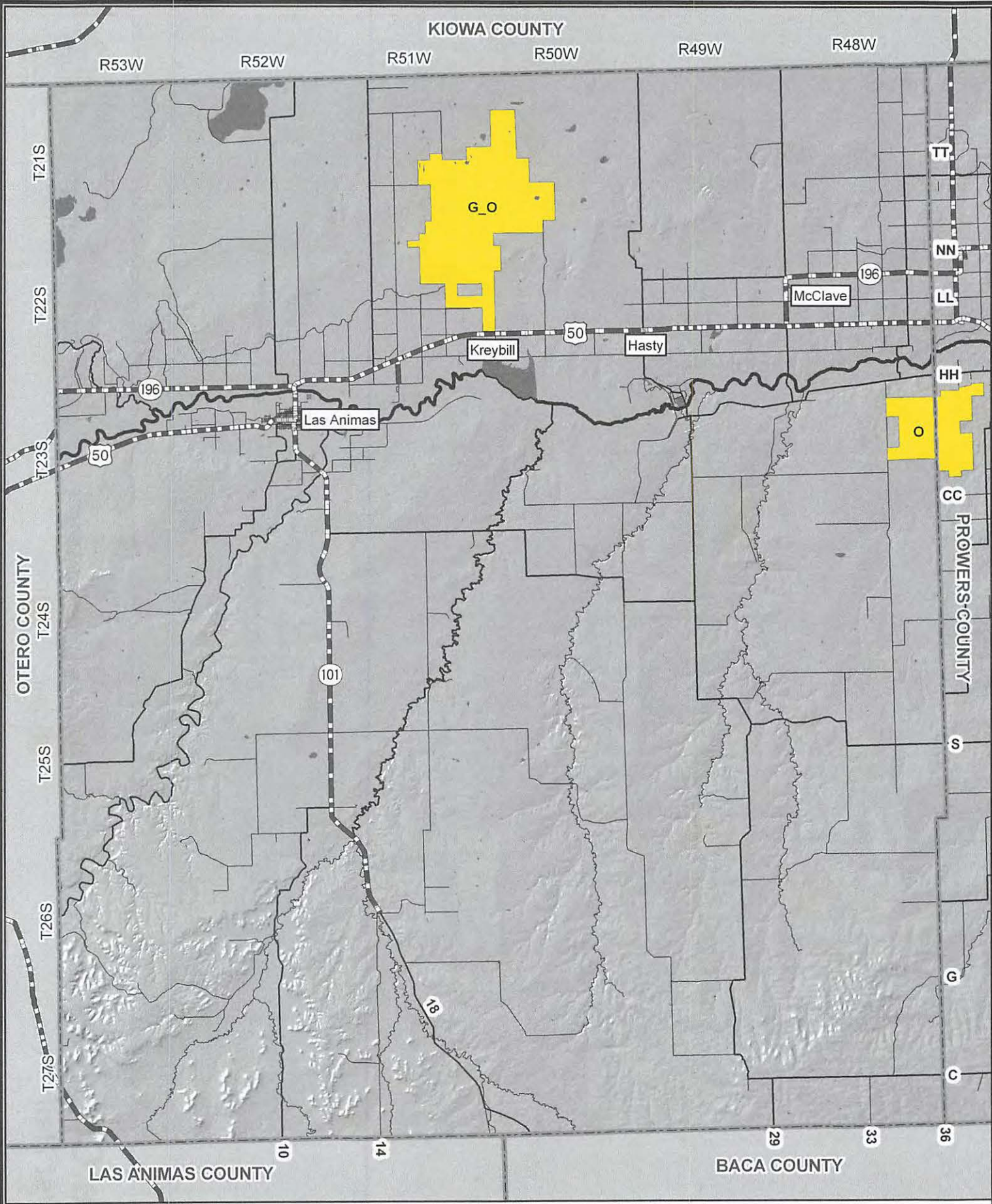
Kiowa County East Half

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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



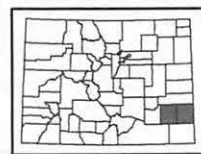
WildlifeGIS



Bent County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

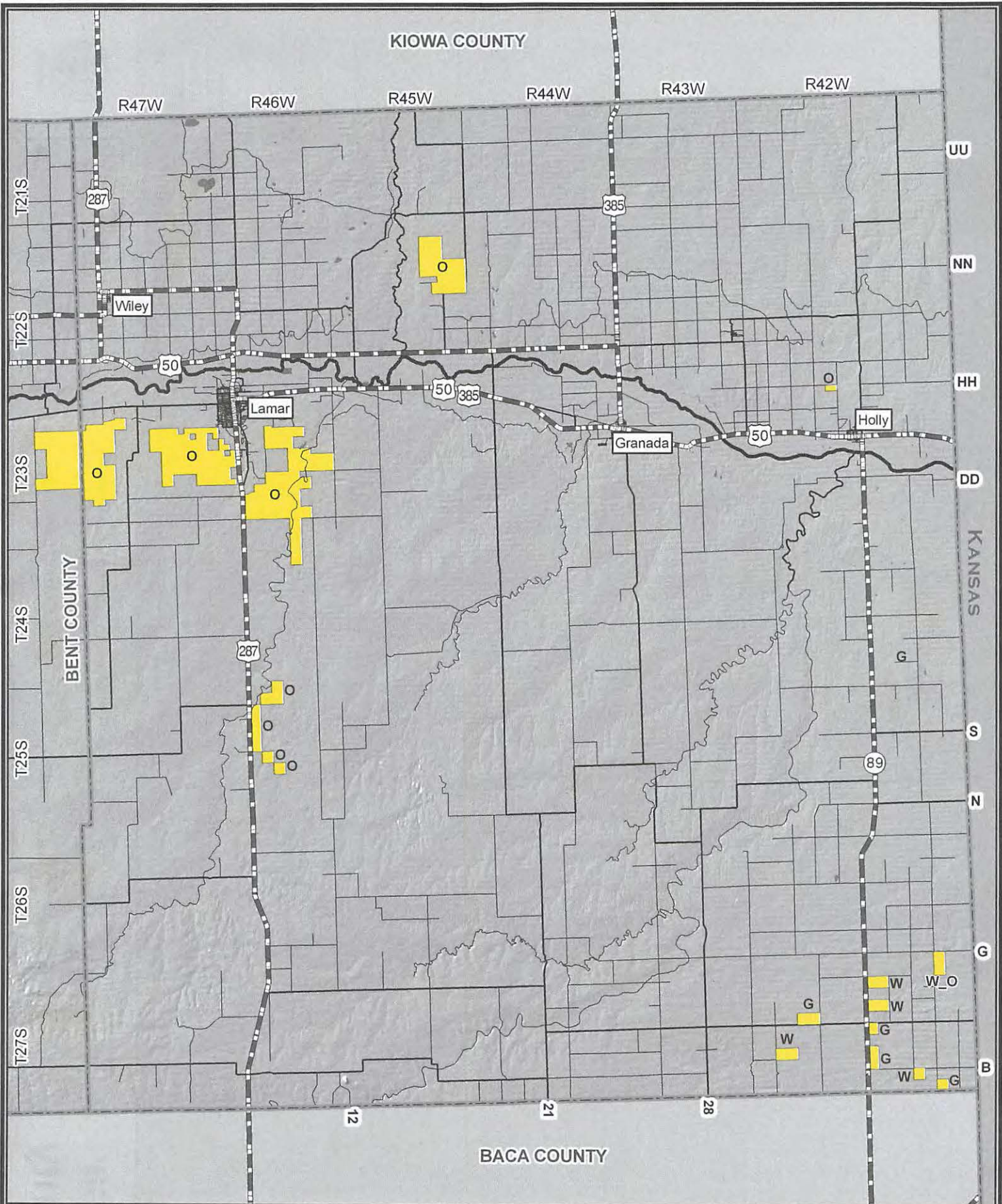
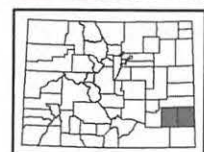
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

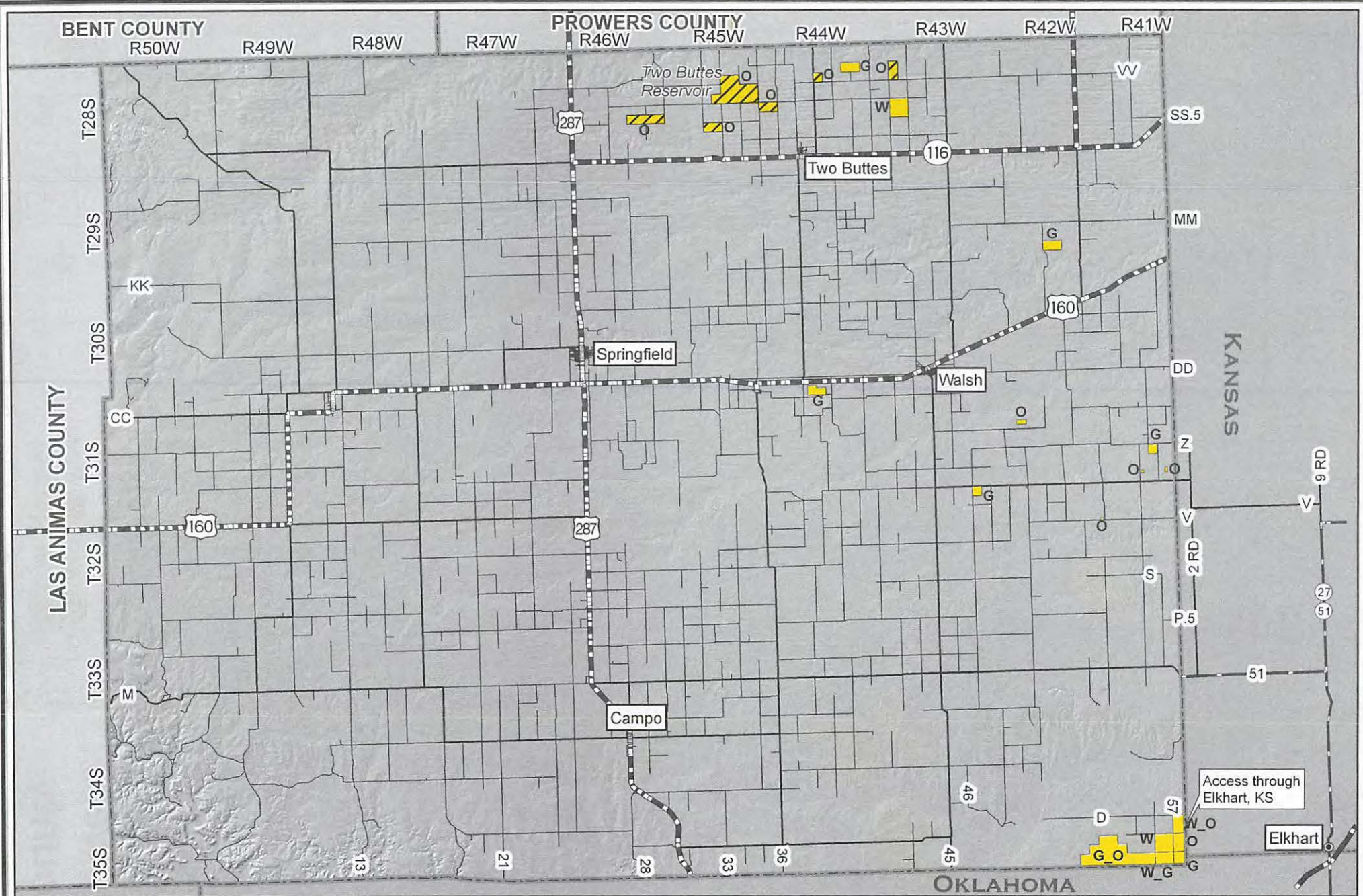


Prowers County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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






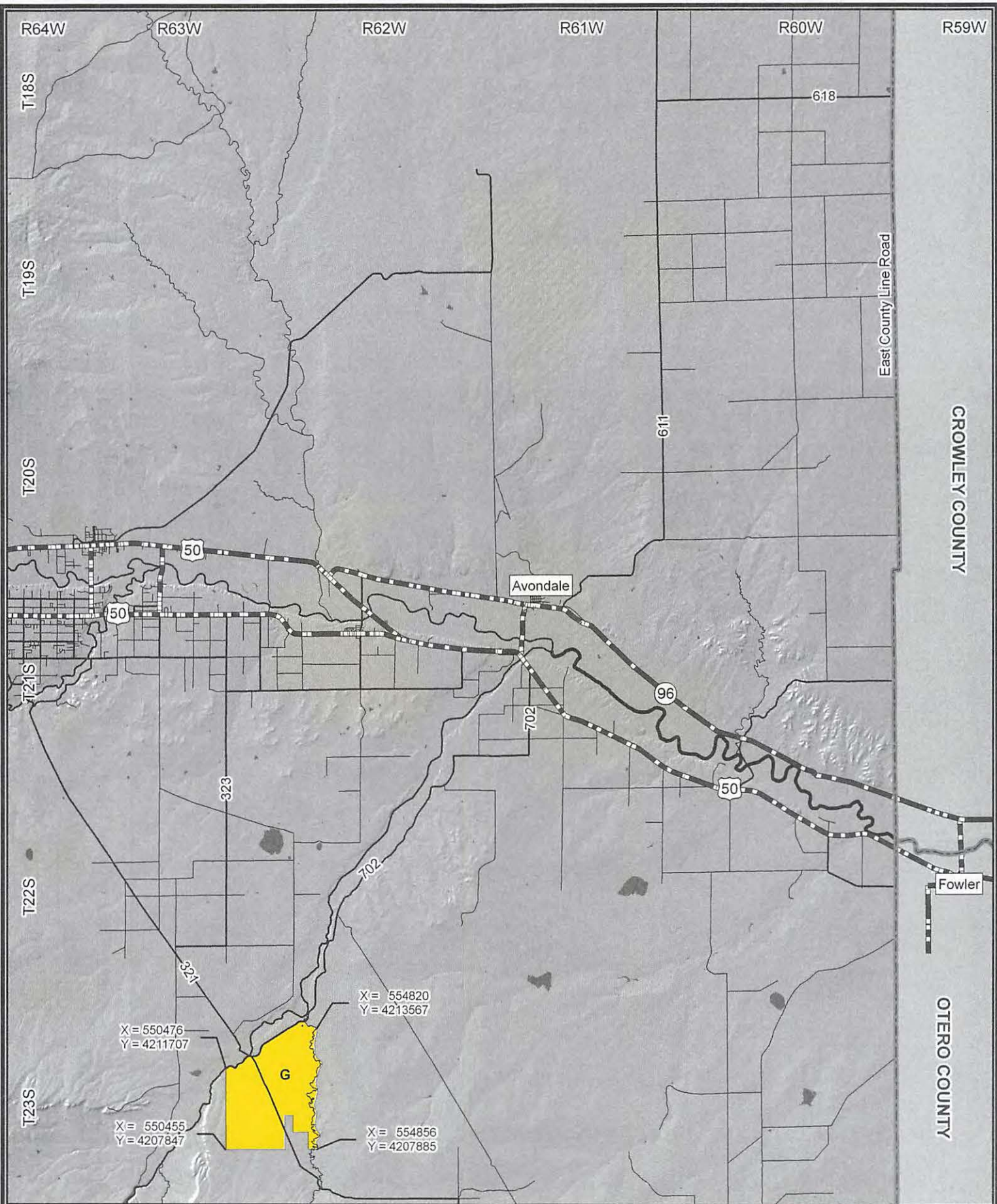
Baca County

- Walk-In Property Cover Types
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| G Grass | W Wheat |
| C Corn | O Other |

Open to hunting - No Walk-In Stamp Required

 Grazing Exchange



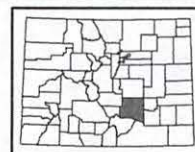


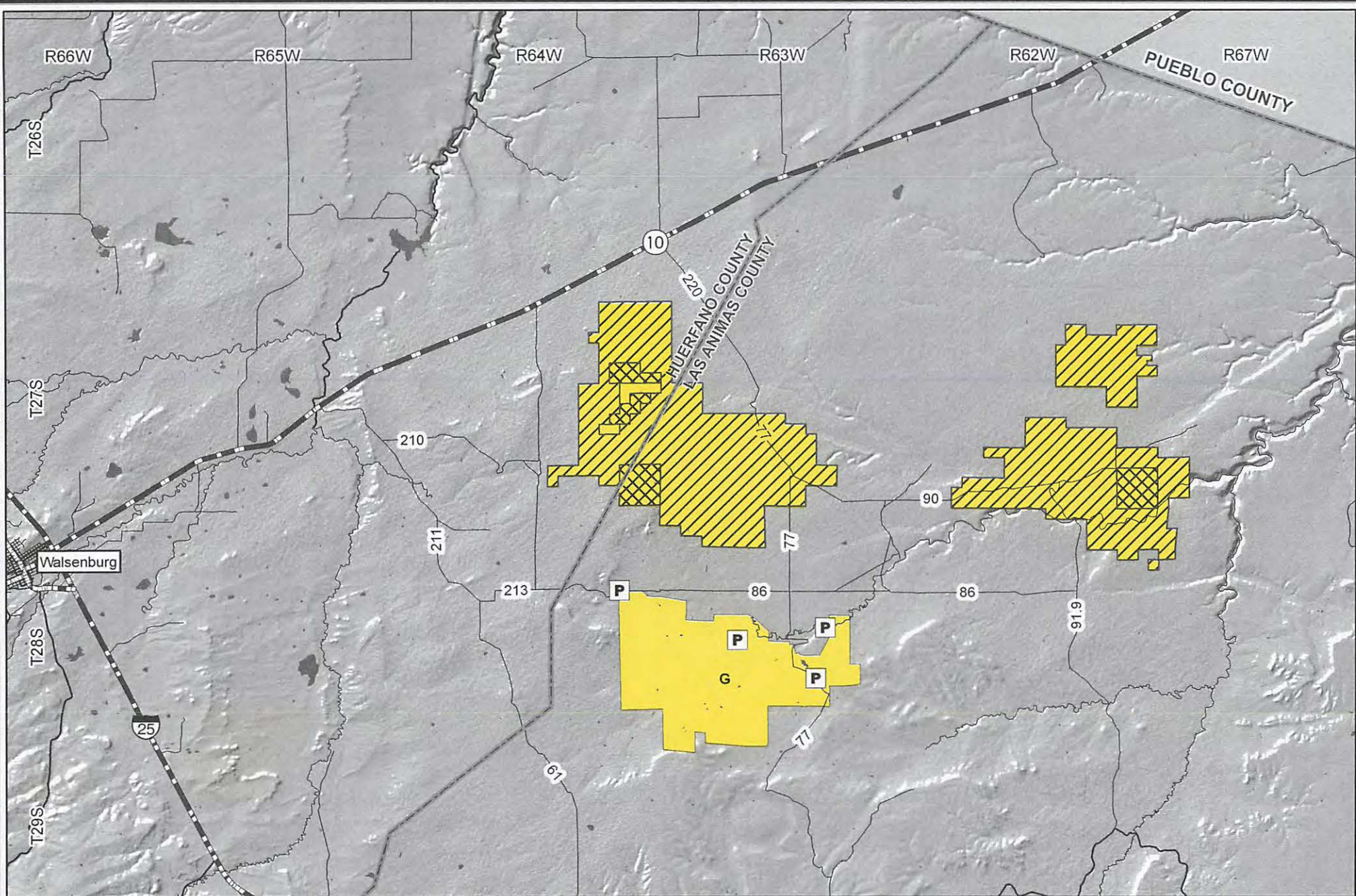
Pueblo County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

Coordinates provided in
NAD83, UTM, Zone 13





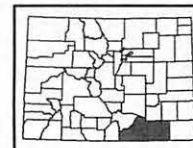
Las Animas County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

Roberts Ranch - No Walk-in Stamp Required

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| EOU-Open to Hunting | Leased-Open to Hunting |
| See Property Signs for Regulations | |



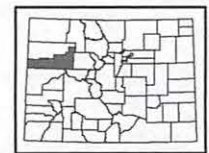


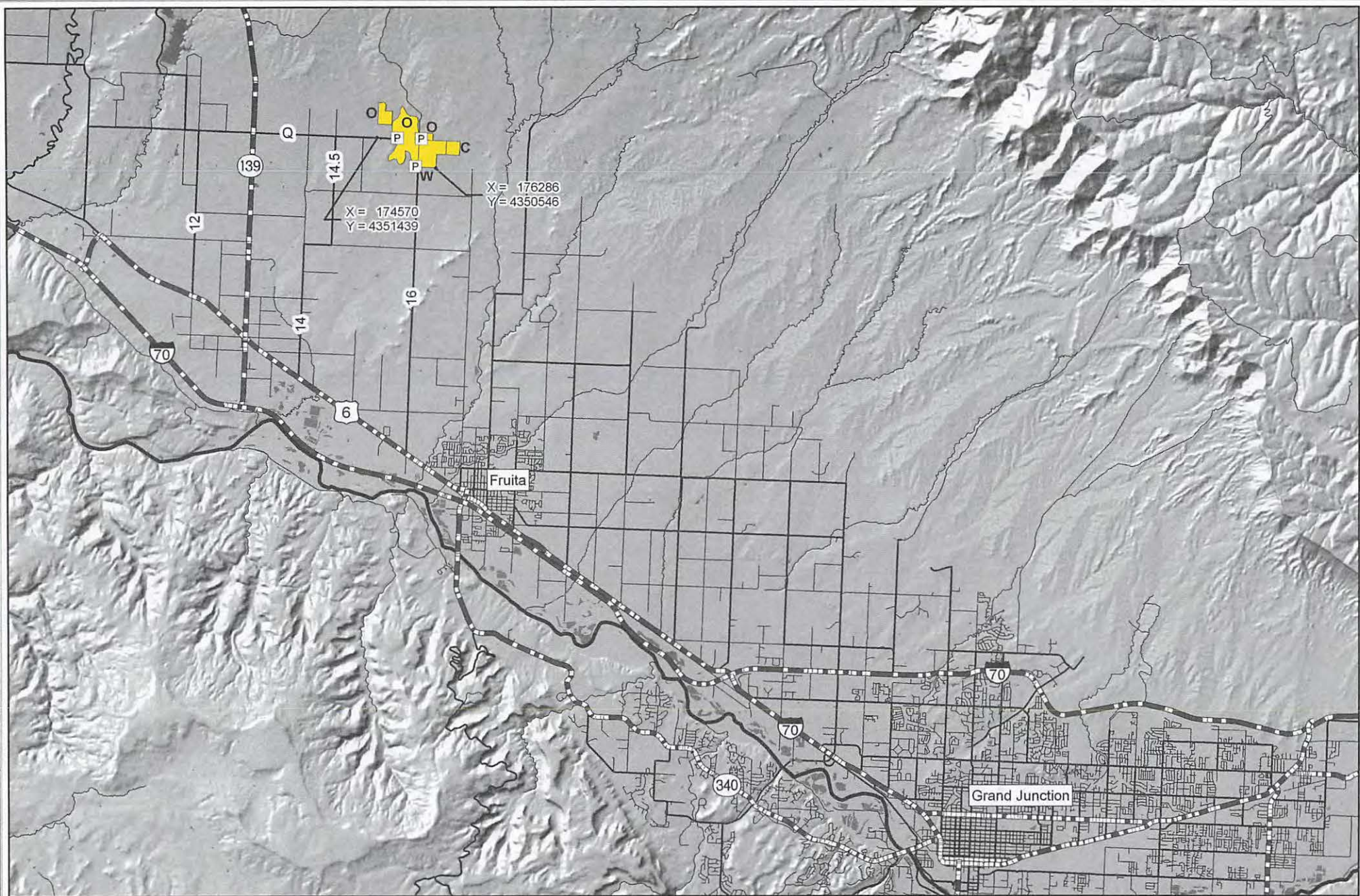
Garfield County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

Coordinates provided in Zone 13, UTM, NAD83





Mesa County

Walk-In Property Cover Types

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

Coordinates provided in Zone 13, UTM, NAD83



WildlifeGIS



Dolores County

Walk-In Property Cover Types



Grass



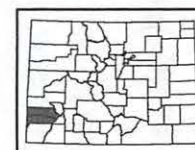
Corn



Wheat



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 47 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 should 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 a lone hunter, 50 doves in a specific area might be enough to enjoy a good hunt, while a small group of hunters will require more doves. 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, 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 site. Isolated tree groves are equally valuable as hunting cover in farmland or in rangeland 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.



A cottonwood riparian dove roosting site in southeast Colorado.

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 associated with the crop stubble, underneath the yet to be harvested 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, snow-on-the-mountain, kochia, and pig-weed seeds. Each of these can support a good concentration of mourning doves when rainfall 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 or quail. 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.



Fields of annual sunflowers are great concentration sites for doves..



Rangeland with sunflowers and Rocky Mountain beeplant can attract large numbers of mourning doves.

Water:

A variety of water sources are used by doves. Similar to food sources, doves seem to prefer water sources that have little or no 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 temporary 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 windmill is a commonly used watering site in northeast Colorado.
Photo by Mike Trujillo

Hunting Concepts

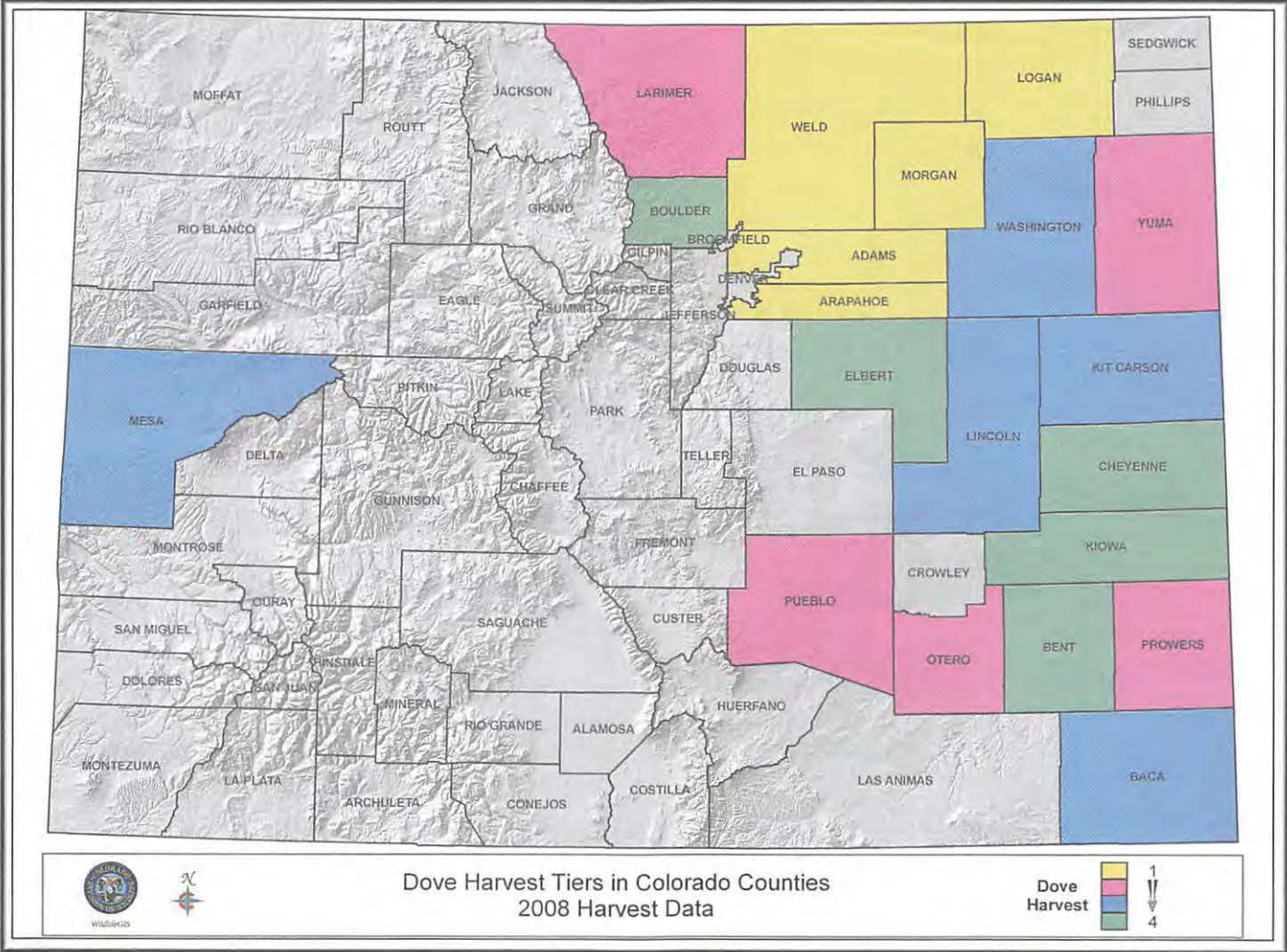
Like pheasant or duck hunting, preparation plays an important role in a successful dove hunt. Experienced dove hunters consider dove hunting as serious as any other hunting opportunity, right down to the techniques of scouting and watching the weather forecast. Knowing how doves react to weather patterns 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.

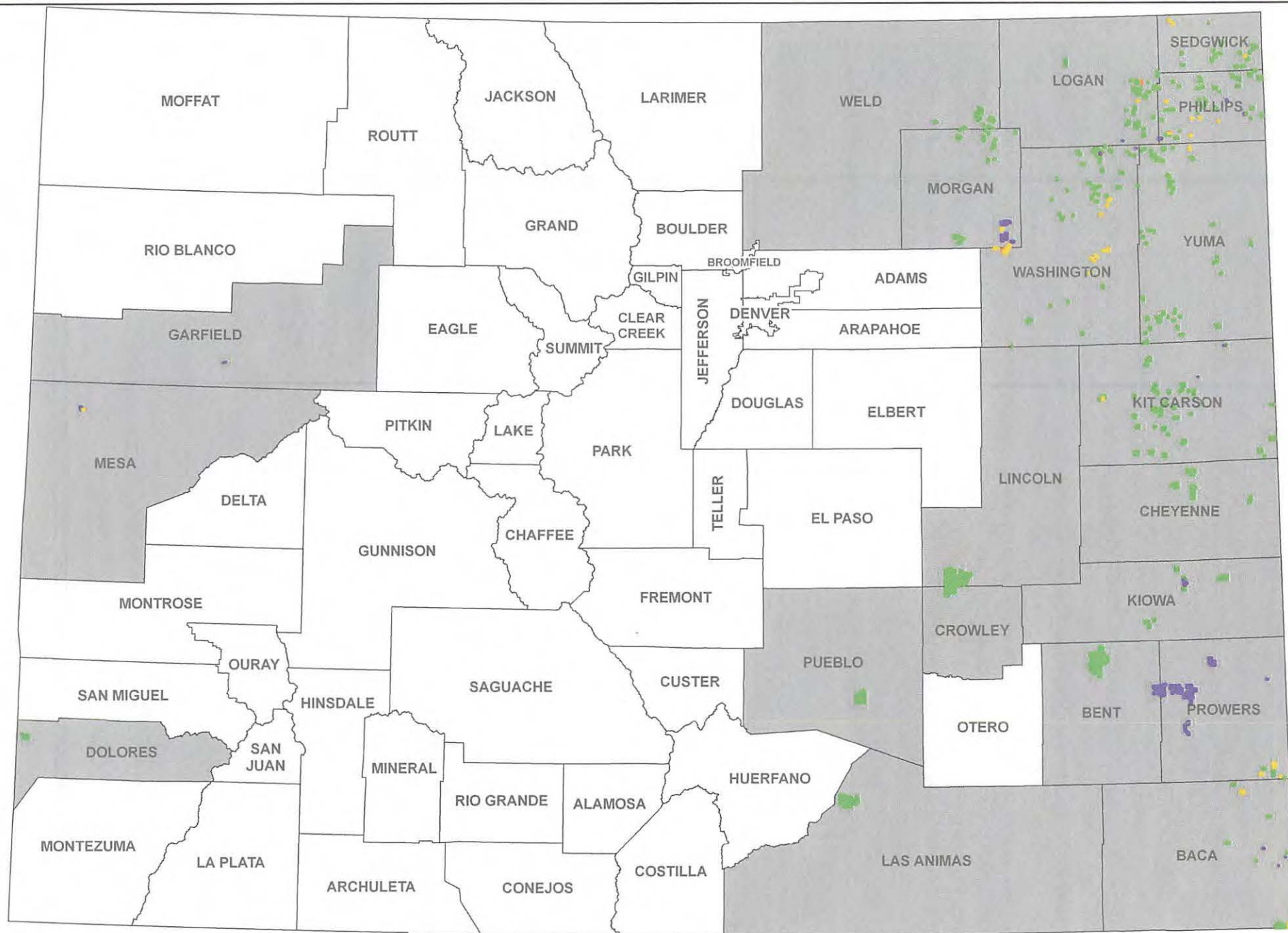
1. Habitat Composition - A proven tactic used by dove hunters is to determine which primary habitat requirement is in the least supply in a given area, and focus hunting efforts on the few areas that offer that habitat requirement. In any year or area, limiting factors change, but figuring out which 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 if 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, everyday 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 broadleaf forb seeds that grow in road ditches, fence rows, and abandoned farmsteads.

3. Season timing - Sept. 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 Oct. 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.





**Counties with Acreage in the Colorado
Walk-In Access Program - 2009**

Cover Type

