



Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

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Who Is Colorado Springs Utilities



- Four-service Utility in primarily El Paso County
 - Electric, natural gas, water, wastewater
 - Over 600,000 customers
- Terminal Storage
 - Primarily on Pikes Peak
 - 14,000 acres
- Forest Management
 - Electric line vegetation management
 - Watershed vegetation management



ELECTRIC

NATURAL GAS

WATER

WASTEWATER

Forest Management

- Watershed level vegetation management across mixed ownership
- Partners with USFS, CSFS, and Non-profit organizations
- Watershed Prioritization



Forest Restoration & Wildfire Mitigation

- Priority landscapes with targeted areas for treatment with partner support
 - ~\$2M - annual program budget
- Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) – Pikes Peak
 - 1,000 acres in 5 project areas
 - \$1M - Department of Natural Resources' Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)
 - \$1M - Colorado State Forest Service's Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities (HFVC)



Wildfire Composite Assessment – Pikes Peak

1. Wildfire/Mortality Hazard

- Wildfire/Crown fire hazard ranking
- Insect Mortality

2. Flooding or Debris Flow Hazard

- Ruggedness
- Flooding Debris Flow Hazard

3. Roads Hazard

- Stream Crossing, Road Crossing

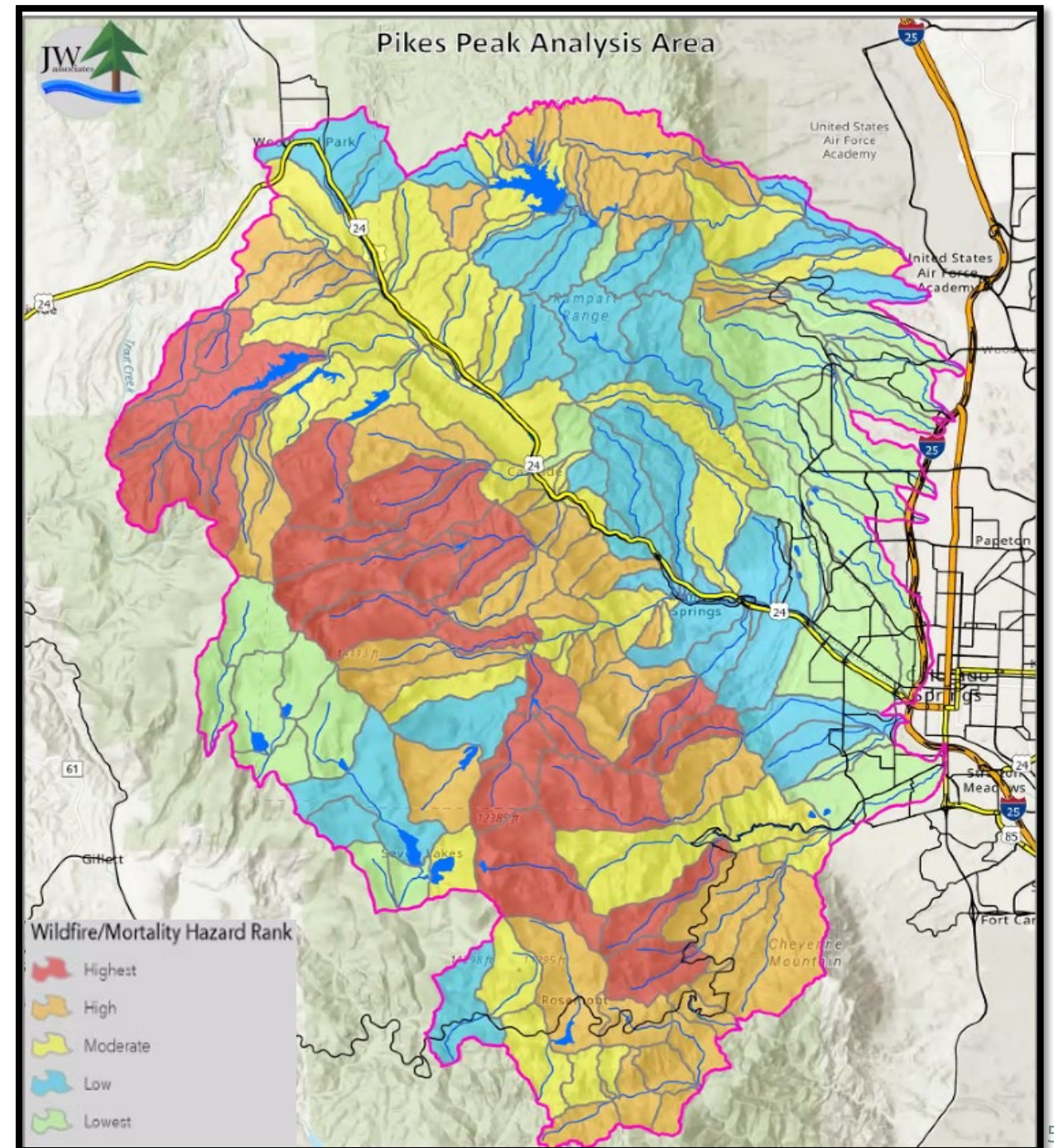
4. Soil Erodibility

- Susceptibility of soil erosion (USGS)

5. Water Supply

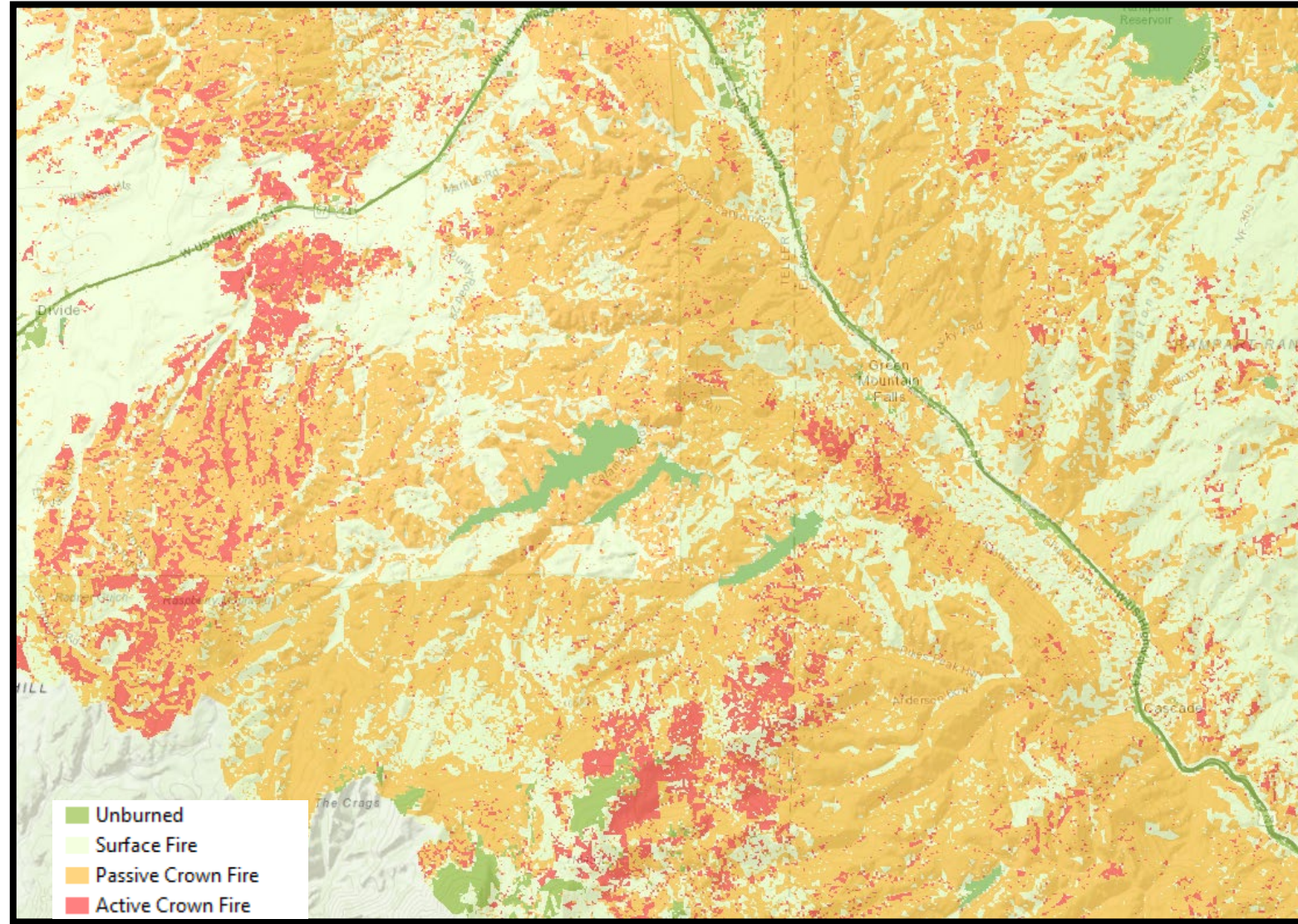
- Water intakes / Diversions
- Reservoirs

6. Forest Adaptive Capacity

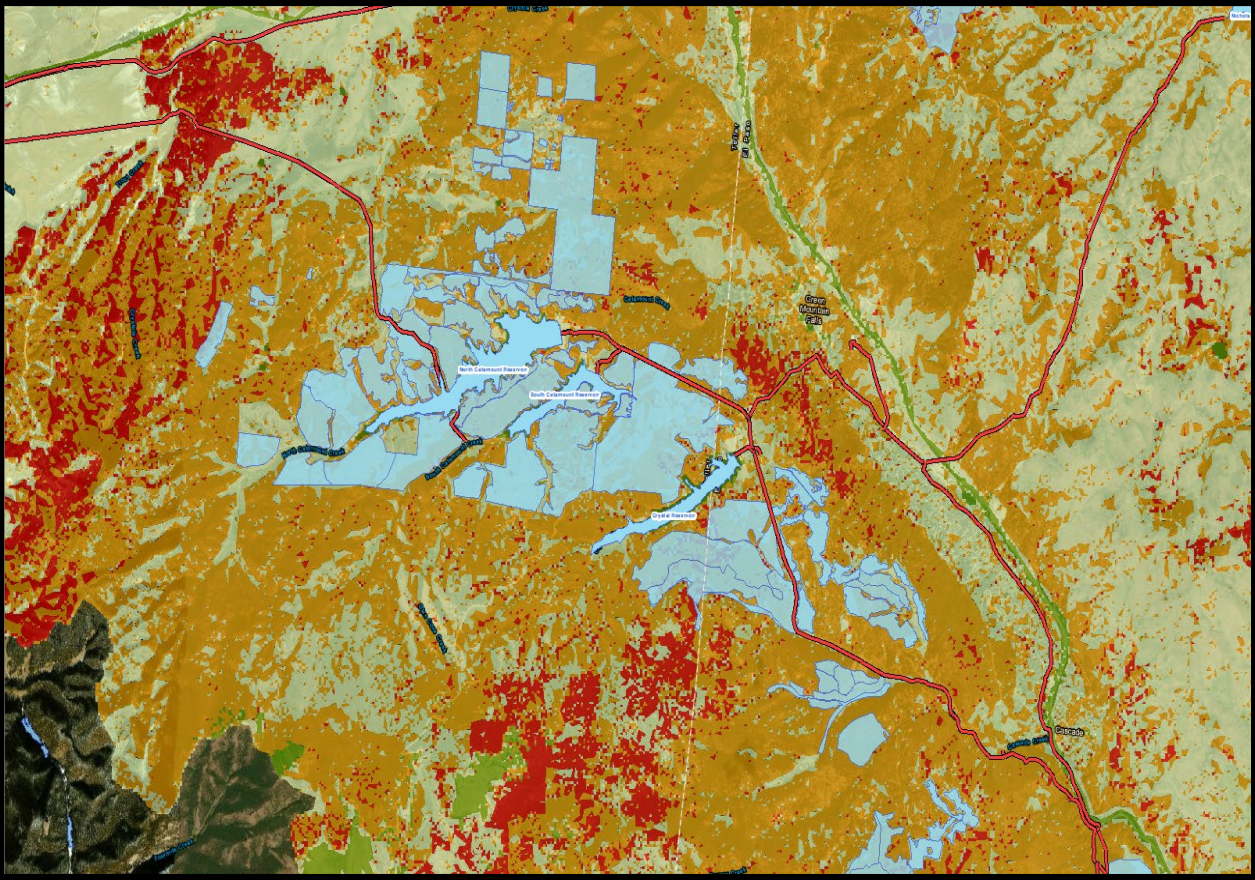
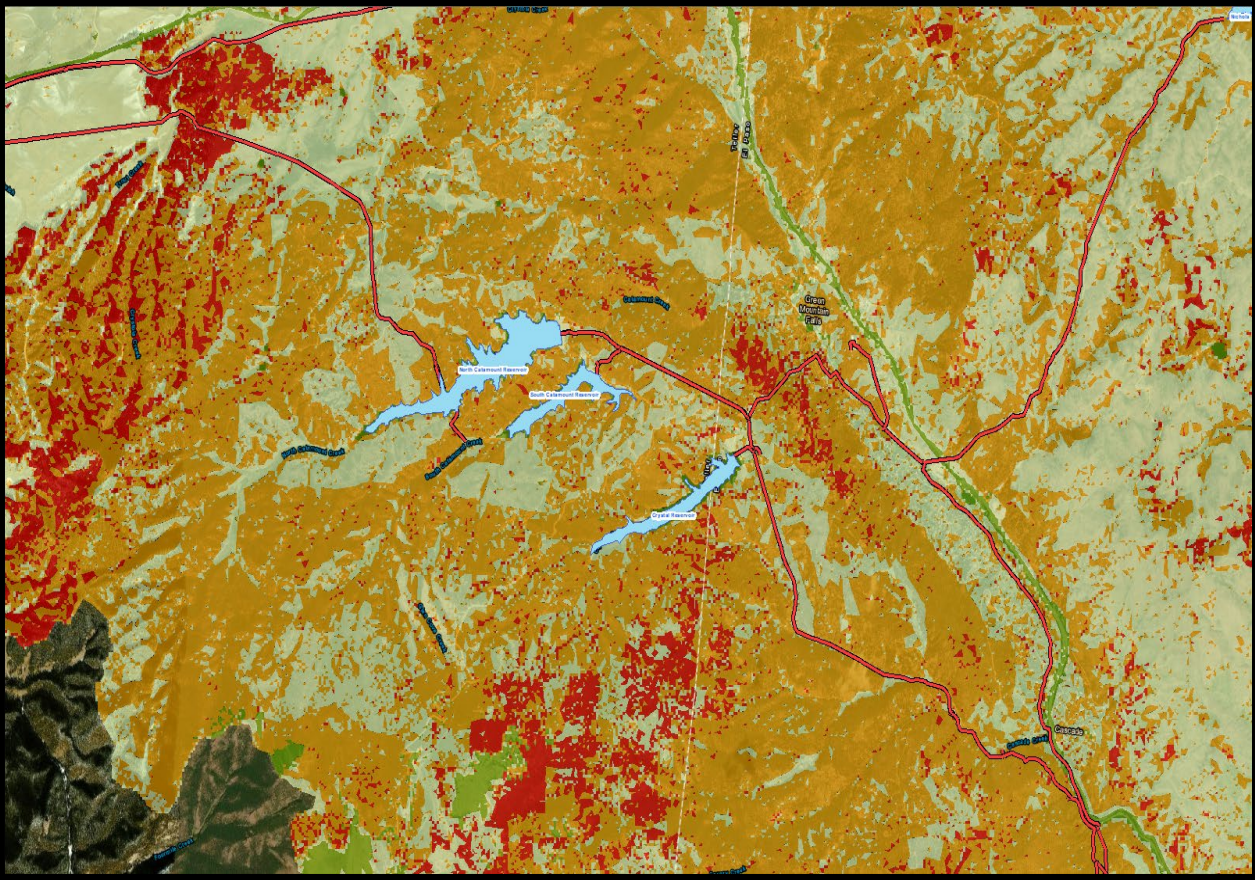


Crown Fire Activity

- Data from Landfire (2020 Data)
 - Nation wide dataset
 - Based upon 2020 data for fuel models for the entire western US
 - FlamMap model
- Crown Fire Activity
 - Targeted areas of opportunity for refined treatment areas

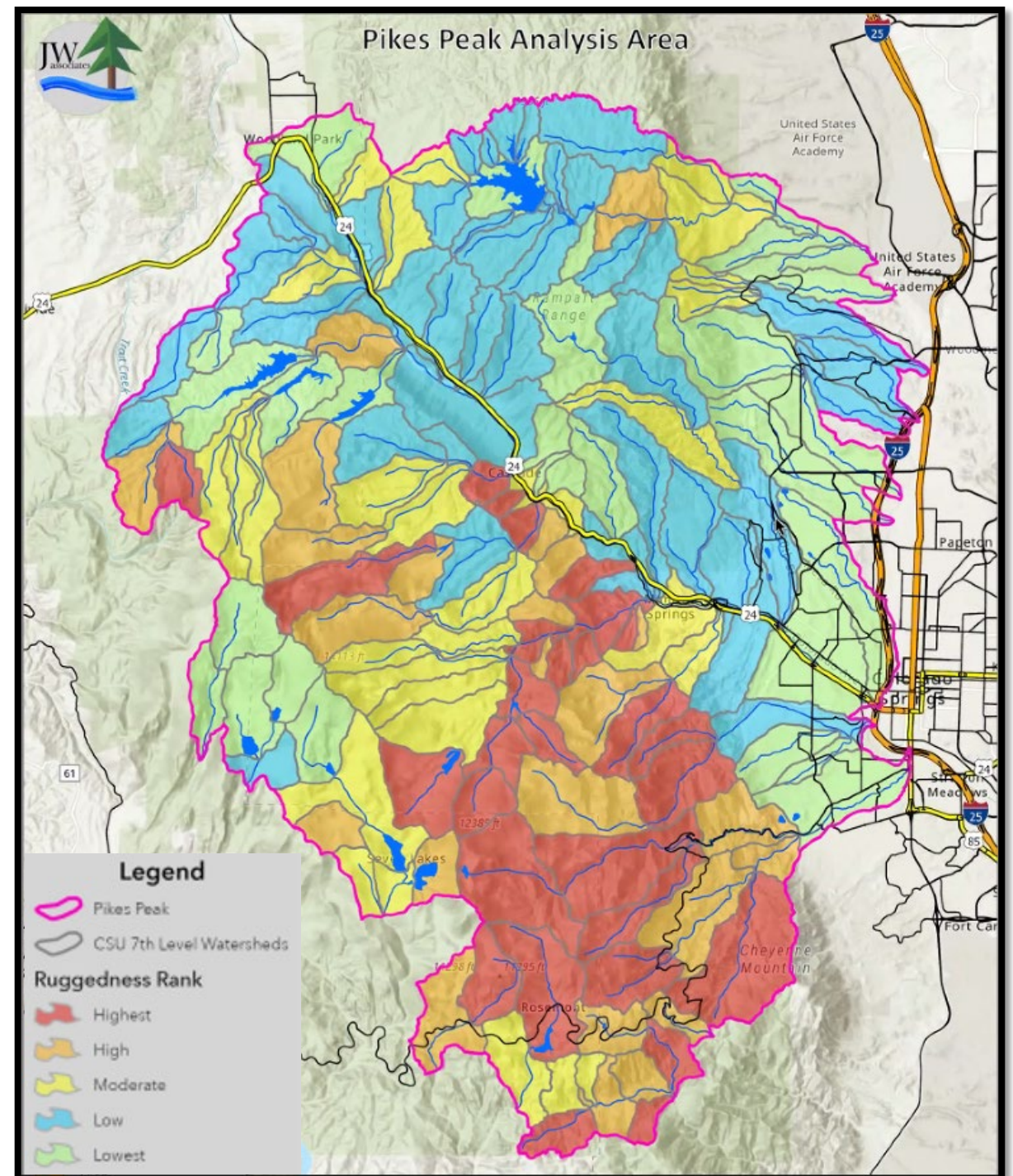


Crown fire Activity



Debris Flow Analysis – Post Wildfire Debris Flow Hazard

- Utilizes fire burn severity analysis (modeled) and assumes the entire watershed is burned



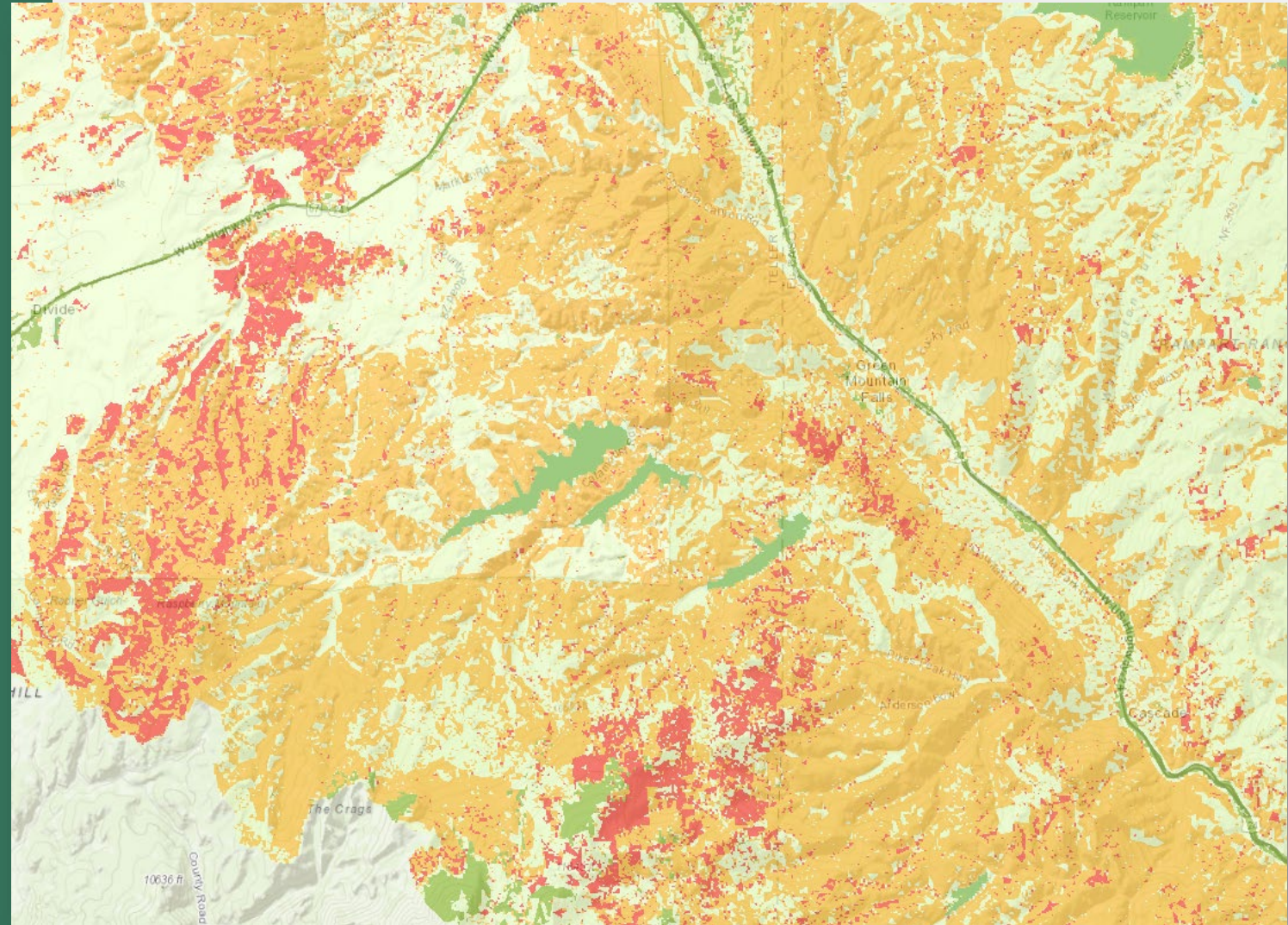
Catamount Wildland Fire Team

- 1914 & 1924 Agreement with US Department of Agriculture – Watershed Lands
- Formed in the 1988
- 40+ members that represent all utilities services – electric, natural gas, water, wastewater
- Initial attack in wildland fires on Colorado Springs Utilities' property, including watersheds



Success

- How do we measure success?
 - Acres treated for forest resiliency
 - Risk variables reduced & lives saved
- Are we making a difference?
 - Fire severity is being reduced
 - Forest ecosystems are changing on the landscape
 - Post fire impacts will trend to improve over time
 - Protecting water with a healthy forest





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