

# Colorado Wildlife Regulations For Oil and Gas

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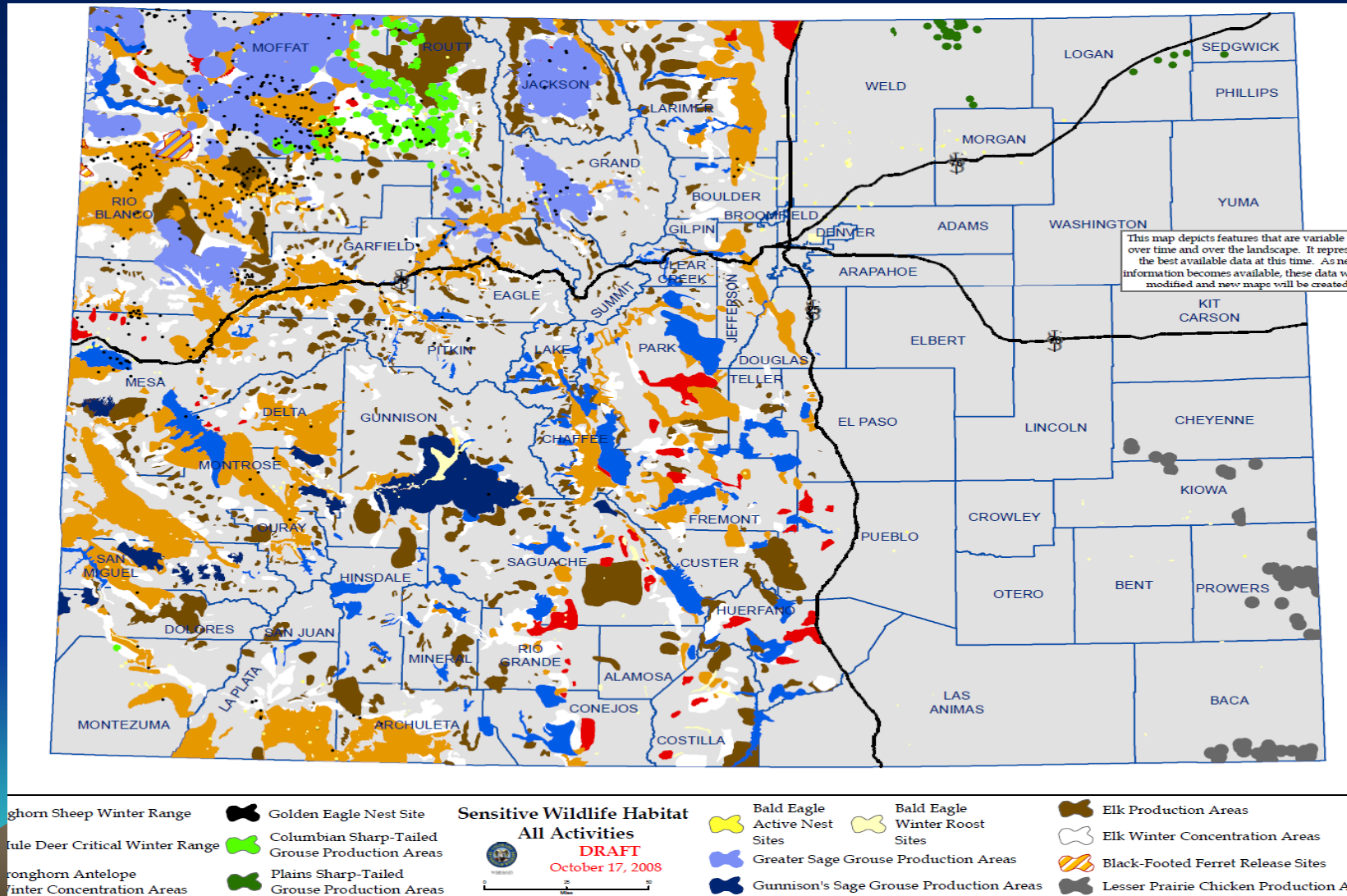


# Background on Regulations

- HB 07-1298 from the Colorado legislature was the basis for the rule.
- 1200 Series Found In the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission rules.

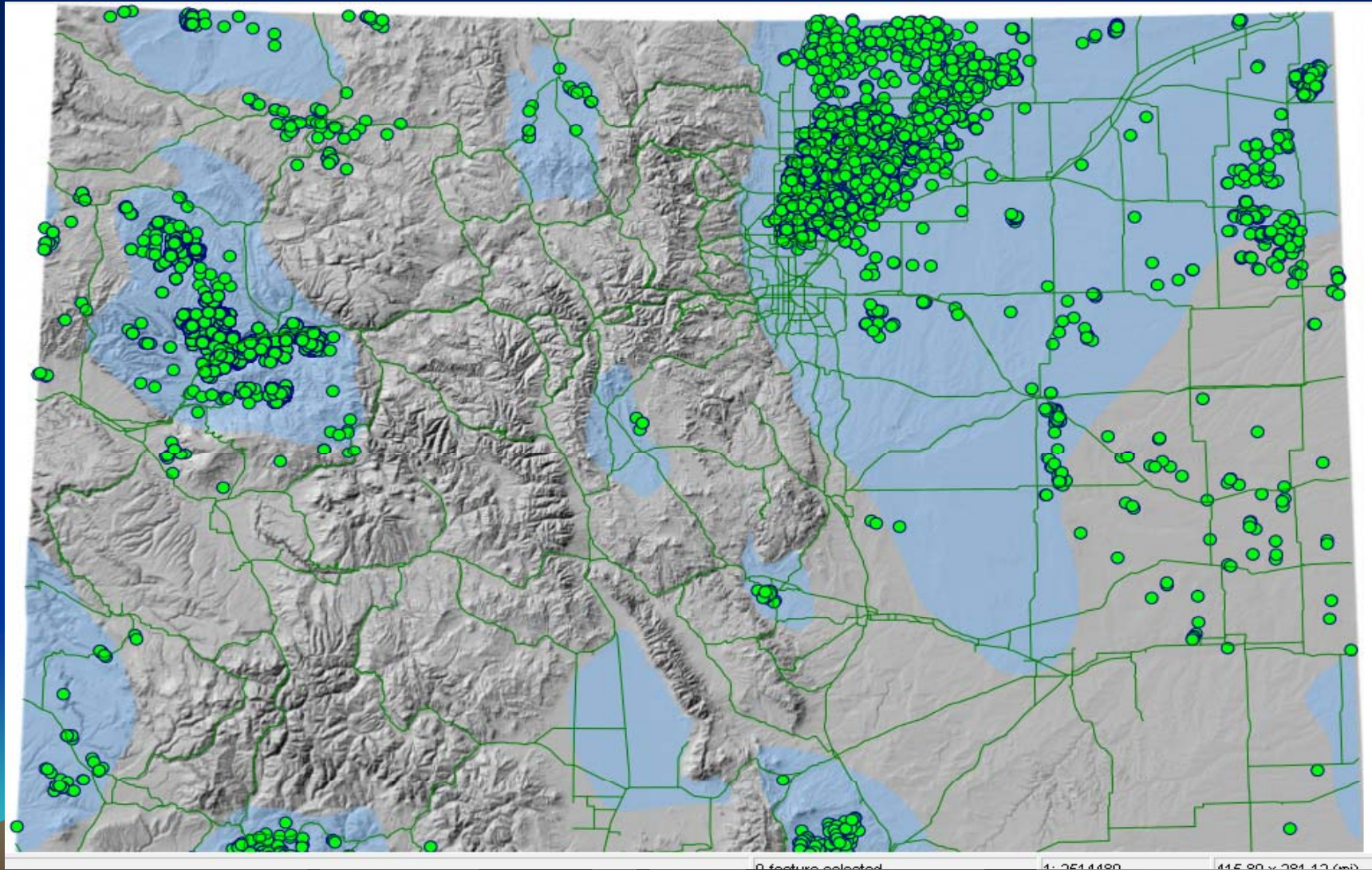


# Compilation of Wildlife Sensitive Habitat and Restricted Surface Use Areas



Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

# Major Oil & Gas Basins in Colorado



Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission



# Regulatory Aspects

- CDOW statewide classification and mapping system for “restricted surface occupancy areas” (RSO’s) and “sensitive wildlife habitats”
- Operators required to review Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) maps on the COGCC website to determine conflicts with proposed oil and gas location
  - Operator then includes information regarding RSO or sensitive habitats on Form 2A
  - This information dictates whether consultation with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife is required



# Regulatory Aspects con't

- Consultation with CPW
  - Goal is to balance oil and gas development and minimizing impacts to wildlife resources
  - Involves the COGCC, CPW, the operator and surface owner.
  - Exceptions to Consultation
    - Surface disturbance levels below a threshold;
    - New wells pads are limited per square mile
    - Wildlife Mitigation Plan exists
    - Others



# Wildlife Mitigation Plans (WMP's)

- Provided as a voluntary option for oil and gas operators in the regulations
- Eliminates consultation
- 12 WMP's currently exist covering 900 square miles of western Colorado



# Regulatory Aspects Con't

- General Operating Requirements In Sensitive Wildlife Habitat and Restricted Surface Occupancy Areas  
COGCC
- Requirements In Restricted Surface Occupancy Areas
  - Consideration given for technically and economically feasible when planning and conducting oil and gas development in these areas





# Observations of WGA CHAT

- Where it would help:
  - States could coordinate data sets that differ at state lines
  - If operators do not have finer scale wildlife data sets, WGA data would serve as an alert as a screening tool
  - Where density of development is high, the information could be of benefit more as a mitigation tool but not for pre-planning
- Where it may not be as useful:
  - Operators and the state wildlife agencies already possess crucial habitat information on a finer scale than with broader landscape mapping
  - Landowner preferences when split estate exists: severed minerals and surface

