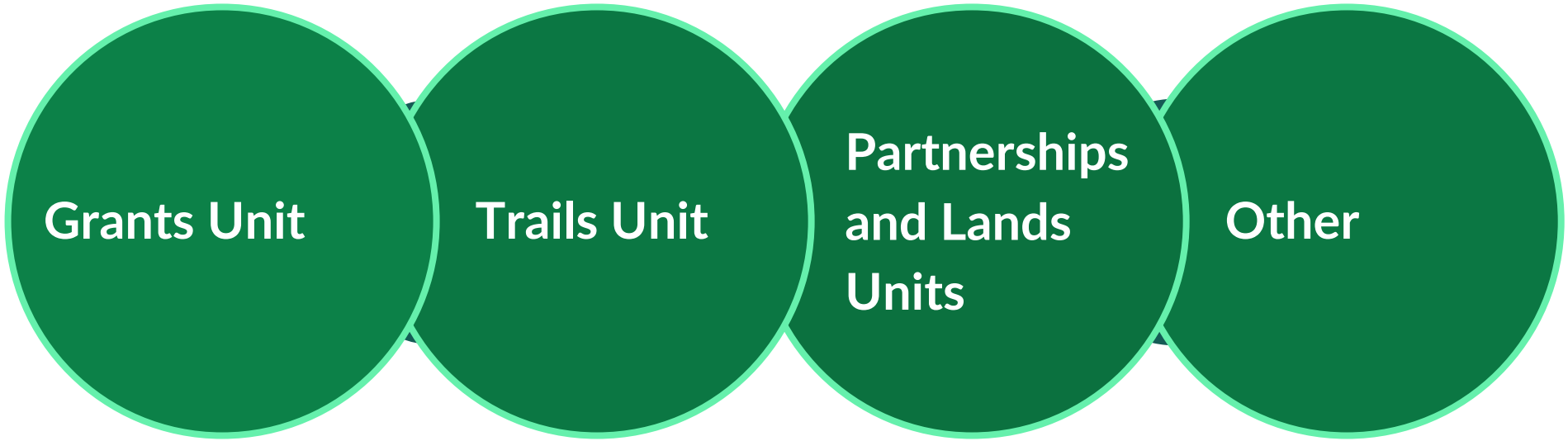


CPW External Grant Programs Overview

September 2nd, 2026
La Junta, Colorado

COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

Grant Programs Across CPW



Grants Unit

Grant Programs

- Fishing is Fun
- Shooting Range Development
- Human-Bear Conflict Reduction
- Born to be Wild
- Wildlife Rehabilitation

Trails Unit

Grant Programs

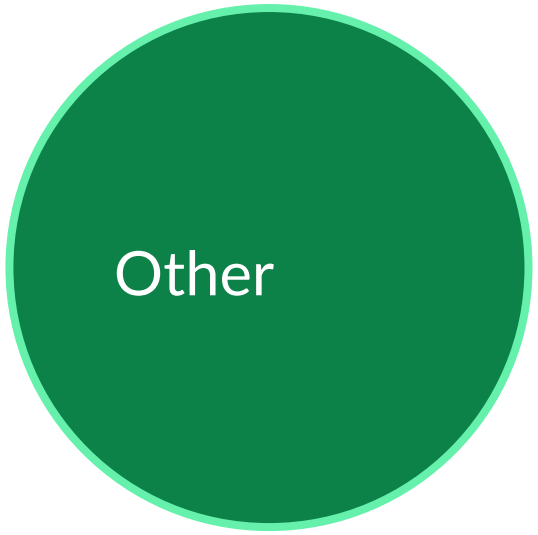
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Non-Motorized Trails Grant
- Off-Highway Vehicle Grants
- Snowmobile Grooming / Capital
- Trails in State Parks

Partnerships and Lands Units

Grant Programs

- Outdoor Equity Grant Program
- Regional Partnership Initiative
- Partners in the Outdoors Grant Program
- Habitat Partnership Program

Grant Programs



- Backcountry Search and Rescue
- Oil and Gas Compensatory Grant Program
- Wetlands for Wildlife Grant Program
- Archery in the Schools
- Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program


FISHING IS FUN IN
Colorado



Program History

Program began in 1987 after updates to DJ funding

- Wallop-Breaux amendment expanded funding

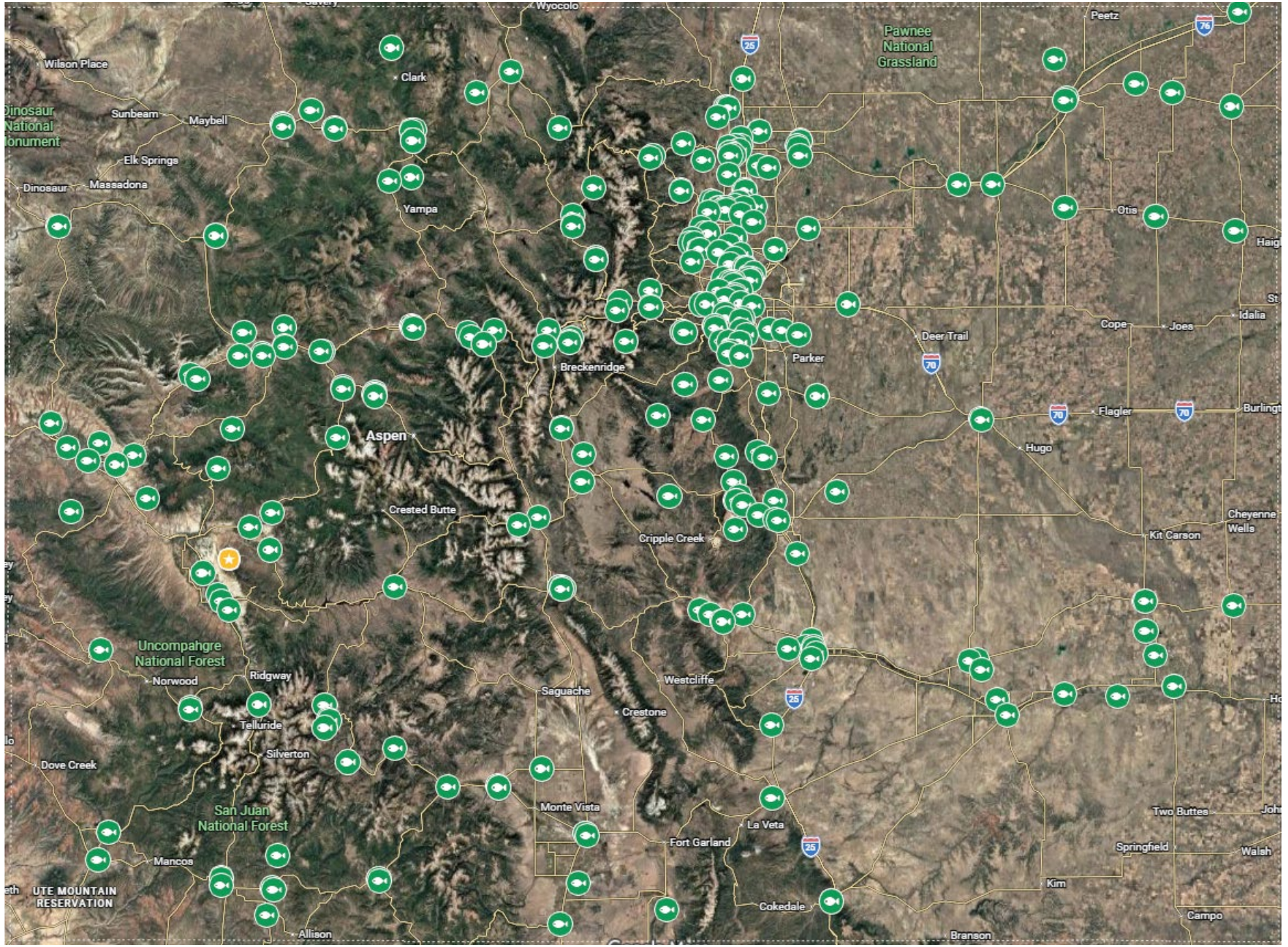
Since inception:

- 441 projects awarded
- $25.2M of awarded funds



FIF Project

1987-Present



Project Types



Project Types

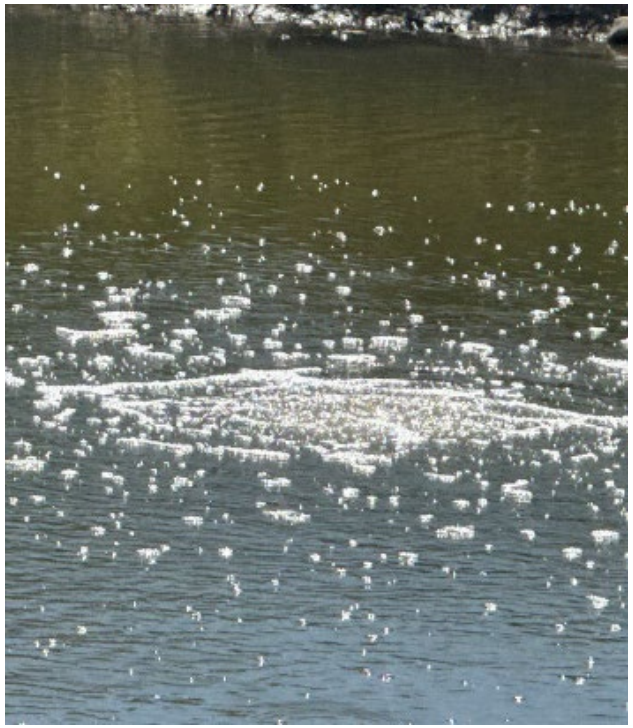


Project Types





Project Types





Eligible Applicants

- Municipal/County Land Management Groups
- Non-profits (TU)
- Community Development Orgs
- HOAs/Special Districts
- Fiscal Sponsors



Funding Sources

- Sportfish Restoration - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Wildlife Sporting License Plates- HB12-1275 established

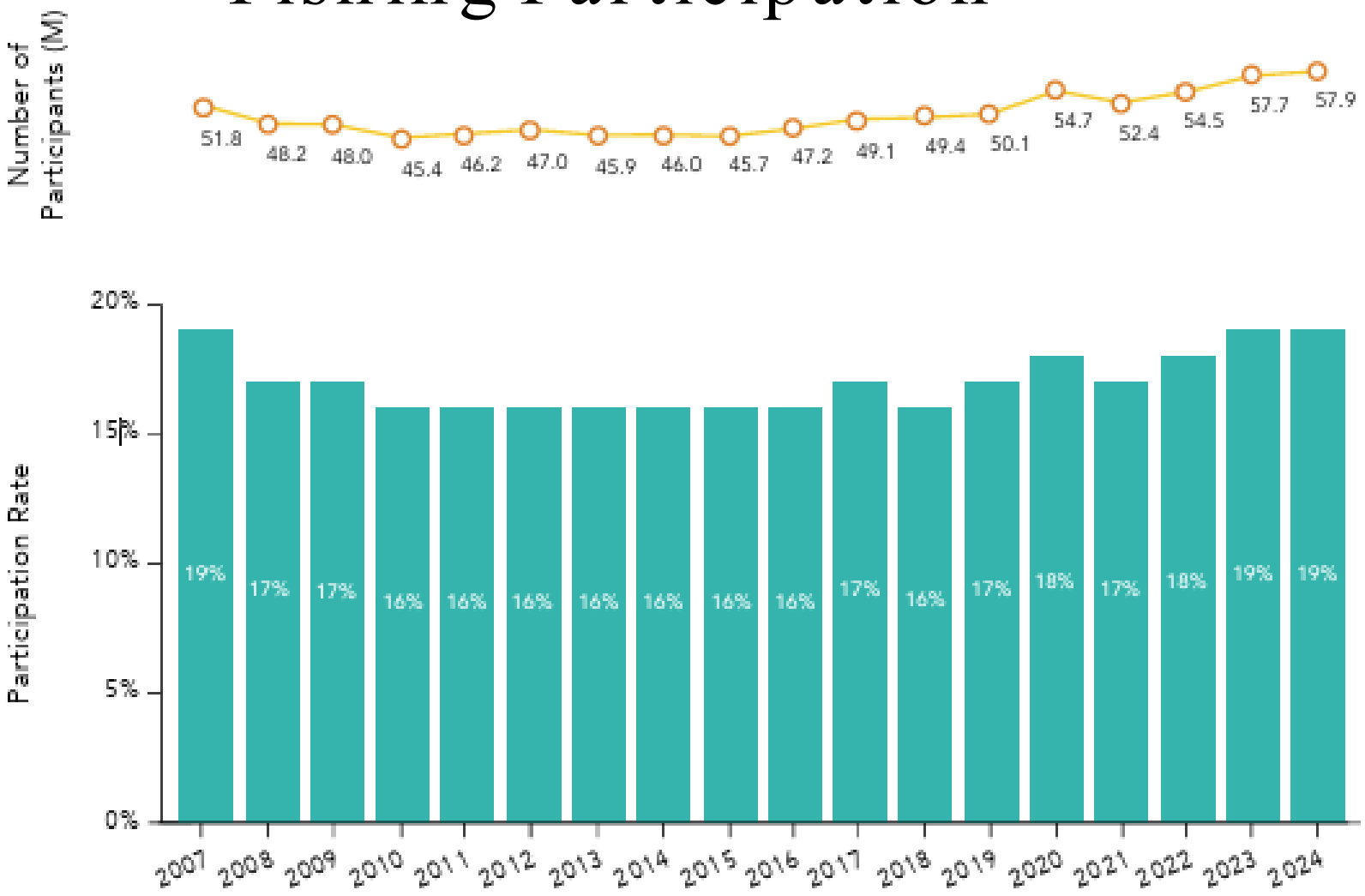


Components of a Good Project

- Public Access
- Public Benefit
- Community supported
- Biologically significant fishery



Fishing Participation



57.9M

TOTAL # OF PARTICIPANTS

Up from 46 million a decade ago

19%

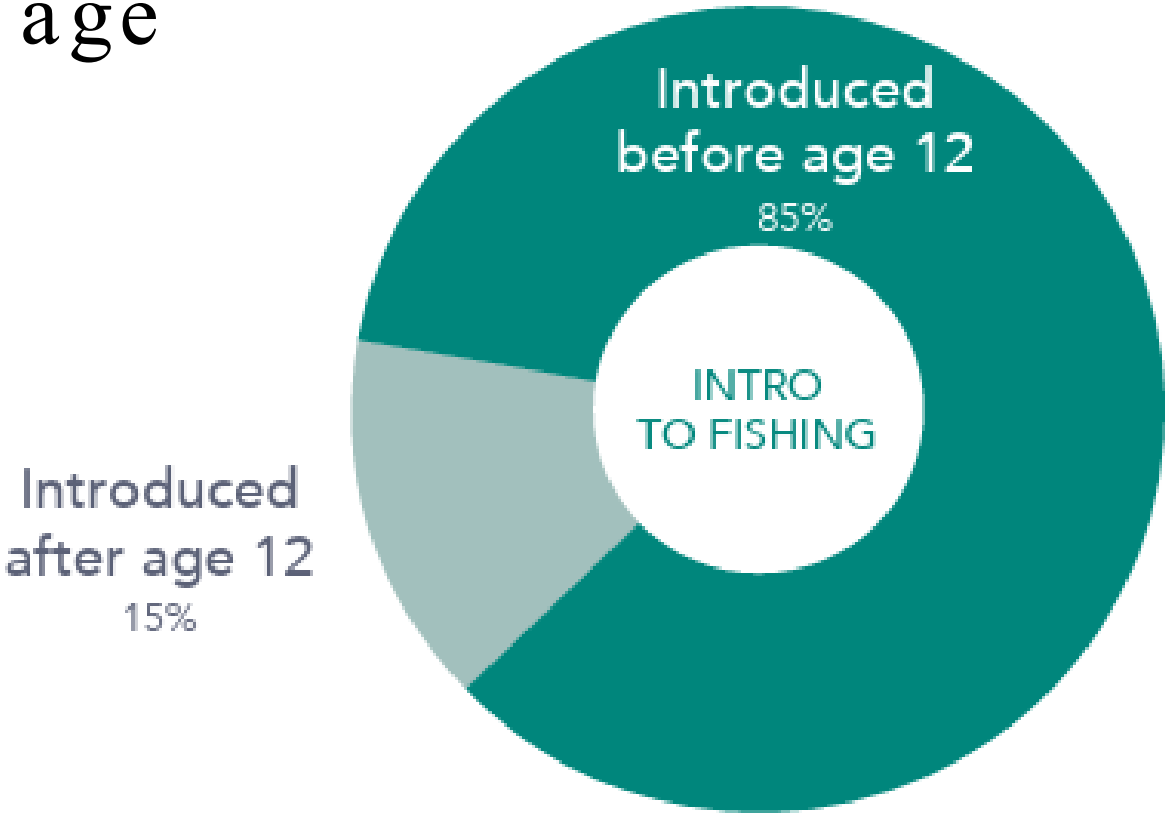
NATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATE

Up from 16% a decade ago

2025 Special Report on Fishing, Outdoor Foundation and Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation



Impact of fishing at a young age



2025 Special Report on Fishing

RECREATIONAL BOATING & FISHING FOUNDATION

OUTDOOR FOUNDATION

COLORADO
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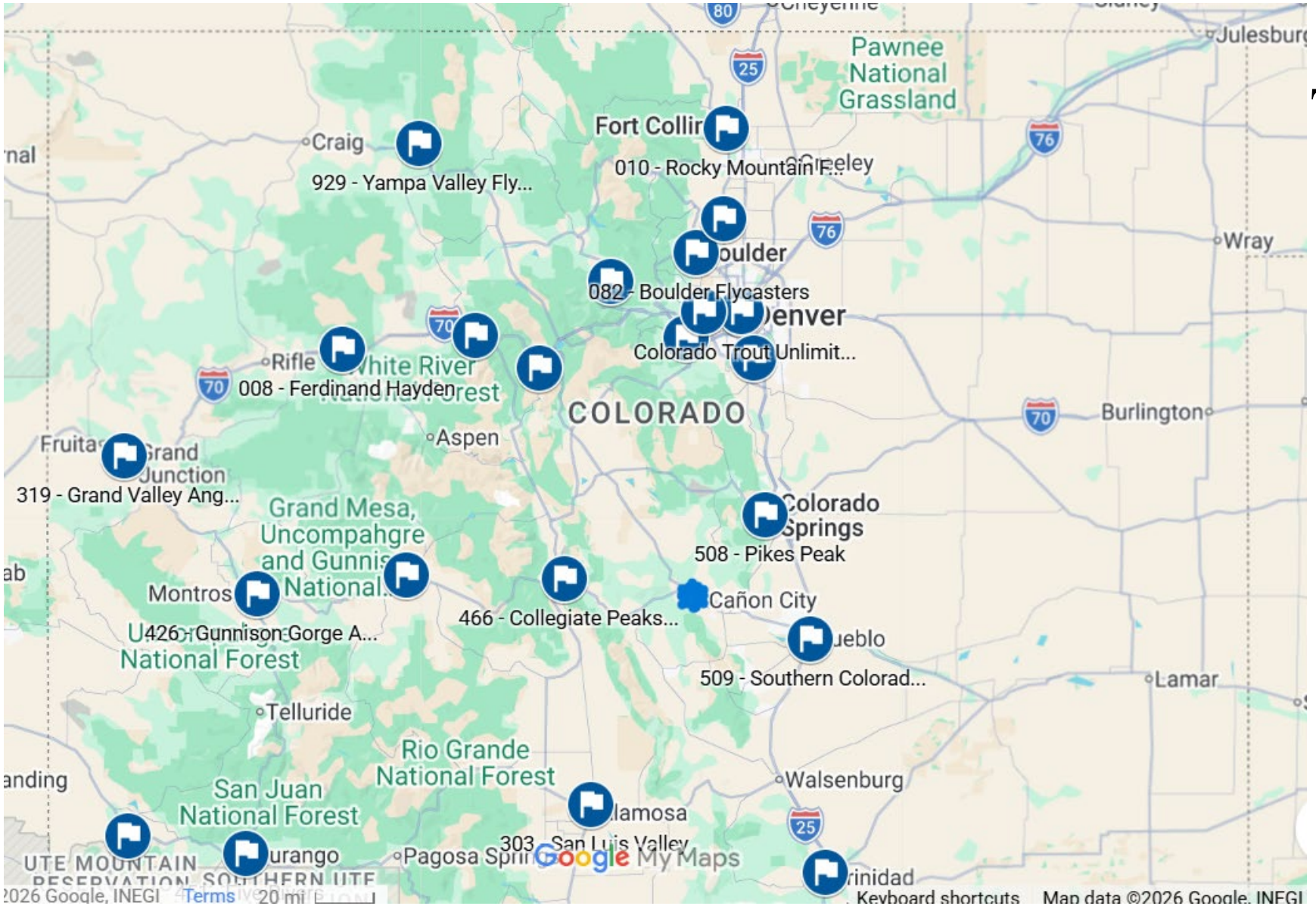

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited





Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Application timeline
  - November 2026

