

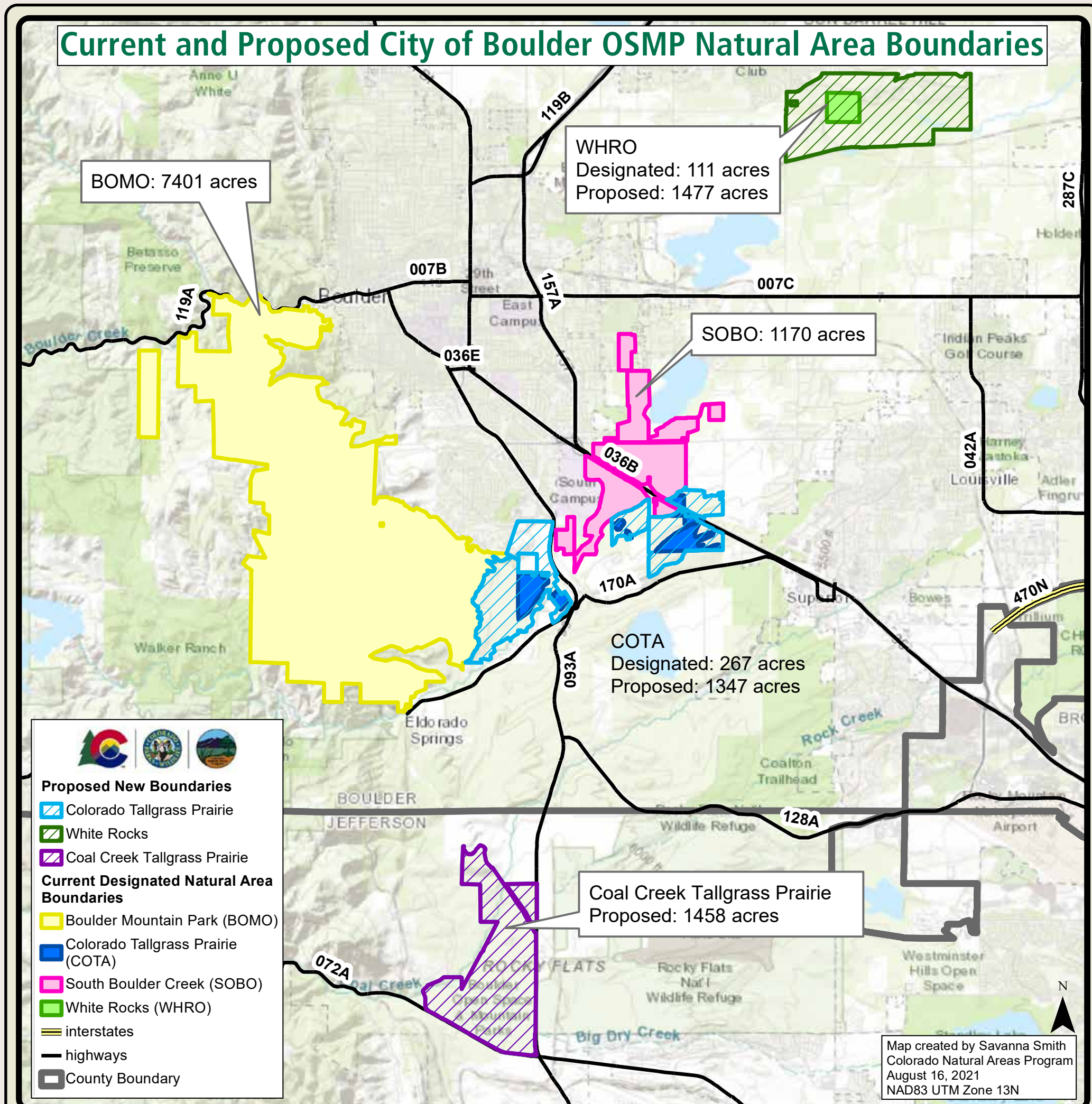


Colorado Natural Areas Program

About Colorado Natural Areas Program and long partnership with City of Boulder OSMP

- Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) was established by state statute in 1977
- Four natural areas have been designated on OSMP land; 95 natural areas state-wide
 - White Rocks (1979)
 - Colorado Tallgrass Prairie (1984)
 - South Boulder Creek (1999)
 - Boulder Mountain Park (2009)
- Designation is voluntary and non-regulatory
 - Provides recognition of natural value in the context of Colorado
 - Promotes awareness of conservation value for decision-makers and public land users/owners
 - Periodic site assessments conducted by CNAP staff; historic management assistance
 - Current collaboration to amend older Articles of Designation & designate a new state natural area on OSMP land

Scan for more info:



Proposed Natural Area Amendments

- Colorado Tallgrass Prairie natural area would expand from 269 acres to 1347 acres
- White Rocks would expand from 111 acres to 1477 acres
- Adding high quality habitat purchased since 1979 and 1984 natural area designations
- Buffering core habitat and aligning with OSMP property boundaries

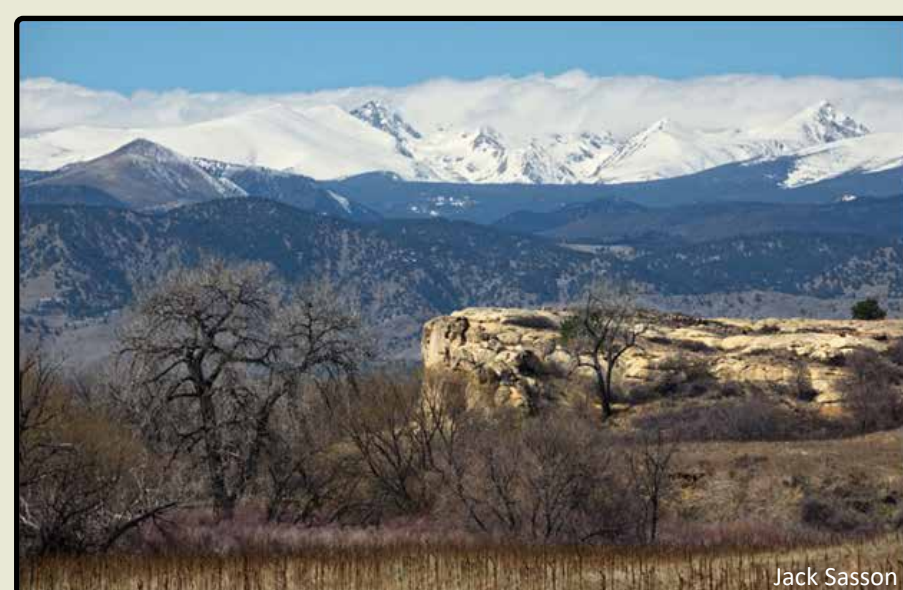
Proposed New Natural Area

The Coal Creek Tallgrass Prairie Registered Natural Area is proposed for full designation as a state natural area. Globally rare tallgrass prairie, associated wildlife and unique geology are highlighted on these OSMP properties in Jefferson County.

State Natural Areas:

White Rocks Natural Area

- Martha (Ricky) Weiser and CNAP designated 111 acres in 1979
- Originally designated to highlight 64-million-year-old Fox Hill cliffs, riparian corridor, and floodplain meadows
- Includes several rare plants and animals, bald eagle nesting habitat, and spectacular geologic features
- City of Boulder purchased Weiser property in 2011 and adjacent Ertl properties in 2015
- New boundaries would include the full extent of the cliffs, and additional riparian and floodplain meadow habitat
- Due to sensitive habitat, public access is not allowed except through staff-guided educational field trips



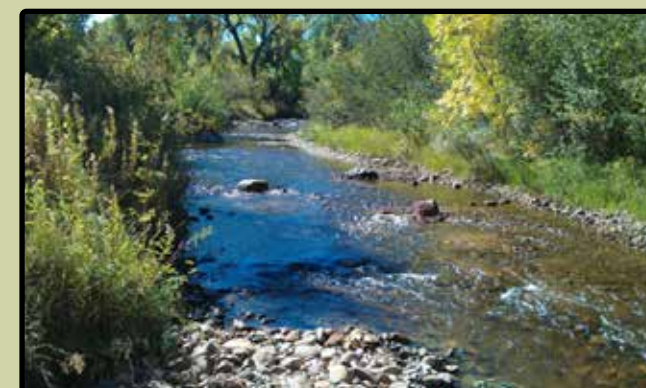
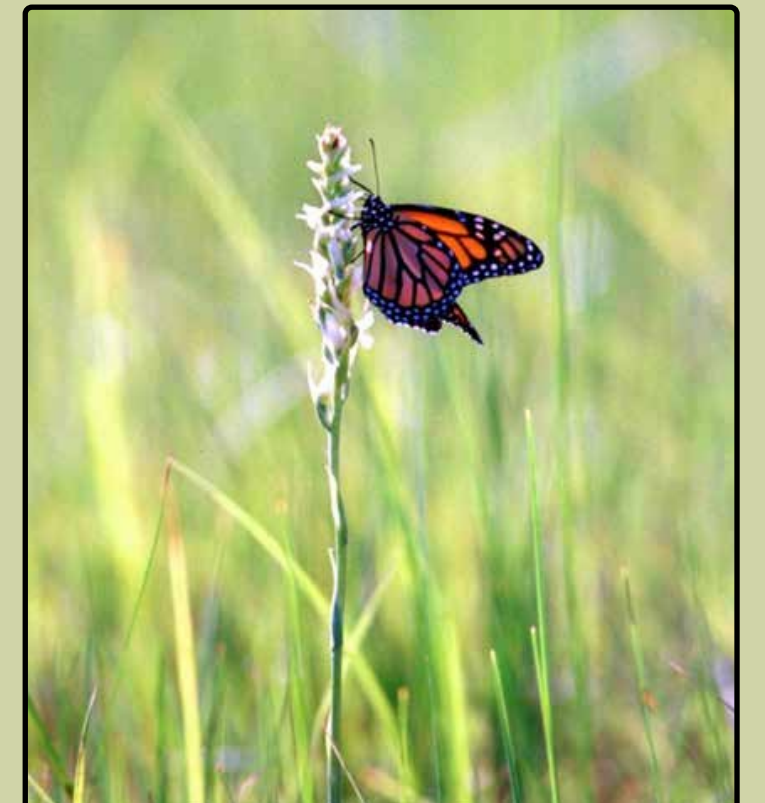
Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area

- Original parcels were selected from a CNAP inventory as the largest and best quality tallgrass remnants in Colorado (1984)
- The Natural Area's mesic and xeric tallgrass communities are rare and imperiled at state and global levels
- Boulder's tallgrass prairies are habitat for rare butterflies, ground nesting birds with dwindling Great Plains populations, state-tracked species such as the northern leopard frog, and several rare plant species
- New boundaries would add high quality tallgrass areas
- Public access is variable among the natural area parcels; South Boulder Creek West and Big Bluestem trails provide close-up views of the natural area in the context of seasonal wildlife protection closures



South Boulder Creek Natural Area

- A mosaic of high-quality wetlands, wet meadows, willow shrublands, plains riparian forests and tallgrass prairie designated in 2000 and covering approximately 1,240 acres
- Habitat for several species of state and national concern: federally-listed Ute ladies-tresses orchid; federally-listed Prebles meadow jumping mouse; Northern leopard frog, Bobolink, native fish species and rare wetland plant communities
- A working landscape, where well-timed cattle grazing, irrigation and haying are processes that help maintain viable habitats in the natural area
- Public access is available using the South Boulder Creek Trail



Boulder Mountain Park Natural Area

- Boulder's largest natural area at over 7,000 acres, including three major canyon systems, the iconic Flatirons, and three peaks over 8,000 feet (designated 2009)
- Some of the highest concentrations of biological diversity in the state and region
- Relic Eastern woodland forest communities, cliff communities, numerous rare and sensitive plant and wildlife species, and plant species that are more common to higher elevations and latitudes
- Steep topography in the transition between foothills and plains supports many habitat types in a relatively small area
- Public access is available through the OSMP trail system within the natural area in the context of Habitat Conservation Area regulations and seasonal wildlife protection closures



Coal Creek Tallgrass Prairie Registered Natural Area

- OSMP Jewel Mountain and Van Vleet JeffCo properties purchased in 1999; 1458 acres
- A particularly rare xeric tallgrass type, blending montane and prairie plant species in a unique geologic setting
- On the western part of Rocky Flats Mesa, buffered by adjacent public land
- Habitat for rare butterflies, ground nesting birds with dwindling Great Plains populations, state-tracked species such as the northern leopard frog, and several rare plant species
- Significant site for First Nation people
- Due to sensitive habitat, public access is not allowed except through staff-guided educational field trips

