Summary Table: Characteristics of the Ecoregions of Colorado

18. WYOMING BASIN

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
18a. Rolling Sagebrush Steppe	2197	5200-7500/ 100-400	Quaternary alluvium, colluvium, outwash, thin residuum, and eolian deposits. Tertiary and Cretaceous claystone, sandstone, and other sedimentary rock. Areas of lenticular coal, oil shale, and marlstone. Rock outcrops occur.	Aridisols (Haplargids, Calciargids), Entisols (Torripsamments), Mollisols (Argiustolls), Vertisols (Haplusterts)	Ryan Park, Maybell, Rockriver, Mayspring, Ryark, Berlake, Taffim, Styers, Ruedloff, Tresano	Frigid/ Aridic, Ustic	Mostly 10-15, up to 20 at higher elevations	60-90	4/32; 48/88	Sagebrush steppe with areas of bitterbrush shrubland and scattered juniper woodland at higher elevations. Associated vegetation may include western wheatgrass, needle-and-thread, blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, Junegrass, rabbitbrush, fringed sage, Wyoming big sagebrush, silver and black sagebrush in lowlands, and mountain big sagebrush at the higher elevations.	Shrub-covered rangeland, with some areas of cropland, especially along the Yampa River. Crops include hay, wheat, barley, and oats. Oil, gas, and coal production.
18d. Foothill Shrublands and Low Mountains	248	6000-9600/ 200-1000	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium derived from Tertiary sedimentary and older crystalline rocks of the surrounding mountains. Tertiary claystone, mudstone, sandstone, and oil shale. Precambrian quartzite, conglomerate, and shale.	Alfisols (Glossocryalfs), Mollisols (Argicryolls), Inceptisols (Calciustepts)	Uinta, Miracle, Chittum, Rentsac	Cryic/ Ustic, Xeric	10-20	60-90	8/34; 54/84	Big sagebrush shrubland, with pinyon-juniper woodland. Higher elevations may have areas of lodgepole pine, aspen, and subalpine fir. Associated vegetation may include rabbitbrush, mountain big sagebrush, pricklypear, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue on fine-textured soils. Rocky Mountain juniper, Utah juniper, and mountain mahogany woodlands occur on rock outcrops.	Shrub-covered rangeland and wildlife habitat.
18e. Salt Desert Shrub Basins	718	5400-7300/ 50-300	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium; gravel and fan deposits; areas of active and stabilized dune sand and loess. Tertiary and Cretaceous siltstone, sandstone, claystone, and areas of oil shale and marlstone.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Haplocalcids), Mollisols (Calciustolls), Inceptisols (Calciustepts)	Luhon, Brownsto, Niart, Rentsac, Atchee, Mikim, Huguston, Teagulf	Frigid, Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	8-15	60-90	6/32; 50/88	Desert shrublands dominated by alkaline-tolerant shrubs and grasses: greasewood, Gardner's saltbush, fourwing saltbush, shadscale, bud sage, and big sagebrush. Stabilized sand dunes are dominated by alkali cordgrass, Indian ricegrass, blowout grass, alkali wildrye, and needle-and-thread.	Shrub-covered rangeland and wildlife habitat. Oil and gas production.
18f. Laramie Basin	116	7800-9100/ 100-300	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Tertiary gravels and fan deposits in stream and floodplain areas. Tertiary shale, siltstone, and conglomerate. Triassic and Permian siltstone, shale, and sandstone.	Mollisols (Argicryolls, Cryaquolls, Haplocryolls). Inceptisols (Eutrocrypts)	Driggs, Newfork, Pendergrass, Clergern	Cryic/ Xeric, Ustic	15-20	60-90	4/30; 40/76	Mixedgrass prairie with needle-and-thread, western wheatgrass, blue grama, Indian ricegrass, and other mixedgrass species, along with rabbitbrush, fringed sage, and various forb and shrub species.	Grassland and shrubland. Rangeland, seasonal grazing, some hay production.

20. COLORADO PLATEAUS

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
20a. Monticello-Cortez Uplands and Sagebrush Valleys	951	6000-7300/ 25-200	Quaternary colluvium, alluvium, and eolian deposits. Western area underlain by Cretaceous Dakota sandstone formation. Eastern areas underlain by Cretaceous Cliff House and Pictured Cliffs sandstone and Lewis shale, or Tertiary arkosic sandstone, siltstone, and shale.	Aridisols (Calciargids, Natrargids), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Entisols (Torriorthents), Vertisols (Haplusterts)	On uplands: Witt, Sharps, Cahona, Lazear, Pulpit. In valleys: Falfa, Arboles, Bayfield, Uzona	Mesic/ Aridic, Ustic	10-15	90-120	12/38; 52/88	Sagebrush steppe and associated grasses, with scattered pinyon-juniper woodland. Dominant species include: Wyoming big sagebrush, western wheatgrass, and Indian ricegrass. Some two-needle pinyon pine, bitterbrush, and serviceberry.	Dryland cropland with some areas of irrigated cropland, shrubland, and rangeland. Crops include pinto beans, Anasazi beans, winter wheat, and alfalfa.
20b. Shale Deserts and Sedimentary Basins	2923	4900-8000/ 25-400	Quaternary colluvium, alluvium, and eolian deposits. Cretaceous Mancos shale (northwest of Rangley, east of Meeker, Grand Valley, Dry Creek Basin, Disappointment Valley, and in the southwest, just north of the Mancos River). Tertiary claystone, siltstone, mudstone, shale and sandstone (areas west of Meeker, and in the Colorado River valley outside of Rifle). Jurassic and Triassic shale and siltstone, salt anticlines (Paradox Valley, Big Gypsum Valley).	Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Haplargids, Calciargids), Inceptisols (Calciustepts), Vertisols (Haplusterts), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Endoaquolls)	Bulkley, Evanston, Forelle, Paradox, Diamondville, Rock River, Persayo, Farb, Grogan, desert trumpet, galleta grass, and other associated grasses. Floodplain areas support greasewood, alkali sacaton, seepweed, and shadscale. Badland areas have little to no vegetation cover.	Frigid, Mesic/ Aridic, Ustic	8-15	90-150	6/36; 48/92	Sparse cover of mat saltbush shrubland and salt desert scrub: shadscale, Nuttall's saltbush, blackbrush, fourwing saltbush, Wyoming big sagebrush, desert trumpet, galleta grass, and other associated grasses. Floodplain areas support greasewood, alkali sacaton, seepweed, and shadscale. Badland areas have little to no vegetation cover.	Shrubland and rangeland, areas of dryland and irrigated cropland with winter wheat, small grains, forage crops, and pinto beans. Orchards of apples, peaches, pears, and apricots in the Gunnison and Colorado River valleys. Shrublands provide important winter habitat for wildlife.
20c. Semiarid Benchlands and Canyonlands	9079	5400-9200/ 100-1000	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Tertiary and Cretaceous siltstone, sandstone, claystone, oil shale, and marlstone. In deep canyons and cliffs: areas of Permian siltstone, sandstone, and shale, and Pre-Pennsylvanian Paleozoic shale, limestone, and sandstone.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Haplustolls, Argicryolls, Haplocryolls), Aridisols (Haplargids, Calciargids, Haplocambids, Haplocalcids), Inceptisols (Calciustepts)	Atchee, Cahona, Hagerman, Lamphier, Lazear, Mikim, Palma, Persayo, Redcreek, Rentsac, Shavano, Skein, Skyway, Transfer, Utaline, Veatch, Zyme, Callan, Castner, Chipeta, Cochetopa	Mesic, Frigid; Cryic on highest elevations/ Aridic, Ustic	Mostly 10-18, on highest sites 20-25	60-120	8/40; 48/88	Pinyon-juniper woodland, Gambel oak woodland, and sagebrush steppe with black sagebrush, winterfat, Mormon tea, fourwing saltbush, shadscale, galleta grass, and blue grama.	Woodland and shrubland. Rangeland, recreation, coal mining, oil and gas production. Oil shale extraction.
20d. Arid Canyonlands	70	4900-6000/ 200-500	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Cretaceous sandstone, shale, and conglomerate. Rock outcrops are common.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Natrargids)	Claysprings, Myton, Uzona, Tocito	Mesic/ Aridic	8-10	120-150	18/40; 60/92	Desert shrubland: blackbrush, shadscale, Indian ricegrass, fourwing saltbush, blue grama, mat saltbush, saline wildrye, and galleta grass.	Shrubland. Recreation, rangeland, and wildlife habitat.
20e. Escarpments	1013	6000-9000/ 500-3000	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Tertiary and Cretaceous sandstone, shale, siltstone, marlstone, limestone, and areas of oil shale. Rock outcrops are common.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Natrargids)	Claysprings, Myton, Uzona	Mesic/ Aridic	Mostly 15-25, up to 32 at higher elevations	60-90	4/36; 46/84	Pinyon-juniper woodland, mountain mahogany, aspen, and Douglas-fir forest at highest elevations.	Shrubland, evergreen and deciduous woodland, some forests. Recreation and wildlife habitat, some limited grazing.
20f. Uinta Basin Floor	39	5500-6100/ 50-200	Quaternary colluvium, alluvium, and eolian deposits. Tertiary and Cretaceous sandstone and shale.	Mollisols (Haplustolls), Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Haplargids, Haplocalcids)	Potts, Walknolls, Veatch, Redcreek, Castner	Mesic/ Aridic	8-10	90-120	6/34; 56/88	Desert shrubland: saltbush, greasewood, shadscale, Indian ricegrass, galleta grass, Wyoming big sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, winterfat, needle-and-thread.	Shrubland. Rangeland, cropland, and wildlife habitat. Oil and gas production.

21. SOUTHERN ROCKIES

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
21a. Alpine Zone	3690	10000-14400+/ 400-2500+	Quaternary rubble, glacial drift, and colluvium. Exposed bedrock. Tertiary andesitic lavas, basalts, breccia, tuffs, and conglomerates. Precambrian metasedimentary rocks: pelitic schist, amphibole schist, quartzite, diamictite, quartz-pebble conglomerate, and marble. Precambrian and Pre-Pennsylvanian Sangre de Cristo Formation: arkosic conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone.	Inceptisols (Dystrocrypts)	Mirror, Bross, Whitecross, Hensen, Teewinot	Cryic/ Udic	35-70+ Deep winter snowpack	Less than 30	-8/24; 36/72	Alpine meadows. Dominated by bistort, alpine timothy, alpine avens, alpine bluegrass, alpine clover, tufted hairgrass, and various sedges. Trees if present are krummholz (dwarf and/or prostrate shrubs) and include spruce, fir, and pine. Willow thickets occur in depressions and wet meadows.	Snow, ice, bare rock, alpine meadows. Recreation and wildlife habitat. Snowmelt provides water source to lower-elevation ecoregions.
21b. Crystalline Subalpine Forests	4737	8500-10000 in the north, 9000-12000 in the south/ 400-2500	Quaternary glacial till and colluvium. Tertiary intrusive rocks. Precambrian metasedimentary, metavolcanic, and intrusive rocks: pelitic schist, amphibole schist, quartzite, diamictite, quartz-pebble conglomerate, and marble. Precambrian granitic gneiss, felsic gneiss, amphibolite, and granitic rocks. Copper, silver, and gold deposits.	Alfisols (Glossocryalfs, Haplocryalfs), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Argicryolls, Haplustolls)	Boyle, Granile, Kebler, Lakebehen, Leadville, Limber, Lucky, Peeler, Resort, Seitz	Cryic, Frigid/ Udic, Ustic	30-58 Deep winter snowpack	30-60	-4/28; 36/72	Subalpine forests dominated by Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Often interspersed with aspen groves, lodgepole pine forest, or mountain meadows, and with Douglas-fir at lower elevations. May include limber pine and Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine. Understory is dominated by dwarf huckleberry and grouse whortleberry.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Timber production, recreation, hunting, wildlife habitat, and seasonal grazing. Some gold mining. Snow cover is a major source of water for lower, more arid ecoregions.
21c. Crystalline Mid-Elevation Forests	4455	7000-9000/ 400-1000	Quaternary glacial till, colluvium, and alluvium. Precambrian metasedimentary, metavolcanic, and intrusive rocks: pelitic schist, amphibole schist, quartzite, diamictite, quartz-pebble conglomerate, and marble. Precambrian granitic gneiss, felsic gneiss, amphibolite, and granitic rocks. Copper, silver, and gold deposits.	Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Glossocryalfs), Entisols (Cryorthents, Ustorthents), Inceptisols (Dystrocrypts), Mollisols (Argicryolls, Haplocryolls)	Boyett, Granile, Larkson, Peeler, Seitz, Wetmore, Legault, Sphinx, Caramount, Ivywild, Cabin, Frenchcreek, Pendant, Pierian, Raleigh, Rogert, Teocalli, Woodhall	Cryic, Frigid/ Udic, Ustic	20-32	60-90	8/36; 50/80	Ponderosa pine forest with areas of Douglas-fir forest. Understory may include mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, wax currant, skunkbush, woods rose, mountain muhly, Junegrass, Arizona fescue, king spike-fescue, and various sedges.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Wildlife habitat, rangeland, timber production, recreation, and mineral extraction. Some gold mining.
21d. Foothill Shrublands	4780	Mostly 6000-8500, small areas up to 10000/ 200-900	Quaternary glacial till, colluvium, and alluvium. Tertiary and Cretaceous shale and sandstone. Permian sandstone, limestone, and siltstone. Precambrian metasedimentary: sandstone, claystone, shale, siltstone, and conglomerates. Precambrian metamorphic rocks: amphibolite, schist, gneiss, quartzite, quartz-pebble conglomerate, and marble.	Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Aridisols (Haplargids, Haplocalcids), Entisols (Torriorthents, Ustorthents), Mollisols (Argicryolls, Argiustolls, Haplustolls, Calciustolls)	Ring, Bond, Bronell, Brownsto, Coaldale, Potts, Kerhayden, Neville, Patent, Travessilla, Bowen, Bushvalley, Castner, Dominson, Embargo, Gelkie, Keeldar, Libeg, Lucky, Marlinsdale, Nederland, Noden, Norriston, Pando, Parlin, San Isabel, St. Elmo	Mesic, Frigid, Cryic/ Ustic, Aridic	12-20	75-100	10/36; 46/84	Sagebrush shrubland, pinyon-juniper woodland, and foothill-mountain grasslands. Also includes areas of mountain mahogany shrublands and scattered Gambel oak woodlands. The woodlands are often interspersed with mountain big sagebrush, skunkbush, serviceberry, fringed sage, rabbitbrush, blue grama, Junegrass, western wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, Scribner needlegrass, muttongrass, and blue grama.	Shrubland and grassland, some woodland. Rangeland and wildlife habitat.
21e. Sedimentary Subalpine Forests	6196	8500-10000 in the north, 9000-12000 in the south/ 400-1500	Quaternary drift and colluvium. Faulted and folded Tertiary sedimentary rocks of limestone, siltstone, shale, and sandstone. Permian arkosic conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone of the Sangre de Cristo Formation. Plat Tops Mountain: Pre-Pennsylvanian Paleozoic limestone, sandstone, quartzite, and dolomite. Uncompahgre Plateau: Cretaceous sandstone and shale.	Alfisols (Haplocryalfs, Glossocryalfs), Entisols (Cryorthents), Inceptisols (Eutrocrypts), Mollisols (Haplocryolls, Argicryolls)	Ansharoff, Granile, Leadville, Limber, Seitz, Vulcan, Wetterhorn, Gralie, Storm, Adel, Leaps, Ruby, Southwest: Graysill, Scotch, Needleton, Ryman. Uncompahgre Plateau: Gateway	Cryic/ Udic, Ustic	28-50 Deep winter snowpack	30-60	2/32; 40/76	Subalpine forests dominated by subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Areas of Douglas-fir or aspen forests at lower elevations. Understory may include whortleberry, kinnikinnick, snowberry, sedges, mountain brome, and forbs.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Timber production, recreation, hunting, wildlife habitat, and seasonal grazing. Some gold mining. Snow cover is a major source of water for lower, more arid ecoregions.
21f. Sedimentary Mid-Elevation Forests	7532	7000-9000/ 400-1000	Quaternary drift and colluvium. Faulted and folded Tertiary sedimentary rocks of limestone, siltstone, shale, and sandstone. Uncompahgre Plateau: Cretaceous sandstone and shale.	Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Glossocryalfs, Haplocryalfs), Entisols (Ustorthents), Mollisols (Argicryolls, Haplustolls, Argiustolls, Haplocryolls), Inceptisols (Haplustepts)	East: Allens Park, Granile, Gulnare, Lakehelen, McIntyre, Mulgon, Seitz, Troutville, Ula, Wahatoya, Brownsto, Patent, Cabin, Castner, Pierian, Poncha. Southwest: Archuleta, Fivepine, Nortez, Morapos, Cerro, Fughes, Nortez. Uncompahgre Plateau: Mayflower, Cebone, Wetopa, Lamphier, Falcon	Frigid, Cryic/ Udic, Ustic	20-32	60-90	6/34; 44/84	Ponderosa pine forest, Gambel oak woodland, and aspen forest (especially on the Western slope). Areas of mountain mahogany and two-needle pinyon pine. Shrub vegetation includes antelope bitterbrush, fringed sage, serviceberry, and snowberry. Understory grasses of Arizona fescue, bluegrass, Junegrass, needlegrasses, mountain muhly, pine dropseed, and mountain brome.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Timber production, summer livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Some copper, silver, and gold mining.
21g. Volcanic Subalpine Forests	3940	9000-12000/ 600-1800	Quaternary drift and colluvium. Tertiary pyroclastic material, breccia, and volcanic ash flows, including basalt, andesitic lavas, and water-laid volcanics and conglomerates.	Alfisols (Haplocryalfs, Glossocryalfs), Inceptisols (Eutrocrypts), Mollisols (Argicryolls, Haplocryolls)	Frisco, Granile, Needleton, Seitz, Snowdon, Taglake, Clayburn, Hapgood, Lamphier, Wetopa. Rubble and rock outcrops.	Cryic/ Udic, Ustic	28-50 Deep winter snowpack	30-60	2/32; 40/74	Subalpine forests dominated by Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen and, in the north, lodgepole pine. Understory may include whortleberry, kinnikinnick, snowberry, sedges, mountain brome, and forbs.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Timber production, recreation, hunting, wildlife habitat, and seasonal grazing. Some gold mining. Snow cover is a major source of water for lower, more arid ecoregions.
21h. Volcanic Mid-Elevation Forests	1010	7000-9000/ 400-1000	Quaternary drift and colluvium. Tertiary pyroclastic material, breccia, and volcanic ash flows, including basalt, andesitic lavas, and water-laid volcanics and conglomerates.	Alfisols (Haplocryalfs, Glossocryalfs), Mollisols (Argicryolls, Endoaquolls)	Frisco, Granile, Seitz, Shule, Cochetopa, Youman	Cryic/ Ustic	20-32	60-90	4/32; 42/76	Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen forests, with scattered areas of Gambel oak woodlands. Understory of dwarf juniper, western wheatgrass, Oregon grape, blue grama, sideoats grama, and needlegrasses.	Evergreen and some deciduous forest. Timber production, summer livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Some gold mining.
21i. Sagebrush Parks	2098	High intermontane valleys. Moderate gradient perennial streams with cobble, gravel, and sandy substrates.	Quaternary alluvium, colluvium, and loess. Cretaceous and Tertiary sandstone, shale, siltstone, and conglomerate. Tertiary volcanic rocks.	Mollisols (Argiustolls, Endoaquolls, Argicryolls, Haplocryolls)	Evanston, Gold Creek, Lucky, Parlin, Cheadle, Gas Creek	Cryic, Frigid/ Ustic, Aridic	10-16	60-90	-4/28; 44/78	Sagebrush shrubland: Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, black sagebrush, western wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and elk sedge. Areas of bunchgrasses include Arizona fescue and mountain muhly.	Shrubland and some grassland. Recreation, rangeland, and wildlife habitat. Some hay production. Oil and gas production in North Park.
21j. Grassland Parks	1254	High intermontane valleys. Moderate gradient perennial streams with cobble, gravel, and sandy substrates. Some wetlands.	Quaternary alluvium, colluvium, and sand. Tertiary siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate, volcanic basalt and ash-flow tuff. Precambrian gneiss, schist, and quartzite.	Mollisols (Haplocryolls, Argicryolls, Argiustolls, Endoaquolls, Cryaquolls)	Gebson, Alvarado, Bocks, Bushvalley, Coutis, Feltonia, Gas Creek, Gelkie, Hodden, Venable, Quander, Norriston, Morset, Libeg, Hoodle	Cryic, Frigid/ Ustic, some Aquic	10-20	60-90	6/36; 40/76	Foothill grasslands with bunchgrasses dominant: Arizona fescue, Idaho fescue, Columbia needlegrass, Canby bluegrass, mountain muhly, bluebunch wheatgrass, needle-and-thread, Junegrass, and slender wheatgrass.	Grassland. Recreation, rangeland, and wildlife habitat.

22. ARIZONA/NEW MEXICO PLATEAU

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
22a. San Luis Shrublands and Hills	993	7900-9100/ 400-1000	Low mountains, hills, mesas, and foothills.	Quaternary gravels and alluvium. Tertiary igneous rocks of basalt flows, pre-ash flow andesitic lavas, breccias, tuffs, and conglomerates.	Aridisols (Haplocalcids, Calciargids), Mollisols (Argiustolls)	Travelers, Garita, Luhon, Space City, Costilla, Tolman, Bendire, Curecanti, Rock River, Stunner, Hesperus	Frigid/ Aridic, Ustic	10-14	30-60	4/32; 42/76	Shrublands, grasslands, and pinyon-juniper woodlands at highest elevations. Species include big sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, winterfat, western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, blue grama, and needle-and-thread.	Shrub- and grass-covered rangeland. Low density grazing, wildlife habitat.
22b. San Luis Alluvial Flats and Wetlands	1217	Irregular plains. Wetlands, springs, and areas with a high water table. Few large perennial streams which originate in mountains.	7500-8000/ 10-100	Quaternary alluvium of gravel, sand, and silt.	Mollisols (Argiaquolls, Endoaquolls, Calciustolls), Aridisols (Haplargids, Natrargids), Entisols (Torriorthents, Psammaquents)	Graypoint, Platoro, Danul, San Arcacio, Zinzer, Acacio, Alamosa, Lajara, Vastine, Gunbarrel, Mosca, San Luis	Frigid/ Aridic, Aquic, Ustic	6-10	60-90	0/34; 46/80	Shrublands dominated by shadscale, fourwing saltbush, and greasewood.	Irrigated cropland has replaced most of the natural vegetation. Crops include potatoes, alfalfa, barley, hay, and wheat. Small areas of vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, and carrots.
22c. Salt Flats	866	Irregular plains and alkaline basins.	7400-7700/ 10-100	Quaternary alluvium of gravel, sand, and silt.	Entisols (Torripsamments), Aridisols (Natrargids)	Space City, Costilla, Cotopaxi, Hooper, San Luis, Corlett	Frigid/ Aridic	6-8	60-90	0/34; 46/80	Shrublands dominated by shadscale, fourwing saltbush, greasewood, horsebrush, spiny hopsage, rubber rabbitbrush, saltgrass, and alkali sacaton.	Shrub-covered rangeland with low density grazing, wildlife habitat, and some small areas of irrigated cropland.
22e. Sand Dunes and Sand Sheets	254	Large dunes, low parabolic and longitudinal shrub-stabilized dunes, and sand sheets.	7500-8900/ 100-700	Quaternary eolian sand deposits, dunes, and sand sheets.	Entisols (Torripsamments), Mollisols (Endoaquolls, Argiaquolls), Aridisols (Haplocalcids)	Cotopaxi, Space City, Costilla, Alamosa, Lajara, Vastine	Frigid/ Aridic	8-12	60-90	0/34; 44/80	Sand sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, sand dropseed, sand verbena, prairie sunflower, and spiny hopsage on sand sheets. Dune areas are mostly deveid of vegetation, some Indian ricegrass, blowout grass, and lemon scurfpea.	Bare sand, shrublands, grasslands. Recreation, some low density rangeland on vegetatively stabilized sand sheets. Wildlife habitat.

25. HIGH PLAINS

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
25b. Rolling Sand Plains	4620	3500-5100/ 25-150	Quaternary eolian sand sheets and dunes. Underlain by Tertiary claystones and sandstones of the Ogallala Formation.	Entisols (Torripsamments), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Haplustolls), Aridisols (Haplargids)	Valent, Vona, Julesburg, Haxtun, Jayem, Busher, Bijou	Mesic/ Aridic, Ustic	12-20	140-160	14/42; 60/92	Sandsage prairie: sand sagebrush, sand bluestem, prairie sandreed, blowout grass, lemon scurfpea, little bluestem, rabbitbrush, Indian ricegrass, and sand dropseed.	Grassland and rangeland with some areas of irrigated cropland.
25c. Moderate Relief Plains	6206	3600-6500/ 50-200	Quaternary loess, sandy, gravelly, and loamy alluvium, and some thin residuum. Tertiary claystone, sandstone, and conglomerate, including the Tertiary Ogallala Formation in the east. Cretaceous shales, sandstones, claystones, and coal beds in the west.	Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls, Haplustolls), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Aridisols (Haplargids), Entisols (Torriorthents)	Olney, Ascalon, Platner, Stoneham, Nucla, Kim, Dix, Alvan, Keith, Kuma, Ulysses, Colby, Nerka	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	12-18	140-160	14/44; 60/92	Shortgrass prairie: blue grama, buffalograss, with threadleaf sedge, fringed sage, Junegrass, and western wheatgrass. Riparian areas contain cottonwood/shrub/herbaceous species.	Grassland and rangeland with areas of dryland and irrigated agriculture. Gas and oil production.
25d. Flat to Rolling Plains	13219	3600-5700/ 10-150	Quaternary loess, alluvial deposits, and some thin residuum. Tertiary gravel, claystone, sandstone, and sand deposits, including the Ogallala Formation in the east. Cretaceous shales, sandstones, claystones, and coal beds in the west.	Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls, Haplustolls), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Entisols (Ustorthents, Torriorthents)	Stoneham, Fort Collins, Olney, Richfield, Keith, Colby, Wages, Rosebud, Manter, Ascalon, Platner, Haxtun, Rago, Alliance, Canyon, Weld, Nerka, Adena	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	12-18	140-180	16/46; 62/94	Shortgrass prairie: blue grama, buffalograss, with threadleaf sedge, fringed sage, Junegrass, and western wheatgrass. Riparian areas contain cottonwood/shrub/herbaceous species.	Dryland and irrigated cropland with winter wheat, grain sorghum, corn, barley, sunflowers, and sugar beets (grown under irrigation). Some grassland and rangeland. Gas and oil production, especially in the Denver Basin.
25l. Front Range Fans	782	Fans, irregular plains, and scattered low hills. Intermittent and perennial streams with gravelly, silty, and sandy substrates. Streams are generally colder and may contain species found more commonly in the Southern Rockies (21).	4800-5300/ 50-200	Quaternary gravel and sandy alluvium, eolian sand deposits. Underlain by sandstone, claystone, and shale of the Cretaceous Laramie and Fox Hills formations and sandstone, mudstone, claystone, and conglomerate of the Tertiary Denver and Arapahoe formations to the south.	Mollisols (Argiustolls), Aridisols (Haplargids), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Entisols (Torriorthents)	Alvan, Ascalon, Larimer, Stoneham, Dacono, Nunn, Rendhill, Shingle, Otero, Thedaland, Olney, Ulm, Englewood, Nederland, Kutch, Denver	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	14-18	120-140	12/40; 56/88	Shortgrass and mixedgrass prairie: blue grama, needle-and-thread, western wheatgrass, buffalograss, Junegrass, and little bluestem. Big bluestem is scattered in low concentrations throughout the region. Riparian areas contain cottonwood/shrub/herbaceous species.	Urban and residential, some irrigated cropland with hay, corn, wheat, and barley. Many manmade lakes and gravel pits.

26. SOUTHWESTERN TABLELANDS

Level IV Ecoregions	Area (square miles)	Physiography: Elevation/Local Relief (feet)	Geology: Surficial and Bedrock	Soils: Order (Great Group)	Soils: Common Soil Series	Soils: Temperature/Moisture Regimes	Climate: Precipitation Mean annual (inches)	Climate: Frost Free Mean annual (days)	Climate: Mean Temperature January min/max; July min/max (°F)	Natural Vegetation	Land Use and Land Cover
26e. Piedmont Plains and Tablelands	13373	Irregular and dissected plains. Intermittent streams, with a few large perennial streams which mostly originate in mountains or higher relief areas. Silty and sandy substrates.	3600-6500/ 50-200	Quaternary alluvium and eolian deposits of loess, silt, and sand. Cretaceous shale, limestone, and sandstone.	Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls), Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Haplargids, Natrargids, Haplocalcids)	Wiley, Baca, Colby, Manvel, Minnequa, Penrose, Rocky Ford, Nepesta, Ascalon, Fort Collins, Stoneham, Kim, Razor, Midway, Limon, Deertrail, Absted, Harvey, Truckton, Yoder, Blakeland, Ordway, Cadoma, Campo, Platner	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	Mostly 12-16, with 10-12 in low-lying area between Pueblo and Las Animas	120-160	14/46; 60/92	Shortgrass prairie: blue grama, green needlegrass, buffalograss, needle-and-thread, and red threeawn. Also may include mixed grass species such as western wheatgrass, galleta grass, sand dropseed, and little bluestem. Sand sagebrush, yucca and cholla cactus can also occur.	Mostly grass-covered rangeland with scattered areas of dry and irrigated cropland. Dryland agriculture is mostly to the north of the Arkansas River.
26f. Mesa de Maya/ Black Mesa	565	Broad mesa, knobs, and dissected plains with deep canyons. Rough, rocky, steep slopes are common.	4500-6200/ 75-500	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Capping the mesa: Tertiary basalt, 60 to 70 feet thick. Cretaceous sandstone and shale. On slopes and exposed canyons: Jurassic sandstone, claystone, mudstone, and limestone, Triassic sandstone, siltstone, and limestone.	Mollisols (Argiustolls, Haplustolls), Entisols (Torriorthents), Aridisols (Haplocambids)	Capulin, Torreon, Apache, Travessilla, Camero, Fruitland, Manzano, Alicia, Kim. Rock outcrops.	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	14-18	100-150	16/46; 58/90	Pinyon-juniper woodland and shortgrass prairie. On top of the mesa: shortgrass prairie dominated by blue grama, hairy grama, sideoats grama, galleta grass, buffalograss, and western wheatgrass. On rocky slopes and in canyons: juniper with pinyon pine-oak woodlands with a few isolated areas of mesquite shrublands.	Woodland, rangeland, grassland, and wildlife habitat.
26g. Purgatoire Hills and Canyons	1041	Dissected plains and tablelands with some hills, steep canyons, and rock outcrops.	4900-7400/ 100-700	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Cretaceous sandstone and shale. Jurassic sandstone, claystone, and shale. Triassic sandstone and siltstone. Permian siltstone, dolomite, and sandstone.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Alfisols (Haplustalfs)	Travessilla, Baca, Manvel, Minnequa, Penrose	Mesic/ Ustic, Aridic	12-16	100-150	14/46; 58/90	Juniper woodlands and shortgrass prairie. Rocky Mountain juniper, Utah juniper, blue grama, and buffalograss.	Woodland and wildlife habitat.
26h. Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands and Savannas	997	Dissected plains and tablelands with some scattered ridges and hills.	5100-7100/ 100-500	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Cretaceous shale, limestone, and sandstone.	Entisols (Torriorthents), Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Mollisols (Argiustolls), Aridisols (Haplargids)	Travessilla, Baca, Noden, Bond, Razor, Midway, Limon, Manvel, Minnequa, Penrose, Wetmore (in west at the base of mountains). Rock outcrops.	Mesic, Frigid/ Ustic, Aridic	12-20, with highest near the mountains	90-120	16/44; 56/88	Pinyon-juniper woodlands: pinyon pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, eastern redcedar, and oneseed juniper.	Woodland and wildlife habitat.
26i. Pine-Oak Woodlands	580	Dissected plains and hills.	6000-7500/ 100-300	Quaternary alluvium and colluvium. Tertiary and Cretaceous arkosic conglomerate, sandstone, claystone, and shale.	Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls), Alfisols (Haplustalfs)	Brussett, Peyton, Kettle, Weld, Fondis, Bresser	Frigid, Mesic/ Ustic	14-20	90-120	10/36; 50/80	Pine-oak woodlands and foothill grasslands. Ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, skunkbush, western serviceberry, and chokecherry. Gambel oak often forms a well developed understory in the Ponderosa pine forests. Grasslands include yellow Indiangrass, little bluestem, switchgrass, fescues, mountain muhly, Junegrass, bluebunch wheatgr