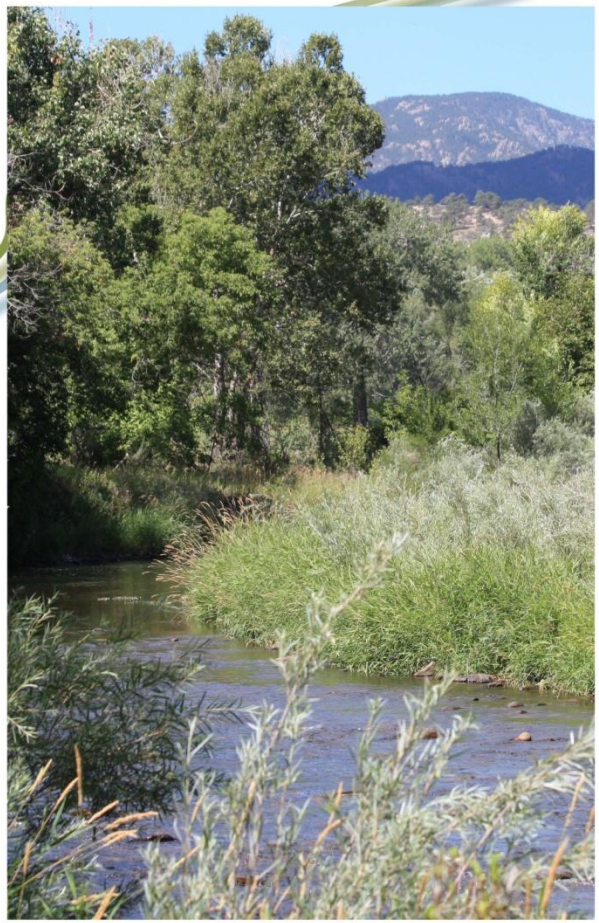
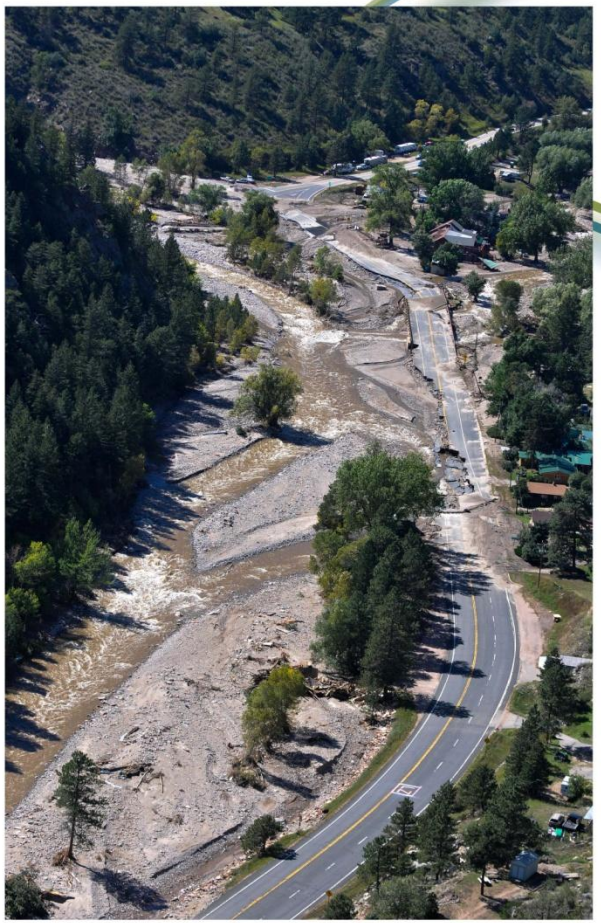
A BIGGER VISION FOR THE BIG T:
A RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT





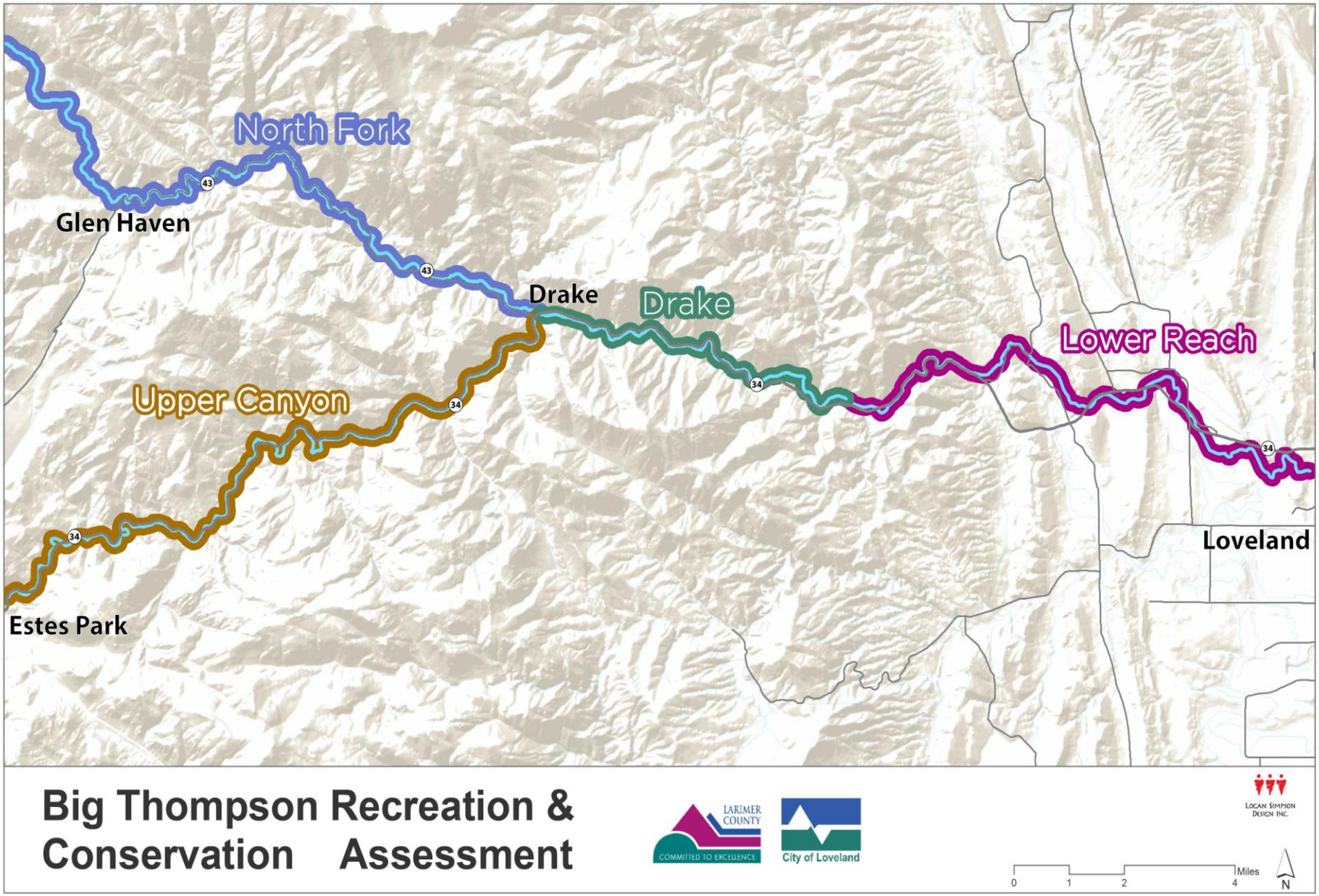
City of Loveland

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
Natural Resources

GOCO
GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Adoption Draft | July 2015

Open Lands Advisory Board – *July 23, 2015*


North Fork
Glen Haven
Drake
Drake
Lower Reach
Upper Canyon
Loveland
Estes Park
43
43
34
34
34
Big Thompson Recreation &
Conservation Assessment
LARIMER COUNTY
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
City of Loveland
LOGAN SIMPSON DESIGN INC.
0
1
2
4
Miles
N

Technical Advisory Committee

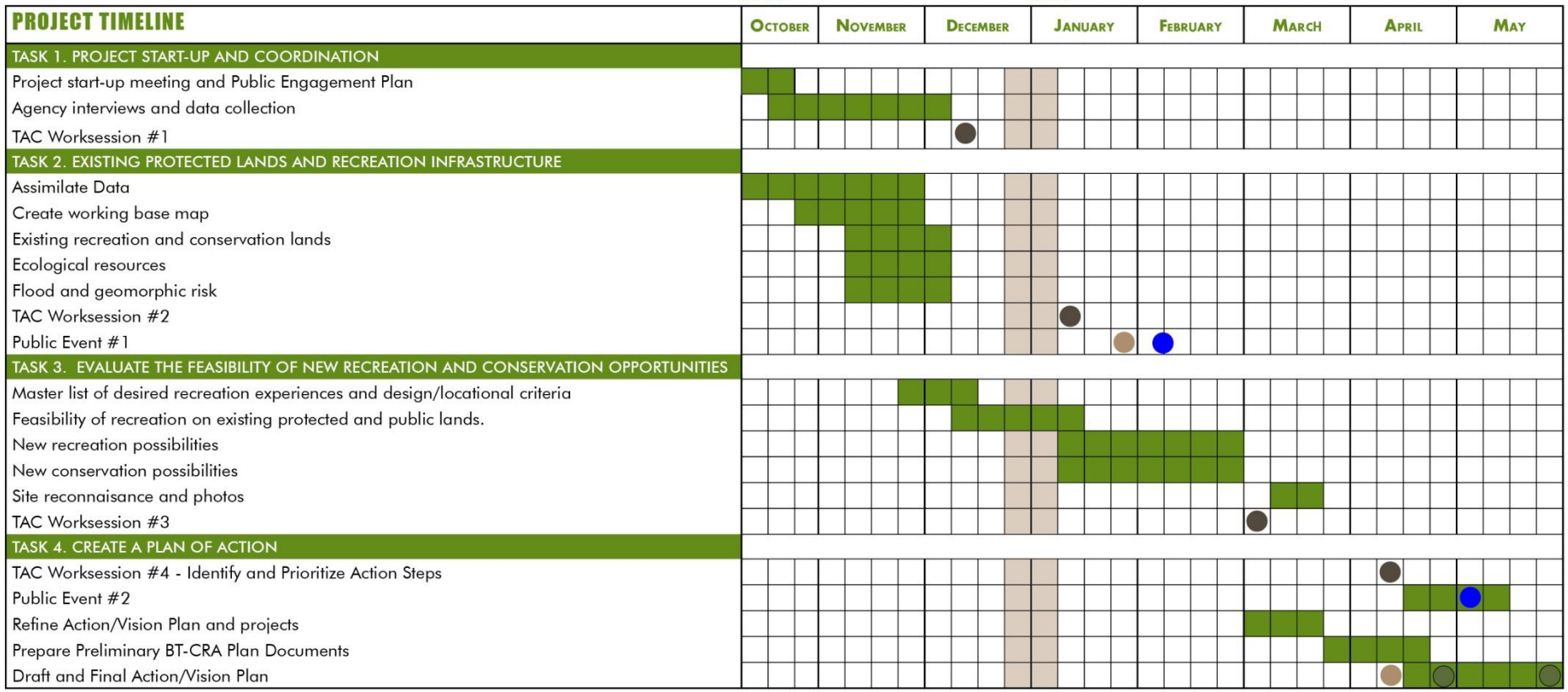
- Larimer County DNR
- Larimer County Community Development
- City of Loveland Natural Areas
- City of Loveland Parks
- Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition
- U.S. Forest Service
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Department of Transportation

Project Vision

“The Big Thompson River corridor will be a renowned resource that combines abundant wildlife and high quality scenery with access via public property to river-related recreation opportunities. Strategic recreation and conservation investments along the Big Thompson River and its tributaries will mitigate flooding impacts, strengthen tourism, improve and restore a resilient river ecosystem, and benefit the people who live in and visit the Big Thompson Canyon.”

BIG THOMPSON RECREATION & CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

APRIL 18, 2015



	Technical Advisory Committee Meetings
	BTRRC Steering Committee Updates
	Public Events
	Board Meetings

City of Loveland

LARIMER COUNTY
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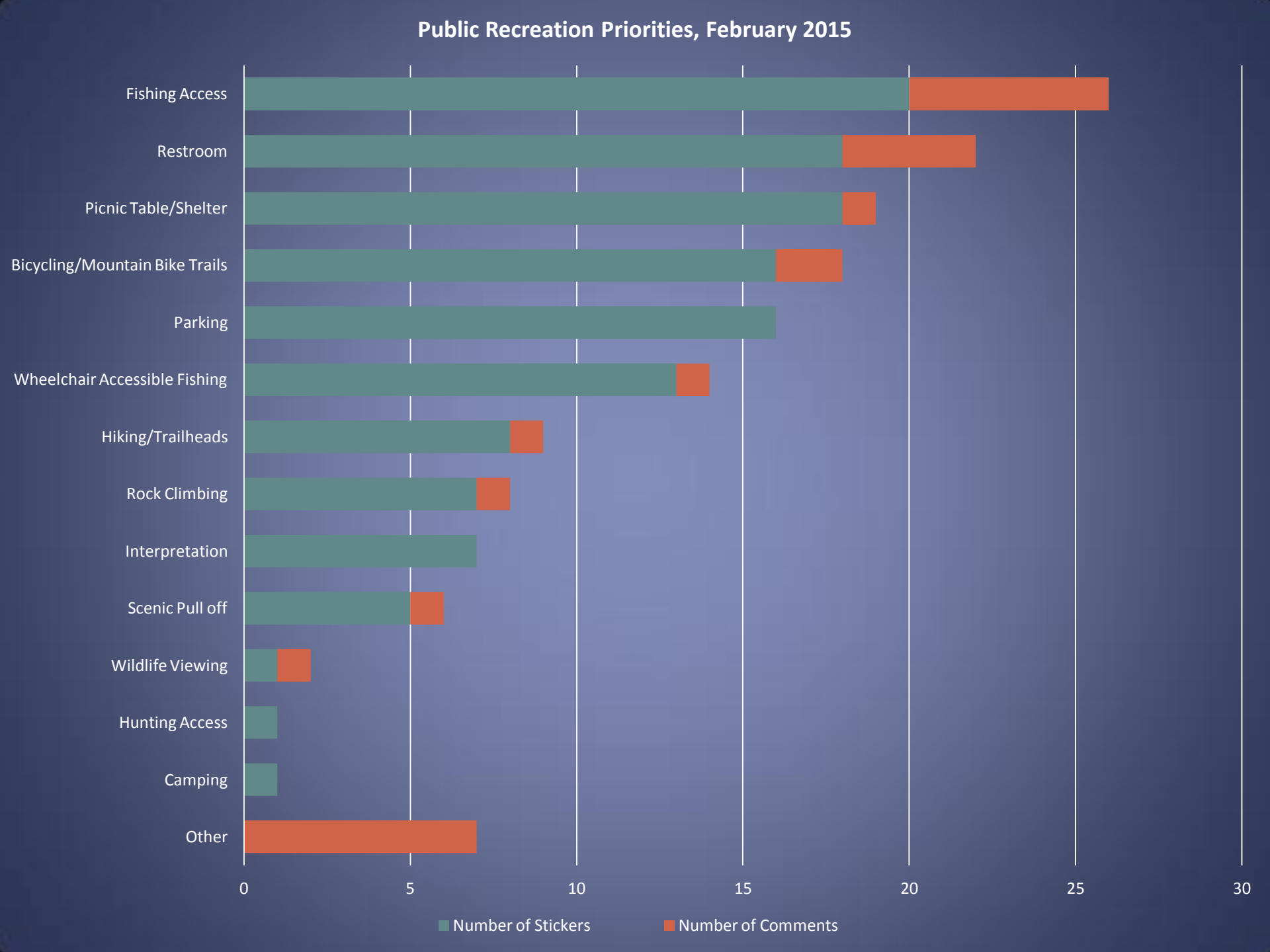
Natural Resources

Public feedback themes – Conservation

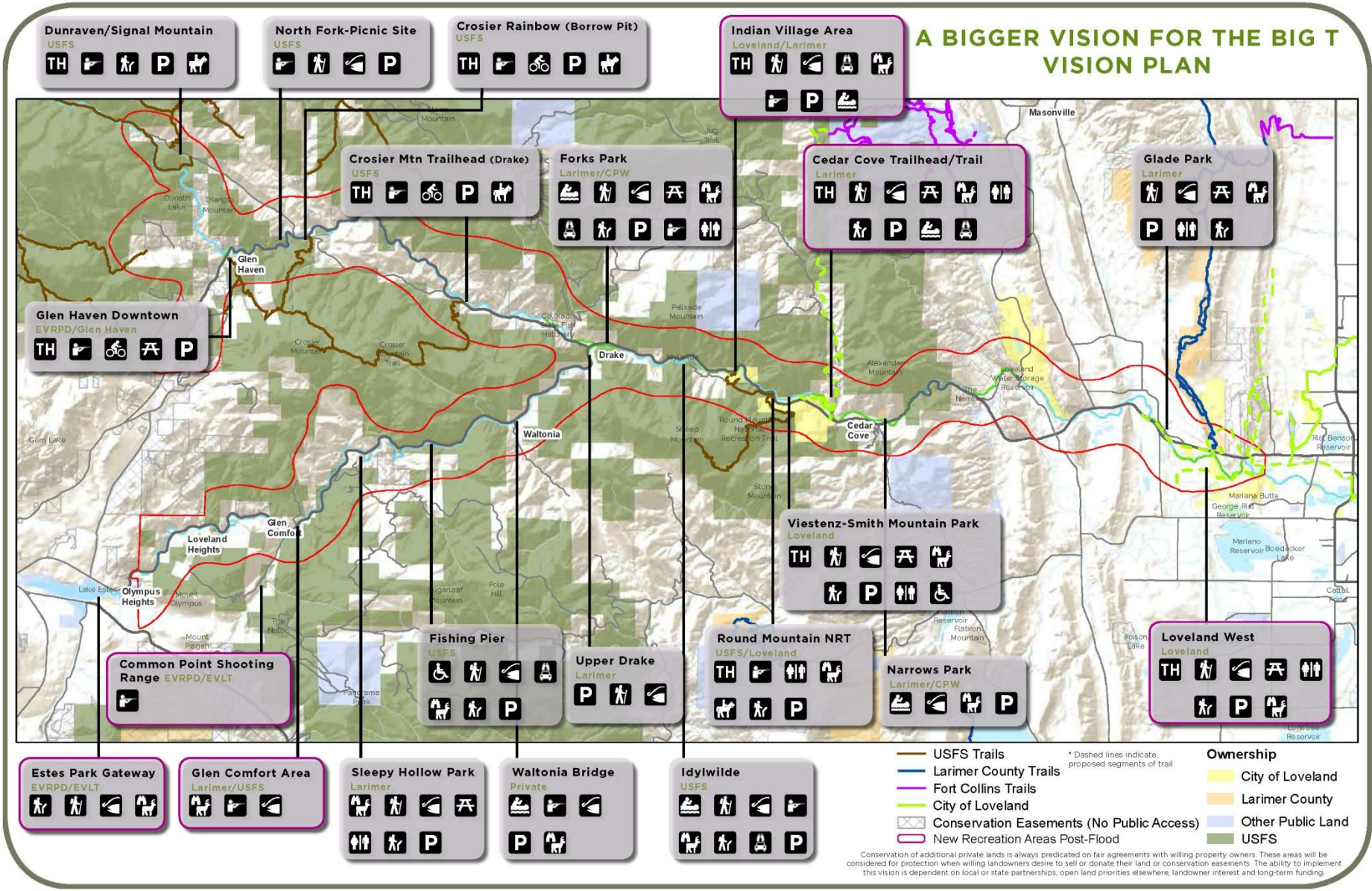
- Identified conservation opportunities focused on fisheries and restoration of a **healthy river ecosystem**. Other comments highlighted the importance of restoring vegetation and protecting floodplains from encroachment through the use of conservation easements and other protection strategies.


Public Recreation Priorities, February 2015
Fishing Access
Restroom
Picnic Table/Shelter
Bicycling/Mountain Bike Trails
Parking
Wheelchair Accessible Fishing
Hiking/Trailheads
Rock Climbing
Interpretation
Scenic Pull off
Wildlife Viewing
Hunting Access
Camping
Other
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Number of Stickers
Number of Comments

Public feedback themes – Recreation

- Importance of **restoring** previously existing recreation sites
- Improving access to the river for **fishing**, including safe pull-off locations
- Install **road biking** lanes along US 34 and CR 43 along with improving mountain biking on US Forest Service trails
- Support for **respecting private property**
- Maintaining highway **safety**
- Need for public **restrooms** along the corridor
- **Viestenz- Smith Mountain Park** was frequently mentioned as a top priority for rebuild. **Forks Park** was also identified an important location.
- Desire to construct a sustainable **trail** connecting the Big Thompson River to the Crosier Mountain or Round Mountain Trail Systems, along with improving the existing trails throughout the canyon.

A BIGGER VISION FOR THE BIG T VISION PLAN



Conservation of additional private lands is always predicated on fair agreements with willing property owners. These areas will be considered for protection when willing landowners desire to sell or donate their land or conservation easements. The ability to implement this vision is dependent on local or state partnerships, open land priorities elsewhere, landowner interest and long-term funding.

Recent updates

- Agency roles
- Landowner feedback

Next Steps…..

- Loveland City Council adoption
- BOCC & Planning Commission
- Implementation
  - Seek grant funding
  - Restoration
  - Potential acquisition
  - Develop site plans

Final Draft:

http://www.larimer.org/bigthompsonplan/

Questions?