

LandScope America: a tool to visualize land conservation

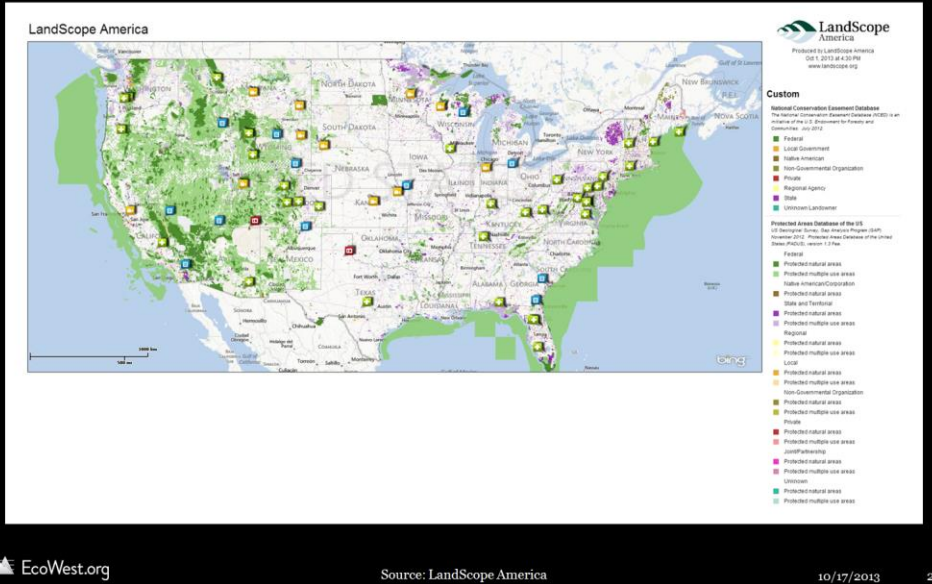


10/17/2013

In this EcoWest presentation, we explore features of LandScope America, an online resource that visualizes land conservation in the United States.

Map of protected areas

The LandScope America mapping platform provides a range of map theme options. In the map below, the protected area theme is displayed.



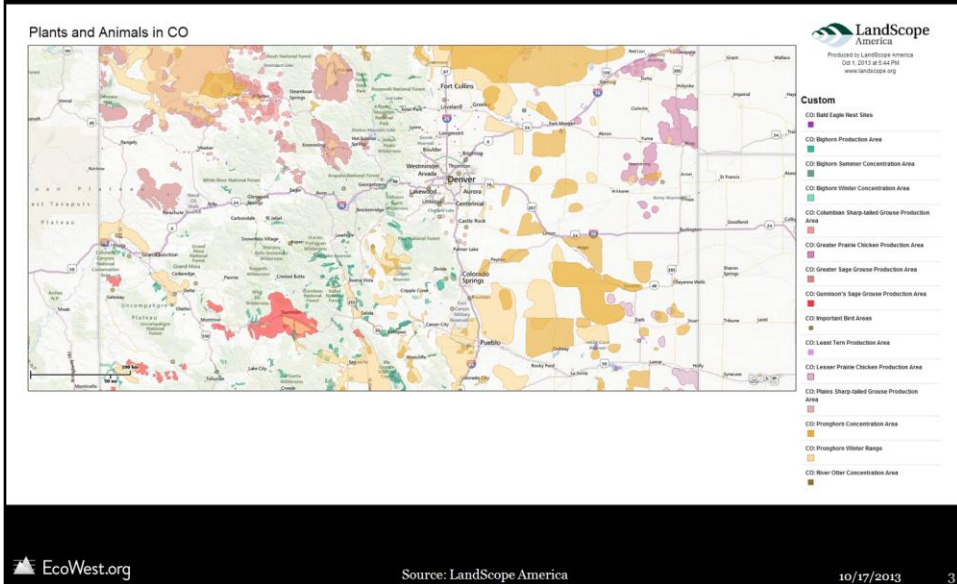
Narrative: In the LandScope America mapping platform, users can select different themes and thematic layers. In this map, the protected areas theme is chosen, along with the thematic layers of the National Conservation Easement Database and Protected Area Database of the U.S. The heavy concentration of federal land in the West stands out in this map.

Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Wildlife production and habitat areas in CO

This map shows important nesting and production areas for various wildlife in Colorado, which land trusts and natural resource managers can use for habitat protection efforts.



Narrative: The tools on LandScope America are useful for a wide range of audiences. This map includes a selection key habitat areas in the state of Colorado, which land trusts and public agencies may use to protect habitat from encroaching human development.

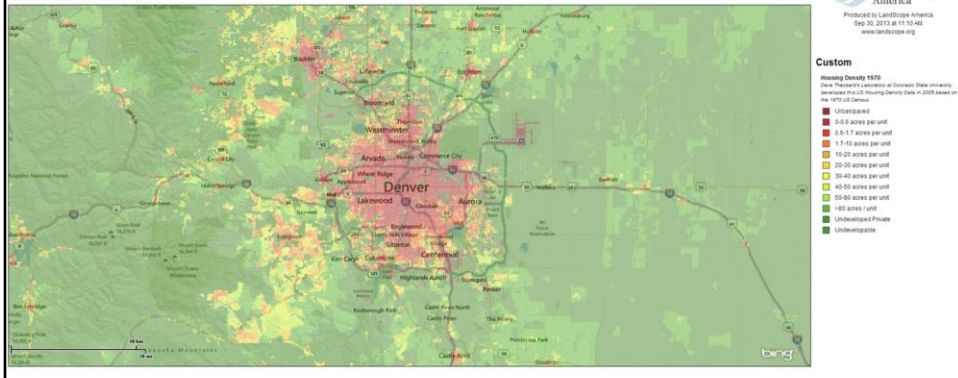
Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Housing density in Denver metro area, 1970

The next series of maps depicts housing density changes in the Denver metro area, which can help land planners understand where human populations might begin to encroach upon wildlife habitat.

Housing density, 1970



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Source: LandScope America

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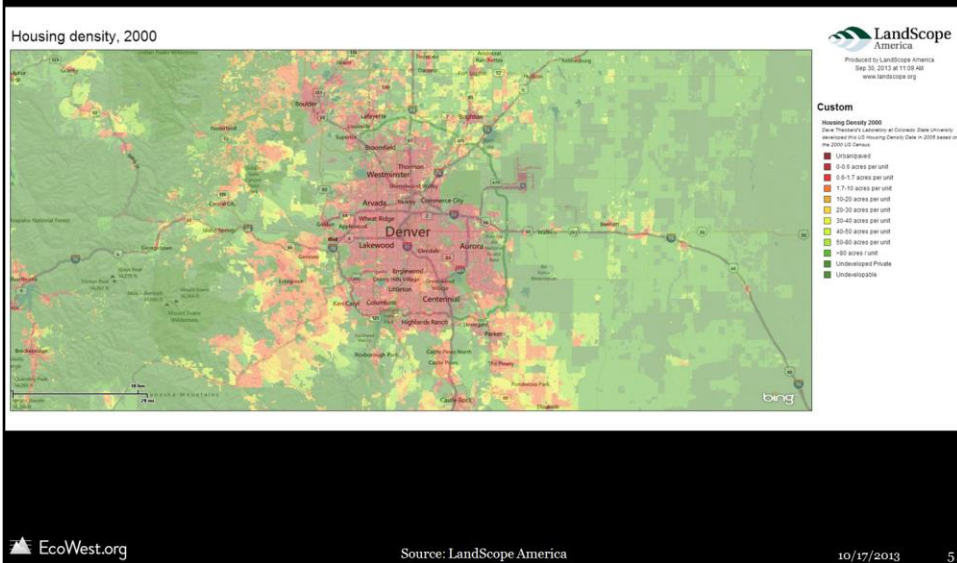
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Narrative: LandScope America provides an overview of threats for a given area by overlaying map layers such as major road networks, active oil and gas wells, potential oil and gas wells, and climate change stress index. This type of information can help government agencies and nonprofits target conservation efforts according to the level of threats facing an area. This map shows housing density in the Denver metro area during 1970. By scrolling through the next two slides, you can see the fast pace of development surrounding Denver in recent decades.

Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Housing density in Denver metro area, 2000

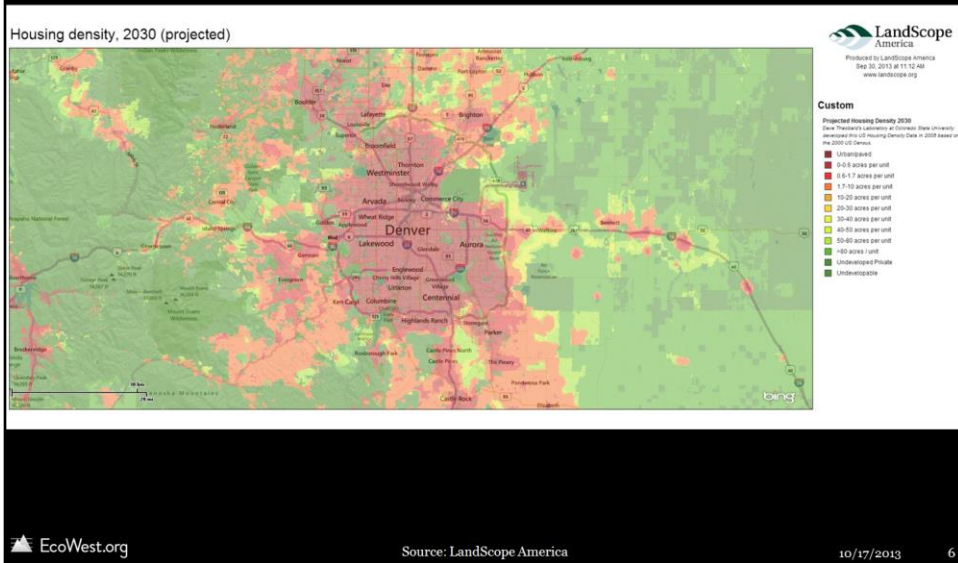


Narrative: This map shows housing density in Denver during 2000. As compared to the previous map showing housing density in 1970, it is evident that red areas indicating high density have overtaken towns in Denver's outlying area, such as Centennial, Westminster, Aurora, and Columbine.

Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Housing density in Denver, 2030 (projected)



Narrative: This map shows the projected housing density for the Denver metro area in 2030. High density is projected to extend outwards to towns, such as Castle Rock, Lafayette, and Brighton, which had very low density rates in 1970.

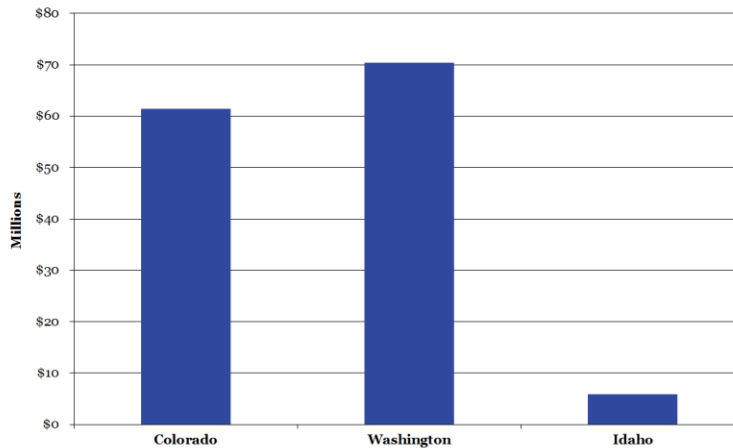
Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Public investments in conservation

Public expenditures in conservation includes the protection of land resources through conservation easements or direct acquisition. Funding for this purpose is often raised through bonds and taxes approved by voters, or through legislative initiatives.

Average annual public investments in conservation
(1998-2005)



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Source: LandScope America

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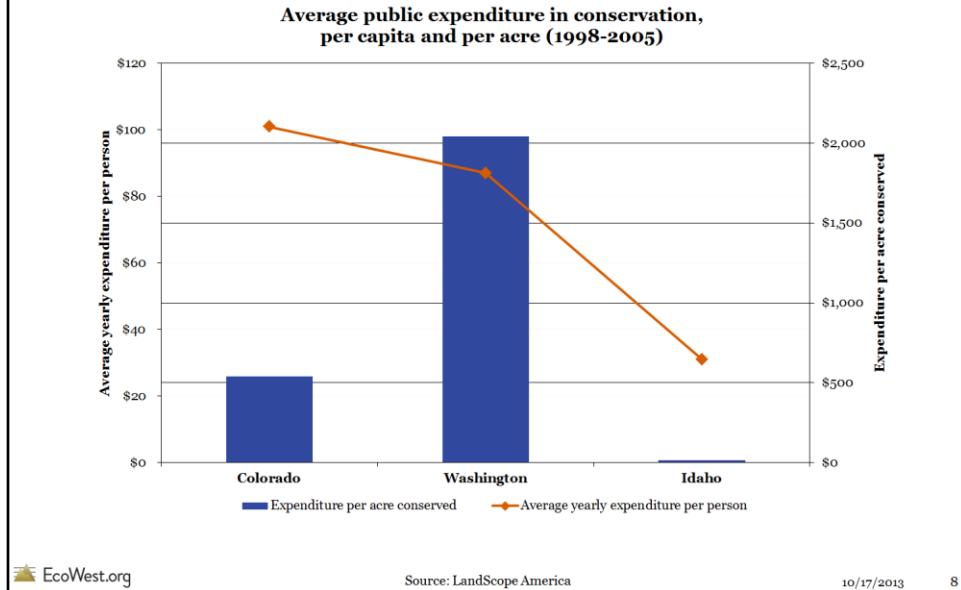
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Narrative: LandScope America includes a “Conservation by the Numbers” scorecard for each state. If we randomly select three Western states – Colorado, Washington, and Idaho – we see that Washington spent the highest amount (an average of roughly \$70 million annually) on public investments in conservation.

Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

Public investments in conservation



Narrative: Whereas Washington spent the highest aggregate amount on conservation using public funding, Colorado spent slightly more on a per capita basis (\$101 for CO versus \$87 for WA). In comparison, Idaho spent an average of \$31 per capita on conservation expenditures. The average cost per acre conserved was also the lowest in Idaho at only \$15 per acre, as compared to over \$2,000 per acre in Washington during the period 1998-2005.

Source: LandScope America

URL: <http://www.landscape.org/map/>

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The screenshot displays the EcoWest.org website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes the text 'Visualizing environmental trends' and a search box. Below this is a main header with the EcoWest logo and social media icons. A secondary navigation bar lists categories: ABOUT, BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, FIRES, LAND, POLITICS, WATER. The main content area features a large video player with the title '2012 was hottest year on record in U.S.' and a map of the United States showing temperature anomalies. To the right of the video is a text article with the same title, mentioning the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's report. Below the main content are four smaller article thumbnails: 'Biodiversity: Hawaii, West and South have most at-risk species', 'Wildfires: Ebb and flow of snow, fuels, and fire', 'Climate: 2012 was hottest year on record for U.S.', and 'Land: Which states have the most federal land?'. Each thumbnail includes a small image and a brief headline.