



# Boulder County Parks & Open Space **2020 Strategic Vision**

July 12, 2016 BOCC presentation

# Boulder County's Mission Statement

**As trusted stewards of Boulder County's future, we provide the best in public service.**

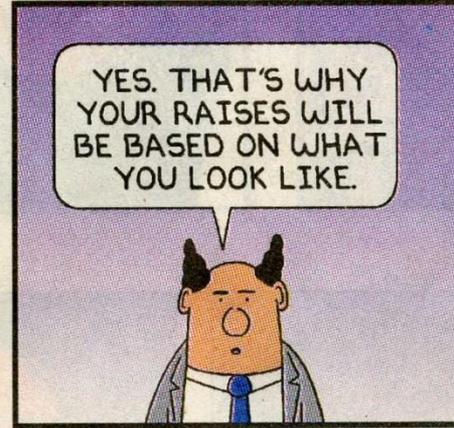
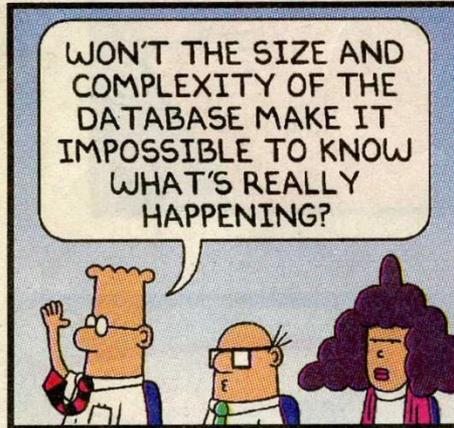
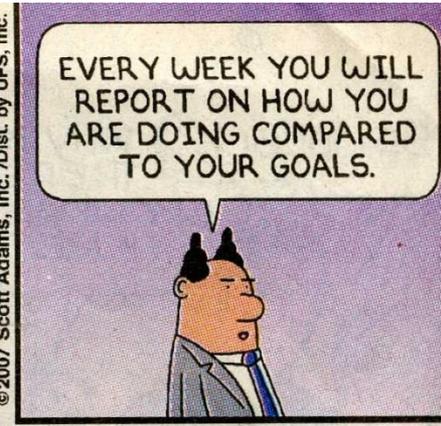
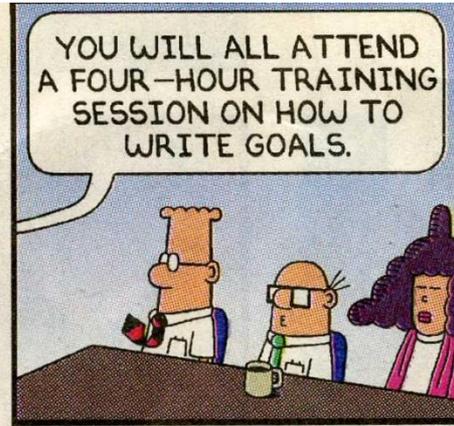


# Open Space Mission Statement



**To conserve natural, cultural, and agricultural resources and provide public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values.**

# Why goals?



# Why Measure Performance?

- **If you measure results, you can tell success from failure.**
- **If you can see success, you can reward it.**
- **If you reward success, you will not reward failure.**
- **If you can see success, you can learn from it.**
- **If you can recognize failure, you can learn from it.**
- **If you can demonstrate results, you can win public support.**

Adapted from: Reinventing Government – How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector, by Osborne & Gaebler

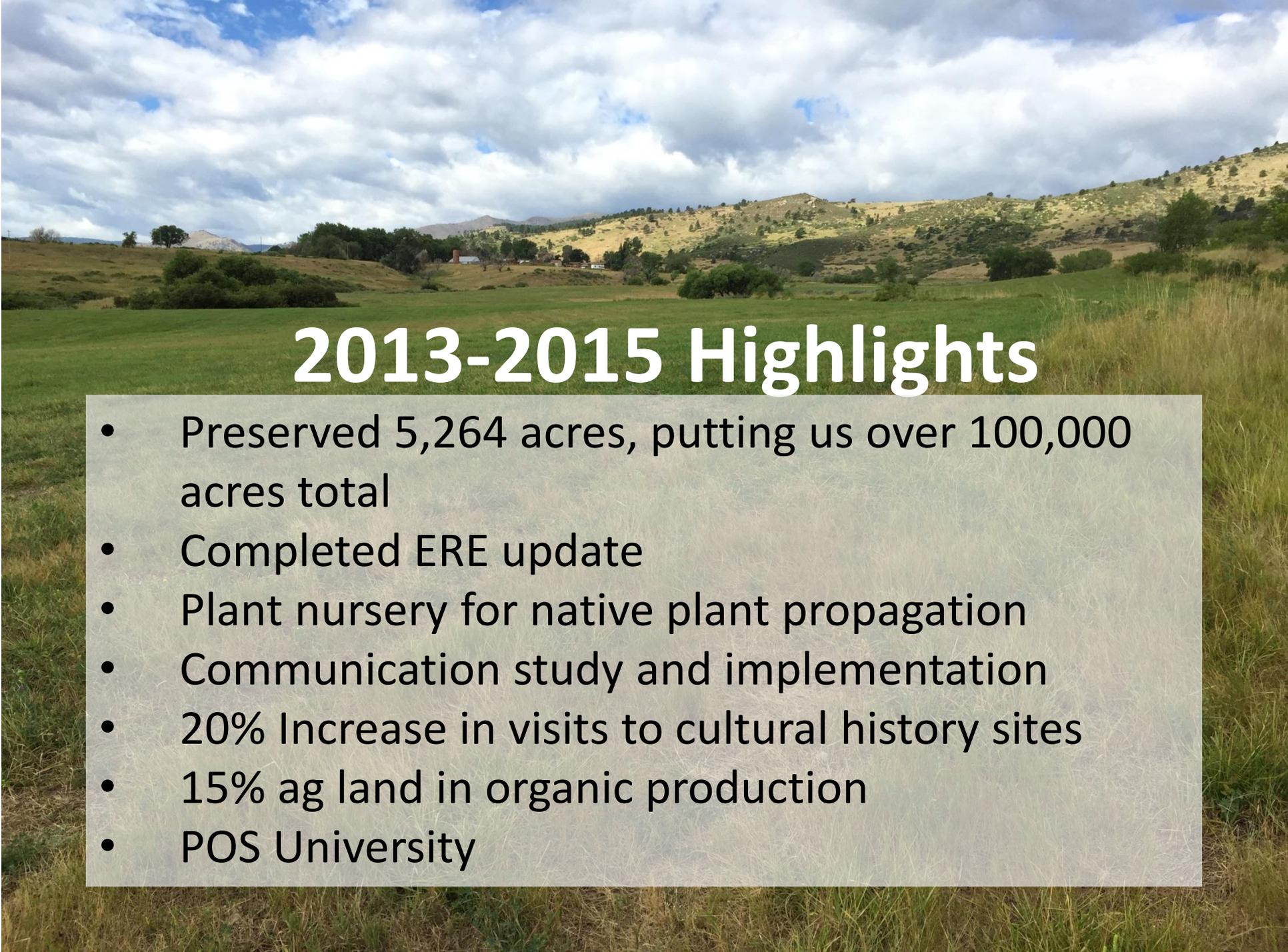
# Not our first rodeo...

## Goals for 1977

- to continue protection of acquired County open space areas
- to provide minimum scheduled maintenance per the adopted Open Space Policies
- to continue construction and/or improvements of trails in accordance with the trails plan
- to schedule management activities for County open space areas
- to complete a resource inventory on County-controlled lands
- to prepare management plans as required for open space areas
- to formalize and expand our volunteer program to supplement requests for our program services
- to provide environmental interpretive activities designed to encourage safe and wise use by the public of existing and future open space areas

# 2008-2012 Highlights

- CE Baseline backlog banished!
- 99% of Russian Olive trees removed
- Doubled volunteer hours
- Created partner program
- Added 20 miles of trail
- Converted 10% crops to organic production



# 2013-2015 Highlights

- Preserved 5,264 acres, putting us over 100,000 acres total
- Completed ERE update
- Plant nursery for native plant propagation
- Communication study and implementation
- 20% Increase in visits to cultural history sites
- 15% ag land in organic production
- POS University

Anne U. White  
Boulder County  
Parks and Open Space Department



# **2020 Strategic Vision Process**

- All staff brainstorm, spring 2015
- Managers' Retreat, winter 2015
- Public Input:
  - Question on Visitor Survey, Summer 2015
  - Stakeholder meeting, March 22, 2016
  - POSAC, June 23, 2016
- BOCC Adoption, July 12, 2016

# 2020 Strategic Vision Themes

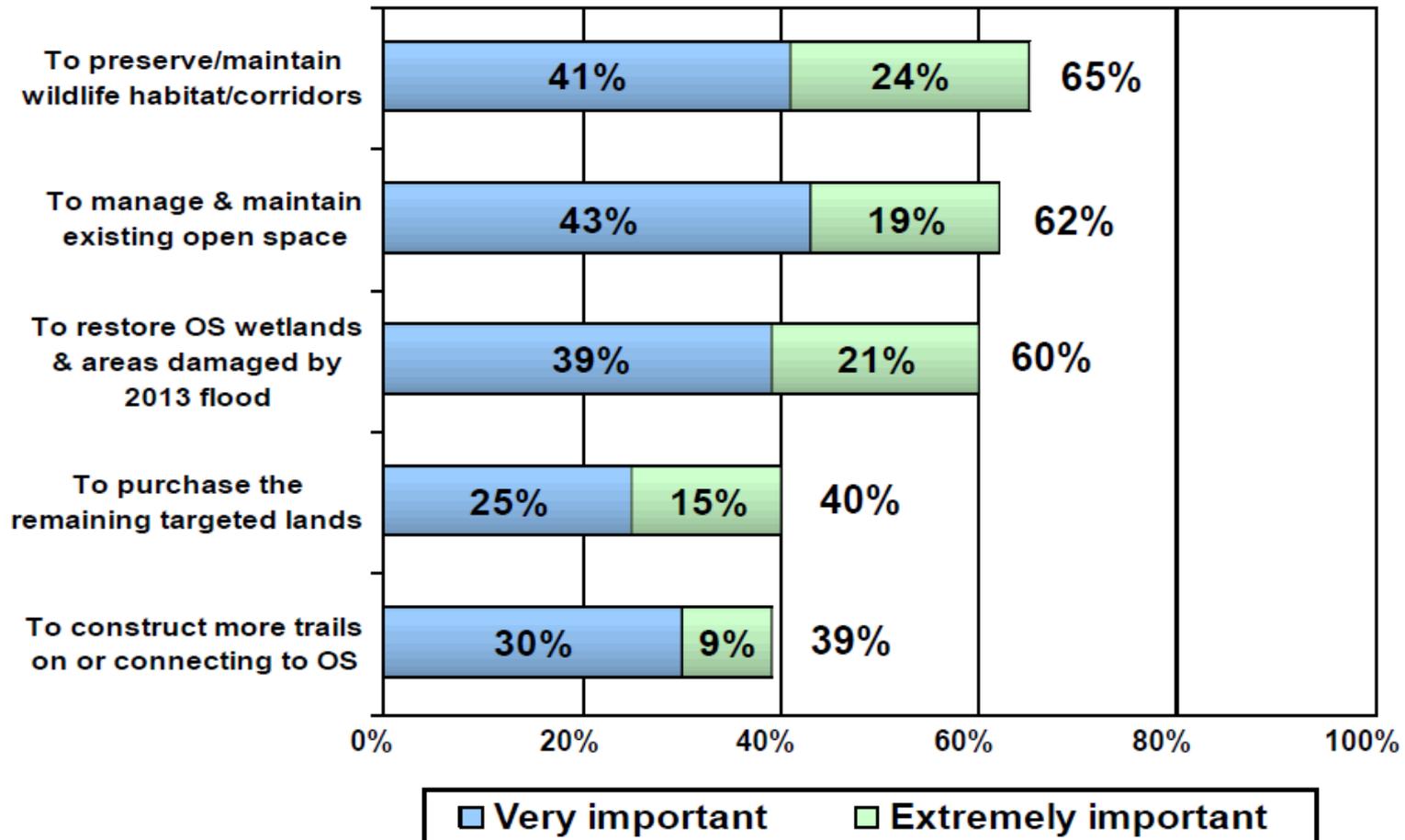
- Flood Recovery
- Demographic Shifts
- Climate Change
- Dynamic Agriculture
- Access and Transparency
- Acquire Remaining Properties
- Protect Species & Habitat

<b>5-Year Visitor Study question results (59% or 1,348 responded)</b>	<b>Percentage Responses</b>
<b>Build more trails</b>	14%
<b>Build/open more bike trails</b>	10%
<b>Build off-road connector trails between properties and communities</b>	9%
<b>Don't know or don't live in Area</b>	8%
<b>Buy/acquire more open space</b>	6%
<b>Maintain/manage land, preservation and stewardship of land</b>	6%
<b>Keep up the good work</b>	4%
<b>Flood repairs/re-open closed properties and trails</b>	4%
<b>Improve and maintain current trails</b>	3%
<b>Increase access to current land/open properties</b>	2%

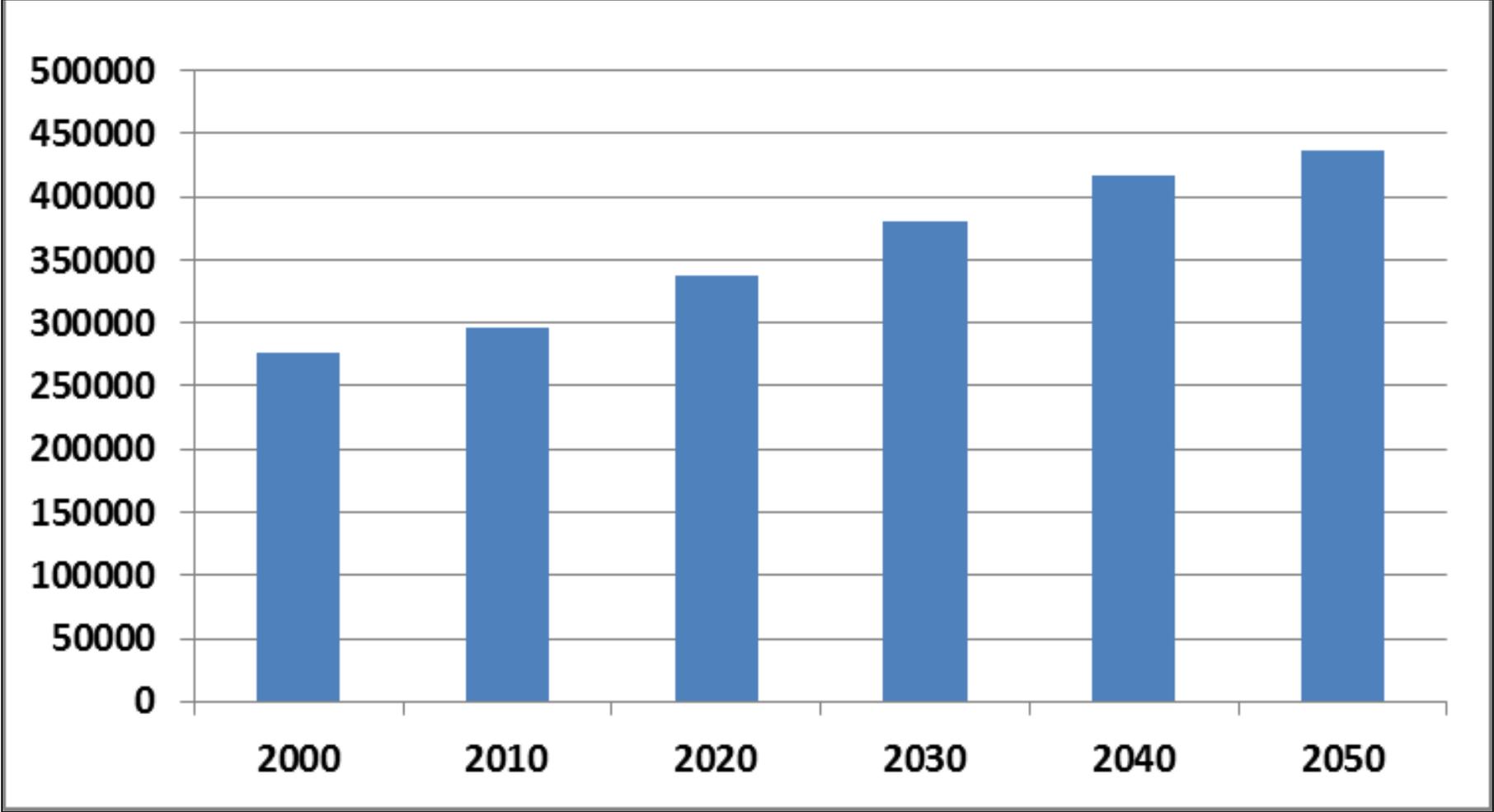
# Reasons to Extend Tax For Open Space

- Percent saying “Extremely / Very” important-

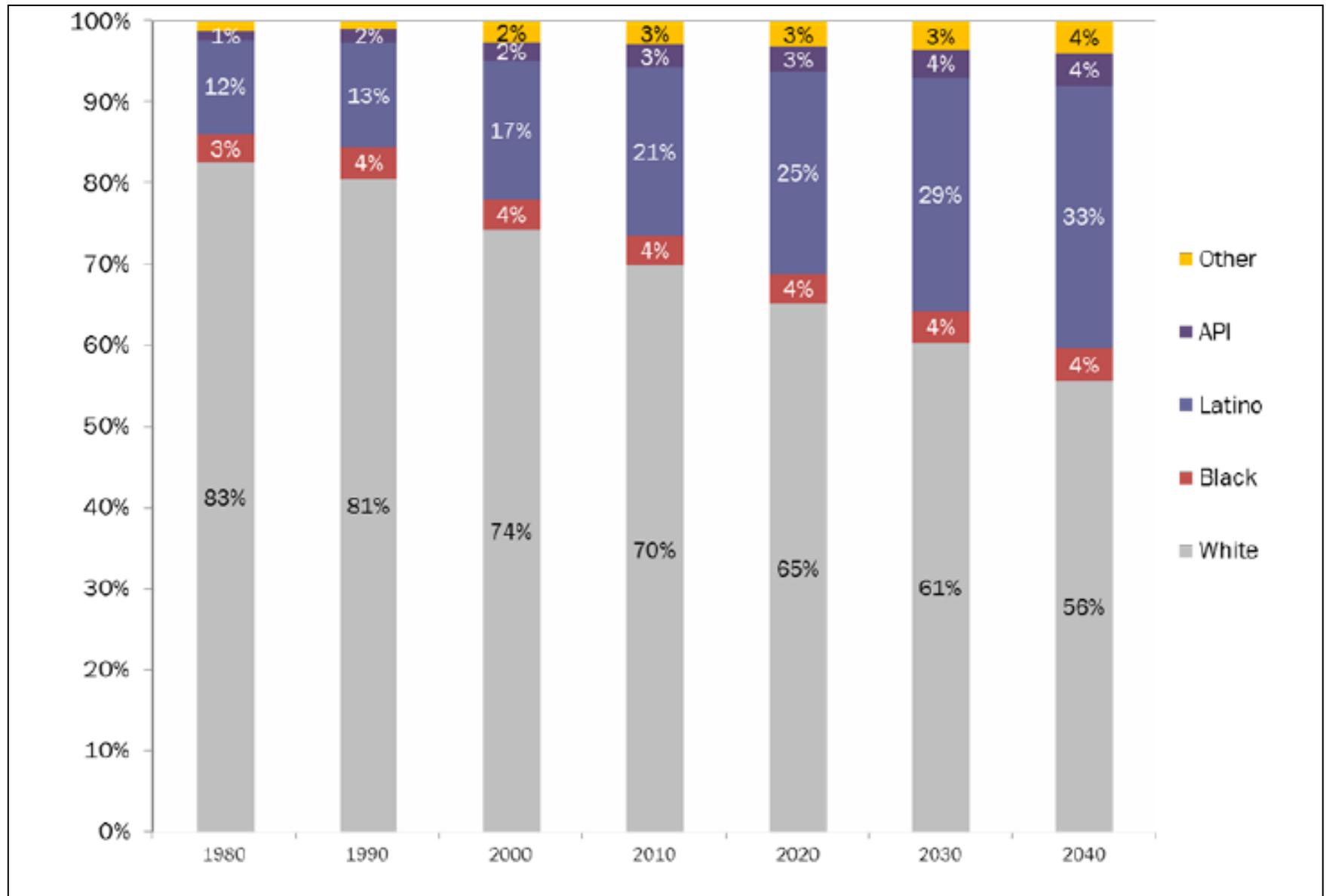
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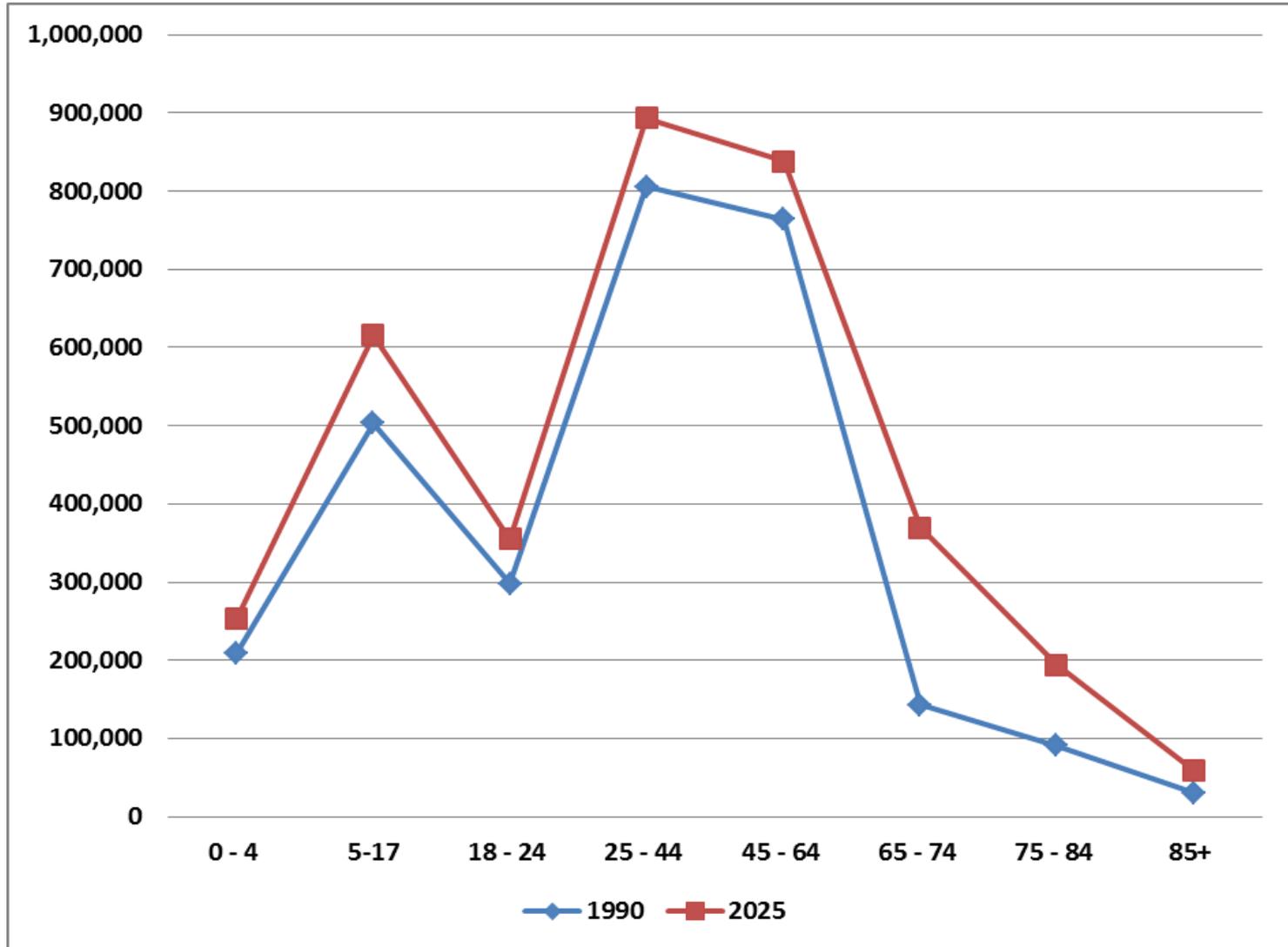
# Boulder County Population Forecast



# Colorado's Changing Demographics 1980-2040



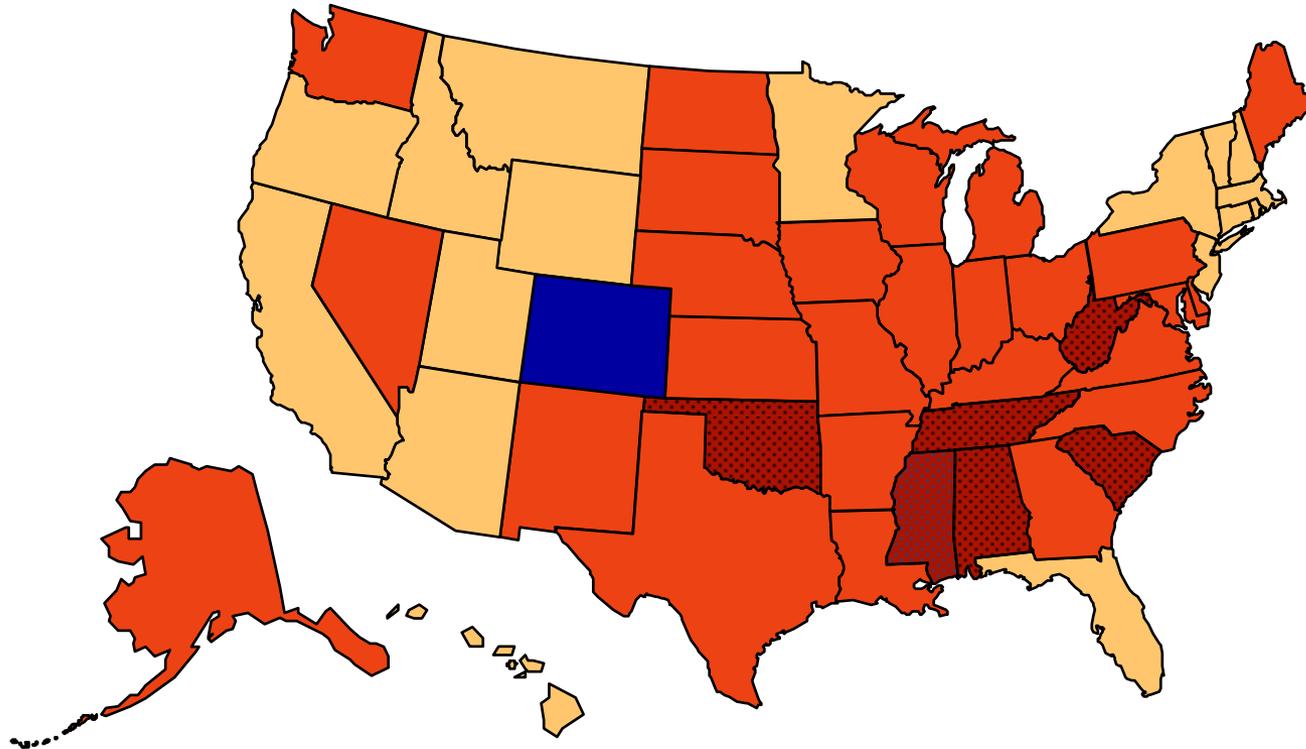
# Metro Area Age Wave

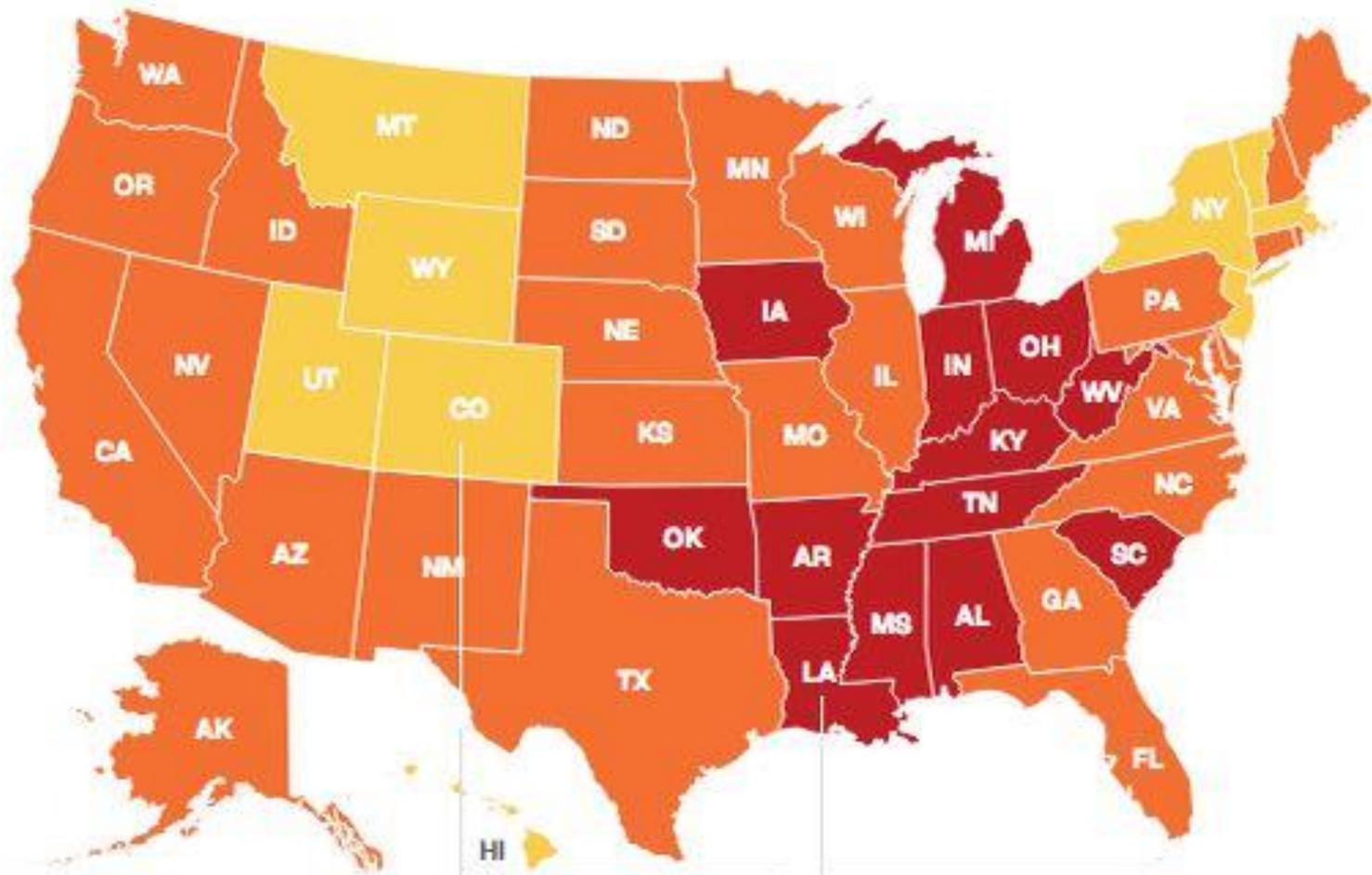


# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

## BRFSS, 2008

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)





**13**

Number of states with adult obesity rates above 30 percent

**41**

Number of states with adult obesity rates of at least 25 percent

**20.5%**

**Colorado**  
Lowest rate of adult obesity

**34.7%**

**Louisiana**  
Highest rate of adult obesity



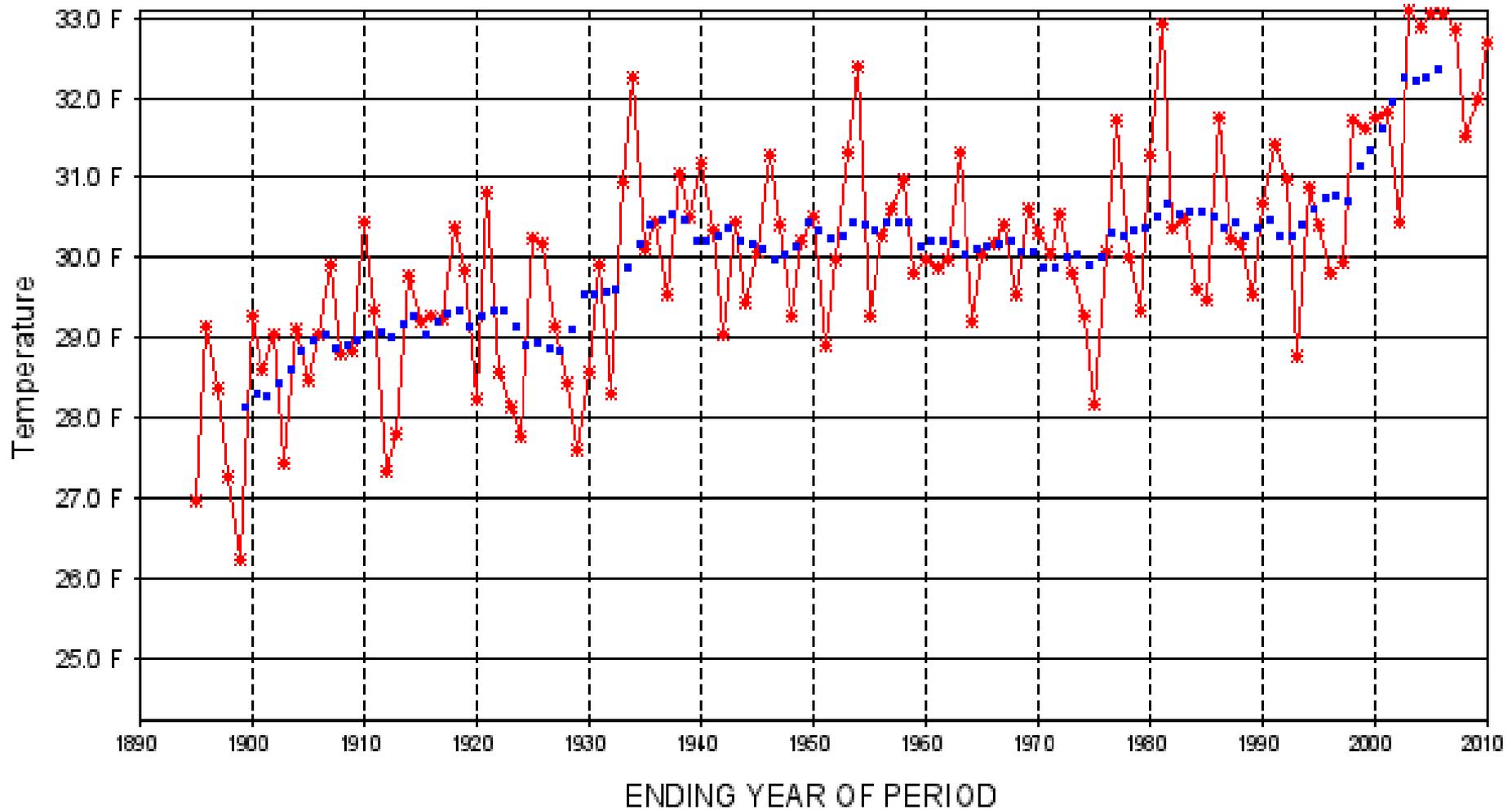
# Climate Change Projections and Impacts for Boulder County

- Average temperatures expected to rise by ~2–3°F by 2030 and ~3.5–5.0°F by 2050
- more warming in summer than in winter
- More rain, less snow
- Stronger extreme precipitation events
- Decreased annual stream flows
- Increased duration and intensity of wildfires



# Mean Minimum Temperature for Colorado -- Boulder County

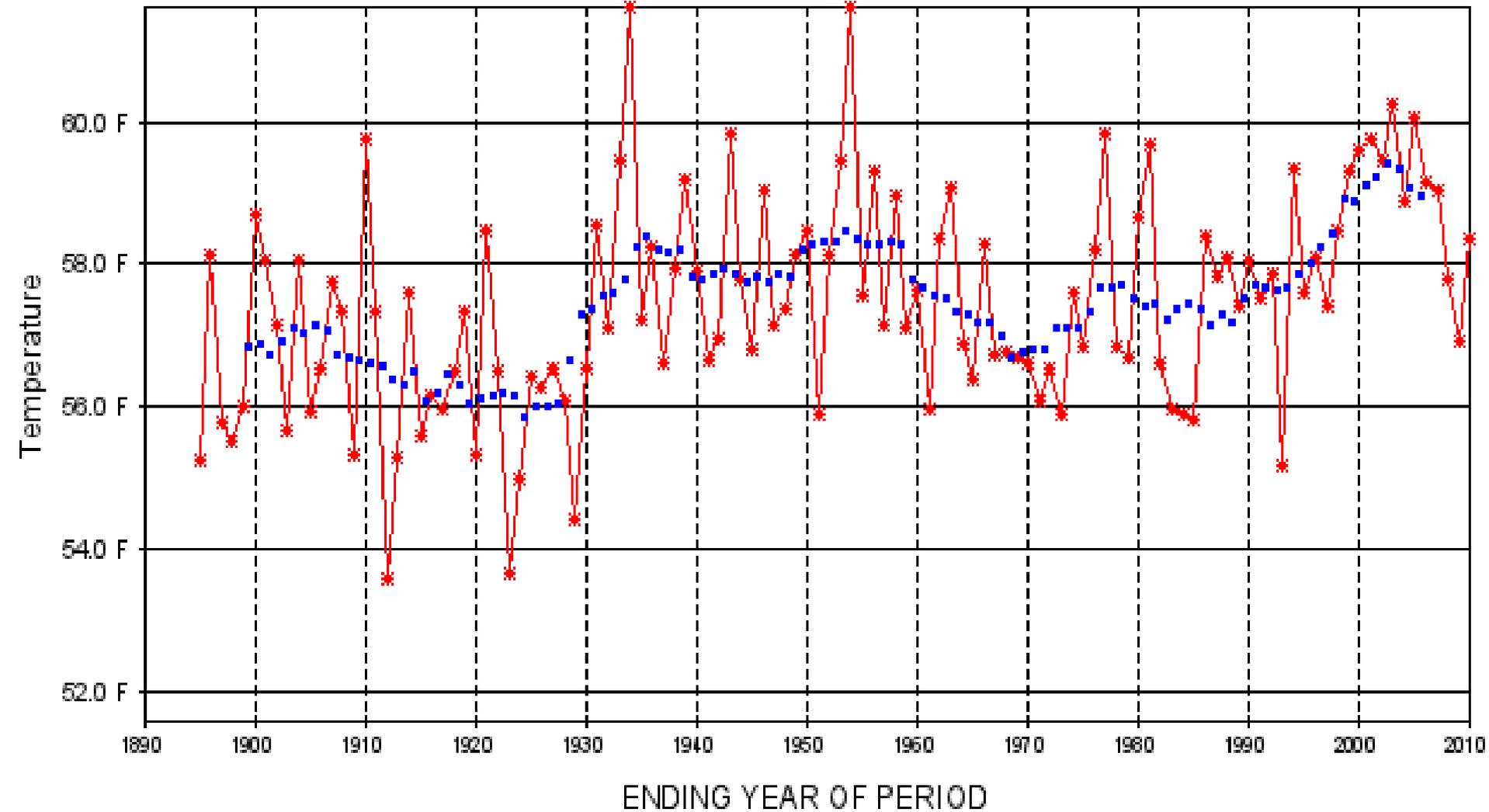
12 month periods ending in December



\* 10 year moving mean

# Mean Maximum Temperature for Colorado -- Boulder County

12 month period ending in December



\* 10 year rolling mean



### Pella Crossing

BRALY TRAILS

Map showing fishing spots and trails.

#### Kali Cone Fishing

Informational sign about fishing regulations.

#### REGULATIONS

List of rules and regulations for the area.

#### NO OPEN FIRE

NO CAMPFIRE

Signs prohibiting open fires and campfires.

#### NO OPEN FIRE

NO CAMPFIRE

Signs prohibiting open fires and campfires.

#### NO CAMPFIRE

NO OPEN FIRE

Signs prohibiting open fires and campfires.

#### FISHING

Sign indicating a fishing area.

#### BELLYBOAT

Sign indicating a bellyboat area.

#### PLEASE DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE

Sign asking visitors not to feed wildlife.

#### Welcome to Pella Crossing

Informational sign about the area.

# *Strategic Goal A: Complete Flood Recovery*

1. Complete recovery of riparian corridors and reservoirs damaged during 2013 flood
2. Complete recovery of trails and facilities damaged during the 2013 flood

## *Strategic Goal B:*

# *Improve Public Access to Lands & Information*

1. Complete Visitor Use Policy and other Management Plans and other “short term” Policies
2. Complete 7-mile Tolland Ranch Regional Trail
3. Add 6 miles of trail and associated facilities at AHI
4. Add an additional 10 miles of trails and associated facilities
5. Facilitate regional trail planning/implementation efforts
6. Create construction & maintenance guidelines for POS facilities
7. Improve public information about Department and projects
8. Use new, creative ways to engage public in planning process
9. Integrate technology into nature based experiences
10. Increase participation in education programs
11. Improve public access to BCPOS monitoring data

# *Strategic Goal C:*

## *Protect and Restore Habitat & Species*

1. Complete Wildlife Policy, Grasslands & Shrublands Policy, and other “short term” Management Plans and Policies
2. Write and begin implementing 25 ERE Species of Special Concern conservation plans
3. Enhance and protect pollinator habitat, including planting 50 acres of new pollinator habitat
4. Reintroduce Black-footed ferrets to Boulder County Parks and Open Space lands
5. Complete wildlife surveys and baseline vegetation mapping on high-priority properties
6. Enhance and restore ecological values on 600 acres of forestland , on three degraded/nonproductive agricultural properties, on grassland habitat, and in and along the St. Vrain
7. Enhance native vegetation on three POS properties by removing Cheat grass
8. Minimize impacts to open space resources (natural and agricultural) from oil and gas, utility and other third-party impacts

## ***Strategic Goal D: Acquire Significant Properties***

1. Preserve 2,500 additional acres and associated water rights
2. Prioritize acquisitions that offer opportunities for important trail connections
3. Pursue alternative strategies for accomplishing land exchanges

## ***Strategic Goal E: Plan for Demographic shifts***

1. Create a diversity plan to engage new, diverse and underrepresented populations and partners
2. Identify a large site, preferably near water, for picnic and recreation use

# ***Strategic Goal F: Foster Dynamic Agriculture***

1. Convert 25% of agricultural land to organic practices by 2020
2. Implement Soil Conservation and Water Conservation Plans for POS Ag lands (see also B-11)
3. Implement and refine integrated pest management protocols
4. Support local food production efforts
5. Improve Fairgrounds utilization for agricultural activities
6. Implement Cropland Policy GE Transition Plan

# *Strategic Goal G:*

## *Adapt to Climate Change*

1. Develop and begin to implement a policy for climate change adaptation and mitigation
2. Reduce POS-related energy use
3. Implement Boulder County's Zero-Waste policy throughout the POS system
4. Become a leader in carbon sequestration through land management

## *Strategic Goal H: Care for Cultural Assets*

1. Complete and implement Cultural Resource Management Policy
2. Increase visitation to historical sites by 10%
3. Complete and implement a maintenance plan for priority cultural assets
4. Complete historic buildings defensible space grant and develop long-term defensible space maintenance plan

# ***Strategic Goal I: Engage Volunteers in Stewardship***

1. Increase volunteer hours by 20%
2. Expand partnership program by 20%
3. Strengthen collaboration between the department and volunteers

# Questions, Comments?

