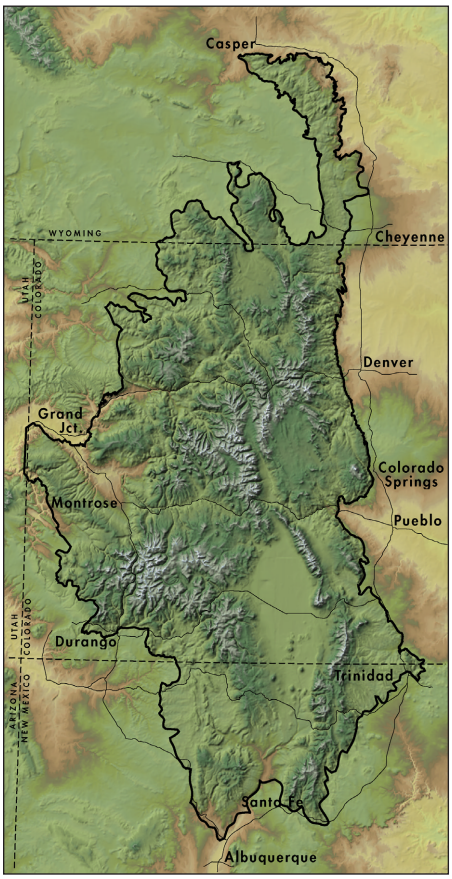
STATE OF THE SOUTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM

Southern Rocky Mountains

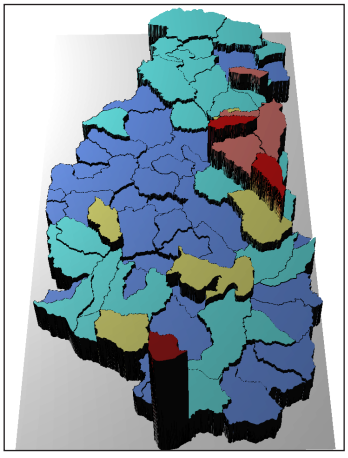
Southern Wyoming, Colorado, Northern New Mexico

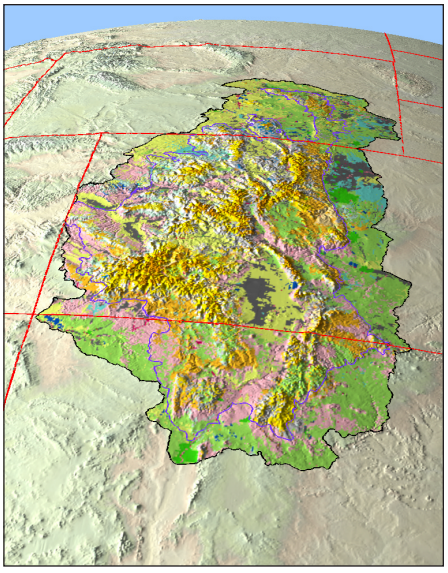
Stretching from Casper, WY to Sante Fe, NM and from the Front Range to the desert plateaus, the Southern Rockies Ecoregion provides some of the best remaining habitat in the lower 48 states. But development patterns, extractive land uses and more recently, recreational trends have had a profound impact. CTM was selected by the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project to provide a comprehensive inventory and analysis of this massive expanse of land (nearly 64,000 square miles). This extensive inventory employed diverse data sources including wildlife occurrences and habitat, stream order and watershed analyses, habitat fragmentation due to roads and trails, and impacts of motorized and non motorized uses. The inventory was combined with historic land use information and social and economic trends to assess the ecological health of this vast region.

Along with the challenges associated with handling such large databases came the challenge of graphically displaying the information so that maps clearly told a story without being overly complicated or cluttered. CTM worked closely with Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project staff to supply the needed analytical and graphical expertise.



Road density per watershed within the SRP study area.





GAP analysis vegetation data for the Southern Rockies Ecosystem study area.

Computer Terrain Mapping, Inc