

COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

## **WILDLIFE REPORT**

**2.6.c Federal and State Consultation Correspondence (2.303.6.c)**

Studies under the National Environmental Policy Act, including but not limited to an Environmental Impact Statement, are currently not anticipated for the portion of Pathway in El Paso County due to the lack of a federal nexus (i.e., no federal funding, federal lands, or federal permits or approvals that trigger National Environmental Policy Act compliance).

A list of federal, state, and local permits and approvals that have been or will be required for the project, including informal coordination, is provided in Section 1.3.

Xcel Energy has conducted informal coordination with federal and state agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for the portion of Pathway in Segment 5; formal consultation is not required. Xcel Energy has met with CPW staff and has also engaged with the USFWS regarding Colorado's Power Pathway and will follow regulation-based recommended non-disturbance buffers and construction timing restrictions to avoid or minimize impacts to special-status species. The Pathway team has coordinated with USFWS and CPW on threatened and endangered species, as applicable. A summary of coordination with USFWS and CPW to-date for Pathway in El Paso County is provided in Table 7, and copies of coordination letters sent to USFWS and CPW are included with the Application materials.

**Table 7: Summary of Coordination Meetings with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Type Coordination	Agency	Attendees	Date	Notes
Microsoft Teams Meeting	CPW	CPW; Xcel Energy; Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech)	12/10/2021	Purpose: to provide information about the Project and receive feedback from CPW on routing/siting considerations. Project overview and status were presented. Comments/questions from CPW were addressed. Initial comments were received about the Project from CPW, and another meeting was scheduled to discuss specific routes once links were narrowed down. A Pathway Team action item was to share GIS shapefiles for the links and narrower substation areas to CPW and to schedule a workshop with CPW to discuss specific links.

Type Coordination	Agency	Attendees	Date	Notes
Microsoft Teams Meeting	CPW	CPW; Xcel Energy; Tetra Tech	01/21/2022	Workshop to discuss specific routes/links. Project overview and discussion of route options for Segment 5 were presented by the Pathway team. CPW commented on specific portions of the route it had concerns about in regard to wildlife resources. A preferred route had not been determined at that point; therefore, discussion was based on each of the focus areas: southern (Pueblo County), central (El Paso and Elbert counties), and northern (Arapahoe and Lincoln counties).
Microsoft Teams Meeting	USFWS	USFWS; Xcel Energy; Tetra Tech; Burns and McDonnell; and Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST)	05/09/2022	Purpose of the meeting was to provide information regarding the Project to USFWS, and to receive feedback from USFWS. Project overview and status were presented by the Pathway Team. Focus of the meeting was largely focused on the lesser prairie-chicken in relation to routing options and area of potential effects. USFWS provided feedback about specific species and initial thoughts about which species might be a concern. USFWS requested further information about Project routing. Action items for the Pathway team were to provide GIS shape files to USFWS on May 9, 2022 and to coordinate a follow-up meeting with USFWS.
Microsoft Teams Meeting	USFWS	USFWS; Xcel Energy; Tetra Tech; Burns and McDonnell; and WEST	06/06/2022	Purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the Project and receive feedback from USFWS. The GIS shape files were provided to USFWS prior to the meeting so that they could comment on routing for the Project, and any concerns about specific locations. The eastern black rail

Type	Coordination	Agency	Attendees	Date	Notes
					was discussed and possible sharing of data to understand where the species may be a concern for the Project. Possibility of timing/avoidance for eastern black rail was discussed as was a CPW survey protocol and habitat assessment. There were no specifics from USFWS in regard to Segment 5. USFWS wanted to review the GIS shape files before commenting.

**2.7.c Compliance with El Paso County Master Plan (2.303.7.c)**

Pathway compliance with the 2021 El Paso County Master Plan (El Paso County 2021) is addressed in Table 8.

**Table 8: Pathway Compliance with El Paso County Master Plan**

Goal, Policy, or Strategy	Pathway Compliance
<b>Housing &amp; Communities</b>	
Goal 2.2 - Preserve the character of rural and environmentally sensitive areas.	<p>Pathway is sited within the Agricultural District within El Paso County (Attachment F) and the Rural placetype of the El Paso County Master Plan and is compatible with agricultural use. The transmission line alignment spans existing irrigation ditches and pivot irrigation in fields to minimize effects to existing agricultural operations. Aside from the small footprint of individual transmission poles, areas under and around Pathway can continue agricultural use.</p> <p>Sensitive natural resource areas, including wetlands and critical habitats for wildlife, were specifically considered as part of the routing and siting analysis when the preferred location for the transmission line was identified to minimize potential interference from Pathway facilities (Attachment C in Application).</p>
<b>Recreation &amp; Tourism</b>	
Goal 7.1 - Support high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation as a key amenity for	Xcel Energy appreciates El Paso County’s efforts to support high-quality sustainable outdoor recreation. The Powerline Trails Act (Act) was passed in 2022 to help raise awareness and create opportunities for Public Entities to co-locate public recreation trails within Transmission Corridors. Xcel Energy has notified El Paso County of the potential for construction of a Powerline Trail



<b>Goal, Policy, or Strategy</b>	<b>Pathway Compliance</b>
<p>residents and visitors.</p>	<p>within the Pathway Transmission Corridor. Xcel Energy is not in the business of building, owning, or maintaining public recreation trails and its land rights typically do not give it the right to do so. Nor does the Act require Transmission Providers to allow a Powerline Trail or any other facility on any of its Transmission Corridors. Xcel Energy's role under the Act is limited to facilitating the potential co-location of such trails by providing guidance to Public Entities on things such as what safety clearances need to be maintained, which materials should be used in the construction of the trail, and where such trails can safely be co-located with Xcel Energy's facilities. Powerline Trails will ultimately be constructed by Public Entities after consulting with Xcel Energy, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, and landowners about the safety and feasibility of such trails after the Transmission Corridor is constructed.</p>
<p><b>Community Health</b></p>	
<p>Goal 8.1 - Support community environmental health initiatives through collaborative efforts with other organizations.</p>	<p>By working with individual landowners, obtaining, and meeting applicable federal state and county permits, co-locating the transmission line route, or strategically running the route adjacent to other existing public infrastructure improvements, the Pathway alignment mitigates and minimizes to the furthest extent possible the impacts to the health, safety, and welfare of the adjacent agricultural inhabitants. Sensitive natural resource areas, including wetlands and critical habitats for wildlife, were specifically considered as part of the routing and siting analysis when the preferred location for the transmission line was identified to minimize potential interference from Pathway facilities (see Attachment C in Application).</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p>	
<p>Goal 9.1 – Consider the environmental impacts related to natural resource conservation, air quality, water quality, wildlife habitat, and waste management during any planning process.</p>	<p>By working with individual landowners, obtaining, and meeting applicable federal state and county permits, co-locating the transmission line route, and strategically running the route adjacent to other existing public infrastructure improvements, the Pathway alignment mitigates and minimizes to the furthest extent possible the impacts to the environment. Sensitive natural resource areas, including wetlands and critical habitats for wildlife, were specifically considered as part of the routing and siting analysis when the preferred location for the transmission line was identified to minimize potential interference from Pathway facilities (see Attachment C in Application). Xcel Energy has communicated with CPW and USFWS representatives regarding Pathway (see Section 2.6.c) and will continue to</p>

Goal, Policy, or Strategy	Pathway Compliance
	<p>coordinate with them throughout design and construction of Pathway and comply with applicable regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Short-term effects to air quality are anticipated from a temporary increase in construction vehicles, which may increase construction equipment exhaust (fumes), and clearing and preparing areas for construction (fugitive dust). Xcel Energy will apply for a CDPHE APEN for land development prior to construction and follow state standards to control the release of fugitive dust related to construction, if necessary. The APEN will be required for a disturbance greater than 25 contiguous acres and land development activities longer than 6 months.</p> <p>Xcel Energy will comply with permit application requirements, El Paso County standards, and construction protocols to ensure that Pathway does not affect water quality. Prior to construction, a Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities will be obtained from CDPHE, and a site-specific SWMP will be developed.</p> <p>Construction waste, including trash and litter, garbage, other solid waste, petroleum products, and other potentially hazardous materials, will be removed and taken to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials. Enclosed containment will be provided for trash disposal.</p> <p>Pathway will not create any wastewater nor have any facilities requiring wastewater treatment. Portable temporary bathrooms that will be serviced on a regular basis will be on site during the construction period.</p>

**2.19.b Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals, Plant Life, and Habitat**

A desktop analysis of the portion of Pathway within El Paso County was completed to characterize the environmental setting of Pathway and evaluate the potential for occurrence of special-status species based on available habitat. The analysis included the transmission line route plus a 1-mile buffer. The 1-mile buffer was used to evaluate biological resources that could be influenced by project construction or operation (e.g., raptor nests). To assess the potential for occurrence of special-status species within the county, the following publicly available information was reviewed:

- Google Earth Aerial Imagery (Google 2022)
- National Land Cover Database (NLCD 2019)

- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online tool (USFWS 2022b)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2022c)
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program Species Elements Database (CNHP 2022)
- CPW Species Activity Mapping Data (CPW 2022e)
- CPW State Species List (CPW 2022f)
- Online species profiles and distribution information (CPW 2022g)

In addition to publicly available information, a windshield survey of proposed Pathway facility locations was completed in September 2021 to identify any potential areas of concern for biological resources. Ground-based raptor nest surveys and aerial raptor nest surveys were conducted in April and May 2022 to identify potentially active eagle and other raptor nests within 0.5-mile of the proposed transmission line route.

The USFWS IPaC online tool and CPW online databases were used to identify federally and state-protected species that may occur near Pathway facilities in El Paso County, including species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, bald and golden eagles protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and state-listed threatened or endangered species (CPW 2022e, CPW 2022f, CPW 2022g, CNHP 2022, USFWS 2022a, USFWS 2022b). In addition to the federally and state-listed species that receive regulatory protection, state Species of Concern (SC) were also evaluated. Although SC species do not receive any regulatory protection, they have been identified by the state as having management interest either due to declining populations or habitat loss.

The Wildlife Species Habitat and Avian Habitat Resource Maps in the Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 (Attachment C in Application) illustrate mapped special-status wildlife and avian habitat for Pathway in El Paso County. A total of 16 special-status wildlife species were identified as potentially occurring within 1 mile of proposed Pathway facilities in El Paso County. Table 11 outlines the likelihood of occurrence of each species based upon review of known species ranges, habitat requirements, land cover data, and aerial imagery. Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat has not been identified within 1 mile of proposed Pathway facilities in El Paso County.

**Table 11: Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within 1 Mile of Proposed Pathway Facilities in El Paso County**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/ State Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat Associations/ Range	Likelihood of Occurrence <sup>2</sup>
<b>Mammals</b>				
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	- / SC	Occurs in the eastern third of Colorado, in shortgrass prairie habitat below 6,000 feet elevation. The species lives in colonies and they construct burrows where they live and raise their young. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities is within the overall species range, low, medium and high potential colony occurrence area.	High
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	FE / -	Requires large areas of contiguous habitat, including forests and mountain terrain, with an abundance of prey and cover. The species has been considered extirpated from Colorado until very recently.	Unlikely
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	- / SC	Occurs in shortgrass prairie habitat with flat or rolling terrain and high visibility over long distances, up to 7,000 feet elevation. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities is within the overall species range.	Moderate
<b>Birds</b>				
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA / SC	Large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs with an abundance of fish. Nesting is typically in large trees close to water. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities within overall species range.	Moderate
Eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i>	FT / -	Occurs in freshwater marshes and wetlands (Arkansas River). 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities is outside range for the species.	Unlikely
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	- / SC	Occurs in arid and open habitats including grasslands, sagebrush or saltbush plains, and deserts. Nests in lone trees, cliffs, rock outcrops, or on the ground in a high area like a knoll. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities within species breeding range.	High

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/ State Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat Associations/ Range	Likelihood of Occurrence <sup>2</sup>
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BGEPA / -	Open native habitats with an abundance of prey. Nesting occurs on cliffs, knolls, and raised areas. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities within overall species range.	Moderate
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	- / SC	Occurs in shortgrass prairie habitat, nesting in sparsely vegetated areas or areas with barren open ground, and often found near prairie dog colonies. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities is within species breeding range.	Moderate
Piping plover <sup>3</sup>	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	FT / ST	Reservoirs, lakes, and rivers with sand and gravel areas and sparse vegetation. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities outside range for the species.	Unlikely – No downstream impacts anticipated.
Western burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	- / ST	Open habitats with low or sparse vegetation on gently sloping terrain. Nesting typically occurs in small mammal burrows. Often found nesting in the perimeters of prairie dog colonies. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities occurs in species breeding range, low, medium and high potential prairie dog colony occurrence area.	Moderate
Whooping crane <sup>3</sup>	<i>Grus americana</i>	FE / SE	Freshwater marshes, wet prairies, shallow lakes, and lagoons. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities outside range for the species.	Unlikely – No downstream impacts anticipated.
<b>Fish</b>				
Greenback cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</i>	FE / ST	Endemic to the headwaters of the South Platte and Arkansas River drainages on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities outside range for the species.	Unlikely

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/ State Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat Associations/ Range	Likelihood of Occurrence <sup>2</sup>
Pallid sturgeon <sup>3</sup>	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	FE / -	Large river systems with firm sandy bottoms (i.e., Missouri River). 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities outside range for the species.	Unlikely – No downstream impacts anticipated.
<b>Reptiles</b>				
Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	- / SC	Occurs wet areas including wet prairies, marshes, sedge meadows, and low areas along rivers and lakes. 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities within overall species range and potential habitat.	Moderate
<b>Insects</b>				
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	FC / -	Found in a wide variety of habitats and are known to occur in grasslands and prairie habitats in Colorado. The species requires milkweed ( <i>Asclepias</i> spp.) host plants to lay their eggs.	Moderate
<b>Plants</b>				
Ute ladies'-tresses orchid	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	FT / -	Moist meadows associated with perennial stream terraces, floodplains, and oxbows at elevations below 6,500 feet.	Low

1 FC = Federal Candidate, FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, ST = State Threatened, SE = State Endangered, SC = Species of Concern, BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act  
 2 Likelihood of Occurrence: Unlikely–unsuitable habitat in project and vicinity; Low–marginally suitable habitat in project and vicinity; Moderate–suitable habitat present in project, or species known to occur in habitat similar to project; High–highly suitable habitat present in project, or known populations exist in project vicinity.  
 3 Platte River Species = Water-related activities or uses in the Platte River Basins may affect these species in downstream reaches.

In addition to listed species, CPW tracks and maps data for big game species habitat throughout the state (CPW 2022e). The Wildlife Species Habitat Resource Maps in the Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 (Attachment C in Application) illustrate mapped big game habitat in El Paso County. The 1-mile buffer of the proposed Pathway facilities is located within four mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) concentration areas, one area identified as severe winter range, one area identified as winter concentration area and two areas identified as winter range. One pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) concentration area occurs within the 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities. One white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) concentration area and one area identified as winter range occur within the 1-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities. No other big game species habitat is mapped in the same area.

Potential impacts to wildlife species would primarily be associated with temporary disturbance from construction activities within the ROW, namely the removal and management of vegetation. In addition, increased noise and equipment movement during construction may temporarily displace mobile wildlife species from the immediate workspace area. These impacts are considered short-term in duration and normal wildlife movements would be expected to resume after construction has been completed and disturbed areas have been restored in a manner generally similar to preconstruction conditions.

To avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife, Pathway will implement measures such as requiring proper trash and food debris disposal and compliance with posted speed limits. CPW recommendations (CPW 2021) will be incorporated where practicable.

Vegetation clearing during migratory bird breeding season (generally April 15 through September 1) could impact active nests by disturbing or destroying them, resulting in fatalities of adults, eggs, and/or young. Additionally, lighting, construction noise, and vibration in the immediate vicinity of active nests, could potentially result in nest failure or abandonment. To avoid these potential impacts, Pathway has been sited to avoid known eagle nest and roost locations to the extent practicable. Operation of Pathway could result in direct impacts to raptor species through electrocution and/or collision. In addition, electrical components of the transmission lines will be separated to minimize the risk of avian contact and will follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) guidelines (APLIC 2006). Bird flight or swan diverters or other marking devices may be used as determined necessary for specific locations.

To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to migratory birds and raptors, including eagles, Pathway will conduct tree/vegetation clearing during the nonbreeding season for birds (September 1–April 15), if feasible. If vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season, vegetation clearance surveys, nest surveys, and burrowing owl surveys may be conducted per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting

activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers (CPW 2020, CPW 2021) or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive.

Pathway has been conducting ongoing coordination with CPW and USFWS regarding potential biological resources that may be impacted by Pathway, as described in Table 7 in Section 2.6.c. Pathway had a project introduction meeting with CPW on December 12, 2021, followed by a routing workshop on January 10, 2022, and a follow-up routing discussion on April 22, 2022. On May 9, 2022, Pathway had a project introduction meeting with USFWS. The feedback received from CPW and USFWS during these meetings has been used to inform the routing and siting of Pathway. The Pathway team has coordinated with USFWS and CPW on threatened and endangered species, as applicable. Pathway will continue to coordinate with CPW and USFWS through permitting, construction, and operation of the project, as needed, to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

**2.22 MONITORING AND MITIGATION PLAN (ARTICLE 2.303.22)**

Section 2.22 address potential impacts from construction and operations of Pathway in El Paso County and also proposed mitigation measures where appropriate. Mitigation measures planned for Pathway are listed by resource in Table 12. Additional information about the environmental factors considered during the routing and siting study process is provided in Attachment C. Impacts will be minimized during construction of the Project and will be addressed by Xcel Energy. If mitigation attributable to Project impacts is required, it will be addressed during Project construction by Xcel Energy pursuant to permit requirements.

**Table 12: Proposed Mitigation Measures**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Description of Avoidance of Impacts or Proposed Mitigation</b>
Biological Resources	<p>Pathway will avoid or minimize impacts to habitat as practicable. Impacts to most vegetation will be temporary and limited to the 150-foot-wide ROW and TCAs. The ROW will be cleared of tall vegetation for ongoing maintenance. Measures will be implemented to minimize the spread of noxious weeds in the ROW (Attachment D). To avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic habitat within the ROW, surface waters, riparian areas, and wetlands in areas at a crossing will be spanned as practicable. Pathway will adhere to BMPs and erosion control measures outlined in the SWMP.</p> <p>To avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife, Pathway will implement measures such as requiring proper trash and food debris disposal and compliance with posted speed limits. CPW recommendations (CPW 2021) will be incorporated where practicable.</p> <p>To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to eagles and other migratory birds and raptors, tree/vegetation clearing will be</p>



<b>Resource</b>	<b>Description of Avoidance of Impacts or Proposed Mitigation</b>
	<p>conducted during the nonbreeding season for birds (September 1–April 15) if feasible. If vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season, vegetation clearance surveys, nest surveys, and burrowing owl surveys may be conducted per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers (CPW 2020, CPW 2021) or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive.</p> <p>In addition, electrical components of the transmission lines will be separated to minimize the risk of avian contact and will follow APLIC guidelines (APLIC 2006). Bird flight or swan diverters or other marking devices may be used as determined necessary for specific locations.</p> <p>Xcel Energy will continue to coordinate with USFWS and CPW to address concerns regarding wildlife impacts throughout planning, design, and construction of Pathway, and will comply with all regulatory requirements.</p>

### 3 REVIEW CRITERIA FOR ALL APPLICATIONS (2.405)

In accordance with Section 2.405 of the El Paso County §1041 Regulations, the information in Table 13 describes how Pathway routing and site selection, construction, maintenance, and operation comply with the approval criteria for the Permit Authority approval of the portion of the transmission line subject to this Application. Each criterion for all applications from Section 2.405 is listed, followed by a description of how Pathway will comply.

**Table 13: Pathway Compliance with Review Criteria for All Applications (Section 2.405 of the El Paso County §1041 Regulations)**

<b>Review Criteria Code Citation</b>	<b>Review Criteria</b>	<b>Pathway Compliance with Review Criteria</b>
2.405.11	The Project will not significantly degrade wetlands and riparian areas, terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life. The determination of effects of the Project on these areas shall include the considerations raised in the applicable federal and/or state Permits.	Pathway design and construction will mitigate impacts to wetlands and other surface and groundwater contamination to the extent practicable. Potential WOTUS will be avoided to the extent practicable. The span between transmission line poles can be sited to avoid placement within sensitive areas and span across wetlands and other WOTUS features to avoid permanent impacts (see the Water Resources Map, Attachment K). Pathway is not anticipated to result in any permanent impacts to wetlands or other WOTUS

Review Criteria Code Citation	Review Criteria	Pathway Compliance with Review Criteria
		<p>features. Construction of the transmission line will not create runoff in excess of previous site levels and will not change existing topography or adversely affect drainage. There will be no alteration in the pattern or intensity of surface drainage or any impacts to lakes or reservoirs as a result of construction or operation of the transmission line. Sensitive natural resource areas, including wetlands and critical habitats for wildlife, were specifically considered as part of the routing and siting analysis when identifying the preferred location for the transmission line to minimize potential interference from Pathway facilities (see the Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5, Attachment C in Application). Xcel Energy has communicated with CPW and USFWS representatives regarding Pathway and will continue to coordinate with them throughout design and construction of Pathway and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements. Pathway will obtain a Floodplain Development Permit for each FEMA-designated floodplain crossing from the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department Floodplain Management Office, if necessary. Pathway will adhere to BMPs outlined in the SWMP, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.</p>

## 6 REFERENCES

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**ATTACHMENT D: NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEASURES**

## **NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEASURES**

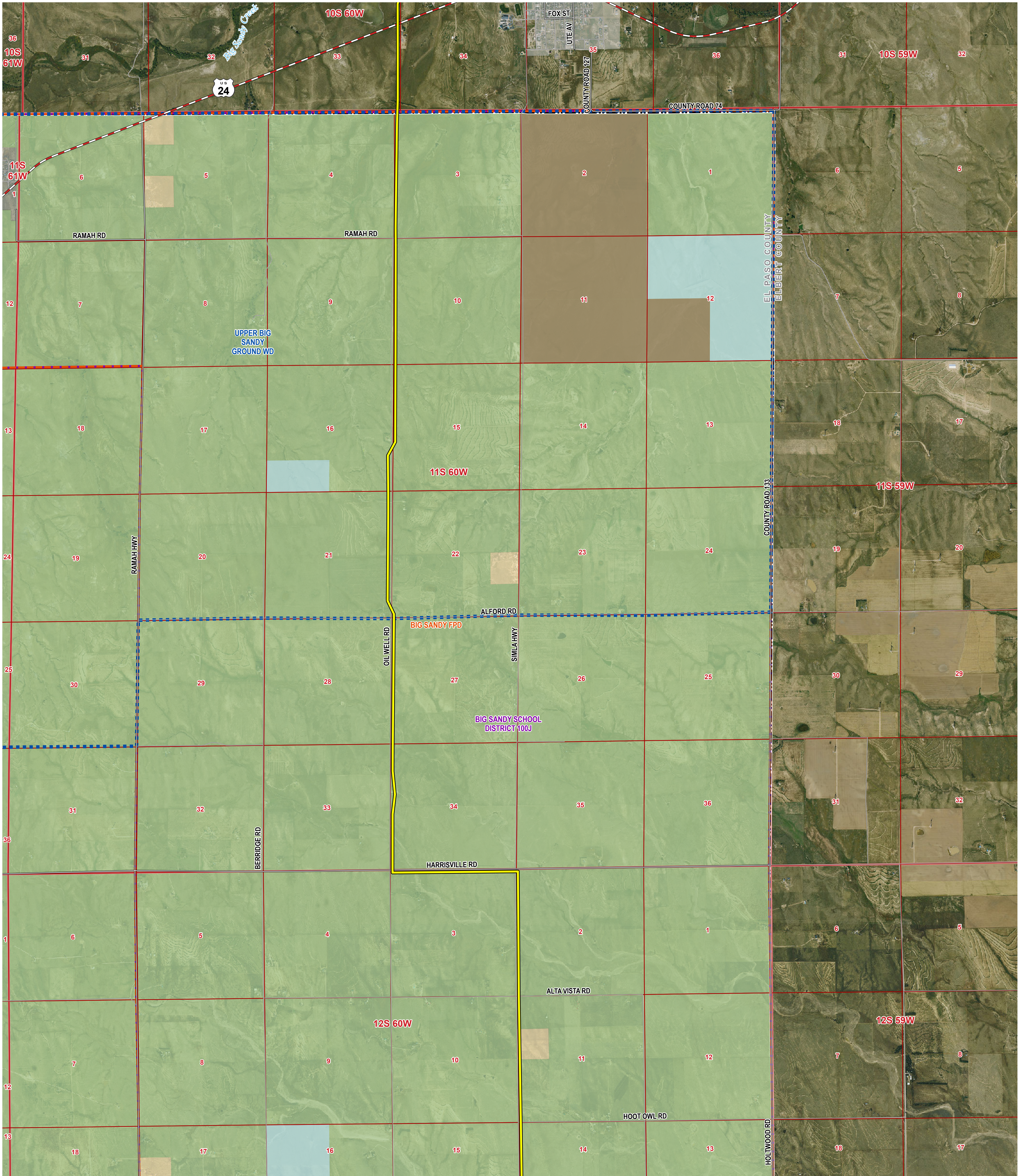
Practices for minimizing noxious weeds are also outlined in the *erosion control best practices* described in the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). This list summarizes weed control practices that will be implemented for this project.

- Weed control for Pathway will address only areas disturbed by Pathway construction and not weed infestations outside of the disturbance area even if they are within Xcel Energy's right-of-way.
- Prior to construction, areas of potential concern related noxious weed spread will be identified and avoided. Clearing or blading will occur in the minimum area needed for safe and efficient construction
- Unnecessary surface disturbance will be limited. Bare ground represents an open ecological niche that allows for the establishment of undesirable species, such as noxious weeds. Disturbance footprints associated with construction activities will be limited to the extent practicable to minimize opportunities for noxious weeds.
- Topsoil will be stockpiled in the area of the disturbance, as practicable or as required by the SWMP, for use during revegetation activities post-construction. This will minimize in-soil seed bank migration during restoration.
- Areas that do not require grubbing or grading for access, commonly referred to as "drive and crush," will rebound naturally when the topsoil layer and associated root structure remain in place and have only been compressed by construction activity. These areas will be left alone and monitored post-construction to confirm successful restoration.
- Revegetation will be implemented per the SWMP. Seed selection will be based on site-specific conditions and the appropriate seed mix identified for those conditions. Weed-free seed mixes will be used during revegetation. This is an Xcel Energy standard and one that can be certified by the contractor.
- Xcel Energy's noxious weed management contractor will implement noxious weed control measures in accordance with existing regulations and Xcel Energy policy.

**ATTACHMENT F: LAND USE AND ZONING MAP**



# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY



## Legend

Proposed Transmission Route

### Boundary (CDOT 2021, BLM 2020, DOLA 2021)

- County
- Section
- Township
- Municipal Boundary

### Transportation (CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)

- U.S. Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road

### Zoning (El Paso County 2023)

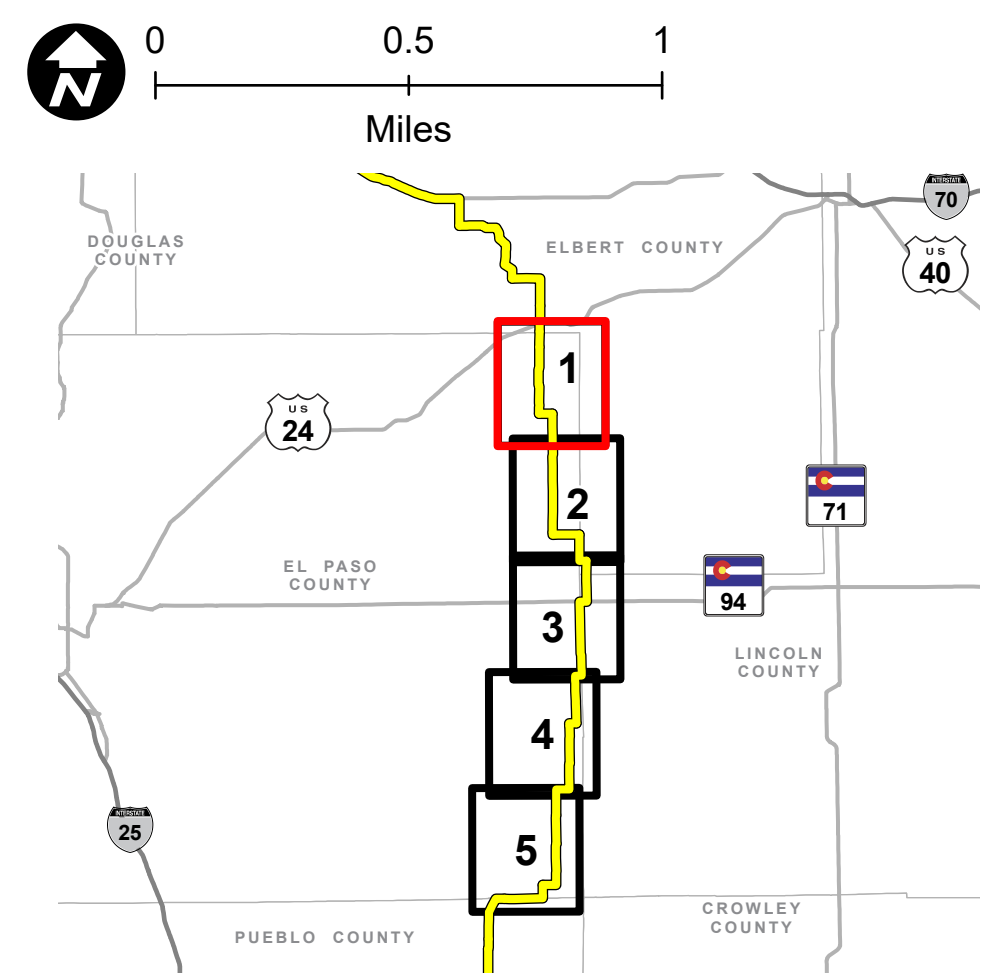
- A-35: Agricultural (35 acres)
- RR-5: Residential Rural (5 acres)

### Jurisdiction (COMap 2023)

- Conservation Easement
- CO State

### Special Districts (El Paso County 2023)

- Water District
- Fire District
- School District



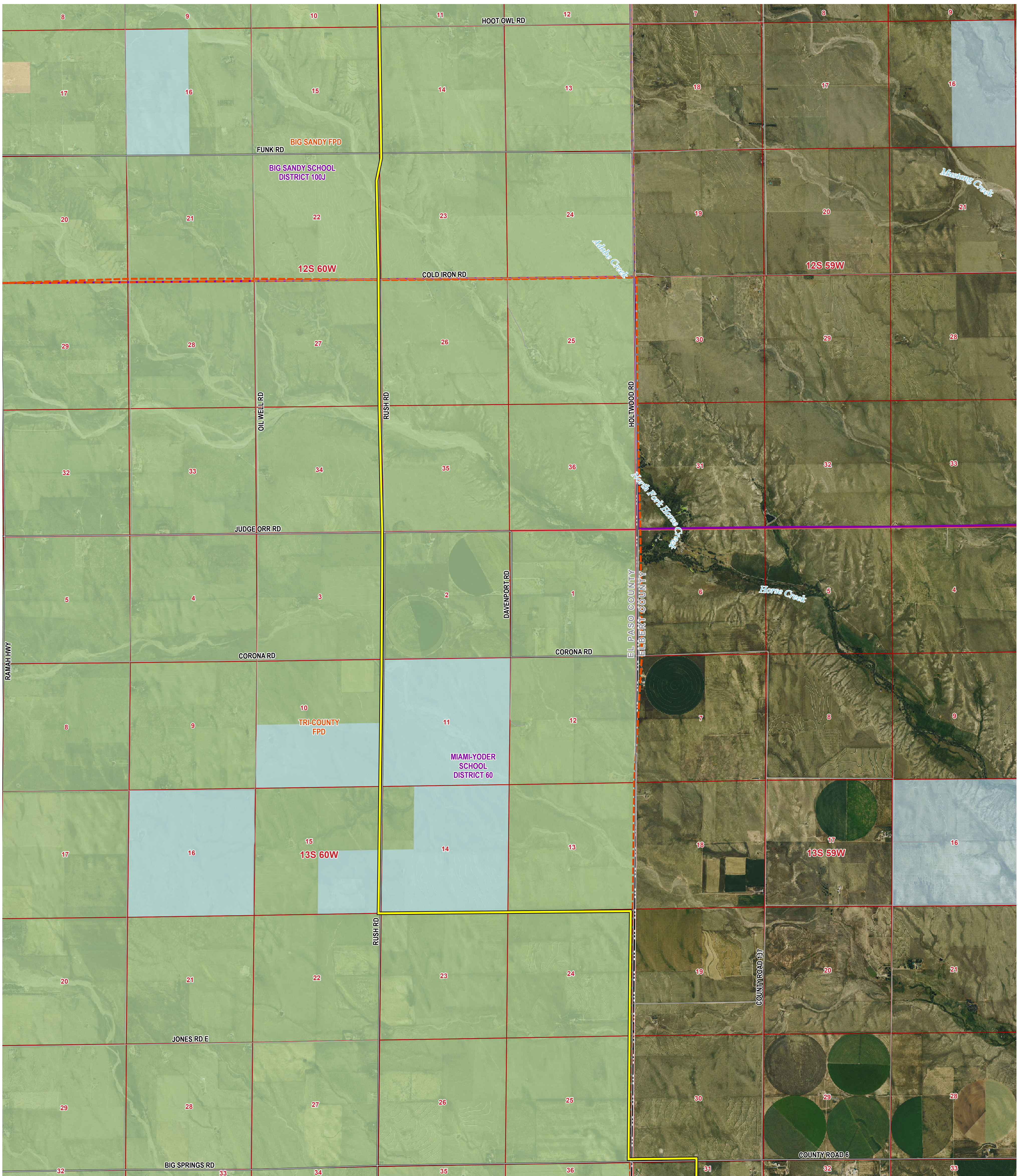
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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

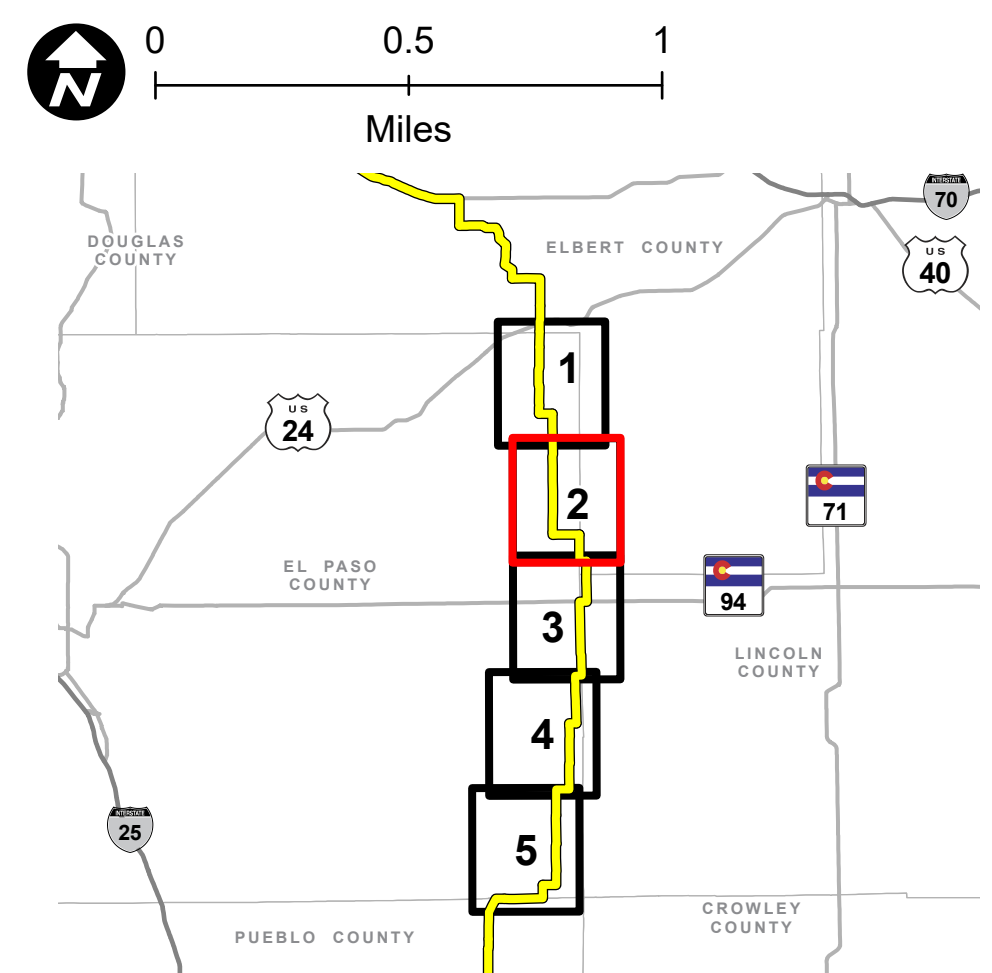


## Legend

- Proposed Transmission Route
- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, BLM 2020, DOLA 2021)
- County
- Section
- Township
- Municipal Boundary
- Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
- U.S. Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road

- Zoning**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- A-35: Agricultural (35 acres)
- RR-5: Residential Rural (5 acres)
- Jurisdiction**  
(COMap 2023)
- Conservation Easement
- CO State

- Special Districts**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- Water District
- Fire District
- School District



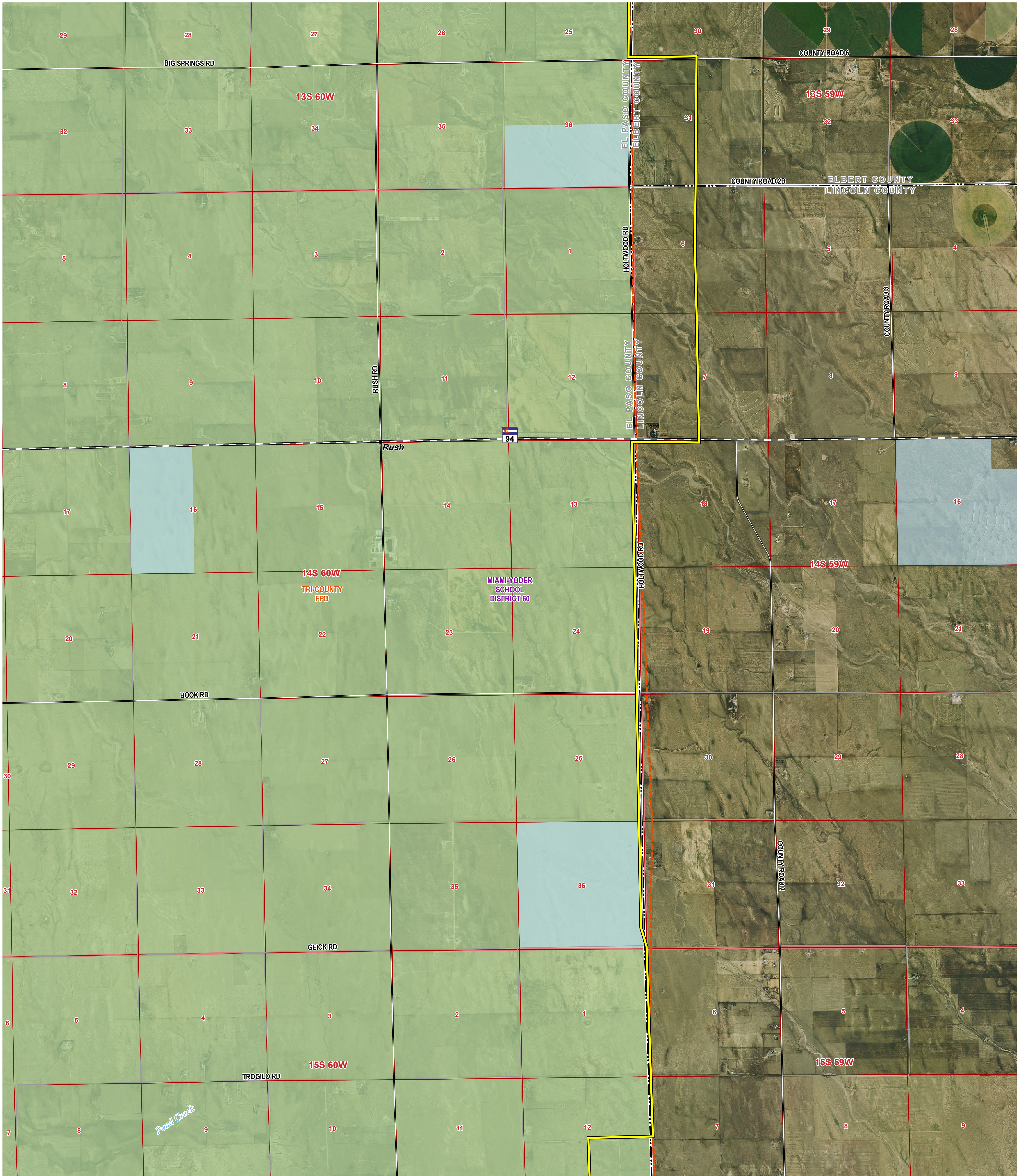
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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

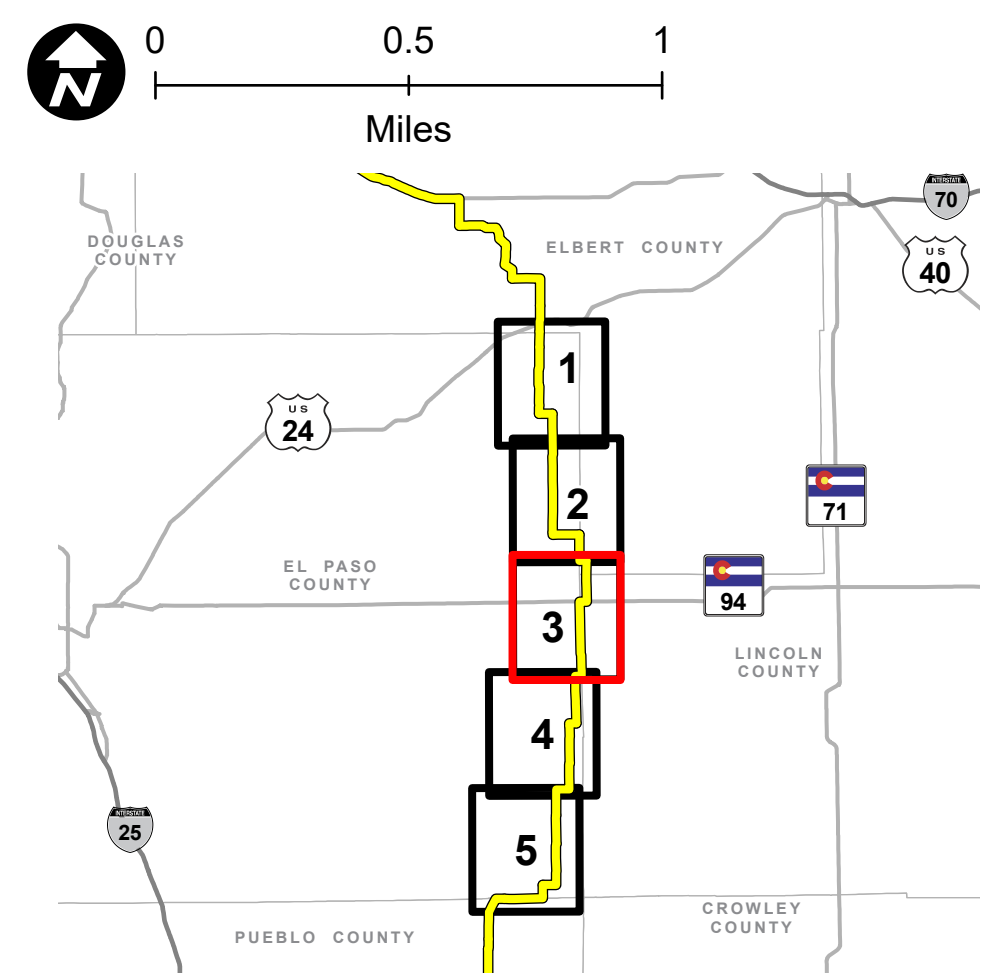


## Legend

- Proposed Transmission Route
- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, BLM 2020, DOLA 2021)
- County
- Section
- Township
- Municipal Boundary
- Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
- U.S. Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road

- Zoning**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- A-35: Agricultural (35 acres)
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- Jurisdiction**  
(COMap 2023)
- Conservation Easement
- CO State

- Special Districts**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- Water District
- Fire District
- School District

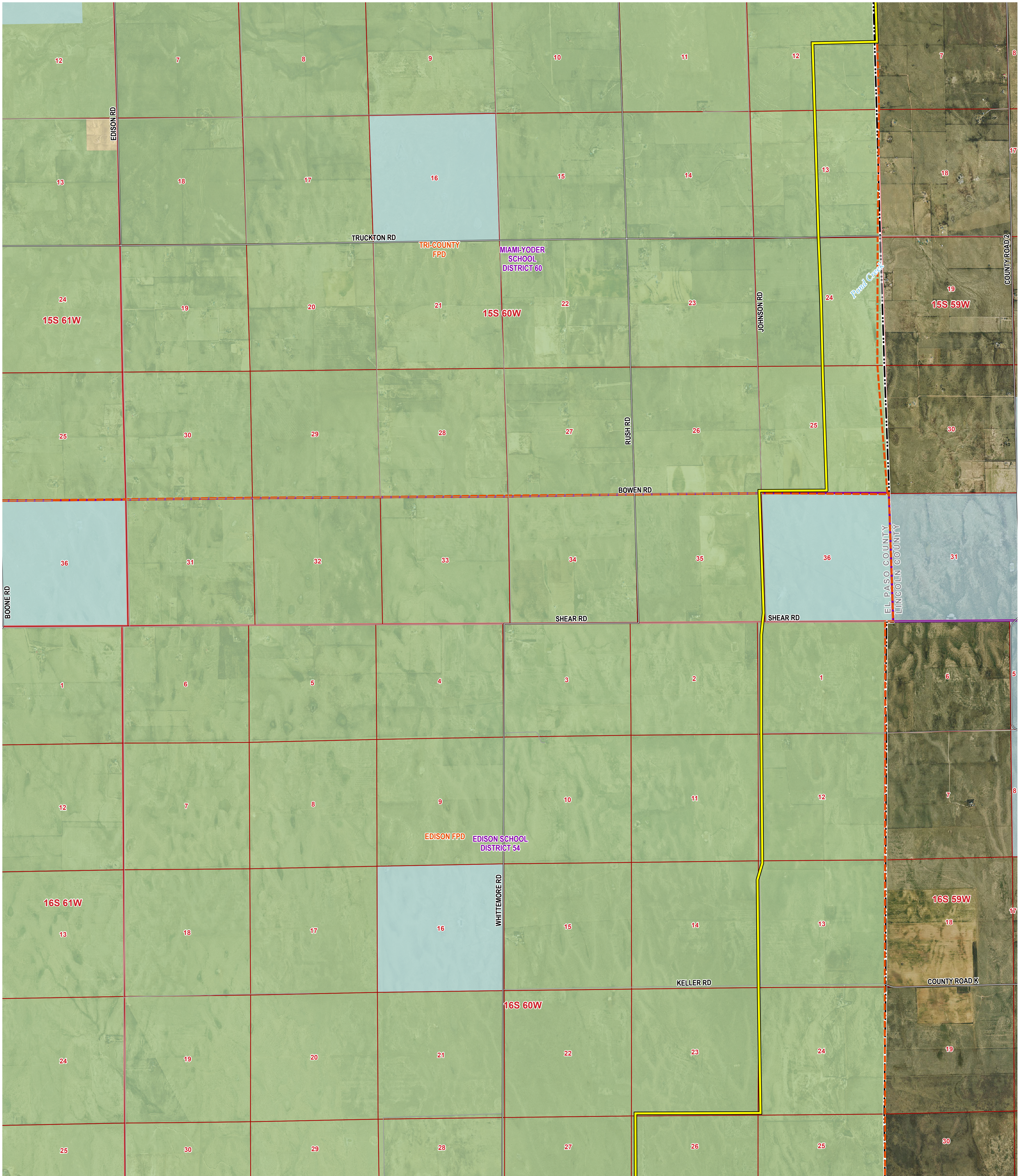


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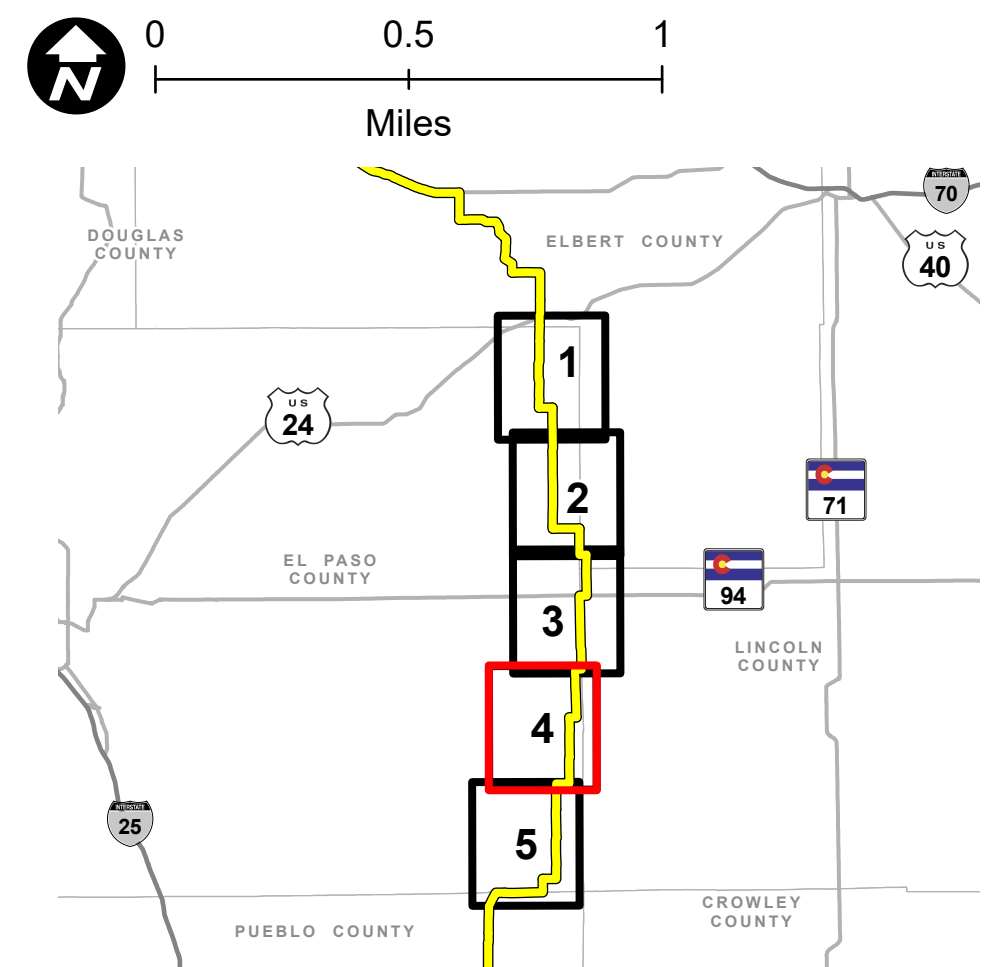
# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY



- Legend**
- Proposed Transmission Route
  - Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, BLM 2020, DOLA 2021)
  - County
  - Section
  - Township
  - Municipal Boundary
  - Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
  - U.S. Highway
  - Major Road
  - Local Road

- Zoning**  
(El Paso County 2023)
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  - RR-5: Residential Rural (5 acres)
- Jurisdiction**  
(COMap 2023)
- Conservation Easement
  - CO State

- Special Districts**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- Water District
  - Fire District
  - School District

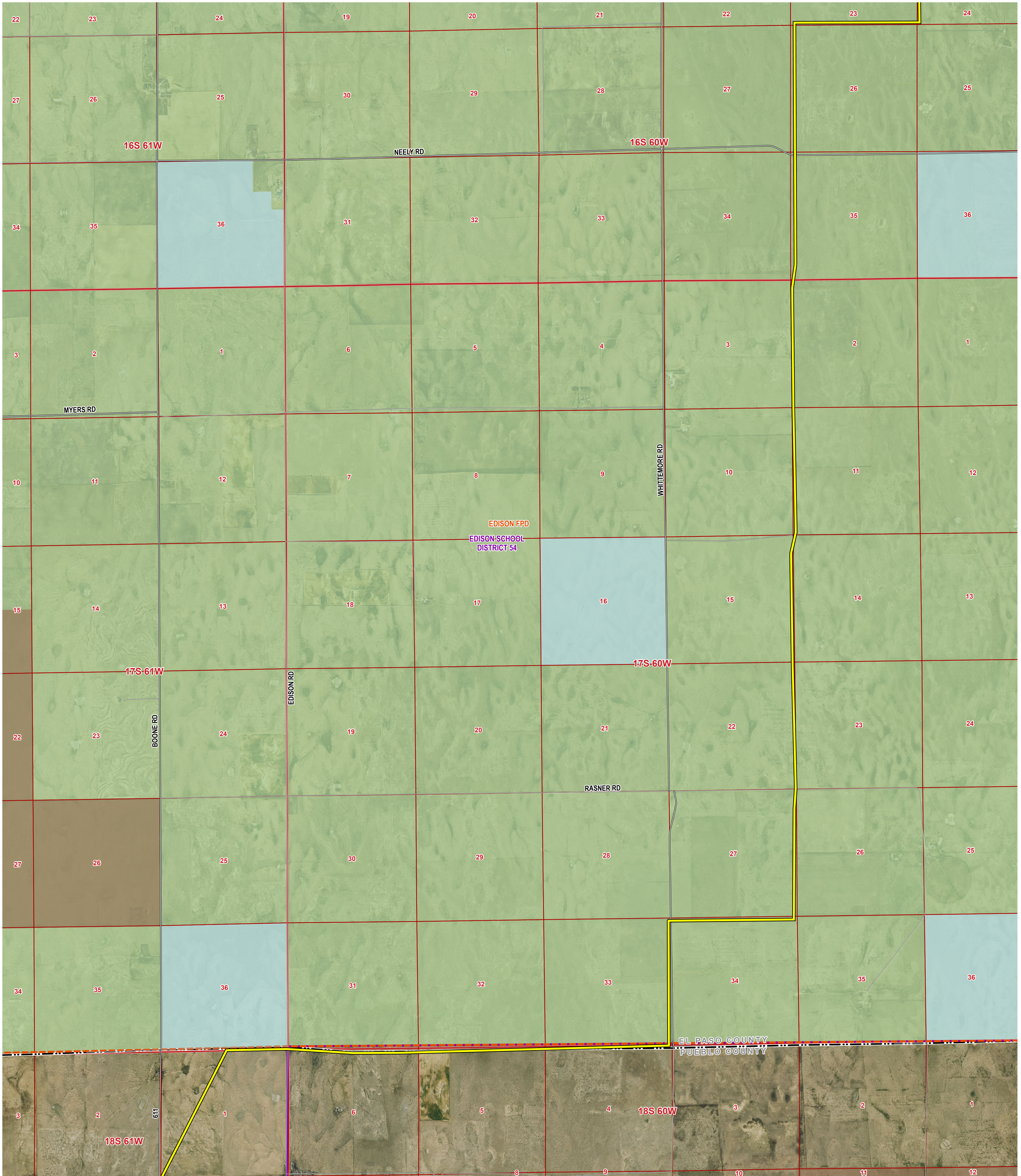


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Path: Z:\Projects\IDEN\1163\_0039\_CO\_Pathway\_Permits\GIS\Layouts\Permitting\El\_Paso\_Co\El\_Paso\_Co\_Permit.aprx



# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

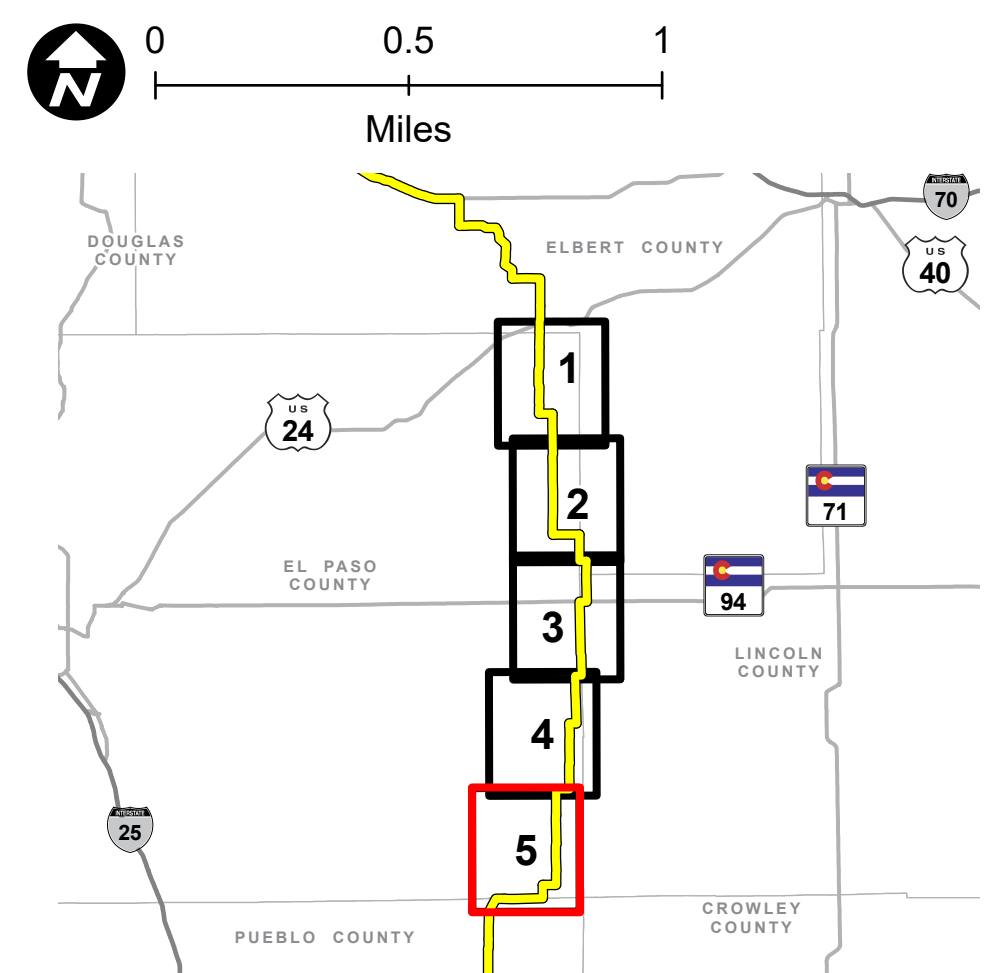


## Legend

- Proposed Transmission Route
- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, BLM 2020, DOLA 2021)
- County
- Section
- Township
- Municipal Boundary
- Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
- U.S. Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road

- Zoning**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- A-35: Agricultural (35 acres)
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- Jurisdiction**  
(COMap 2023)
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- CO State

- Special Districts**  
(El Paso County 2023)
- Water District
- Fire District
- School District



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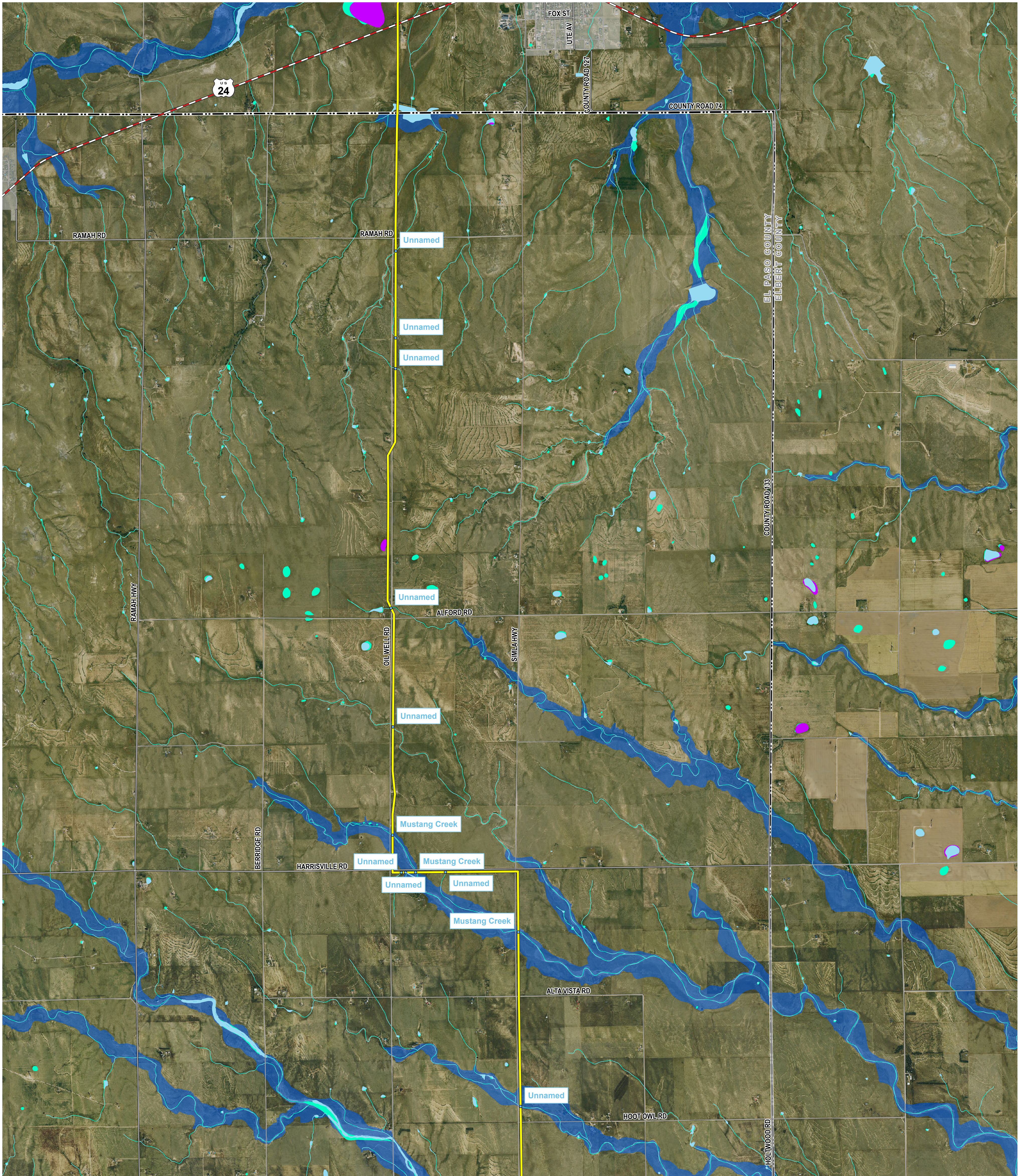
Path: Z:\Projects\DEN1163\_0039\_CO\_Pathway\_Permit\GIS\Layouts\Permitting\El\_Paso\_Co\El\_Paso\_Co\_Permit.aprx



**ATTACHMENT K: WATER RESOURCES MAP**



# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

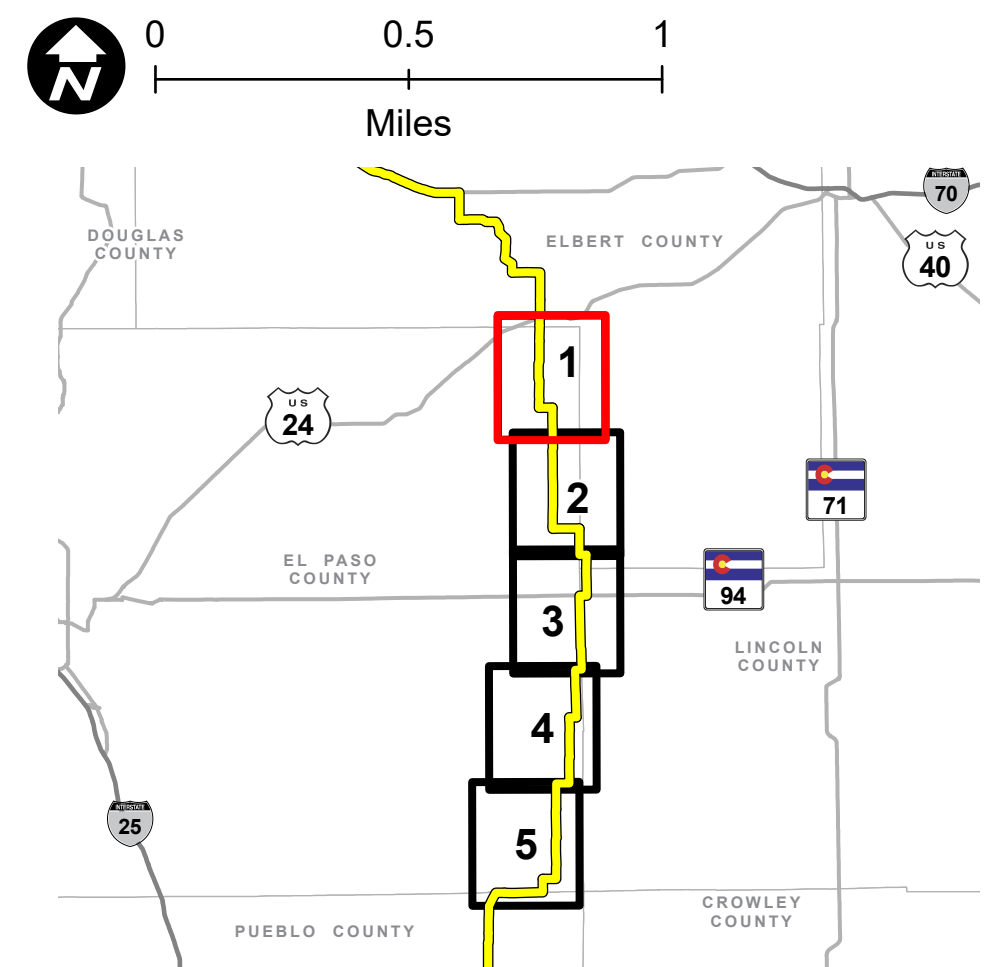


## Legend

- Proposed Transmission Route
- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, DOLA 2021)
- Municipal Boundary
- County
- Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Local Road

## Hydrology

- (NHD 2023, NWI 2023, FEMA 2023)
- Perennial Stream
  - Intermittent Stream
  - Waterbody
  - NWI Wetland
  - FEMA 100-year Floodplain
  - PLJV Playa



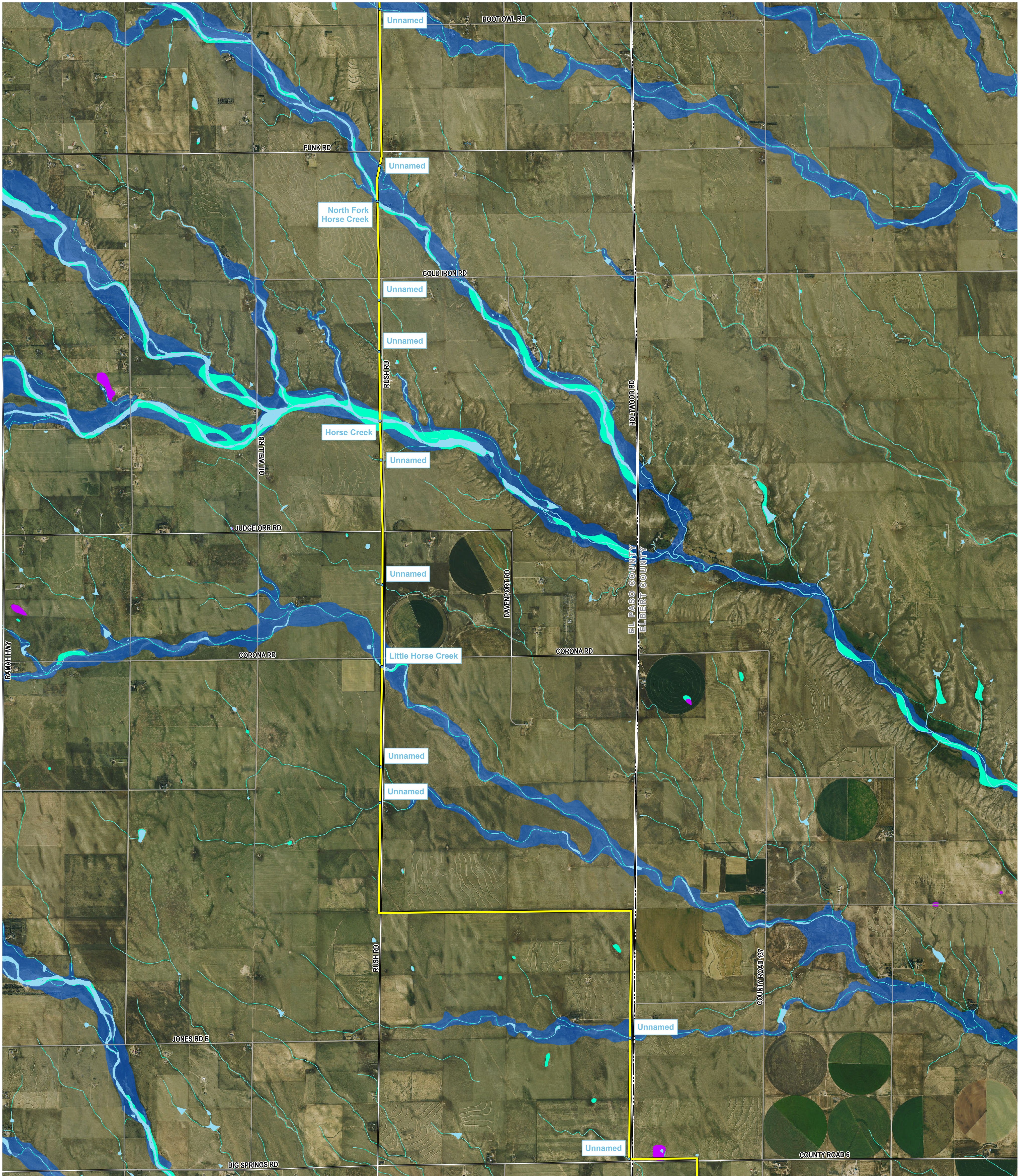
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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

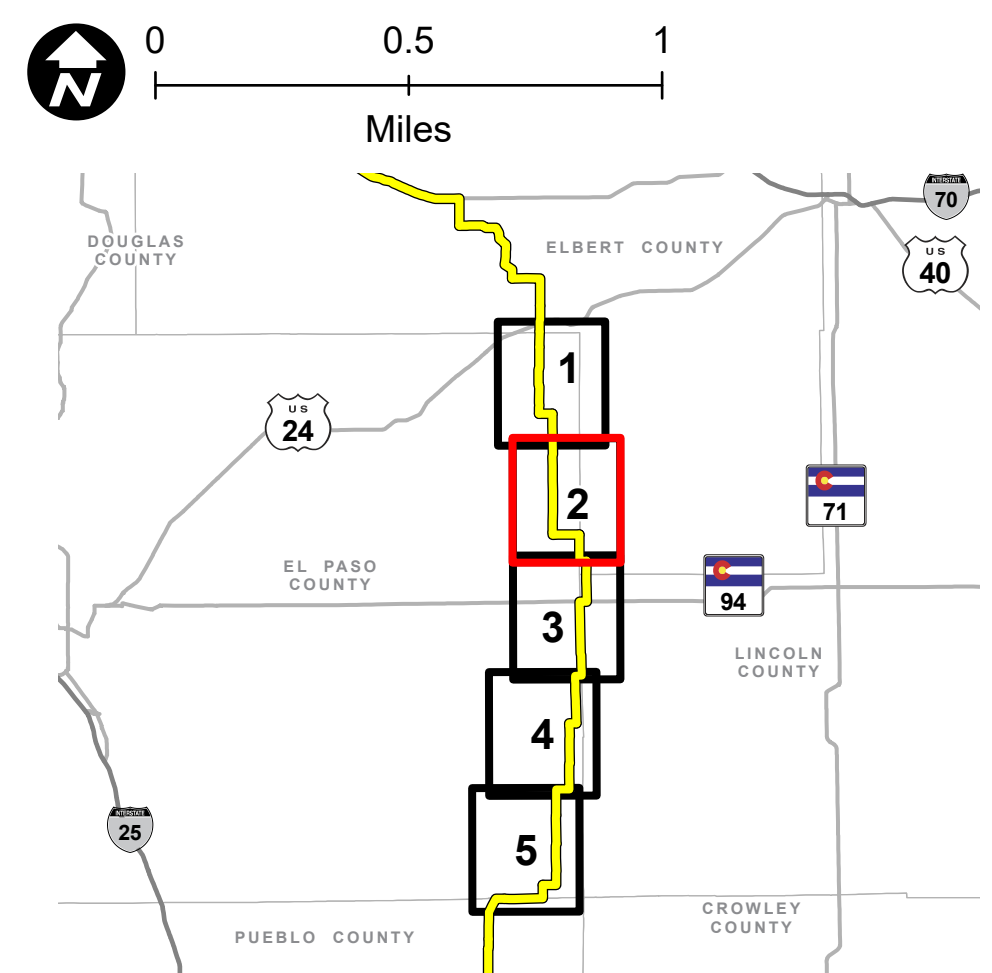


## Legend

- Proposed Transmission Route
- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, DOLA 2021)
- Municipal Boundary
- County
- Transportation**  
(CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Local Road

## Hydrology

- (NHD 2023, NWI 2023, FEMA 2023)
- Perennial Stream
  - Intermittent Stream
  - Waterbody
  - NWI Wetland
  - FEMA 100-year Floodplain
  - PLJV Playa



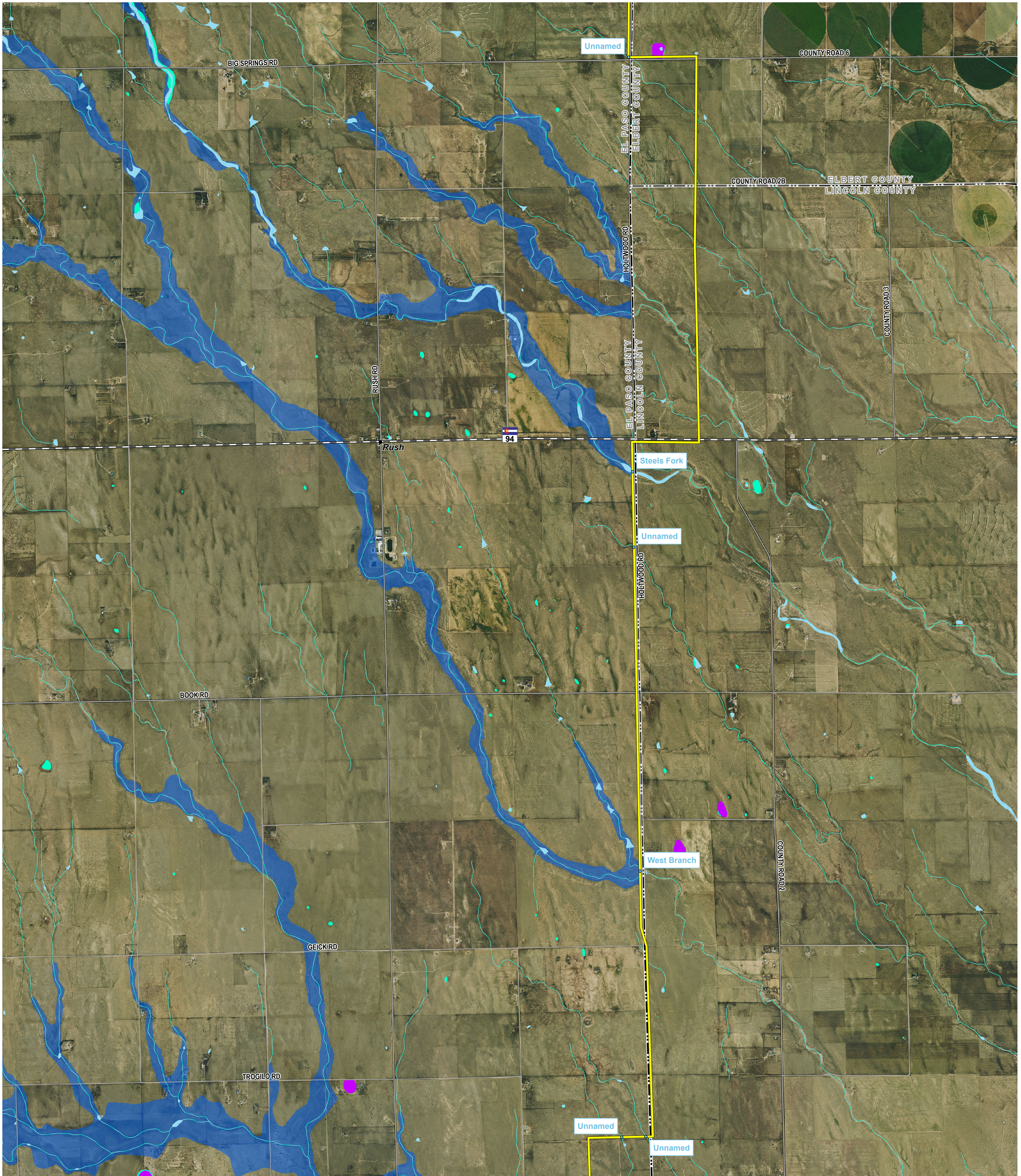
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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY



## Legend

Proposed Transmission Route

### Boundary (CDOT 2021, DOLA 2021)

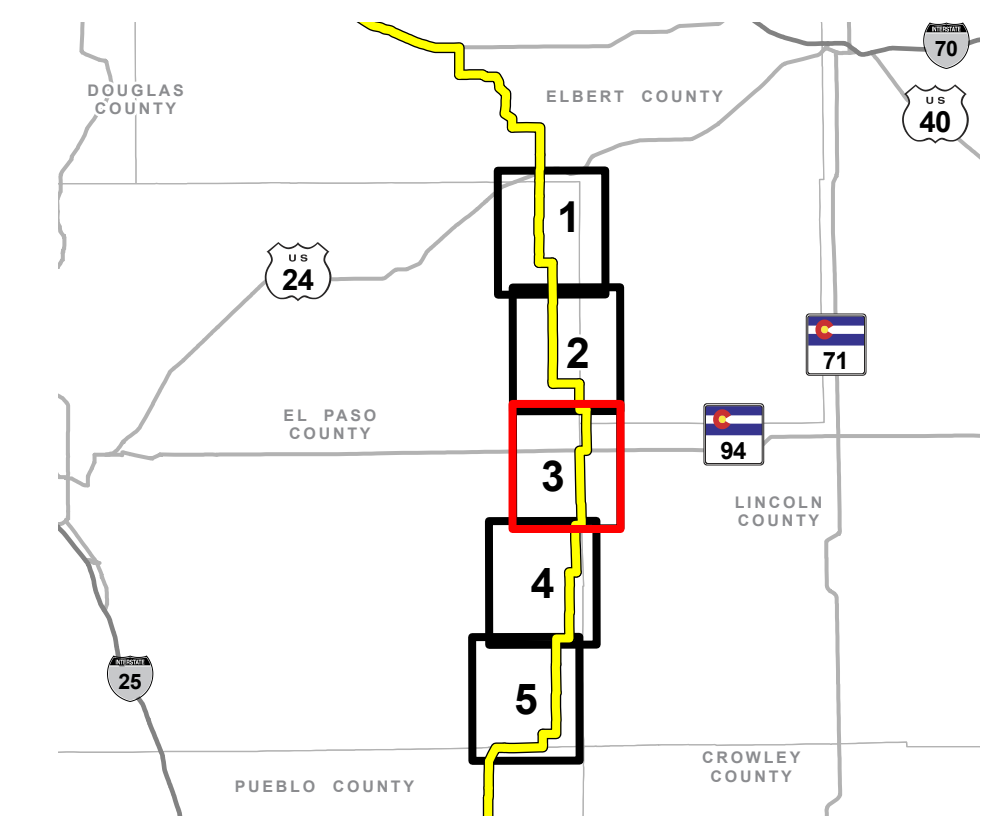
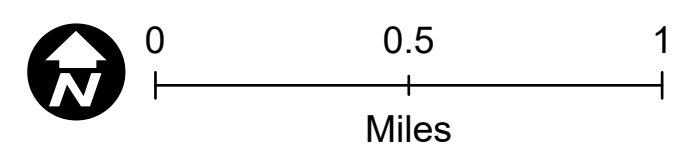
Municipal Boundary  
County

### Transportation (CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)

U.S. Highway  
State Highway  
Local Road

### Hydrology (NHD 2023, NWI 2023, FEMA 2023)

Perennial Stream  
Intermittent Stream  
Waterbody  
NWI Wetland  
FEMA 100-year Floodplain  
PLJV Playa



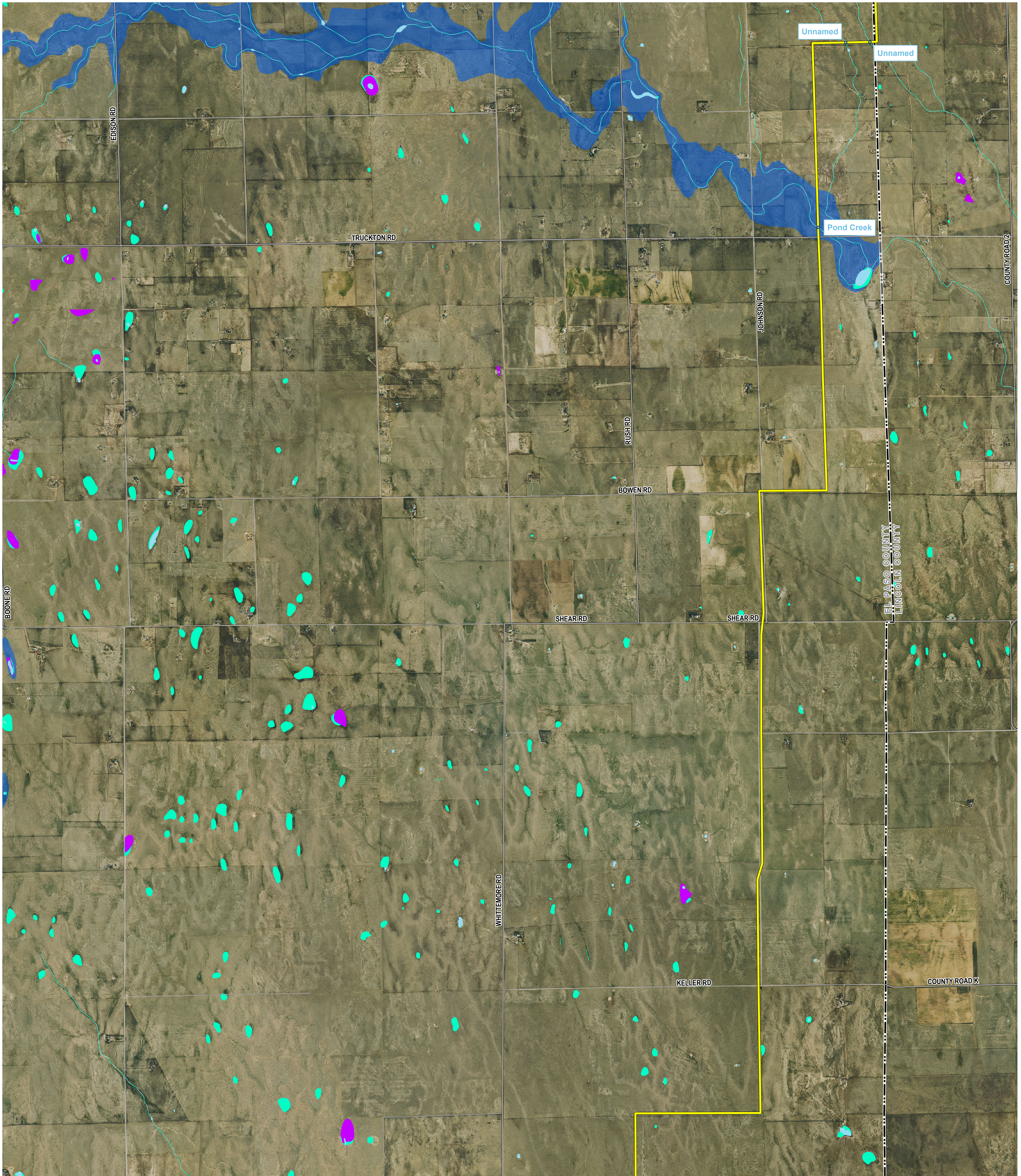
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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY



## Legend

Proposed Transmission Route

### Boundary (CDOT 2021, DOLA 2021)

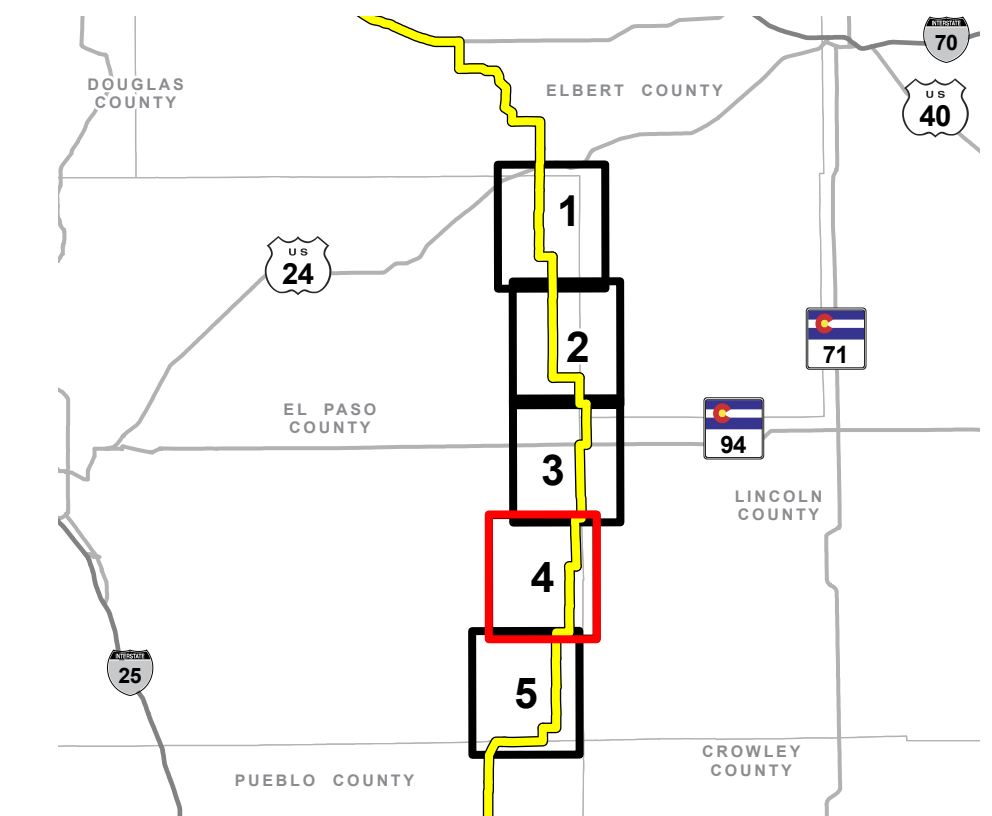
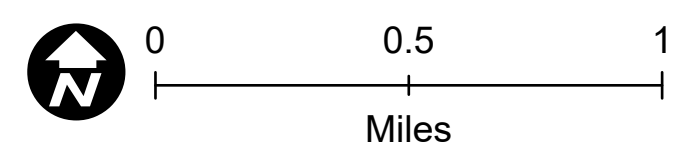
- Municipal Boundary
- County

### Transportation (CDOT 2021, BTS 2020)

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Local Road

### Hydrology (NHD 2023, NWI 2023, FEMA 2023)

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Waterbody
- NWI Wetland
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- PLJV Playa



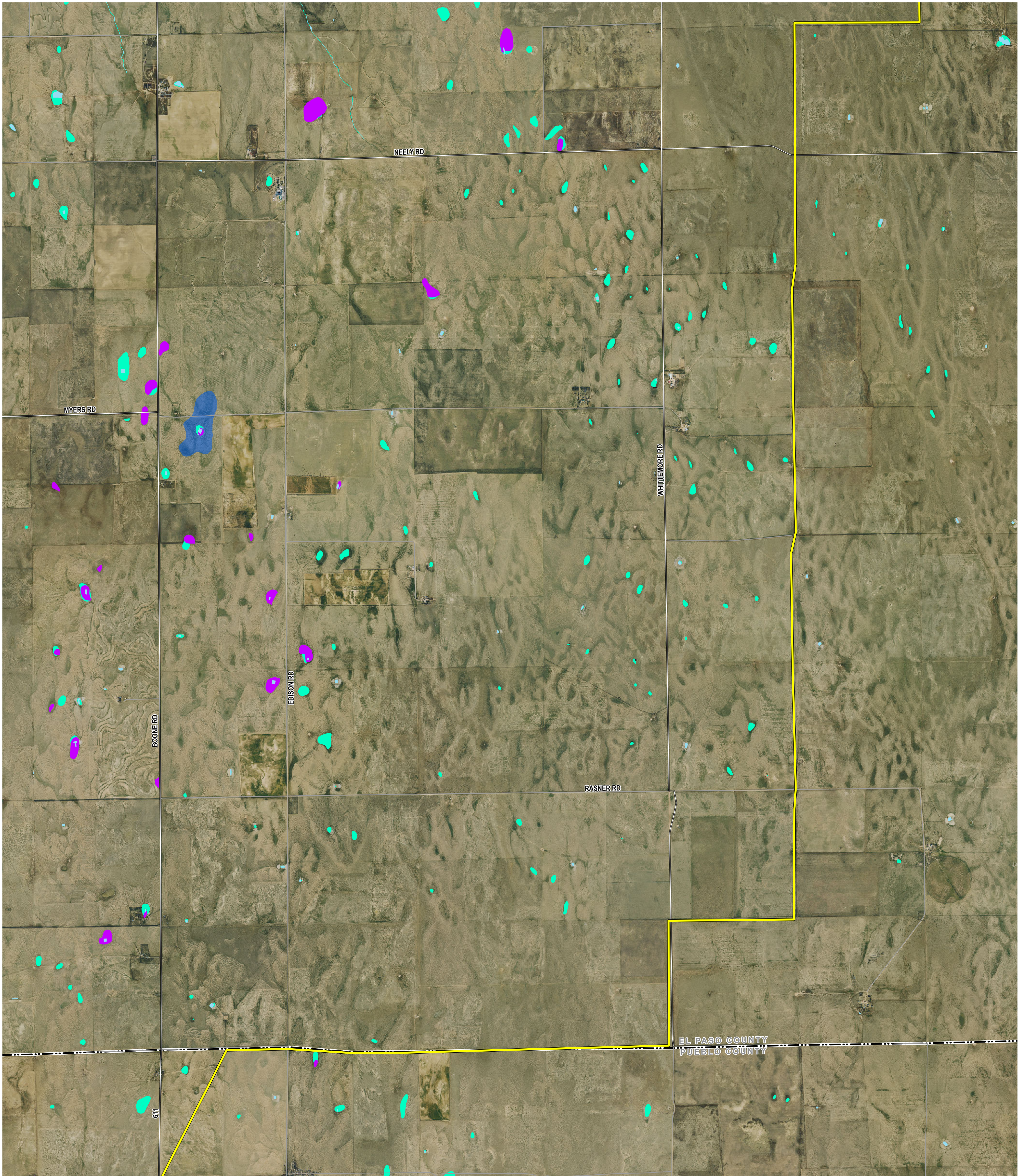
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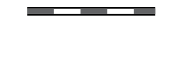

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# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

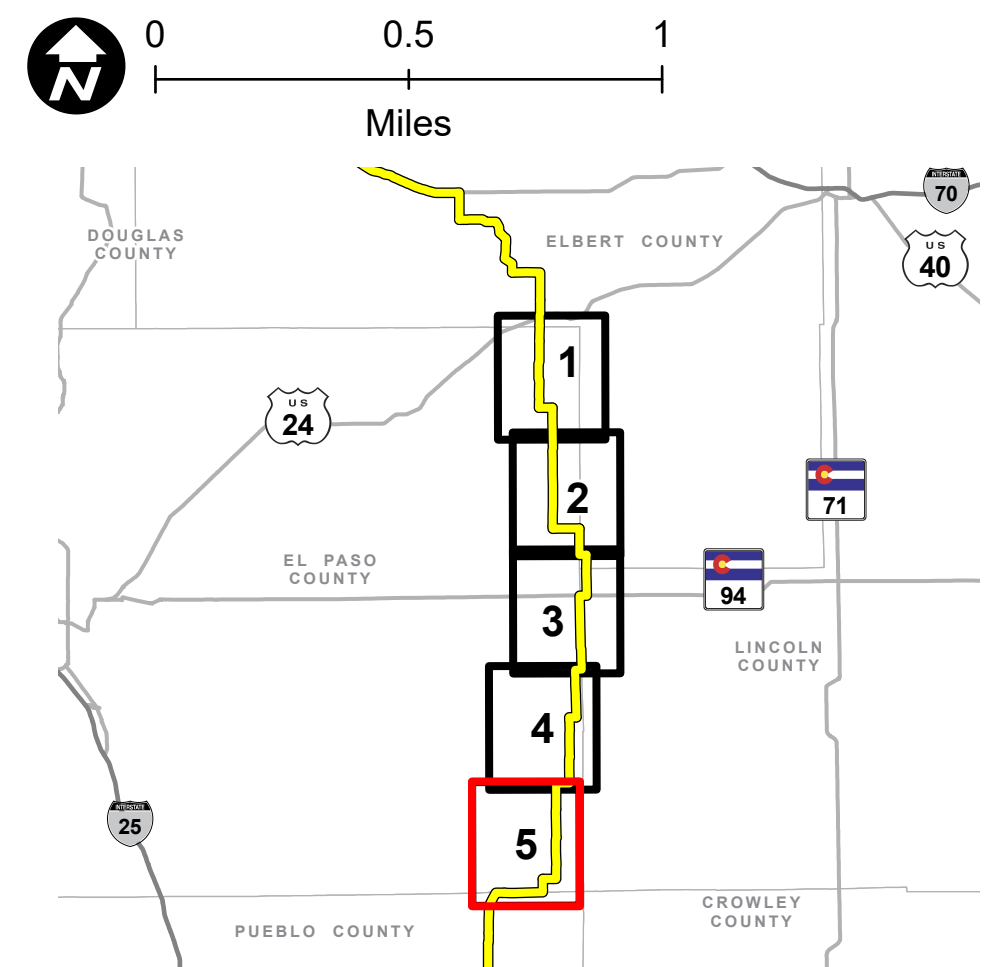


## Legend

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- Boundary**  
(CDOT 2021, DOLA 2021)
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-  County
- Transportation**  
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-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  Local Road

## Hydrology

- (NHD 2023, NWI 2023, FEMA 2023)
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  -  Intermittent Stream
  -  Waterbody
  -  NWI Wetland
  -  FEMA 100-year Floodplain
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