

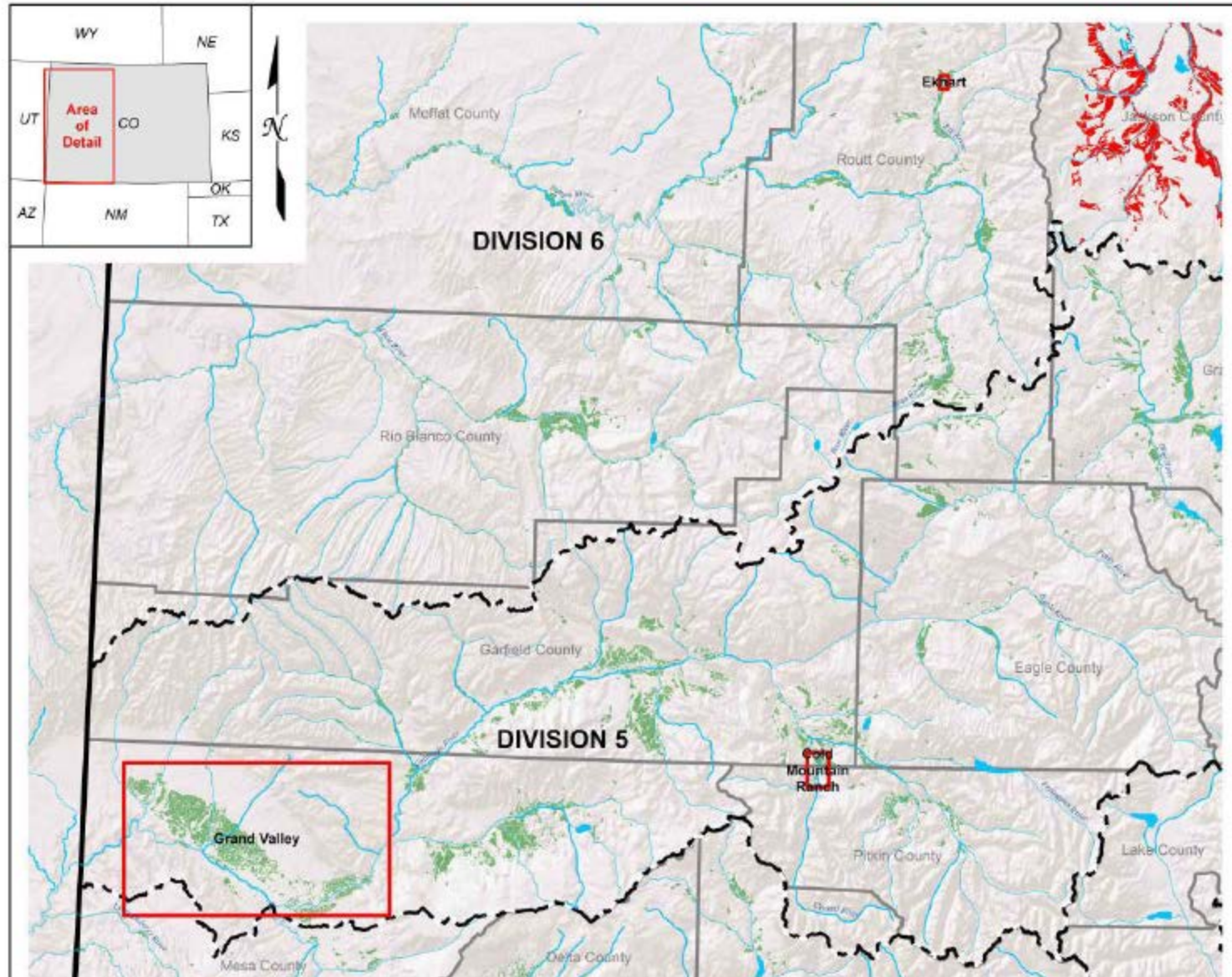
# Phase II: Overview

Conducted eight (8) site visits to irrigation systems that are representative of how agricultural water is used on the West Slope to:

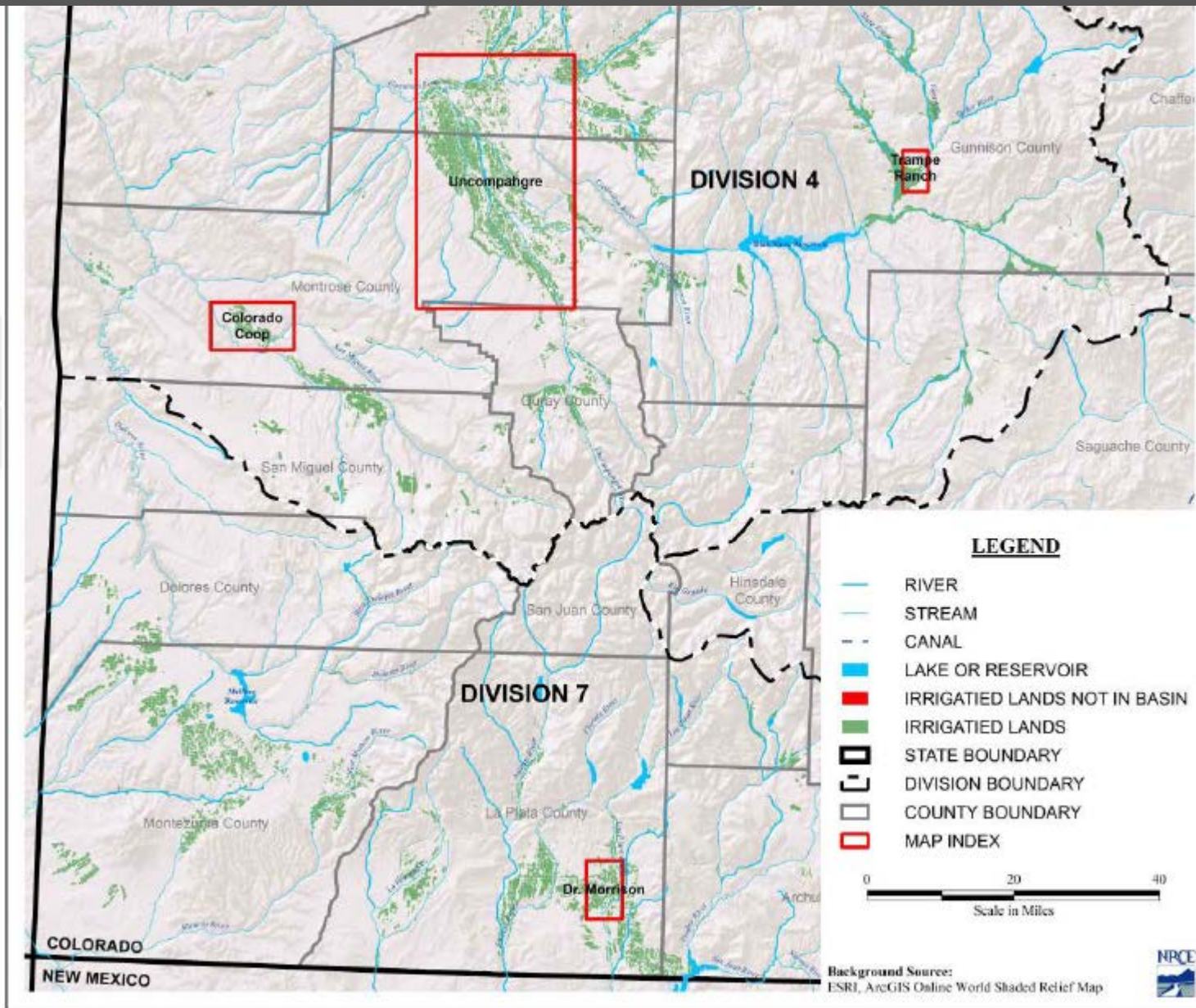
- Test feasibility of the *supply side* of water bank
- *Uncover issues and questions* from irrigators that need to be addressed for project to move forward



Figure 1 – Location of Test Case Systems







# Phase II: Site Visit Questions

How/Can agricultural land be temporarily fallowed?

What are the costs and impacts associated with fallowing?

What were the landowners past experiences during drought periods?

What would be required in terms of administration and operation within their irrigation system to participate in the water bank?

## Phase II: Findings

Fallowing or split-season irrigation will be challenging for irrigators

Calculating the amount of water saved and delivering those savings downstream will be difficult

Getting participation may be difficult - the decision is about more than economics

# Phase II: More Questions

## **Is the Compact Water Bank idea feasible?**

- Is it economical?
- Can fallowing & split-season irrigation create enough water to avoid & survive a curtailment?
- How would the water bank work with the numerous ditch companies & irrigation districts?
- Can we protect banked water from other appropriators?
- What about secondary impacts?

# Agronomic Impacts Study

Understand on-farm impacts of fallowing and split-season irrigation through a side-by-side comparison of 4 grass hay sites and 3 alfalfa sites.

What are the impacts to yield? How well do the fields recover? What about secondary impacts like an increase in weeds?

How do we measure the amount of saved water available for the Water Bank?