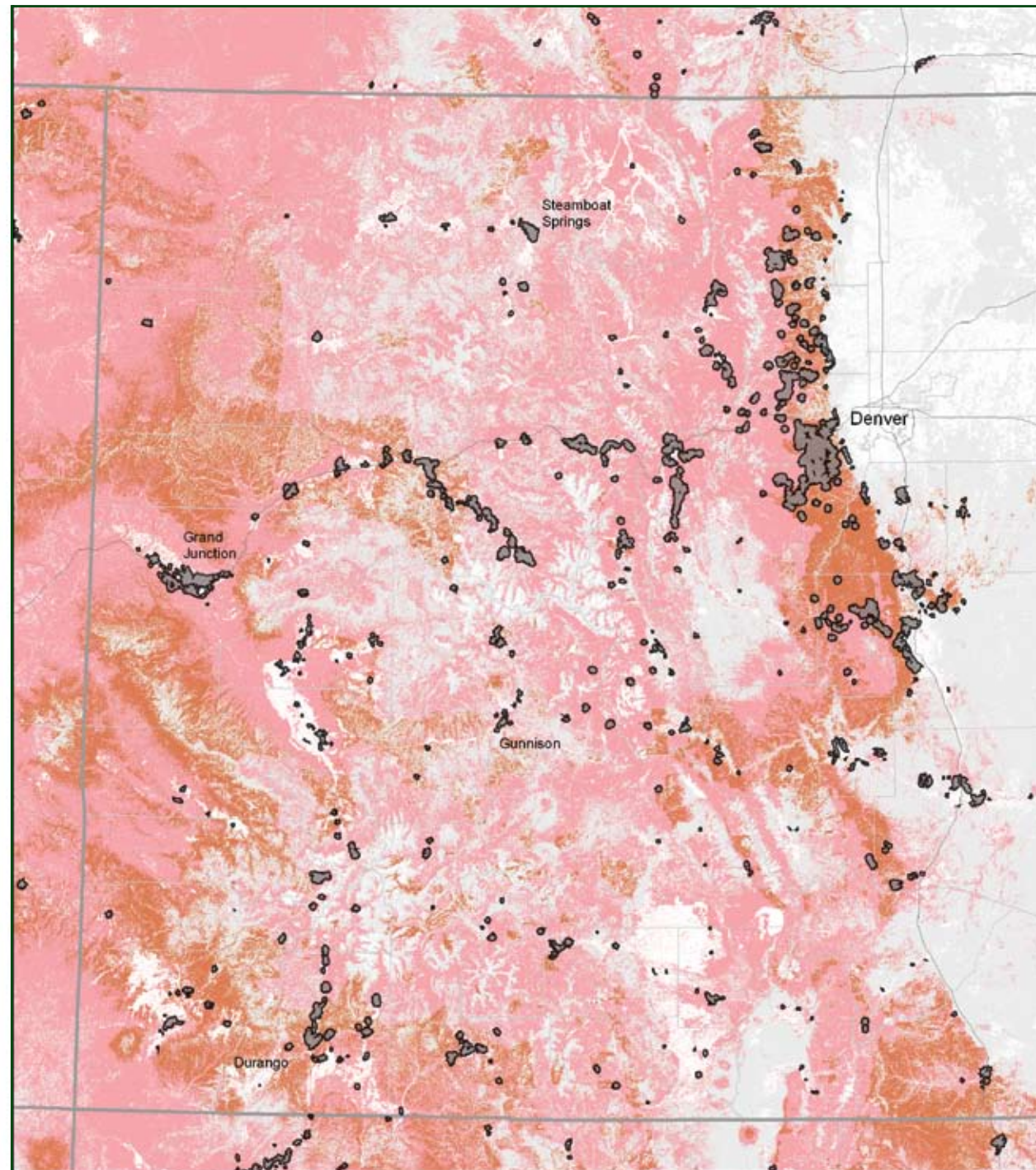


Colorado's Wildland-Urban Interface, Current and Projected

Development of natural areas, as is occurring in Colorado, increases demand for and costs of wildfire protection. A Colorado State University analysis (D. Theobald and W. Romme, 2007) projects that the state's wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas will increase from 715,500 acres

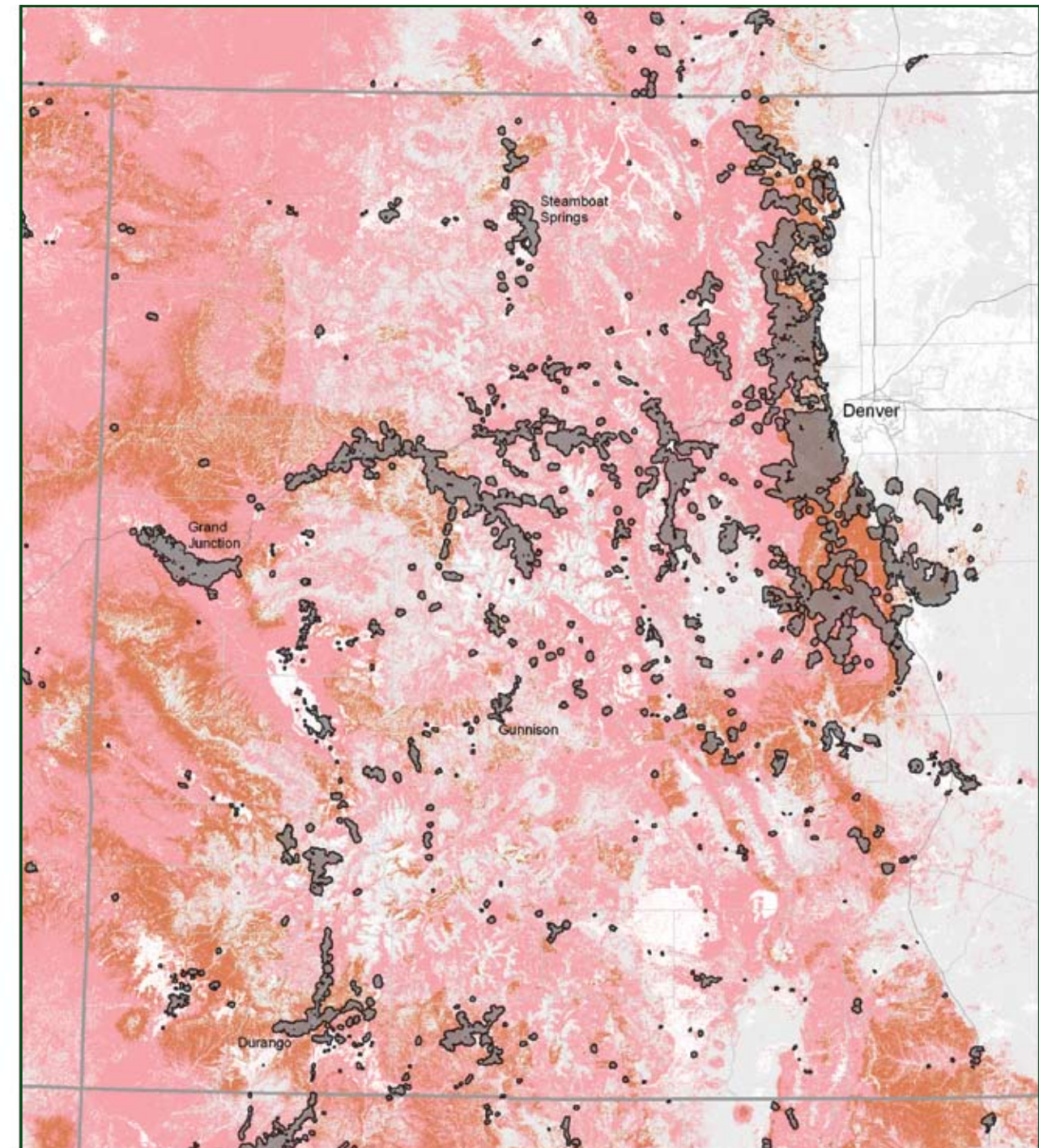
in 2000 to 2,161,400 acres in 2030, a 300-percent increase. These maps depict Colorado's WUI in 2000 (left) and the likely expansion of WUI in 2030 based on housing development forecasts (right).



WUI + 1 mi CPZ in 2000
 Low hazard High hazard High (variable) None

50 Miles

Map created 23 October 2007 by D. Theobald, Colorado State University.



WUI + 1 mi CPZ in 2030
 Low hazard High hazard High (variable) None

50 Miles

Map created 23 October 2007 by D. Theobald, Colorado State University.

Definitions

WUI is the wildland-urban interface. It is the area where homes and urban sprawl press against the wildland, and includes both interface and intermix communities.

CPZ is the community protection zone surrounding the WUI. The analysis shows that there were more than 300,000 homes in the CPZ in 2000, and more than 720,000 homes are projected for 2030.

Low hazard means that most fires burn at relatively low intensity through surface fuels, with little potential for spread into tree or shrub crowns, and would be relatively easy to contain or suppress.

High hazard means that many or most fires burn at high intensity, often through crowns, and would be difficult to contain or suppress.

High (variable) applies to vegetation types in which fires historically were of low or variable intensity, but recently have often burned at high intensity due to a century of fire exclusion, e.g., southwestern ponderosa pine forests.