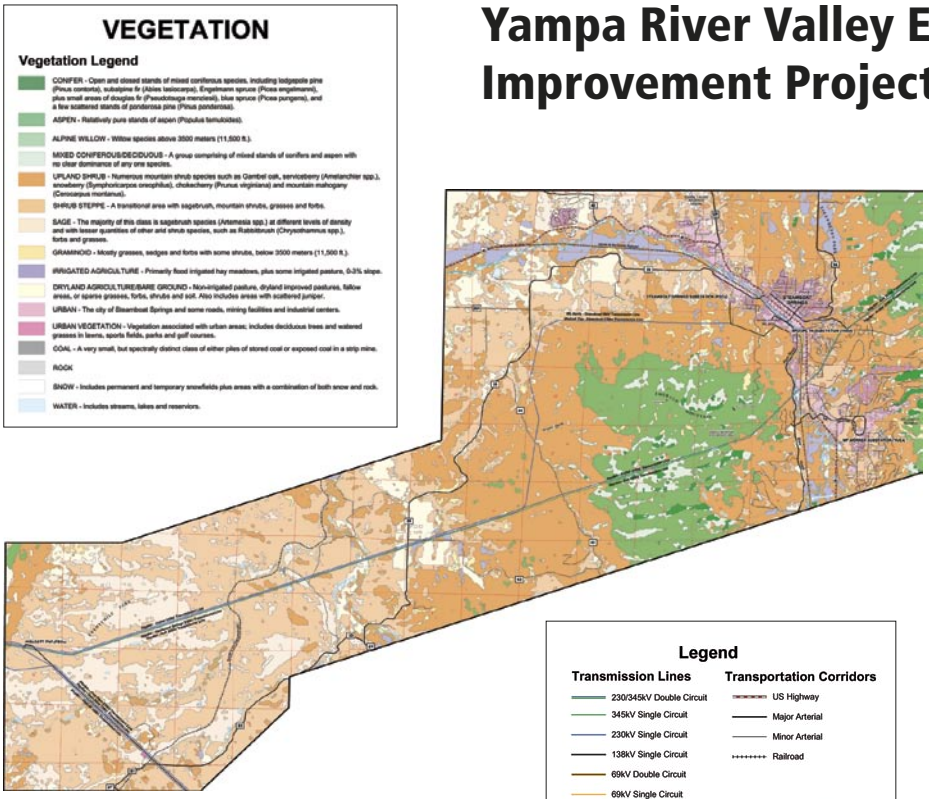
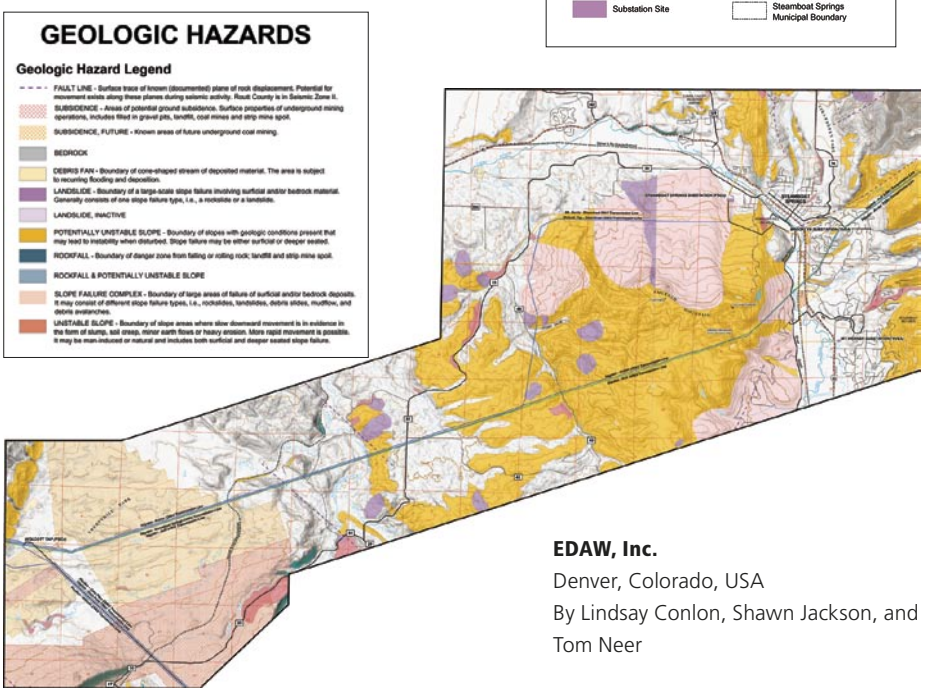
Energy Currents

ESRI • Fall 2003

GIS for Energy

Yampa River Valley Electric Supply Improvement Project





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Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) serves approximately 12,000 customers in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and the surrounding area from Xcel Energy's Steamboat Springs Substation. A 230-kilovolt electric transmission line from the Wolcott Tap supplies the Steamboat Springs Substation. YVEA also has a 69-kilovolt transmission line running to the Steamboat Springs Substation from the Mt. Harris Substation. The 69-kilovolt line can only provide a limited amount of backup power. Without an additional high-voltage source of power, the Steamboat Springs area is at risk during an outage of the existing 230-kilovolt line. The risks are greater if the outage occurs in the winter when access to the line is limited and repair time is impaired by snow. There are various options for bringing additional electricity to the Yampa River Valley. Any of these options will create a looped or dual transmission supply to the existing electric system.

The vegetation and geologic hazards maps are part of a series of 42 maps prepared by EDAW for Xcel Energy. EDAW mapped various environmental factors to assist Xcel Energy in the siting of a transmission line. The maps and graphics were prepared for two public meetings and used in filing applications. This was EDAW Denver's first project to extensively use ArcGIS, geodatabase annotations, and group layers.

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