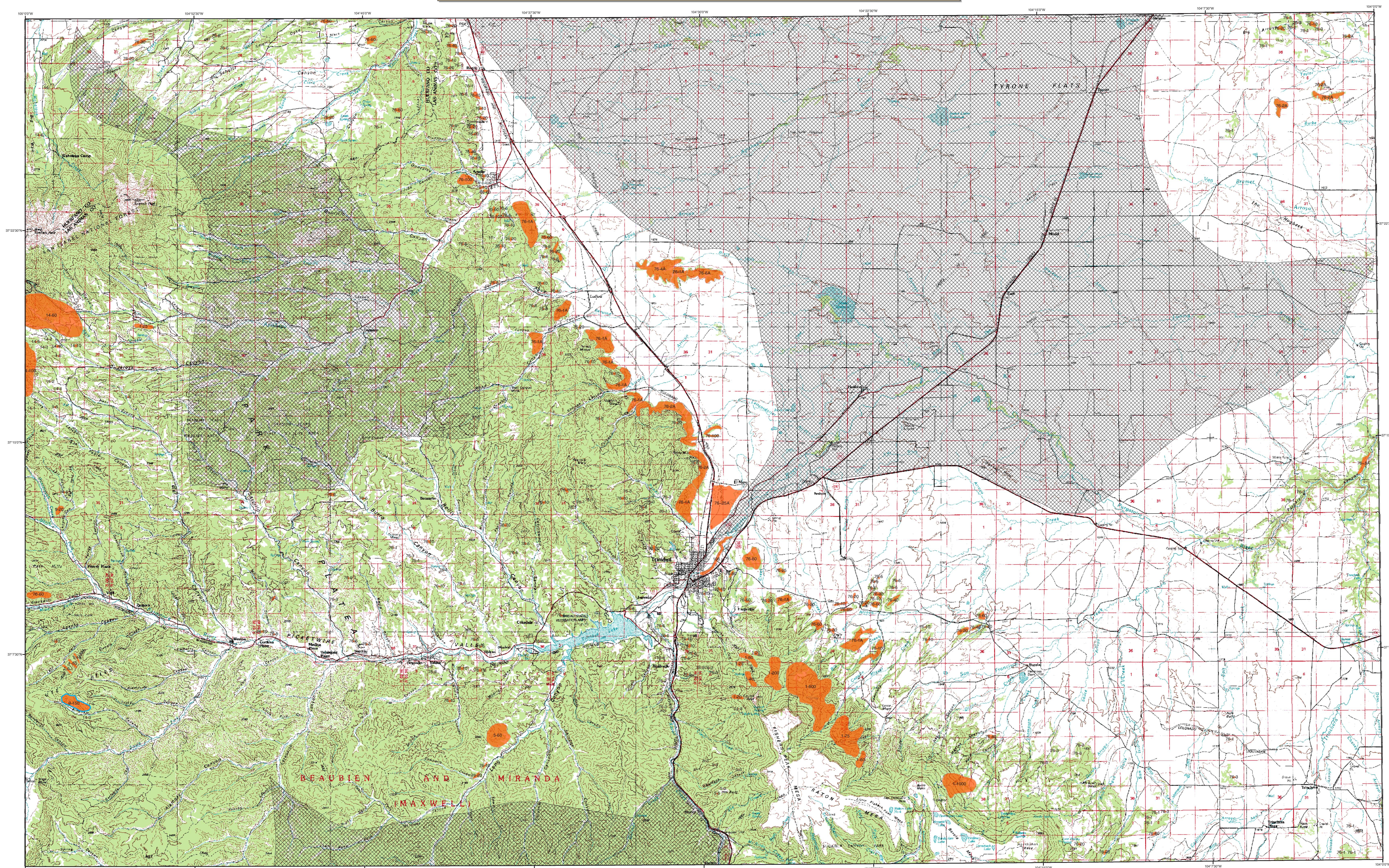


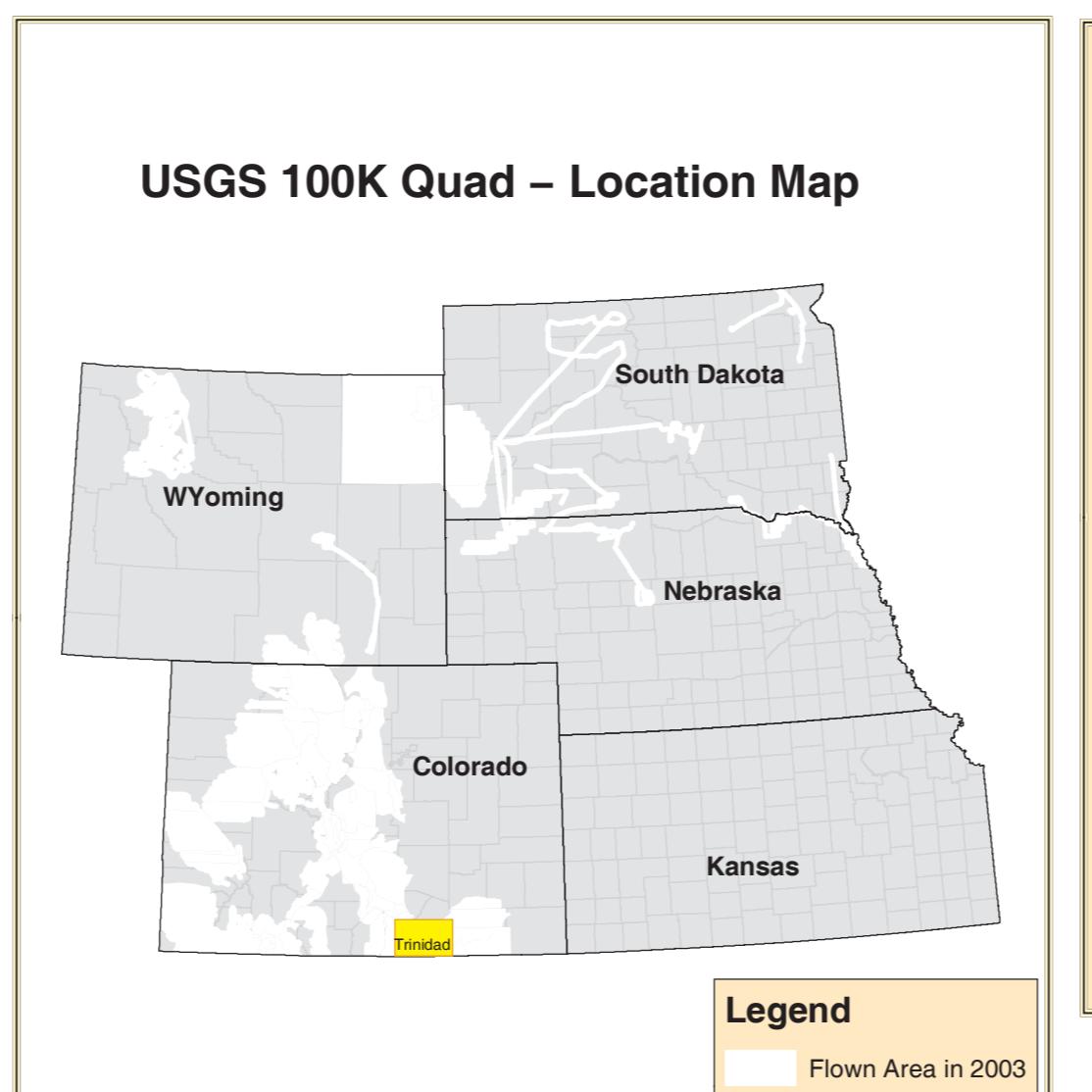
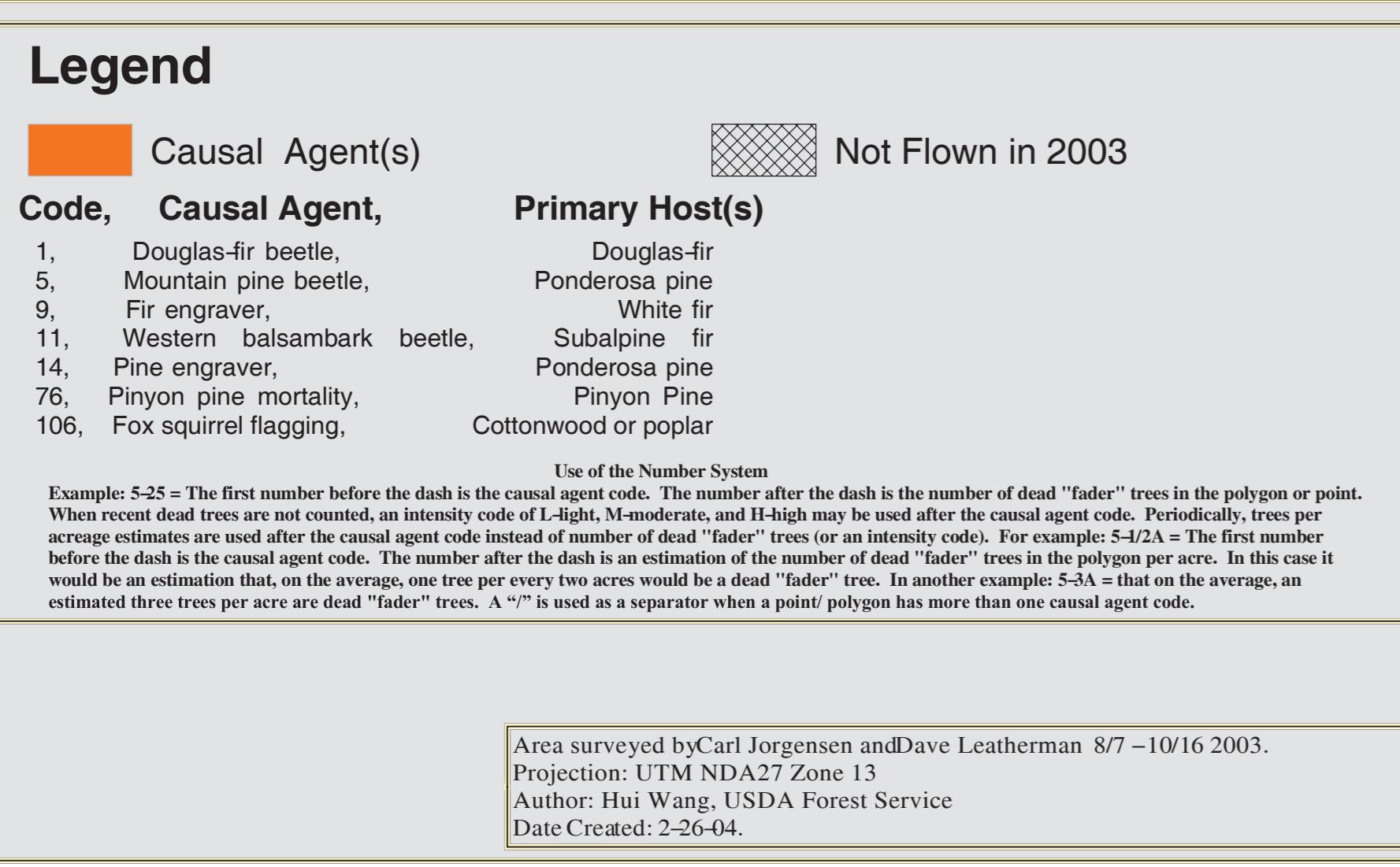
# 2003 Aerial Insect and Disease Survey

## Trinidad, Colorado

### USGS 100K DRG: 37104-A1



1:100,000



**How Aerial Surveys Are Conducted**

Data represented on this map are based on aerial observations manually recorded onto a map. This procedure is considered both an art form and a form of scientific data collection, and is highly subjective. An observer only has a few seconds to recognize the color difference between healthy and damaged trees of different species; diagnose causal agents correctly; estimate intensity; delineate the extent of damage; and precisely record this information on a georeferenced map. Air turbulence, cloud shadows, distance from aircraft, haze, smoke, and observer experience can all affect the quality of the survey. These data summaries provide an estimate of conditions on the ground and may differ from estimates derived by other methods.

Aerial surveys provide information on the current status for many causal agents, and are important when examining insect activity trends by comparing historical and current survey data over large areas.

Overview surveys are a 'snap shot' in time and therefore may not be timed to accurately capture the true extent or severity of a particular disturbance activity. Aerial surveys can be thought of as the first stage in a multi-stage sampling design. Other remote sensing approaches, including aerial photography, electro-optical sensors, and specially designed aerial surveys with modified flight patterns, can be used to more accurately delineate the extent and severity of a particular disturbance agent. The preceding methods are often more costly than overview surveys, and are generally reserved to address situations of sufficient environmental, economic, or political importance.

