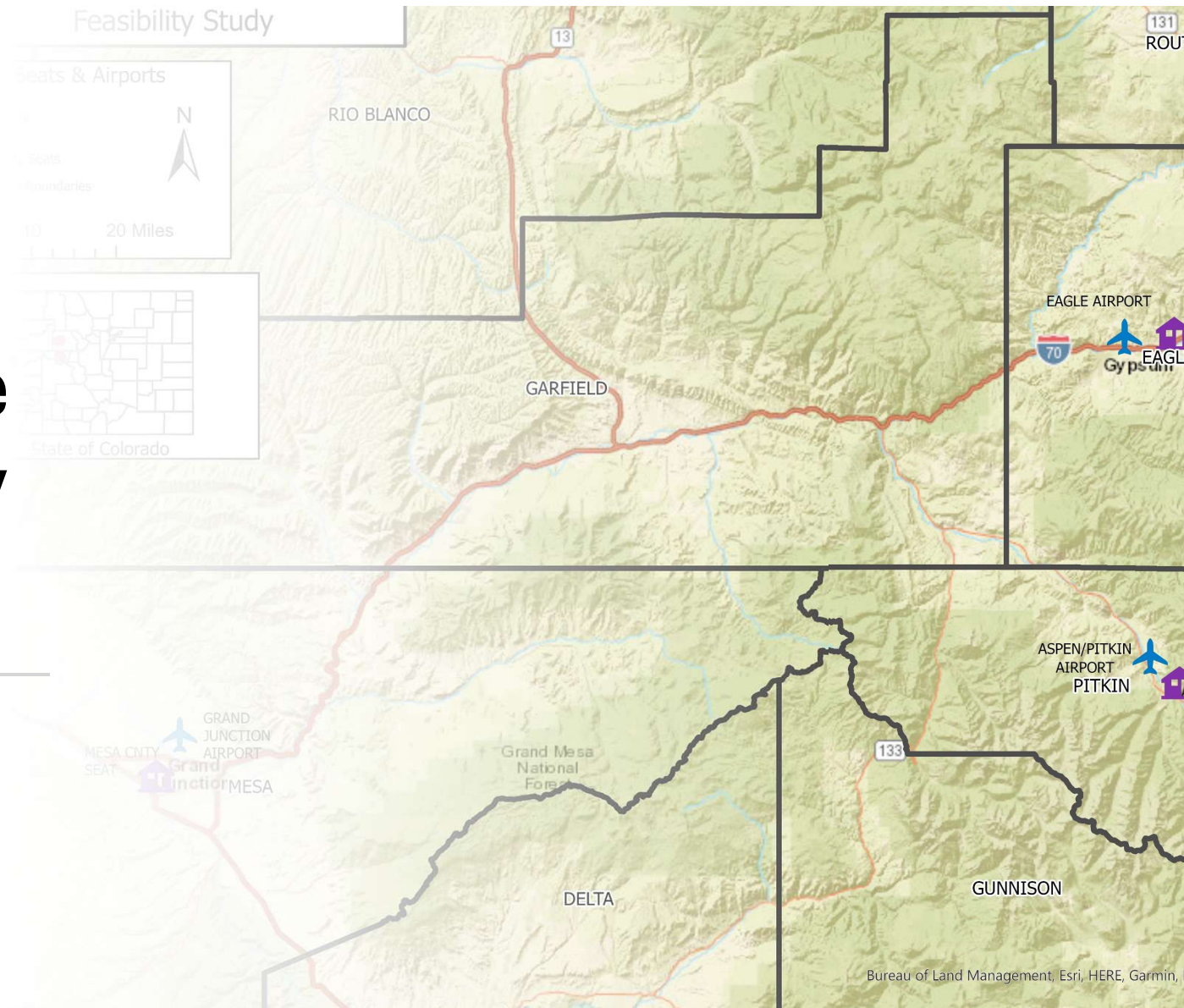


Western Slope SAF Feasibility Project

BOCC Wrap Up Presentation

January 20, 2026



Thank You to Our Project Partners

Pitkin County

Mesa County

Eagle County

Delta County

Aspen/Pitkin County Airport

Grand Junction Regional Airport

Eagle County Regional Airport

Pitkin County Airport Advisory
Board

Atlantic Aviation

Grand Junction Economic
Partnership

One Delta County

Uncompahgre
Development Company

**This project made possible by a grant from the Colorado Department
of Local Affairs (DOLA)**



Project Background

- Eagle County pilot project and presentation from LanzaTech sparked interest
- Alignment with community goals – County and Airport GHG emissions, air quality
- Policy advocacy at CCI and NACo
- DOLA planning grant available with 50% match requirement
- County coordinated regional partners to submit a grant to complete due diligence in researching opportunities for SAF



Project Goals

1. Advance GHG reduction goals, support investment in energy jobs and infrastructure, improve local air quality and promote climate-responsible travel
2. Identify if the Western Slope can produce SAF locally at a competitive price to serve regional airports by understanding feedstock availability, technology and market conditions



Primary Deliverables

The team hired Savia Consulting through a competitive process to conduct the analysis, and we produced the following deliverables:

1. Feedstock Availability Analysis
2. SAF Producer Interviews and SWOT Analysis

Findings

Feedstock Availability Analysis

- Extensive research including on-site investigation and with in person meetings to understand the Western Slope regional context
- Evaluation of potential feedstock availability and associated SAF conversion technologies
- Surfaced challenges for potential production facility sites



Most Viable Feedstocks	Opportunities	Challenges
Forestry Residue (e.g. beetle kill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enough volumes across the region to support a pilot plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term feedstock reliability depends on federal agreements and coordinated supply chain • Dispersed feedstock base
Oilseed Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEFA technology is the most mature with large-scale production occurring today • Compatibility with our agricultural economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires cultivation and processing infrastructure • Local production would only provide a fraction of needed volumes
Municipal Solid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enough volumes across jurisdictions to support a facility • Eagle County-SynTech project promises small-scale modular production at a single landfill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies are least proven on a commercial scale • Geographic and political constraints to centralize waste in one place

SAF Developer Interviews

Topsoe, SynTech,
LanzaTech, World
Energy, Montana
Renewables,
Sustainable Oils

Category	World Energy (WE)	Montana Renewables (MR)	Sustainable Oils (SO)
Core Role	HEFA SAF producer; evaluating Colorado opportunities.	HEFA SAF producer; repurposed refinery with strong pretreatment and rail access.	Camelina developer and feedstock supplier (oil + meal). Does not refine or produce SAF.
Scale & Assets	Minimum ~50 MGPY; optimal 300 MGPY–1 BGPY; interested in Colorado but prefers large-scale settings.	Produces ~45 MGPY SAF; planning 150→300 MGPY; strong political and capital backing; efficient feedstock sourcing and SAF supply networks; prioritizes US and Canadian feedstocks.	~50,000 acres of camelina under cultivation; acreage expanding; bottleneck is crushing capacity.
Feedstock Strategy	Primarily tallow; vegetable oils with new pretreatment designs; strong focus on traceability.	Feed mix: tallow, UCO, vegetable oils. Very high feedstock flexibility via pretreatment.	Camelina; low-input, drought-tolerant crop; ~1,000–1,500 lb/ac yields; requires regional crushing.
CI & Sustainability	Tallow enables low CI; exploring shift to green H ₂ .	Achieves ~65% CI reduction; relies heavily on policy credits.	Camelina has low CI; protein meal valuable in livestock markets.
Western Slope Fit	WS not the most suitable location for a refinery, best if near DIA; WS → Front Range rail is key.	WS seed oil could be an input source if infrastructure is developed; sees crushing as major opportunity.	Western Slope as agronomically suitable for camelina expansion.
			Contingent to local crushing capability.
Key Constraints	Permitting and expansion near DIA limited; switching between feedstocks requires downtime without pretreatment.	Large-scale to make economics work; SAF volumes optimize when it sells at premium over renewable diesel; dependent on credits/policy incentives.	Crushing capacity gaps; rail access; expansion to grower program is currently limited to best candidates.

SWOT - Western Slope SAF Development Context

Strengths

- Large volumes of forestry biomass available across multiple counties.
- Camelina is agronomically suited to Western Slope conditions.
- Strong stakeholder and county engagement in exploring SAF value chains.
- Existing rail corridors and logistics nodes that may support select pathways.
- Alignment with ASE's ZGF team, which is examining forestry value chains for sustainability research.

Weaknesses

- Long-term feedstock reliability depends on federal agreements and coordinated supply structures.
- No regional crushing, biomass conditioning, or pretreatment infrastructure.
- Feedstock sources (farms, forests, waste streams) are geographically dispersed.
- Oil-grain pathways require significant agricultural transformation and depend on local crushing capacity.
- Counties do not allow MSW aggregation across jurisdictions.
- Commercial readiness of Syntech's SAF process remains uncertain.
- Water and industrial land availability is limited in certain areas.

Opportunities

- Forestry biomass offers a promising pathway for further evaluation, supported by county-federal relationships and ZGF research interests.
- Oil-grain feedstocks could become viable if agricultural counties lead farmer development and support a crushing facility.
- The Syntech-Eagle initiative provides a learning opportunity for future localized MSW innovation.
- County-level incentives and concessions could improve investment attractiveness.
- Potential for deeper coordination among counties, agriculture, forestry, and airport stakeholders.

Threats

- Competing regions (e.g., MT, ND, KS, WA) have stronger agricultural and biofuel infrastructure.
- Forestry conversion technologies are advancing but still face market and commercialization risks.
- SAF project viability depends heavily on federal and state policy stability.
- Industrial siting may face community concerns in sensitive or high-value residential areas.
- Federal land dynamics, environmental reviews, or administrative changes could affect long-term biomass supply.

Key Takeaways

- Diverse but dispersed feedstock base
- Commercially-proven SAF conversion technologies dependent on large feedstock volumes to be profitable
- Financial, political, and logistical challenges to develop supply chains, aggregate large enough volumes of feedstock in the region to produce SAF at a competitive price
- The partners do not want to be project developers, but could push for suitable conditions for private investors through policy advocacy and other tools



SAF Next Steps

- The original project objectives are considered complete, grant has expired
- Atlantic Aviation currently providing 20% SAF blend
- Looking ahead to Airport carbon emissions mitigation plan