

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Office: Bureau of Land Management, Burns District, Three Rivers Resource Area (LLORB050)
Tracking Number (DNA #): DOI-BLM-OR-B050-2013-0009-DNA
Case File/Project Number: N/A
Proposed Action Title/Type: Restore or Maintain Sage-Grouse Year Round Habitat and Deer Winter Range from Post Settlement Juniper Established Woodlands and/or Encroachment.
Location/Legal Description: Griffin Creek Pasture in the Moffet Table Allotment #5511
Applicant (if any): BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to remove western juniper to reduce fuels and to restore or maintain sage-steppe habitat on 2,500 acres within the Griffin Creek Pasture in the Moffet Table Allotment #5511. This area is Sage-grouse Core habitat and critical mule deer habitat; maintaining shrubs and herbaceous plants in this area is vital to these wildlife species and others for year round browse, forage, and cover.

The proposed action would cut post settlement trees, machine pile those trees, and burn those piles a year later between the east side of the 14 Road and Griffin Creek. Once the piles have been burned they would be seeded with a mix of native (Bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass and Sherman's big bluegrass) and desirable non-native (Douglas wheatgrass and Ladak alfalfa) plants to reduce the risk of soil erosion and the invasion of weedy plant species such as medusahead rye, cheatgrass, and thistles. Seeding would be implemented by broadcast seeding onto piles burned (approximately 5% of total acres treated is burnt) and/or drill seeded on acres east of the 14 road where the shrubs and perennial grasses have been depleted from juniper tree encroachment and not expected to recover naturally.

Trees alongside Griffin Creek and west of the 14 road would be clear cut and larger trees lopped and scattered. There would be no pile burning in these two areas. Each action would reduce encroachment of juniper into stands of mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, and wild crab apple; and at the same time maintain existing shrub and herbaceous plants.

Treating juniper in this area would be added acres to the Otis Mountain/Moffet Table Fuels Management Project (OR-06-025-056-EA) (Map B and C). Treatment methods and objectives in the EA are described in Chapter II Proposed Action in the Big game Browse Maintenance/Deciduous Vegetation Enhancement Treatment and Pile Burning sections. This treatment area would be added to the original project area analyzed under the EA, and would satisfy project objectives described in Chapter I Purpose of and Need for Action, Chapter III Affected Environment, and Chapter IV Environmental Consequences.

- Project Objectives:
 - Reduce western juniper encroachment into key wildlife habitat dominated by bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, aspen, or riparian hardwoods by 90 percent within the Project Area while maintaining habitat values.
 - Reduce post-settlement western juniper density by 90 percent on low sagebrush/bunchgrass ecological sites that are targeted to improve sage-grouse habitat.
 - Increase forage available to big game and other wildlife on public and privately owned lands in the Project Area while retaining adequate cover.
- Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon, April 2011
 - Goals: 1) maintain or enhance the current range and distribution of sagebrush habitats in Oregon, and 2) manage those habitats in a range of structural stages to benefit sage-grouse.
 - Objectives: To maintain and enhance existing sagebrush habitats and enhance potential habitats that has been disturbed such that there is no net loss of sagebrush habitat....
- Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, December 2011
 - Coordinate, plan, design, and implement vegetation treatments (e.g., pinyon/juniper removal, fuels treatments, green stripping) and associated effectiveness monitoring between Resources, Fuels Management, Emergency Stabilization, and Burned Area Rehabilitation programs to:
 - Promote the maintenance of large intact sagebrush communities;
 - Limit the expansion or dominance of invasive species, including cheatgrass;
 - Maintain or improve soil site stability, hydrologic function, and biological integrity; and
 - Enhance the native plant community, including the native shrub reference state in the *State and Transition Model*, with appropriate shrub, grass, and forb composition identified in the applicable ESD where available.
 - Where pinyon and juniper trees are encroaching on sagebrush plant communities, design treatments to increase cover of sagebrush and/or understory to (1) improve habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse; and (2) minimize avian predator perches and predation opportunities on Greater Sage-Grouse.
 - Implement management actions, where appropriate, to improve degraded Greater Sage-Grouse habitats that have become encroached upon by shrubland or woodland species.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the Proposed Action from the EA analyzed juniper removal, machine piling, and pile burning as proposed in this decision to add 2,500 acres to the project area. Therefore, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the action proposed in this DNA would be equivalent to those effects analyzed for the Proposed Action in the Otis Mountain/Moffet Table Fuels Management Project EA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the Proposed Action from the Otis Mountain/Moffet Table Fuels Management Project EA and the action proposed in this DNA are within the same analysis area and ecological sites, and the new proposed action would have the same environmental effects. Public involvement, groups of interest (see Sec. F. Others Consulted) and interagency review associated with the EA adequately covers the New Proposed Action.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Specialist Signature and Date: Nick Miller 04/05/2013
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist

Specialist Signature and Date: Scott Thomas 4/8/2013
Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Specialist Signature and Date: Lindsay Davies 4/8/2013
Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist

Specialist Signature and Date: Caryn Meinicke 4.10.13
Caryn Meinicke, Botanist

Specialist Signature and Date: John P. Bethea 4/8/2013
John Bethea, Recreation Planner

Specialist Signature and Date: Tom Wilcox 4/5/2013
Tom Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist

Specialist Signature and Date: Travis Miller 4/11/2013
Travis Miller, Rangeland Management Specialist

Specialist Signature and Date: Lesley Richman 4/5/2013
Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator

Specialist Signature and Date: Chad Rott 4/5/13
Chad Rott, District Fuels Planner

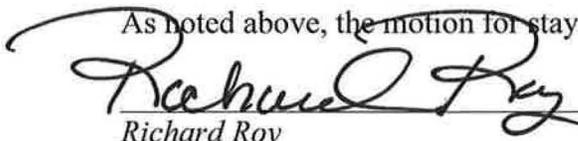
Hearings and Appeals, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. It is suggested appeals be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Request for Stay

Should you wish to file a motion for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of this decision, you must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

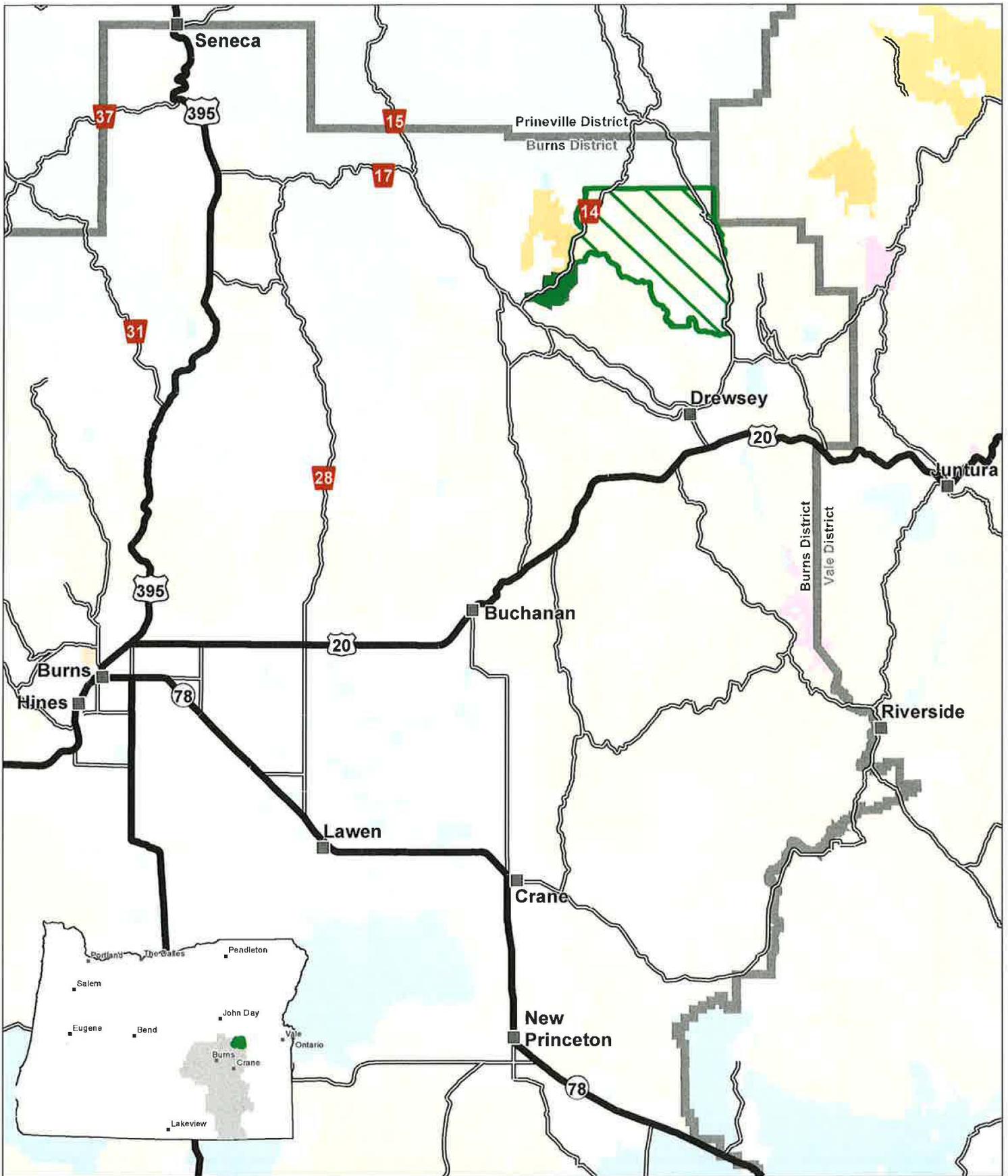
- The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- Whether or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.



Richard Roy
Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager

4/11/13
Date

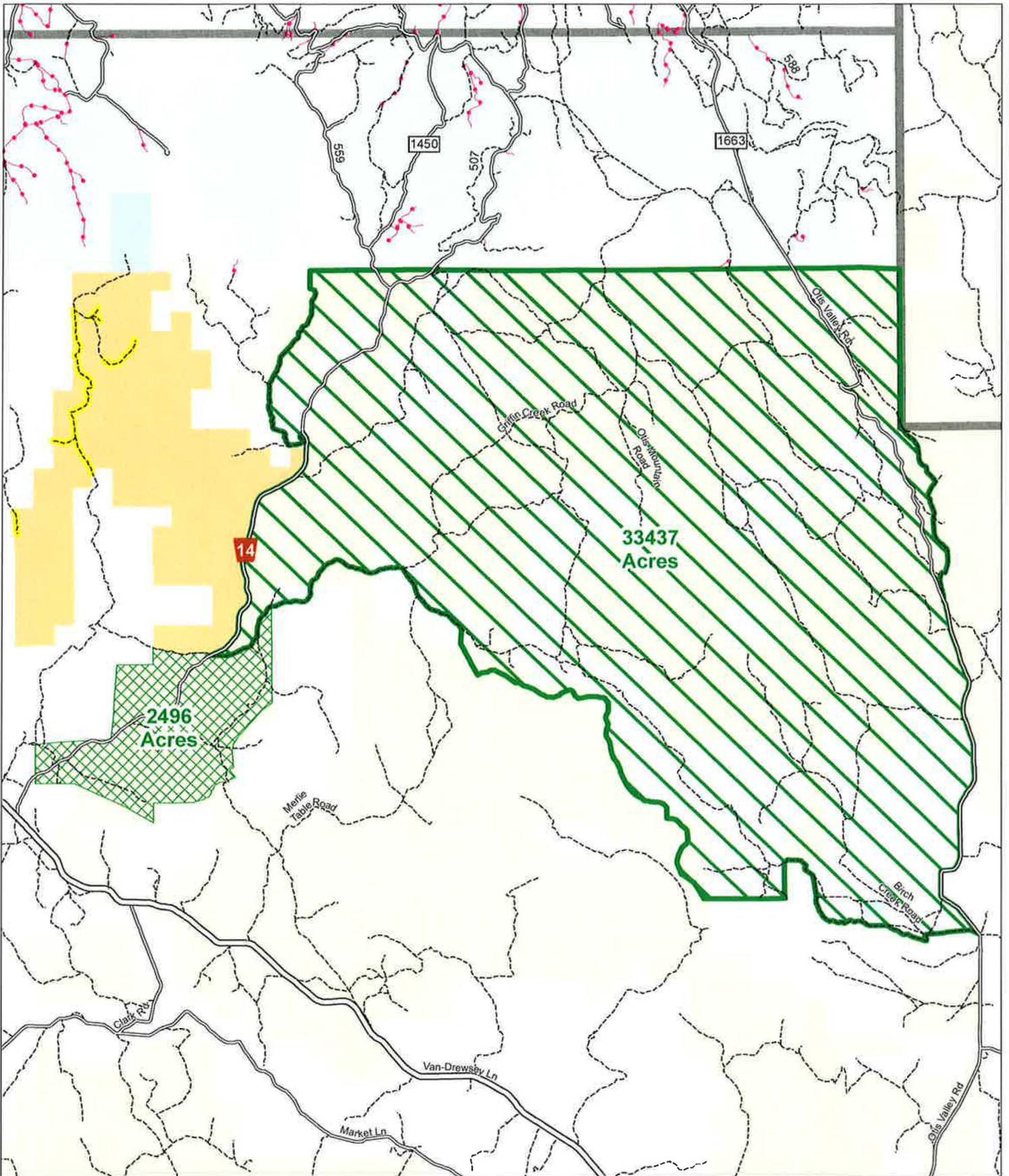


Map A: VICINITY MAP

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|  | Addition to Project Area |  | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |  | BLM District Boundary |
|  | Original Project Boundary |  | State |  | Highways |
|  | BLM Wilderness Study Area |  | Bureau of Indian Affairs |  | Not All Roads Are Shown |
|  | Bureau of Land Management |  | Other Federal | | |
|  | U.S. Forest Service | | Private/Unknown | | |

10 Miles

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Burns District, Oregon
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Map B: OTIS MTN/MOFFET TABLE PROJECT WITH ADDITIONAL ACRES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Addition to Project Area |  U.S. Forest Service |  Paved Road |
|  Original Project Boundary |  State |  Non-Paved Improved Road |
|  BLM Wilderness Study Area |  Private/Unknown |  Natural/Unknown Road Surface |
|  Bureau of Land Management |  BLM District Boundary |  Open WSA Ways |
| | |  Closed Roads |

1 Miles



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Map C: GRIFFEN CREEK PASTURE (Additional Otis Mtn Project Acres)



Map C: Griffen Creek Pasture (Additional Otis Mtn Project Acres)
This map was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the National Conservation Lands Program. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract or any other legal instrument. The map is based on the best available information and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The map is subject to change without notice. The map is not to be used for any other purpose without the express written permission of the Bureau of Land Management. The map is not to be used for any other purpose without the express written permission of the Bureau of Land Management.

Additional Project Acres
0.5 Miles

