

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263)**  
**Round 18 Nominations - Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP)**  
**Preliminary Recommendation**

The following is a prioritized list of Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) project nominations that have been received and reviewed for possible funding under Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263). The purpose of releasing these lists is to obtain input from interested parties. Beginning March 1, 2021, the BLM is accepting written comments on these nominations until close of business (4:30 PM Pacific Time) on April 14, 2021. Comments should be mailed to the SNPLMA Executive Committee Chair, BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130, faxed to (702) 515-5110, or emailed to snplma@blm.gov. The SNPLMA Executive Committee will meet following the comment period to review comments received to develop a final recommendation for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. Questions may be addressed to the SNPLMA Division, BLM Southern Nevada District Office at (702) 515-5116.

<b>Round 18 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) Recommended Primary Funding List</b>							
Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
1	5	Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement	BLM	Lake Valley and one site in the Cave Valley Watersheds, northeast of Lincoln County, NV	\$1,594,820	\$1,594,820	\$1,594,820
2	8	Vegetation Treatment Ely Ranger District	USFS	White Pine and Lincoln Counties, NV within portions of the Quinn Canyon, White Pine, Schell Creek, and North Snake Ranges.	\$1,950,605	\$1,950,605	\$3,545,425
3	3	Ellison Meadows Restoration	USFS	Ellison Meadow and Tom Plains Springs, southeast of Mt. Hamilton in White Pine Mountain Range, White Pine County, NV	\$1,286,900	\$1,286,900	\$4,832,325
5	2	Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration	BLM	Egan and Johnson Basins approximately 50 miles northwest of Ely, White Pine County, NV	\$3,780,876	\$3,780,876	\$8,613,201
6	4	Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction - Overland Phase II	USFS	Northwest of Ely, NV, contiguous to prior BLM vegetation treatment on the southern end of the Ruby Mountains, White Pine County, NV	\$6,219,570	\$6,219,570	\$14,832,771
8	7	Vegetation Mapping Great Basin NP	NPS	South Snake Range in eastern White Pine County, NV of Great Basin National Park	\$580,507	\$580,507	\$15,413,278
<b>Totals for Round 18 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) Recommended Primary Funding:</b>					<b>\$15,413,278</b>	<b>\$15,413,278</b>	
<b>Round 18 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) Not Recommended Funding List</b>							
Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
4	1	Active Management Using Fire	NPS	East side of Great Basin National Park in the Baker Creek Watershed, White Pine County, NV	\$573,495	\$0	\$15,413,278
7	6	Vegetation Assessment - BLM Wilderness Areas	BLM	Twenty-two wilderness areas in Lincoln and White Pine Counties.	\$3,466,990	\$0	\$15,413,278
<b>Totals for Round 18 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) Not Recommended Funding:</b>					<b>\$4,040,485</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Totals for Round 18 Primary Funding Recommendation:</b>							<b>\$15,413,278</b>
<b>Totals for Round 18 Secondary Funding List:</b>							<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals for Round 18 Recommended List:</b>							<b>\$15,413,278</b>

**SNPLMA Round 18**  
**ENLRP – National Park Service Addendum**

**Nomination:** Tab 1

**Entity:** National Park Service, Great Basin National Park

**Project:** Active Management Using Fire

**Revision:** Overall budget request was reduced from \$575,675, to \$573,495 due to the inflation rate for contracts/agreements including planning contract was reduced from 25% to 15%. In addition, the inflation rate for federal personnel labor expenses for planning was not applied.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

National Park Service  
Great Basin National Park



**Active Management Using Fire**

Amount Requested: \$573,495

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project location 39.988° / -114.238°

Project Manager: Bryan Hamilton  
Email address: [bryan\\_hamilton@nps.gov](mailto:bryan_hamilton@nps.gov)  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, Nevada 89311  
775-234-7564

## **Purpose Statement**

The National Park Service, Great Basin National Park will restore habitat in the Baker Creek Watershed, including big sagebrush, riparian areas, and aspen ecosystems using prescribed fire, conifer thinning, native plant seeding, and/or other treatments to establish and maintain naturally functioning, sustainable landscapes of healthy sagebrush rangelands, grasses, riparian and aspen ecosystems to reduce fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian areas and aspen stands.

## **Background**

The Great Basin is experiencing unprecedented change in vegetation structure, composition, and productivity (Morris and Rowe 2014). These changes are driven by an array of interacting factors including climate change, land use, invasive plants, and fire exclusion (Chambers 2008, Williamson et al. 2020). Shifts in vegetation have negatively affected humans through a net loss of productivity, perennial grasses, and wildlife diversity. Maintaining and restoring the resistance of ecosystems to invasive plants and resilience to disturbance has become the guiding management paradigm across the Great Basin (Roundy et al. 2018).

Sagebrush, riparian, and aspen plant communities are critical ecosystems and provide recreation, water delivery, and grazing opportunities to local communities and land users. These plant communities have been particularly impacted by fire exclusion. Changes in fire extent and frequency have caused an increase in annual grasses, loss of native perennial bunch grasses, increase in conifers, and a decrease in early successional native plant communities (Crist et al. 2019).

Active management can maintain and restore sagebrush, aspen, and riparian ecosystems. Restoration is also cost effective. For example, reducing conifer encroachment in Mountain Big sagebrush ecosystems returns \$360 per acre treated relative to the costs of wildfire suppression (Weltz et al. 2014). These savings do not account for ecological benefits of restoration such as improved recreation, wildlife habitat, soil stability, plant productivity, and water quality (Taylor et al. 2013). Management actions are most successful in ecosystems with high resistance and resilience. These traits are related to precipitation, elevation, aspect, soils, and groundwater availability. In general, restoration in the Great Basin is most economical when applied to plant communities in high ecological health (Weltz et al. 2014). Treating these systems offers the highest returns on investment and ecological health and saves taxpayer dollars.

Landscape level changes in plant communities have also affected native wildlife across the Great Basin. The dual threat of conifer encroachment and annual grasses have caused dramatic declines in sagebrush obligates such as sage grouse (Connelly et al. 2000) and pygmy rabbits (Larrucea et al. 2018). Declining populations have led to both these species being petitioned for listing under the endangered species act. Game species such as mule deer have also declined, affecting hunting license revenues, and limiting recreation opportunities. High intensity wildfires and resultant flooding and erosion have led to the extirpation of multiple populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout in eastern Nevada (sensu Sestrich et al. 2011).

Most restoration projects are driven by an underlying assumption: restoring desirable vegetation attributes will benefit wildlife. Unfortunately, this assumption is rarely tested, and a limited

number of studies have linked restoration success to increases in wildlife. Most studies linking restoration success to wildlife fitness have focused on economically important game species, with a recent emphasis on sage grouse. The effects of ecosystem change and restoration on wildlife is complex and unlikely to affect all species equally.

The trophic consequences of vegetation change and restoration are even less understood than the general wildlife effects. Changes in vegetation are reasonably expected to cascade from herbivores to predators. However limited and anecdotal data on trophic effects exist relating vegetation use to predator abundance.

Given the cost to society of losing resistance and resilience on public lands and the ecological and economic benefits of healthy ecosystems, the NPs will treat sagebrush, aspen, and riparian ecosystems with broadcast burning. We will also examine the relationships between plants, restoration, small mammals, and an ectothermic predator the Great Basin rattlesnake. We will examine small mammal and rattlesnake responses to conifer encroachment and restoration.

### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated phases**

This project builds on the success of previously funded ENLRP projects implementing N001 “Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan” and using monitoring data collected as part of the N004 “A Wicked Problem: Improving Restoration and Fuels Reduction through Adaptive Management”. This project will increase defensible space and build a firebreak adjacent to N006 “Soap Creek Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration” in the Baker Creek watershed and road. Other ENLRP projects in Great Basin National Park are:

- N005 Snake Valley Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education
- N002 Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration in the South Snake Range
- N003 Strawberry Creek Fuels Reduction and Sagebrush Steppe/Aspen Restoration
- N007 Forgotten Grasslands: Restoration of Basin Wildrye Ecosystems in Great Basin National Park
- N008 Strawberry Creek Fire - Watershed Restoration & Stabilization

This project is a stand-alone, one-time, non-phased, viable project.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary deliverables

1. Up to 371 acres of sagebrush habit, currently in FRCC 2 and FRCC3 will be restored to FRCC 1.
2. Up to 41 acres of aspen currently in FRCC 2 will be restored to a FRCC 1
3. Up to 82 acres of riparian ecosystems (1.8 miles) will be improved and restored
4. Up to 352 acres in FRCC 2 and 72 acres in FRCC 3 will be converted to FRCC 1.
5. 304 acres in FRCC 1 will be maintained in FRCC1.
6. Fuels will be reduced on up to 748 acres
7. Nonnative plants will be inventoried and treated with herbicides
8. Multi-trophic monitoring will be conducted

9. Educational programs and media will be delivered

Anticipated deliverables

1. Up to 748 acres of habitat will be improved
2. Up to 1.8 miles of riparian habitat will be improved for fisheries (see primary)
3. Seeding and planting of native plant species.
4. Visitor safety will be improved.
5. Peer reviewed publications
6. Fishing access will be improved along Baker Creek
7. Social media posts

Standard deliverables

- NEPA
- Section 106 compliance.
- Work Plan will be input to SMART
- Budget tracking.
- Project administration and oversight.
- Quarterly and annual reporting
- Final project report

**Project Timeframe:**

Below is a general schedule for implementation by quarter over the 4-year period of performance.

	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4		
Implementation Quarter												
Authorization to expend project funds • Initial funding approved (SNPLMA)												
Planning and project layout • NEPA • Section 106 consultation • Project layout • Fire planning • Agreements/contracts • Study Design												
Implementation - Aspen, Riparian, Sagebrush treatment • Project layout • Weed Treatment												
Monitoring • Agreements • Data Collection/inventories • Weed surveys												
Data Analysis • Reports												
Education Programs • Evening programs • Social media • Video log												
Initiate closeout process (NPS) • Final site/project inspection • Review/approval of expenditures • Closeout report												
Project closeout (SNPLMA)												

### **Level of Readiness for Implementation**

The National Park Service is ready to initiate this project.

- NEPA will be completed under the parks fire management plan
- Sites were selected based on Round 9 “Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan” and using monitoring data collected as part of the Round 15 project.
- This project is an extension of the Round 13 “Soap Creek Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration” and will increase the treatment footprint and add prescribed fire treatments to further increase resistance and resilience.
- The Park’s Cultural Resource Branch is fully staffed to complete Section 106 compliance.
- The Resource Management Division is staffed at a level to complete this project within the allotted timeframe.
- LAKE fire program is fully staffed and ready to implement the prescribed fire portion of the project.
- LAKE EPMT is fully staffed and will conduct weed surveys and treatments.
- The park is staffed to complete the project layout, monitoring and post treatment tasks.
- Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreements are in place with major universities.

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

No information provided

### **Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

The project has committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding and in-kind contributions of NPS base funding and contributions of \$54,784.

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## Funding Summary:

ROUND 18			
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	Active Management Using Fire	Date prepared:	4/9/2020
Project #		Agency:	NPS-Great Basin National Park
Prepared by:	Bryan Hamilton	Priority #:	
Title/position:	Wildlife Biologist	Phone #:	775-234-7563
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		\$94,120	16.41%
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)			
<b>2 Consultation - ESA or SHPO</b>		\$21,600	3.77%
0			
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		\$189,980	33.13%
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.			
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		\$8,800	1.53%
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.			
<b>5 Travel</b>		\$71,520	12.47%
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below			
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		\$19,000	3.31%
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost			
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		\$0	0.00%
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.			
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		\$168,475	29.38%
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.			
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		\$0	0.00%
(See Appendix B-11)			
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$573,495</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		\$54,784	
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$628,279</b>	

## Performance Measures:

- **Performance Measure H4:** - Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored
- **Performance Measure H5:** - Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored
- **Performance Measure H2:** - Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Treated,
- **Performance Measure H3** - Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored
- **Performance Measure H6** - Wetland / Riparian Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored
- **Performance Measure H7** - Wetland / Riparian Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored
- **Performance Measure H9** - Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored
- **Performance Measure H10** - Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored
- **Performance Measure F1** - Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- **Performance Measure O4:** - Number of Scientific / Technical Reports Produced
- **Performance Measure O5** - Outreach Contacts Made
- **Performance Measure O7** - Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders.

### SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

#### Sustainability:

The project will restore and protect healthy and resilient landscapes that connect important habitats and protect the integrity of the human and biological communities. Data collected by this project will be incorporated into the ongoing monitoring program of the NPS and made available to other agencies via peer-reviewed publications and technical reports. The project will provide a significant educational and outreach component including social media outreach and video logs.

#### Connectivity:

The project expands the physical boundaries of previous ENLRP projects and connects them for improved management and resilience. This project implements N001 “Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan” and uses monitoring data collected as part of the N004 “A Wicked Problem: Improving Restoration and Fuels Reduction through Adaptive Management”. This project will increase defensible space and build a firebreak adjacent to N006 “Soap Creek Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration” in the Baker Creek watershed and road.

#### Community:

The project supports community through the involvement of a non-governmental Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit partner in the development and accomplishment of resource management, education, and outreach goals. The project has committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding and in-kind contributions of NPS base funding and contributions from academia. This project will increase wildlife viewing opportunities,

provide fishing access to Baker Creek, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life for the public and encourage interaction with nature.

Department of the Interior Priorities:

Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

The project will restore resistance and resilience in mountain big sagebrush (101 acres), riparian (71 acres), and aspen (7 acres) ecosystems using prescribed fire, conifer thinning, native plant seedlings; and weed surveys and treatments to establish and maintain naturally functioning, sustainable landscapes of healthy sagebrush rangelands (>25% sagebrush cover), grasses, riparian and aspen ecosystems and remove piñon pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, and white fir to reduce fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian areas and aspen stands for the benefit, enjoyment and stewardship of present and future generations

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

Manage fuels and change vegetation structure and composition by reducing conifer and woody plant cover, increasing native perennial grasses, improve fire suppression effectiveness and limit fire spread, intensity and frequency. Treatments will restore the native herbaceous understory of sagebrush; improve visitor safety by reducing fire probability, spread, frequency, and intensity. Restoration sites are in a strategically placed fuel break to serve as an anchor point for suppression and to reduce fire intensity across the only evacuation route from Baker Creek road

National Park Service Priorities:

Achieve our goals and lead our team forward

The park has an excellent track record of completing ENLRP projects on time and under budget, while meeting project deliverables. If selected and upon the release of funds, the park's is ready to initiate this project.

Executive Orders:

EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

This project will use prescribed fire and conifer thinning to reduce fuel loads and increase forest health. These actions will protect water quality in the baker creek watershed and the potential for severe flooding and erosion from high intensity catastrophic wildlife.

Secretarial orders:

SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation

This project will improve wildlife habitat by reducing increasing early successional plant communities. This project will increase wildlife viewing opportunities and improve fishing access to Baker Creek.

SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories

This project will improve wildlife habitat by increasing early successional plant communities. This project will increase wildlife viewing opportunities and improve fishing access to Baker Creek.

*SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

Baker Creek is important winter range and a migration corridor for mule deer. The project will improve wildlife habitat by increasing early successional plant communities. The project will increase wildlife viewing opportunities and improve fishing access to Baker Creek.

*SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior*

This project will increase wildlife viewing opportunities and improve fishing access to Baker Creek.

*SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management*

The project will reduce wildfire risks on through active fuel management, changing vegetation structure and composition, reducing conifer and woody plant cover, increasing native perennial grasses. Management actions will improve fire suppression effectiveness and limit fire spread, intensity and frequency. Treatments will restore the native herbaceous understory of sagebrush; improve visitor safety by reducing fire probability, spread, frequency, and intensity. Restoration sites are in a strategically placed fuel break to serve as an anchor point for suppression and to reduce fire intensity across the only evacuation route from Baker Creek road.

## **Ranking Criteria**

Criteria 1: Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.

This project is designed to manage fuels and change vegetation structure and composition by reducing conifer cover and increasing native vegetation. The project will improve fire suppression effectiveness and limit fire spread, intensity, and frequency. Treatments will restore the native herbaceous understory of healthy sagebrush. Project will remove piñon pine and juniper to decrease the risk of fire to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian areas and aspen stands.

Criteria 2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat

The project will implement habitat restoration within aspen stands, riparian areas and low value habitat for sage grouse. The project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience based on understory vegetation, precipitation, temperature, conifer cover, soils and elevation and has greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover

Criteria 3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources

The project will improve fire suppression effectiveness and limit fire spread and intensity to minimize the loss of sagebrush rangelands. A strategically

placed fuel break will serve as an anchor point for suppression and fuels reduction activities to lessen potential fire spread and intensity along Baker Creek road, the only known evacuation route out of the canyon. This project will improve visitor safety by reducing fire probability, spread, frequency, and intensity. This project is designed to change vegetation composition and structure to native sagebrush vegetation.

Criteria 4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures

Project will produce scientific information and publications designed to improve the effectiveness of natural resource conservation and sustainability in the design, implementation, and adaptation of landscape-scale restoration treatments, particularly known knowledge gaps in the trophic consequences of restoration treatments.

Criteria 5. Advances the Agency/entity priority goals

The project addresses/meets the ranking criteria for Executive Order No, 13855 and five Secretarial Orders (see above)

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Maps

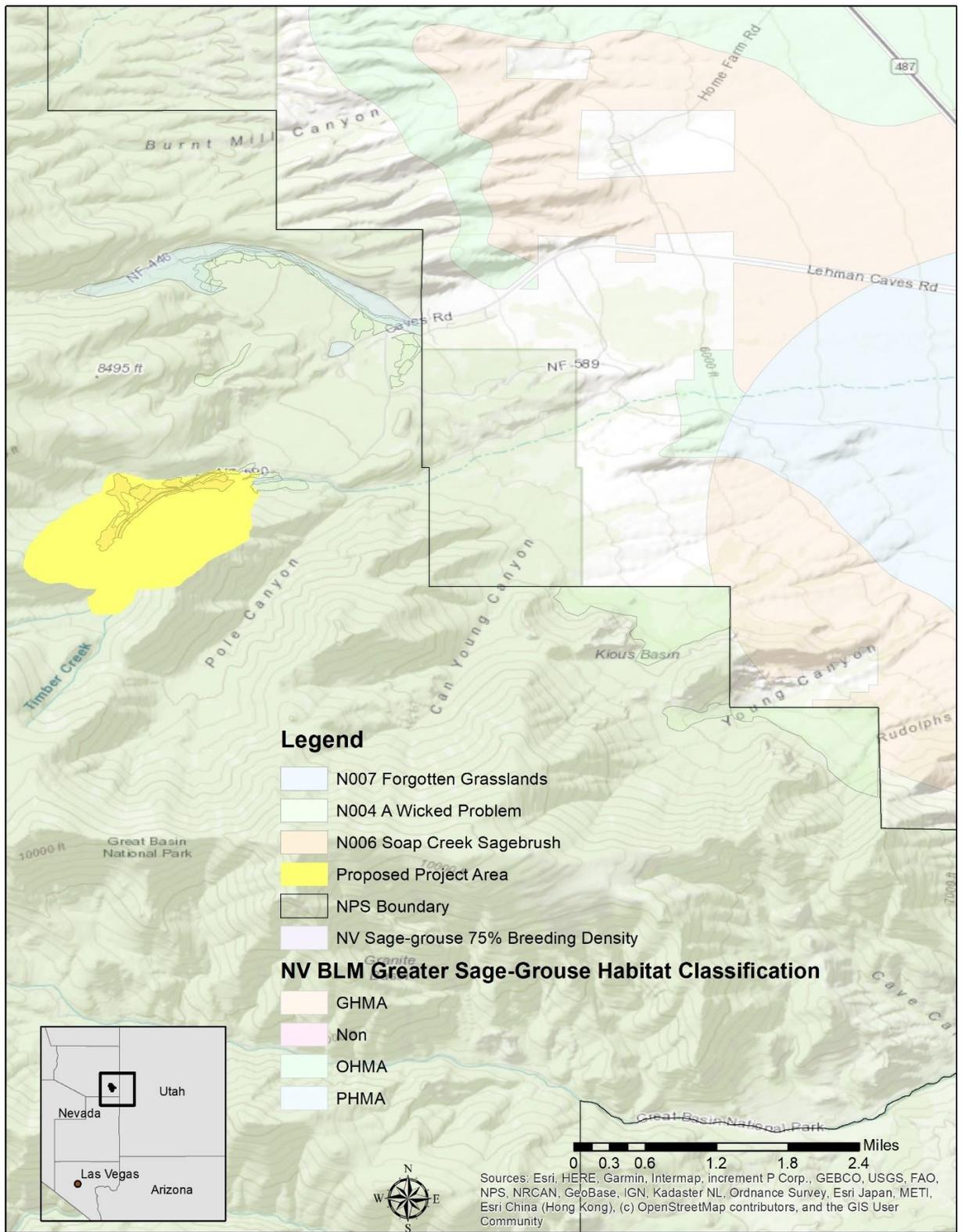


Figure 1 Proposed project location

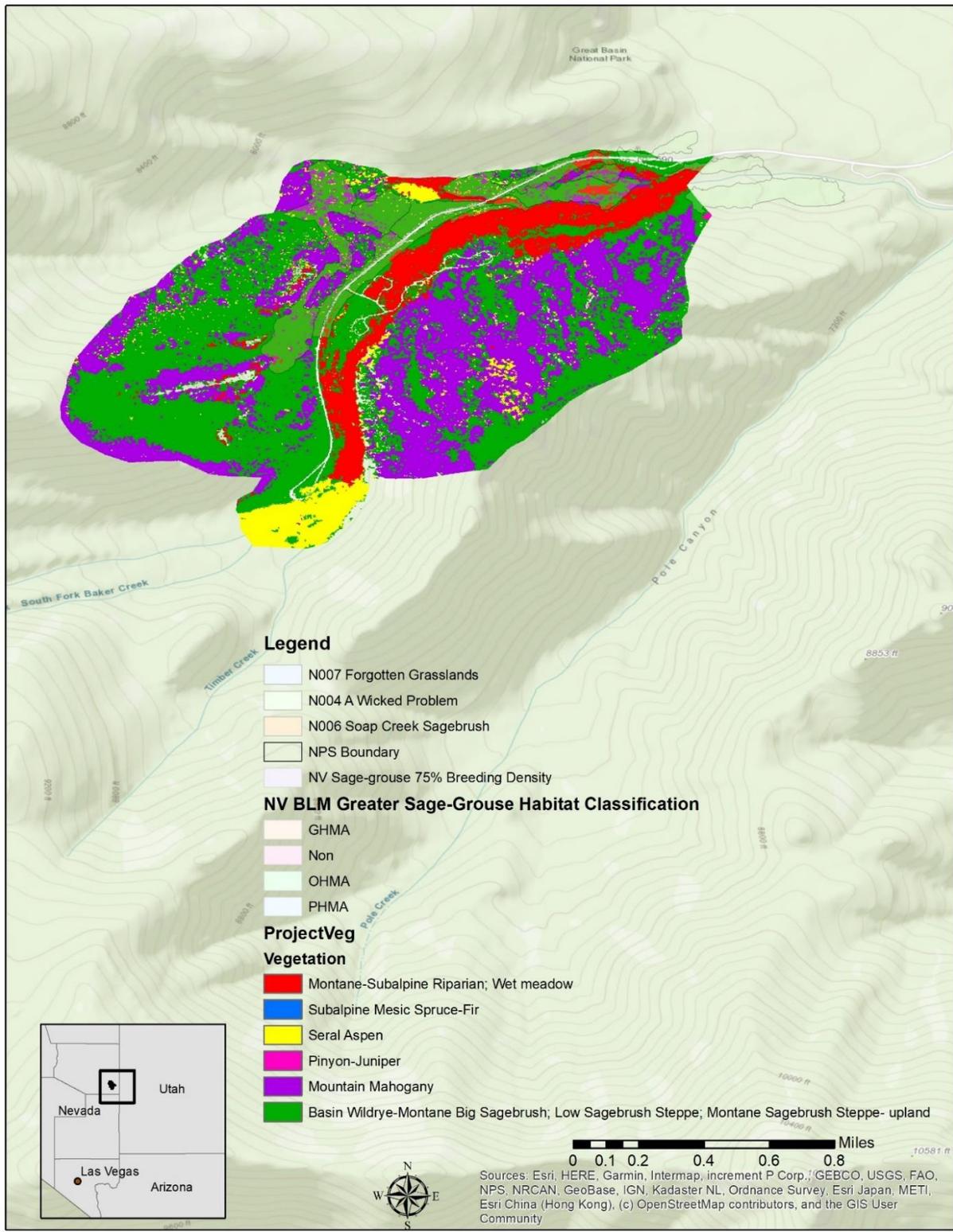


Figure 2 Biophysical settings (vegetation types within the project area)

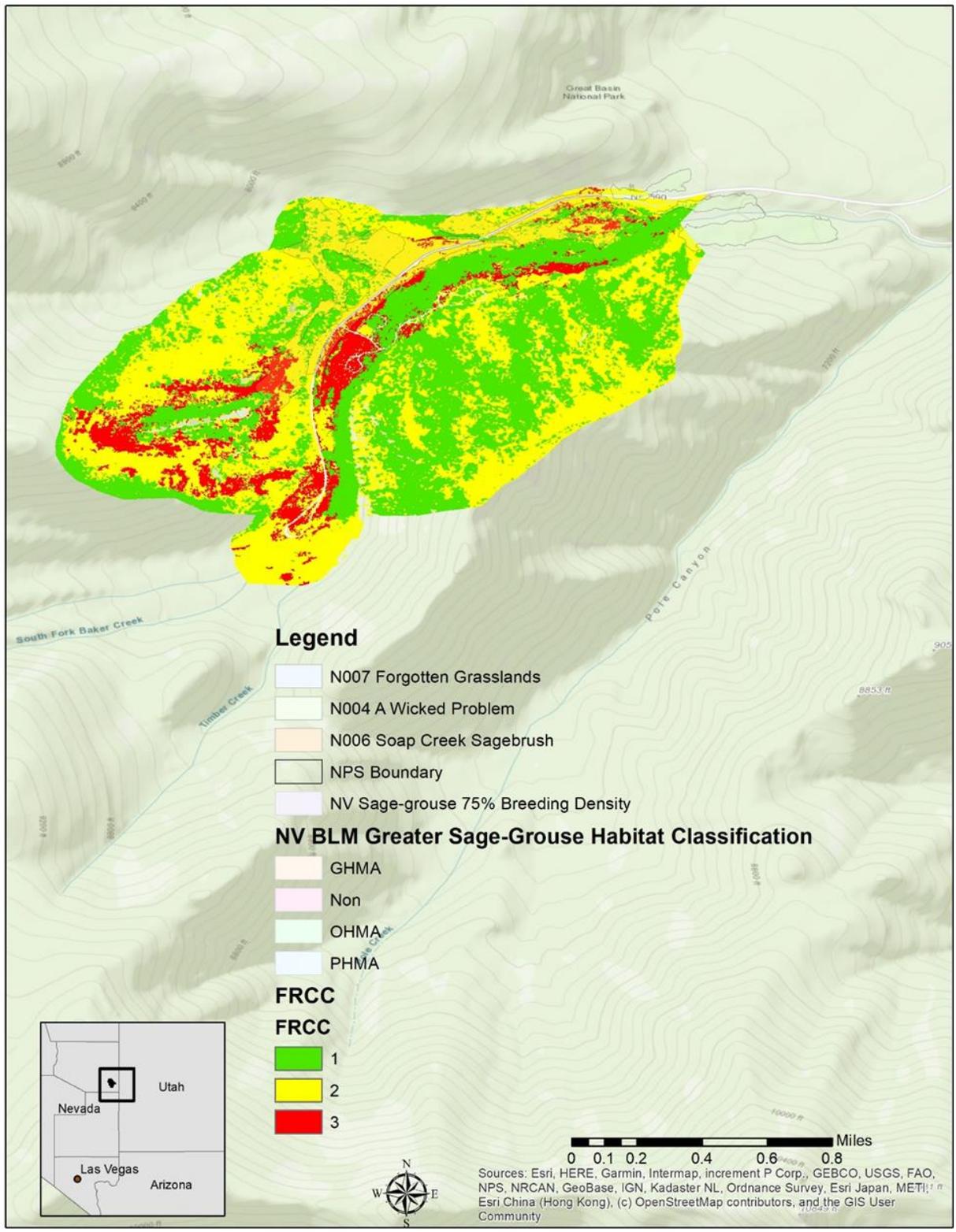


Figure 3 Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) within the project area.

**Photos**

None

**Letters of support:**

1. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
2. University of Nevada Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources
3. Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition

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STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

LIZ O'BRIEN  
*Deputy Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

August 12, 2020

Bryan Hamilton - PhD Wildlife Biologist  
Science and Natural Resource Management  
100 Great Basin National Park  
357 N. HWY 487  
Baker, Nevada 89311

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 -Using fire to increase resilience and resistance in sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems: Active management and monitoring

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would like to extend our support for the following Round 18 proposal Using fire to increase resilience and resistance in sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems: Active management and monitoring.

NDOW has continually partnered with Great Basin National Park to develop and implement habitat restoration projects throughout the park. NDOW fully supports this project as the primary objective of this project is to increase early successional plant communities in aspen, sagebrush, wet meadows and riparian areas. This should benefit mule deer and increase wildlife viewing opportunities. These objectives align with NDOWs objectives to restore and maintain habitat for Nevada's wildlife as put forth the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan.

As such NDOW would like to extend our support to the Great Basin National Park in their efforts to improve and maintain wildlife habitat and we are happy to coordinate with you or provide any assistance we that can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Moira Kolada".

Moira Kolada, Habitat Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1218 N. Alpha St.  
Ely, NV 89301



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 NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
 1664 North Virginia Street (0186)  
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8/20/20

Bryan Hamilton - PhD Wildlife Biologist  
 Science and Natural Resource Management  
 100 Great Basin National Park  
 357 N. HWY 487, Baker, Nevada 89311

Dear Dr. Hamilton:

I would like to communicate my support for the proposal, "Using fire to increase resilience and resistance in sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems: active management and monitoring" that you are submitting to the SNPLMA Round 18 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration program. I believe that you are highly capable and well positioned to carry out the valuable management and wildlife monitoring activities outlined in this proposal, which involves restoring sagebrush habitats at Great Basin National Park.

As director of the Applied Population Ecology Lab at the University of Nevada, Reno, one of my primary missions is to conduct research that helps to maximize the wildlife benefits of regional habitat conservation efforts. A major research initiative in my lab aims to monitor the impacts of conifer removal activities in the Great Basin (to restore sagebrush habitats) on a diverse set of wildlife species. Dr. Hamilton has been a key collaborator in this project, and we have worked together closely to develop effective monitoring strategies for small mammals, bats, and reptiles at our study sites. The research and management activities in this proposal will build upon existing research activities in my lab to address the broader ecological impacts of sagebrush restoration practices (prescribed fire, conifer removal, native re-seeding) by examining the response of small mammals and their rattlesnake predators. The proposed work has great potential to inform some of the most pressing land management issues in the Great Basin regarding sagebrush restoration and fire suppression. If funded, I look forward to being involved in designing and implementing the wildlife monitoring component of this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin T. Shoemaker  
 Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science  
 College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources  
 775-682-7449; [kshoemaker@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:kshoemaker@cabnr.unr.edu)

University of Nevada, Reno is an EEO/AA institution.



8 September 2020

James Woolsey, Superintendent  
Great Basin National Park  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311

Re: Using fire to increase resilience and resistance in sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems:  
Active management and monitoring

Dear James:

On behalf of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), I would like to express our full support for Great Basin National Park's SNPLMA Round 18 proposal titled *Using fire to increase resilience and resistance in sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems: Active management and monitoring*.

The submitted proposal is in-line with our mission and goals which are to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects; therefore we gladly support the BLM's efforts and proposal.

ENLC has worked closely with Great Basin National Park on noxious weed issues over the past 19 years, and participated in information exchanges, including use of ENLC's herbarium. We have also worked jointly through the BLM with the Park on monitoring wildfires that crossed the Park boundaries. The proposed deliverables for this project are all within the scope of our mission and will be fully supported by ENLC throughout the project process.

This proposal ties into other work that ENLC has done with adjoining land management agencies, BLM Ely District and Humboldt Toiyabe Forest Service, Ely Ranger District over the past 19 years and will lead to continued improvement of the watershed health in Eastern Nevada.

If you have any questions, regarding ENLC's support of this project, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 775-289-7974.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betsy Macfarlan".

Betsy Macfarlan  
Executive Director

PO Box 150266, Ely, Nevada 89315  
775.289.7974 envlc.org

**SNPLMA Round 18**  
**ENLRP – Bureau of Land Management Addendum**

**Nomination:** Tab 2

**Entity:** Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office

**Project:** Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration

**Revision:** Overall budget request was reduced from \$4,004,891, to \$3,780,876 due to the inflation rate for contracts/agreements was reduced from 25% to 15%. In addition, Other Necessary Expenses were re-evaluated resulting in a reduction of expenditures.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management  
Ely District Office



**Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration**

Amount Requested \$3,780,876

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project Location: 39.84° / -114.97°

Project Manager: Cody Combs  
Email address: [ccombs@blm.gov](mailto:ccombs@blm.gov)  
BLM Ely District  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
775-289-1854

## **Purpose Statement**

The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office will conduct 8,000 acres of vegetation treatments within the Egan and Johnson Basins to improve habitat for wildlife, restore degraded sage-grouse habitat, and improve vegetation diversity and resiliency.

## **Background**

The Egan and Johnson Basin Restoration Project Environmental Assessment was completed in 2018. The proposed action for the project identified approximately 24,000 acres of sagebrush habitat to be treated to improve understory grass and forb species, reduce wildfire potential, and improve wildlife habitat. To date, approximately 3,600 acres have been treated through hand thinning and mastication of pinyon and juniper and seeding understory species. This proposal intends to complete 8,000 acres of vegetation treatments to benefit wildlife, reduce wildfire potential, and improve resilience to disturbance actions such as wildfire. Most of the treatments will consist of thinning pinyon and juniper and seeding grass and forb species within sagebrush ecological sites, while some may occur within dense pinyon and juniper ecological sites. The project treatment areas occur within potential sage-grouse habitat with 58% within General Habitat Management Category, 17% in Non-Habitat, and 2% in Other Habitat Categories as described in the 2015 Land Use Plan Amendment for Sage-Grouse Habitat Management. The treatments considered for this proposal will mostly be within areas rated as sage-grouse non-habitat and general habitat management areas to create useable and better habitat.

## **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated phases**

This project is not phased. The Ely District completed several ENLRP projects throughout White Pine and Lincoln Counties to work toward a landscape benefit. No future phases are anticipated.

## **Deliverables:**

### Primary deliverables

1. Approximately 8,000 acres of pinyon and juniper thinning
2. Seeding of perennial grass and forb species on approximately 4,000 acres
3. Cultural survey of 4,000-5,500 acres depending on final design and consultation
4. Complete pre and post treatment monitoring on treated areas

### Anticipated deliverables

1. Treat an additional 1,700 acres of pinyon and juniper thinning
2. Complete seeding of perennial grass and forb on an additional 900 acres
3. Cut/Pile/Burn 250 acres of pinyon and juniper

### Standard deliverables

- Contract preparation, selection and management
- Survey for cadastral markers
- Layout/design of treatment units
- Coordination with partners and permittees

- Submitting requests for management approval
- Locations mapped and ground-truthed to determine final acres and treatment areas
- Vegetation monitoring reports
- Completing quarterly reports and updates
- Final project inspection and closeout

### **Project Timeframe:**

The project will take four years to complete.

#### Year 1

- Finalize treatment areas for hand thinning, mechanical thinning and seeding
- Review existing monitoring data and collect vegetation data where gaps still exist for all proposed treatment areas
- Prepare and issue cultural inventory contract
- Prepare and issue hand thinning and mastication contracts

#### Year 2

- Administer hand thinning and mastication contracts
- Seed areas to be masticated (those listed above)
- Evaluate areas to be piled and burned, and issue contract if deemed appropriate

#### Year 3

- Administer hand thinning and mastication contracts
- Seed mastication areas (those listed above)
- Award and administer cut/pile contract
- Conduct monitoring of areas treated in year one

#### Year 4

- Conduct pile burning
- Monitor areas treated
- Project Closeout

### **Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

The NEPA compliance has been completed for the project, and cultural inventory has been completed over approximately 45% of the area proposed to be treated with mechanical equipment. Some thinning and seeding have been completed within the area from other funding and contributed partner funding. The decision was appealed to IBLA and a petition for stay was requested in 2018. The petition for stay was denied, but the appeal has not yet been heard. There is a possibility that the project appeal could be heard while this project is being implemented. The IBLA could rule in favor of the appellants, which could affect implementation of this project.

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

NA

## Partnerships and/or contributed funds:

The BLM will provide approximately \$120,000 for in-kind services for survey of private property and monitoring.

## Funding Summary:

ROUND 18			
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration	Date prepared:	8/14/2020
		Agency:	BLM, Ely
Project #		Priority #:	
Prepared by:	Cody Coombs	Phone #:	(775) 289-1854
Title/position:	Fuels Program Manager		
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>			
			\$0
			0.00%
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
<b>2 SHPO Consultation</b>			
			\$18,000
			0.48%
	0		
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>			
			\$175,245
			4.64%
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>			
			\$851,800
			22.53%
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
<b>5 Travel</b>			
			\$3,200
			0.08%
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>			
			\$93,844
			2.48%
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>			
			\$500
			0.01%
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>			
			\$2,576,173
			68.14%
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.		
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
			\$62,114
			1.64%
	(See Appendix B-11)		
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>			<b>\$3,780,876</b>
			<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>			
			\$120,000
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>			<b>\$3,900,876</b>

## Performance Measures:

The proposed project will treat, enhance, and restore approximately 8,000 - 9,700 acres of upland vegetative communities within the proposed project area. The purpose is to improve habitat and vegetative conditions and reduce fuel loading. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- H4 – Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored
  - Approximately 8,000 - 9,700 acres treated, enhanced, or restored.
- H5 – Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
  - Pre and post monitoring will be completed.
- H15 – Number of Conservation Actions Implemented for Non-Listed Species
  - The proposed project will implement conservation actions for multiple wildlife species including elk, mule deer, migratory birds, and sage-grouse within the project area.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders.

### SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

#### Sustainability:

This project implements vegetation treatments to improve the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper ecological site's resilience to unplanned disturbance (e.g., wildfire). This will improve the sustainability of these vegetation communities from catastrophic wildfire and the threat of nonnative invasive plants becoming established, which could create a 3 to 5-year reburn cycle, compared to 80 to 120 years within healthy sagebrush communities. With this project, these vegetation communities will be more resilient and recover from wildfire more quickly, helping sustain habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife such as mule deer.

#### Connectivity:

This project continues to improve wildlife habitat and create resilient vegetation communities on a landscape scale. Additionally, projects completed near Cherry Creek, and current proposed projects to the south, in Butte Valley will provide connectivity of important habitat for sage-grouse and mule deer. This project includes extensive coordination with the BLM and the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife and local grazing permittees who are supportive of the project, because it will meet their objectives also.

#### Community:

This project benefits all public land users including recreation, ranching, and hunting by providing diverse vegetation communities that will respond well to disturbance, and support better habitat for wildlife. It also enables the BLM to work proactively with local government to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire. In addition, cultural resource surveys and reports, shared with the State Historic Preservation Office, expand cultural resource inventory information that will enable protection of historic sites. This basin is home to a historic cemetery from a past fort, but not all of the basin has been inventoried, but this project will provide additional information through cultural surveys.

Department of the Interior Priorities:

Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

The BLM and partners will identify and implement habitat restoration on public lands that will utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment; foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands; and expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing

Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.

By being a better neighbor with those closest to our resources through improved dialogue and relationships with persons bordering our lands, specifically residents in Duck Creek Basin; and by expanding the lines of communication with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, the White Pine Conservation District and local residents and ranchers

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

by addressing public safety risks on public lands in those areas with wildfire urban interface.

Executive Orders:

EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

The project implements management actions to improve public lands and reduce wildfire risk

Secretarial orders:

SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation

Improved Sage-Grouse, deer, and elk habitat will result in expanded opportunities for hunters and other recreationists.

SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories

The project will improve habitat and species diversity for hunting and other recreation pursuits.

SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

The project will improve habitat quality in western big-game winter range and migration corridors by improving habitat for deer and elk.

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

The project will reduce wildfire risks on Department of Interior land through active management by creating defensible space near private property, structures, and infrastructure.

## Ranking Criteria

Criteria 1: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.

The proposed project would reduce fuel loading within sagebrush communities by removing conifers. This would reduce fire potential by changing structure that causes large-scale crown fires. Mastication and seeding would reduce crown fire potential to ground fires, which make suppression easier for ground crews. Fires would be slowed and retarded within the treated areas. Seeding would restore understory species associated with sagebrush communities to combat annual non-native grass establishment while providing habitat for sage-grouse.

Criteria 2. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions

The project is located in the BLM's Cherry Creek and Egan Fire and Invasive Assessment Tool (FIAT) planning area. FIAT planning areas were developed to focus funding and priority actions within areas that would reduce invasive species while improving sagebrush habitat. The treatments will occur within priority 1 and 2 areas identified in FIAT for conifer encroachment and sagebrush restoration. The project is located mostly in General or Other Habitat, and some Priority Habitat Management Areas for sage-grouse (Map 5) according to BLM's 2015 Resource Management Plan Amendment that addresses management for sage-grouse. While much of the area is mapped as general or priority habitat, the area has significant conifer establishment within sagebrush communities. The area is moderate resistance and resilient to disturbance (Chambers et al, 2014), and is characterized with greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover. Much of the proposed project would be implemented in ecological sites/soils that have been proven to rehabilitate successfully with this type of treatment

Criteria 3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation

The proposed project would create fuel breaks across the Egan and Johnson Basins, and near roads that serve as anchor points or suppression locations for wildfires. The project area connects past treatments (e.g., Cherry Creek WUI Project, and Cherry Wildfire) to reduce fire risk across a broad landscape. Mastication treatments, such as those proposed here, serve as fuel breaks and slow wildfire as seen during the 2020 fire season

Criteria 4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information

There is not a research component built into this project. However, monitoring results from the project will be utilized to determine appropriate treatments for future projects or other treatments within this project area. Results from past treatments in similar ecological sites are being utilized to design successful treatments within this project area. Pre and post treatment monitoring would provide valuable data that will assist with the Habitat Assessment Framework as well as local knowledge on how to treat and restore landscapes

Criteria 5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability

Implementation of this project has involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) who has contributed funding to complete some of the treatments. Landowners within the

project area are attempting to gain funding through the Natural Resource Conservation Service to complete some tree thinning and habitat restoration on their private lands. Funding for much of the cultural inventory has already been completed. Contributed funds to complete cadastral survey and monitoring will be provided through the BLM Fuels Program. The project will connect sage-grouse populations from their breeding/nesting grounds to brood-rearing summer grounds on Telegraph Peak. Collaboration has begun with NDOW and the private landowner to complete treatments that would create a corridor for sage-grouse to move from nesting to brood-rearing grounds in tree free area along Telegraph Canyon. Past projects connect with this project and provide the mosaic of habitat needed for thriving wildlife. Some pre-treatment AIM data has been completed within the project area, and BLM's AIM process will continue with this project. The data will feed into the habitat assessment framework for the project area.

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# Maps

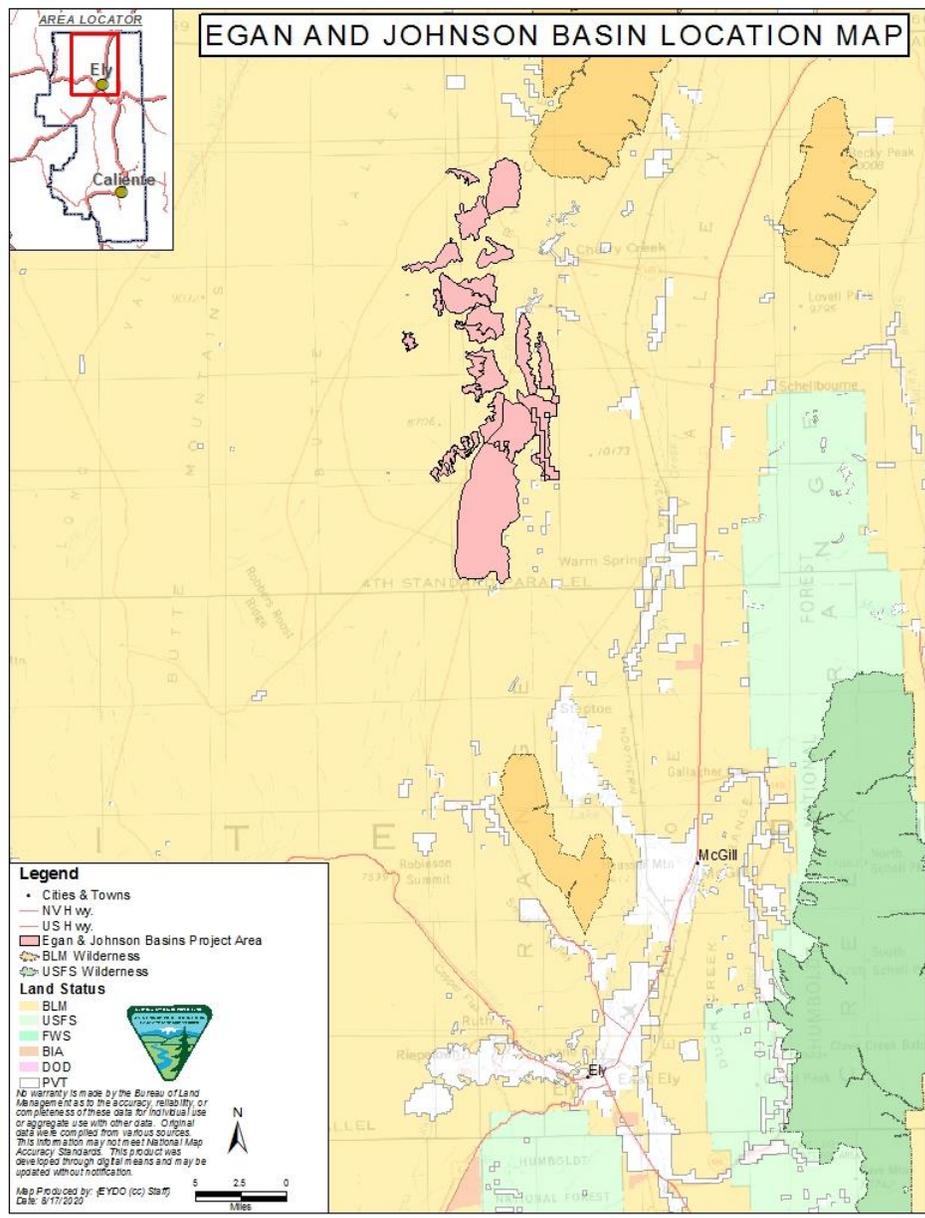


Figure 1 Eagan and Johnson Basins Restoration project location map

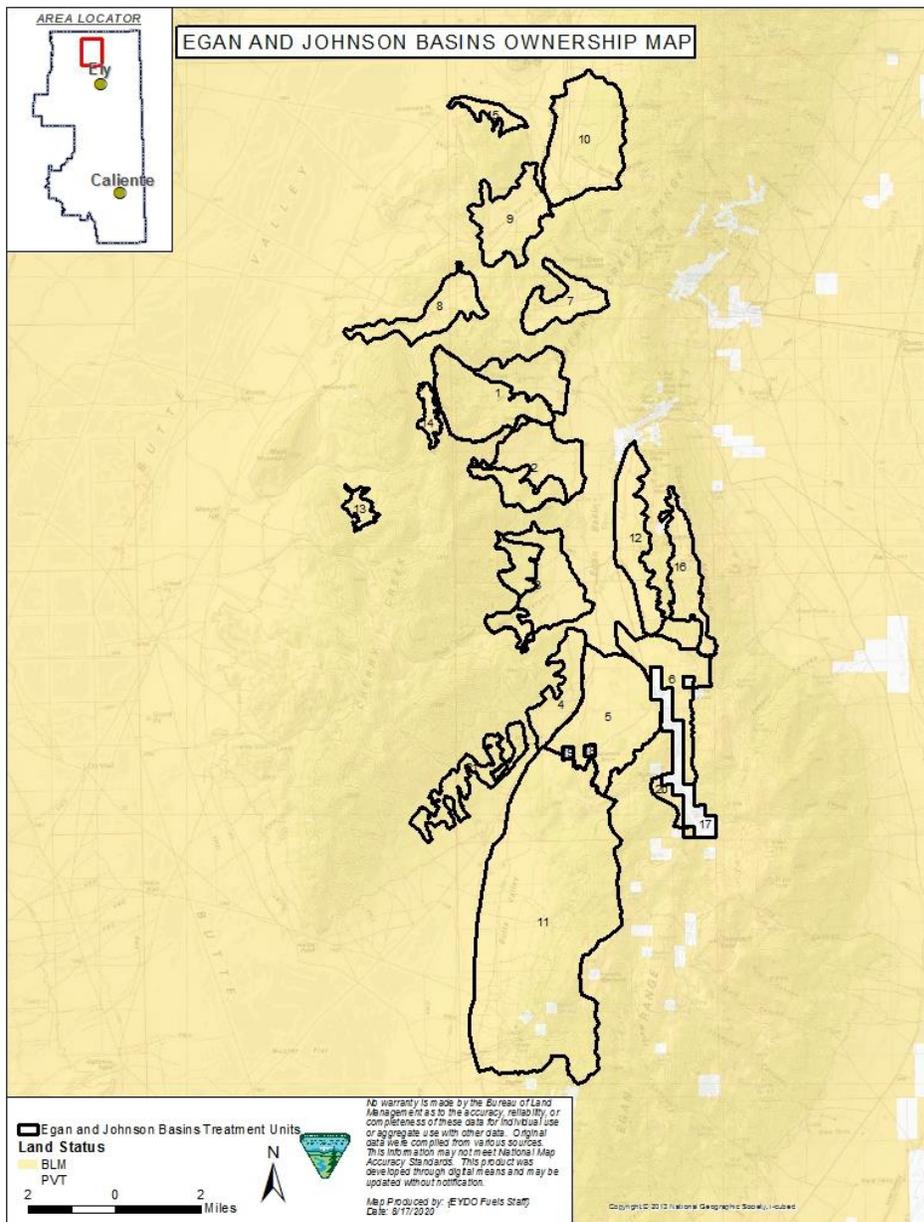


Figure 2. Ownership in the project area

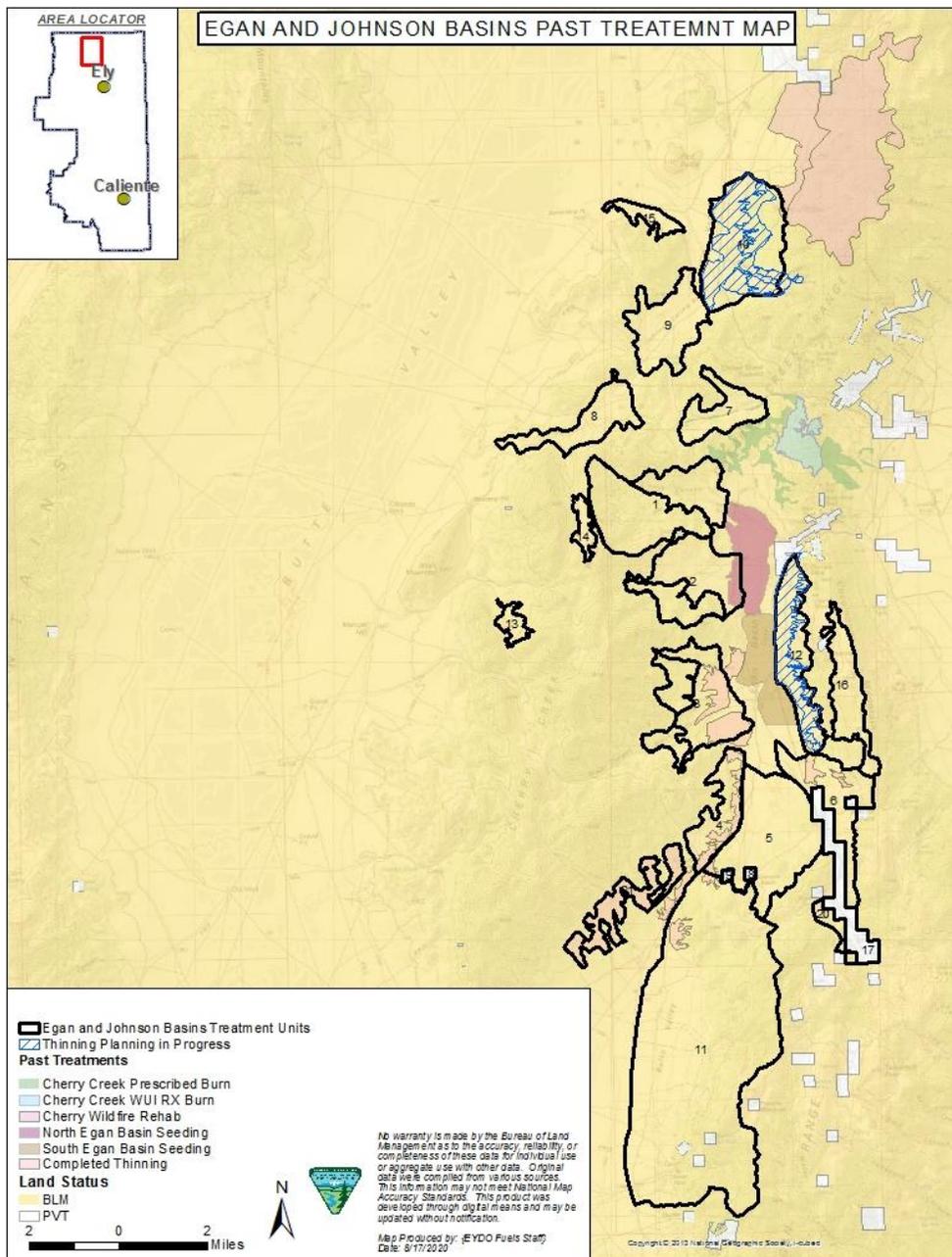


Figure 3 Project relationship to prior vegetation treatments

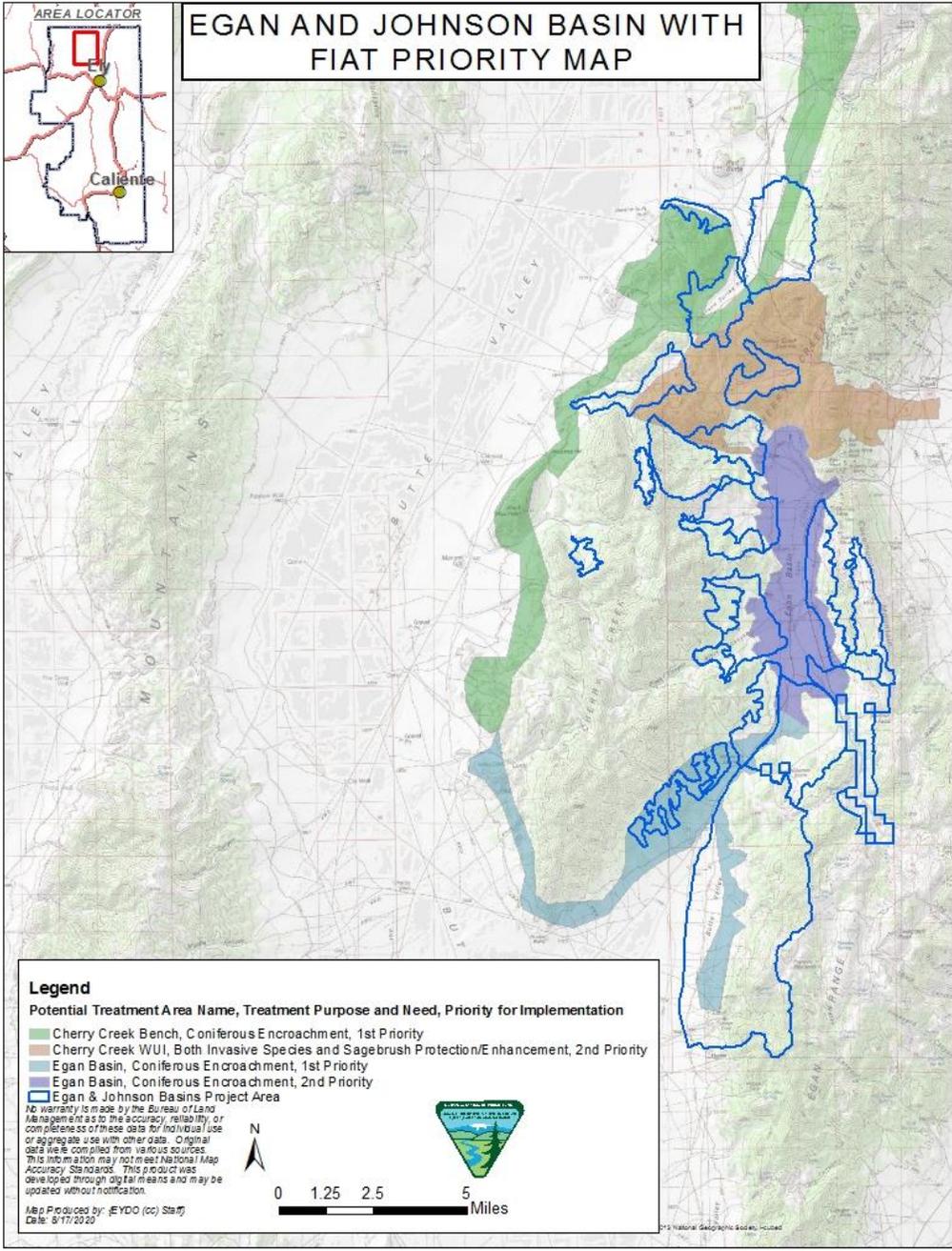


Figure 4 Project area in relation to FIAT priorities.

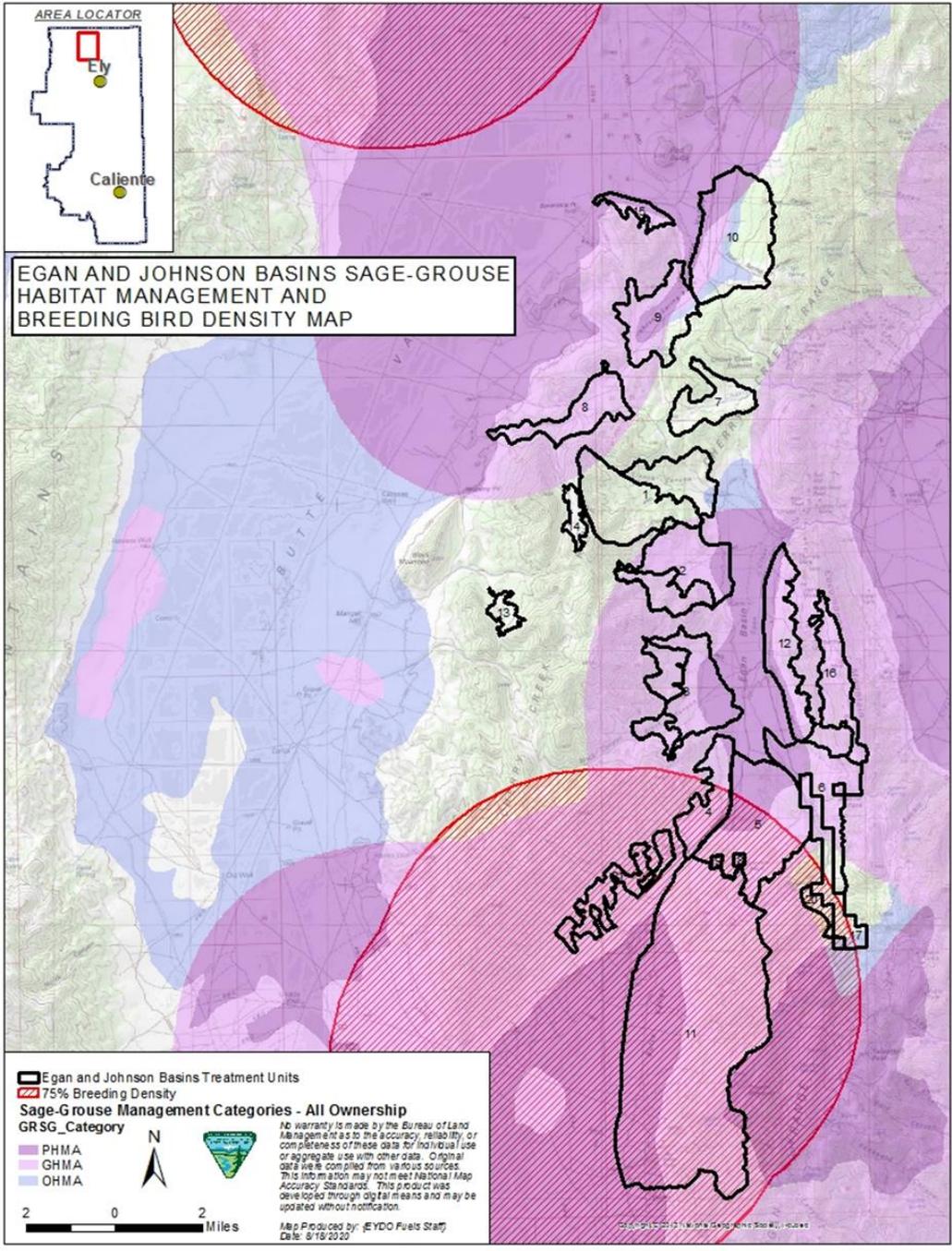


Figure 5 Sage-Grouse management categories and breeding bird density.

**Photos**  
None.

- Letters of Support:**
1. Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
  2. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife



8 September 2020

Robbie McAvoy, District Manager  
BLM Ely District  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely NV 89301

Re: Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration Project - SNPLMA Proposal Round 18

Dear Robbie:

On behalf of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), I would like to express our full support for the Ely BLM District's proposal for the Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration Project, submitted for round eighteen of the SNPLMA process.

The submitted proposal is in-line with our mission and goals which are to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects; therefore we gladly support the BLM's efforts and proposal.

ENLC has worked closely with the Ely BLM District over the past 19 years on a wide variety of projects including several restoration projects. The proposed deliverables for this project are all within the scope of our mission and will be fully supported by ENLC throughout the project process.

This proposal ties into other work that the Ely BLM District and ENLC have conducted over the past 19 years and will lead to continued improvement of the watershed health in Eastern Nevada.

If you have any questions, regarding ENLC's support of this project, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 775-289-7974.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Macfarlan".

Betsy Macfarlan  
Executive Director

PO Box 150266. Ely, Nevada 89315  
775.289.7974 envlc.org



STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

LIZ O'BRIEN  
*Deputy Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

September 8, 2020

Cody Coombs  
Fuels Program Manager  
Bureau of Land Management- Ely District

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 -Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Coombs,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would like to extend our support for the following Round 18 proposal: Egan Johnson Basins Restoration Project.

NDOW has been collaborating with BLM since the inception of the Egan Johnson Basins Restoration project as we believe that this area provides important habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. NDOW would very much like to continue this collaboration and the ongoing habitat restoration work for this project.

As such NDOW would like to extend our support to the Ely BLM in their efforts to improve and maintain wildlife habitat and we are happy to coordinate with you or provide any assistance we that can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Moira Kolada".

Moira Kolada, Habitat Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1218 N. Alpha St.  
Ely, NV 89301

**SNPLMA Round 18**  
**ENLRP – U.S. Forest Service Addendum**

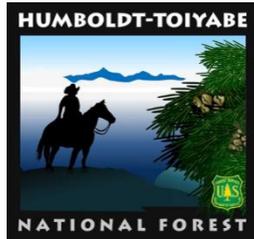
**Nomination:** Tab 3

**Entity:** U.S. Forest Service, Ely Ranger District

**Project:** Ellison Meadows Restoration

**Revision:** Overall budget request was reduced from \$1,420,067 to \$1,286,900 due to adjustments for Other Necessary Expenses as well as the inflation rate for contracts/agreements was reduced from 25% to 15%. In addition, the inflation rate for federal personnel labor expenses for planning was not applied.

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Ely Ranger District**



**SNPLMA Round 18  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Project**

**Ellison Meadows Restoration**

**Amount Requested \$1,286,900**

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project location: 39.04166667°/-115.3583333°

Project Manager: Jose Noriega  
Email address: [jose\\_noriega@usda.gov](mailto:jose_noriega@usda.gov)  
825 Ave. E.  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
775-289-0176 (p)  
775-289-2131 (f)

## **Purpose Statement**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District will restore the Ellison Meadow, within the National Forest, southeast of Mt. Hamilton in White Pine Mountain, White Pine County, Nevada to restore and protect important meadow and riparian communities, restore vegetative communities, reduce erosion and improve habitat for sage-grouse, aquatic species, and improve livestock management.

## **Background**

The Ely Ranger District is requesting funds through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project to implement a large-scale restoration project within the White Pine Mountain Range in White Pine County, Nevada. The primary objectives are to restore and improve a large riparian complex and adjacent habitats near Ellison Creek and Tom Plain Springs on the Ely Ranger District. To meet these objectives this project will involve improving management of activities such as livestock grazing within the Project Area.

## **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated phases**

There are no anticipated future phases of this project.

## **Deliverables:**

### Primary deliverables

- Implement aggressive channel stabilization and revegetation actions on 1 to 2 miles of Stream Channel to stabilize the channel, restore riparian vegetation, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and improve habitats for wildlife and aquatic species.
- Construct approximately 2.5 miles of new fence to create a new riparian pasture to protect and improve the management of the Ellison Creek Meadow system. All fences will be constructed to wildlife standards to reduce potential conflicts with wildlife. Wildlife jumps will be installed to facilitate big game crossing of fence lines.
- Reconstruct and/or construct between 15 and 25 miles of new or existing fences to improve livestock management within the project area. All fences will be constructed to wildlife standards to reduce potential conflicts with wildlife. Wildlife jumps will be installed to facilitate big game crossing of fence lines. These actions will restore habitats through improved livestock management.
- Install sage grouse fence markers on all fences within sage grouse habitats.
- Implement between 300 and 500 acres of treatments to reduce the dominance of rubber rabbitbrush and restore grassland communities adjacent to the Ellison Creek Meadow.
- Implement treatments of approximately 500 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore sage grouse and mule deer habitats within the Project Area. This includes removal of conifers from within a small aspen stand in the project area.
- Install water gaps on fence lines to facilitate improved management of livestock while protecting important riparian habitats.

- Extend an existing water development/water line adding two additional water troughs to provide water for wildlife and livestock.
- Decommission of approximately 1 mile of road that is no longer needed.
- Complete a Channel Stabilization Engineering Report.
- Treat and inventory 200 acres or more of noxious and invasive
- Seeding and/or planting of seedlings to facilitate restoration objectives on disturbed sites.
- Install educational signs at the project site to interpret the project related activities and management. Complete press releases and web site and social media posts showing photos and information about the project and outcomes.
  - Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments. This report will be distributed to all interested parties

#### Anticipated deliverables

- None

#### Standard deliverables

- Heritage resource surveys and completion of SHPO reports
- Scope of work for grants, contracts or agreements.
- Completion of NEPA and Decision
- Project closeout

### **Project Timeframe:**

The Project Lead will coordinate the overall implementation of the project, track accomplishments and report out on those accomplishments. The following is an outline of activities and timeframe for completion:

#### Year 1

- Complete archeological and biological survey work.
- Complete the 106 report and consultation with SHPO.
- Prepare news releases and scoping notifying the public about the Project.
- Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Complete the remaining NEPA process.
- Complete permitting for Stream Alteration Permits.
- Complete and implement contracts for design work on watershed restoration activities.
- Treat and inventory for noxious weeds.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

#### Year 2

- Complete and award contracts for watershed restoration work, fences, and vegetation treatments.
- Begin implementing contracts for watershed restoration work, fences, and vegetation treatments.
- Treat and inventory for noxious weeds.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

### **Year 3**

- Continue implementing contracts for watershed restoration work, fences, and vegetation treatments.
- Complete road decommissioning.
- Complete Water Development.
- Treat and inventory for noxious weeds.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

### **Year 4**

- Complete the contracts for watershed restoration work, fences, and vegetation treatments.
- GPS, map and photograph all fences, developments, and treatments.
- Treat and inventory for noxious weeds.
- Install educational/interpretive signs.
- Install SNPLMA sign completed and the public news releases prepared.
- Final accomplishments/close-out reports

### **Level of Readiness for Implementation**

The Forest Service is positioned to move quickly on this project when notified that funding is available.

- The Current-Ellison Landscape Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice was signed in 2016 and approved most of the activities identified under this project proposal.
- A Decision Memo is being prepared for the remaining activities.
- The Forest Service has been working on the specifics for this project since the 2016 NEPA Decision. We have been in close coordination with the livestock permittee, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and other interested individuals and groups.

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Not Applicable

### **Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

None.

## Funding Summary:

ROUND 18			
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	Ellison Meadows Restoration Project	Date prepared:	7/28/2020
Project #		Agency:	Forest Service
Prepared by:	Jose Noriega	Priority #:	
Title/position:	District Ranger	Phone #:	(775) 289-0176
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		\$36,720	2.85%
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)			
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>		\$17,280	1.34%
0			
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		\$156,320	12.15%
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.			
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		\$91,000	7.07%
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.			
<b>5 Travel</b>		\$22,400	1.74%
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below			
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		\$33,150	2.58%
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost			
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		\$0	0.00%
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.			
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		\$813,625	63.22%
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.			
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		\$116,405	9.05%
(See Appendix B-11)			
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$1,286,900</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		\$0	
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$1,286,900</b>	

## Performance Measures:

Implement aggressive channel stabilization and revegetation actions along approximately one mile of Ellison Creek to stabilize the stream channel, restore riparian vegetation, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and improve habitats for wildlife and aquatic species.

- Performance Measure H2 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Treated Enhanced or Restored: 1-2 miles
- Performance Measure H3 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: 1-2 miles

Construct approximately 2.5 miles of new fence and reconstruct/construct an additional 15-25 miles of existing fences to improve livestock management within the Project Area.

- Performance Measure H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored: Approximately 1,000 acres
- Performance Measure H5 - Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 1,000 acres
- Performance Measure H6 - Acres of Wetland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored: Approximately 50 acres
- Performance Measure H7 - Acres of Wetland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 50 acres
- Performance Measure C3 - Acres of Cultural/Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 1,000 acres

Implement approximately 500 acres of treatments to reduce the dominance of rubber rabbitbrush and restore grassland communities adjacent to the Ellison Creek Meadow.

- Performance Measure H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored: Approximately 500 acres
- Performance Measure H5 - Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 500 acres
- Performance Measure F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Approximately 500 acres

Implement treatments of approximately 500 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore sage grouse and mule deer habitats adjacent to the Ellison Creek and Tom Plain Meadows.

- Performance Measure H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored: Approximately 500 acres
- Performance Measure H5 - Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 500 acres
- Performance Measure F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Approximately 500 acres

Extend an existing water development/water line adding two additional water troughs.

- Performance Measure H8 - Number of Water Developments Constructed or Improved for Wildlife: 1 development

Decommission approximately 1 mile of road that is no longer needed.

- Performance Measure H16 - Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated: Approximately 1 mile

Complete a Channel Stabilization Engineering Report.

- Performance Measure O4 - Number of Scientific / Technical Reports Produced: 1 Report/Design

Treat and inventory 200 acres or more of noxious and invasive weeds within the project area.

- Performance Measure H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored: 200 acres
- Performance Measure H10 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored: 200 acres

Complete an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

- Performance Measure O-11 – Number of Databases, Reports, and other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities

Install educational signs at the project site to interpret the project related activities and management. Complete press releases and web site and social media posts showing photos and information about the project and outcomes.

- Performance Measure O-5 – Number of Outreach contacts made.
- Performance Measure O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs Produced: 1 Educational Display

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders.**

#### **SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:**

*See ranking criteria #5*

#### **Department of the Interior Priorities:**

*Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt*

- This project restores riparian areas, restores upland habitats for wildlife species, and improves the management of the Livestock Grazing Allotment.
- This project will complete these conservation and restoration objectives at a landscape scale within a portion of the White Pine Mountain Range.

*Priority #2: Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.*

- This project will restore and improve the condition of the resources on public lands while improving the management of the livestock grazing allotment.

*Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.*

- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.
- We have been working with partners to design and plan this project.

*Priority #4: Ensure Tribal Sovereignty means something.*

- The Ely Ranger District has and will continue coordinating this project with representatives from the Ely Shoshone and Duckwater Tribes.

Priority #5: Increase Revenues o support the Department and national interests.

- Not applicable

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

- Not applicable

Priority #7: Strike a Regulatory Balance.

- Not applicable

Priority #8: Modernize our infrastructure.

- This project will upgrade and modernize the fences on this allotment to significantly improve management of the allotment

Priority #9: Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.

- Not applicable

Priority #10: Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

- Not applicable

### **U.S. Forest Service Priorities:**

Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.

- Not Applicable

Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.

- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.
- We have been working with partners to design and plan this project.

Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.

- The Ely Ranger District has actively included the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the livestock permittee early in the development and planning of this project.

Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.

- This project will implement multiple restoration activities throughout the project area.
- This project will improve riparian areas, wildlife habitats, rangelands, water quality, and other resources.

Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.

- This Project will improve recreational opportunities by improving habitats for wildlife. This will improve opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.

### **Executive Orders:**

*EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

- This project will improve the condition of riparian areas, rangelands, and wildlife habitats.
- This project will also reduce fuels and reduce wildfire risks through the treatment of pinyon-juniper and rubber rabbitbrush.

### **Secretarial orders:**

*SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and elk all of which are important game species in this area.
- This project will improve wildlife habitats and ultimately improve opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing in the area.

SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and elk all of which are important game species in this area.
- This project will improve wildlife habitats and ultimately improve opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing in the area.

SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and elk all of which are important game species.
- The project area provides important summer and transitional ranges.

SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior

- Not Applicable

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

- This project actively reduces fuels within the project area

SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges

- Not Applicable

SO No.3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act

- Not Applicable

SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes

- Not Applicable

## Ranking Criteria

Criteria 1: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.

- A. Project will conduct treatments to maintain healthy sagebrush rangelands, including preventative measures for annual grass invasion and conifer encroachment.

- Treatments under this proposal will maintain and restore healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of rubber rabbitbrush as well as pinyon-juniper encroachment. This project will also improve livestock grazing management which will maintain important sagebrush habitats.
- This project also includes treatment of invasive species, including cheatgrass, in the project area.
- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/ decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory and conifer encroachment.
  - NA
- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.
  - NA
- D. Project is to remove pinyon pine and juniper to decrease the fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian, and/or aspen stands.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain and restore healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of rubber rabbitbrush as well as pinyon-juniper encroachment. This project will also improve livestock grazing management which will maintain important sagebrush habitats.
  - The Forest Service will restore riparian areas and remove pinyon-juniper from a small aspen stand in the project area.

Criteria 2. *Habitat recovery/restoration*

- A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area of Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat, riparian area, or aspen stand.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain and restore healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of rubber rabbitbrush as well as pinyon-juniper encroachment. This project will also improve livestock grazing management which will maintain important sagebrush habitats. A small aspen stand will also be protected.
  - The riparian enclosure, channel stabilization work, and riparian restoration actions will improve and restore several significant meadow systems within the Ellison Creek drainage. These riparian areas are important habitats for sage grouse, mule deer, aquatic species, and numerous other wildlife species
- B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat, riparian area, or aspen stands.
  - NA
- C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat.
  - NA
- D. Sagebrush landscape cover
  - The project area contains significant sagebrush that provide habitats for wildlife species such as sage grouse and mule deer. These treatments will help to maintain and restore healthy sagebrush communities.

Criteria 3 Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation

- A. Project is located to strategically prevent fire spread or support suppression activities to minimize the loss of sagebrush rangelands. A strategically placed fuel break as an anchor point for suppression or fuels reduction activities to lessen potential fire intensity.
  - Under this proposal, fuels would be reduced adjacent to the riparian meadow complex which will enlarge the existing natural fuel break within the meadow.
  - Other pinyon-juniper treatments will create additional fuel breaks along the Ellison Creek Roads and around the historic Ellison Creek Guard Station which is immediately adjacent to the meadow.
  - Invasive species and annual grasses will be treated under this proposal.
- B. Project will rehabilitate a previously burned area to prevent the establishment of invasive annual grasses.
  - NA

Criteria 4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information

- A. Project will lead to needed/ improved scientific information on the design, implementation, and/or adaption of landscape-scale restoration treatments, including known gaps in land health or sagebrush data.
  - Information and monitoring data gained following implementation of this project will supplement and contribute to the existing scientific knowledge regarding large scale channel stabilization and riparian restoration. The data collected will be available to state and local landowners as well as other federal land management agencies.
  - The project will incorporate results from documented treatments in the project area and assess for effectiveness at different locations across the landscape. The assessments will take place when possible based on individual restoration site size, comparisons between sites, and incorporate replicates of different methods.
  - Monitoring data collected from this project would lead to a greater understanding of restoration activities.

Criteria 5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability.

- A. Involves non-governmental groups, volunteers, or organizations in the development and accomplishment of resource management goals, education, outreach, and other activities. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA resources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.
  - Planning involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife and multiple livestock permittees.
  - There will be some contribution of Forest Service appropriated dollars as well as equipment such as OHV's to complete this project.
  - Volunteers may be used to complete portions of this project including planting of riparian vegetation or removal of old fence.

- B. Community: in addition to the direct benefit to the nominating entity, actively involves and addresses the needs of at least one additional governmental agency, community, or private land manager.
- The Nevada Department of Wildlife has been involved in the planning for this project. This project will meet the needs and objectives of NDOW.
  - Portions of this project will improve management of the livestock grazing allotments and will meet the needs of the grazing permittees.
- C. Connectivity: completed, current/ongoing, or future restoration projects, of any funding source and jurisdiction (including private lands), where the physical project boundaries connect and/or habitat connectivity is enhanced.

Completed SNPLMA projects that occurred in this area include:

- Round 8: White Pine Sagebrush Restoration Project (completed)
  - Round 10: White River Valley Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education (completed)
  - Round 10: Soil Survey of Mt. Moriah and White Pine Range (completed)
  - Round 11: Central White Pine Sage Grouse Restoration Project (completed)
  - Round 15: Currant Ellison Landscape Restoration Project (appropriated funds \$300,000 FY 2015) (Completed)
  - Round 16: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Project (Ongoing)
  - Round 16: Ely District Weeds Treatment, Inventory and Monitoring Project (Ongoing)
- Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefitting entity.
- Treatment, inventory, and monitoring data collected during this project may be used by multiple agencies and landowners related to project restoration activities.
- Inventory and Monitoring data may be used for planning and mitigation during future restoration efforts.
- D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefitting entity.
- Treatment, inventory and monitoring data collected during this project may be used by multiple agencies and landowners related to project restoration activities.
  - Inventory and Monitoring data may be used for planning and mitigation during future restoration efforts.

# Maps

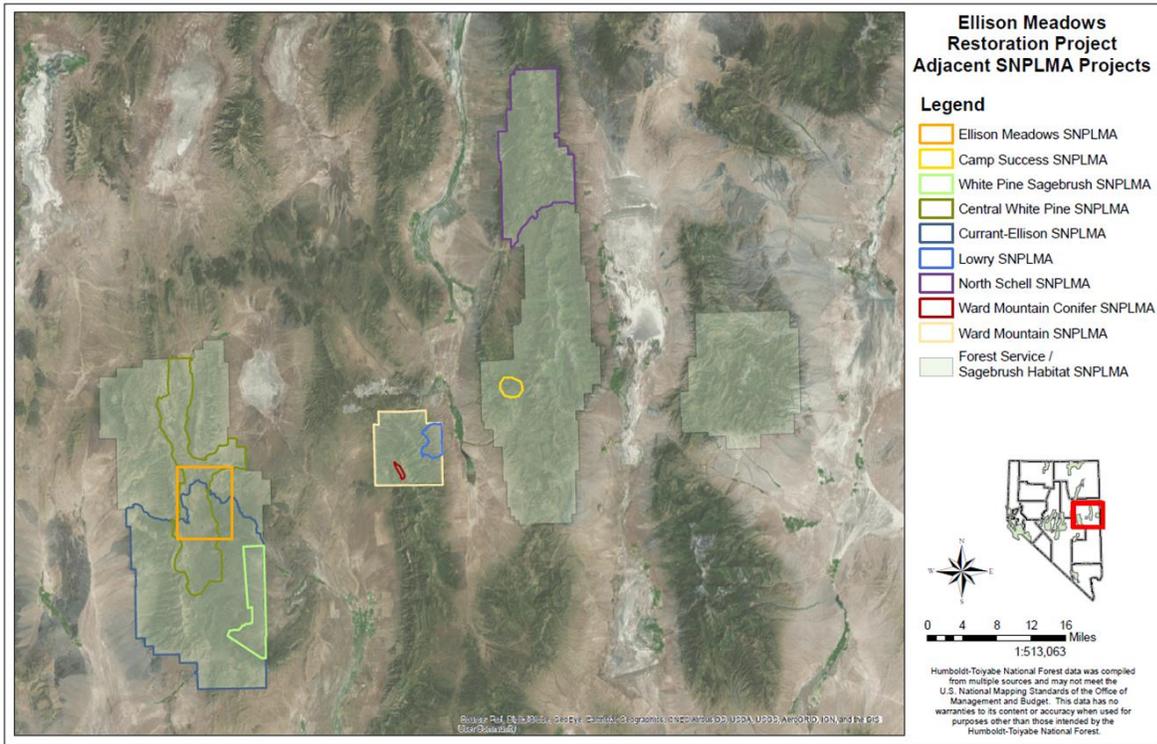


Figure 1 General Project area and Forest Land.

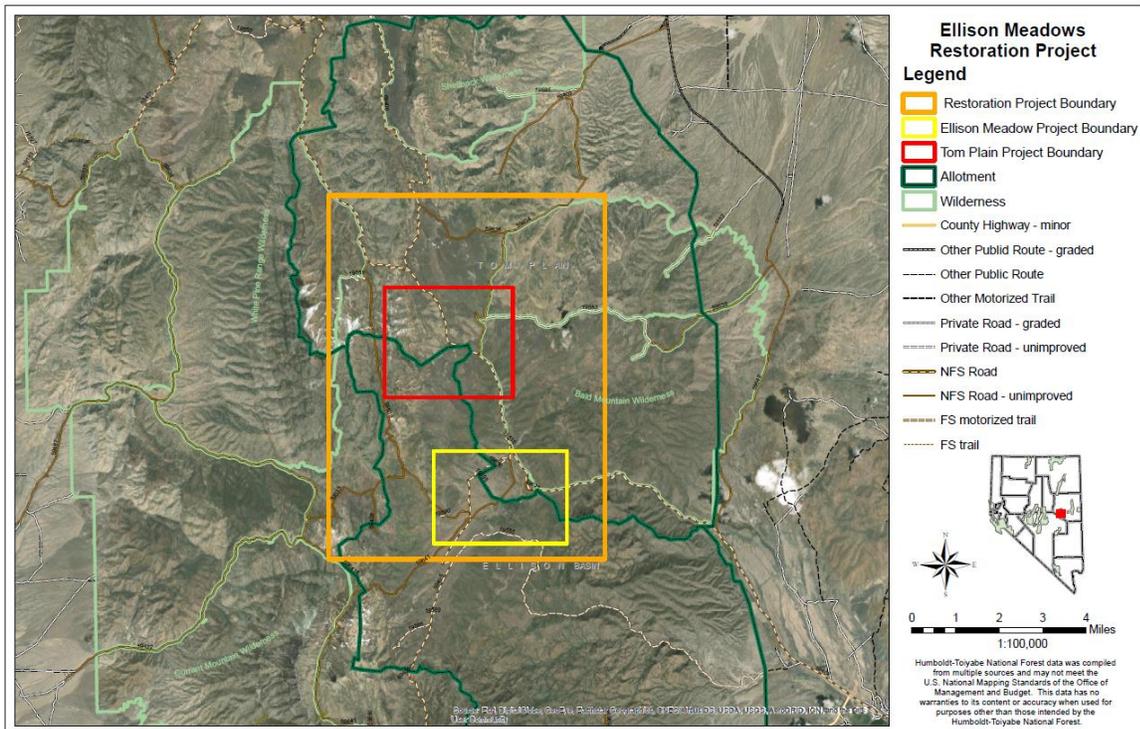


Figure 2 Restoration area.

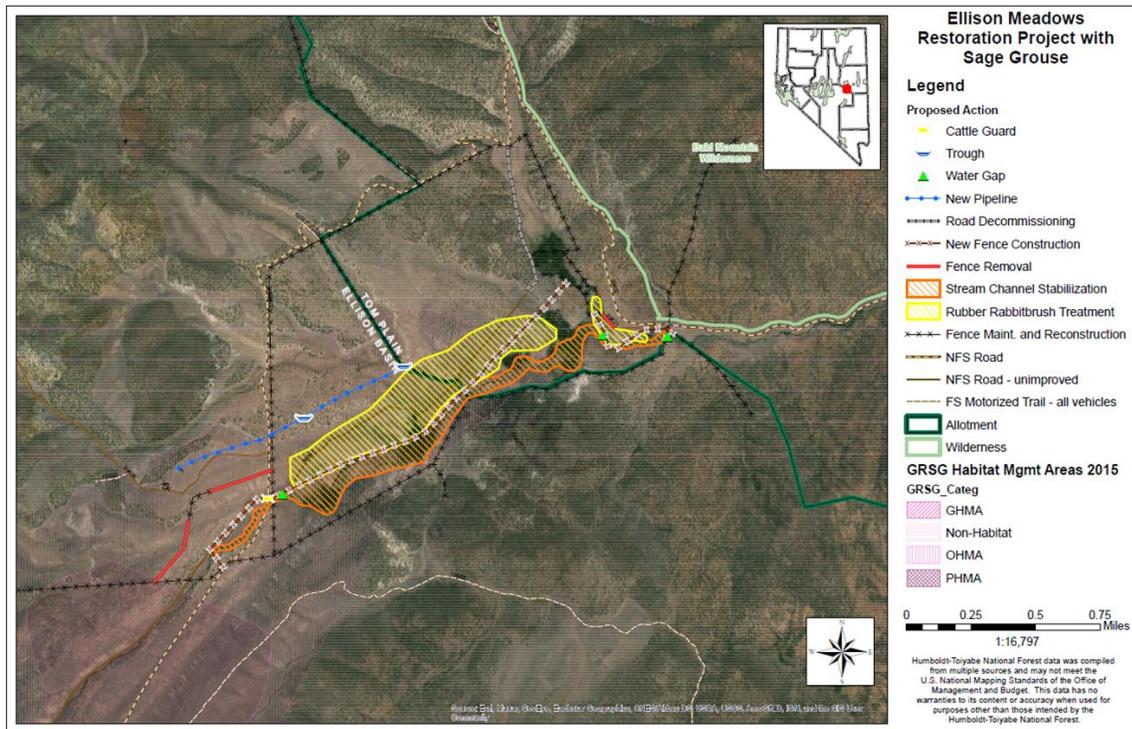


Figure 3 Sage-grouse habit in the Ellison basin project area.

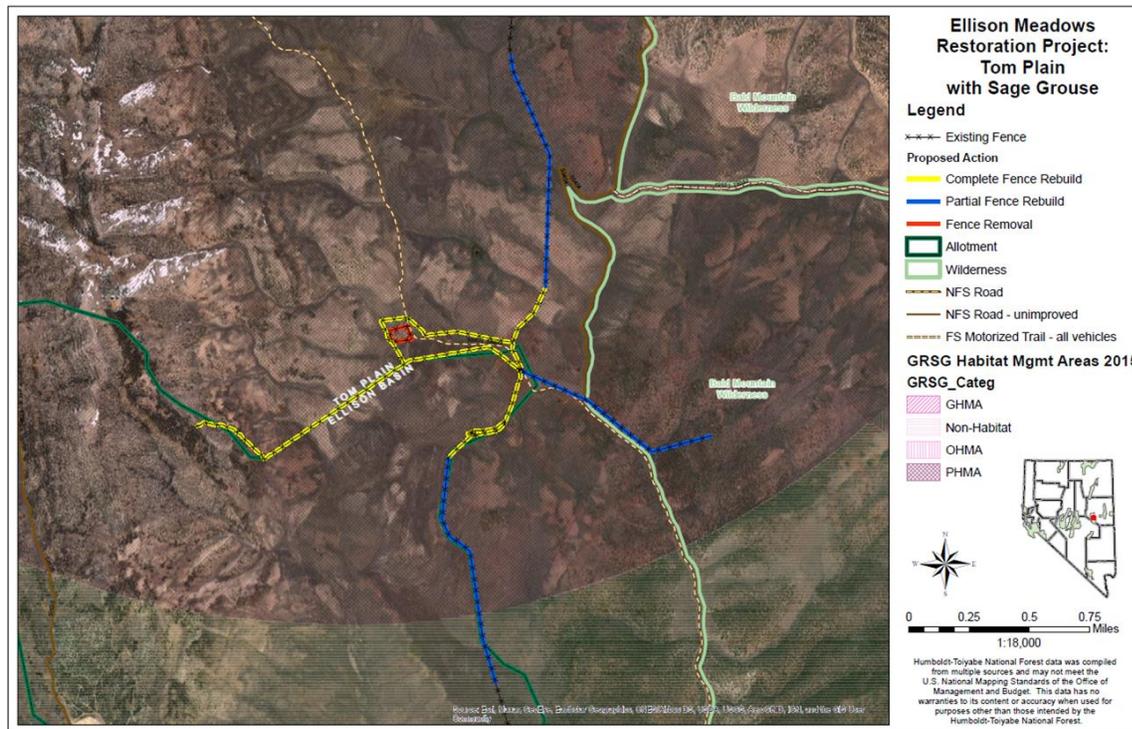


Figure 4

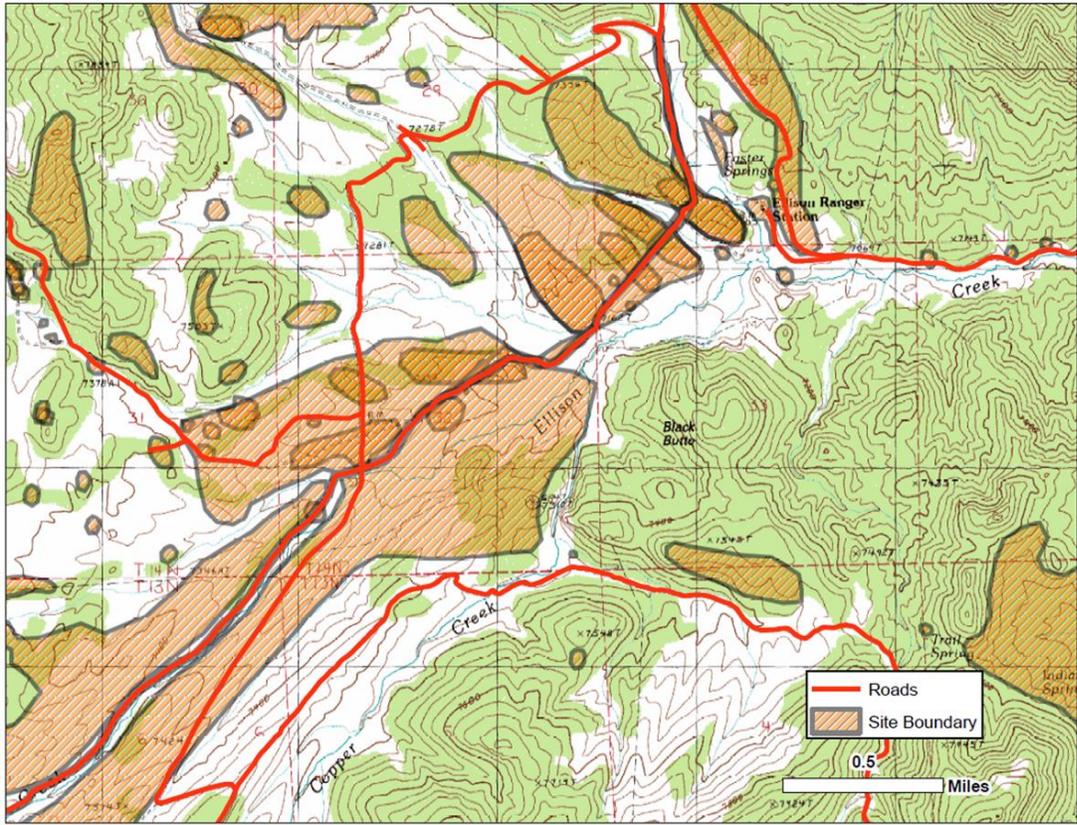


Figure 5

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## Photos



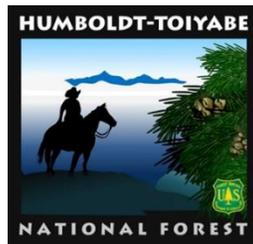
*Figure 6 Aerial view of the Ellison basin*

## Letters of Support:

None.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

United States Department of Agriculture  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Mountain City Ruby Mountains – Jarbridge Ranger District



**Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction  
Overland Phase II**

Amount Requested \$6,219,570

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project location: 40.032139° / -115.599472°

Project Manager: Kyra Walton  
Email address: [Kyra.Walton@usda.gov](mailto:Kyra.Walton@usda.gov)  
140 Pacific Avenue, P.O. Box 246  
Wells, Nevada 89835  
775-752-1799

### **Purpose Statement:**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Mountain City-Ruby Mountains Jarbridge Ranger (MCRMJ) District will complete 8,000 to 11,500 acres of large-scale restoration and fuels reduction project on the southern end of the Ruby Mountains in White Pine County, Nevada, to restore and improve sage-grouse and mule deer habitat while reducing fuels.

### **Background info to support the need:**

Road maintenance will also be required to achieve project implementation. The project area does not contain any wilderness areas. These treatments are being proposed in consultation and coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Forestry, Ely BLM, and the Mule Deer Foundation

This project is phase II and a continuation and expansion of the Overland Pass Phase I project which was funded in Round 15. Phase II is a standalone project and not dependent on Phase I. Phase I completed 3,000 acres of pinyon-juniper removal via hand thinning and mastication, 3,000 acres of cultural surveys, 20 miles of road maintenance, and 600 acres of noxious weed treatments. A portion of the project area burned in the 2019 Cherry Fire which complicated project implementation. The final portion of project implementation (SHPO concurrence and burning of 1500 acres of piles) will be completed by 2021. This Round 18 project will complete the Overland Pass Project and there will be no further phases proposed.

### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated phases**

This project is phase II and a continuation/expansion of the Overland Pass Phase I and will complete the Overland Pass Project. There will be no additional phases proposed.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary deliverables

1. Implement treatments on 8,000 and 11,500 acres of pinyon and juniper habitats.
2. Conduct archaeological surveys on 6,000 to 10,000 acres.
3. Inventory and treat between 8,000 and 14,500 acres for invasive weeds
4. Seeding on 8,000 to 14,500 acres.
5. Road maintenance on approximately 40 miles of Level II roads and motorized trails.
6. Install up to ten cattle guards.
7. Fence up to 10 acres around seeps/springs.
8. Prepare an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

#### Standard deliverables

- Complete Heritage Resource Surveys and SHPO reports.
- Complete scope of work for grants, contracts, or agreements.
- Project closeout

**Project Timeframe:**

The standard period of performance for ENLRP projects is 4-years.

**Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

The Overland Pass decision was signed in 2015. All NEPA is completed and Archeological clearances are being completed under a PA with SHPO.

**Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Did not address.

**Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

None.

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## Funding Summary:

ROUND 18			
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction - Overland Phase II	Date prepared:	8/5/2020
Project #		Agency:	U.S.D.A. Forest Service R4
Prepared by:	Kyra Walton	Priority #:	
Title/position:	Wildlife Biologist	Phone #:	775-752-1799
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		\$0	0.00%
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)			
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>		\$11,100	0.18%
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		\$509,900	8.20%
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.			
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		\$715,220	11.50%
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.			
<b>5 Travel</b>		\$122,000	1.96%
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below			
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		\$85,600	1.38%
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost			
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		\$0	0.00%
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.			
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		\$4,766,750	76.64%
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.			
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		\$9,000	0.14%
(See Appendix B-11)			
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$6,219,570</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		\$0	
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$6,219,570</b>	

## Performance Measures:

Output: Mechanically treat between 8,000 and 11,500 acres of encroaching pinyon and juniper. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored:
  - 8,000 and 11,500 acres
- Performance Measure C3 - Acres of Cultural/Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored:
  - 6,000 to 10,000 acres
- Performance Measure F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):
  - 8,000 and 11,500 acres
  -

Output: Treat between 8000 and 14,500 acres or more of noxious and invasive weeds within and adjacent to the treatment areas.

- Performance Measure H-9 – Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored
  - Between 8,000 and 14,500 acres of weed treatment and seeding.

Output: Complete an annual report to highlight project accomplishment.:

- Performance Measure O-11 – Number of Databases, Reports, and other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders:

SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

See Ranking Criteria #5:

Department of the Interior Priorities:

Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- This project restores important habitats for wildlife species, and improves the management of the Livestock Grazing Allotment.
- This project will complete these conservation and restoration objectives at a landscape scale and across multiple mountain ranges.

Priority #2: Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.

- This project will restore and improve the condition of the resources on public lands while improving the management of the livestock grazing allotments.

Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.

- The MCRMJ District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.
- We have been working with partners to design and plan this project.

Priority #4: Ensure Tribal Sovereignty means something.

- The MCRMJ Ranger District has and will continue coordinating this project with representatives from the Ely Shoshone and Duckwater Tribes and the South Fork Indian Reservation.

Priority #5: Increase Revenues o support the Department and national interests.

- Not Applicable

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

- Not Applicable

Priority #7: Strike a Regulatory Balance.

- Not Applicable

Priority #8: Modernize our infrastructure.

- Not Applicable

Priority #9: Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.

- Not Applicable

Priority #10: Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

- Not Applicable

#### U.S. Forest Service Priorities:

- a) Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.
  - Not Applicable
- b) Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.
  - The MCRMJ Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.
  - We have been working with partners to design and plan this project.
- c) Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.
  - The MCRMJ Ranger District has actively included the Nevada Department of Wildlife early in the development and planning of this and similar projects.
  - The MCRMJ Ranger District has developed unique partnerships with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation, Mule Deer Foundation, Nevada Division of Forestry and others to implement shared stewardship.
- d) Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.
  - This project will implement multiple restoration activities throughout the project area.
  - This project will restore and improve wildlife habitats, rangelands, and other resources.
- e) Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.
  - This Project will improve recreational opportunities by improving habitats for wildlife. This will improve opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting. Road improvements and cattle guards will make a significant improvement to public access and enjoyment of the area.

#### Executive Orders:

EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

- This project will improve the condition of rangelands and wildlife habitats at a landscape scale.
- This project will also reduce fuels and reduce wildfire risks through the treatment of

pinyon-juniper.

Secretarial Orders:

*SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage-grouse and elk.
- This project will improve wildlife habitats and improve opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing.

*SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, turkey, and sage-grouse which are important game species in this area.
- This project will improve wildlife habitats and ultimately improve opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing in the area.
- The MCRMJ Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.

*SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and turkey all of which are important game species in this area
- This project will improve winter, summer and transitional ranges for numerous big game species.

*SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior*

- Not Applicable.

*SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management*

- This project actively reduces fuels at a landscape scale within the project area.

*SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges*

- Not Applicable

*SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act*

- Not Applicable

*SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes*

- Not Applicable

## Ranking Criteria:

Criteria 1: Fuels Management: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.

- A. Project will conduct treatments to maintain healthy sagebrush rangelands, including preventative measures for annual grass invasion and conifer encroachment.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.
  - Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.
- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/ decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory and conifer encroachment.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.
  - Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.
- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper dominated landscapes within and adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.
  - Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.
- D. Project is to remove pinyon pine and juniper to decrease the fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian, and/or aspen stands.
  - E. Treatments under this proposal will decrease fire risk and severity in sagebrush habitats through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.

## 2. Habitat Recovery/Restoration

- A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area of Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat, riparian area, or aspen stand.
  - Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment in important habitats across the district.
- B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat, riparian area, or aspen stands.
  - NA
- C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat.
  - NA
- D. The project will create, maintain, or restore sagebrush landscape cover.
  - The project area contains significant sagebrush habitats that provide habitats for wildlife species such as sage grouse and mule deer. These treatments will help to maintain and restore these healthy sagebrush communities.

### **3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation**

- A. Project is located to strategically prevent fire spread or support suppression activities to minimize the loss of sagebrush rangelands. A strategically placed fuel break as an anchor point for suppression or fuels reduction activities to lesion potential fire intensity.
- Pinyon and juniper treatments will create additional fuel breaks across the district. A portion of the project area burned in the 2019 Cherry Fire and created a need for more weed inventory and treatment and road maintenance.
- B. Project will rehabilitate a previously burned area to prevent the establishment of invasive annual grasses.
- A portion of the project area burned in the 2019 Cherry Fire and weed treatment and seeding would occur there and throughout the project area on 8,000 to 14,500 acres.

### **4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information**

- A. Project will lead to needed/ improved scientific information on the design, implementation, and/or adaption of landscape-scale restoration treatments, including known gaps in land health or sagebrush data.
- Information and monitoring data gained following implementation of this project will supplement and contribute to the existing scientific knowledge regarding vegetation treatments on encroaching pinyon and juniper landscapes. The data collected will be available to state and local landowners as well as other federal land management agencies.
  - The project will incorporate results from documented treatments in the project area and assess for effectiveness at different locations across the landscape. The assessments will take place when possible based on individual restoration site size, comparisons between sites, and incorporate replicates of different methods.
  - The project area is part of the long-running SageStep study with Utah State University and the Rocky Mountain Research Station. There are three fenced areas and numerous monitoring stations on the West side of the project area.

### **5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability.**

- A. The project involves non-governmental groups, volunteers, or organizations in the development and accomplishment of resource management goals, education, outreach, and other activities. The project has identified committed non-SNPLMA resources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation.
- The planning of this project has involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Forestry, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Mule Deer Foundation.
- B. Community: In addition to the direct benefit to the nominating entity, actively involves and addresses the needs of at least one additional governmental agency, community or private land manager.
- The Nevada Department of Wildlife and Nevada Division of Forestry has been involved in the planning for this project. This project will meet the needs and objectives of the state.
  - Portions of this project will improve management of the livestock grazing allotments and will meet the needs of the grazing permittees.

- C. Connectivity: Completed, current/ongoing, or future restoration projects, of any funding source and jurisdiction (including private lands), where the physical project boundaries connect and/or habitat connectivity is enhanced.

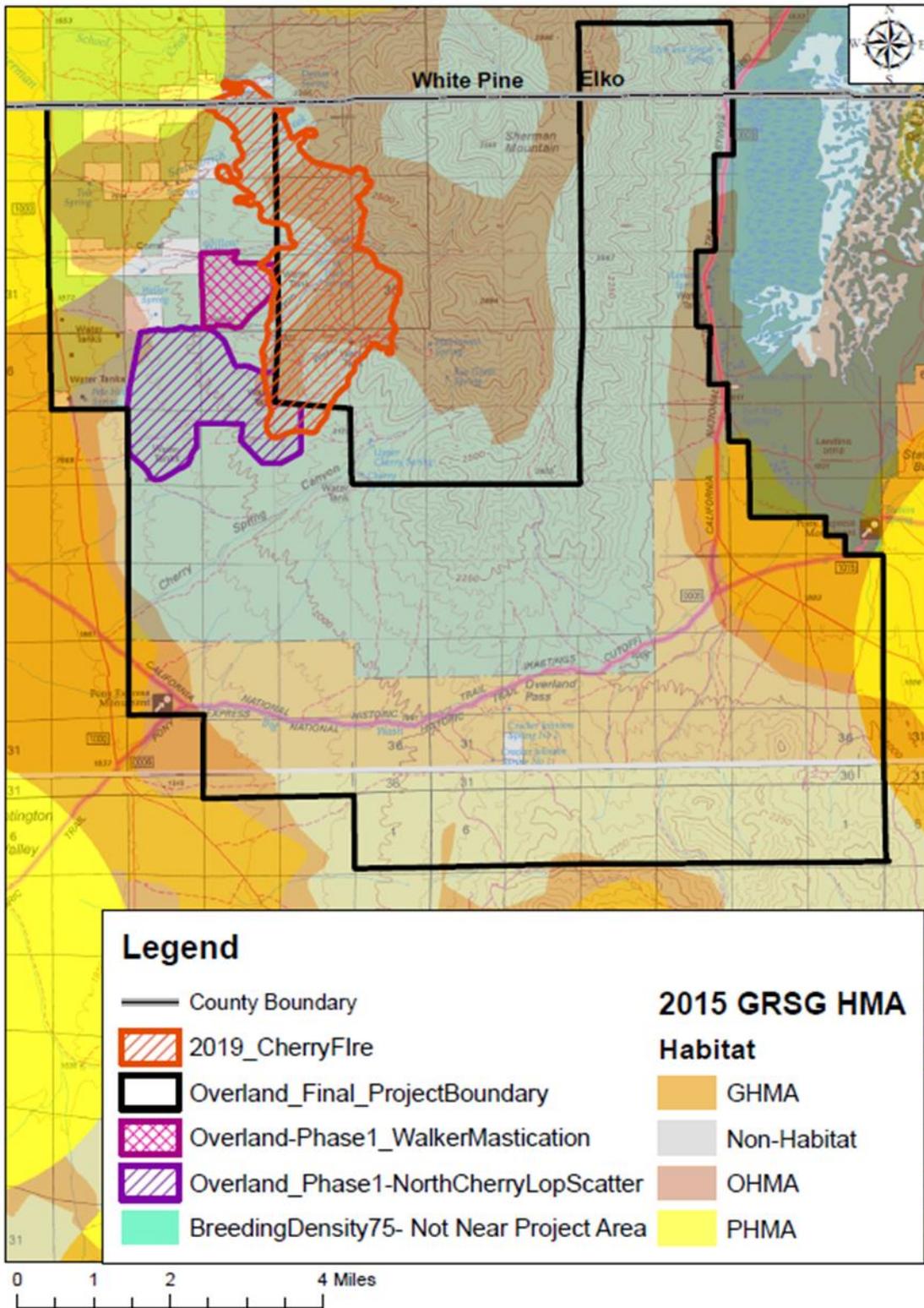
Completed SNPLMA projects that occurred across the project area include:

- Round 15: Overland Pass Phase 1, will be completed in 2021.
- D. Sustainability: Project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefitting entity.
- Treatment, inventory and monitoring data collected during this project may be used by multiple agencies and landowners related to project restoration activities.

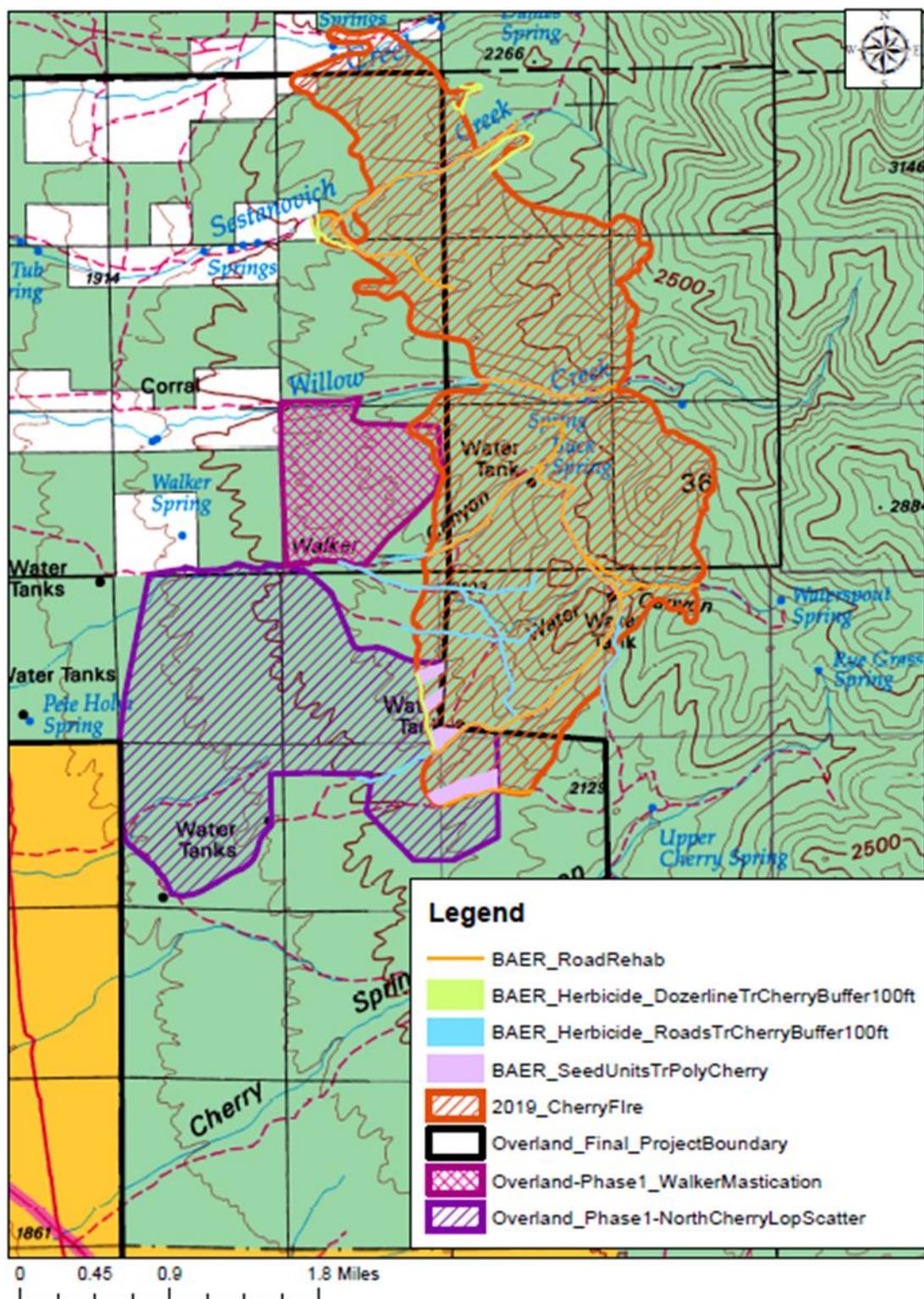
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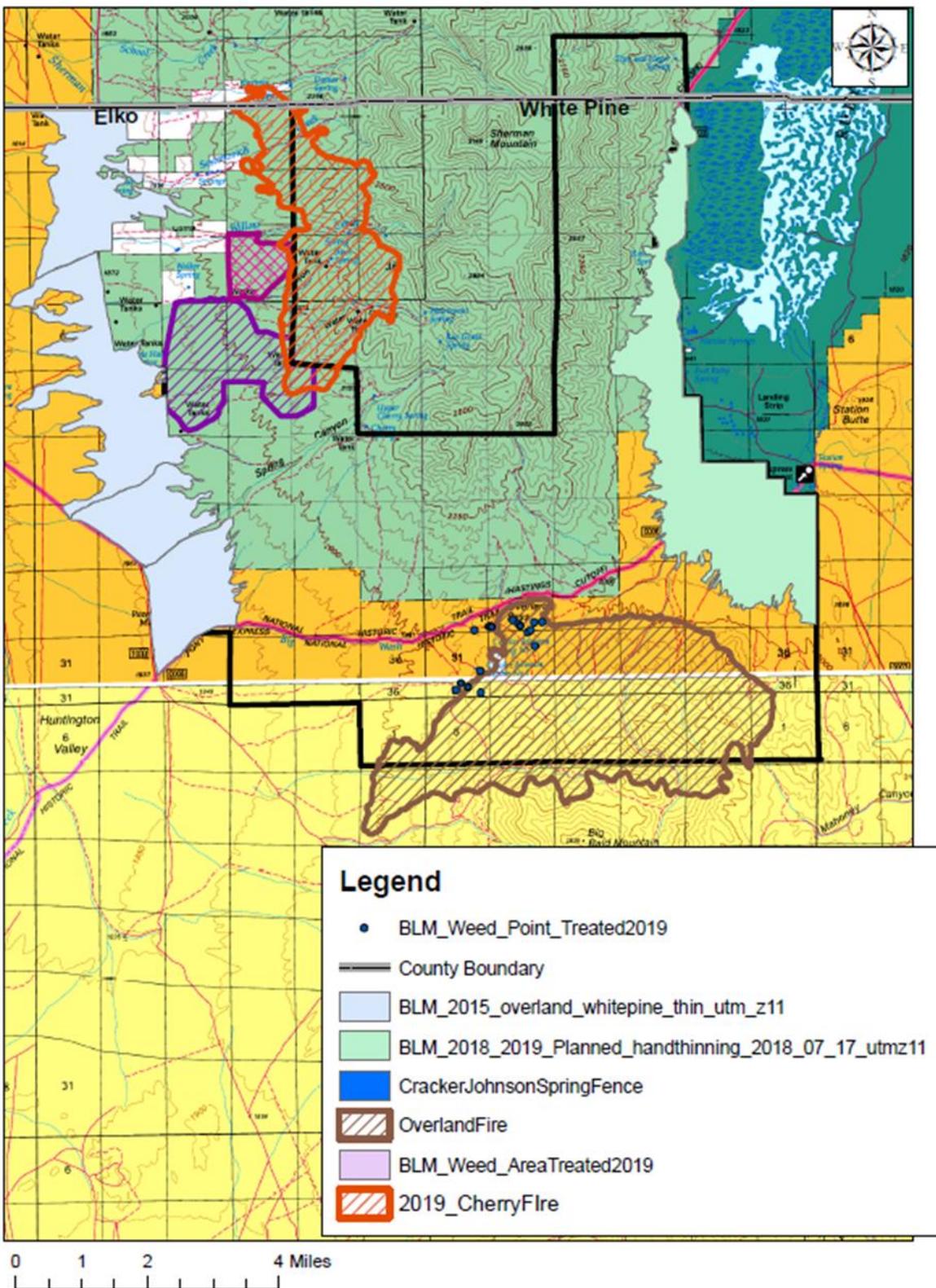
## Overland Project Area and Sage-grouse Habitat



## Overland Phase 1 and 2019 Cherry Fire



# BLM Completed Thinning and Weed Treatment



**Photos:**

None

**Letters of Support:**

1. Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office
2. Mule Deer Foundation
3. National Wild Turkey Federation



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Ely District Office  
 702 North Industrial Way  
 Ely, Nevada 89301  
<https://www.blm.gov/nevada>

In Reply Refer To:

Kyra Walton  
 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
 Ruby Mountains Ranger District  
 PO Box 246  
 Wells, Nevada 89835

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Proposal for Overland Pass Project Implementation

Dear Ms. Walton:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely District, would like to extend support for your Round 18 SNPLMA nomination for continuation of the Overland Pass Project. The Overland Pass Project has been a great collaborative project among the Ruby Mountains Ranger District and BLM Ely District. The vegetation treatments completed to date, in addition to those planned for future implementation, will help meet vegetation and habitat for the South Ruby Mountains area.

The Overland Pass Project has been a successful collaborative project among several agencies and partners, and your proposal will move this project closer to completion. The work conducted on Forest Service administered land will coincide with work we are planning to implement in the Overland Pass Project area over the next two years. The work is essential to meet habitat and vegetative goals of this cooperative project.

Working together on the Overland Pass Project from inception has proven a great success, and we look forward to continuing through successful completion together.

Sincerely,

ROBBIE  
 MCABOY  
 Robbie J. McAboy  
 District Manager

Digitally signed by  
 ROBBIE MCABOY  
 Date: 2020.09.08  
 10:06:49 -07'00'



*The Mission of the Mule Deer Foundation is  
to ensure the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer  
and their habitat.*

September 4, 2020

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
140 Pacific Avenue, PO Box 246  
Wells, NV 89835

The Mule Deer Foundation supports the proposed Overland project on the southern end of the Ruby Mountains and within the Humboldt-Toiyabe (H-T) National Forest. We applaud the H-TNF's efforts to consider large landscape restoration efforts at this scale. This project for 11,000 acres of Pinyon-Juniper removal and sagebrush & bitterbrush restoration will effectively reduce hazardous fuels and potential catastrophic wildfires while also providing for enhanced forest health and wildlife habitat.

It is highly recommended for these large landscape scale restoration projects that consideration be given to utilize the stewardship authority through the tool of a stewardship agreement. These projects are very expensive and no one agency, organization or goods/products produced from the project can sufficiently provide the required funding needed for the service work items. Utilizing a variety of diverse methods and collaboration efforts through stewardship agreements is the key to maximizing all traditional and non-traditional funding sources.

The Overland project is of high priority and focus for the Mule Deer Foundation and its Nevada chapters and volunteers. This proposed project area is of great interest to the Mule Deer Foundation and will increase the emphasis for management of these habitats. The overall project area is highly valued and utilized by hunters and other recreationists and general residents of Nevada. Once this project proposal is approved, the Mule Deer Foundation will assist in providing the resources needed for moving this project toward implementation and acquiring the support and funding needed to make this project successful.

Stan Baker

Habitat Stewardship Coordinator  
Mule Deer Foundation



August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To: Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Nominations Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the National Wild Turkey Federation, write this letter of support for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's application for the Overland Pass Habitat Improvement Project on the Ruby Mountains Ranger District in White Pine and Elko Counties, Nevada. It is our hope that the SNPLMA Nominations Committee will review and choose to fund this application for the 2020 round of funding.

The National Wild Turkey Federation is currently in year eight of a ten year initiative labeled *Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt*. One goal of that initiative is to conserve/enhance over 4 million acres of upland wildlife habitat. In Nevada, a large portion of those conservation efforts have occurred in partnership with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in areas surrounding and within the Overland Pass Project Area. In 2015, the Nevada State Chapter of the NWTf purchased chainsaws and equipment for hand crews that directly resulted in the implementation of over 3,000 acres of pinyon-juniper removal within the project area. This work not only benefitted ground-nesting birds within the project area (such as wild turkeys, sage grouse, quail, etc.), but also benefits the state of Nevada's largest migratory mule deer herd by enhancing habitat within the herds' critical wintering range.

The on-the-ground results of the Overland Pass Habitat Improvement Project will (a) enhance habitat for ground nesting birds, (b) improve a degraded sagebrush-steppe system, and (c) increase habitat connectivity throughout the Ruby Mountains mule deer herd migration route.

Thank you kindly for your consideration. If I can provide additional information to encourage the consideration of their request, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Kevin Vella  
Pacific Coast District Biologist  
National Wild Turkey Federation

---

National Wild Turkey Federation

P.O. Box 530 • 770 Augusta Road • Edgefield, South Carolina 29824 • Phone: (803) 637-3106 • Fax: (803) 637-0034

[www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)

**SNPLMA Round 18**  
**ENLRP– Bureau of Land Management Addendum**

**Nomination:** Tab 5

**Entity:** Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office

**Project:** Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement

**Revision:** Overall budget request was reduced from \$1,732,800 to \$1,594,820 due to adjusted labor expenses and vehicle rate as well as the inflation rate for contracts/agreements was reduced from 25% to 15%.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management  
Ely District Office



**Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement**

Amount Requested: \$1,594,820

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project location: 38.3266667° / -114.483611°

Project Manager: Kyle Teel  
Email address: [kteel@blm.gov](mailto:kteel@blm.gov)  
BLM, Caliente Field Office  
1400 S. Front Street, P.O. Box 237  
Caliente, Nevada 89008  
775-234-7564

**Purpose Statement:**

The Ely District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will implement vegetation treatment on 10,000 to 14,000 acres of previously treated areas in Lake Valley and Cave Valley Watersheds to remove resprouting trees and trees remaining from the original treatment to ensure the original investment into the habitat treatments are sustained.

**Background info to support the need:**

This project implements maintenance on approximately 10,000 to 14,000 acres of existing habitat improvement projects within the Lake Valley and Cave Valley Watersheds. Habitat improvement projects have been implemented over the last several years through previous Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Projects (B012, B014, and B016) and regular BLM program funds (fuels and wildlife). Treatment methods utilized during the original habitat improvement project did not remove all the pinyon pine and juniper trees, thus resulting in younger trees (Phase 1) being left within the project area. This project will remove the remaining trees and extend the longevity of these areas to provide habitat within the sagebrush communities for GRSG and sage obligate species.

The project is within the Southern Great Basin Priority Area for Conservation (PAC) and will improve GRSG habitat by increasing health and vigor of herbaceous understory, reduce conifer expansion, and reduce the threat of wildland fire to GRSG Priority, General and Other Habitat Management Areas within and adjacent to the proposed project. Connectivity between will be achieved between completed and planned GRSG habitat improvement projects and adjacent Priority and General Habitat Management Areas on Table Mountain, active leks, and restore sagebrush ecological communities. Connecting seasonal habitats, habitat management areas, and leks is essential for GRSG to meet their life stage requirements, decrease predation, and increase the habitat quality for GRSG. The project would also maintain areas with a rating of Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1 and reduce areas in FRCC 2 to FRCC 1 within the sagebrush vegetation community. It will also provide a fuel break as both an anchor point for fire suppression and reduce the threat of wildfire moving into the sagebrush community in Lake Valley and Cave Valley. FRCC is an interagency, standardized tool for determining the degree of departure from a reference vegetation condition. There are three FRCC classes' low (1), moderate (2), and high (3) indicating departure from the central tendency of the natural (historical) regime. FRCC 1 is a low departure considered to be within the natural (historical) range of variability, while FRCC 2 is a moderate risk of losing key ecosystem components, and FRCC 3 is a high risk of losing key ecosystem components.

This project promotes improving the quality of life for humans, protecting the integrity of biological communities and cultural sites, and improves habitat for wildlife. The project extends the longevity of previously treated areas substantially improving resilience to wildfire and recovery after wildfire. This improves community relationships by demonstrating a commitment to those closest to our resources, a willingness to implement actions that improve habitat, and expanding the lines of communication with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Lincoln County Conservation District, local residents, hunters, and ranchers. It also reduces public safety risks on public lands in those areas at risk due to wildfire.

### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:**

This proposal is not part of a previous phase. However, it does implement maintenance treatments on previously funded SNPLMA projects as well as other treatments in this location. No future phases are anticipated.

Habitat improvement projects have been implemented over the last several years through previous Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Projects (B012, B014, and B016) and regular BLM program funds. This project will enhance the success of the prior projects.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary deliverables

1. Reduce pinyon/juniper expansion on approximately 10,000 – 12,000 acres resulting in the maintenance of areas in FRCC 1 and the reduction of areas in FRCC 2 to FRCC 1 within the sagebrush vegetation community.

#### Anticipated deliverables

1. Reduce pinyon/juniper expansion on an additional 2,000 acres resulting in the maintenance of areas in FRCC 1 and the reduction of areas in FRCC 2 to FRCC 1 within the sagebrush vegetation community.

#### Standard deliverables

- Vegetation monitoring reports
- Contract preparation and contract management
- Outreach to affected public and partners
- Measurement of acres treated

### **Project Timeframe:**

Once funding is approved this project would take up to four years to complete. The standard period of performance for ENLRP projects is 4 years, including closeout.

#### Year 1

- Pretreatment monitoring
- Issue Tree Removal Contract

#### Year 2

- Pretreatment monitoring
- Post Treatment Monitoring
- Issue Tree Removal Contract

#### Year 3

- Pretreatment monitoring
- Post Treatment Monitoring
- Issue Tree Removal Contract

Year 4

- Pretreatment monitoring
- Post Treatment Monitoring
- Issue Tree Removal Contract
- Project closeout

**Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

Project implementation can begin once funding is available. NEPA was completed in the Cave and Lake Valley Watershed Restoration Plan (2012).

**Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Did not address

**Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

None

*Remainder of page blank*

## Funding Summary:

ROUND 18		
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project		
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES		
Project Name:	Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement	Date prepared: 8/10/2020
Project #		Agency: BLM
Prepared by:	Kyle Teel	Priority #:
Title/position:	Fire Ecologist	Phone #: (775)726-8117
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		
		\$0 0.00%
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>		
		\$41,360 2.59%
0		
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		
		\$218,240 13.68%
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		
		\$0 0.00%
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
<b>5 Travel</b>		
		\$1,500 0.09%
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		
		\$27,820 1.74%
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		
		\$1,500 0.09%
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		
		\$1,242,000 77.88%
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.		
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		
		\$62,400 3.91%
(See Appendix B-11)		
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$1,594,820 100.00%</b>
10 Estimated agency or partner contribution		
		\$0
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$1,594,820</b>

## Performance Measures:

The proposed project will treat, maintain, enhance, and restore 10,000 – 14,000 acres of upland sagebrush communities within the proposed project areas. The goals of the project are to maintain and improve habitat and vegetative conditions and reduce fuel loading. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- H4 – Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored
  - 10,000 – 14,000 acres treated, enhanced or restored
- H5 – Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
  - Pre and Post monitoring would be completed to represent all acres that have been treated. Actual number of acres monitored would vary depending on all acres treated, but monitoring would be completed to represent 10,000 – 14,000 acres.
- H15 – Number of Conservation Actions Implemented for Non-Listed Species
  - The proposed project would implement conservation actions in the form of habitat improvements benefiting multiple wildlife species within the project area. Wildlife species would benefit in the long term from the increased resiliency and resistance of the vegetative communities to disturbance. The improvement of habitat within the project area through the removal of conifers and the increase in the herbaceous understory would benefit multiple species including elk, mule deer, antelope, migratory birds, and GRSG. A minimum of three conservation actions would be implemented (elk, mule deer, and sage-grouse).
- F1 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
  - The proposed project would maintain and reduce hazardous fuels within a non-wildland urban interface area. The proposal would treat 10,000 – 14,000 acres maintaining and reducing hazardous fuels build up and the potential of wildland fire that burns outside the historical fire regime and potentially leading to a loss of key ecosystem components.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders:

### SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

See Ranking Criteria #5

### Department of the Interior Priorities:

#### Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

The project will meet this priority by identifying and implementing vegetation restoration on public lands that will utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment; foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands; and expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing

#### Priority #2: Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.

#### Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.

This project meets this priority by being a better neighbor with those closest to our resources through improved dialogue and relationships with persons bordering our lands, specifically residents in the Atlanta area; and by expanding the lines of communication with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Lincoln County Conservation District, local residents and ranchers.

Priority #4: *Ensure Tribal Sovereignty means something.*

NA

Priority #5: *Increase Revenues o support the Department and national interests.*

NA

Priority #6: *Protect our people and the border.*

By being a better neighbor with those closest to our resources through improved dialogue and relationships with persons bordering our lands, specifically residents in the Atlanta area; and by expanding the lines of communication with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Lincoln County Conservation District, local residents and ranchers.

Priority #7: *Strike a Regulatory Balance.*

NA

Priority #8: *Modernize our infrastructure.*

NA

Priority #9: *Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.*

NA

Priority #10: *Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.*

NA

#### Executive Order

No. 13855 *Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

This project would continue to improve, maintain, enhance, and reduce the threat of wildland fire by reducing fuel loads and continuity. This project would continue to improve, maintain, enhance and reduce the threat of wildland fire by reducing fuel loads and continuity.

#### Secretarial orders:

SO No. 3347: *Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

This project would maintain and improve the management of game species (elk, deer, and antelope) and their habitat.

SO No. 3356: *Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

This project would maintain and improve the management of game species (elk, deer, and antelope) and their habitats for this generation and beyond.

SO No. 3362: *Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

This project would maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat for elk, deer, and antelope

SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior

NA

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

This project would enhance the BLM's ability to better protect people, communities, wildlife habitat, and watersheds by actively managing lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through the maintenance and reduction of fuels and fuel continuity.

### Ranking Criteria:

Criteria 1: Fuels Management: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.

The proposed project would maintain previously treated areas through the removal of young pinyon/juniper tree encroachment within the sagebrush vegetative communities. Maintenance of these areas would extend the longevity of these areas to provide habitat within the sagebrush communities for GRSG and sagebrush obligate species. This would reduce fire potential by changing structure that causes large-scale crown fires. Fires would be slowed and their intensity reduced within the treated areas.

Criteria 2. Habitat Recovery/Restoration

This project would continue to maintain and improve GRSG habitat within the Ely District and Lincoln County through the connection of important seasonal GRSG habitats between several active leks, improve sagebrush communities by reducing pinyon/juniper expansion and increase connectivity for GRSG populations within the Southern Great Basin PAC. It will also restore Priority and General Habitat Management Areas to reference conditions. Several treatment projects have been completed in Northeastern Lincoln County, maintenance of these treatments would extend treatment benefits for decades.

Criteria 3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation

This project would continue to maintain and improve GRSG habitat within the Ely District and Lincoln County through the connection of important seasonal GRSG habitats between several active leks, improve sagebrush communities by reducing pinyon/juniper expansion and increase connectivity for GRSG populations within the Southern Great Basin PAC. It will also restore Priority and General Habitat Management Areas to reference conditions. Several treatment projects have been completed in Northeastern Lincoln County, maintenance of these treatments would extend treatment benefits for decades

Criteria 4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information

There is not a research component built into this project. However, pre and post

treatment monitoring would provide valuable data that will assist with habitat assessment on how to treat and restore landscapes

Criteria 5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability

Implementation of this project has involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) who has contributed funding to complete some of the past treatments. The project will continue to connect GRSG populations with their breeding/nesting grounds and brood-rearing summer grounds. Past projects connect with this project and provide the mosaic of habitat needed for thriving wildlife populations. Some pre-treatment Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) data has been completed within the project area, and BLM's AIM process will continue with this project.

Criteria 6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS - The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

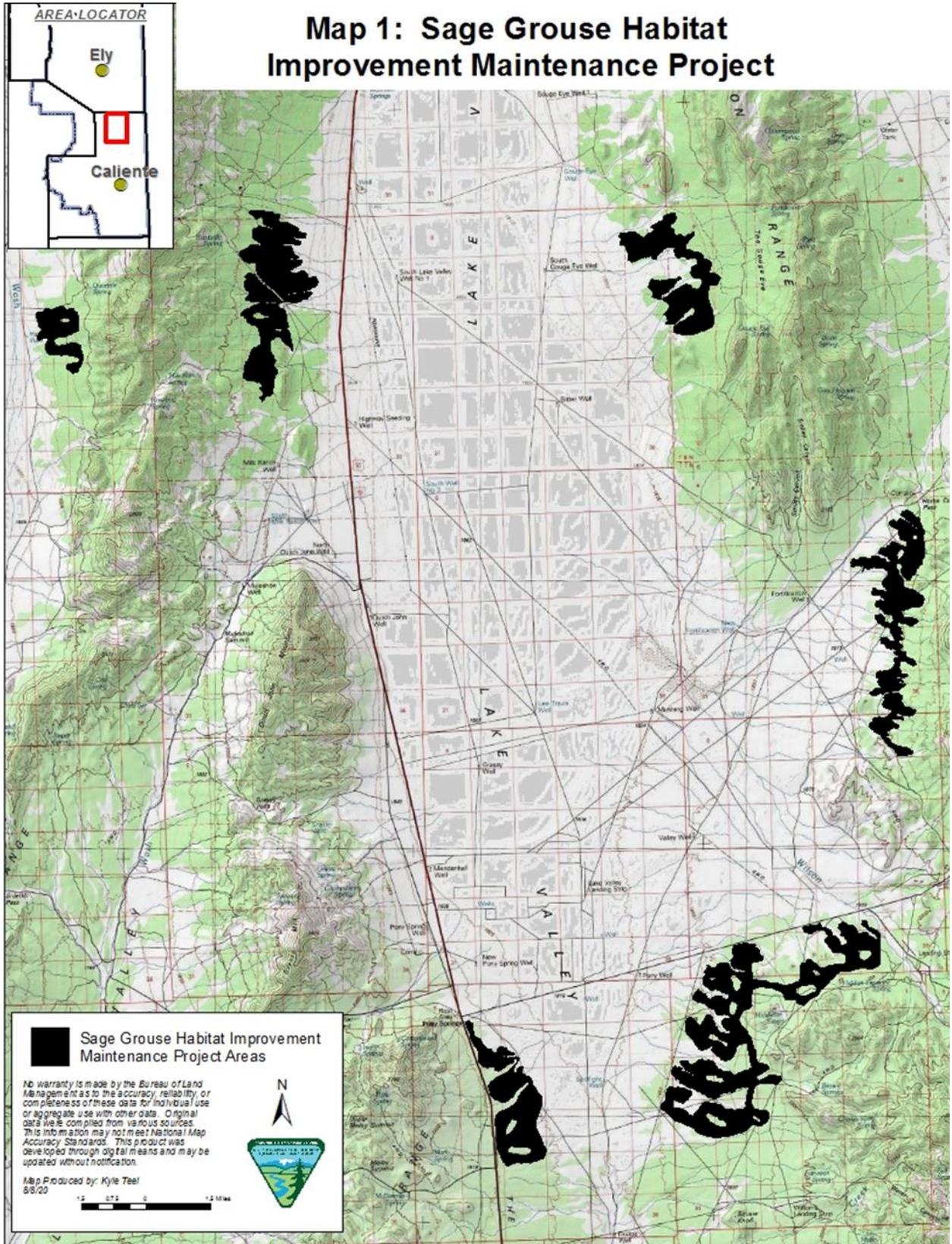
YES. See Agency priorities above.

Criteria 7 CONSISTENCY WITH EXECUTIVE (EO) AND SECRETARIAL ORDERS – The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination meets the Eos and SOs.

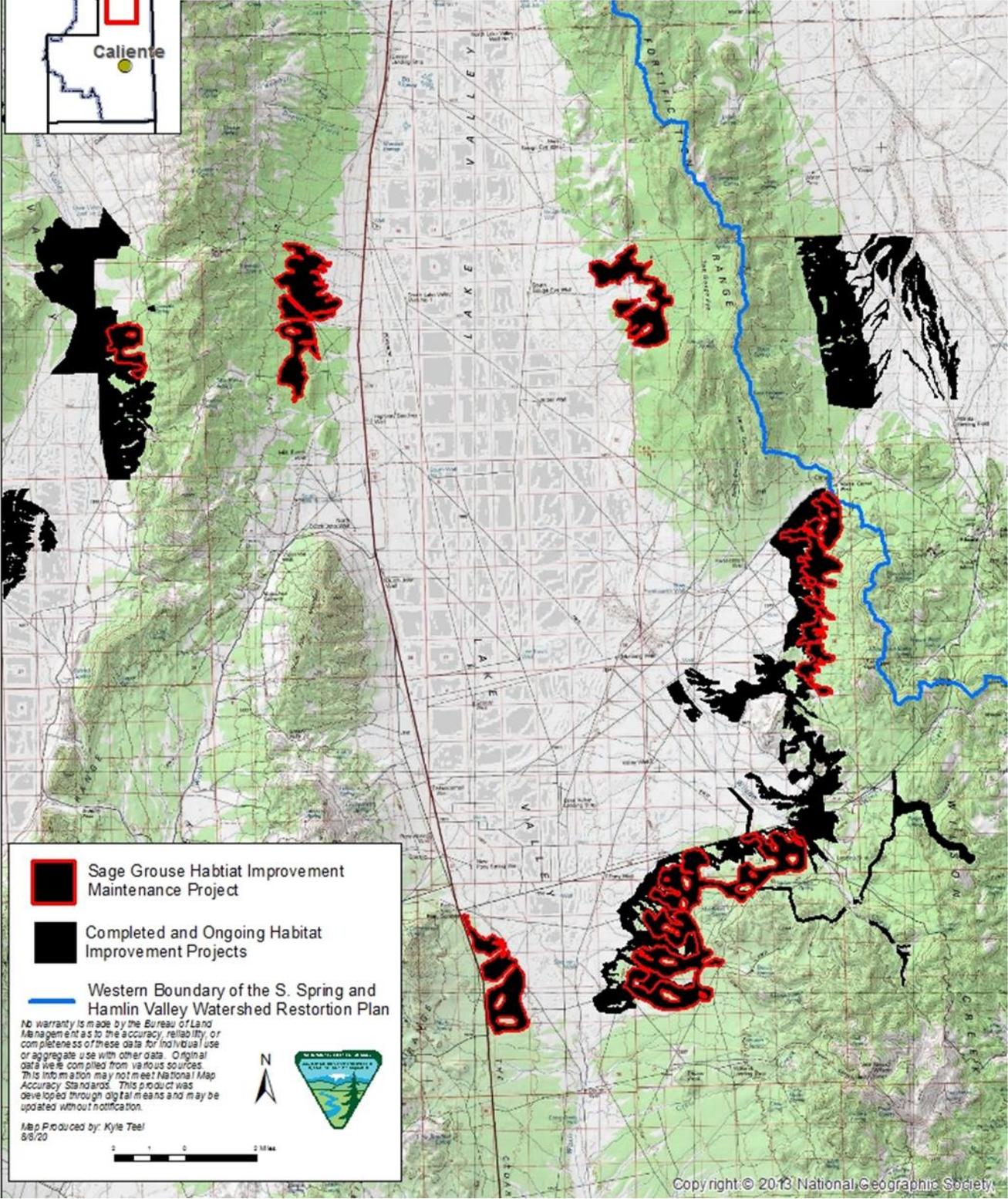
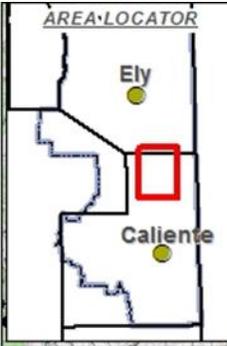
YES. See Departmental and Secretarial Orders.

Maps:

### Map 1: Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project



# Map 2: Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project in Relationship to Completed and Ongoing Projects



 Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project

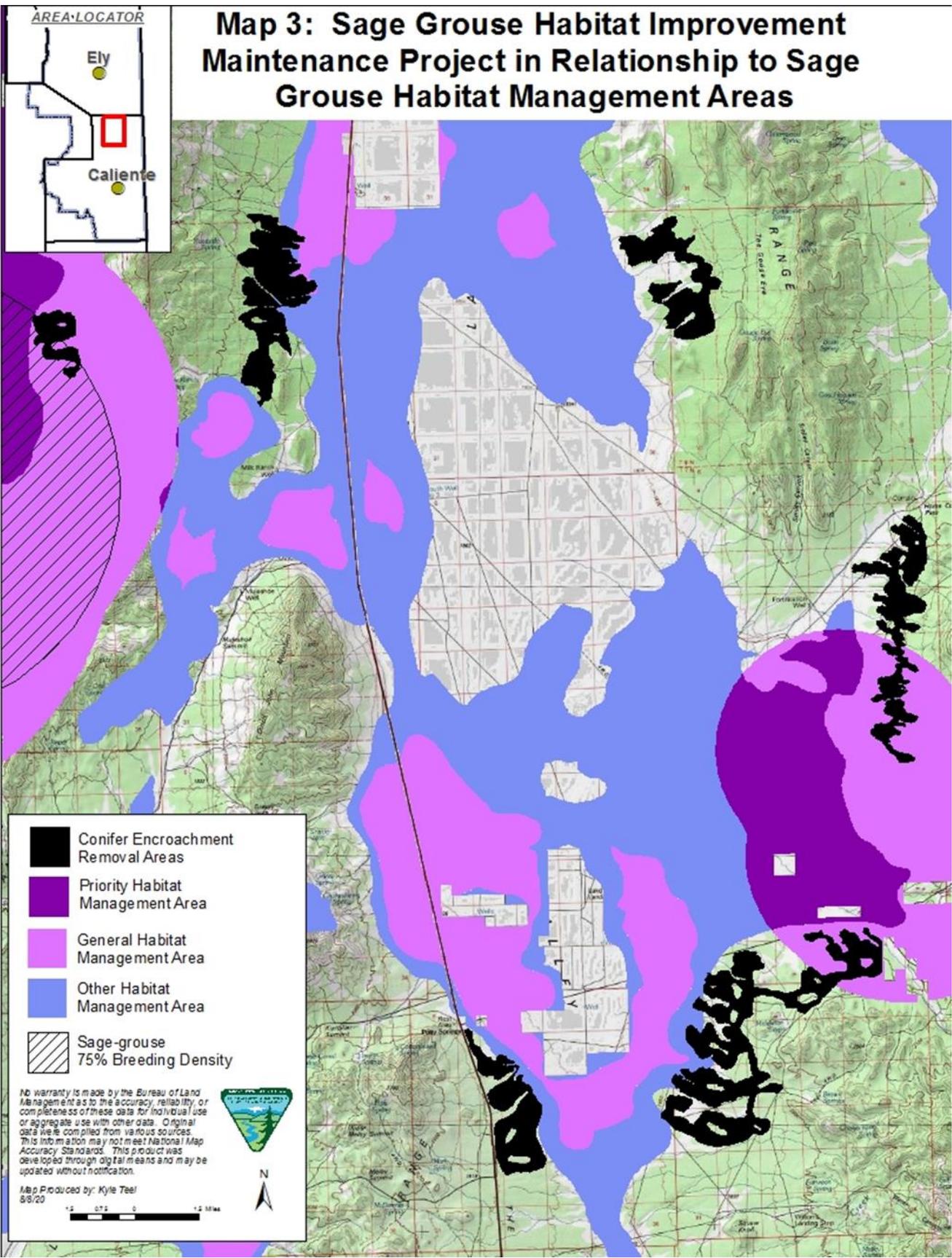
 Completed and Ongoing Habitat Improvement Projects

 Western Boundary of the S. Spring and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map Produced by: Kyle Teel  
8/8/20





**Photos:**

None.

**Letters of Support:**

1. Lincoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
2. Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
3. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife



**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**ADVISORY BOARD to MANAGE WILDLIFE**  
*P.O. Box 329, Pioche, NV 89043*

*Dave Bradford  
Jim Cole  
John Tibbets  
George Rowe  
Cory Lytle*



September 8, 2020

Robert Taylor  
SNPLMA ENLRP  
BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
4701 Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

**RE: Support for Round 18 ENLRP- Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project**

Mr. Taylor and Committee Members,

The Lincoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would like to express its full support for the following Round 18 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project. This project would aid in improving and maintaining habitat for sage grouse within Lincoln County. These types of projects are critical in terms of realizing the continued benefits to habitat improvement.

Additionally, the benefits of this type of project extend well beyond that of sage grouse and in fact significantly impact many plant and animal species in many positive ways.

We fully support this project and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
  
Cory Lytle  
Chair

**MEADOW VALLEY WILDLIFE UNLIMITED**

PO Box 112 Caliente, NV 89008  
A Nevada non-profit corporation

September 8, 2020

BLM – Ely District  
Atten: Kyle Teel  
P.O. Box 237  
Caliente, NV 89008



Dear Mr. Teel,

Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited would like to extend its support for the following Round 18 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project. This project would aid in improving and maintaining habitat for sage-grouse within Lincoln County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Rowe".

Robert Rowe  
Vice President, MVWU



STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**  
6680 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1585

TONY WASLEY  
Director  
LIZ O'BRIEN  
Deputy Director  
JACK ROBB  
Deputy Director

September 8, 2020



Kyle Teel  
Fire Ecologist  
Bureau of Land Management- Ely District

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 -Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project

Dear Mr. Teel,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would like to extend our support for the following Round 18 proposal: Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Maintenance Project.

NDOW has partnered with BLM for several of the projects that proposed to receive maintenance under this proposal, thru both implementation and monitoring. NDOW believes that maintenance of these habitat restoration projects for sage grouse as well as myriad of other sagebrush obligate wildlife is an extremely worthwhile endeavor as it protects the initial investment made on these acres and allows for the habitat to remain as functional sagebrush steppe.

As such NDOW would like to extend our support to the Ely BLM in their efforts to improve and maintain wildlife habitat and we are happy to coordinate with you or provide any assistance we that can.

Sincerely,

Moira Kolada, Habitat Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1218 N. Alpha St.  
Ely, NV 89301

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management  
Ely District Office



**Vegetation Assessment – BLM Wilderness Areas**

Amount Requested: \$3,466,990

Congressional District NV4  
Timeframe: 6 years  
Project location: 39.75000° / -114.217000

Project Manager: Cody Combs  
Email address: [ccombs@blm.gov](mailto:ccombs@blm.gov)  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
775-289-1854

## **Purpose Statement**

The Ely District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will complete an assessment, planning and environmental analysis of twenty-two Wilderness Areas (1+ million acres) and implement 500 acres of treatment within the Ely District in White Pine and Lincoln Counties to determine current vegetative departure from natural conditions including the historic fire regime, the risk of losing key ecosystem components and function due to reduced resilience.

## **Background info to support the need:**

The Ely District has seen a notable increase in fire occurrence over several wilderness areas that do not reflect a resilient vegetation community and needs this assessment information and analysis to find a sustainable path forward in wilderness vegetation management. Vegetation in wilderness areas is typically managed by a hands-off approach and allowing natural disturbances to occur. However, large catastrophic fires have changed the vegetation component to be dominated by invasive species. Other wilderness areas include dense forest or woodland areas that could result in large-scale destructive wildfires.

Historical disturbances in some vegetative communities maintained them in a mosaic of seral states across the landscape, or fire was relatively absent (e.g., Mojave areas). Fire management, over the past 100 years reduced natural fire disturbances, and now fire frequency and severity are increasing in several wilderness areas altering the historic fire regime and introducing non-native invasive species, thereby changing the natural environment. As a result of these annual invasive grasses fire frequency, size and severity continue to depart from the historic fire regime and lead to a reduction in resiliency and resistance as well as a complete loss of naturalness due to crossing vegetative thresholds. Landscape scale treatments in similar vegetation communities outside of wilderness have created a more resilient response to fire disturbance.

Currently Wilderness Areas are managed in relation to the state of naturalness at the time the Wilderness Area was designated. This date is arbitrary in relation to the natural vegetative processes that shaped the systems we are trying to protect, and many of the wilderness areas were already significantly departed and close to crossing if not already crossing thresholds when designated. Through the landscape level evaluations that the Ely District has completed, it has been shown that managing for/towards the reference condition (modeled approximation of vegetation prior to European influence based upon best available science) is more appropriate to enhance the naturalness of these systems. It is important to note that managing for/towards reference condition in the sense of Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1 allows for a 33% departure from reference condition. This will create conditions whereby natural processes should be able to take over and guide the landscape towards an arrangement of both naturalness and wildness that is unique to that Wilderness Area. Without intervention, wilderness areas will continue at a high departure from reference condition (FRCC 2 or 3) and may not be able to recover to a natural state that can recover from natural disturbance.

This project evaluates vegetative conditions and identifies management options to inform decisions in the wilderness for fuels/fire management to protect and preserve the long-term natural quality of wilderness character. This will improve the sustainability of vegetation

communities in the wilderness areas from catastrophic wildfire and subsequent increase of nonnative invasive grasses that create a 3-5-year reburn cycle

### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:**

This proposal is not part of a previous phase. Until the analysis and the plan for vegetation management in the wildernesses is completed, it is undetermined if there will be future phases of this project.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary deliverables

1. Inventory of current condition
2. Assessment of data and reference condition
3. Develop and analyze scenarios to achieve reference condition
4. Prepare minimum requirements analysis
5. Comprehensive management/implementation plan
6. Complete public and tribal coordination participation consultations/meetings
7. Complete NEPA documentation and issue a decision for the management/implementation plans and/or amendments to existing plans.

#### Anticipated deliverables

1. Based on NEPA, implement up to 500 acres of treatment in high risk areas. It is anticipated that these treatments would occur in sage brush areas with pinion juniper encroachment.

#### Standard deliverables

- Locations mapped and ground-truthed to determine final acres and treatment areas
- Vegetation monitoring reports
- Contract preparation and contract management
- Up to 500 acres of cultural inventories
- Cadastral survey for proposed acres treated
- Measurement of acres treated
- Public and scientific community outreach

### **Project Timeframe:**

The Standard Period of Performance for ENLRP projects is 4-years.

If funding is approved, this project would take up to six years to complete.

#### Year 1

- Project initiation including contracts/agreements
- Inventory of current condition
- Initiate minimum requirement analysis for wilderness areas

- Public outreach/scientific community outreach

#### Year 2

- Complete inventory of current condition
- Initiate and complete assessment of data and reference condition
- Continue public/scientific community outreach on project progress
- Continue minimum requirement analysis

#### Year 3

- Develop and evaluate scenarios to achieve reference condition and identify where natural disturbance (e.g., fire) can occur to maintain or meet that condition
- Develop and prepare implementation and management Plan (could be one or two plans depending on planning issues)
- Finalize minimum requirement analysis

#### Year 4

- Complete Management/Implementation Plans
- Initiate appropriate analysis to comply with NEPA for the management/implementation plans

#### Year 5

- Complete preparation of NEPA analysis, and amend existing wilderness plans as needed to incorporate vegetation management actions to maintain naturalness character and meet reference condition
- Based on results from NEPA analysis, implement approximately 500 acres of treatments in one or two high risk areas

#### Year 6

- Continue implementation
- Complete deliverables
- Project closeout

### **Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

Project implementation can begin once approved.

Implementation of the project will include completing an inventory, assessment, and evaluation. This information will be used to create an implementation plan, minimum requirement analysis, and NEPA analysis, and may be used to amend current wilderness plans. Based on this assessment and analysis this project will implement a portion of the treatments (up to 500 acres) that may be needed in high risk areas. It is anticipated that these treatments would occur in sage brush areas with pinion juniper encroachment. Implementation will include work being completed by contract/agreement and BLM labor

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Not Applicable

### **Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

None

**Funding Summary:**

ROUND 18		
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project		
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES		
Project Name:	District Wilderness Areas Resilience Vegetative Assessment	Date prepared: 9/2/2020
Project #		Agency: ='General project Info'!B10
Prepared by:	Cody Coombs	Priority #:
Title/position:	Fuels Manager	Phone #:
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		\$460,220 13.27%
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)		
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>		\$120,560 3.48%
0		
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		\$503,360 14.52%
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.		
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		\$0 0.00%
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.		
<b>5 Travel</b>		\$3,500 0.10%
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below		
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		\$7,500 0.22%
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost		
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		\$1,500 0.04%
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.		
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		\$2,213,750 63.85%
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.		
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		\$156,600 4.52%
(See Appendix B-11)		
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$3,466,990 100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		\$0
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		\$3,466,990

## Performance Measures:

This project addresses the following performance measures:

- Output: The proposed project would complete one implementation plan for 22 wilderness areas for ecosystem restoration with treatment options and address hazardous fuels reduction when the decision document for the plan is signed.
  - O12 – Number of Management Plans
    - 1 vegetation management implementation plan completed with decision document, and
    - up to 22 wilderness plans may be amended.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders:

SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

See Ranking Criteria #5

Department of the Interior Priorities:

Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

By assessing and analyzing vegetation restoration within wilderness on public lands by utilizing science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment; and by fostering relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.

Priority #2: Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.

NA

Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.

by being a better neighbor with those closest to our resources through improved dialogue and relationships with persons bordering our lands, specifically recreationists, ranchers and hunters that spend time in wilderness areas; and by expanding the lines of communication with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Lincoln County Conservation District, local residents and ranchers.

Priority #4: Ensure Tribal Sovereignty means something.

NA

Priority #5: Increase Revenues to support the Department and national interests.

NA

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

by assessing and offering solutions to restore wilderness vegetation and prevent catastrophic wildfires that could impact people visiting wilderness and fire fighter safety.

Priority #7: Strike a Regulatory Balance.

NA

Priority #8: Modernize our infrastructure.

NA

Priority #9: Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.

NA

Priority #10: Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

NA

**Executive Orders:**

EO No. 13855 *Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

NA

**Secretarial orders:**

SO No. 3347: *Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

The project meets the objective of this SO.

SO No. 3356: *Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

The project meets the objective of this SO.

SO No. 3362: *Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

The project meets the objective of this SO.

The project will help achieve the objectives of wilderness management as described in BLM Manual 6340: Manage and protect BLM wilderness areas in such a manner as to preserve wilderness character, and manage wilderness for the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, education, conservation, and historic use while preserving wilderness character

**Ranking Criteria:**

Criteria 1: *Fuels Management: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.*

This proposed project would provide needed guidance to improve the resistance and resilience of wilderness areas by enhancing naturalness and the long-term wildness and implement the 500 acres of treatment in high risk areas bases on the assessment. It is anticipated that these treatments would occur in sage brush areas with pinion juniper encroachment. This benefit translates into healthier landscapes overall. This process would alter current vegetation structure and processes to one that is more representative of the historic fire regime thereby reducing frequency, severity and intensity of wildfires while minimizing/managing non-native invasive annual grasses. Without a vegetation management plan to guide and support future decisions the current trajectory towards large uncontrollable wildfires would continue and the resilience of these communities would be at risk and result in an increased risk of permanently losing key ecosystem components.

Criteria 2. *Habitat Recovery/Restoration*

The project will provide a plan to inform and support decisions within wilderness areas to improve the naturalness of the vegetation and processes. Accomplishing this objective would allow natural processes to dominate the landscape in the long-term improving

habitat for all species including big game and sage grouse. This project would allow for the implementation of treatments to protect critically valuable and unique ecosystem components (i.e. aspens, ponderosa pine stands, riparian areas, etc.) that are at immediate risk of loss due to anthropogenic alterations to the landscape in order to preserve them on the landscape for the long-term. Based on this assessment and analysis this project will implement a portion of the treatments (up to 500 acres) that may be needed in high risk areas. It is anticipated that these treatments would occur in sage brush areas with pinion juniper encroachment.

Criteria 3. *Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation*

The proposed project provides additional information to managers to strategically manage disturbances, including wildfire in wilderness areas. Strategically managing disturbances would involve a decision to implement a strategy along the spectrum of complete suppression or engagement to no engagement (i.e., allow to burn naturally). The framework of the assessment and analysis would provide managers with the information needed to determine if disturbances are moving the landscape toward or away from reference condition. In the event a disturbance is moving away from reference condition, there would be potential management actions (including post fire rehabilitation) that have been included in some wilderness plans that would be available. Wildfire prevention would be accomplished by preventing or minimizing those that are occur outside the historic fire regime

Criteria 4. *Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information*

This project will lead to needed/improved scientific information on the design, implementation, and/or adaptation of landscape-scale management and restoration treatments, including known gaps in land health or vegetative data for the Ely District wilderness areas. This is a critical need as the fire behavior in these areas continues to increase, and create a nonnative invasive vegetation community that is neither natural or resilient.

Criteria 5. *Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability*

Implementation of this project will involve the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), wilderness groups, and the public. Previously implemented treatments connect with this project and provide the mosaic of habitat needed for thriving wildlife. Some pre-treatment AIM data has been completed within the project area, and BLM's AIM process will continue with this project. The data will feed into the habitat assessment framework for the project area.

Criteria 6. *Advances the Agency/Entity priorities/goals*

Yes. See above.

Criteria 7. *Consistency with Executive Orders (EO) and Secretarial Orders (SO)*

Yes. See above.



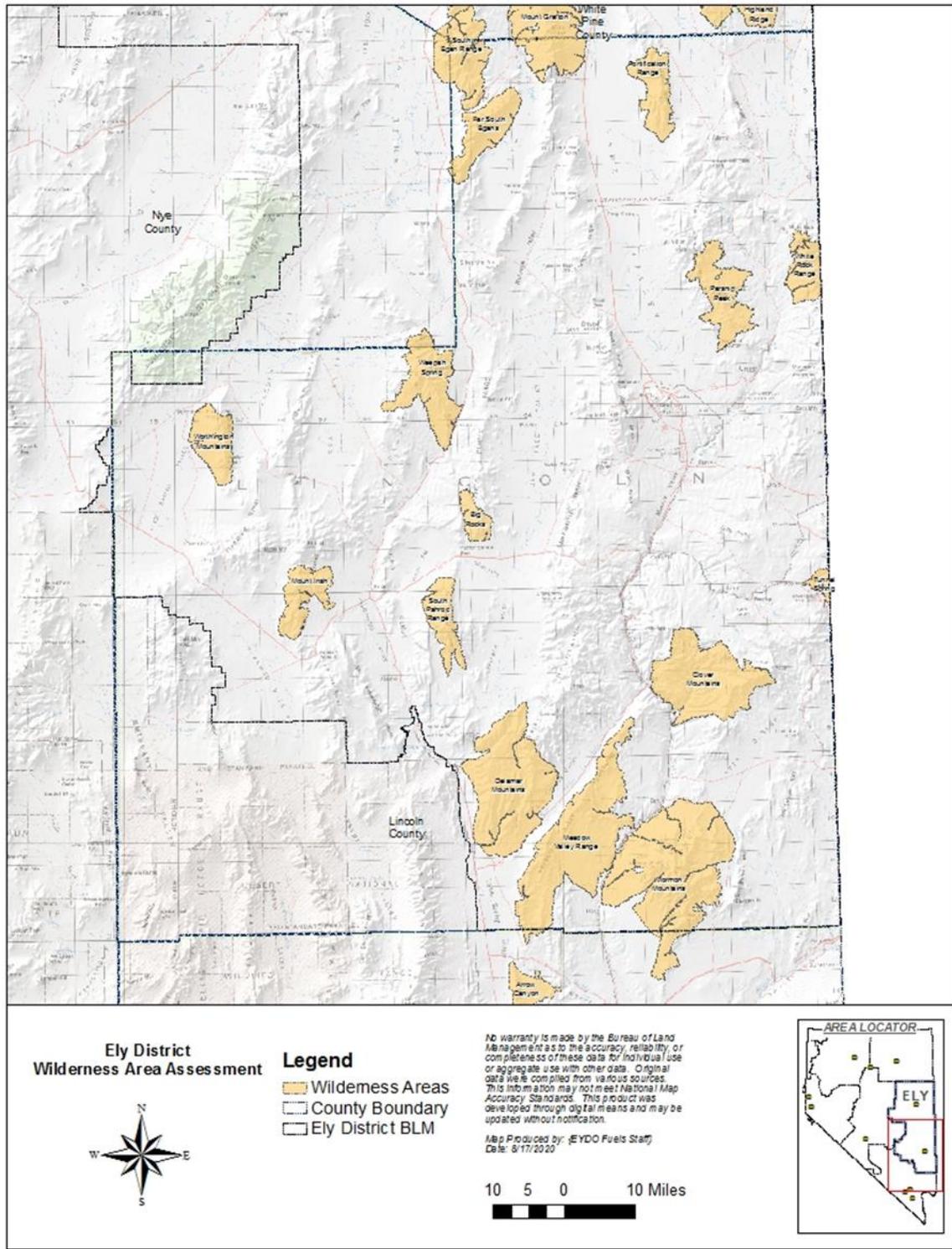


Figure 2 Wilderness Areas in Lincoln County

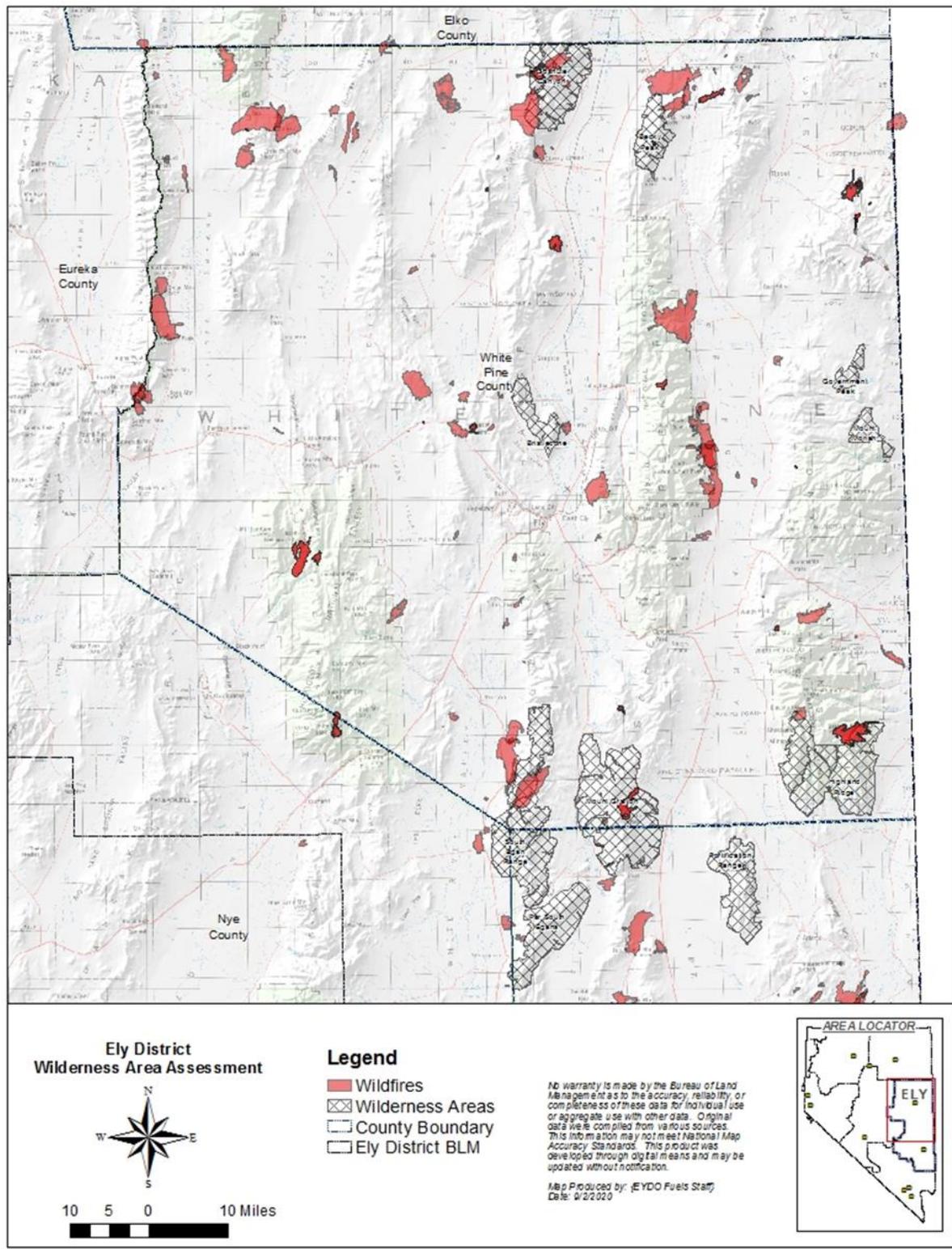


Figure 3 Wilderness Areas and wildfires in northern Ely District

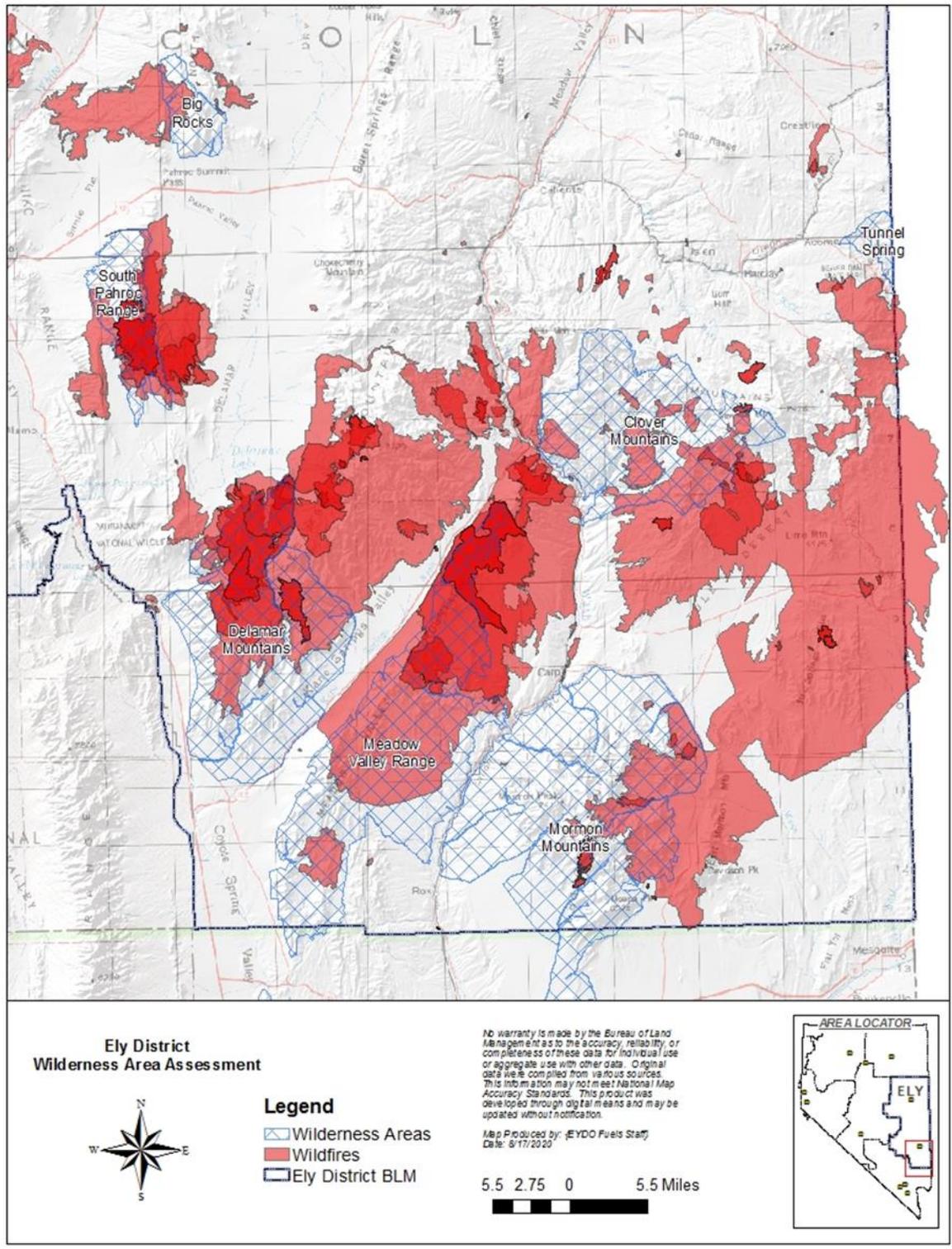


Figure 4 Wilderness Areas and wildfires in southern Ely District

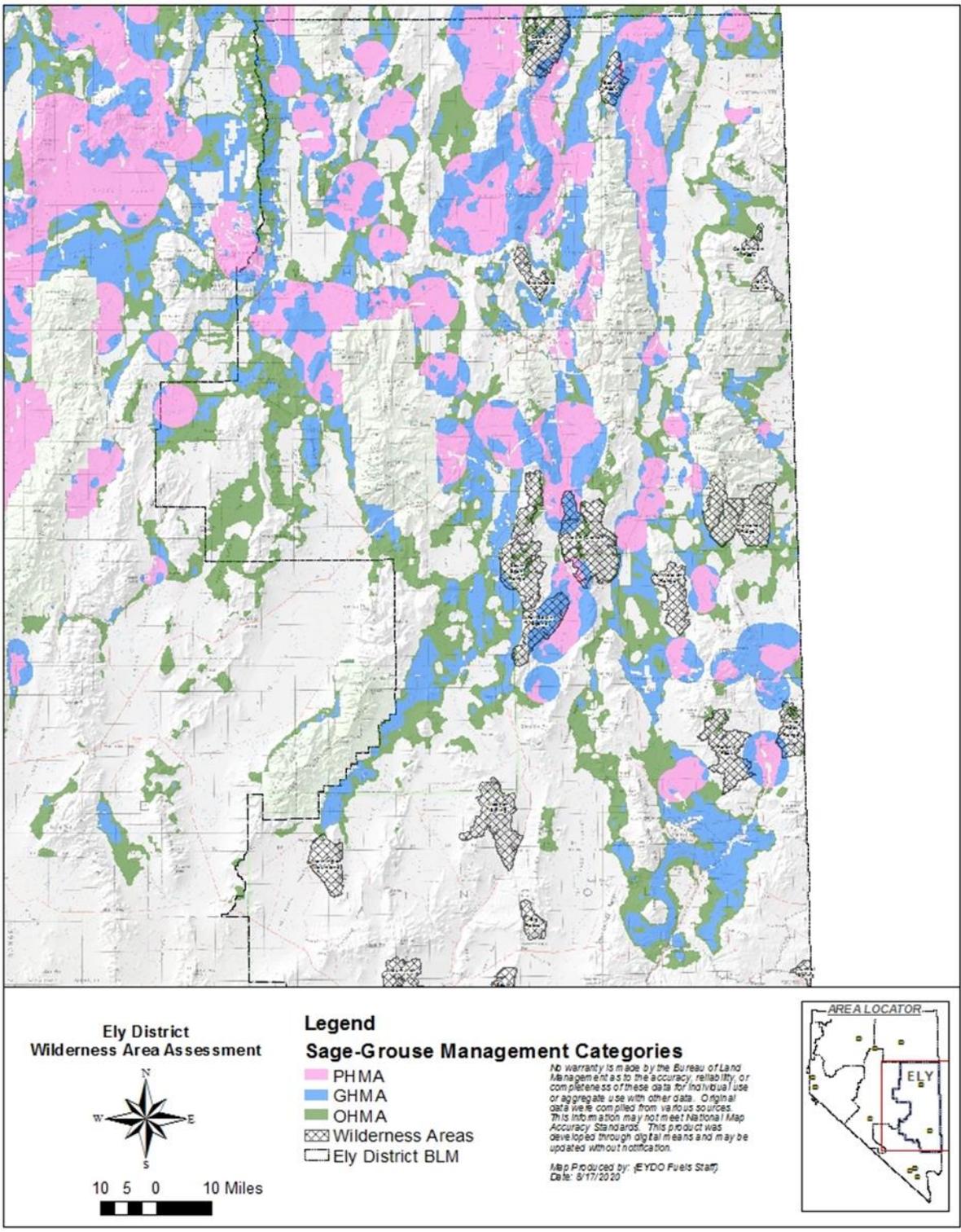


Figure 5 Sage Grouse management areas in relation to Wilderness Areas

**Photos:**

None

**Letters of Support:**

Our partnership portfolio includes state agencies and local organizations. The Nevada Department of Wildlife recognizes the important habitats found in wilderness areas such as aspen woodlands and that there is a historic loss of these habitats due to minimal management options and knowledge. They are supportive of this project to explore the risk of losing key ecosystem components and determine potential treatment options to enhance the natural quality of wilderness character in these areas. It is also anticipated that Nevada Department of Wildlife would contribute to the project by providing key wildlife expertise during the assessment and analysis. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is a coalition of ranchers, hunters, conservation organizations, and state and local government agencies that support restoring the dynamic, diverse, resilient landscapes of the West. John Hiatt, one of the founding members of the Coalition has also contacted the BLM Bristlecone Field Manager in recent years seeking solutions to vegetation resilience in wilderness areas.

1. Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
2. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife



8 September 2020

Robbie McAvoy, District Manager  
BLM Ely District  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely NV 89301

Re: Ely District Wilderness Areas Resilience Vegetation Assessment - SNPLMA Proposal Round 18

Dear Robbie:

On behalf of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), I would like to express our full support for the Ely BLM District's proposal for the Wilderness Areas Resilience Vegetation Assessment Project, submitted for round eighteen of the SNPLMA process.

The submitted proposal is in-line with our mission and goals which are to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects; therefore we gladly support the BLM's efforts and proposal.

ENLC has worked closely with the Ely BLM District over the past 19 years on a wide variety of projects including several restoration projects. The proposed deliverables for this project are all within the scope of our mission and will be fully supported by ENLC throughout the project process.

This proposal ties into other work that the Ely BLM District and ENLC have conducted over the past 19 years and will lead to continued improvement of the watershed health in Eastern Nevada.

If you have any questions, regarding ENLC's support of this project, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 775-289-7974.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Macfarlan".

Betsy Macfarlan  
Executive Director

PO Box 150266. Ely, Nevada 89315  
775.289.7974 envlc.org



STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
 Reno, Nevada 89511  
 Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

VACANT  
*Deputy Director*

September 8, 2020

Cody Coombs  
 Fuels Program Manager  
 Bureau of Land Management- Ely District

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 - Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Ely District  
 Wilderness Areas Resilience Vegetation Assessment

Dear Mr. Coombs,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would like to extend our support for the following Round 18 proposal to the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA): *Ely District Wilderness Resilience Vegetation Assessment*. Between White Pine and Lincoln counties the Ely BLM manages over 1 million acres of designated Wilderness. These areas provide incredibly valuable habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, and in some areas suitable conditions for very limited habitat types including aspen woodlands. The historic loss of these very limited habitats due to minimal management options or knowledge needed to make management decisions has been an on-going concern to NDOW and other conservation partners. NDOW is very supportive of this proposal. We are also excited to work with BLM to further explore the risk of losing key ecosystem components and function due to reduced resilience and resistance, and to work to determine potential treatments options to protect and enhance the natural quality of wilderness character in these areas.

We are happy to coordinate with BLM on this and to provide any assistance we that can.

Sincerely,

Moira Kolada, Habitat Biologist  
 Nevada Department of Wildlife  
 1218 N. Alpha St.  
 Ely, NV 89301

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

National Park Service  
Great Basin National Park



**Vegetation Mapping at Great Basin National Park**

Amount Requested: \$580,507

Congressional District NV4  
Timeframe: 4 Years  
Project location: 39.006988° / -114.2190°

Project Manager: Margaret Horner  
Email address: [margaret\\_horner@nps.gov](mailto:margaret_horner@nps.gov)  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, Nevada 89311  
775-234-7562

### **Purpose Statement:**

The Great Basin National Park will revise and update the park's Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan and complete NEPA analysis for the park to guide vegetation management and restoration projects in the park over the next ten to fifteen years.

### **Background info to support the need:**

In 2004, Great Basin National Park conducted a rapid internal assessment of the park's Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) measuring vegetation departure from desired condition following the LANDFIRE concepts (Rollins 2009). This assessment was completed to update the park's Fire Management Plan and allowed for new data on FRCC to improve fire management decisions and priorities. In 2009, the park partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for a Round 9 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project entitled "Landscape Level Management Plan." This project used remote sensing methods applied to satellite imagery from 2007 to map the park's ecological systems and refine FRCC within the park. These data were then used to forecast the effects and return-on-investment of alternative management scenarios on the future condition of ecological systems (vegetation) using state-and-transition simulation models (Provencher et al. 2013). A new FRCC map was estimated and management strategies for target vegetation types were defined (Provencher et al. 2013).

The 2010 vegetation and FRCC maps were used to update the park's Fire Management Plan and draft a vegetation management plan to guide fuels management actions and implement habitat restoration projects. Since 2010, the park has successfully completed five Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Projects covering over 1,800 acres that were included as priority projects in the vegetation management plan. ENLRP projects funded in Rounds 11-16 focused on improving the condition of sagebrush, aspen and riparian habitat and reducing fuel loads. The 2010 vegetation and FRCC maps and return-on-investment scenarios are now outdated. Three large fires (Black, Strawberry and Box Canyon) have occurred in the South Snake Range, and five successful restoration projects have been implemented through SNPLMA on park lands. Improvements in software and spatial data analysis and availability of higher resolution imagery at a reduced cost make this an ideal time for updates. Previous imagery capture, maps and simulations only included park lands. This proposal aims to expand the project boundaries to include BLM lands in the South Snake Range.

Great Basin National Park is surrounded by BLM land. Important big game species such as bighorn sheep, mule deer and elk and sensitive species such as Bonneville cutthroat trout utilize both NPS and BLM lands without regard to administrative boundaries. A coordinated and landscape scale approach to vegetation and habitat management of the South Snake Range will benefit species of management concern and their habitat and improve the health and condition of ecological systems. Coordinated, landscape scale management also reflects a more realistic approach to fire and fuels management. Fire management in the park is multi-jurisdictional with the BLM managing initial attack on park lands and coordinating fire response. Mapping BLM administered lands along with the park to the same level of detail and including BLM lands in analysis and modeling is not only the best value option, but also more ecologically meaningful.

Revision of the park's vegetation management plan will be driven by the completion of several spatial data products and modeling exercises:

- 1) updated vegetation and fire regime condition class (FRCC) maps.
- 2) change detection (areas of significant vegetative change) for all vegetation communities in the park, including increases in annual grasses, over the last 13 years.
- 3) habitat suitability modeling for wildlife species of management concern.
- 4) climate variability and fire effects on vegetation condition and riparian health; and
- 5) return-on-investment scenarios for management actions in target habitat types (e.g. sagebrush steppe, aspen and riparian).

Remote sensing, mapping, spatial data analysis and modeling will be completed by a contractor or cooperator.

High resolution satellite imagery will be obtained for the park (78,000 acres) and a large portion of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that surround the park (318,406 acres). Remote sensing, spatial data analysis, fire effects and climate variability on vegetation condition and riparian health, and habitat suitability modeling will be completed for Great Basin National Park along with BLM lands in the project area. Change detection will be completed for NPS lands based on previous imagery and mapping completed in 2010. Imagery acquired with this project will enable the BLM to complete change detection in the future to monitor changes in vegetation and habitat conditions over time.

The project is centered on the South Snake Range in eastern White Pine County, NV, Congressional District N04 (39.006° / -114.2190°). The South Snake Range is almost entirely public land managed by Great Basin National Park and the Bureau of Land Management, Bristlecone Field Office in Ely, NV. Vegetation types are varied including greasewood, sagebrush steppe, riparian, pinyon-juniper and mahogany woodlands, aspen and mixed conifer forests, bristlecone groves and alpine. BLM lands include the lower elevations of the South Snake Range from 5,300 to over 9,000 feet in elevation. The park encompasses the higher elevations from 6,800 to 13,063 feet in elevation. Total project area is 396,406 acres.

*When* – The project will be initiated within one year of the Authorization to Expend Funds. The project will be completed in four years when a final report, maps and GIS products are received from the contractor/cooperator, and the park has revised and updated the Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan. These products will be included in the final closeout report to SNPLMA to confirm completion. Further, the park will complete environmental analysis on the Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for which an anticipated EA will be publicly available.

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration projects across the U.S. (Bernhardt et al. 2005, Palmer et al. 2007, Finch et al. 2016). To justify the magnitude of funding and the necessity of restoration projects, land managers and stewards must take the time and effort needed for planning and utilize the best available science to make informed choices on where and how to allocate resources. The following information will provide the most up-to-date and best available science to draft a Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for the park. An updated plan will outline priority management actions to promote resistant and resilient ecosystems including sagebrush, aspen and riparian habitat and targeted treatments to benefit

game species and wildlife species of management concern. A Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan and FRCC will guide upcoming revisions to the park's Fire Management Plan (FMP). The NPS fire program will fund revisions to the FMP, but information from this project will provide the data need to manage natural ignitions, fire simulations based on current vegetative condition, and ensure the Fire Management Plan captures projects and outcomes outlined in the Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan.

- **New, high-resolution imagery** is the basis to complete the maps, models and products listed below. New imagery will make future monitoring of vegetative change on BLM lands possible at a finer scale than is currently available.
- **Mapping vegetation with remote sensing** is the first step from which all management products will be derived. This task will produce a high-resolution map of ecological systems and their constituent vegetation classes for the South Snake Range. First, the 2010 vegetation map of Great Basin National Park will be updated using new imagery and standard change detection methodology. Second, ecological systems and vegetation classes will be mapped for BLM lands that fall within the project area. Change detection on NPS lands will inform future management strategies by determining if habitat restoration, fuels projects and fire have had an impact on vegetation and habitat conditions. It will also detect the impact from insects and disease on forest health and increases in annual grass cover over the last 13 years.
- **Vegetation modeling** will yield several products that will inform vegetation management on NPS and BLM administered lands such as map of Fire Regime Condition Class; a spatially-explicit map of ecological departure from desired condition (ecological condition); fully developed state and transition models; estimated cost of proposed management actions; return-on-investment estimates for future management scenarios; and expected magnitude of impacts from climate change for resources listed above and below.
- **Climate variability effects on vegetation and riparian systems** will be modeled. Climate variability and climate change influence natural disturbances (e.g. fire) and directly affect the ecological condition of both upland and riparian systems. Streams and riparian and aquatic habitats in the Great Basin are especially vulnerable (Steward et al. 2005, Chambers 2008, Williams et al. 2009, Li et al. 2017). Changes in vegetation condition, FRCC, stream flow and water temperature will be estimated by comparing historic conditions to future climate change scenarios. As has been done for other federal lands (Provencher et al. 2016, 2018), imbedding future climate scenarios in models will enable us to simulate and modify management activities whose success today may no longer apply 20, 30 or 50 years in the future when restoring arid lands or maintaining stream and riparian habitat for aquatic species will be more challenging.
- **Fire effects on riparian health** will also be estimated. Fire has direct effects on riparian systems from loss of riparian vegetation to increased water temperatures to increased sedimentation (Maina and Siirila-Woodburn 2020). Post-fire sedimentation of streams degrades water quality, changes in-stream morphology, and can impact aquatic habitat including spawning beds. Relative estimates of post-fire sedimentation will be calculated for riparian systems. This information will be used to protect Bonneville cutthroat trout streams from habitat degradation and post-fire impacts.
- **Habitat suitability modeling** will be completed for bighorn sheep. There are an estimated 50-60 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the South Snake Range that use both

NPS and BLM lands. The population is jointly managed by Great Basin National Park, the BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife with an annual winter ram hunt on BLM land. To date, Snake Range bighorn are one of the only herds free of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a primary pathogen for the polymicrobial pneumonic disease complex, in the state making this population a conservation priority. The habitat suitability model will be coded in R (or similar) to promote ease of sharing. Agency staff will provide natural history information, habitat requirements and location data from satellite GPS collars for the model which will estimate habitat suitability and produce simulated maps of beneficial habitat restoration actions. Expected climate impacts on habitat will also be included. Maps can then be used by federal and state wildlife staff for restoration in the South Snake Range with the option to use the developed code for other ranges in Nevada that support bighorn sheep.

This nomination demonstrates a practical application to the management of federal lands. An updated Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan will guide restoration and vegetation management on NPS lands over the next ten to fifteen years and lead to future implementation of Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Projects. The park will include on-the-ground, site-specific restoration projects in the vegetation management plan that will restore and protect healthy and resilient landscapes, connect important habitats and protect the integrity of biological communities. Data on vegetation condition and habitat suitability will guide collaboration between the NPS and BLM on future projects that improve the health and condition of sagebrush, aspen and riparian vegetation on a landscape scale and inform cost-effective strategies for habitat and wildlife management in the South Snake Range.

#### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:**

This proposal is related to the Round 9 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project “Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan.” Using the maps, reports and products developed for the Round 9 project, the park has successfully completed five ENLRP projects covering over 1,800 acres. Successful ENLRP projects include:

- Round 11 “Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration in the South Snake Range”
- Round 13 “Soap Creek Sagebrush Steppe and Aspen Restoration”
- Round 14 “Strawberry Creek Fuels Reduction and Sagebrush Steppe/Aspen Restoration”
- Round 15 “Wicked Problem: Improving restoration and fuels reduction through adaptive management”
- Round 16 “Forgotten Grasslands: Restoration of Basin Wildrye Ecosystems in Great Basin National Park”

This project is a stand-alone, one-time, non-phased, viable project. Anticipated future projects on NPS lands will be based on the new vegetation and FRCC maps and cited directly from the updated Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan. Implementation of future projects will depend on the availability of future funding through the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project fund category or NPS fire program funds.

## **Deliverables:**

### Primary deliverables

1. Vegetation map with potential vegetation types and current vegetation classes based on remote sensing analysis of newly acquired, high-resolution satellite imagery.
2. Updated Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) map.
3. Final Report from contractor/cooperator that includes:
  - a. Change detection to document areas of significant vegetative change over the last 13 years (NPS lands only)
  - b. Spatially explicit map of ecological departure from desired vegetation condition
  - c. Return-on-investment estimates for management actions on select vegetation types (e.g. sagebrush, aspen, riparian).
  - d. Climate effects on future vegetation condition and riparian health
  - e. Fire effects on riparian health
  - f. Habitat suitability models for wildlife species of management concern
  - g. Expected impacts of climate change on resources listed above
4. Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for Great Basin National Park that includes proposed on-the-ground restoration actions focused on improving target vegetation types including sagebrush, aspen and riparian on NPS lands.
5. Environment Assessment (EA) or other appropriate NEPA pathway pending NEPA analysis of Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for Great Basin National Park.

### Anticipated deliverables

1. Workshops with agency staff to determine agency objectives, potential fuel reduction and restoration actions, cost per acre estimates, habitat requirements for species of management concern and review of draft products.
2. A final decision document pending results of public comment and completion of NEPA pathway.
3. Updated FRCC and applicable objectives in park's Fire Management Plan.
4. Outreach and education through social media channels, publications, and newsletter submissions.
  - a. Publication of results in *Park Science* or similar.

### Standard deliverables

- Contract or cooperative agreement for primary and anticipated deliverables including Scope of Work and DOI/NPS approvals.
- Public scoping.
- NPS approvals and signatures for NEPA process.
- Data management.
- Detailed work plan.
- Budget tracking; quarterly and annual SNPLMA reporting; quarterly fund requests.
- Project closeout and final report.

## **Project Timeframe:**

### YEAR 1:

- Write and submit contract or cooperative agreement for mapping, remote sensing, modeling, etc.
- Acquire satellite imagery (June) and conduct two remote sensing surveys
- Contractor/cooperator completes remote sensing analysis.
- Cooperator-NPS-BLM-NDOW meeting to develop habitat suitability model parameters and choose climate change scenarios.

### YEAR 2:

- Cooperator delivers vegetation maps of the project area for review.
- Cooperator-NPS-BLM meeting to finalize vegetation map and determine agency objectives, management actions, and cost/acre estimates.
- Complete spatial simulations for management actions and modeling through same cooperative agreement or contract.
- Cooperator-NPS-BLM-NDOW meeting to review habitat suitability map, riparian health assessment, maps of management action simulations and provide feedback.

### YEAR 3:

- Cooperator submits final report with updated vegetation and FRCC maps; change detection results; maps of management simulations and realized implementation rates over time, return-on-investment scenarios; and climate, fire effects and habitat suitability models.
- NPS develops Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan with site-specific, on-the-ground restoration projects for NPS lands and initiates internal scoping for NEPA.

### YEAR 4:

- Complete environmental compliance for updated Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan.
- Project closeout.

## **Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

Great Basin National Park completed Landscape Conservation Forecasting™ with The Nature Conservancy in 2010. This collaboration produced a vegetation map of biophysical settings, ecological departure and cost-benefit analysis of management options for a Round 9 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project. From this project, the park developed on-the-ground restoration projects to improve the health and condition of sagebrush steppe, aspen and riparian vegetation. Over the next ten years, five of the proposed projects were implemented. Objectives for two of the additional projects outlined in the plan were met through wildland fire. Resource Management staff have over 25 years of combined experience with leading and administering SNPLMA projects and implementing habitat restoration treatments. The park possesses in-house expertise to develop and complete a Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan and EA including permanent Natural Resource Program Manager, Environmental Specialist, Biologist, Wildlife Biologist, and Archeologist. The park successfully completed two Environmental Assessments for cave management within the last two years. Support letters from the Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Department of Wildlife demonstrate buy-in from these agencies and willingness to partner on cross-boundary restoration

projects in the future to improve the condition of sagebrush steppe, aspen and riparian habitat within the South Snake Range. Staff from these partner agencies will be included as subject matter experts to help build habitat suitability models; fire effects, riparian health, and climate scenarios; and review draft reports and NEPA documents as applicable.

**Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Did not address

**Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

The NPS, State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management will contribute approximately \$99,484 for project coordination and oversight over the life of the project.

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**Funding Summary:**

ROUND 18			
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES			
Project Name:	<b>Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation Management</b>	Date prepared:	<b>9/9/2020</b>
Project #		Agency:	<b>NPS-GRBA</b>
Prepared by:	<b>Margaret Horner</b>	Priority #:	
Title/position:	<b>Biologist</b>	Phone #:	<b>(775) 234-7562</b>
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>			
		<b>\$37,420</b>	<b>6.45%</b>
Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)			
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>			
		<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>			
		<b>\$71,200</b>	<b>12.27%</b>
For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.			
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>			
		<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>0.95%</b>
Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.			
<b>5 Travel</b>			
		<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>0.52%</b>
Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below			
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>			
		<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>0.69%</b>
Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost			
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>			
		<b>\$2,200</b>	<b>0.38%</b>
Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.			
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>			
		<b>\$438,627</b>	<b>75.56%</b>
CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.			
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
		<b>\$18,560</b>	<b>3.20%</b>
(See Appendix B-11)			
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$580,507</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		<b>\$99,484</b>	
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$679,991</b>	
<b>General comments and description of milestones</b>			
<p>This detailed budget represents the best value option for this undertaking, is cost effective and is as accurate as possible. The period of performance begins when the agency is notified of the availability of funds. Obligations/expenditures incurred by the agency before the authorization to expend SNPLMA project funds are approved, are not reimbursable. The agency has 1 year to initiate the project and begin work. The standard period of performance for ENLRP projects is 4 years, including a minimum of 90 days for close-out with the SNPLMA Division. Contractor/cooperator milestones: acquire high resolution imagery; complete remote sensing; develop vegetation and fire regime condition class maps; complete modeling; host three meetings with federal and state agency staff for planning, model inputs and product review; produce final report with maps and associated modeling results.</p>			

## Performance Measures:

### Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- Use the best available science to protect and restore healthy, resilient landscapes and wildlife habitat. Share data and best management practices with federal and state partners and interested public for future collaboration on restoration and habitat improvement in the Great Basin. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:
  - (Primary Deliverable): Produce an updated vegetation map based on remote sensing of newly acquired satellite imagery with current and potential vegetation for all vegetation types, upland and riparian.
    - Performance Measure H5 – Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
    - Performance Measure H3 – Miles of Riparian Stream Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
    - Performance Measure H7 – Acres of Wetland/Riparian Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
    - Performance Measure O9 – Number of GIS Databases and/or Map Layers Produced
  - (Primary Deliverable): Final report from contractor/cooperator to include spatial data, analyses and models outlined under Primary Deliverables.
    - Performance Measure O4 – Number of Technical Reports Produced
    - (Primary Deliverable): Complete Landscape Level Management Plan for Great Basin National Park that outlines cost-effective, on-the-ground restoration actions to improve and restore target vegetation communities and wildlife habitat and reduce fuel loading.
      - Performance Measure O12 – Number of Management Plans Completed
    - (Anticipated Deliverable): Publication of results (scientific report) in *Park Science* or similar in collaboration with contractor/cooperator.
      - Performance Measure O4 – Number of Technical Reports Produced

### Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

- Increase the public's awareness and appreciation of Great Basin ecosystems and the role habitat restoration and fire play in maintaining resilient vegetation communities. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:
  - (Anticipated Deliverable): Conduct outreach and education programs for employees, volunteers and visitors at Great Basin National Park.
    - Performance Measure O7 – Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted
    - Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contacts Made
  - (Anticipated Deliverable): Write at least four articles for park publications and post updates and information on the park's social media channels.

- Performance Measure O6 – Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications Produced

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders:**

#### SNPLMA Executive Strategic Plan values:

Non-governmental partners will be essential to the successful completion of this project. We propose to use a contractor or cooperator to complete the technical and spatial data aspects of the project (remote sensing, mapping, modeling, return-on-investment estimates, final report). We will also rely on in-kind contributions from NPS and BLM staff and local partners for planning, reviews, environmental analysis, outreach, education and publications

Sustainability: Great Basin National Park is mandated to preserve and protect functioning, resilient ecosystems for future generations. Updated information and relevant management plans provide the tools land managers need to fulfill this mission. Modeling climate and its effects on riparian health and wildlife habitat provides longevity and relevancy to a management plan. New imagery, updated maps and models will provide the most up-to-date and best available science to complete a Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for Great Basin National Park and make it a relevant guidance document well into the future. Improving resiliency of public lands will enhance the public's enjoyment and connection to these places. Outreach and education, and healthy and resilient lands in and of themselves, foster stewardship

Connectivity: The BLM and NPS have implemented numerous restoration projects on thousands of acres in the South Snake Range. The goal of this nomination is to leverage past restoration projects and changes in habitat conditions to meet vegetation management and habitat restoration objectives on NPS and BLM lands. Partnering on future projects will improve habitat conditions across jurisdictional boundaries, reduce fire risk on federal and private lands and increase connectivity of wildlife habitat. Publications and outreach and education efforts will help to strengthen the public's connection to and understanding of Great Basin ecosystems.

Community: Collaboration between the NPS, BLM, NDOW and cooperators is necessary to fulfill primary and anticipated deliverables. Working together will enhance existing partnerships between these entities. The NPS and BLM already work collaboratively on fire management with the BLM providing fire response and initial attack resources for the park. The NPS and NDOW work together on habitat restoration and wildlife management in the South Snake Range. The integrity of ecological systems and plant communities will be protected with updated information on current and future conditions of the vegetation communities on nearly 400,000 acres of the South Snake Range. New imagery, vegetation and FRCC maps, return-on-investment estimates and habitat suitability modeling will directly benefit our state and federal partners and enhance fuels and habitat management in the South Snake Range. Updates to the park's Fire Management Plan and a revised Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan will result in fuels reduction and restoration

projects that increase defensible space near private lands and improve the chances of local communities managing and combating wildfire.

Department of the Interior Priorities:

This project meets two of the *Department of Interior Priorities* by adding to the agency's stewardship legacy in the South Snake Range and working to achieve agency goals:

Priority #1: *Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt*

Priority #10: *Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.*

Forest Service/National Park Service Priorities:

*Achieve our goals and lead our team forward*

Executive Orders:

*EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

This project will prioritize restoration treatments to reduce fuel loads and increase the health of rangelands and forests. Maps of vegetation condition and planning documents such as a Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan and Fire Management Plan are the products needed to successfully manage America's public lands. These planning documents provide the framework from which forests and rangelands can be managed to improve habitat conditions and reduce wildfire risk.

This project will provide the most up-to-date and best available information to make informed decisions about managing hazardous fuels, completing on-the-ground sagebrush restoration projects, improving habitat for big game species, and protecting natural resources and neighboring communities. Analyzing the effects of climate and fire on future vegetation conditions and riparian health will help target post-fire restoration actions and mitigate post-fire impacts. Completing cost-benefit analyses and return-on-investment estimates for future management scenarios will give agencies valuable information on the likelihood of those strategies being successful and meeting established performance metrics to reduce wildfire risk to human, plant and wildlife communities. The scope of this project directly aligns with Executive Order 13855 by working at a landscape scale; coordinating with federal, state and private partners; and working on fire and habitat management across administrative boundaries.

Secretarial Orders:

*SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

This project will improve the management of game species and their habitat. It will also enhance conservation stewardship in the South Snake Range through collaboration with our federal and state partners to meet wildlife and habitat management goals. We will identify restoration actions through habitat suitability modeling that will improve habitat conditions for game species, specifically Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Snake Range bighorn are a conservation priority since they are one of the only herds in Nevada free of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a primary pathogen for the polymicrobial pneumonic disease complex.

Data on vegetation condition will enable agencies to make informed decisions on habitat restoration projects to benefit other game species including mule deer, elk and sage grouse. In-kind contributions for this project include habitat suitability modeling for Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT). This collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, NDOW and NPS will help enhance and protect stream and riparian habitat for BCT, the only trout species native to eastern Nevada.

*SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

This project will enhance conservation stewardship, increase outdoor recreation opportunities, and improve management of game species and their habitats for this and future generations. Through habitat suitability modeling, federal agencies will begin the process of improving habitat conditions for game species in the South Snake Range. Improved habitat conditions will help sustain game populations and maintain hunting opportunities on BLM lands. We will work closely with our federal and state partners on this project. We will collaborate with state partners on wildlife conservation and improving habitat conditions for game species like bighorn sheep and Bonneville cutthroat trout. Maps and data derived from this project will help federal and state agencies meet wildlife management and habitat management goals in the South Snake Range and make informed decisions on habitat restoration projects that will benefit game species such as mule deer, elk, sage grouse and BCT. Healthy rangelands and forests will also lead to improved outdoor recreation opportunities.

Habitat suitability modeling is already underway for Bonneville cutthroat trout. This collaboration, an in-kind contribution, will enhance and protect stream and riparian habitat for the only native trout species in eastern Nevada.

*SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

We will work in close partnership with the State of Nevada to enhance big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat. State wildlife managers will help to identify priority habitats and strategies to improve habitat conditions to sustain big game populations and other wildlife species in the South Snake Range. Maps and data derived from this project will help federal and state agencies meet wildlife management and habitat management goals and make informed decisions on habitat restoration projects to benefit game species such as bighorn sheep, mule deer and elk. This project will develop scientific information including habitat suitability models, climate and fire effects models, and maps of vegetation condition to guide management actions with the objective of improved habitat for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep and other game species. By identifying and improving priority habitats, we will help Nevada increase and maintain sustainable game populations in the South Snake Range.

*SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior*

NA

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

The goal of this project is to develop the spatial data and planning documents necessary for active management of public lands in the South Snake Range. A Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan will include on-the-ground management actions to improve habitat conditions and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire at a landscape scale. This nomination will provide the basis for fuels reduction and habitat management actions to limit fire spread and intensity and increase the resiliency of vegetation to future disturbances. Modeling of the effects of climate variability on vegetation condition and climate and fire effects on riparian health will allow managers to develop adaptable restoration strategies for successful management of fuels and better protect private lands, people and communities.

**Ranking Criteria:**

Criteria 1: Fuels Management.

This nomination will provide the basis for fuels reduction and habitat management actions to limit fire spread and intensity on park lands and increase resiliency of vegetation to future disturbances. Treatments outlined in the final report and Great Basin National Park's Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan will be focused on maintaining or changing vegetation composition to maintain healthy sagebrush, riparian and aspen habitat types. Treatment strategies will include conifer removal, prescribed fire, wildland fire use, and chemical control of annual grasses (cheatgrass) to address conifer encroachment and spread of annual grasses. This nomination will model the effects of fire on riparian systems which will provide management actions to protect and improve riparian health pre and post fire. Vegetation and Fire Regime Condition Class maps will guide updates to the park's Fire Management Plan and Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan. The vegetation management plan will include site-specific restoration actions targeting conifer encroachment in sagebrush, riparian and aspen systems.

Criteria 2. Habitat Recovery/Restoration

The Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan will be the guiding document for habitat recovery and restoration on NPS lands with site-specific restoration actions to improve the condition of sagebrush, riparian and aspen habitats. Acquisition of high-resolution satellite imagery, remote sensing and modeling of future conditions will be completed for Important, Moderate and Low Value Priority Greater Sage Grouse habitat. Data on vegetation condition and return-on-investment estimates for restoration strategies within these habitat categories will enable targeted and cost-effective restoration actions to be implemented. Conducting change detection on park lands will help determine impacts and outcomes from past habitat restoration treatments and fuels projects and inform future management strategies on federal lands. The project area contains both low and high resistance and resilience sagebrush systems with greater than 25% sagebrush cover.

Criteria 3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation

The project area encompasses the entire South Snake Range to improve fuels management on a landscape scale and encourage collaboration between agencies. The NPS and BLM work

collaboratively on fire management with the BLM providing fire response and initial attack resources for the park. A coordinated and landscape scale approach to vegetation and fuels management is needed and reflects a more realistic approach to managing fire. Data on vegetation condition and Fire Regime Condition Class maps for NPS and BLM lands produced at the same resolution will inform placement of fuel breaks for suppression activities and fuel reduction projects to lessen fire severity and intensity to protect private lands and intact sagebrush habitat. Deliverables also include an update to the park's Fire Management Plan which directly relates to fire prevention and post-fire rehabilitation. The extent of cheatgrass cover in the project area and changes in cheatgrass on NPS lands will be mapped. This data will be essential for post-fire rehabilitation planning and implementation to control the spread of annual grasses and increase the success of seedings and other post-fire restoration.

Criteria 4. *Additional Scientific Information*

This project will provide necessary, updated and improved scientific information on vegetation condition on a landscape scale including known gaps in the condition of sagebrush, riparian and aspen and beneficial restoration actions for wildlife. New, high-resolution imagery and maps of vegetation condition and fire regime condition classes will be available for the entire South Snake Range. This data will provide the basis for designing and implementing landscape-scale restoration treatments in the future. Habitat suitability modeling that includes beneficial habitat restoration actions will be completed and available for the NPS, BLM, NDOW and others. The final report will include data on the effects of climate on vegetation conditions, fire effects on riparian health, and return-on-investment estimates for future management of sagebrush, riparian and aspen systems with adaptive management strategies built in.

Criteria 5. *Strategic Plan Values*

Non-governmental partners will be essential to the successful completion of this project. We propose to use a contractor or cooperator to complete the technical and spatial data aspects of the project (remote sensing, mapping, modeling, return-on-investment estimates, final report). We will also rely on in-kind contributions from NPS and BLM staff and local partners for planning, reviews, environmental analysis, outreach, education and publications.

*Sustainability* – Great Basin National Park is mandated to preserve and protect a representative segment of the Great Basin for future generations. Healthy, functioning ecosystems are an integral part of fulfilling that mandate. Updated information and relevant management plans provide the tools land managers need to fulfill this mission. Modeling climate and its effects on riparian health and wildlife habitat provides longevity and relevancy to a management plan. New imagery, updated maps and models will provide the most up-to-date and best available science to complete a Landscape Level Vegetation Management Plan for Great Basin National Park and make it a relevant guidance document well into the future. Improving the resiliency of public lands will enhance the public's enjoyment and connection to these places. Outreach and education foster stewardship as does conservation of resilient and healthy landscapes.

*Connectivity* – The BLM and NPS have implemented restoration projects on thousands of acres in the South Snake Range. The BLM manages the park's initial attack and fire

response planning. The goal of this nomination is to leverage past restoration projects and changes in habitat conditions to meet vegetation management and habitat restoration goals for both the NPS and BLM. Partnering on future projects will improve habitat conditions for game species across administrative boundaries, reduce fire risk on federal and private lands and increase connectivity of wildlife habitat. Publications and outreach and education efforts will help to strengthen the public's connection to and understanding of Great Basin ecosystems and wildlife.

*Community* – Working together will enhance existing partnerships and improve habitat conditions and fuels management on a landscape scale. The integrity of ecological systems and plant communities will be protected with updated information on current and expected future conditions of vegetation communities on nearly 400,000 acres in the South Snake Range. New imagery, vegetation and FRCC maps, management action simulations, return-on-investment estimates, and habitat suitability modeling will directly benefit our state and federal partners and enhance fuels and habitat management in the South Snake Range. This will lead to increased protection for private landowners and communities surrounding the park.

Criteria 6 *Advances the agency/entity priorities/goals*

Yes. See priorities.

Criteria 7 Consistency *with Executive (EO) and Secretarial Orders (SO)*

Yes. See EOs and SOs above.

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Maps:

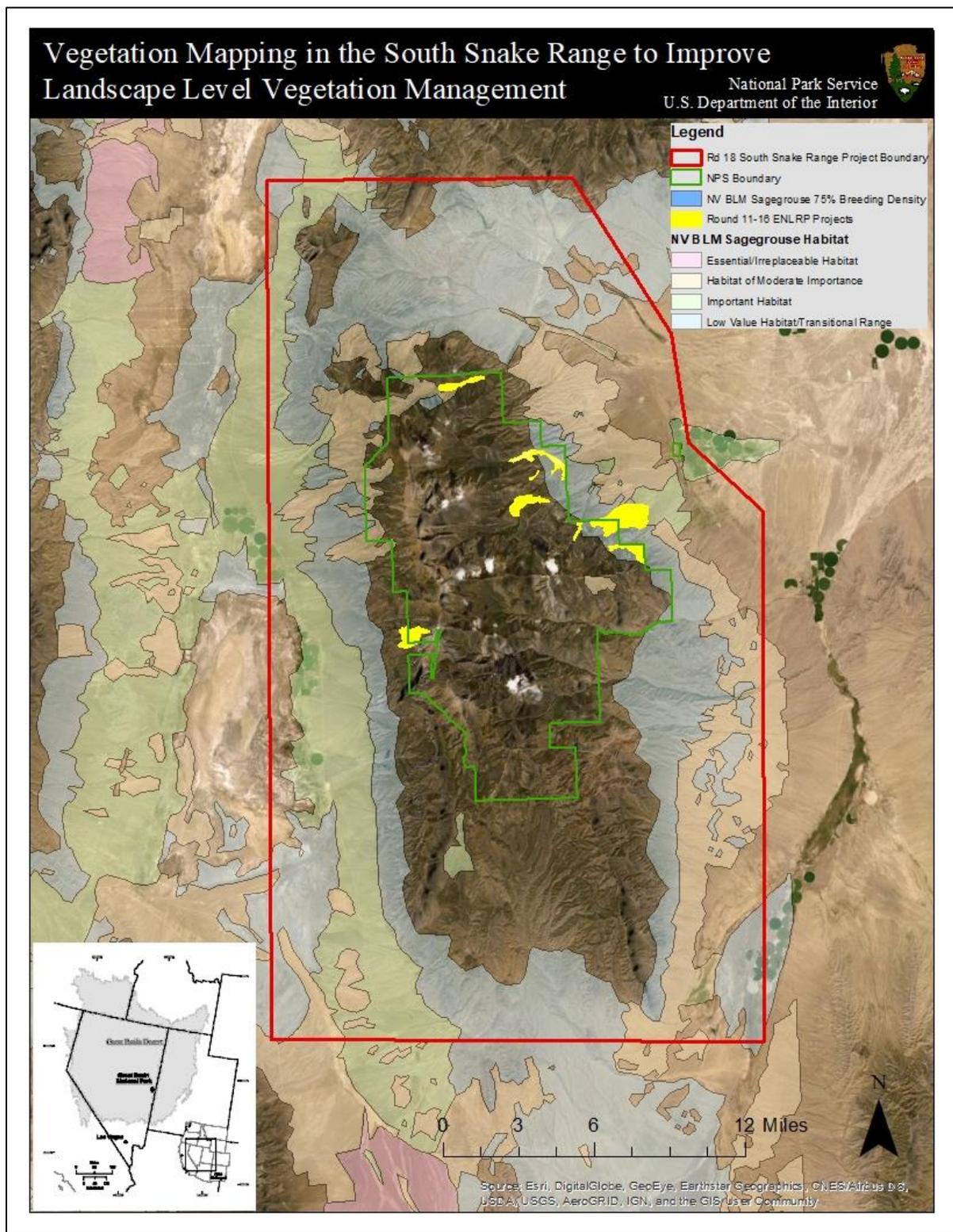


Figure 1 Project area (red line)

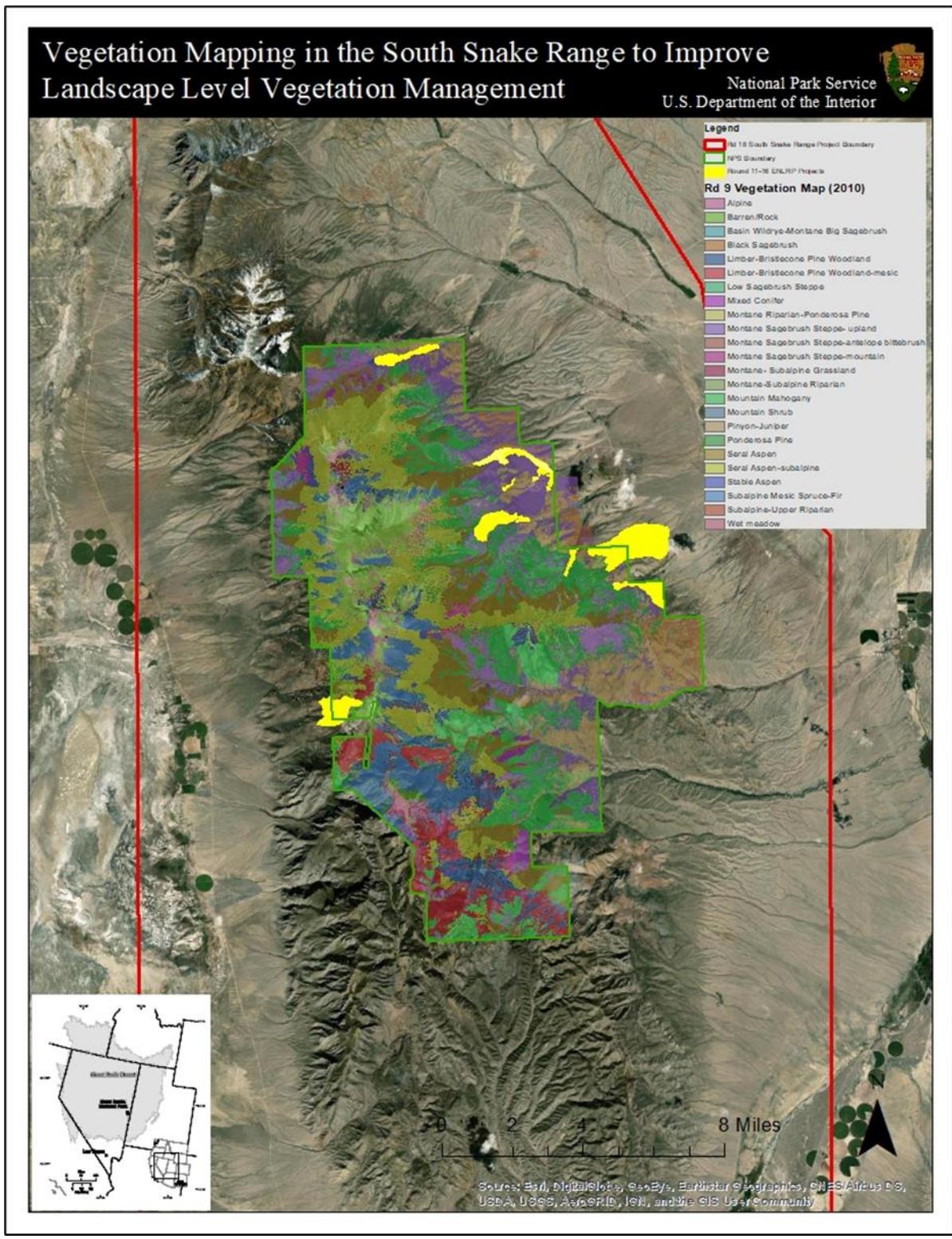


Figure 2 Biophysical settings (vegetation) for Great Basin National Park developed for Round 9 ENLRP project #N001/

**Photos**

None

**Letters of Support:**

1. Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Program Manager
2. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
3. Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
4. Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, District Manager



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Ely District Office  
 702 North Industrial Way  
 Ely, Nevada 89301  
<https://www.blm.gov/nevada>

In Reply Refer To:  
 Ely District Bureau of Land Management  
 Attn: Chris McVicars  
 720 N. Industrial Way  
 Ely, NV 89301

Re: ENLRP Round 18, GBNP vegetation mapping proposal

To Whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the proposal submitted by Great Basin National Park (GBNP) in Round 18 ENLRP for vegetation mapping. The proposed project area encompasses multiple jurisdictions including a large area of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As such, the BLM would greatly benefit from any modeling products that result from this project.

In the past ten years, multiple large wildland fires have burned within the project area. Additionally, multiple future vegetation management projects are planned within the project area. The climate and habitat suitability modeling included in this proposal would be utilized by land managers during future post-fire and vegetation management projects to increase the efficacy of treatments, reduce costs, and promote healthier landscapes.

I strongly encourage the funding of this proposal.

Sincerely,

**CHRISTOPHER  
 MCVICARS**

Digitally signed by  
 CHRISTOPHER MCVICARS  
 Date: 2020.08.18 11:56:32 -07'00'

Chris McVicars  
 Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation Program Manager  
 Ely District Bureau of Land Management  
 775-289-1911  
[csmevicars@blm.gov](mailto:csmevicars@blm.gov)



STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

LIZ O'BRIEN  
*Deputy Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

September 8, 2020

Meg Homer  
100 Great Basin National Park  
357 N. HWY 487  
Baker, Nevada 89311

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 -Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation Management

Dear Ms. Homer,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would like to extend our support for the following Round 18 proposal: Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation Management.

NDOW has continually partnered with Great Basin National Park and the BLM to develop and implement habitat restoration projects throughout the park and the surrounding land managed by the BLM in the South Snake Range. This proposal will allow for more targeted management of species of concern as listed in the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan thru habitat improvement projects and as such these objectives align with NDOW's objectives to restore and maintain habitat for Nevada's wildlife as put forth the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan.

As such NDOW would like to extend our support to the Great Basin National Park in their efforts to improve and maintain wildlife habitat and we are happy to coordinate with you or provide any assistance we that can.

Sincerely,

Moira Kolada, Habitat Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1218 N. Alpha St.  
Ely, NV 89301

Kody Menghini, Game Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1218 N. Alpha St.  
Ely, NV 89301



8 September 2020

James Woolsey, Superintendent  
Great Basin National Park  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311

Re: Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation

Dear James:

On behalf of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), I would like to express our full support for Great Basin National Park's SNPLMA Round 18 proposal titled *Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation*.

The submitted proposal is in-line with our mission and goals which are to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects; therefore we gladly support the NPS efforts and proposal.

ENLC has worked closely with Great Basin National Park on noxious weed issues over the past 19 years, and participated in information exchanges, including use of ENLC's herbarium. The proposed deliverables for this project are all within the scope of our mission and will be fully supported by ENLC throughout the project process.

This proposal ties into other work that ENLC has done with adjoining land management agencies, BLM Ely District and Humboldt Toiyabe Forest Service, Ely Ranger District over the past 19 years and will lead to continued improvement of the watershed health in Eastern Nevada and the knowledge base about the natural resources within this area.

If you have any questions, regarding ENLC's support of this project, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 775-289-7974.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy Macfarlan".

Betsy Macfarlan  
Executive Director

PO Box 150266. Ely, Nevada 89315  
775.289.7974 envlc.org



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Ely District Office  
 702 North Industrial Way  
 Ely, Nevada 89301  
<https://www.blm.gov/nevada>



In Reply Refer To:

Margaret Horner  
 Great Basin National Park  
 100 Great Basin National Park  
 Baker, Nevada 89311

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Vegetation Mapping in the South Snake Range to Improve Landscape Level Vegetation Management

Dear Ms. Horner:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ely District would like to extend support for your Round 18 SNPLMA nomination for the vegetation mapping project in the South Snake Range. This project will provide valuable information and set the stage for coordination of joint projects on adjoining BLM lands where vegetation restoration projects are currently being planned with SNPLMA funded project, B015 (South Spring and Hamlin Valleys Watershed Restoration Plan).

The imagery obtained through your proposed project will assist BLM in monitoring habitat and vegetation changes. This will be useful when determining any adaptive management actions that should be implemented to meet land use plan goals for vegetation and wildlife habitat. Using the same models, maps, and other products for the South Snake Range will support and streamline coordinated vegetation and habitat management effort across jurisdictional boundaries.

Again, we support this project as it will provide valuable information and improve our ability to manage habitat and vegetation within the South Snake Range. We will provide assistance as we can for this work.

Sincerely,

ROBBIE  
 MCABOY

Digitally signed by ROBBIE  
 MCABOY  
 Date: 2020.09.10 10:15:03  
 -0700

Robbie J. McAboy  
 Ely District Manager

**SNPLMA Round 18**  
**ENLRP – U.S. Forest Service Addendum**

**Nomination:** Tab 8

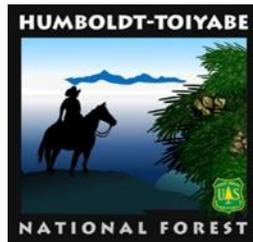
**Entity:** U.S. Forest Service, Ely Ranger District

**Project:** Vegetation Treatment Ely Ranger District

**Revision:** Overall budget request was reduced from \$2,148,842 to \$1,950,605 due to adjustments for Other Necessary Expenses as well as the inflation rate for contracts/agreements was reduced from 25% to 15%.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project  
Round 18

United States Department of Agriculture  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Ely Ranger District



**Vegetation Treatment Ely Ranger District**

Amount Requested: \$1,950,605

Congressional District NV-4  
Timeframe: 4 years  
Project location: 39.249123° / -114882628°

Project Manager: Justin Rozich  
Email address: [justin.rozich@usda.gov](mailto:justin.rozich@usda.gov)  
U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
825 Ave. E.  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
775-289-5127 (p)  
775-289-2132 (f)

### **Purpose Statement:**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest, Ely Ranger District, will implement 8,000 to 14,000 acres of pinyon-juniper removal on the Ely Ranger District in White Pine and Lincoln Counties, Nevada to restore, improve, and enhance sagebrush and mountain brush habitats.

### **Background info to support the need:**

The primary objective of this project is to restore, improve, and enhance sagebrush and mountain brush habitats through a variety of vegetation treatments. To meet these objectives, this project will utilize multiple types of mechanical vegetation treatments, which may include lop and leave with chainsaws, thinning with chainsaws of juniper trees within pinyon stands to increase pine nut productivity, and mastication. A portion of these treatments will improve habitat through the thinning of Pinyon-Juniper stands while maintaining some of the pinyon trees to encourage increased production of pinyon-nuts. These treatments are being proposed in consultation and coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and others.

The project area includes non-wilderness areas on the Ely Ranger District, within White Pine and Lincoln counties, in the North Snake, Schell Creek, White Pine, and Quinn Canyon ranges

Partners involved with the planning and implementation of this project include the Nevada Department of Wildlife, multiple livestock permittees and others.

The Forest Service in cooperation with its partners will:

- Implement treatments of between 8,000 and 14,000 acres of pinyon and juniper to restore sage grouse and mule deer habitats within portions of the Ely Ranger District.
- Conduct Class 1 and Class 3 archaeological surveys on approximately 10,000 acres.
- Treatment of between 800 and 1,500 acres or more of noxious and invasive weeds within the project area.
- Inventory between 10,000 and 20,000 acres for noxious or invasive weeds within the project area.
- Prepare an annual report to highlight project accomplishments. This report will be distributed to all interested parties.

The project area is located on the Ely Ranger District in White Pine and Lincoln Counties, Nevada within portions of the Quinn Canyon, White Pine, Schell Creek, and North Snake Ranges

The primary purpose of this project is to:

- Restore and enhance important upland and riparian communities.
- Reduce fuels and create a diversity of vegetative communities.
- Restore and enhance vegetative communities to improve and protect habitats for sage grouse, mule deer and other wildlife species.

### **Relationship to prior approved phases or related SNPLMA projects and anticipated future phases:**

There may be future phases of this project to continue to conduct vegetation treatments on encroaching pinyon and juniper across the Ely Ranger District.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary deliverables

1. Implement treatments of pinyon and juniper between 8,000 and 14,000 acres to restore sage grouse and mule deer habitats across the district.
2. Conduct Class 1 and Class 3 surveys on approximately 10,000 acres across the district.
3. Treatment of between 800 and 1,500 acres or more of noxious and invasive weeds within the project area.
4. Inventory between 10,000 and 20,000 acres for noxious or invasive weeds within the project area.
5. Prepare an annual report to highlight project accomplishments. This report will be distributed to all interested parties.

#### Anticipated deliverables

- None

#### Standard deliverables

- Complete Heritage Resource Surveys and SHPO reports.
- Complete scope of work for grants, contracts or agreements.
- Closeout

### **Project Timeframe:**

The project will be completed within four years.

### **Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

The Currant-Ellison Landscape Restoration Project, Ward Mountain, and North Schell Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices, along with multiple categorical exclusions and decision memos across the district, approve all of the activities identified under this project proposal. All NEPA is completed and archeological clearances are being completed under a PA with SHPO.

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

No information provided.

### **Partnerships and/or contributed funds:**

The Ely Ranger District has developed unique partnerships with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, RMEF, Nevada Division of Forestry and others to implement shared stewardship. Across the State it has become known as the “Ely Model”. No contributed funds or in-kind service identified.

**Funding Summary:**

ROUND 18		
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project		
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONES		
Project Name:	<b>Ely Ranger District Vegetation Treatments</b>	Date prepared: <b>7/29/2020</b>
Project #		Agency: <b>Forest Service</b>
Prepared by:	<b>Justin Rozich</b>	Priority #:
Title/position:	<b>Wildlife Biologist</b>	Phone #: <b>(775) 289-5127</b>
<b>1 Planning &amp; Environmental Documentation</b>		<b>\$120,000 6.15%</b>
	Includes labor for surveys/reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological, historical resources, etc. and preparation of NEPA documentation and the decision document. Does not include on-going compliance monitoring (see Direct Labor #3)	
<b>2 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>		<b>\$36,000 1.85%</b>
	0	
<b>3 Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)</b>		<b>\$261,600 13.41%</b>
	For interagency projects, identify a primary team lead and the lead agency for consultation/coordination and individual agency leads responsible for entering progress and reports into SMART.	
<b>4 Project Equipment and/or Supplies and Materials</b>		<b>\$49,000 2.51%</b>
	Equipment, supplies or materials necessary to complete the project that are not included in contracts/agreements. Includes lease or rental of equipment/vehicles.	
<b>5 Travel</b>		<b>\$8,200 0.42%</b>
	Includes all necessary travel for training and implementation of the project. Training costs for tuition, materials, etc. are identified in item #7 below	
<b>6 Official Vehicle Use (vehicles with Federal license only)</b>		<b>\$36,900 1.89%</b>
	Estimated costs for routine maintenance agency vehicles, leased or rental equipment, oil and gas, tires, etc. Does not include replacement cost	
<b>7 Training (required to implement the project)</b>		<b>\$0 0.00%</b>
	Includes training essential/necessary for implementation of the project.	
<b>8 Contracts, Grants, and/or Agreements for implementation</b>		<b>\$1,322,500 67.80%</b>
	CESU, IGO, Assistance agreements, Task Orders, and contracts for implementation of the project. Also includes all costs for construction/implementation of the plan.	
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>		<b>\$116,405 5.97%</b>
	(See Appendix B-11)	
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b>\$1,950,605 100.00%</b>
<b>10 Estimated agency or partner contribution</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Estimated project value</b>		<b>\$1,950,605</b>

## Performance Measures:

Mechanically treat between 8,000 and 14,000 acres of encroaching pinyon and juniper across the Ely Ranger District.

- Performance Measure H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored: Between 8,000 and 14,000 acres
- Performance Measure C3 - Acres of Cultural/Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Approximately 10,000 acres
- Performance Measure F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Between 8,000 and 14,000 acres

Treat between 800 and 1,500 acres or more of noxious and invasive weeds within and adjacent to the treatment areas.

- Performance Measure H-9
  - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored: Between 800 and 1,500 acres or more.

Complete an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

- Performance Measure O-11 – Number of Databases, Reports, and other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goal, Executive Orders, or Secretarial Orders:

### SNPLMA Strategic Plan Goals/Values

The project supports the following goals and related objectives/sub-objectives in the SNPLMA Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- **Objective: Conserve and Restore Natural Resources**  
Maintain or increase the quality of natural resources and protect their ecological integrity and sustainability.
  - Increase or improve the resource base (e.g., habitat), with a focus on landscape-level habitat restoration.
  - Protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and their habitat.
  - Promote actions to avoid listing of sensitive species as threatened or endangered (e.g. sage grouse).
  - Promote the value of science and research in increasing the effectiveness of conserving and restoring natural resources and promoting resource sustainability.
- **Objective: Promote Project Connectivity and Sustainability**  
Integrate and connect projects across agencies, landscapes, and projects from prior rounds that are sustainable within their environment.
  - Illustrate integration of projects from prior rounds and/or environs that promote integration at a landscape or regional level.
  - Create habitat connectivity across local and regional landscapes.
- **Objective: Protect Communities**  
Manage resources to improve the safety of communities

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by removing hazardous fuels.
- Strategic Goal 2 Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment
  - **Objective: Promote Connectivity and Sustainability**  
Integrate and connect projects across agencies, landscapes, and projects from prior rounds that are sustainable within their environment.
    - Illustrate integration of projects from prior rounds and/or environs that promote integration at a regional level.

Department of the Interior Priorities:

Priority #1: Create a conservation legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- This project restores important habitats for wildlife species and improves the management of the Livestock Grazing Allotment.
- This project will complete these conservation and restoration objectives at a landscape scale and across multiple mountain ranges

Priority #2: Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.

- This project will restore and improve the condition of the resources on public lands while improving the management of the livestock grazing allotments

Priority #3: Restore trust and be a good neighbor.

- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.
- We have been working with partners to design and plan this project

Priority #4: Ensure Tribal Sovereignty means something.

- The Ely Ranger District has and will continue coordinating this project with representatives from the Ely Shoshone and Duckwater Tribes.

Priority #5: Increase Revenues o support the Department and national interests.

- Not applicable

Priority #6: Protect our people and the border.

- Not applicable

Priority #7: Strike a Regulatory Balance.

- Not applicable

Priority #8: Modernize our infrastructure.

- Not applicable

Priority #9: Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.

- Not applicable

Priority #10: Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

- Not applicable

Forest Service/National Park Service Priorities:

- a) Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.
  - Not Applicable
- b) Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.
  - The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State

governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.

- We have been working with partners to design and plan this project.
- c) Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.
  - The Ely Ranger District has actively included the Nevada Department of Wildlife early in the development and planning of this and similar projects.
  - The Ely Ranger District has developed unique partnerships with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, RMEF, Nevada Division of Forestry and others to implement shared stewardship. Across the State it has become known as the “Ely Model”.
- d) Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.
  - This project will implement multiple restoration activities throughout the project area.
  - This project will restore and improve wildlife habitats, rangelands, and other resources.
- e) Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.
  - This Project will improve recreational opportunities by improving habitats for wildlife. This will improve opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.

Executive Orders:

*EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*

- This project will improve the condition of rangelands and wildlife habitats at a landscape scale.
- This project will also reduce fuels and reduce wildfire risks through the treatment of pinyon-juniper.

Secretarial Orders:

*SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

*SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and elk all of which are important game species in this area.
- This project will improve wildlife habitats and ultimately improve opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing in the area.
- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects like this one.

*SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors*

- This project will improve habitats for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, sage grouse and elk all of which are important game species in this area.
- This project will improve winter, summer and transitional ranges for

numerous big game species.

SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior

- Not Applicable

SO No. 3372 Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

- Not Applicable

SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act

- Not Applicable

SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes

- Not Applicable

Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s): Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

- Not Applicable

### **Ranking Criteria:**

Criteria 1: Fuels Management: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.

Factor A: Project will conduct treatments to maintain healthy sagebrush rangelands, including preventative measures for annual grass invasion and conifer encroachment.

- Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.
- Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.

Factor B: Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory and conifer encroachment.

- Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.
- Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.

Factor C: Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.

- Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper dominated landscapes within and adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.
- Treatments will also address any potential noxious or invasive species.

Factor D: Project is to remove pinyon pine and juniper to decrease the fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian, and/or aspen stands.

- Treatments under this proposal will decrease fire risk and severity in sagebrush habitats through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment.

Criteria 2. Habitat Recovery/Restoration

Factor A: The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area of Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat, riparian area, or aspen stand.

- Treatments under this proposal will maintain, restore, and enhance healthy sagebrush communities through treatments of pinyon and juniper encroachment in important habitats across the district.

Factor B: The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat, riparian area, or aspen stands.

- NA

Factor C: The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat.

- NA

Factor D: The project will create, maintain, or restore sagebrush landscape cover.

- The project area contains significant sagebrush habitats that provide habitats for wildlife species such as sage grouse and mule deer. These treatments will help to maintain and restore these healthy sagebrush communities.

### Criteria 3 *Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation*

Factor A: Project is located to strategically prevent fire spread or support suppression activities to minimize the loss of sagebrush rangelands. A strategically placed fuel break as an anchor point for suppression or fuels reduction activities to lesion potential fire intensity.

- Pinyon and juniper treatments will create additional fuel breaks across the district.

Factor B: Project will rehabilitate a previously burned area to prevent the establishment of invasive annual grasses.

- NA

## 4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information

Factor A: Project will lead to needed/ improved scientific information on the design, implementation, and/or adaption of landscape-scale restoration treatments, including known gaps in land health or sagebrush data.

- Information and monitoring data gained following implementation of this project will supplement and contribute to the existing scientific knowledge regarding vegetation treatments on encroaching pinyon and juniper landscapes. The data collected will be available to state and local landowners as well as other federal land management agencies.
- The project will incorporate results from documented treatments in the project area and assess for effectiveness at different locations across the landscape. The assessments will take place when possible based on individual restoration site size, comparisons between sites, and incorporate replicates of different methods.

## 5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability.

Factor A: The project involves non-governmental groups, volunteers, or organizations in the development and accomplishment of resource management goals, education, outreach, and other activities. The project has identified committed non-SNPLMA resources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation.

- The planning of this project has involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife and multiple livestock permittees.

Factor B: Community: In addition to the direct benefit to the nominating entity, actively involves and addresses the needs of at least one additional governmental agency, community or private land manager.

- The Nevada Department of Wildlife has been involved in the planning for this project. This project will meet the needs and objectives of NDOW.
- Portions of this project will improve management of the livestock grazing allotments and will meet the needs of the grazing permittees.

Factor C: Connectivity: Completed, current/ongoing, or future restoration projects, of any funding source and jurisdiction (including private lands), where the physical project boundaries connect and/or habitat connectivity is enhanced.

Completed SNPLMA projects that occurred across the project area include:

- Round 8: White Pine Sagebrush Restoration Project (completed)
- Round 10: White River Valley Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education (completed)
- Round 10: Soil Survey of Mt. Moriah and White Pine Range (completed)
- Round 11: Central White Pine Sage Grouse Restoration Project (completed)
- Round 15: Currant Ellison Landscape Restoration Project (completed)
- Round 15: North Schell Restoration Project (Ongoing)
- Round 16: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Project (Ongoing)
- Round 16: Ely District Weeds Treatment, Inventory and Monitoring Project (Ongoing)

Factor D: Sustainability: Project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefitting entity.

- Treatment, inventory, and monitoring data collected during this project may be used by multiple agencies and landowners related to project restoration activities.

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Maps:

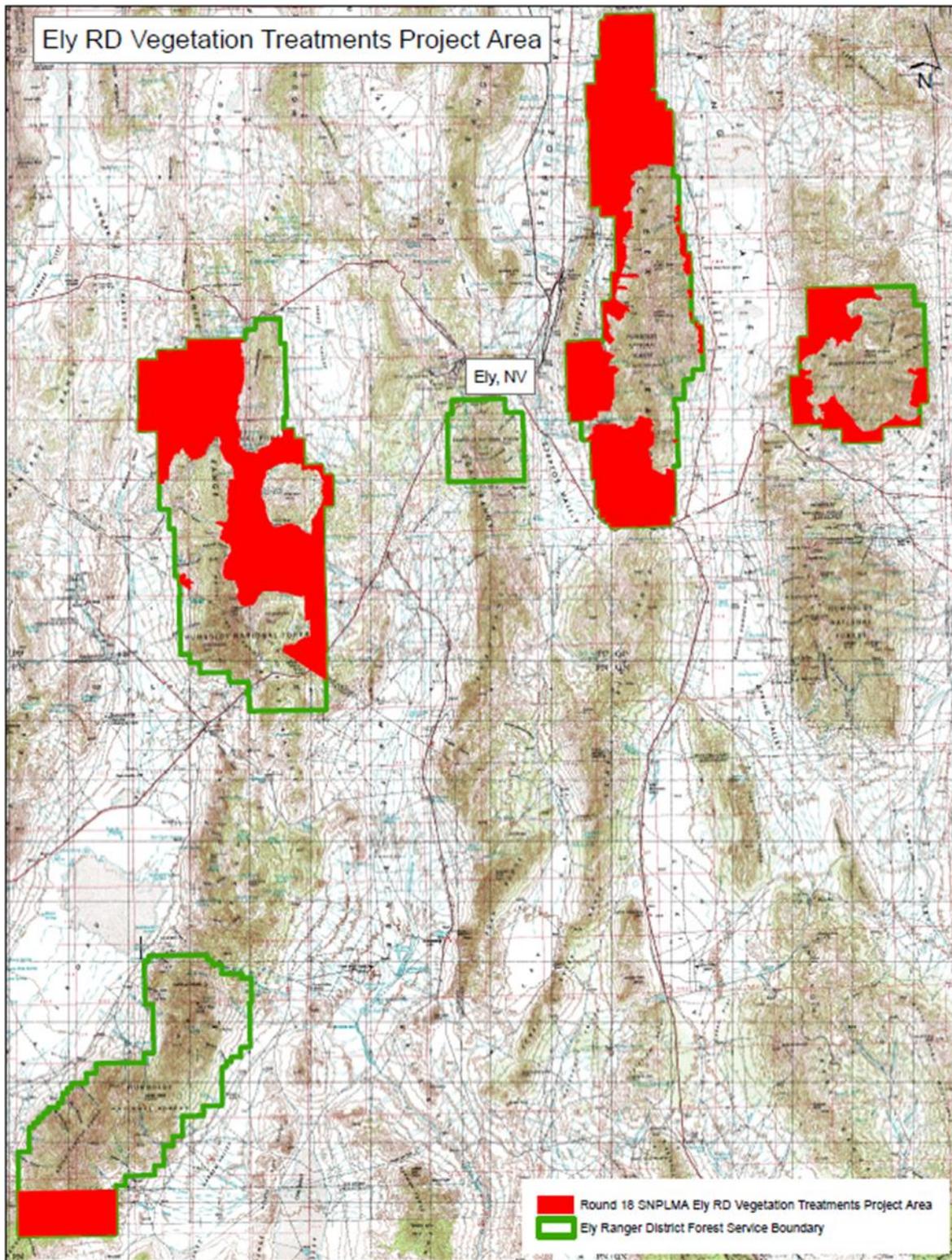


Figure 1 Treatment/project areas.

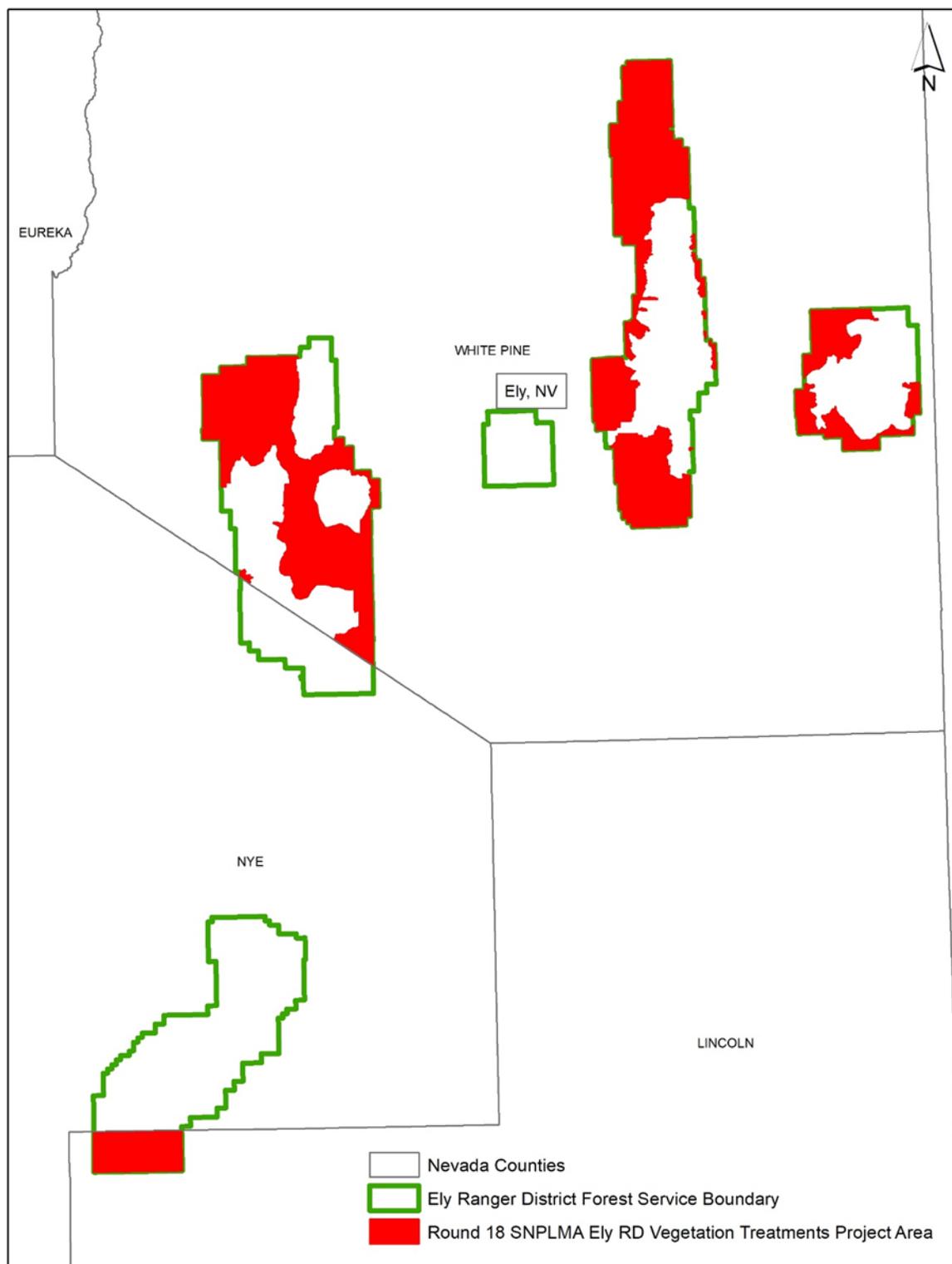


Figure 2 Project areas limited to White Pine and Lincoln Counties.

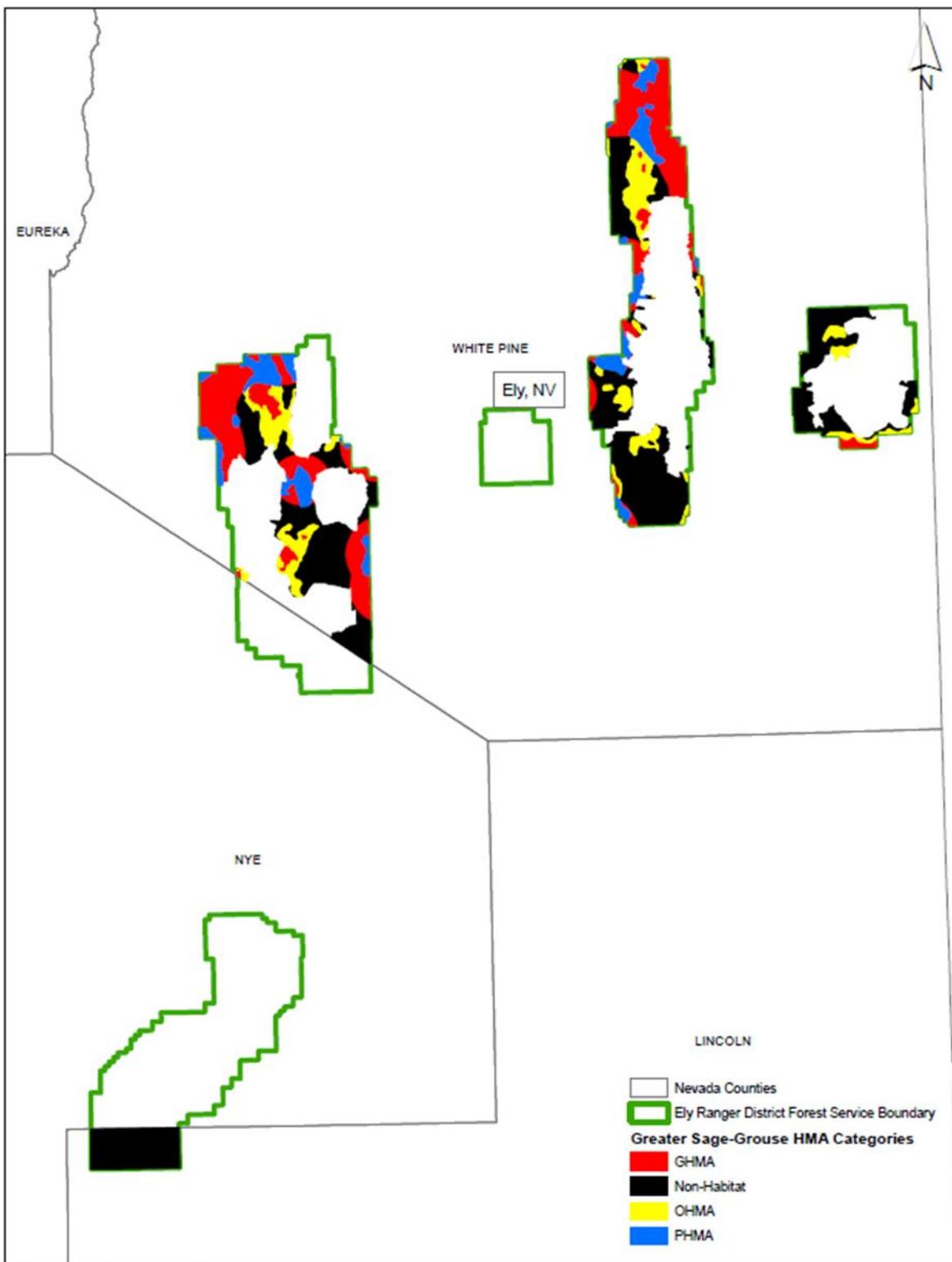
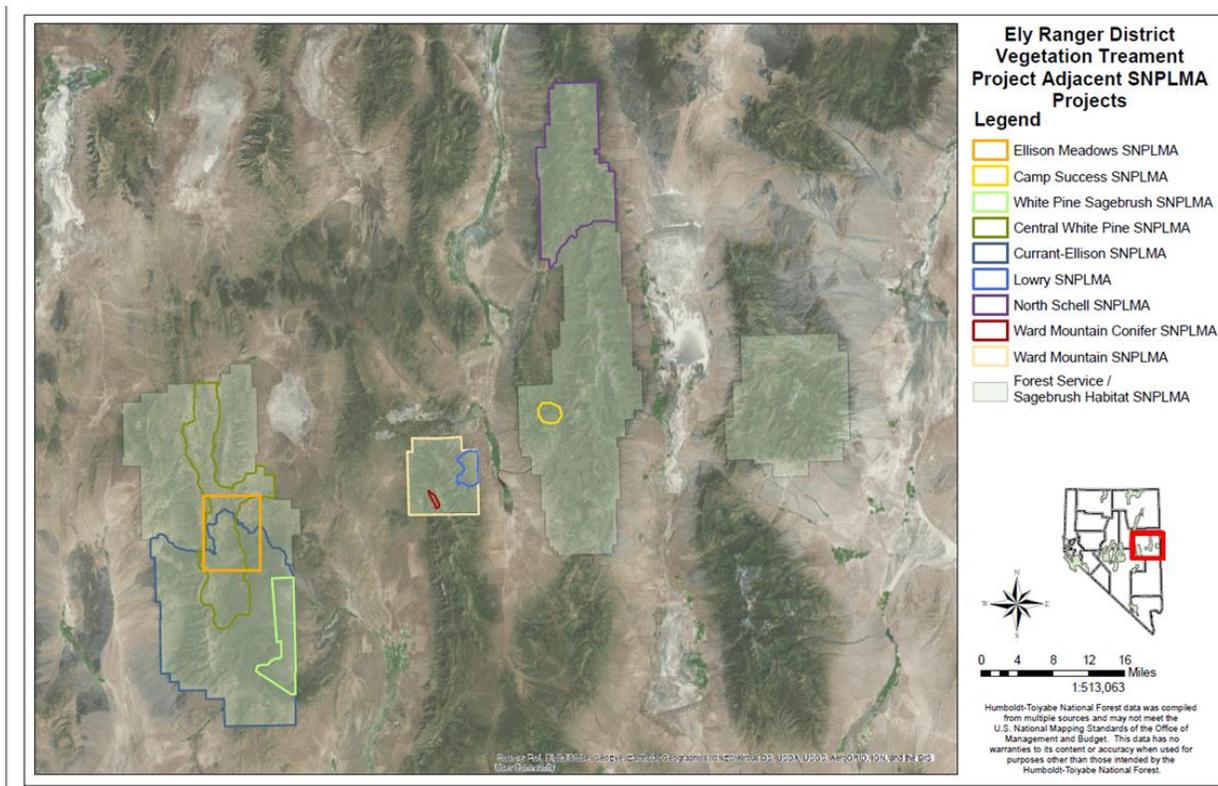


Figure 3 Habitat within project areas.



**Photos**

None

**Letters of support:**

None