

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
Round 19**

**Bureau of Land Management
Ely District**



**South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed
Restoration Implementation**

Amount Requested: \$3,072,000

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) (GRSG) habitat and the enhancement of their habitat is an important priority of the BLM. Conifer expansion, primarily pinyon pine/Utah juniper, into sagebrush landscapes has been identified as a threat to the GRSG. Conifer expansion also directly reduces GRSG habitat by displacing shrubs and herbaceous understory as well as by providing perches for avian predators. Conifer expansion also leads to larger, more severe fires in sagebrush systems by increasing woody fuel loads. Sage grouse populations have been shown to be impacted by even low levels of conifer expansion. The Ely District Resource Management Plan (2008, amended 2015) also analyzed this factor and is the land use plan that this project proposal conforms. Implementation of this project would be completed through service contracts to reduce the conifer expansion into sagebrush communities. Project completion would be determined when the conifers are removed from the sage brush community and results monitored with approved techniques (i.e., AIMs).

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This proposed project to reduce pinyon/juniper tree encroachment within the sagebrush vegetative communities was analyzed in the South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan Environmental Assessment a SNPLMA Round 16 ENLRP Project B015. The proposal is also not part of a previous phase. However, it does build on completed and planned GRSG habitat improvement projects within the watershed (SNPLMA Project BL30) and adjacent watersheds implemented through regular BLM program funds (fuels and wildlife) and SNPLMA funded Projects (B012, B013, B014, B016 and BL30). Future pinyon/juniper tree encroachment reduction projects could be implemented depending on funding availability.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

It is understood that this is a stand-alone project and there is no guarantee of funding in the future.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project has two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

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

1. Sustainability:

This project proposal is to conduct vegetation restoration on approximately 8,000 to 10,000 acres within the South Spring and Hamlin Valley Watersheds to improve habitat for the GRSG by reducing conifer (pinyon/juniper) expansion into sagebrush communities (Map 1). Conifer expansion densities vary from low to higher within the project area. Implementation of this project would utilize a combination of both mechanical (higher density areas) and manual (lower density areas) treatment methods. Within the higher density areas where mechanical treatment methods are utilized aerial seeding (with appropriate seed mix) could occur.

Conifer expansion, primarily pinyon pine/Utah juniper, into sagebrush landscapes has been identified as a threat to the GRSG. Conifer expansion directly reduces sage-grouse habitat by displacing shrubs and herbaceous understory and provides perches for avian predators. Conifer expansion also leads to larger, more severe wildfires in sagebrush systems by increasing woody fuel loads. This proposed project is in line with state priority of sound, effective resource management to enhance and restore public land. If this project is not funded through SNPLMA, funding would then be pursued through the fuels and MRL budgeting process.

2. Connectivity:

This project, located within the Southern Great Basin Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), would improve GRSG habitat by increasing health and vigor of herbaceous understory, reduce conifer expansion, and reduce the threat of wildland fire. This project would maintain and increase GRSG Priority, General and Other Habitat Management Areas and leks within and adjacent to the proposed project areas (Map 2). Connectivity would be maintained and increased between completed and planned GRSG habitat improvement projects within adjacent watersheds including treatments completed through regular BLM program funds (fuels and wildlife) and SNPLMA funded Projects (B012, B013, B014, B016 and BL30) (Map 3). Connectivity between seasonal habitats, habitat management areas, and leks is essential for GRSG to meet all 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 points for fire suppression and reduce the threat of wildfire moving into the sagebrush community in South Spring and Hamlin Valleys. 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.

3. Community:

This project promotes community by improving the quality of life for humans, protecting the integrity of biological communities and cultural sites, and improves habitat for wildlife. It builds on previous SNPLMA and BLM projects to substantially increase, maintain, and improve 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 by 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.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management Ely District proposes to implement 8,000 – 10,000 acres of vegetative restoration treatments analyzed in the South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan (SNPLMA B015) to aid in the improvement and/or maintenance of sagebrush vegetative community health within the watersheds (Map 1). This would be accomplished through the restoration of sage brush vegetative communities; reduction in potential for large wildfires by reducing fuel loading; increase understory grass and forb species diversity; increase available wildlife habitat; and improve existing wildlife habitat through the reduction of conifer expansion.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Reduce pinyon/juniper expansion on approximately 8,000 – 10,000 acres within the sagebrush vegetation community.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Aerial seeding could occur on approximately 4,000 – 10,000 acres.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Cultural clearance could occur on approximately 4,000 – 12,000 acres.
Note: More acres of cultural clearance may need to be inventoried than the primary deliverable to ensure a large enough area to accommodate the primary deliverable acres. This allows for areas with cultural resources to be avoided while maintaining the size of the project area.
- Vegetation monitoring reports
- Contract preparation and contract management
- Outreach to affected public and partners
- Measurement of acres treated
- Preparation and submittal of the closeout package to SNPLMA Division.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

38.472603 -114.223575

Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional 4th District, NV-4

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Once funding is approved this project would take up to five years to complete.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 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 |
| Year 5 | - Post Treatment Monitoring
- Project closeout |

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? Yes No

NEPA for this proposal is being completed in the South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Plan Environmental Assessment (SNPLMA Round 16 ENLRP Project B015). During the evaluation time of this SNPLMA round a decision will be issued in early FY22. Implementation of this proposed project would be able to begin immediately if this project is approved.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Not Applicable

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Bureau of Land Management, Ely District is seeking \$3,072,000 in SNPLMA funding to complete the project.

Partnership and/or Contributed Funds

Our partnership portfolio includes state agencies and local government. The Nevada Department of Wildlife has partnered with BLM on several of the previous treatments in this and adjacent areas and believes this project would continue the improvement of sagebrush habitat for sage grouse and other wildlife. The Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited is a local hunting and conservation organization supports this project as a way to improve and maintain sage grouse and big game habitat. The Lincoln County Commissioners support this project as a way to improve sage grouse and other wildlife habitats within Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife supports this project as critical in terms of realizing the continued benefits to habitat improvement and this project will extend beyond sage grouse to benefit other plants and animals. The Lincoln County Conservation District supports approval of this project and sees it as another step forward to working alongside each other to improve watersheds in Lincoln County.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation	Date: 11/4/21	
Project Manager:	Kyle Teel	Agency: BLM	
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 202,000.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ -	\$ -
3. Training		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ -	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 660,000.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 1,888,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ 257,000.00	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 3,072,000.00	\$ -

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Robbie McAboy
 Email: rmcaboy@blm.gov
 Phone Number: (775)289-1840

Project Manager: Kyle Teel
 Email: kteel@blm.gov
 Phone Number: (775)726-8117

Budget Officer: Bruce Tebbs
 Email: btebbs@blm.gov
 Phone Number: (775)726-8135

K. RANKING 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. (Projects are only eligible for Items A, B, or C; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer Item D if it applies to your nomination).

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

Answer: The proposed project would reduce pinyon/juniper tree encroachment within the sagebrush vegetative communities thus improving the sagebrush communities for GRSG and sagebrush obligate species.

- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory, and conifer encroachment. (*Do not answer if you answered Item A. already*).

Answer:

- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands. (*Do not answer if you answered Items A or B already*).

Answer:

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

Answer: The proposed project would reduce pinyon/juniper tree encroachment within the sagebrush vegetative communities thus reducing fire potential by changing

structure that causes large-scale crown fires. Fires would be slowed, and their intensity reduced within the treated and adjacent areas.

2. **Habitat Recovery/Restoration.** (Projects are only eligible for Factors A, B, or C, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer either Item D1 or D2, whichever applies to your nomination).

- A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map)

Answer: This project will implement habitat restoration within the Southern Great Basin Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), and within sage grouse habitat considered Priority, General and Other Habitat Management Areas (Map 2).

- B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map). *(Do not answer if you answered Item A. already).*

Answer:

- C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat. *(Do not answer if you answered Item A or B already).*

Answer:

- D. Sagebrush landscape cover.

D1. Project area is characterized as low resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.

Answer: The sagebrush landscape cover in the proposed project areas is greater than 25% and the areas are characterized as low resistance and resilience.

D2. Project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover. *(Do not answer if you answered Item D1. already).*

Answer:

3. **Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation.** Answer all applicable.

- 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.

Answer: The proposed project would reduce pinyon/juniper tree encroachment within the sagebrush vegetative communities thus improving the sagebrush communities for GRSG and sagebrush obligate species. These treated areas will also provide fuel breaks as both an anchor point for fire suppression and reduce the threat of wildfire moving into and through the sagebrush community in South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley.

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

Answer:

4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information. Answer all applicable.

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

Answer: 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.

5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability. Answer all applicable.

- 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 sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Answer: Implementation of this project would accomplish projects outlined in the Lincoln County Sage-Grouse Area Working Group's Lincoln County Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.

- 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, (includes Federal, state, local, and tribal governments) community, or private land manager.

Answer: Implementation of this project has involved the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and would improve habitat for sage grouse as well as a myriad of other sagebrush obligate wildlife species.

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

Answer: Connectivity would be maintained and increased between completed and planned GRSG habitat improvement projects within the South Spring and Hamlin Valley Watersheds and adjacent watersheds. These treatments have been completed through regular BLM program funds (fuels and wildlife) and SNPLMA funded Projects (B012, B013, B014, B016 and BL30) (Map 3).

- D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefiting entity.

Answer: Pre and post treatment monitoring data could be incorporated into ongoing rangeland health monitoring throughout the district and provide valuable data for habitat assessments on how to treat and restore landscapes.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

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

- ***EO No. 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: This project would result in the employment of America's Workers through service contracts to reduce pinyon/juniper expansion within the sagebrush vegetation community.

B. Secretarial Orders

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

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

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

Answer: This project would maintain and improve the management of game species (elk, mule 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.***

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

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

Answer: This project would maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of big-game habitat for elk, mule deer, and antelope which could lead to an increase in their population resulting in an increased recreational opportunity to view and/or hunt these species.

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: Not Applicable

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

Answer: This project would enhance the BLMs 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.

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: Not Applicable

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

Answer: Not Applicable

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

Answer: Not Applicable

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** *We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.*

Answer: Implementation of this project could result in the availability of biomass.

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** *We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.*

Answer: The Environmental Assessment which analyzed the treatments outlined in this proposal to address conifer encroachment went through a tribal consultation.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** *This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.*

Answer: This project would result in employment through service contracts to reduce pinyon/juniper expansion within the sagebrush vegetation community.

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** *We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.*

Answer: Implementation of this project would reduce conifer encroachment within sagebrush communities helping to improve, maintain, and protect the health and biodiversity of these important communities.

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered*

disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

Answer: Implementation of this project does not affect communities of color, low-income families, rural, and indigenous. The Environmental Assessment which analyzed the treatments outlined in this proposal to address conifer encroachment went through a tribal consultation.

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. *Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic*

Answer: Not Applicable

2. *Providing economic relief*

Answer: Not Applicable

3. *Tackling climate change*

Answer: Not Applicable

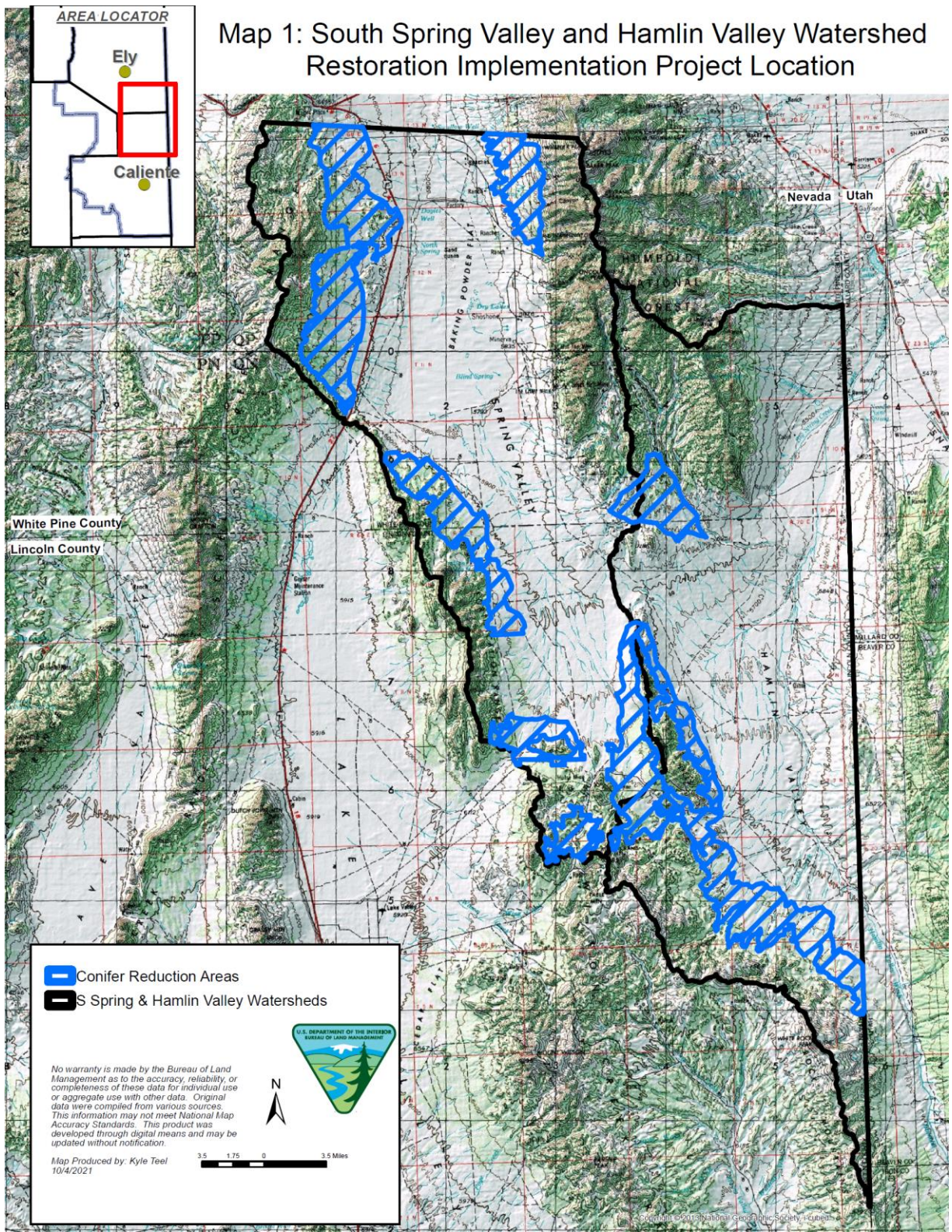
4. *Advancing racial equity*

Answer: Not Applicable

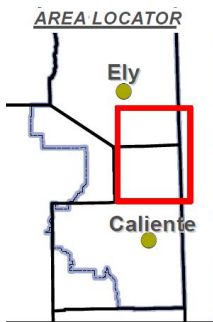
5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: Not Applicable

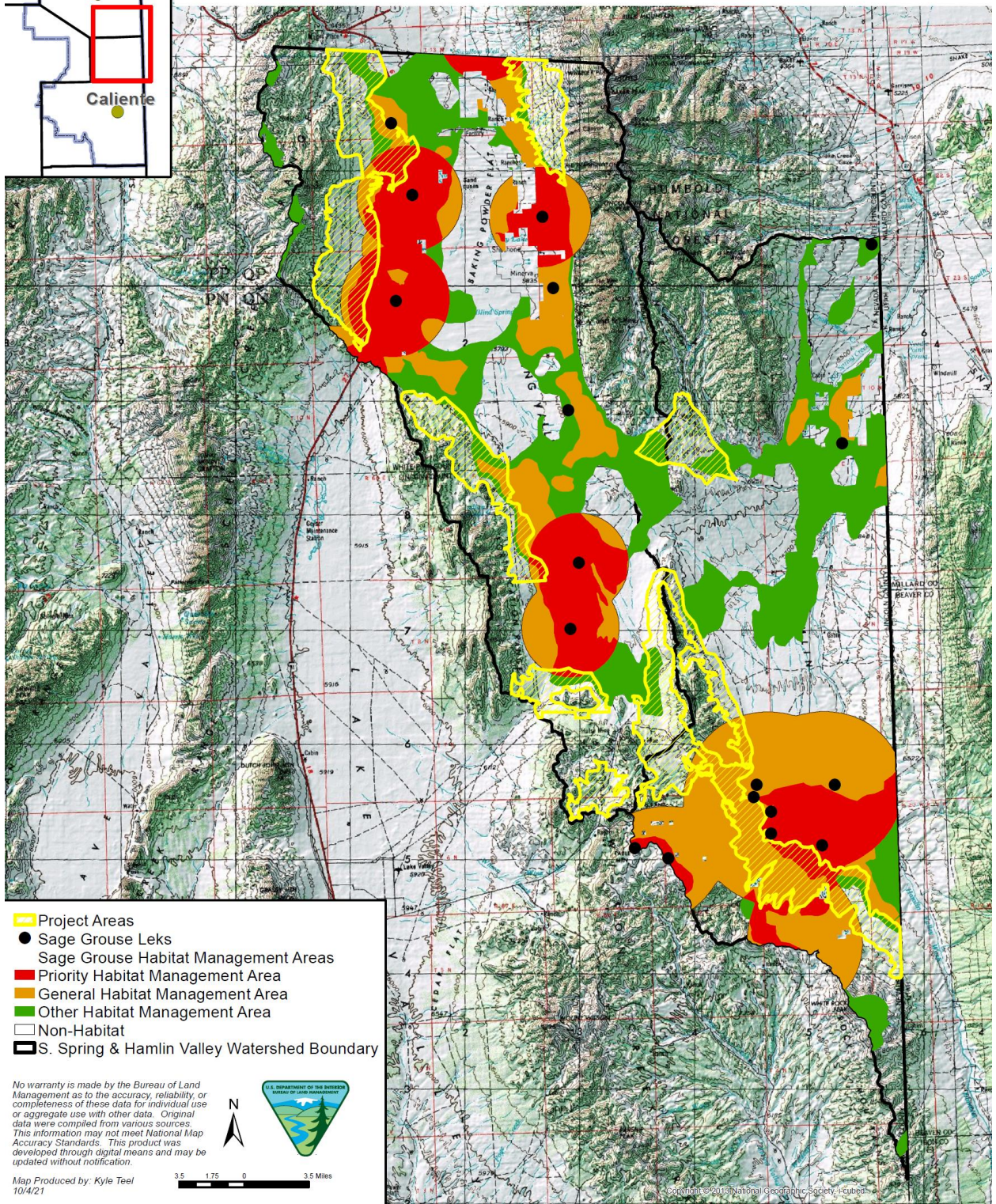
M. MAPS



Map 1: Project Location, South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration

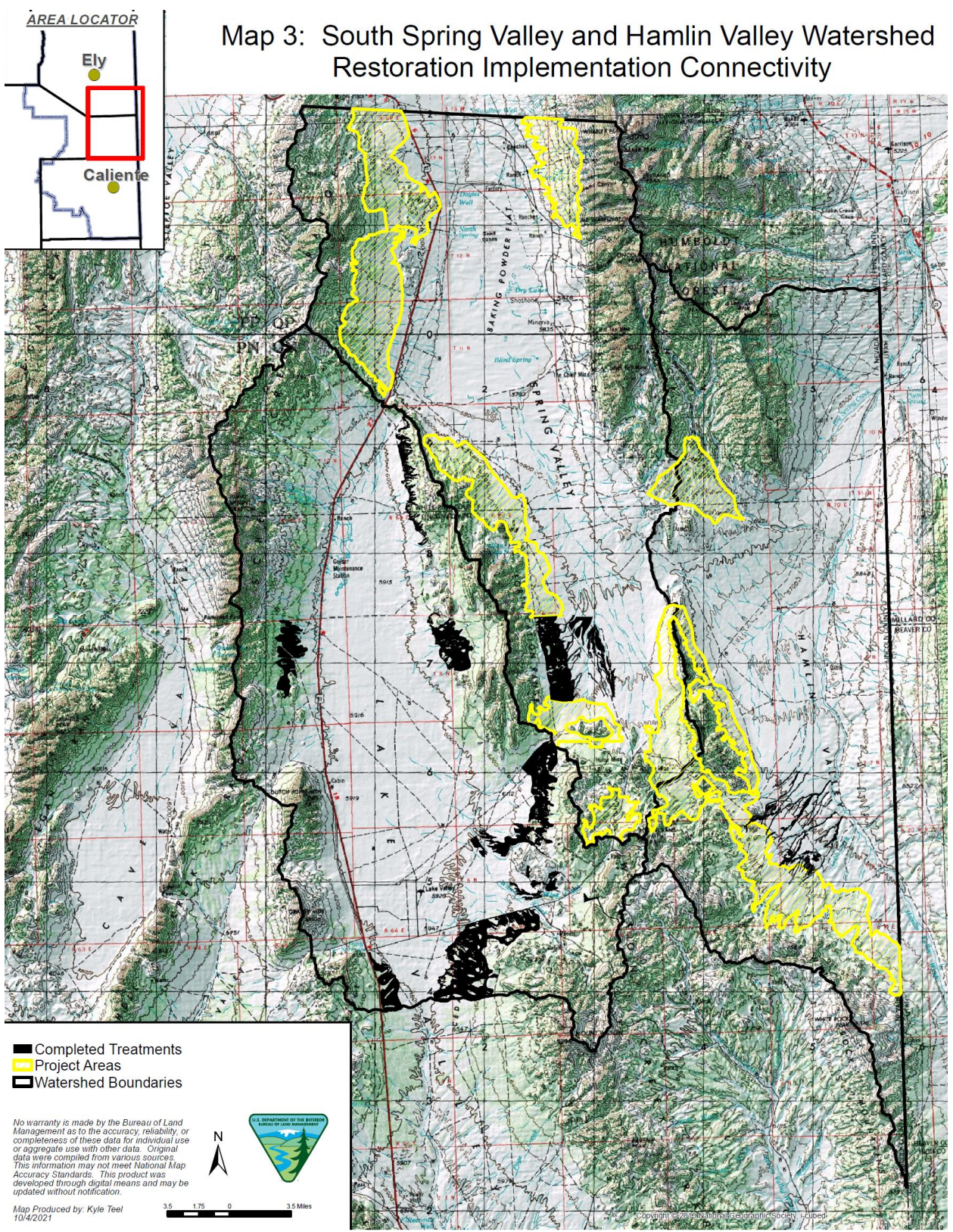


Map 2: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project Sustainability



Map 2: SNPLMA Strategic Values – Sustainability

Map 3: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Connectivity



Map 3: SNPLMA Strategic Values – Connectivity

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the acres have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire rehabilitation projects or by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as these should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as these should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	8,000 –10,000
Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency outside the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	8,000 –10,000

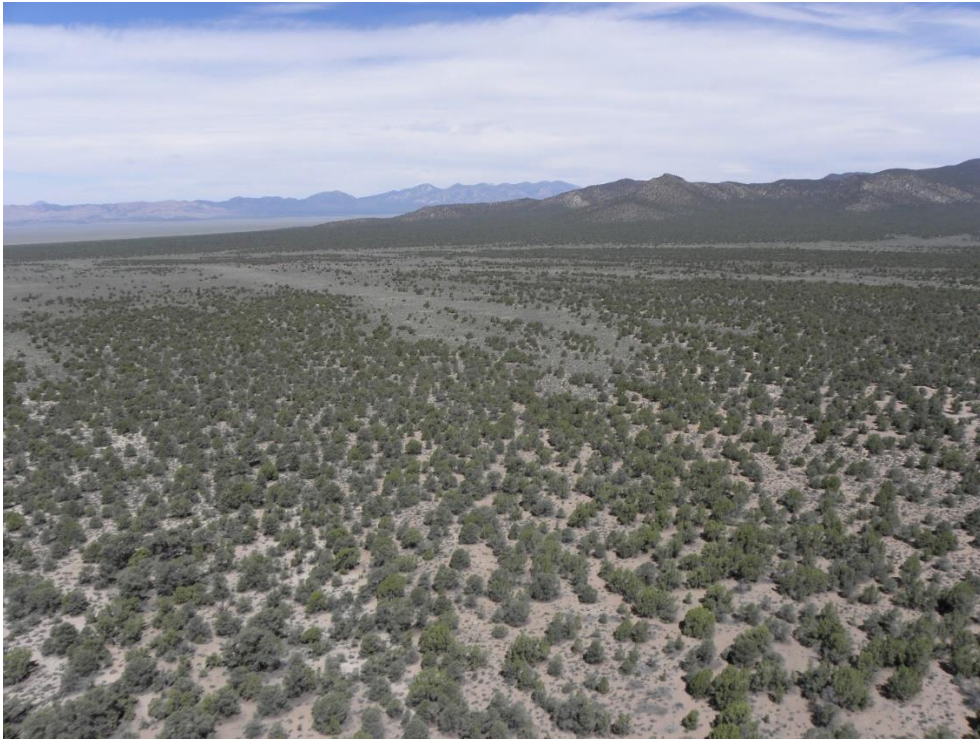
O. PHOTOS

Photo 1: An example of conifer expansion. 38.48915 -114.3739



Photo 2: An example of conifer expansion. 38.35351 -114.4133



Photo 3: An example of conifer expansion. 38.47471 -114.3325



Photo 4: An example of conifer expansion. 38.47697 -114.3121

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

- 1. Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
- 2. Lincoln County, Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
- 3. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
- 4. Lincoln County Conservation District
- 5. Board of County Commissioners, Lincoln County, Nevada



MEADOW VALLEY WILDLIFE UNLIMITED

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



October 6, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Teel,

Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, (MVWU) would like to extend its support for the following Round 19 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project.

MVWU knows this project would greatly enhance sage grouse habitat. In addition, a host of other benefits will be realized as these projects provide a positive “ripple-effect” to the landscape, habitat, and many other species of wildlife.

We appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert Rowe
Vice President, MVWU

The Mission of MVWU is to Conserve Wildlife, Habitat and the Hunting Heritage



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

*Dane Bradfield
John Condie
John Tibbetts
George Rowe
Cory Lytle*

October 5, 2021



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

RE: Support for Round 19 ENLRP – South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project

Mr. Teel,

The Lincoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, would like to express its full support for the following Round 19 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project.

This project would aid in improving habitat for sage grouse within Lincoln County. Additionally, the benefits of this type of project extend well beyond that of sage grouse and in fact significantly impact a large variety of plant and animal species in many positive ways.

We fully support this project and appreciate the continued efforts in supporting Nevada’s wildlife populations and their habitat.

Yours in Conservation-

Cory Lytle
Chair



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

BONNIE LONG
Deputy Director

MACK ROBB
Deputy Director



September 29, 2021

Kyle Teel
Fire Ecologist
Bureau of Land Management – Ely District

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project

Dear Mr. Teel,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (the Department) is pleased to support the Ely BLM's Round 19 SNPLMA Proposal "South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project". This project will allow the implementation of habitat improvement projects within the South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watersheds. The Department has partnered with BLM in the past on several habitat improvement project similar to those outlined in this proposal, thru both implementation and monitoring, and believes that implementation of these habitat restoration projects for sage grouse as well as a myriad of other sagebrush obligate wildlife is an extremely worthwhile endeavor.

We feel this project will expand upon habitat projects, and we are pleased to be a partner in this joint effort. We look forward to providing support through technical advising, feedback and review, and development of the framework.

If we can provide any additional support, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Moira Kolada
Eastern Region Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775)289-1655 ext 5
mkolada@ndow.org

Lincoln County Conservation District
 360 Lincoln St. PO Box 445
 Caliente, NV 89008
 775 726-3101 / lincolncountycdny@gmail.com

"Conserving our Resources for Future Generations"

September 23, 2021

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



Dear Mr. Teel,

Lincoln County Conservation District extends its support for the following Round 19 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project:

South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project

Conservation Districts (CDs) are entities of state government with the specific charge of locally led conservation. Lincoln County CD participates in the Lincoln County Sage-Grouse Area Working Group (LAWG) process, bringing a private land perspective and connection to the group. Approval of this project will allow for habitat improvement projects to continue in areas outlined in the Lincoln County Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.

Each year the CD works hard to expand its role in Lincoln County, pursuing grant funding for a variety of projects. We are grateful to have a good working relationship with the BLM staff in Caliente. We see your SNPLMA grant application as another step forward to working alongside each other to improve watersheds in Lincoln County by implementing habitat improvement projects that are outlined in the South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Restoration Plan.

Thank you very much; we fully support your effort to seek SNPLMA funds for this needed work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Maggie Orr".

Maggie Orr
 Vice-Chair



*Board of County Commissioners
Lincoln County, Nevada*

P.O. Box 90 – Pioche, Nevada 89043
Telephone (775) 962-8077
Fax (775) 962-5180

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jared Brackenbury, Chair
Bevan Lister, Vice-Chair
Varlin Higbee
Keith Pearson

Kyle Teel, Fire Ecologist
BLM – Ely District Office
P.O. Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dylan V. Frehner

COUNTY CLERK

Lisa C. Lloyd

Re: Support for South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project

Dear Mr. Teel,

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners strongly supports the following Round 19 Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act – Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project: South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation Project.

We concur with the habitat improvement projects outlined in this proposal as they are supported and encouraged within the Lincoln County Sage Grouse Conservation Plan. The proposed project is also consistent with policies set forth in the Lincoln County Public Lands Policy Plan.

As you are well aware, implementation of this proposal would drastically aid in improving habitat not only for sage grouse, but a host of other species within Lincoln County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jared Brackenbury
Chair

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
Round 19**

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District**



Illipah Watershed Restoration

Amount Requested: \$3,396,395

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past 5 years the Forest Service has been cooperating with partners including the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Ely BLM, and the Livestock Permittee/Private Landowner. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and Trout Unlimited completed an analysis/report outlining potential restoration opportunities within the Illipah Watershed. The Forest Service, NDOW, BLM and the Livestock permittee/landowner have been coordinating to translocate and reestablish beaver into the watershed as part of the restoration objectives. Beavers are very effective at stabilizing streams and raising water tables within watersheds and have effectively been managed in many areas to facilitate restoration goals. The livestock permittee/landowner has been the primary proponent for beaver translocation.

Erosion and sedimentation within the watershed has resulted in reduced water storage within Illipah Reservoir which in turn has also reduced the opportunities for recreational fishing opportunities. There is a need to reduce erosion within the watershed and to stabilize soils and riparian areas while restoring Illipah Reservoir. All partners agree that there is a need to conduct restoration activities at a landscape scale.

This is a Forest Service and Ely BLM Interagency Project. This Project is in compliance with the Humboldt Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) and the BLM Ely District Resource Management Plan (2008).

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

There are no prior phases of this project. We also do not anticipate any future phases of this project. This project does overlap and/or occur adjacent to other restoration projects previously approved by and completed under SNPLMA. The Current-Ellison Watershed Restoration project was located in the adjacent watershed just to the south. The Sagebrush Restoration project overlapped this project area and focused on treatment of pinyon-juniper to restore sagebrush communities.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

This is a stand-alone project with no planned future phases.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project has two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

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

1. Sustainability:

- Implement landscape scale restoration activities across administrative boundaries.
- Restoration activities may include vegetation treatments, riparian vegetation plantings, seeding, channel stabilization/restoration, wildlife restoration, wildlife habitat improvements, fisheries habitat improvement, riparian exclosures, soil stabilization and reduction of sedimentation.
- Collaborate with partners to reestablish sustainable beaver populations within the watershed. Restoring beaver will improve watershed and riparian resources in the watershed and have long-term positive benefits including water quality, water quantity, sediment capture and other significant benefits.
- Complete road improvements to reduce potential erosion and sedimentation into streams. The road repairs will also prepare the existing road for populations of beaver and prevent future road/beaver conflicts.
- Utilize interpretive boards to educate visitors about the restoration activities.
- The agency will participate in multiple public meetings or events to educate the public about the restoration work.
- This project will also dredge portions of Illipah Reservoir to restore water holding capacity and improve recreational fishing opportunities.
- As part of the dredging actions armored islands may be constructed to improve habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

2. Connectivity:

- This project occurs within the Illipah Watershed in the White Pine Mountain Range.
- The project includes Illipah Reservoir and the Illipah Campground, which is a popular BLM developed campground.
- The project location provides an excellent opportunity to provide interpretive information to visitors about the restoration activities and link visitors to the natural environment.

3. Community:

- Implement multiple activities to restore riparian habitats, fisheries habitats, wildlife habitats and other resources within the Project Area.
- Improve ecosystems and biological communities and link visitors to those resources and the benefits of the restoration work.
- This project involves multiple partners including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Landowner/Permittee, and others.

Many of the actions identified below were outlined in a report completed by Trout Unlimited and the NDOW.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

This project will involve multiple partners to restore watersheds and ecosystems at a landscape scale and across administrative boundaries. This project will implement numerous restoration related activities including restoring native beaver populations to the watershed.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Install large riparian exclosures with armored water gaps to protect and recover riparian areas.
- Install between 10-15 beaver analogues or similar structures.
- Rehabilitate access roads and install drainage to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Redesign the road crossing over Illipah Creek near the confluence with Cottonwood Creek to reduce impacts from flooding and potential impacts associated with establishment of beaver populations (i.e., install large culverts, etc.).
- Plant willow cuttings and bundles along approximately 6 miles of stream.
- Cut approximately 500 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore sagebrush communities and improve sage grouse and mule deer habitats.
- Inventory approximately 2,000 acres and treat approximately 50 acres of project area for noxious weeds.
- Rehabilitate and close approximately 5 miles of unauthorized roads.
- Reestablish perennial vegetation by seeding disturbed sites.
- Reconstruct approximately 15 miles of allotment and pasture fences utilizing wildlife friendly specs to improve management of livestock in the watershed.
- Between 2-3 interpretive displays will be installed.
- Between 1-2 interpretive presentations will be conducted annually for 5 years.
- Utilize Forest Service crews and equipment to stabilize channels and headcuts.
- Portions of the Illipah Reservoir will be dredged to improve fisheries habitats and increase the depth of the reservoir.
- Award contracts or agreements to live trap and transplant beaver into the project area. These actions will be coordinated and approved by NDOW.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Reestablish beaver populations within the watershed.
- As part of the dredging activities, armored islands may be constructed to provide waterfowl and shorebird habitats.
- As part of the reservoir actions, structures may be constructed or placed in the reservoir to improve fisheries habitats.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Complete required inventories, site assessments, and cultural assessments within the project area as required.
- Complete site surveys and contract prep activities.

- Complete environmental planning process including: NEPA analysis and decision, SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
- Coordination with the SNPLMA Program Managers.
- Development of the project workplan, site inspection and project initiation.
- SMART quarterly status updates
- SMART quarterly expenditures/obligations updates.
- SMART annual and final accomplishment reports.
- Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.304753, -115.397721

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional District NV-4

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project timeframe will be 5 years.

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? Yes No

Planning, surveys and NEPA analysis will need to be completed for many of the activities listed under this project. Some activities such as most of the vegetation related work are currently approved.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- The anticipated lifecycle of the project will be approximately 30-40 years.
- Project will result in an increase in the annual maintenance costs due to the increase in miles of fencing.
- Minimize the increase in maintenance cost through the use of low maintenance pipe rail fencing wherever possible.
- Reduce annual maintenance costs and significantly reduce deferred maintenance by road improvements and culvert installation.
- Riparian and watershed restoration actions have no impacts on annual operations and maintenance costs.
- Dredging activities at the reservoir will reduce future operations and maintenance costs and will effectively increase the effectiveness of the reservoir to provide future recreational fishing opportunities.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District and Bureau of Land Management, Ely District are seeking \$3,396,395 in SNPLMA funding to complete this project.

Partnership and/or Contributed Funds

We expect that various partners will have in kind contributions during the implementation of this project; however, we currently do not have any commitments. Additionally, we expect a minimum of 200 hours of volunteer labor will be committed to the implementation of this project.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Illipah Watershed Restoration	Date:	1/4/2022
Project Manager:	Jose Noriega	Agency:	USFS & BLM
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 779,400.00	\$ 5,708.00
2. Travel		\$ 50,400.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 345,000.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 2,010,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 79,595.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ 42,000.00	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 3,396,395.00	\$ 5,708.00

J. KEY CONTACTS

Forest Service Authorized Officer: Jose Noriega, District Ranger

Email: jose.noriega@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-0176

BLM Authorized Officer: Jared Bybee, Field Office Manager

Email: jbybee@blm.gov

Phone Number: 775-293-1792

Project Manager: Jose Noriega, District Ranger

Email: jose.noriega@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-0176

Budget Officer: Petersam (Sam) Le, Forest Budget Officer

Email: petersam.le@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-300-1739

K. RANKING 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. (Projects are only eligible for Items A, B, or C; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer Item D if it applies to your nomination).

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

Answer: This project will treat approximately 500 acres of phase I and phase II pinyon-juniper to restore and protect sagebrush communities within the project area. It also will restore riparian areas and upgrade access roads, both treatments will create fuel breaks and protect important sagebrush habitats and other communities in a wildfire situation. Improvements will also be made in grazing management, which will improve and maintain healthy sagebrush communities.

- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory, and conifer encroachment. (*Do not answer if you answered Item A. already*).

Answer: N/A

- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands. (*Do not answer if you answered Items A or B already*).

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: This project will treat approximately 500 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore and conserve important sagebrush habitats and reduce wildfire risks. This project will also implement significant actions to improve riparian areas.

2. **Habitat Recovery/Restoration.** (Projects are only eligible for Factors A, B, or C, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer either Item D1 or D2, whichever applies to your nomination).

- A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map)

Answer: A large portion of the project area is PHMA with some GHMA for greater sage grouse and includes crucial summer range for mule deer and other wildlife species. Illipah Creek is an important riparian area and fisheries. The Nevada Department of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Forest Service and the BLM have all identified a need for restoration actions in the watershed. This project will improve riparian areas, restore wildlife habitats, improve fisheries habitats, restore beaver populations, and reduce erosion and sedimentation at a watershed scale.

- B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map). (*Do not answer if you answered Item A. already*).

Answer: N/A

- C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat. (*Do not answer if you answered Item A or B already*).

Answer: N/A

- D. Sagebrush landscape cover.

D1. Project area is characterized as low resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.

Answer: 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.

D2. Project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover. *(Do not answer if you answered Item D1. already).*

Answer: N/A

3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation. Answer all applicable.

- 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.

Answer: This project will treat approximately 500 acres of phase I and phase II pinyon-juniper to restore and protect sagebrush communities within the project area. This project will also restore healthy riparian areas and upgrade access roads, these treatments will create fuel breaks and protect important sagebrush and other communities in a wildfire situation.

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

Answer: N/A

4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information. Answer all applicable.

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

Answer: This project involves a broad group of partners focused on the same objectives. This project will actively trap and translocate beaver into the watershed to implement broadscale restoration activities. Partners will also implement additional restoration actions which will improve conditions at a landscape scale. Monitoring of these treatments will provide valuable scientific information on restoration on a large landscape.

5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability. Answer all applicable.

- 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 sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Answer: This project is being developed utilizing information and input from Trout Unlimited, private landowners/livestock permittee and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Trout Unlimited and Nevada Department of Wildlife used grant funding to assess the watershed and provide recommendations for restoration actions. Non-SNPLMA contributions will likely be used to implement this project, however, there is no commitments at this time. Volunteers will be used to implement portions of this project.

- 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, (includes Federal, state, local, and tribal governments) community, or private land manager.

Answer: This project benefits and meets the needs of a wide range of partners including Trout Unlimited, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Forest Service, Private Landowner/Livestock Permittee, and the Bureau of Land Management.

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

Answer: This project compliments other restoration projects previously approved by and completed under SNPLMA. The Currant-Ellison Watershed Restoration project is located in the adjacent watershed just to the south. The Sagebrush Restoration project overlapped this project area and focused on treatment of pinyon-juniper to restore sagebrush communities. Both projects implemented landscape scale restoration actions within and adjacent to this project area. Additionally, a riparian enclosure was installed on a section of Illipah Creek to improve stream conditions. NDOW installed several in-stream structures on private lands to improve stream conditions.

- D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefiting entity.

Answer: Extensive monitoring will occur associated with this project. Monitoring data will be incorporated into multiple agencies monitoring information.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: This project will involve active management to improve and restore resource conditions at a watershed scale and across boundaries including Forest Service, BLM and Private Lands. Additionally, project activities will reduce fuels and wildfire risks.

- ***EO No. 14004: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: This project will involve a wide range of partners to implement conservation actions and improve resource conditions for all publics.

B. Secretarial Orders

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

Answer: This project will involve active management to improve and restore resource conditions at a watershed scale as well as improve recreational opportunities including fishing.

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

Answer: This project will improve fisheries and wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. This project is being closely coordinated with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Project activities will improve hunting and fishing opportunities in the area.

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

Answer: This project will improve big game habitats., including crucial summer range for mule deer

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

Answer: This project will improve riparian habitats on BLM administered lands as well as implementing actions to improve recreational fishing activities on Illipah Reservoir.

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition)).***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Answer: This project will be coordinated with Tribal Governments.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work

conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Answer: This Project will increase restoration activities at a landscape scale. This project will also increase opportunities for employment.

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.***
We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.*

Answer: This project has multiple partners and considerable coordination. This project will restore riparian areas and ecosystems within a rural area of Nevada.

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. ***Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic***

Answer: N/A

2. ***Providing economic relief***

Answer: This project will create jobs and improve recreational opportunities.

3. ***Tackling climate change***

Answer: This project will reduce fuels, reduce the potential for large wildfires, restore riparian areas and restore ecosystems within the watershed.

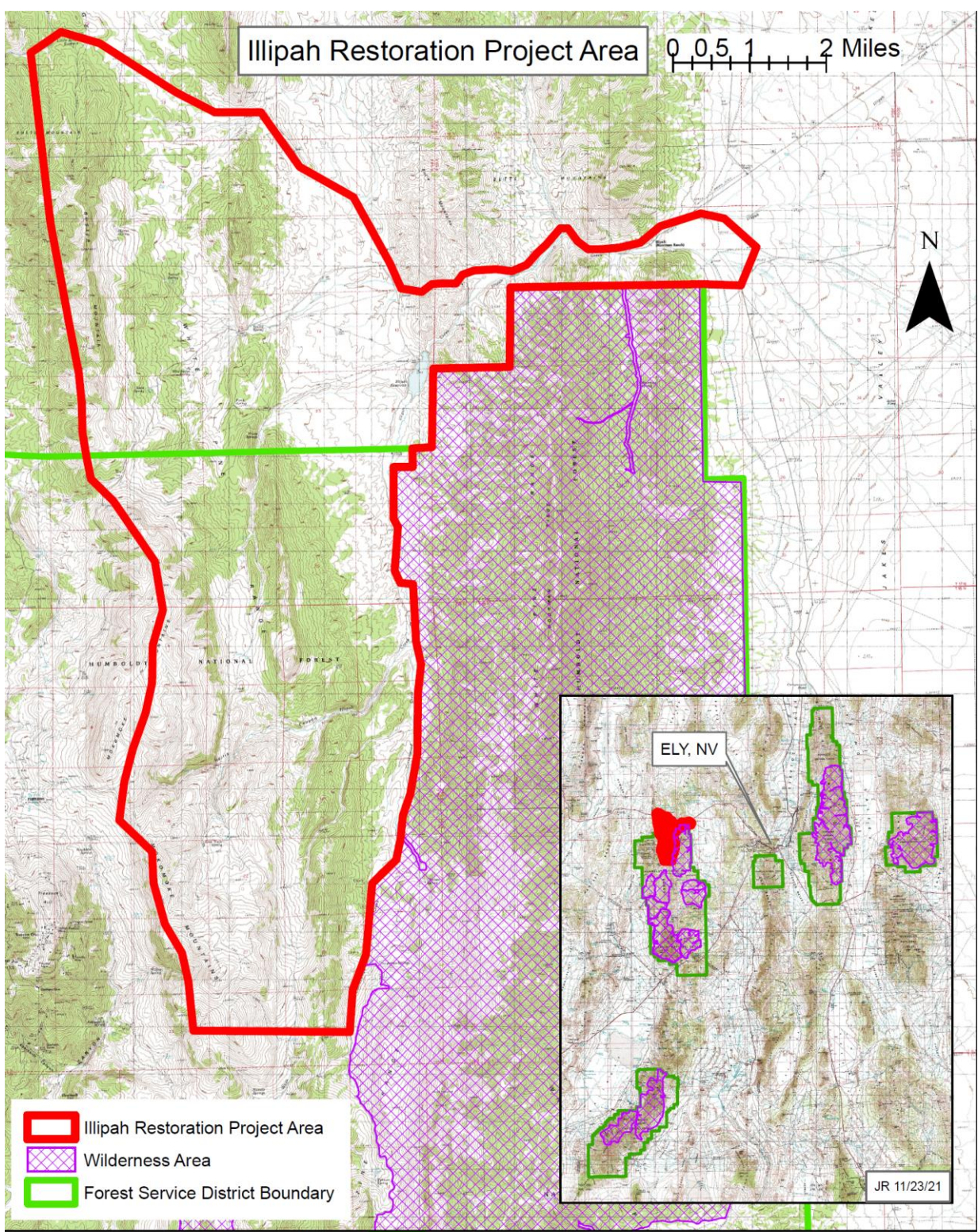
4. ***Advancing racial equity***

Answer: N/A

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

Answer: N/A

M. MAPS



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 1: Project Location, Illipah Watershed Restoration Project

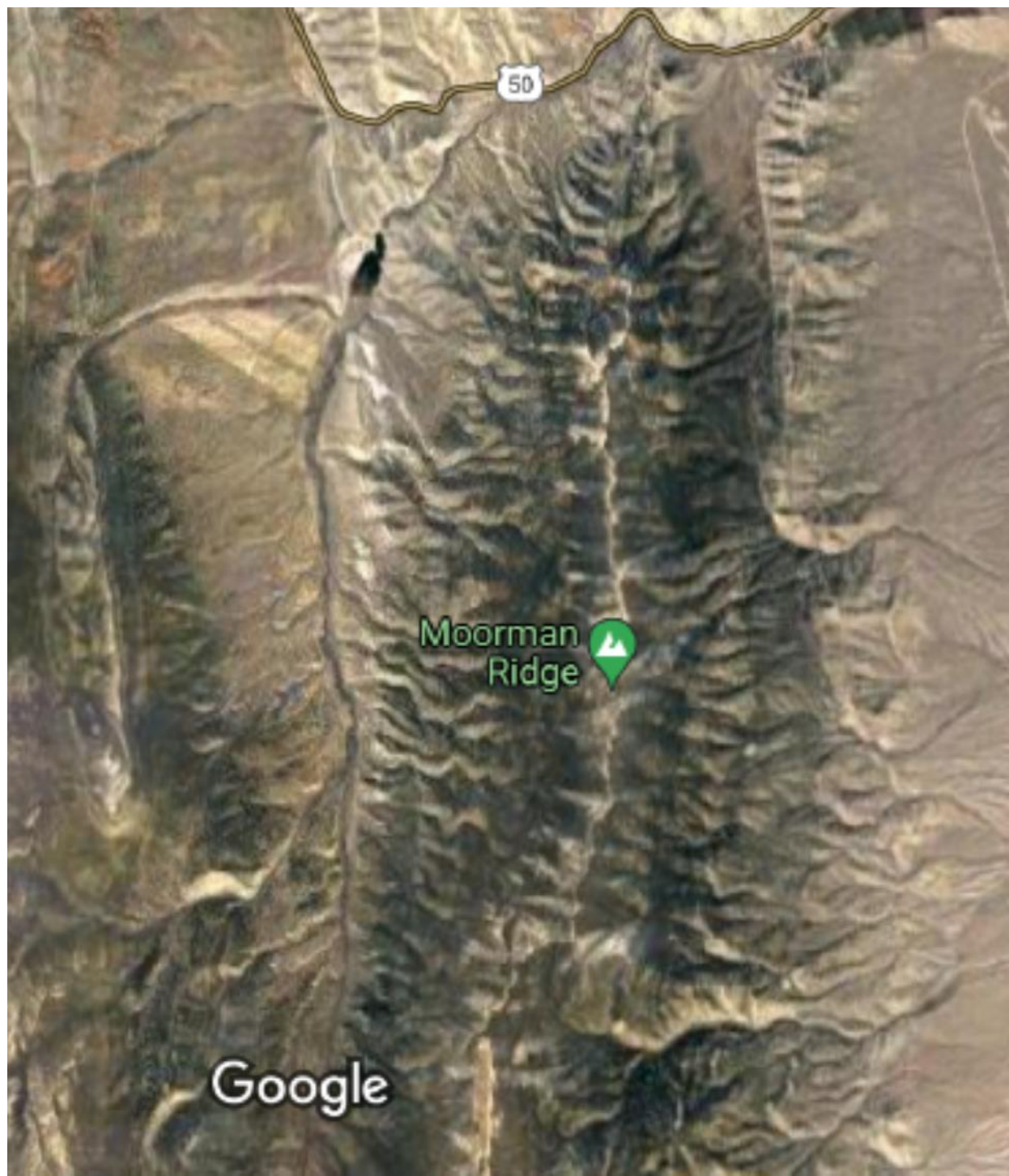
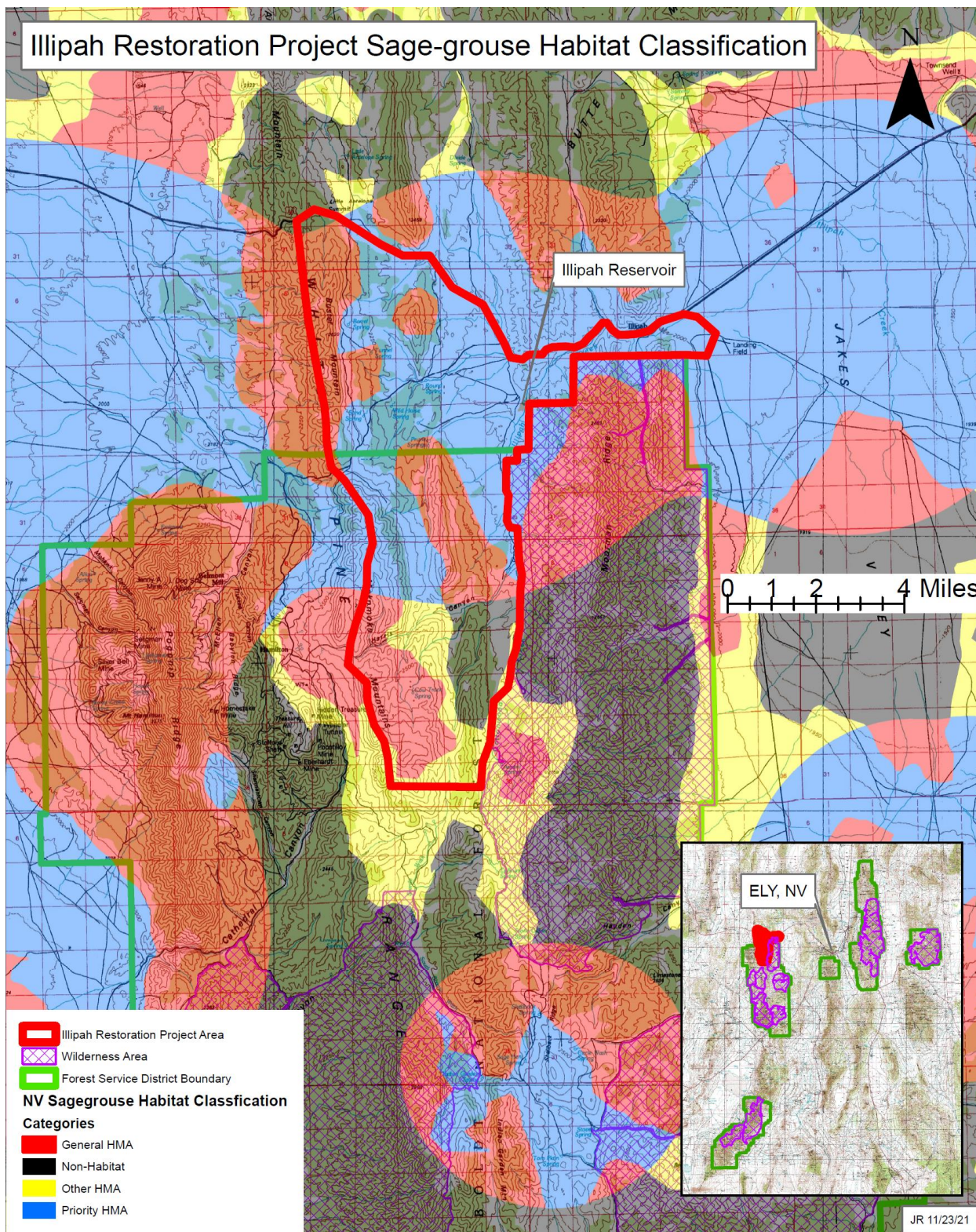


Figure 2: Aerial View of Illipah Watershed Restoration Project Area

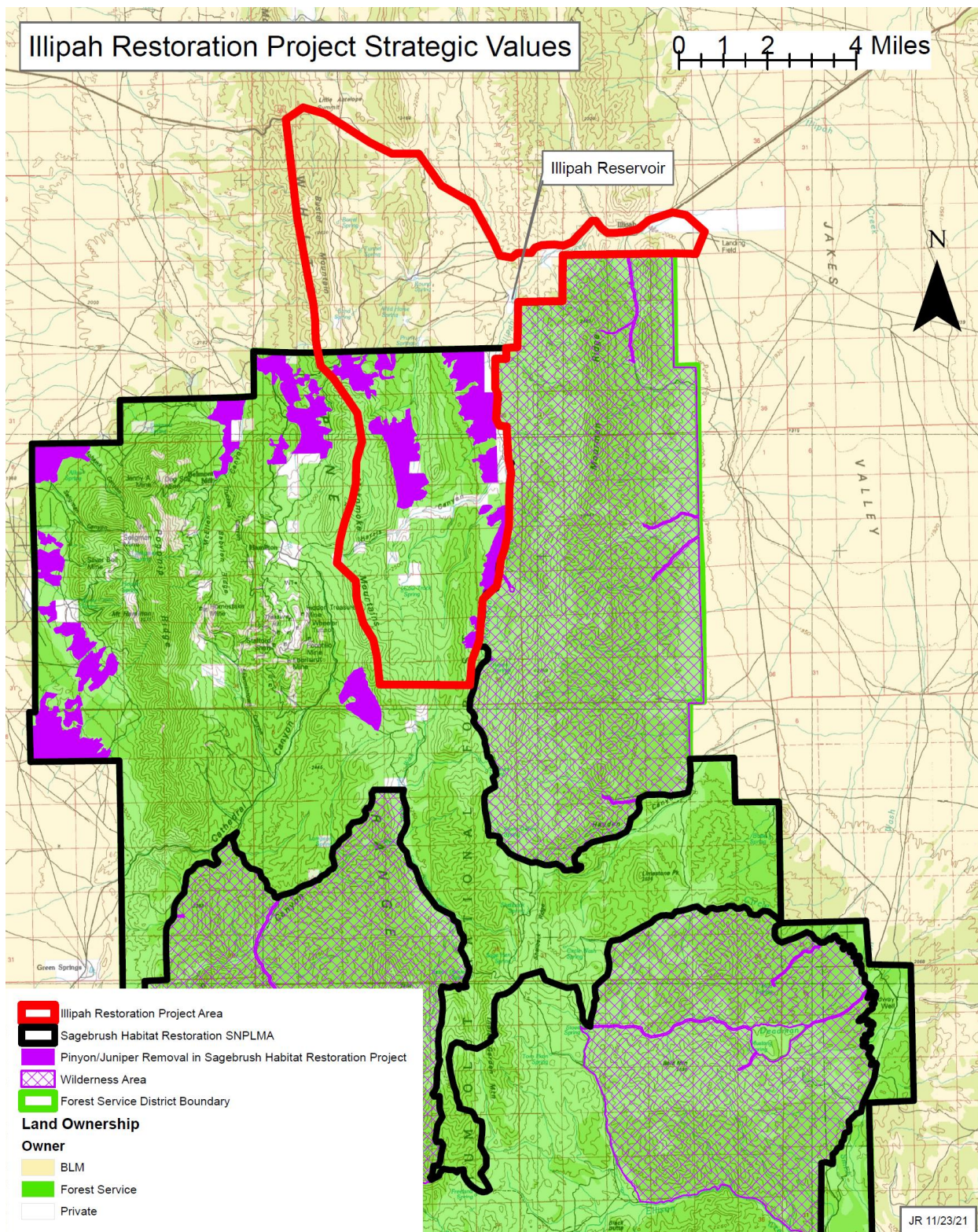


Figure 3: Aerial view of Illipah Reservoir Project Area



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Figure 4: Illipah Restoration Project Area, Sage-grouse Habitat Classification



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Figure 5: SNPLMA Strategic Value Map

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H2 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the miles have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as those should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as those should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	5-6
H3 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored.	5-6
H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the acres have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire rehabilitation projects or by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as these should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as these should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	500-1000

H6 - Acres of Wetland / Riparian Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of wetland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the acres have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire rehabilitation projects or by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as these should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as these should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	10
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	50
H10 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation inventoried or monitored. Include monitoring of weed treatment projects reported under performance measure H9.	2,000
H16 - Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated	Report the number of miles of roads and/or trails decommissioned and/or rehabilitated within all habitats (urban, upland, riparian, stream, trails in caves, etc.). Closure may include designation, signing, blockage by physical means, obliteration, etc.	5

Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)		500

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measures	Quantity
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/ Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed.	3
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	10

O. PHOTOS

None

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

1. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
2. Bureau of Land Management, Bristlecone Field Office, Ely, Nevada (Interagency)



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

BONNIE LONG
Deputy Director

JACK ROBB
Deputy Director

October 29, 2021

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 Illipah Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Noriega,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is pleased to support the Ely Ranger District's Round 19 SNPLMA Proposal "Illipah Watershed Restoration Project". This project will allow the implementation and continuation of a variety of habitat restoration activities on public lands on the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in White Pine County. Additionally, this project will assist in the native vegetation restoration and public outreach and education throughout the surrounding areas.

We feel this project will expand upon existing management tools, and we are pleased to be a partner in this joint effort. We look forward to providing support through technical advising, feedback and review, and development of the framework.

If we can provide any additional support, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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

Moira Kolada
Eastern Region Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775)289-1655 ext 5
mkolada@ndow.org



United States Department of the Interior

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



In Reply Refer To:
1270-008

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 Proposal for Illipah Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Ranger Noriega:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bristlecone Field Office would like to extend support for our Joint Round 19 SNPLMA nomination for the Illipah Watershed Restoration Project. The BLM component of this project speaks for itself and fits nicely with the United States Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe Ely Ranger Districts portion of the project.

We look forward to continuing working together through successful completion of the Illipah Watershed Restoration Project together.

Sincerely,

Jared Bybee
Bristlecone Field Manager

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
Round 19**

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District**



South Schells Restoration

Amount Requested: \$4,867,255

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past 10 years the Forest Service has been cooperating with partners including the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Livestock Permittees, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Private Landowners, Nevada Division of Forestry, White Pine County Conservation District, Tri-County Weeds, BLM and White Pine County to plan and implement restoration activities and projects within the Schell Creek Mountain Range. Portions of the project area have been identified as a high priority under Shared Stewardship and the Farm Bill. The Project Area contains high value wildlife habitats and large areas of urban interface.

This Project is consistent with the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986).

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

There are no prior phases of this project. There may be future phases of this project, however, each phase would be a stand-alone project. This project is adjacent to the North Schell Restoration project which was previously funded under SNPLMA. Additional restoration work has been completed using Secure Rural School funding as well as appropriated funds.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

This is a stand-alone project with no expectation of future funding.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project has two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

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

1. Sustainability:

- Implement landscape scale restoration activities across administrative boundaries.
- Restoration activities may include pinyon-juniper treatments, riparian restoration activities, aspen restoration, fuels reduction, watershed restoration, protection and enhancement of limber pine communities, seeding, wildlife habitat improvements, soil stabilization and reduction of sedimentation.
- Road improvements that will reduce potential erosion and sedimentation into streams.
- Utilize several interpretive kiosks to educate visitors about restoration activities.
- The agency will participate in multiple public meetings or events to educate the public about the restoration work.

2. Connectivity:

- This project covers the southern portion of the Schell Creek Range.
- The project area is a very popular area for recreationists, hunters and other visitors. The Project area includes the High Schells Wilderness Area, Cave Lake State Park, the Duck Creek Basin, and Success Summit.
- The location of this project provides an excellent opportunity to provide interpretive information to visitors about the restoration activities and link visitors to the natural environment.

3. Community:

- This project will implement multiple activities to restore vegetation communities, riparian habitats, wildlife habitats and other resources within the Project Area.
- This project will reduce fuels within urban interfaces.
- This project will produce fuelwood for the community and local Tribes.
- This project will improve ecosystems and biological communities and link visitors to those resources and the benefits of the restoration work.
- This project may involve multiple partners including the Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Landowners, Livestock Permittees, White Pine County, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Tri-County Weed and others.

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

This project will involve multiple partners to restore watersheds and ecosystems at a landscape scale and across administrative boundaries. This project will implement numerous restoration related activities and will link restoration activities to the public through interpretive activities and displays.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Treat between 3,000 and 6,000 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore wildlife habitats, reduce fuels, and improve pine nut production.
- Treat between 1,000 and 2,000 acres of white fir to reduce fuels, restore aspen, and protect and restore limber pine communities.
- Complete between 1,000 and 2,000 acres of prescribed fire.
- Treat between 500 and 1,000 acres of aspen to address insect and disease issues.
- Treat approximately 100 acres of noxious weeds.
- Inventory approximately 10,000 acres for noxious weeds.
- Rehabilitate approximately 25 miles of access roads and drainage installed to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Construct between 5 and 10 pipe rail enclosures to protect springs and other riparian areas.
- Conduct between 10 and 20 miles of fuel breaks to reduce the risks from wildfire.

- Rehabilitate and close between 10 and 15 miles of unauthorized roads.
- Reestablish perennial vegetation by seeding on disturbed sites.
- Reconstruct approximately 15 to 25 miles of allotment and pasture fences to improve management of livestock and help restore ecosystems through improved management.
- Complete an Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice and FONSI approving the use of Prescribed Fire within the High Schells and Mount Moriah Wilderness Areas.
- Install between 2-3 interpretive displays.

2. Anticipated Deliverables:

- Conduct between 1-2 interpretive presentations annually for 5 years.
- Reestablish fire within the High Schells Wilderness Area through the use of Managing Wildfire for Multiple Resource Benefits and Prescribed Fire.

3. Standard Deliverables:

- Complete required inventories, site assessments, and cultural assessments within the project area as required.
- Complete site surveys and contract prep activities.
- Complete environmental planning process including: NEPA analysis and decision, SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
- Coordination with the SNPLMA Program Managers.
- Development of the project workplan, site inspection and project initiation.
- SMART quarterly status updates
- SMART quarterly expenditures/obligations updates
- SMART annual and final accomplishment reports
- Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.2564, -114.7036

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional District NV-4

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project timeframe will be 5 years.

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? Yes No

Planning, surveys and NEPA analysis will need to be completed for many of the activities listed under this project. Some activities such as much of the vegetation related work are currently approved and are shovel ready.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- The anticipated lifecycle of the project will be approximately 30-40 years.
- This project will result in an increase in the annual maintenance costs due to the increase in miles of fencing.
- This increase in maintenance cost will be minimized through the use of low maintenance pipe rail fencing whenever possible.
- The improvements to roads will reduce annual maintenance costs and significantly reduce deferred maintenance.
- Riparian, vegetation, and watershed restoration actions will have no impact in any annual operations and maintenance costs.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District is seeking \$4,867,255 in SNPLMA funding to complete this project.

Partnership and/or Contributed Funds

During implementation, we expect that various partners will have in-kind contributions. Additionally, we expect a minimum of 200 hours of volunteer labor will be committed to the implementation of this project.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	South Schells Restoration Project	Date:	11/1/2021
Project Manager:	Lisa Kemper	Agency:	USFS
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 750,000.00	\$ 5,708.00
2. Travel		\$ 46,800.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 110,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 181,250.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 3,635,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 79,705.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ 64,500.00	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 4,867,255.00	\$ 5,708.00

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Jose Noriega, District Ranger

Email: jose.noriega@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-0176

Project Manager: Lisa Kemper, Fuels Specialist

Email: lisa.kemper@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-5128

Budget Officer: Petersam (Sam) Le, Forest Budget Officer

Email: petersam.le@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-300-1739

K. RANKING 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. (Projects are only eligible for Items A, B, or C; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer Item D if it applies to your nomination).

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

Answer: Between 3,000 and 6,000 acres of pinyon-juniper will be treated to restore wildlife habitats, reduce fuels, and improve pine nut production. These treatments will maintain and restore important sagebrush ecosystems.

- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory, and conifer encroachment. *(Do not answer if you answered Item A. already).*

Answer: N/A

- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands. *(Do not answer if you answered Items A or B already).*

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: Between 3,000 and 6,000 acres of pinyon-juniper will be treated to restore wildlife habitats, reduce fuels, and improve pine nut production. These treatments will maintain and restore important sagebrush, aspen and riparian ecosystems.

Significant actions will be implemented to improve riparian areas and restore aspen communities.

2. **Habitat Recovery/Restoration.** (Projects are only eligible for Factors A, B, or C, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer either Item D1 or D2, whichever applies to your nomination).

A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map)

- Answer: This project area contains important habitats for sage grouse, mule deer and other wildlife species. Portions of this project area have been identified as a high priority under shared stewardship and the Farm Bill. Restoration activities may include pinyon-juniper treatments, riparian restoration, aspen restoration, fuels reduction, watershed restoration, protection and enhancement of limber pine communities, seeding, wildlife habitat improvements, soil stabilization and reduction of sedimentation.

B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map). *(Do not answer if you answered Item A. already).*

Answer: N/A

C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat. *(Do not answer if you answered Item A or B already.)*

Answer: N/A

D. Sagebrush landscape cover.

D1. Project area is characterized as low resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.

Answer: 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.

D2. Project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover. *(Do not answer if you answered Item D1. already).*

Answer: N/A

3. **Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation.** Answer all applicable.

- 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.

Answer: Pinyon-juniper and white fir communities will be treated to protect and restore sagebrush and other communities within the project area. Also restore healthy riparian areas, upgrade access roads, and create fuel breaks. All of these actions will protect important sagebrush communities, protect urban interfaces, and improve the conditions to manage wildfires within the Project Area.

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

Answer: N/A

4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information. Answer all applicable.

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

Answer: This project will implement a broad spectrum of Restoration Activities in a large landscape. This project will involve a wide range of partners. Monitoring of these treatments will provide valuable scientific information on restoration on a large landscape.

5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability. Answer all applicable.

- 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 sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Answer: This project may involve multiple partners including the Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Landowners, Livestock Permittees, White Pine County, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Tri-County Weed and others. Non-SNPLMA contributions will likely be used to implement this project, however, there is no commitment at this time. Volunteers will be used to implement portions of this project.

- 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,

(includes Federal, state, local, and tribal governments) community, or private land manager.

Answer: This project benefits and meets the needs of a wide range of partners including Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Landowners, Livestock Permittees, White Pine County, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Tri-County Weed and others.

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

Answer: This project occurs adjacent to the North Schell Restoration project, which was previously approved and completed under SNPLMA. The following are additional restoration actions that have occurred in this Project Area:

- South Schell Creek Range Pinyon-Juniper Treatment Project
- Elk Springs Fuels Reduction Project
- Worthington Restoration Project
- Uhalde Ranch Private Land Treatments
- Treatments on other Private Lands in the project area.

- D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefiting entity.

Answer: Extensive monitoring will occur associated with this project. Monitoring data will be incorporated into multiple agencies monitoring information.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: This project will involve active management to improve and restore resource conditions at a landscape scale. Additionally, project activities will reduce fuels and wildfire risks.

- ***EO No. 14004: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: This project will involve a wide range of partners to implement conservation actions.

B. Secretarial Orders

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

Answer: This project will involve active management to improve and restore resource conditions at a landscape scale.

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

Answer: This project will improve wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. This project will be closely coordinated with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Project activities will improve hunting opportunities in the area.

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

Answer: This project will improve big game habitats including winter ranges.

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition).***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters.*** *We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.*

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** *We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.*

Answer: This project will be coordinated with Tribal Governments. Additionally, this project will produce and supply fuelwood for Tribal Communities.

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** *This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.*

Answer: This project will increase restoration activities at a landscape scale. This project will also increase opportunities for employment.

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** *We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.*

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** *The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.*

Answer: This project has multiple partners and considerable coordination. This project will restore riparian areas and ecosystems within a rural area of Nevada.

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. ***Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic***

Answer: N/A

2. ***Providing economic relief***

Answer: This project will create jobs.

3. ***Tackling climate change***

Answer: This project will reduce fuels, reduce the potential for large wildfires, restore riparian areas and restore ecosystems within the landscape.

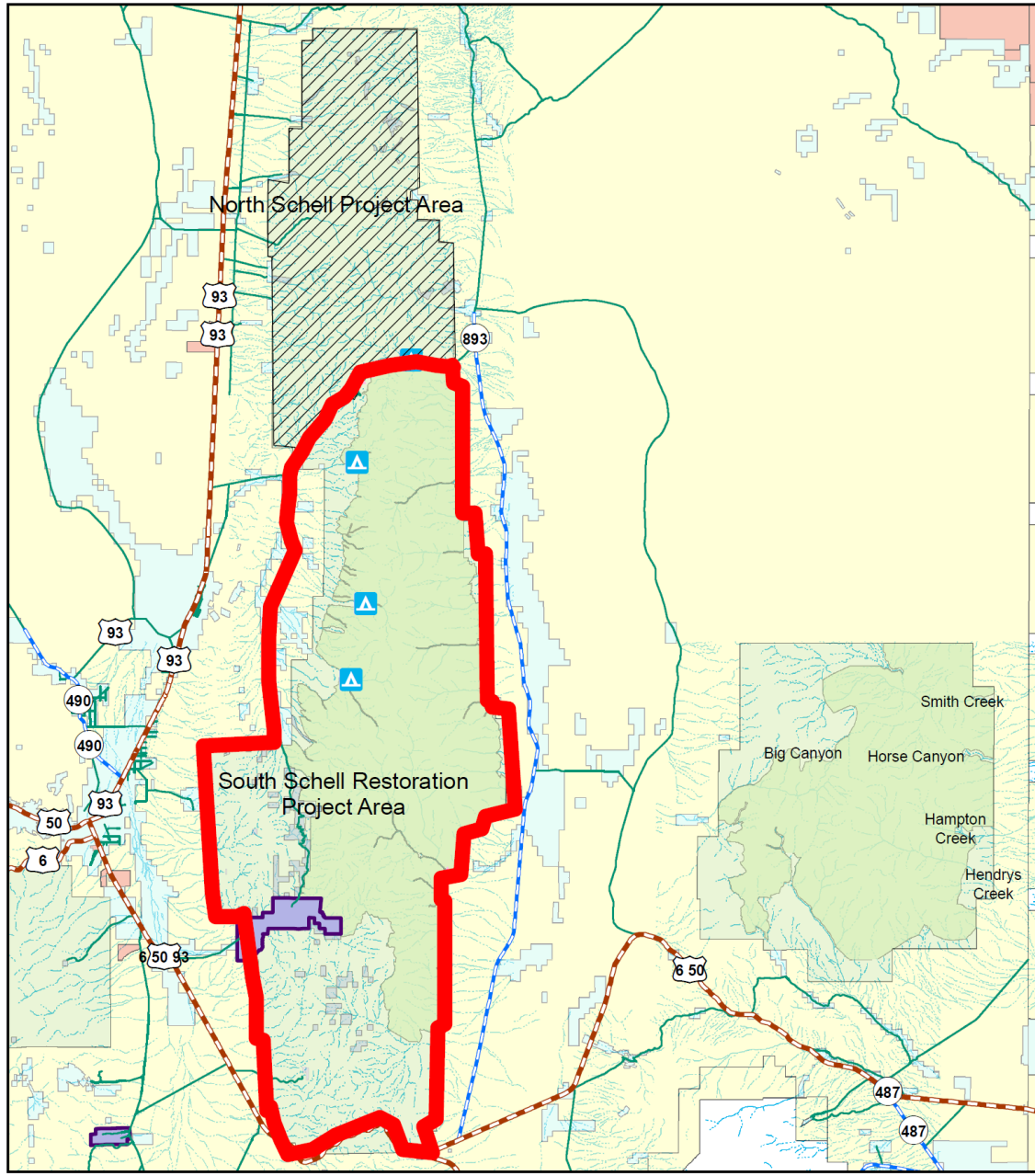
4. ***Advancing racial equity***

Answer: N/A

5. ***Improving our workforce and work environment***

Answer: N/A

South Schell Restoration Strategic Plan Value



Legend

Rec Site label	highways for Nevada BasicOwnershipR4	OWNERCLASSIFICATION	Streams and Ditches
Recreation Facilities	<all other values>	USDA FOREST SERVICE	BLM
○ Campsite	US Highway	NON-FS	PVT
▲ Family Campground	State Highway	S_USA.SurfaceOwnership_BLM	High Schells Wilderness
▲ Group Campground	County Roads	ADMIN_AGENCY_CODE	Stream-perennial
● OTHER CAMPGROUND	State Parks	BIA	Stream-seasonal

11/30/21 LMK

Figure 2: SNPLMA Strategic Plan Value

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H2 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the miles have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as those should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as those should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	2
H3 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored.	5
H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the acres have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire rehabilitation projects or by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as these should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as these should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures.	10,500
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	100
H10 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation inventoried or monitored. Include monitoring of weed	10,000

	treatment projects reported under performance measure H9.	
H16 - Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated	Report the number of miles of roads and/or trails decommissioned and/or rehabilitated within all habitats (urban, upland, riparian, stream, trails in caves, etc.). Closure may include designation, signing, blockage by physical means, obliteration, etc.	15

Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency outside the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	8,000
F2 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency within the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually.	2,500

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that Also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community		
Other Performance Measures	Definition of Performance Measures	Quantity
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed.	3
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	10

O. PHOTOS

None

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

1. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife
2. Jim & Donna Bath
3. White Pine County, Board of County Commissioners
4. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board



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

BONNIE LONG
Deputy Director

JACK ROBB
Deputy Director

October 29, 2021

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 South Schells Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Noriega,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is pleased to support the Ely Ranger District's Round 19 SNPLMA Proposal "South Schells Restoration Project". This project will allow the implementation and continuation of a variety of habitat restoration activities on public lands on the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in White Pine County. Additionally, this project will assist in the native vegetation restoration and public outreach and education throughout the surrounding areas. The establishment of native vegetation and control of noxious weeds will help provide high quality habitat for Nevada's wildlife.

We feel this project will expand upon existing management tools, and we are pleased to be a partner in this joint effort. We look forward to providing support through technical advising, feedback and review, and development of the framework.

If we can provide any additional support, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Moira Kolada
Eastern Region Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775)289-1655 ext 5
mkolada@ndow.org

Jim & Donna Bath
570 First Street
Ely, Nevada 89301

Jose Noriega, District Ranger
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Ely Ranger District
825 Avenue E.
Ely, Nevada 80301

RE: Support of South Schells Restoration Project

Dear District Ranger Noriega:

As lifelong residents of White Pine County and private property owners near the proposed project, we would like to offer our strong support of the proposed Elk Spring Fuels Reduction and Restoration Project. This is a much needed and long overdue project for White Pine County and the area near Camp Success.

We have lived in the area long enough to have witnessed the ever increasing densities of pinyon-juniper and white fir and the resulting disease and damage to aspen, mountain mahogany and limber pine. The speedy encroachment of pinyon-juniper has also caused a serious decline in healthy habitat for wildlife such as mule deer and sage grouse. Unfortunately, we have also watched the number of wildlife species in our area sharply decrease over the years.

Years ago, managed fire was routinely utilized to maintain a healthy balance between the density of trees and areas of vegetation growth. Unfortunately, as we have witnessed in California and most recently beautiful Lake Tahoe, not having the ability to utilize managed fire as a tool to balance our ecosystem has brought us to where we are today.

We sincerely appreciate your agency taking a proactive approach with this project and cross our fingers that it will be funded. Hopefully, it will prevent our beautiful community from becoming the next Lake Tahoe or California scorched landscape.

Thank you again!

Best Regards,
Jim & Donna Bath

Richard Howe, Chairman
 Travis Godon, Vice Chairman
 Commissioner Shane Bybee
 Commissioner Ian Bullis
 Commissioner Laurie L. Carson

801 Clark Street, Suite 4
 Ely Nevada 89301
 (775) 293-6509
 Fax (775) 289-2544

Nichole Baldwin, Ex-officio Clerk of the Board

White Pine County
 Board of County Commissioners

WPClerk@whitepinecountynv.gov

October 27, 2021

Erin Rajala, District Ranger (Acting)
 Ely Ranger District, US Forest Service
 825 Avenue E.
 Ely, Nevada 89301

Via Email: erin.rajala@usda.gov

RE: White Pine County Support for the Ely Ranger District's Round 19 Project Proposals for funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA)

Mrs. Rajala,

White Pine County, Nevada (County) has reviewed the Ely Ranger District's Summary of SNPLMA Round 19 Projects and wishes to convey its strong support for all of them. If funded and implemented, these projects would be of great benefit to the County's customs, culture and economy as well as serving to improve ecological health, enhance outdoor recreation and benefit the County's citizens and visitors.

The below listed projects are all consistent with advancing the goals and objectives the County's Public Lands Policy Plan within both critical geographic and key socioeconomic areas:

- South Schells Restoration Project
- Illipah Watershed Restoration Project
- Ranger OHV Trails Reconstruction Project
- Mount Moriah Trails Reconstruction Project
- Kalamazoo Campground Reconstruction Project
- Youth Engagement in Natural Resource Management
- Phase II: Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration & Education

The County appreciates the hard work that you and your staff have put forward in development of these projects. The County also appreciates the open coordination and communications you have had with the County and key stakeholders in doing so. Once again, the County enthusiastically supports the above listed projects, offers its continued partnership and wishes you the best in terms of funding and implementation.

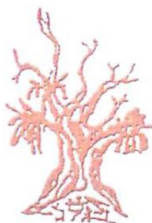
Respectfully,



Richard Howe, Chair
 White Pine County Board of Commissioners

RH/jd/nb

CC: Jose Noriega, District Ranger



WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM AND RECREATION BOARD

Bristlecone Convention Center & Visitors Bureau

Erin Rajala
Acting District Ranger
Ely Ranger District
825 Ave E
Ely, NV 89301

Mrs. Rajala,

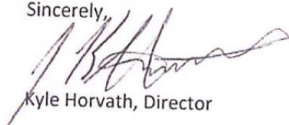
My name is Kyle Horvath. I am the Director of Tourism for White Pine County Nevada. I am writing in support of the Forest Service Ely Ranger Districts Round 19 SNPLMA Proposals. The citizens and communities in White Pine County rely on outdoor recreation as a staple quality of life asset as well as a main economic driver in the county. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation has set outdoor recreation as central to its branding and marketing of tourism. The relationships with our land managers have been integral to past success in expanding the outdoor recreation industry and assets. The Forest Service Ely Ranger District has been a steadfast partner of tourism and has proven success in all of their past projects. After reviewing the proposals set forth by the NFS for the Round 19 SNPLMA Grant Program, I am writing in support of the multiple conservation and recreation projects proposed by NFS Ely District.

We have all seen the devastating effects of wildfires in the west. Preserving the natural environment to benefit native vegetation and wildlife while protecting those environments from the effects of wildfires should be a top priority. Because of that I support full funding of the conservation-based projects: The South Schells Restoration Projects, The Illipah Watershed Restoration Project, and The Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weed Inventory, Treatment, and Restoration Project.

Outdoor Recreation is a major economic driver of the state and has offered an economic security net around communities traditionally based in resource extraction. Outdoor recreation is also a cultural element to what makes us Nevadans. White Pine County has seen major economic returns since defining itself as one of the best outdoor destinations in the state by developing its trail-based recreation opportunities. The recreation-based projects proposed by NFS Ely District will be integral in expanding access to recreation for local citizens and visitors. I support fully funding: The Kalamazoo Campground Reconstruction Project, The Mount Moriah Trails Reconstruction Project, The Ranger OHV Trail Reconstruction Project, and The Youth Engagement in Natural Resource Management Project.

Our rural communities rely heavily on the work that our land managers do. The SNPLMA Grant Program has been integral to so many necessary and impactful projects in the past. I am excited about the potential return on these proposals. Thank you for your past support and your consideration in fully funding these important upcoming projects.

Sincerely,



Kyle Horvath, Director

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
Round 19**

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District



Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Phase II

Amount Requested: \$730,700

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Noxious weeds, which are defined by federal or state laws, are capable of producing highly viable seeds, which can persist in the soil for several decades; therefore, management needs to be on-going in order to truly be effective. As an example, a single Canada thistle plant has the potential to produce up to 5,200 seeds in a season and remain viable in the soil for up to 21 years and up to 4 months in water. Species vary in their reproduction methods, and weeds that reproduce vegetatively require treatment methods different from those used for species that only reproduce by seed. Some species have higher rates of spread than others; widespread species take more resources to control than new or potential invaders. Small infestations are possible to eradicate, while large infestations are more difficult to eradicate and are typically prioritized for management through containment. Infestations on Forest Service lands are typically in the upper portions of the watersheds and if left untreated, they could potentially move into new areas or down into lower elevations where private land or other federal lands could be impacted. This understanding has contributed to an all-land watershed approach to noxious and invasive weed management.

Infestations reduce the amount of available forage for wildlife and livestock and have the ability to take over large areas of land, reducing valuable public land resources (Nevada 2008). Non-native invasive and noxious plants have been found to impact wildlife habitat by decreasing the amount of forage, change fire frequency by forming dense stands of flashy fuels, change soil characteristics by altering soil nutrients, and change grassland, shrubland, open woodland, and riparian ecosystems by out-competing native plants. The presence of Non-native invasive and noxious plants signifies an area is at risk from a health and sustainability viewpoint, whether or not the landscape is disturbed or pristine (O'Brien et al. 2003). Noxious weed seed is easily transported and dispersed by livestock, wildlife, recreation, and motor vehicles (USDI BLM 1998, Freilich et al. 2003).

Droughts are predicted to accelerate the pace of invasion by some non-native plant species into grasslands, shrublands, and open woodlands. Drought conditions can exacerbate invasions by favoring invasive species over native species, although not all invasive species will be favored. For example, opportunities for invasion are created when drought kills native plants leaving open niches and bare ground (USDA Forest Service 2016).

Rehabilitation actions such as seeding native species, repairing fences, and aggressive treatment make up the priority components of management; however, the Forest Service recognizes that many federal and non-federal stakeholders play important roles in the development and dissemination of information and create an important line of defense for prevention, identification, early detection that need to be considered as part of the treatment plan. Funding for the management of noxious and invasive weeds on Forest Service lands are decreasing and becoming more limited and as a result impacts the effectiveness of an all-land watershed approach to noxious and invasive weed management within White Pine County.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest manages noxious weeds following an integrated pest management approach which includes a definition of management priorities and use of a wide variety of management tools. These management tools include prevention, early detection rapid response, mechanical/physical, cultural, biological and chemical treatments. Factors influencing the order of treatment priority include the species to be controlled, its rate of spread, infestation

size, habitat, and location. Species vary in their reproduction methods, and weeds that reproduce vegetatively require treatment methods different from those used for species that only reproduce by seed. Some species have higher rates of spread than others; widespread species take more resources to control than new or potential invaders. Small infestations are possible to eradicate, while large infestations are more difficult to eradicate and are typically prioritized for management through containment. Habitat type influences the survival of an invasive plant and of native plants that need to compete for resources, and some habitat types are more vulnerable to invasive plants than others. The goal is to prevent new infestations and manage (contain, reduce, and eradicate) infestations currently established on the National Forest through control measures.

Noxious and invasive weed management activities listed are approved under the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and subsequent Record of Decision dated August 1986, the Humboldt Noxious Weed EA (1996), and supports Forest Service policy (FSM 2900); which was issued to comply with Executive Order 13112 and address adverse impacts from invasive species.

a. Describe Relationship to prior Approved Phases or Related SNPLMA Projects and Anticipated Future Phases

This project will enhance funding to sustain management efforts across Forest Service lands and support the all-lands watershed approach within White Pine County. Initial management efforts to maintain reductions, minimize expansion, achieve possible eradication, and proactively identify new populations commenced under ‘SNPLMA Round 16, Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education project under the ENLRP Category. Efforts to magnify the all-lands watershed approach was set in place under ‘SNPLMA Round 17, the Multi-Jurisdictional Noxious and Invasive Weed Partnership’. These projects were the foundation of the all-lands approach to manage noxious and invasive weeds within White Pine County across jurisdictional boundaries. We do not anticipate any future phases of this project.

b. Acknowledgement of Stand-Alone Project and no Guarantee of Funding for Future Phases

This is a stand-alone project with no planned future phases.

B. SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN VALUES

Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project has two goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

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

1. Sustainability:

- Restoration activities (prevention, seeding, early detection rapid response, mechanical/physical, cultural, biological and chemical treatments) prevent new infestations and manage (contain, reduce, and eradicate) infestations currently established.
- Management of non-native invasive and noxious plants will improve native plant communities in rangeland and riparian ecosystems and have long-term benefits by reducing seed production, expansion, and potential for native plant displacement.
- Restore and protect important wildlife habitats for species like sage grouse by increasing native vegetation and preventing changes to soil characteristics through nutrient alterations.
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and fire frequency by removing hazardous flashy fuels such as cheatgrass.
- Prevent reinvasion by non-native invasive and noxious plants by planting native species to reoccupy a site.
- Promote the value of science and research in increasing the effectiveness of conserving and restoring natural resources, and promoting resource sustainability.
- Educate and communicate with the public about prevention strategies and restoration efforts during semi-annual CWMA meetings, public meetings or other events.
- Produce outdoor education opportunities to educate visitors about the noxious and invasive weed identification and resource impacts.

2. Connectivity:

- This project covers all Forest Service administered lands within White Pine County.
- Foster the all-land watershed approach to noxious and invasive weed management and bolster efforts started under other SNPLMA projects.
- Increase or improve the resource base (e.g., habitat), with a focus on landscape-level habitat restoration.
- Improve ecosystems and biological communities by reducing non-native competition.
- Reduce noxious and invasive weeds from Forest Service lands into new areas or into lower elevations where private land or other federal lands could be impacted.
- Reduce the transport of weed seeds by implementing preventive measures such as the washing of vehicles, signage, and education outreach (e.g., informational booths at local events, publications, youth programs, etc.).
- Enhance communication about noxious and invasive weed infestations at or near boundaries before they expand into neighboring jurisdictions.
- Promote connectivity between new or existing recreation opportunities and other community facilities, accommodations, and services (e.g., community centers, schools, outreach, etc.).

- Strengthen coordination and working relationships with local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA), adjacent landowners, and other partners by sharing project goals and accomplishments during semi-annual meetings.

3. Community:

- Restore riparian habitats, fisheries habitats, wildlife habitats and other resources within multiple watersheds by treating noxious and/or invasive weeds populations using multiply methods.
- Use Federal, local, State, and regional government lands as learning laboratories to help develop the next generation of environmental understanding and advocacy (e.g., increase participation with school districts, local special interest groups, and site stewardship programs).
- Strengthen coordination and working relationships with local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA), adjacent landowners, and other partners by presenting project goals and accomplishments during semi-annual meetings.
- Increase public outreach and educational programs about weeds and related impacts in the local communities through district efforts or partnership agreement. Efforts will include public workshops and field tours, newspaper inserts, placement of information booths at public gatherings such as fairs and races, and presentations at local schools.
- Increase resource interpretation and interactive opportunities related (e.g., informational signage, kiosks, and interpretive trail).

C. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Forest Service will complete noxious and invasive weed inventory, treatment, monitoring, and restoration actions on National Forest System lands within the Spring, Railroad, White River, Steptoe, Newark/ Long, and Snake Valleys in White Pine County to reduce the threat of noxious and invasive weed introductions, restore native plant communities, maintain and restore resilient vegetation communities to implicitly improve habitats for wildlife. Through an agreement, the Forest Service will partner with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition to complete vegetation monitoring to establish ecological trends across the project area and increase education/ outreach efforts related to noxious and invasive weeds management to youth, private and public landowners, and the public within designated Cooperative Weed Management Areas.

D. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Primary Deliverables:

- Inventory and treat approximately 1,500 – 2,000 acres or more noxious and invasive weeds.
 - Forest Service execute using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Monitor approximately 250 - 350 study plots.

- Under an agreement, ENLC will complete vegetation monitoring ecological trends (e.g., nested frequency, line intercept, point cover, photo, MIM, SIMP, etc.).
 - Install and utilize Ward Recreation Area Interpretive Weed Trail.
 - Forest Service and ENLC will collaborate to install approximately 15 noxious/invasive weed species signs along loop G/H of the south system to mirror the BLM on the north side.
 - ENLC will host at least 2 field tours per year post installation.
 - Under an agreement, ENLC will execute public outreach and education on noxious and invasive weeds.
 - Hosting and/or participate in at least 1 interactive event per year targeting youth (e.g., presentations at local schools, 4-H camps, etc.).
 - Advocate management and identification with at least 2 activities per year.
 - Can include but are not limited to informational and interactive booths at public gatherings (e.g., fairs, races, public lands day, volunteer weeds events, etc.), public workshops, field tours, newspaper inserts, develop and distribute brochures plant identification books, etc.
 - Complete an annual report to highlight project accomplishments. This report will be shared at semi-annual CWMA and distribute to all interested parties.
2. Anticipated Deliverables:
- Seeding and/or planting of seedlings to facilitate restoration objectives on disturbed sites and in riparian areas.
3. Standard Deliverables:
- Manage SNPLMA administrative requirements, quarterly reports, and close-out.
 - Develop ‘Scope of Work’ for grants, contract or agreements.
 - Input annual noxious and invasive weed treatment, inventory, and monitoring data into appropriate databases such as CITRIX.

E. PROJECT LOCATION

Latitude and Longitude:

39.2550000000 -114.8722220000

Identify Congressional District(s):

Nevada Congressional District NV-4

F. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project timeframe will be 5 years. The following is an outline of activities and timeframe for completion:

Year 1

The Forest Service (Project Lead) will:

- Coordinate the overall implementation of the project, track accomplishments and report out on those accomplishments. Develop course of action plans for vegetation monitoring and Ward Mtn. Interpretive Trail.
- Complete noxious and invasive weeds inventory, treatment, and monitoring across portions of the Ely Ranger District within White Pine County using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Prepare Participation Agreement with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) for vegetation monitoring, interpretive trail installation and utilization, and education/ outreach related to noxious and invasive weeds.
- Attend semi-annual CWMA meetings. Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Prepare an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

ENLC will:

- Begin implementing the Participation Agreement.

Year 2

The Forest Service will:

- Complete noxious and invasive weeds inventory, treatment, and monitoring across portions of the Ely Ranger District within White Pine County using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Coordinate with ENLC to on the monitoring course of action and installation of Ward Mtn. Interpretive Trail signs and outreach/ education actions.
- Attend semi-annual CWMA meetings. Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

ENLC will:

- Continue implementing elements of the Participation Agreement.

Year 3

The Forest Service will:

- Complete noxious and invasive weeds inventory, treatment, and monitoring across portions of the Ely Ranger District within White Pine County using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Coordinate with ENLC to on the monitoring course of action, Ward Mtn. Interpretive Trail tours, and outreach/ education actions.
- Attend semi-annual CWMA meetings. Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishments.

ENLC will:

- Continue implementing elements of the Participation Agreement.

Year 4

The Forest Service will:

- Complete noxious and invasive weeds inventory, treatment, and monitoring across portions of the Ely Ranger District within White Pine County using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Coordinate with ENLC to on the monitoring course of action, Ward Mtn. Interpretive Trail tours, and outreach/ education actions.
- Attend semi-annual CWMA meetings. Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Preparation of an annual report to highlight project accomplishment.

ENLC will:

- Continue implementing elements of the Participation Agreement.

Year 5

The Forest Service will:

- Complete noxious and invasive weeds inventory, treatment, and monitoring across portions of the Ely Ranger District within White Pine County using in-house, contracts, agreements, or force account crews.
- Attend semi-annual CWMA meetings. Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Coordinate with ENLC to on accomplished deliverables and agreement close-out.
- Complete final accomplishments/close-out reports.

ENLC will:

- Continue implementing elements of the Participation Agreement
- Submit final accomplishment report
- Close-out of Participation Agreement

G. LEVEL OF PROJECT READINESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Is this a shovel-ready project? Yes No

Noxious weed inventory and treatments may begin immediately. Noxious and invasive weed management activities listed are approved under the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and subsequent Record of Decision dated August 1986, the Humboldt Noxious Weed EA (1996), and supports Forest Service policy (FSM 2900); which was issued to comply with Executive Order 13112 and address adverse impacts from invasive species.

H. FUTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Due to the nature of noxious and invasive weeds growth and production, management needs to be on-going in order to truly be effective. We acknowledge that there is no guarantee that future funding will be available to continue future treatment and inventory at a large landscape scale;

however, local efforts will be continued at a reduced site specific/project scale. Future noxious and invasive weed management will be completed using appropriated dollars. Additional funding may be pursued through resource grants and partner collaborations whenever possible.

I. PROJECT BUDGET

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District is seeking \$730,700 in SNPLMA funding to complete this project.

Partnership and/or Contributed Funds

We expect that various partners will have in-kind contributions during the implementation of this project; however, we currently do not have any commitments.

PROJECT BUDGET			
Project Name:	Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Phase II	Date:	9/9/2021
Project Manager:	Amery Sifre	Agency:	USFS
Cost Categories		SNPLMA	Non-Federal Contribution
1. Personnel (labor plus benefits)		\$ 410,700.00	\$ -
2. Travel		\$ 42,000.00	\$ -
3. Training		\$ 8,500.00	\$ -
4. Equipment		\$ 45,000.00	\$ -
5. Supplies/Materials		\$ 58,000.00	\$ -
6. Contracts and/or Agreements		\$ 150,000.00	\$ -
7. Vehicle Use		\$ 16,500.00	\$ -
8. Other Necessary Expenses		\$ -	\$ -
9. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$ 730,700.00	\$ -

J. KEY CONTACTS

Authorized Officer: Jose Noriega, District Ranger

Email: jose.noriega@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-0176

Project Manager: Amery Sifre, Rangeland Management Specialist

Email: amery.sifre@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-289-0177

Budget Officer: Petersam (Sam) Le, Forest Budget Officer

Email: petersam.le@usda.gov

Phone Number: 775-300-1739

K. RANKING 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. (Projects are only eligible for Items A, B, or C; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer Item D if it applies to your nomination).

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

Answer:

- Large areas both on public and private lands need to be inventoried and treated. Treatments on some public lands and most private lands have been limited due to the lack of funds needed to implement necessary controls.
- This proposal will build upon existing efforts and projects by taking an all-lands approach with a wide partnership effort to address the noxious and invasive weeds issue. Public outreach and education are critical for this proposal.

- B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory, and conifer encroachment. *(Do not answer if you answered Item A. already).*

Answer:

- C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands. *(Do not answer if you answered Items A or B already).*

Answer:

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

Answer: N/A

2. **Habitat Recovery/Restoration.** (Projects are only eligible for Factors A, B, or C, depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination; select and answer ONLY ONE. Answer either Item D1 or D2, whichever applies to your nomination).

- A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map)

Answer:

- The project will include noxious weed treatments that will improve and/or restore important habitats and contribute to riparian/watershed restoration. The Project Area encompasses important habitat for both sage grouse and mule deer and is located adjacent to PAC's which occur within the valley bottoms.
- Noxious and invasive weeds can drastically affect natural ecosystems, increase soil erosion, adversely impact recreation, and cause enormous economic damage. Without treatment, the ecological damage from extensive infestations continues and grows as populations spread. By controlling or eliminating weed populations, multiple landscape functions improve. This project will control or eliminate noxious and invasive weed populations and restoration of native vegetation at a watershed level.
- Restore native plant communities in rangeland and riparian ecosystems.
- Restore and protect important wildlife habitats for species like sage grouse through the treatment of noxious and invasive weeds under an all-lands approach.

- B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand. (* As defined by the State Management Category Map). *(Do not answer if you answered Item A. already)*

Answer:

- C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat. *(Do not answer if you answered Item A or B already)*

Answer:

- D. Sagebrush landscape cover.

D1. Project area is characterized as low resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.

Answer:

D2. Project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover. *(Do not answer if you answered Item D1. already).*

Answer: Yes

3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation. Answer all applicable.

- 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.

Answer:

- Under this proposal, cheatgrass infestations will be treated along roadways creating fuel breaks that can be used to better support fire suppression efforts.
- B. Project will rehabilitate a previously burned area to prevent the establishment of invasive annual grasses.

Answer:

- The project activities may treat noxious and invasive species within previously burned areas that occur within the project area. Whenever possible, treat cheatgrass infestations to reduce the risk of wildfires.
- This project will enhance existing restoration treatment projects and rehabilitation activities following wildfires by conducting subsequent weed monitoring.
- The project area has regions with Fire Regime Condition Classes 1, 2, 3. Native plant communities will be restored in all FRCC classes, although primarily those in FRCC class 2 and 3. By controlling weed species in these areas; we reduce the risk of infestations occurring after wildfire events as well.

4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information. Answer all applicable.

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

Answer:

- Information and monitoring data gained following implementation of this project will supplement and contribute to the existing scientific knowledge regarding noxious and invasive weed treatment and eradication on similar

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.
- Monitoring data collected from this project would lead to a greater understanding of weed management and ecological conditions throughout the six watersheds. The monitoring results from this project will be used by all landowners involved to determine suitable treatment options and best restoration methods for the future. Photo monitoring will occur for significant pre- and post-treatment locations.

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

Answer all applicable.

- 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 sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.

Answer:

- This project will improve the lines of communication between multiple public land management organizations, non-profit groups, and private landowners in the area. This will foster an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration which will allow weed treatments and monitoring to be more effective across administrative boundaries. By working together and attacking weed infestations in an organized and open approach, treatments and restoration efforts will be more successful.
- Work with Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition to promote large scale public outreach and education along with control of noxious and invasive weeds on adjacent private lands.
- Work with CWMAs to obtain MOUs with private landowners and encourage weed treatment and inventory on private lands near National Forest.

- 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, (includes Federal, state, local, and tribal governments) community, or private land manager.

Answer:

- This project will conduct intensive community outreach, education, public meetings, etc.
- This project will improve the lines of communication between multiple public land management organizations, non-profit groups, and private landowners in

the area. This will foster an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration which will allow weed treatments and monitoring to be more effective across administrative boundaries. By working together and attacking weed infestations in an organized and open approach, treatments and restoration efforts will be more successful.

- Increase Forest Service program activities to raise awareness of the invasive species threat, internally and externally.
- Increase public educational opportunities and programs regarding noxious and invasive weeds and associated management, foster an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration with partners, and help develop the next generation of environmental understanding and advocacy (e.g., increase participation with school districts, local special interest groups, and site stewardship programs).
- The Ward Mountain Interpretive Noxious/ Invasive Weed walking trail provides fast and readily accessible recreational opportunities for residents as well as visitors to the area as a self-guide tour or during educational events. The trail system is utilized year-round by many users by day user and during events.

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

Answer:

- The Forest Service, CWMA, and adjacent private landowners will work together to identify areas in need of restoration work and establish appropriate methods of restoration. Based on the appropriate policies and procedures, site specific restoration strategies will be developed and used to implement on-the-ground restoration activities using the appropriate methods to restore native vegetative communities
- For consistency across multi-jurisdictional boundaries, the Ward Mountain Interpretive Noxious/ Invasive Weed walking trail signs will be designed to mirror similar installations located on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Completed SNPLMA projects that occurred in this area include:
 - Round 8: White Pine Sagebrush Restoration Project (Completed)
 - Round 8: Steptoe Valley Weed Inventory, Education, Treatment (Completed)
 - Round 9: Snake Valley Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration, and Education (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 14: Ward Mountain (Completed)
 - Round 15: North Shell Restoration Project (Completed)
 - Round 15: Currant Ellison Landscape Restoration Project (Forest Service contributed FY2015 appropriation funds of \$300,000) (Completed)
 - Round 16: Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Project SNPLMA (Completed)
 - Other completed or ongoing restoration work/projects
 - Round 16: Ely District Weeds Treatment, Inventory and Monitoring Project (Close-out Phase)
 - Round 17: Ward Mountain Phase II (On-going)
 - Round 17: Multi-Jurisdictional Noxious and Invasive Weed Partnership (On-going)
- D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefiting entity.

Answer:

- Treatment and Inventory data collected during this project will be used to validate the Forest weed management and protection of important riparian sites in the project area.
- Inventory and Monitoring data will be used for planning and mitigation during future restoration efforts. This data will also be used to validate the Forest weed management and protection of important riparian sites in the project area.
- Proposed habitat improvements will benefit wildlife species which utilize both BLM and FS administered lands in the project area.
- Management of noxious and invasive species on National Forest System lands, or to adjacent areas will reduce expansion to low elevation sites.

L. ORDERS AND PRIORITIES

A. Executive Orders (EO):

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

Answer: This project actively reduces fuels within the project area. Under this proposal, cheatgrass infestations will be treated along roadways creating fuel breaks that can be used to better support fire suppression efforts.

This project will enhance existing restoration treatment projects and rehabilitation activities following wildfires by conducting subsequent weed monitoring

- ***EO No. 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers***

Answer: N/A

B. Secretarial Orders

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

Answer: This project will provide new year-round, accessible recreational opportunities. In addition, it will promote noxious and invasive weed education.

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.***

Answer: 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.***

Answer: The project will include noxious weed treatments that will improve and/or restore important habitats and contribute to riparian/watershed restoration. The Project Area encompasses important habitat for both sage grouse and mule deer, and elk.

This project will control or eliminate noxious and invasive weed populations and restoration of native vegetation at a watershed level. Noxious and invasive weeds can drastically affect natural ecosystems, increase soil erosion, adversely impact recreation, and cause enormous economic damage. Without treatment, the ecological damage from extensive infestations continues and grows as populations spread. By controlling or eliminating weed populations, multiple landscape functions improve.

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposal and Exchanges (focus is on Sec. 4.b.(3) Potential increased public recreational access to existing public lands resulting from the proposed land acquired through an exchange (acquisition)).***

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

C. Department of the Interior Priorities:

1. ***Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters. We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.***

Answer: N/A

2. ***Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations.*** We understand that tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Answer: N/A

3. ***Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs.*** This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Answer: N/A

4. ***Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030.*** We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and tribally led conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Answer: N/A

5. ***Centering equity and environmental justice.*** The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

Answer: N/A

D. USDA Forest Service Priorities:

1. ***Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic***

Answer: This project will provide new outdoor educational opportunities that promote self-distancing and reduce large group congregation.

2. ***Providing economic relief***

Answer: This project will create jobs and improve recreational opportunities.

3. *Tackling climate change*

Answer: This project will reduce hazardous flashy fuels, reduce the potential for large wildfires, restore riparian areas and restore ecosystems within the watershed.

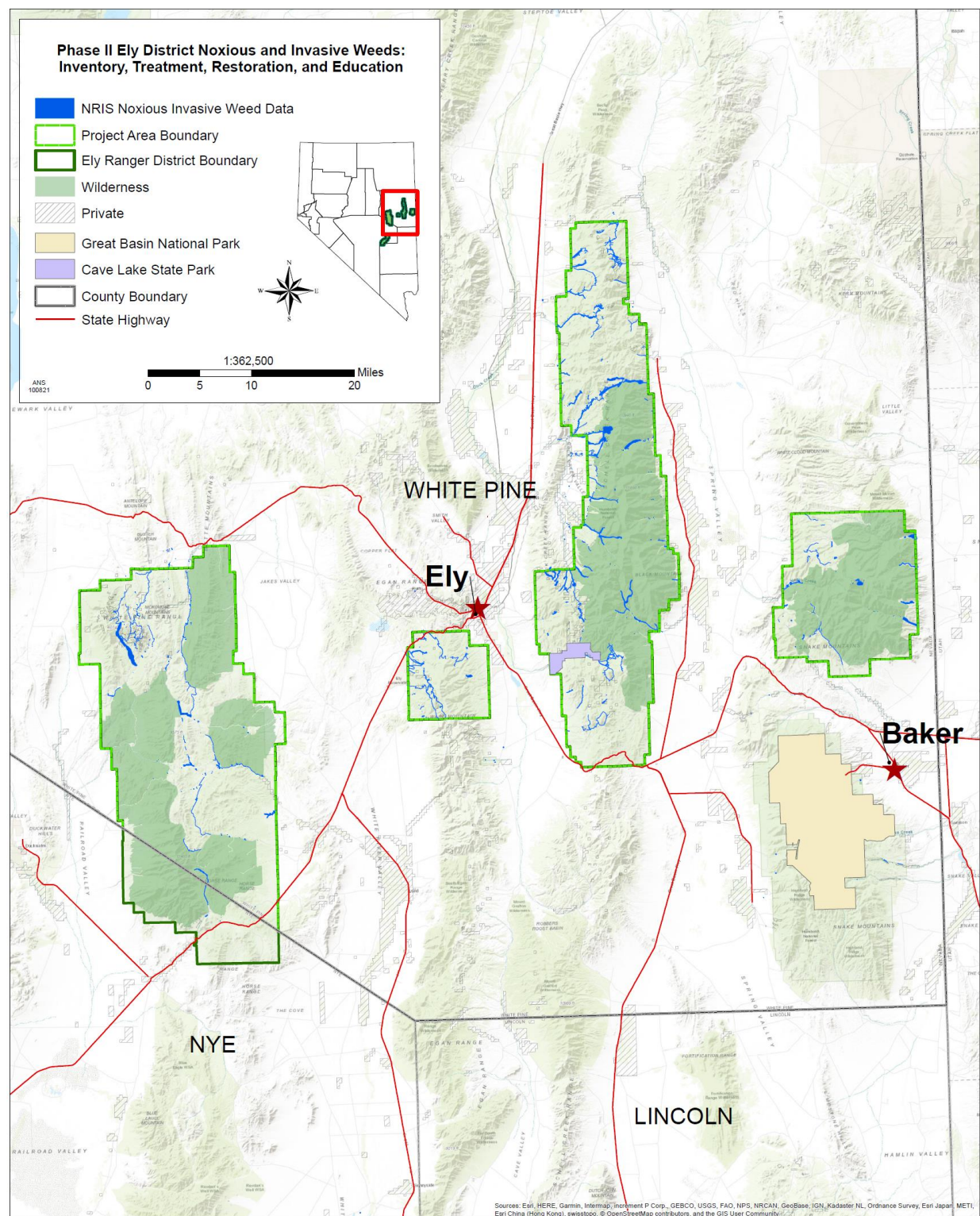
4. *Advancing racial equity*

Answer: N/A

5. *Improving our workforce and work environment*

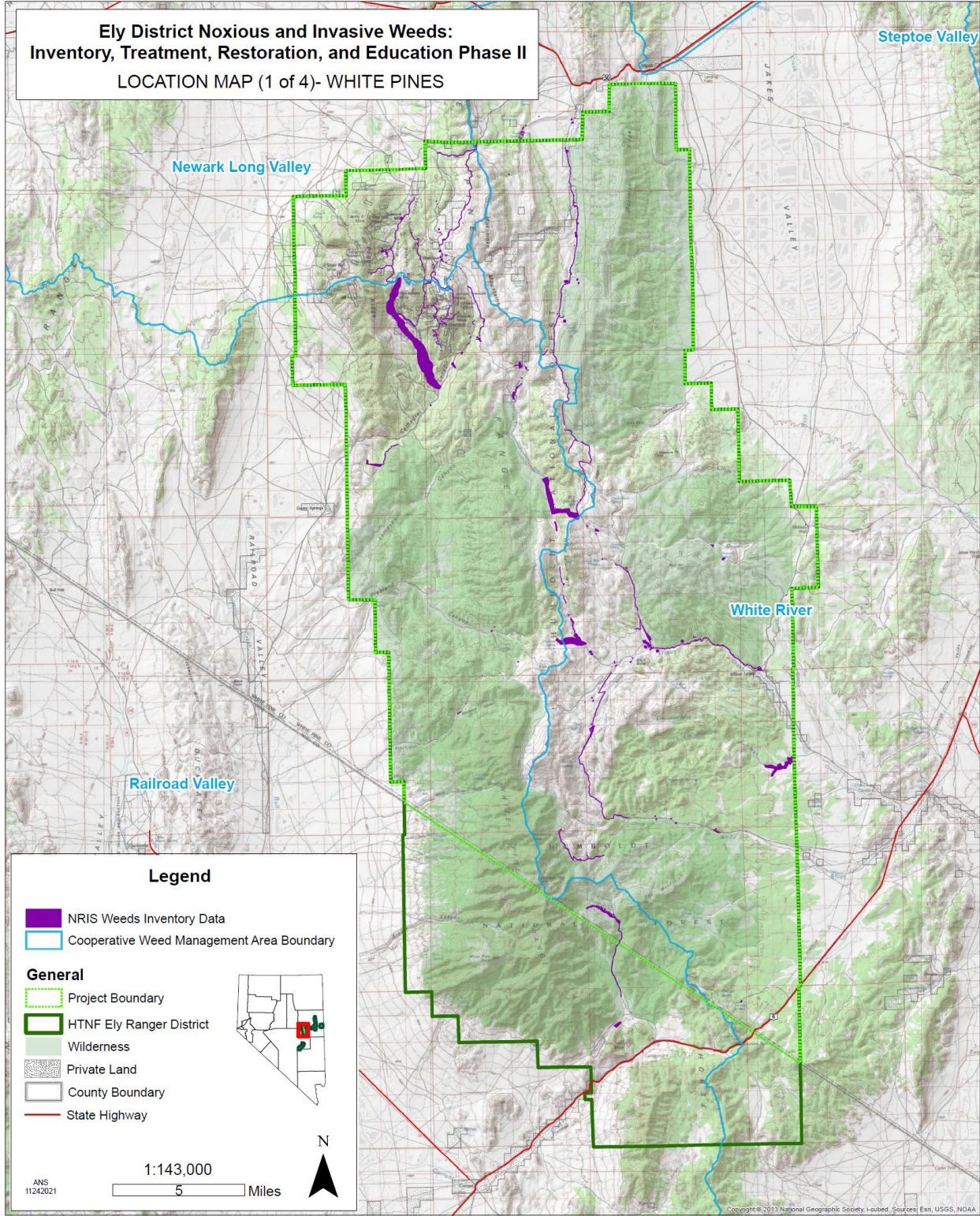
Answer: This project will strengthen working relationships by supporting weed management actions and communication across six watersheds on private and public lands in White Pine County.

M. MAPS



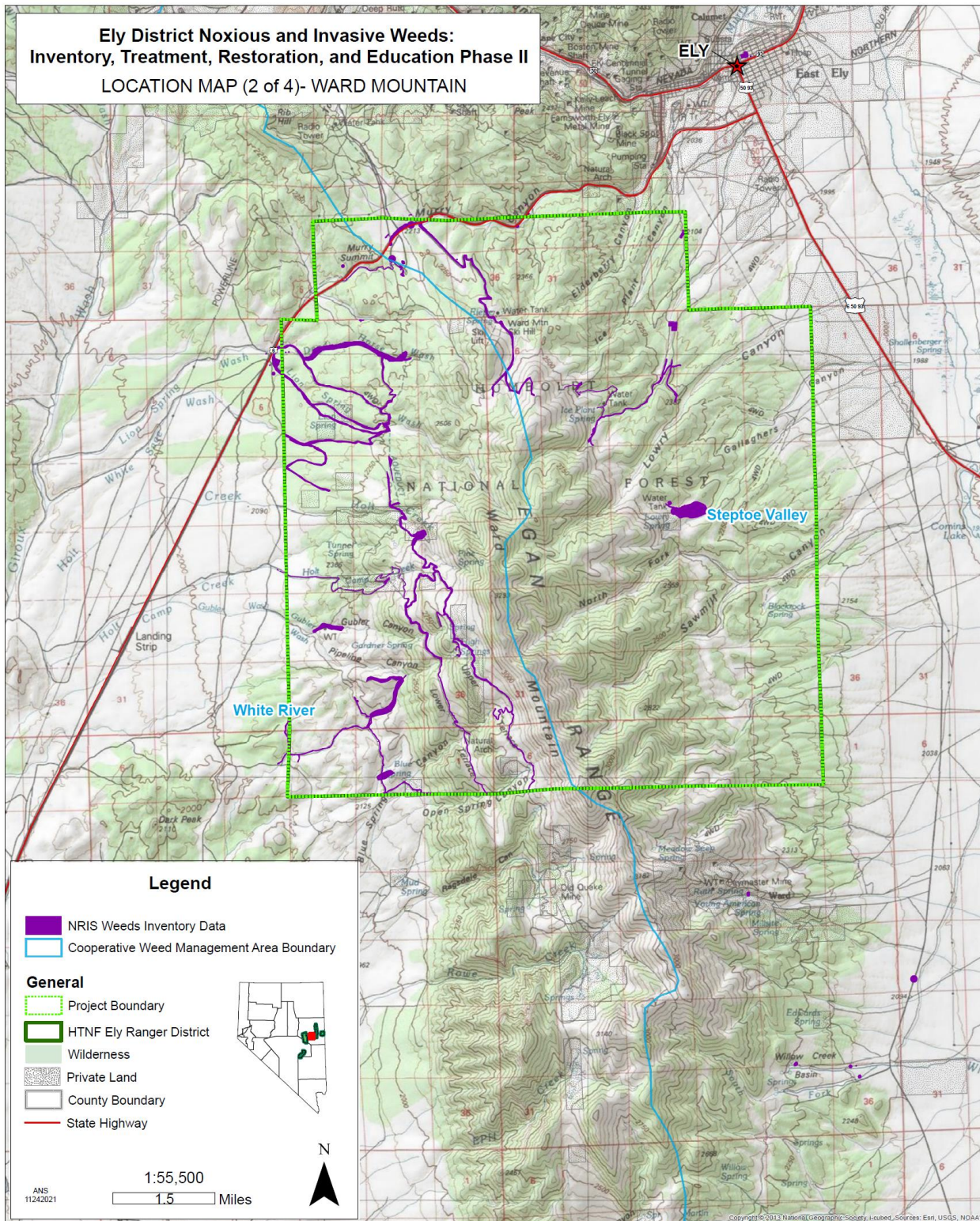
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 1: Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Phase II, Project Location Map



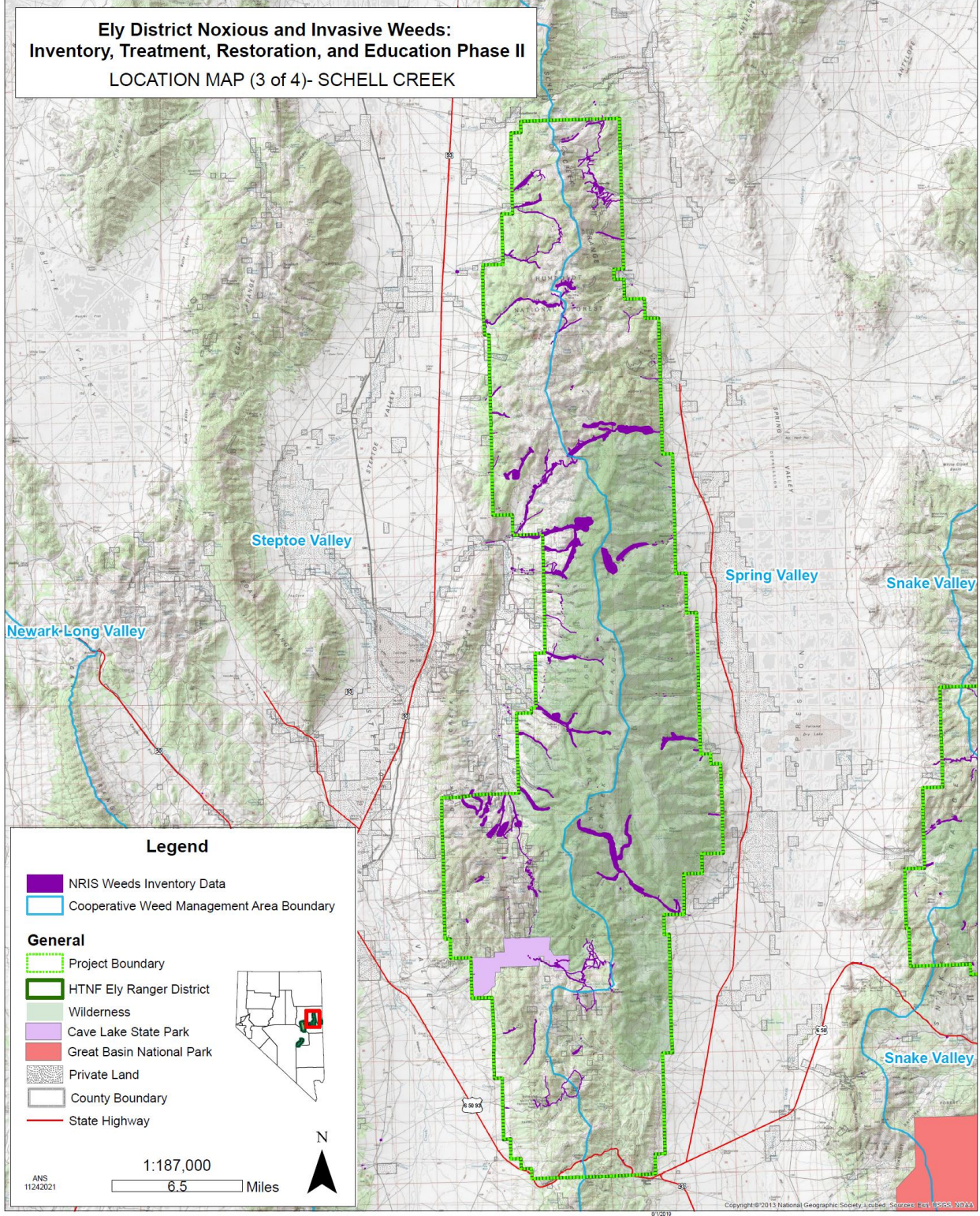
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 2: Project location White Pines area



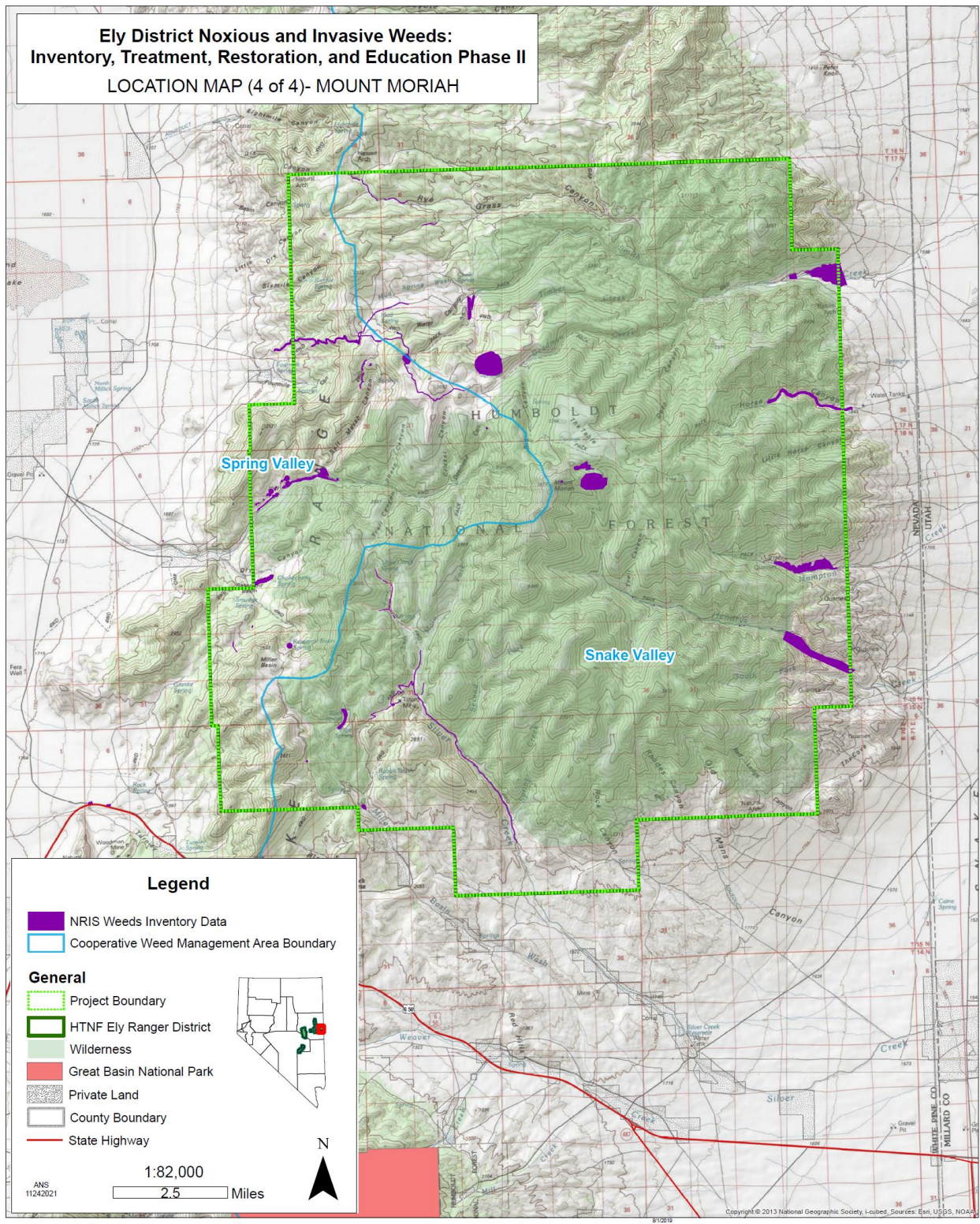
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 3: Project location Ward Mountain area



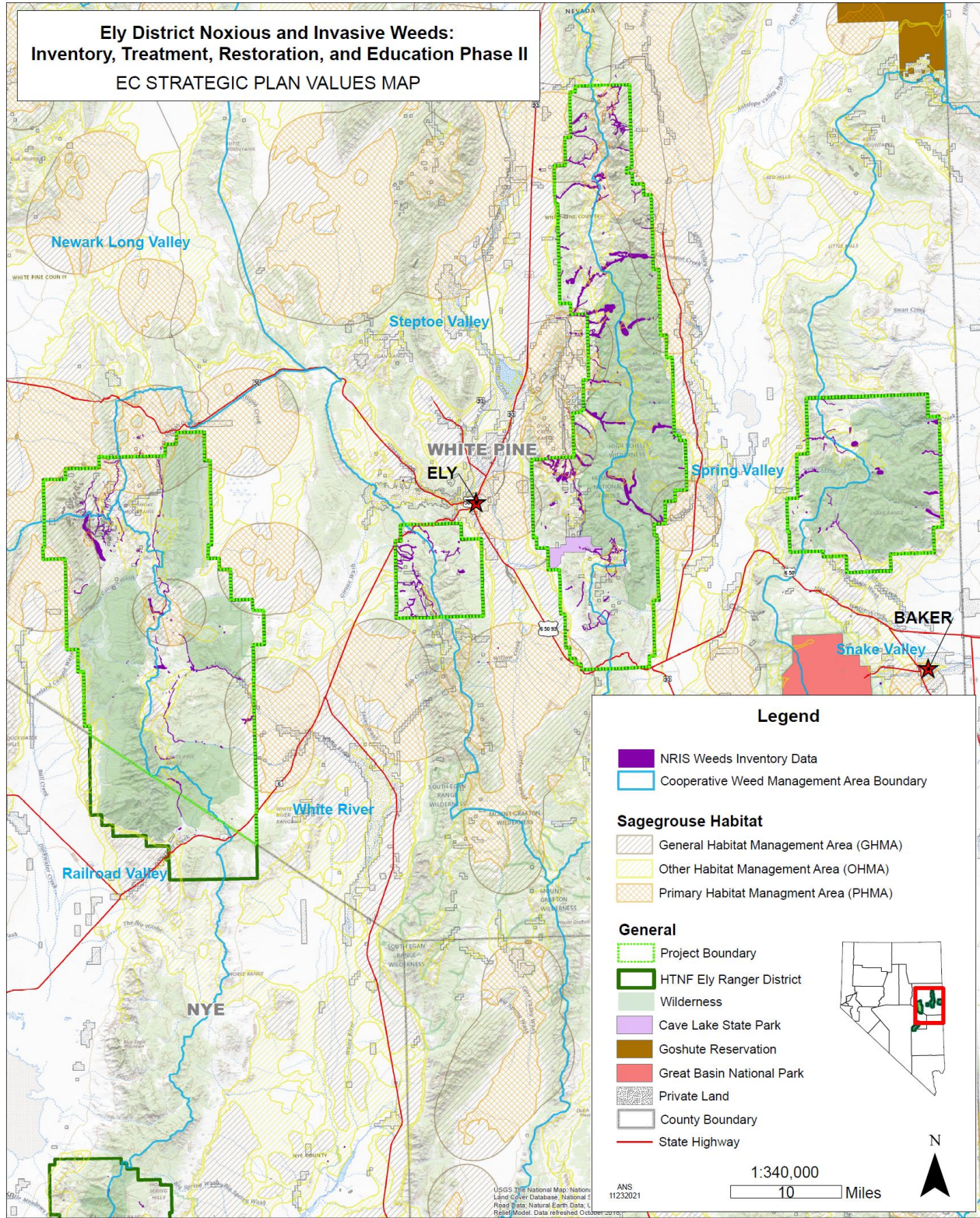
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 4: Project location Schell Creek area



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 5: Project location Mount Moriah area



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest data was compiled from multiple sources and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. This data has no warranties to its content or accuracy when used for purposes other than those intended by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Figure 6: SNPLMA Strategic Plan Values Map

N. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SNPLMA FY2020-FY2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1:		
Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	Quantity
H5 - Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored. Report to the nearest whole acre.	1,500 – 2,000
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project.	1,500 – 2,000
H10 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation inventoried or monitored. Include monitoring of weed treatment projects reported under performance measure H9.	1,500 – 2,000
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed.	15
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated in or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given.	9

O. PHOTOS

Due to the nature of noxious and invasive weeds growth and production, management needs to be on-going in order to truly be effective.



Photo 1: Sagehen Canyon (Post-treatment)



Photo 2: Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) seed production from plants missed during chemical treatment



Photo 3: Second flush of Bull thistle rosettes in Sagehen Canyon



Photo 4: Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Bull thistle infestation along Success Loop at private and USFS boundary



Photo 5: Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*) and Bull thistle infestation at Mosier Canyon Spring



Photo 6: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) infestation at Cleve Creek. Currently being treated with biocontrol

P. SUPPORT LETTERS

1. White Pine County Board of County Commissioners
2. Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
3. State of Nevada, Department of Wildlife

*Richard Howe, Chairman
Travis Godon, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Shane Bybee
Commissioner Ian Bullis
Commissioner Laurie L. Carson*

*801 Clark Street, Suite 4
Ely, Nevada 89301
(775) 293-6509
Fax (775) 289-2544*

Nichole Baldwin, Ex-officio Clerk of the Board

White Pine County
Board of County Commissioners

WPClerk@whitepinecountynv.gov

October 27, 2021

Erin Rajala, District Ranger (Acting)
Ely Ranger District, US Forest Service
825 Avenue E.
Ely, Nevada 89301

Via Email: erin.rajala@usda.gov

RE: White Pine County Support for the Ely Ranger District's Round 19 Project Proposals for funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA)

Mrs. Rajala,

White Pine County, Nevada (County) has reviewed the Ely Ranger District's Summary of SNPLMA Round 19 Projects and wishes to convey its strong support for all of them. If funded and implemented, these projects would be of great benefit to the County's customs, culture and economy as well as serving to improve ecological health, enhance outdoor recreation and benefit the County's citizens and visitors.

The below listed projects are all consistent with advancing the goals and objectives the County's Public Lands Policy Plan within both critical geographic and key socioeconomic areas:

- South Schells Restoration Project
- Illipah Watershed Restoration Project
- Ranger OHV Trails Reconstruction Project
- Mount Moriah Trails Reconstruction Project
- Kalamazoo Campground Reconstruction Project
- Youth Engagement in Natural Resource Management
- Phase II: Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds: Inventory, Treatment, Restoration & Education

The County appreciates the hard work that you and your staff have put forward in development of these projects. The County also appreciates the open coordination and communications you have had with the County and key stakeholders in doing so. Once again, the County enthusiastically supports the above listed projects, offers its continued partnership and wishes you the best in terms of funding and implementation.

Respectfully,



Richard Howe, Chair
White Pine County Board of Commissioners

RH/jd/nb

CC: Jose Noriega, District Ranger



EASTERN NEVADA LANDSCAPE COALITION

P.O. BOX 150266 • ELY, NEVADA 89315
775-289-7974 • enlc@sbcglobal.net • www.enlc.org

Jose Noriega
USFS-Ely Ranger District
825 Ave E
Ely, NV 89301

September 7, 2021

Re: Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weed Project

Dear Mr. Noriega:

On behalf of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), I would like to express our full support for the Ely Ranger District's Noxious and Invasive Weed Project proposal submitted for round nineteen of the SNPLMA process.

ENLC's mission is to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through collaborative efforts. The submitted proposal is in line with our mission and goals; therefore, we gladly support the USFS's efforts and proposal. ENLC has worked closely with the District over the past 19 years through six cooperative weed management areas (CWMA's) located in White Pine and Lincoln Counties. Although the Forest Service has been a partner in these CWMA's since their inception, the District often has minimal funding available for weed treatments. This project, if funded, will be invaluable for the District by providing a constant source of funding for several consecutive years to focus on invasive weeds and help the District respond quickly to any early detection rapid response infestations that are identified.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eric Horstman
Executive Director



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

BONNIE LONG
Deputy Director

JACK ROBB
Deputy Director

September 11, 2021

Re: SNPLMA Round 19 Phase II: Ely District Weeds

Dear Ms. Sifre,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is pleased to support the Ely Ranger District's Round 19 SNPLMA Proposal "Phase II: Ely District Weeds". This project will allow the implementation and continuation of noxious and invasive weed management actions to treat, inventory and monitor noxious weeds across public lands on the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in White Pine County. Additionally, this project will assist in the native vegetation restoration and public outreach and education throughout the surrounding areas. The establishment of native vegetation and control of noxious weeds will help provide high quality habitat for Nevada's wildlife.

We feel this project will expand upon existing management tools, and we are pleased to be a partner in this joint effort. We look forward to providing support through technical advising, feedback and review, and development of the framework.

If we can provide any additional support, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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

Moira Kolada
Eastern Region Habitat Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
(775)289-1655 ext 5
mkolada@ndow.org