



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Wildlife Heritage Account Project Proposal Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Person/Organization/Agency: Moira Kolada/Nevada Department of Wildlife

Date: 8 January 2020

Name: Moira Kolada Title: Habitat Biologist
 Address: 1218 N. Alpha St. City: Ely
 State: NV Zip: 89301 Phone: 775-289-1655 ext. 29
 Cell: 775-233-4798 Fax: 775-289-1649 ext. 29
 Email: mkolada@ndow.org
 Other: _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Snake Range Aspen Habitat Restoration Project

State Fiscal Year(s) Wildlife Heritage Account Funds are Needed: 2021

Project Location: Snake Mountain Range -Spring Valley, White Pine County, Nevada

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$30,000

Is a Project Map Attached? Yes No

(a map must include the project title, map scale, date map was created, and a north arrow)

Purpose of the Project:

Aspen has declined 60 to 90% throughout the West and in Nevada, with many current aspen stands containing old-age or single-age trees that have not successfully regenerated for 80 years or longer. The decline of aspen communities has been largely attributed to declines in natural disturbances (e.g., fire suppression in the surrounding landscape) and increases in ungulate herbivory. When found in association with coniferous species, aspen communities may progress toward conifer dominance or replacement in the absence of disturbance. While a healthy aspen stand can withstand or recolonize after a disturbance, an unhealthy or stressed stand is likely to be lost. Aspens rarely grow from seed because of its demanding seed bed requirements and high vulnerability to herbivory making virtually impossible to replace an aspen stand once it has been lost. Present day aspen clones have likely maintained their presence on those sites for thousands of years through vegetative regeneration.



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Aspen communities have exceedingly high biodiversity, second only to riparian areas on western ranges. Aspen produce forage for both wildlife and domestic livestock. Healthy aspen communities consist of developed dense multi-age structure that provides benefits to wildlife dependent upon the diverse nature of these communities. Given the high biodiversity found in aspen stands it is no surprise that many species of conservation priority utilize aspen stands for various life stages. A variety of birds and mammals, including many species that are classified as species of conservation priority, utilize mid-story structure and herbaceous/shrub understory of aspen communities for forage, nesting, and protective cover.

This project is unique in the sense that it does not specifically target any one particular species. Rather this project focuses on restoring a small but unique habitat type and directly addresses one of the conservation strategies put forth in the Nevada Wildlife Action plan: Manage aspen woodlands and aspen-mixed conifer not to exceed 10% loss to type conversion through 2022, through identifying and prioritizing aspen woodlands for restoration through management treatment(s) including prescribed fire and conifer removal. However, we do expect a variety of species that are dependent on healthy aspen stands to benefit such as northern goshawks, flammulated owls, Cassin's finches, montane shrews, Lewis's woodpecker, dusky grouse, mule deer, and elk.

Detailed Description of Project (include any development plans such as vegetation removal, planting, seeding, or installation of structures; also include the schedule for obtaining any necessary permits, completing NEPA compliance, etc.):

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District (BLM) has identified approximately 300 acres where removal of encroaching conifers would benefit aspen health. Treatment will consist of selectively thinning or complete removal of conifer within the aspen stand (including a 75 foot buffer). Some conifer trees may be left for the benefit of those species that rely on mixed conifer and aspen stands. Additional acreage may be treated on the Great Basin National Park pending completion of NEPA and availability of funds.

The primary method of tree removal would be done by hand crews with the use of chainsaws. Trees would be cut as close as possible to ground level with a maximum stump height of 12 inches. Cut trees would be lopped and scattered or piled and burned.

How Does this Project Meet the Objectives of the Wildlife Heritage Program? (See NRS 501.3575)

This project specifically meets the objectives in subsection 1(a) of NRS 501.3575, "...the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction, and management of any game fish or mammal, game bird or fur-bearing mammal in this State."

The treatments funded by the Wildlife Heritage Fund would greatly improve upon a critical habitat for a variety of wildlife species including big game and game birds.



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Legal Description of the Property on Which the Proposed Project is to be Located (must include the property address, access roads, township, range and section):

T14N R68E Sections 5, 6, 8, 20, and 21

Does this Project Have Additional Funding Sources Other than Your Wildlife Heritage Account Request? Yes No

Does this Project Involve Habitat Restoration and Improvement of a Long-term or Permanent Nature? Yes No

Please Describe in Detail the Reason Why You Need Wildlife Heritage Account Funding to Fund this Project:

Match has been secured thru the Spring Valley Wind Mitigation fund for a portion of the project, without additional funds the project will have to be downsized which would decrease the positive benefit of this type of restoration for Nevada's wildlife.

Project Duration: one year two years three years more

Estimated Start Date: 7/1/2020

Estimated End Date: 6/30/2021



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

PROJECT FUNDING

The funding breakdown below should only be for the upcoming fiscal year. While projects may be extended beyond the first fiscal year, such an extension must be due to unusual circumstances and approved by the Wildlife Commission (see NAC 501.340). Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.

1. Wildlife Heritage Account Cash Amount Requested		\$ 30,000.00
2. Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project		
a. Spring Valley Wind Mitigation Fund		\$ 30,000.00
b. Habitat Conservation Fee		\$ 15,000.00
c.		
d.		
e. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - d)		\$ 45,000.00
3. Donations or In-kind Services for this Project		
a. Volunteer Time		
b. Equipment		
c. Materials Acquisition BLM		
d.		
e.		
f.		
g.		
h. Total Donations/In-kind Services (lines a - g)		\$ -
4. Total Project Funding	\$ 75,000.00	



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

PROJECT COSTS

The cost breakdown below should only be for the first fiscal year of the project. While projects may be extended beyond the first fiscal year, such an extension must be due to unusual circumstances and approved by the Wildlife Commission (see NAC 501.340). Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.

	Heritage Costs	All Other Costs
1. Land Acquisition		
2. Personnel (NDOW employee costs can't be included)		
3. Travel (NDOW travel costs can't be included)		
a. Per diem		
b. Mileage		
c. Total Travel Costs (lines a & b)	\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment Items		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Equipment Costs (line a - d)	\$ -	\$ -
5. Materials		
a. Fencing Material acquisition BLM		
b.		
c.		
d.		\$ -
e. Total Material Costs (lines a - d)	\$ -	\$ -
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
a. Contract Labor for PJ Removal	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
7. Total Heritage Costs Only (add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)	\$ 30,000.00	
8. Total All Other Costs (add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		\$ 65,000.00
9. Total Project Costs (add lines 7 & 8)	\$ 95,000.00	
(Note: total project funding from previous table must match total project costs)		



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Are there going to be any Ongoing Costs for this Project? Yes No

If there are Ongoing Costs Associated with this Project, is there an Anticipated Funding Source for These Costs? Yes No

Do You Anticipate Needing Additional Wildlife Heritage Account Funds Beyond the Upcoming Fiscal Year? If So, Please Describe What You Think Your Funding Requirements will be and for What Purposes (As noted above, extensions beyond the first fiscal year must be due to unusual circumstances and approved by the Wildlife Commission.):

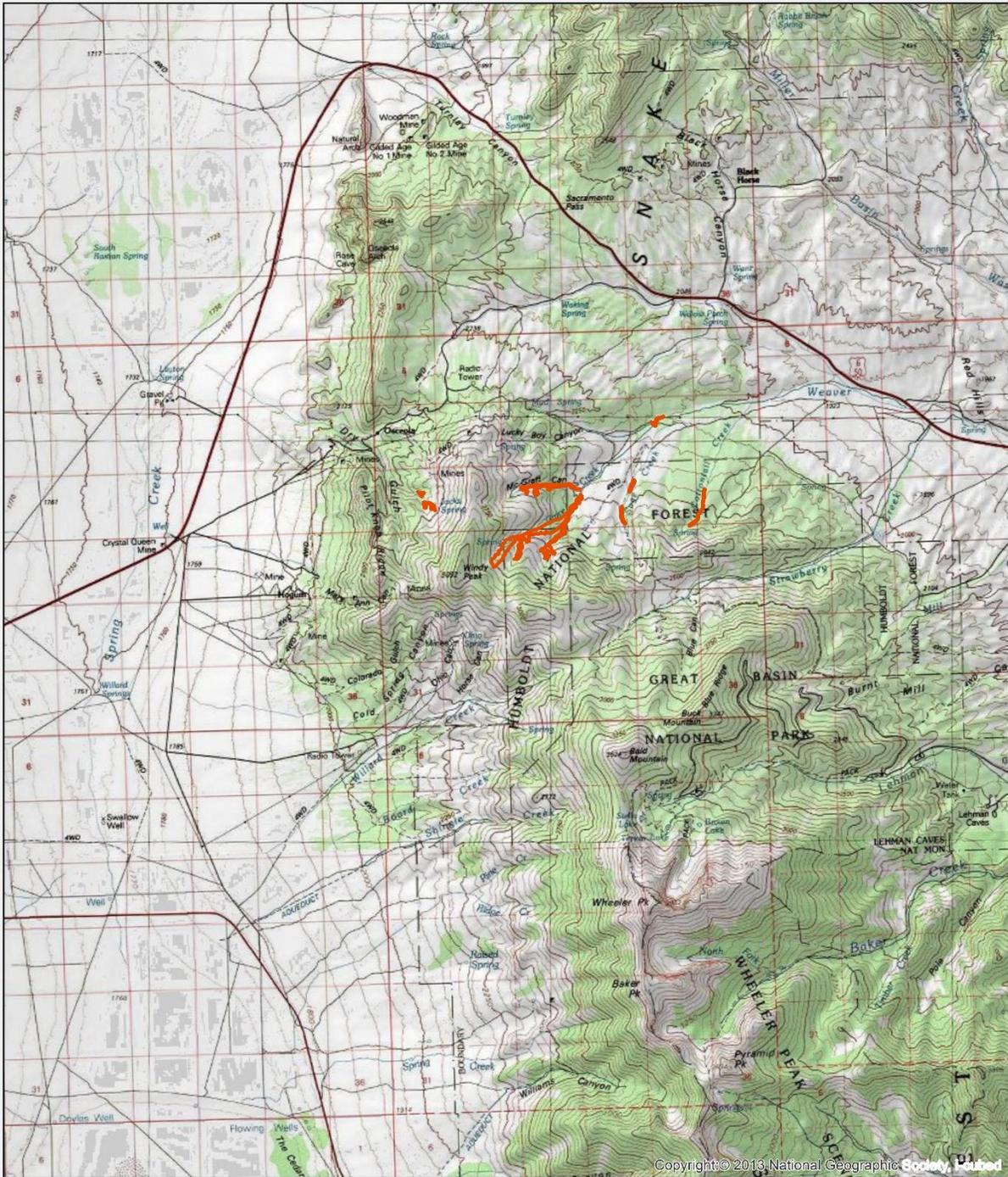
We do not anticipate additional Heritage fund requests for this project.

How Will You Give Credit to the Wildlife Heritage Account and Other Funding Sources?

NDOW and the Heritage Program would be credited as partners in the project for all public information releases and post treatment reports.

Authorizing Signature: *M. Lu Davis*

Review Date: 4/8/2020



Snake Aspen Project Area



 Snake Mountains Aspen



No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
 Projection: UTM Zone 11 North, NAD 83
 Map Created: 5 December 2019