



Wildlife Heritage Account Project Proposal Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Person Submitting Proposal/Project Manager: Lindsey Lesmeister

Organization/Agency: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Date: January 8, 2020

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State: Nevada

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NDOW Monitor (if the project would be managed by someone other than a NDOW employee):

Caleb McAadoo- Supervising Habitat Biologist

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Toano Mountain Restoration Project

State Fiscal Year(s) Wildlife Heritage Account Funds are Needed: 2020

Project Location: Toano Mountain Range, Hunt Unit 079, Elko County

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$66,000

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:

Pinyon-Juniper encroachment into sagebrush ecological sites is a West-wide phenomenon, largely due anthropomorphically manipulated fire regimes. Due to less frequent fires, late succession plants, such as pinyon and juniper trees, begin to dominate the landscape and as a result, understory species composition and abundance decreases. These tree dominated sites are typically low in wildlife diversity and provide little wildlife value. Additionally, catastrophic wildfires are more likely to occur in these heavy fuel loaded areas. For sage-grouse these sites provide inadequate habitat due to the presence of perching areas for predators and the decrease in forbs, grasses and sagebrush. For mule deer, these areas provide marginal habitat, with the best asset being that of thermal



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cover from the trees but habitats provide very little value to mule deer as they transition from a shrub dominated to tree dominated state. Such tree encroachment into sagebrush ecological sites has occurred in the Toano Mountains area in Eastern Elko County and is reducing the quality and quantity of valuable wintering habitat for mule deer.

The Toano Mountain Restoration Project (TMRP) is a project designed to combat the invasion of phase 1 pinyon/juniper into the sagebrush biome on lands administered by the BLM and private parcels in the area associated with the Toano Mountains in northeastern Elko County, Unit 079. Throughout the project area pinyon-juniper woodland expansion has negatively impacted perennial grass and shrub communities, crucial to mule deer and overall rangeland health. These perennial grass and shrub communities in many places have either been replaced by dense stands of pinyon-juniper or are on the verge of being lost. This loss of perennial grass, shrubs, and forbs is detrimental to Nevada's wildlife which relies on a having a healthy, diverse, and productive vegetation community.

The main objective of the TMRP is to restore and enhance crucial mule deer winter range for the Area 7 mule deer herd, and to offset impacts from Long Canyon Mine on this mule deer herd.

The intent of the TMRP is the targeted removal of pinyon and juniper trees (P/J) within a central sage-brush bench of the Toano Mountains through the use of hand-thinning. The TMRP was designed to treat up to a total of 3,000 acres of P/J within the three identified polygons (*see attached map*).

This project has the will significantly set back the encroachment of P/J in a high-elevation sage brush basin that is identified as crucial winter habitat for the Area 7 mule deer herd. In addition to benefiting mule deer, the TMRP would likely benefit all sagebrush obligate species. The removal of juniper would overall improve native vegetation response including shrubs, grasses and forbs which would have a secondary benefit to a diversity of species within the basin.

The Bureau of Land Management is currently analyzing the TMRP with an anticipated Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) in early spring of 2020 ahead of project implementation.

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 project consists of clearing the majority of the area's P/J component through the use of hand-thinning. It is anticipated that a DNA will be finalized in the Spring of 2020.

How Would this Project Help with “the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of any game fish, game mammal, game bird or fur-bearing mammal in this State; or the management and control of predatory wildlife in this State”? (See NRS 501.3575)

In 2015, the Long Canyon mine was analyzed and approved and through a BLM NEPA Process. Through that analysis and approval, the mine impacted approximately 500 acres of crucial mule deer winter range. This project would help to facilitate the use of mitigation funds to offset the impacts from the Long Canyon Mine



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PROJECT FUNDING

The funding breakdown below should cover the total funding needs of the project. While projects may be extended beyond the fiscal year for which money was awarded, such an extension must be due to unusual circumstances and be approved by the Wildlife Commission (see NAC 501.340). Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.

1.	Amount of Heritage Account Funds Being Requested			\$ 66,000.00
2.	Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project			
	a. Long Canyon Mule Deer Mitigation Funds			\$ 159,000.00
	b. HCF			\$ 30,000.00
	c.			
	d.			
	e. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - d)			\$ 189,000.00
3.	In-kind Services for this Project			
	a. Volunteer Time			
	b. Equipment			
	c. Materials			
	d.			
	e.			
	f.			
	g.			
	h. Total Donations/In-kind Services (lines a - g)			\$ -
4.	Total Project Funding			\$ 255,000.00
	(add lines 1, 2e,3h)			



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PROJECT COSTS

The cost breakdown below should cover the total costs of the project you are seeking funding for. NOTE: THE HERITAGE ACCOUNT CANNOT BE USED TO PAY INDIRECT COSTS. 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 in the Heritage column)		
3. Travel (NDOW travel costs can't be included in the Heritage column)		
a. Per diem		
b. Mileage		
c. Total Travel Costs (lines a & b)	\$ -	\$ -
4. Equipment Items		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d. Total Equipment Costs (line a - c)	\$ -	\$ -
5. Materials		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		\$ -
e. Total Material Costs (lines a - d)	\$ -	\$ -
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
Contracting RFP 3282	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 189,000.00
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 189,000.00
7. Total Heritage Costs Only	<u>\$ 66,000.00</u>	
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4d, 5e, 6e)		
8. Total All Other Costs		<u>\$ 189,000.00</u>
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		
9. Total Project Costs	<u>\$ 255,000.00</u>	
(add lines 7 & 8)		
(Note: total project funding from previous table must match total project costs)		



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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.):

It isn't anticipated that additional funding would be required to implement the wildlife enhance treatments.

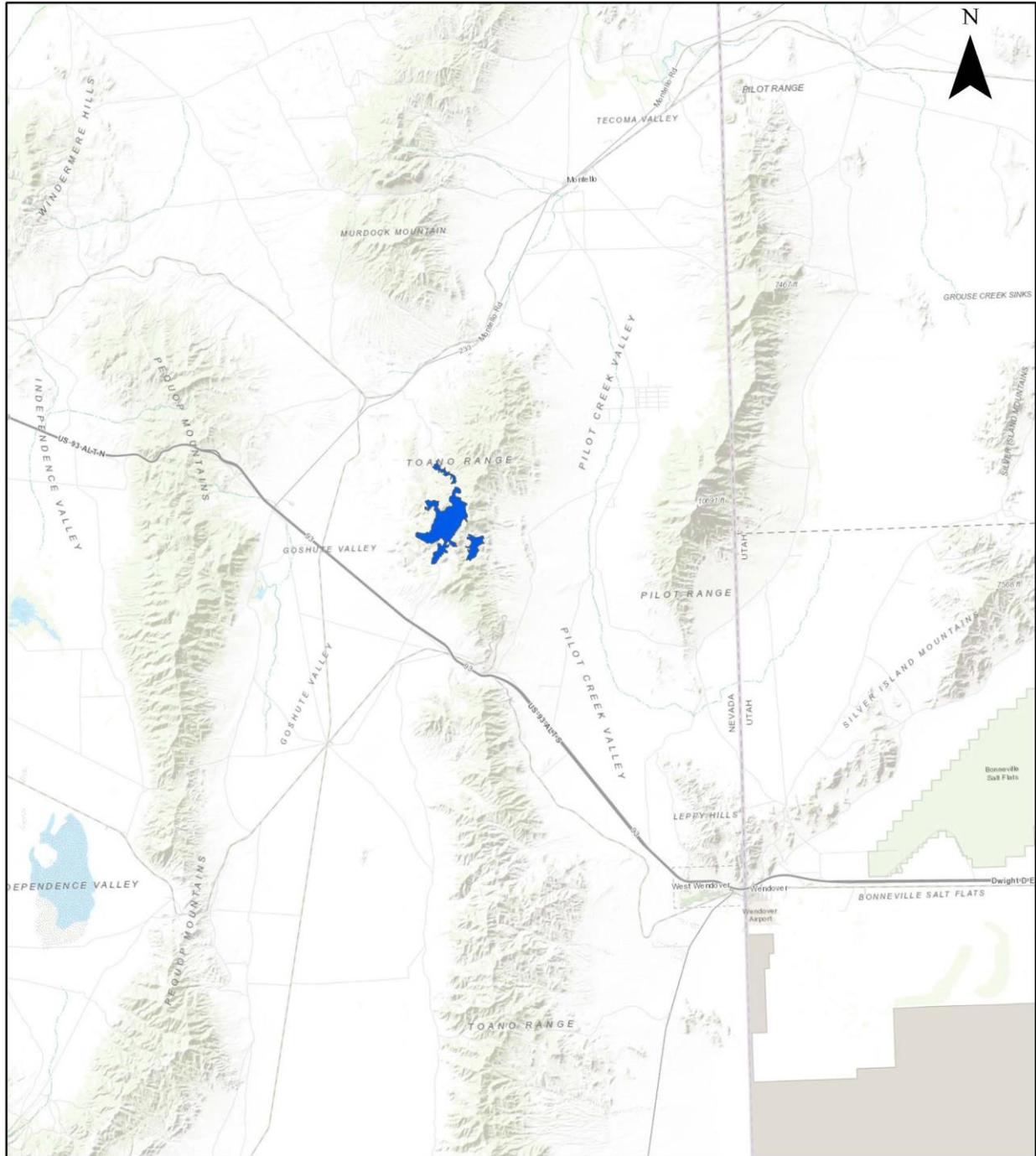
How Will You Give Credit to the Wildlife Heritage Account and Other Funding Sources?

All available media options that are at NDOW's disposal will be used to publicize the success of this project and the Heritage Program as a whole.

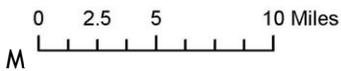
Authorizing Signature: *M. Lu Davis*

Review Date: 4/10/2020

Toano Mountain Restoration Project



 Toano Hand Thinning



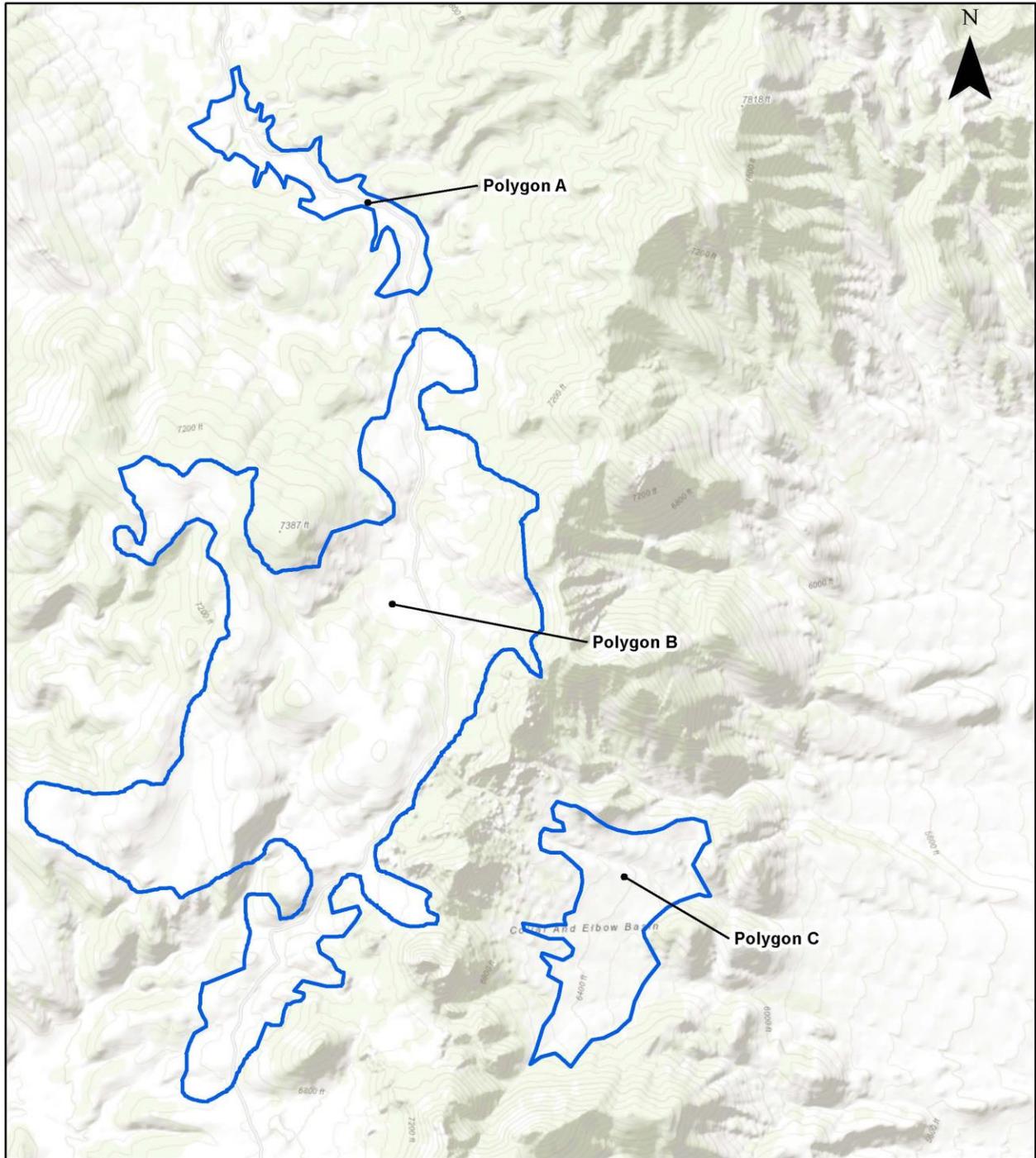
Made 12/31/19

1:400,000

Projection: UTM Zone 11 North, NAD83
 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.



Toano Mountain Restoration Project



 Toano Hand Thinning

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Made 12/31/19

1:40,000

Projection: UTM Zone 11 North, NAD83
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.

