



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
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: SE Schell Habitat Restoration Project

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

Project Location: Spring Valley, SE portion of the Schell Mountains

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$75,000

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:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife in coordination with United States Forest Service, Ely Ranger District (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District (BLM) has identified approximately 3,500 acres where removal of encroaching pinyon and juniper would benefit wildlife habitats. Treatment would consist of the complete removal of pinyon and juniper throughout most of the treatment area; some areas would have islands and stringers left uncut to benefit big game, upland game, and non-game species.

The areas prioritized by the Ely FS, Ely BLM and NDOW were chosen because of the habitat values they provide to wildlife. While mule deer and sage-grouse are the primary target species, antelope and elk will also benefit from these treatments. Treatment designs implemented in this project will encompass a variety of features to benefit other game and



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non-game wildlife species. One main species targeted for with these design features is the ferruginous hawk, who use stringer for PJ for nesting habitat. This project, should it be funded, is part of a larger subset of projects that are studied to help determine how PJ treatments effect ferruginous hawks and which treatment designs provided features that they select for.

Treatments proposed on the SE Schells will dovetail into the already completed treatments to the north, creating a larger contiguous area of habitat improvement. This is extremely important since a large portion of the bench has been be altered by wildfire. The loss of 3 sage-grouse leks have been attributed to these fires, making the remaining leks is this area extremely important. These fires also dramatically decreased the availability of crucial and general winter range along the bench for mule deer, which has been reflected in population declines in this area.

It is expected that these treatments would benefit all wildlife species including sage-grouse, mule deer, elk, antelope, and a variety of non-game species. Direct benefits would include increased foraging opportunities both quantity and quality as it is expected that native shrubs and perennial grasses and forbs would increase with the removal of the encroaching PJ overstory. The removal of PJ near Bastian Creek may help increase stream flow and improve riparian habitat by allowing riparian vegetation to expand. By maintaining the landscape closer to the desired state there is also the decreased potential for a catastrophic wildfire and increased resilience should the area burn.

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.):

This proposal would target portions of areas near Bastian Creek and Cooper Canyon. Treatments would focus on the removal of pinyon pine and juniper trees to improve the health of the sagebrush vegetation community. If funds allow and agreements with landowners are in place, additional areas within the greater area, including private land inholdings would be included. Areas of treatment may be altered based on field visits.

The primary method of tree removal would be lop and drop by hand crews with the use of chainsaws; however in some areas mastication may be more appropriate to achieve the desired outcome. In areas where lop and drop is utilized, trees would be cut by a hand crew as close as possible to ground level. Slash levels would vary based on the primary wildlife use; areas with high sage-grouse use would have lower slash heights. Biomass created from mastication or mulching equipment would be left on-site to naturally degrade. When masticating or mulching, biomass material depth would be restricted to six inches or less.



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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 transition zone for mule deer, better foraging opportunities for elk, and increased habitat for the greater sage grouse.

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):

T15N R66E Sections 21-23
T14N R66E Sections 2-5, 8-11, 14-16, 21-22, 27-29, 31-34

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.

The removal of these trees at this stage is a cost-effective way to maintain and enhance these sagebrush and mountain brush communities. At this point in time the shrub, forb, and grass species are still present, having not yet been outcompeted by the encroaching trees.

Project Duration: one year two years three years more

Estimated Start Date: 7/1/2020

Estimated End Date: 6/30/2021



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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	\$ 75,000.00
2. Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project	
a. RMEF PAC	\$ 25,000.00
b. Habitat Conservation Fee	\$ 25,000.00
c. Spring Valley Wind Mitigation Fund	\$ 140,000.00
d. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - c)	\$ 190,000.00
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	\$ 265,000.00
(add lines 1, 2e,3h)	



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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	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 190,000.00
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 190,000.00
7. Total Heritage Costs Only	\$ 75,000.00	
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		
8. Total All Other Costs		\$ 190,000.00
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		
9. Total Project Costs	\$ 265,000.00	
(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.):

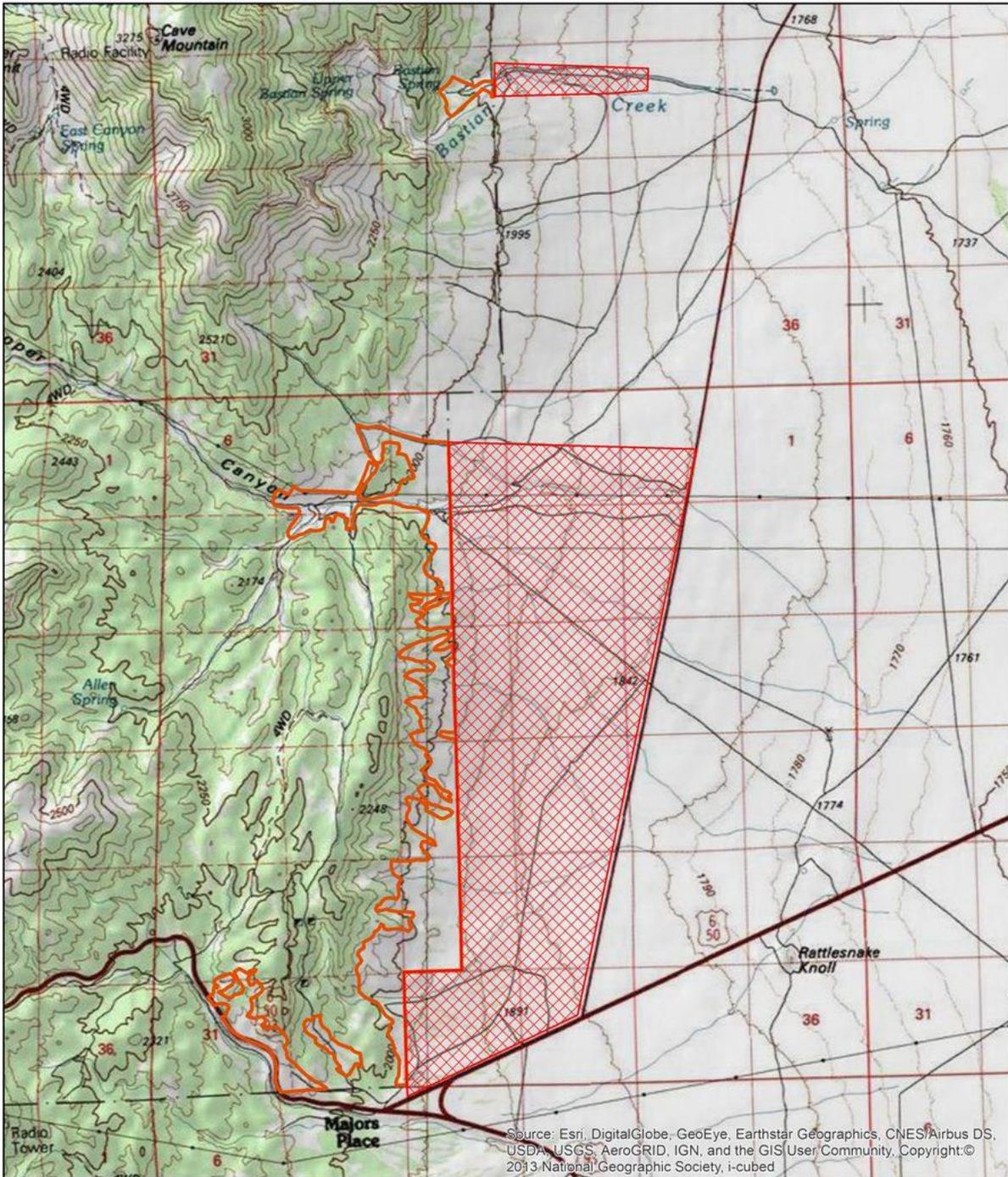
We do not anticipate additional Heritage fund requests for this project.

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:

Review Date: 4/10/2020



SE Schells Project Area



-  BLM Project Area
-  FS Project Area



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