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Wildlife Heritage Account Project Proposal Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Person Submitting Proposal/Project Manager: Cody Schroeder, Mark Freese, Chris Hampson

Organization/Agency: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Date: 12/11/2019 (revised 4/10/2020)

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Enhancement of Crucial Habitat for Antelope and Mule Deer in Washoe County, Nevada.

State Fiscal Year(s) Wildlife Heritage Account Funds are Needed: FY2021

Project Location: Washoe County, Nevada Hunt Units 011-013, 014, 015, 033

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$100,000

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 purpose of this project is to enhance and improve crucial habitat for mule deer, antelope, and sage-grouse within the boundaries of the BLM Applegate and Eagle Lake Field Offices in northern Washoe County. We are seeking \$100,000 for materials, labor, and contract services for **on-the-ground** habitat work including juniper tree removal and spring enhancements within crucial big game and priority sage-grouse habitats. The project will directly benefit the sportsmen and public of Nevada by enhancing wildlife habitat and improving ecosystem function in the western Great Basin. Specifically, it will improve **visual openness of habitat corridors** for migrating mule deer and antelope, **reduce predation rates**, **improve body condition**, and **protect crucial water resources for all wildlife**. We expect this project to have direct and immediate benefits to many species of wildlife in this region.



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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.):

We are seeking \$100,000 from the Wildlife Heritage Account to fund **on-the-ground habitat projects related to Secretarial Order 3362 (Appendix I)**. If approved, these funds would go towards cutting Juniper trees, fencing improvements for antelope, and spring protection work on public lands. Some coordination with livestock permittees may be required to conduct fencing improvement projects along the CA/NV state boundary.

This project achieves the objectives of Nevada's State Action Plan for Secretarial Order 3362 (Appendix I) which aims to prioritize and improve movement corridors and crucial habitat for big game species including mule deer, antelope, and elk. This portion of the project will leverage existing funds obtained from the Department of Interior (BLM) and target habitat improvements including removal of juniper trees and enhancement of crucial water sources for sage-grouse and big game species.

Specifically, we will use data collected from radio-collared antelope (Fig. 1, n = 35) and over 40 GPS-collared mule deer to inform the location of where to conduct appropriate habitat treatments for antelope and mule deer. We plan to incorporate mule deer and sage-grouse telemetry data to further refine and prioritize any habitat work that may be beneficial to those species that occur in similar areas (Fig. 2). Additionally, we are coordinating with various BLM field offices in northern Nevada to identify areas along the CA/NV state boundary fence to remove sections of dilapidated fence and replace with wildlife friendly fence. Upon review of targeted project areas, NDOW will initiate contract services for juniper removal using approved contractors by the State of Nevada.

Permitting:

We will tier NEPA clearance from an existing programmatic riparian EA with the BLM for these projects. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) however, will likely be required for any resulting on the ground habitat work. We expect these clearances and permits to be obtained within the scope of work for this project.

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)

This project meets the mission objectives of the Wildlife Heritage Account by improving habitat, protecting spring sources, and enhancing populations of mule deer, antelope, and sage-grouse in Nevada. It further meets the objective by minimizing predation rates on these species by provide more open habitats, increasing sight lanes for predator detection, and allowing improved flow of water and protection of spring sources. These projects may include fencing around naturally occurring water sources to allow access for wildlife, livestock, and feral horses and burros. This may in turn provide improved fitness for wildlife populations. Finally, this project meets the objective of science-based wildlife management by utilizing technology and radio-collar data to identify and enhance wildlife corridors for many species of wildlife in Nevada.



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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):

Specific project areas have not yet been identified; however, the proposed project would occur primarily within the boundaries of the BLM Applegate and Eagle Lake Field Offices; there is potential to work collaboratively with Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and possibly the State of California where overlap with those jurisdictions occur. Most habitat work would occur within the State of Nevada. One possible field location for fencing improvements will be the state line fence between California and Nevada.

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:

This funding is currently the only source available to complete this project on public lands in Nevada. We have made a commitment to BLM to use their funding for radio-collars to make on-the-ground habitat enhancements for these species of concern. In addition, we will be seeking volunteers for some these projects, which will further leverage the project by including labor and travel from volunteer as in-kind contributions while working on the project.

Project Duration: one year two years three years more

Estimated Start Date: July 1, 2020

Estimated End Date: June 30, 2022



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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		\$ 100,000.00
2. Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project		
a. BLM Applegate Surprise Valley Field Office		\$ 60,000.00
b.		
c.		
d.		
e. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - d)		\$ 60,000.00
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	\$ 160,000.00	



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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.

b.		
c.		
d. Total Equipment Costs (line a - c)	\$ -	\$ -
5. Materials		
a. BLM Applegate GPS Collars for Pronghorn		\$ 60,000.00
b.		
c.		
d.		\$ -
e. Total Material Costs (lines a - d)	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
a. Contract services for Juniper removal	\$ 85,000.00	
b. Contrac services for fence modifcations	\$ 15,000.00	
c.		
d.		
e. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
7. Total Heritage Costs Only	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>	
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4d, 5e, 6e)		
8. Total All Other Costs		<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>
(add lines 1, 2, 3c, 4e, 5e, 6e)		
9. Total Project Costs	<u>\$ 160,000.00</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.

We do not anticipate additional funding will be required; however, the project may occur over the period of two calendar years to take into account uncertainty in weather, delays in permitting, and contract approvals.

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

The Wildlife Heritage Account will be acknowledged by the Department in any professional or public information meetings. Additionally, we will acknowledge the Wildlife Heritage Account in any peer-reviewed publications and scientific journals or any media-related publications such as news media outlets and departmental press releases.

Authorizing Signature: *M. Lu Davis*

Review Date: 4/10/2020

Figure 1. Preliminary pronghorn (Antelope) movements in northern Washoe County, Nevada and portions of Modoc County, California, USA from September 28, 2019 to November 18, 2019.

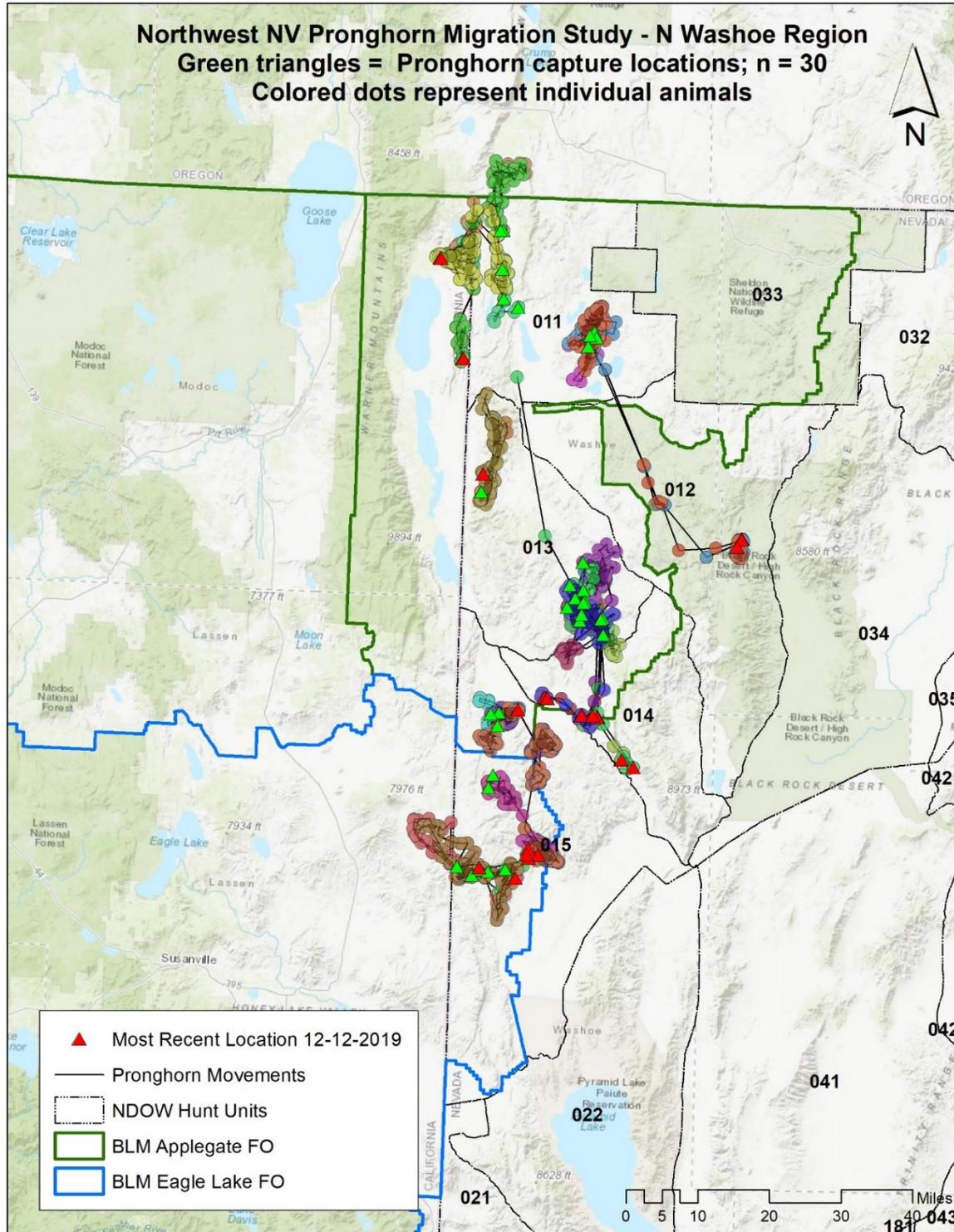
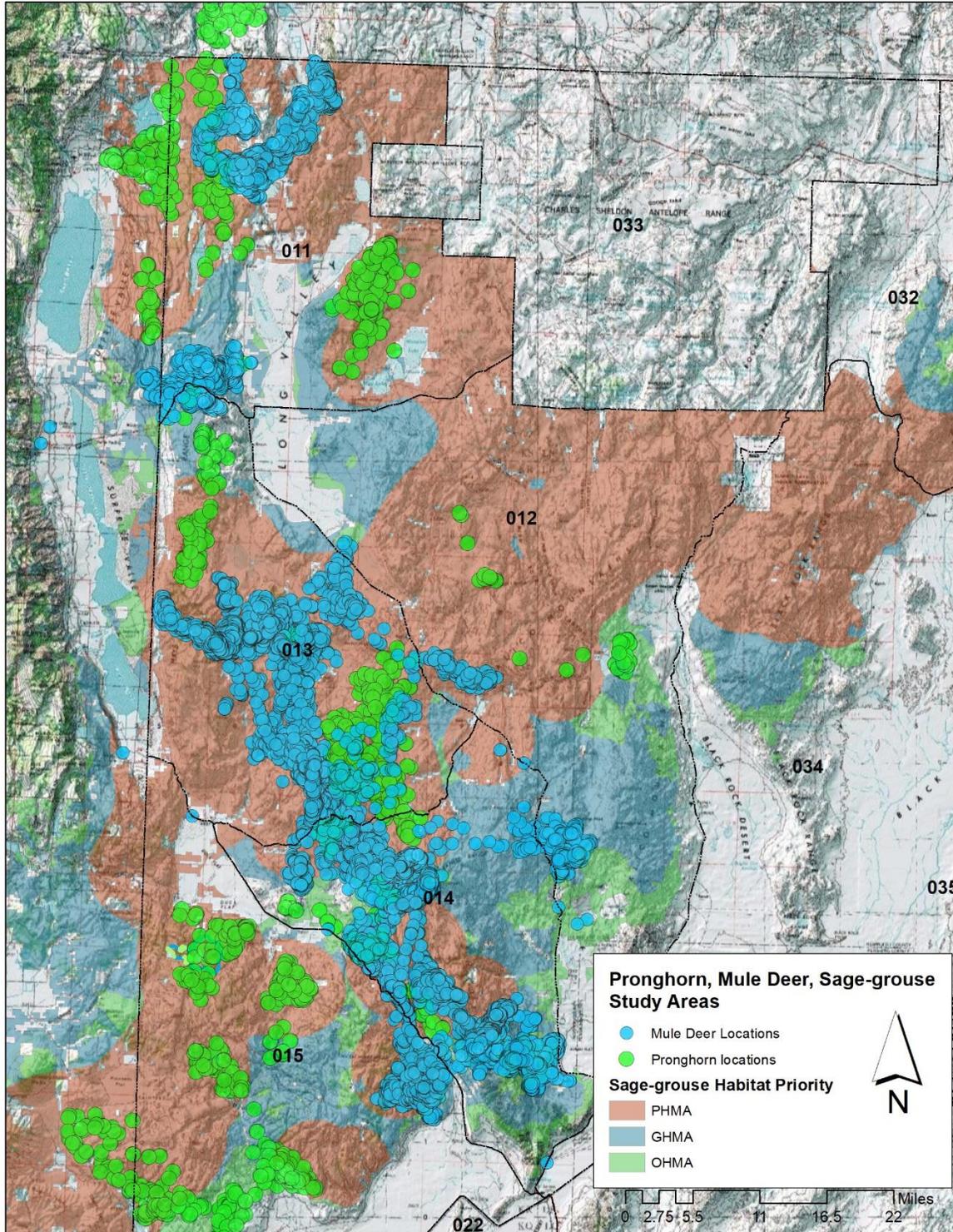


Figure 2. Map of GPS radio locations showing overlap between antelope, mule deer and sage-grouse priority habitat. Juniper removal and riparian restoration will be prioritized based on these data.





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Appendix I. Nevada State Action Plan for Secretarial Order 3362

A link to Nevada's State Action Plan can be found at the following location:

<https://www.nfwf.org/rockymountains/Documents/Nevada2020ActionPlan.pdf>