

Subcommittee Members: Bill Hicks, Jake Tibbitts,
Jayme Halpin, Trent Gordon, Anthony Miller

Staff to the Subcommittee: Josh Kirk
Madi Ellingwood

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee
Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee
Eureka County; Management Area 14**

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 / 4:30 p.m.

Meeting only accessible via [www.Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us)

DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order – Department Representative

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jake Tibbitts, Subcommittee Member
Trent Gordon, Subcommittee Member
Jayme Halpin, Subcommittee Member
Josh Kirk, Department Representative
Madi Ellingwood, Department Representative
Charlie Clements, Oversight Committee Member
Shane Rogers, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner

2. Approval of Agenda – For Possible Action

Subcommittee Member Tibbitts motioned to approve the agenda.

Subcommittee Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (May 9, 2023) – Department Representative – For Possible Action

Subcommittee Member Tibbitts motioned to approve the May 9, 2023, Minutes.

Subcommittee Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

4. Member Announcements and Correspondence – Informational

No announcements were reported.

5. Area 14 Project Proposals – Department Representative – For Possible Action

The Subcommittee discussed the 2023 Area 14 draft project proposal. Subcommittee member Tibbitts suggested the proposal should mention that the project was scalable if all funding is not available. This project could be completed over a couple of years. Mr. Tibbitts stated that if the landscape was conducive to do so, the seeding application should be done via drill seed. Mr. Tibbitts stated that the Eureka County Conservation District had access to a drill seeder and would donate the use of the machine to drop the cost of the project and to gain in-kind match.

Subcommittee Member Tibbitts motioned to approve the draft project proposal as amended.

Subcommittee Member Halpin seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

6. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

7. Future Subcommittee Meetings – For possible Action

A future subcommittee meeting was not scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

EUREKA COUNTY MA14 MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Re: Mule Deer Enhancement Program Eureka County – Management Area 14; Limiting Factor Rankings and Project Proposals

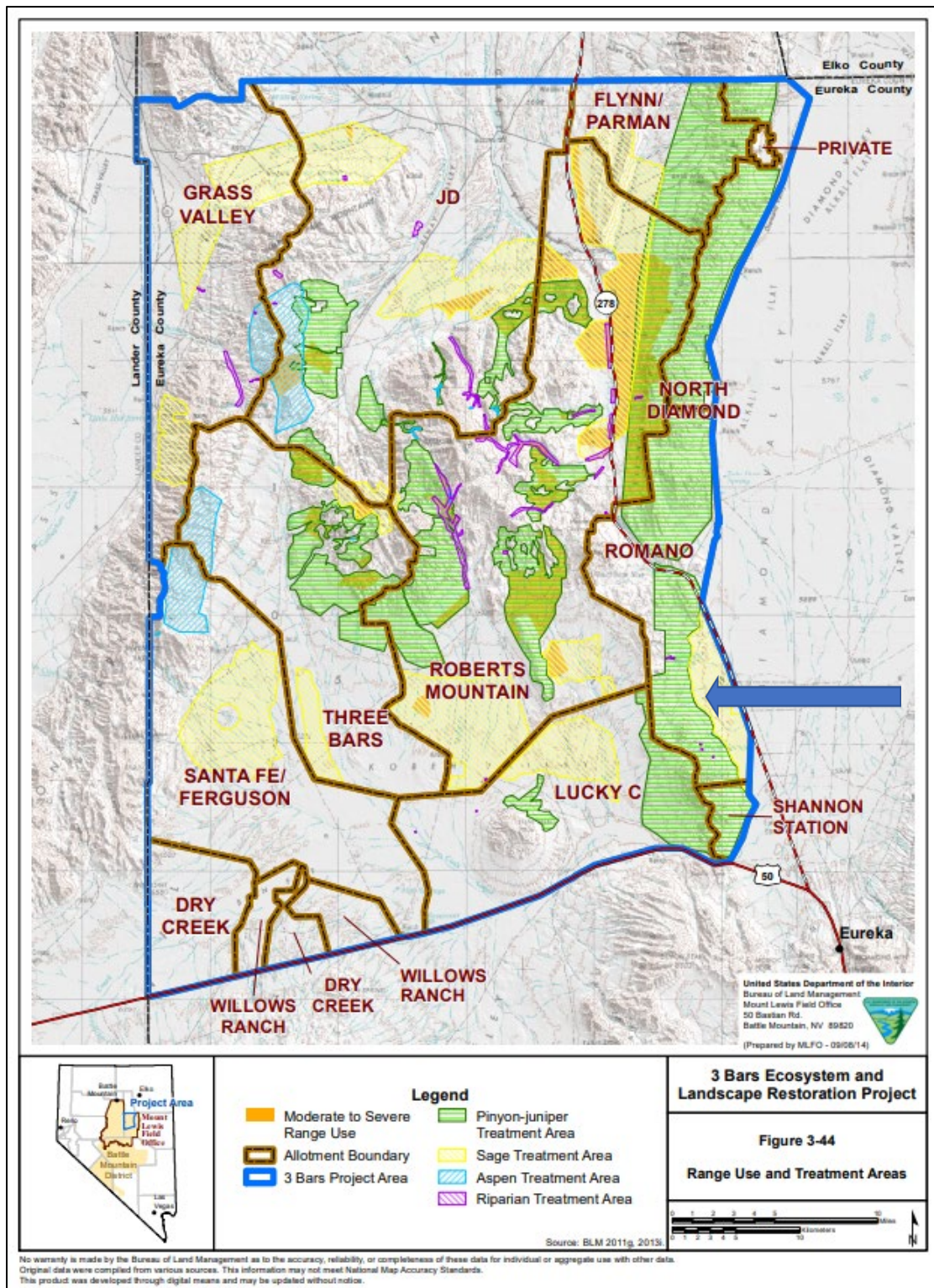
Dear Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee Members,

The Eureka County MA14 Mule Deer Enhancement Subcommittee is pleased to submit one project proposal for consideration for the FY24. This project was selected by the subcommittee because the members identified (1) Pinyon-Juniper (Conifer) Invasion, (2) Improper grazing - Wild horses, (3) Climate/Weather, and (4) Limited Water Distribution as the top limiting factors affecting the MA14 mule deer herd. Because of completed NEPA and associated clearances of the 3 Bars Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Project (attached PDF), as well as proximity to nearby habitat projects already completed on private lands and BLM-managed lands, the project proposed focus within the 3 Bars Project boundary. This project will address at least one of the interrelated limiting factors listed above.

There has been much research done documenting the negative ecological impacts related to expansion and infill of pinyon-juniper outside of proper ecological state and function. In addition to impacts to sagebrush habitats, it is known that pinyon-juniper encroachment and infill greatly impedes water resource availability on the landscape, as well as for the ability of water developments and natural riparian areas to accumulate water. We are proposing a lop and scatter pinyon-juniper (PJ) removal, herbicide treatment, and potential seeding on several springs located on the east side of Whistler Mountain. This project will expand on a conifer removal project performed by the Battle Mountain BLM district in 2022. We have identified partners willing to work with us on these projects to provide cash, in-kind, and labor match. These partners include ranchers with the grazing permits and water rights, Eureka Conservation District, Eureka County Department of Natural Resources, N-6 Grazing Board, and Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

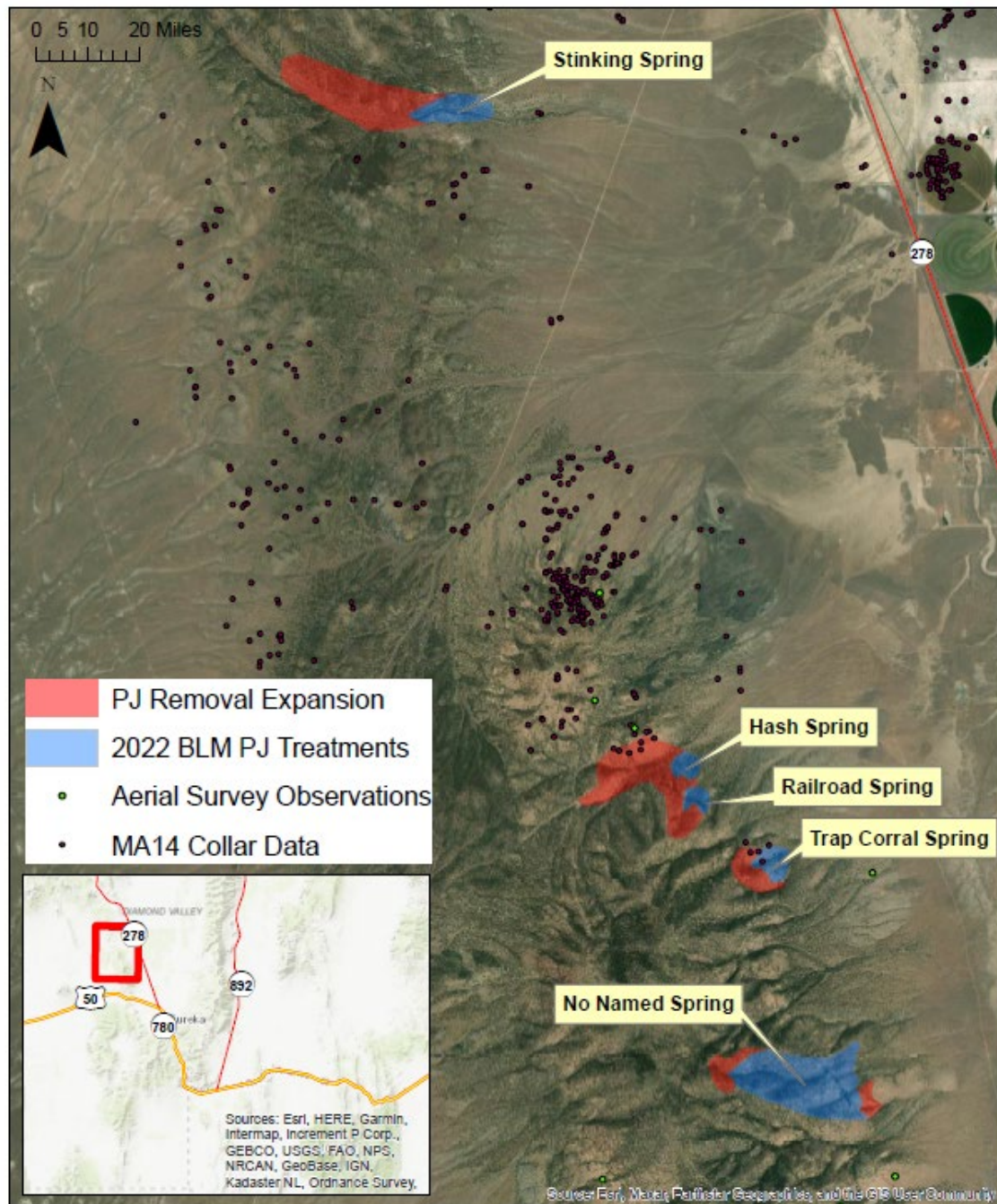
Please see the attached supplementary project information describing specific benefits to mule deer. While the population is currently stable at about 4,000 individuals, habitat management projects to enhance habitat quality are necessary to maintain this population at its healthy level. The project will improve Nevada ecosystems for multiple species, and benefit populations to increase opportunity for the public. We look forward to feedback from the Oversight Committee and working together in maintaining and enhancing healthy mule deer populations and their habitats.

Respectfully,
Subcommittee Members: Anthony Miller, Bill Hicks, Jake Tibbitts, Jayme Halpin, Trent Gordon
Department Representatives: Josh Kirk and Madi Stout



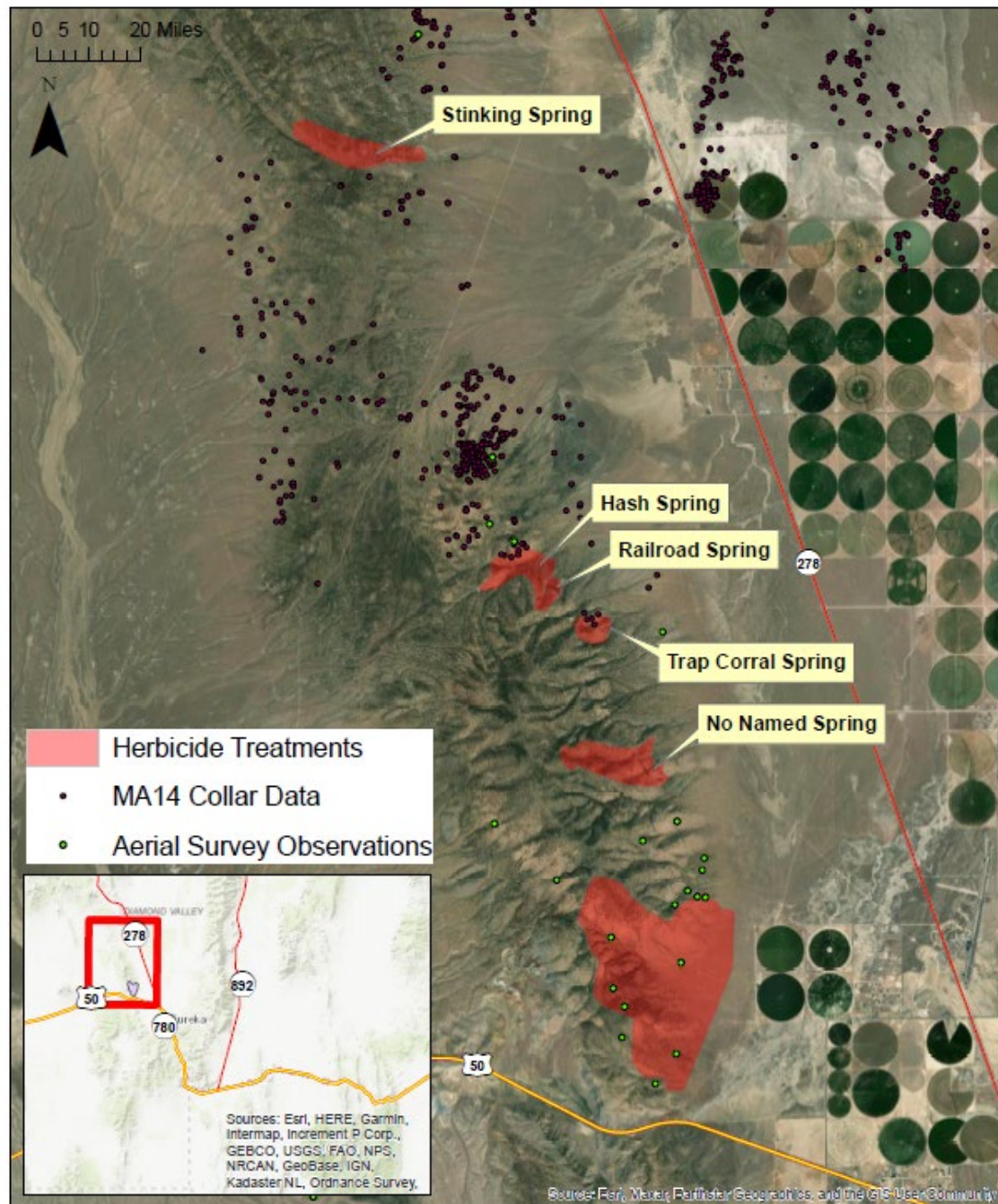
Map 2: 3 Bars Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Project area. The blue arrow indicates the location of the 2023 MA14 MDEP project proposal.

E. Whistler Mountain PJ Removal Area 14 MDEP



Map 3: The red polygons indicate the proposed treatment areas (379 acres) expanding off the BLM PJ treatments from 2022. During the previous collaring effort in MA14, four individuals were documented using Whistler Mountain (purple dots). We believe that improvement of this area may increase use by migrating deer.

E. Whistler Mountain Herbicide Treatment Area 14 MDEP



Map 4: The red polygons indicate the proposed herbicide treatment areas (2,092 acres). These polygons encompass past PJ treatments along with the additional 379 acres from this project proposal.