



# NEVADA CHEATGRASS ACTION TEAM

Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
and partners

-Kelly McGowan and Lara Niell

# NEVADA CHEATGRASS ACTION TEAM

- University, state and federal agencies partnered with private land owners to implement and evaluate treatments on the ground to stop the dominance of cheatgrass
- Organized by the USFWS, lead by the SETT
- Private Land Owners
  - Southern Nevada Water Authority (August 29)
  - Newmont Mining (October 15 and 16)
  - Smith Creek Ranch (November 20)





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● Potential SNWA Project Locations

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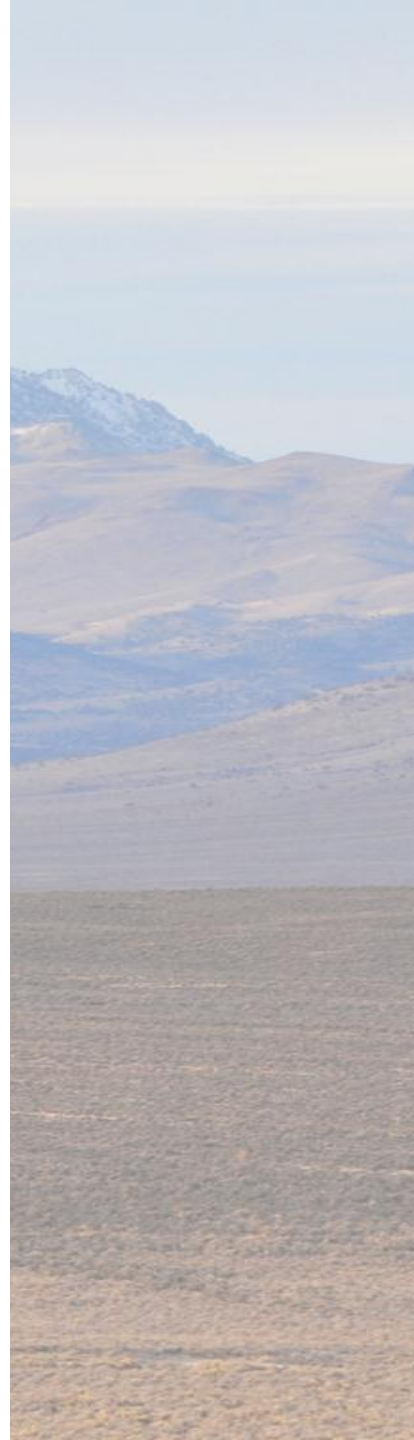
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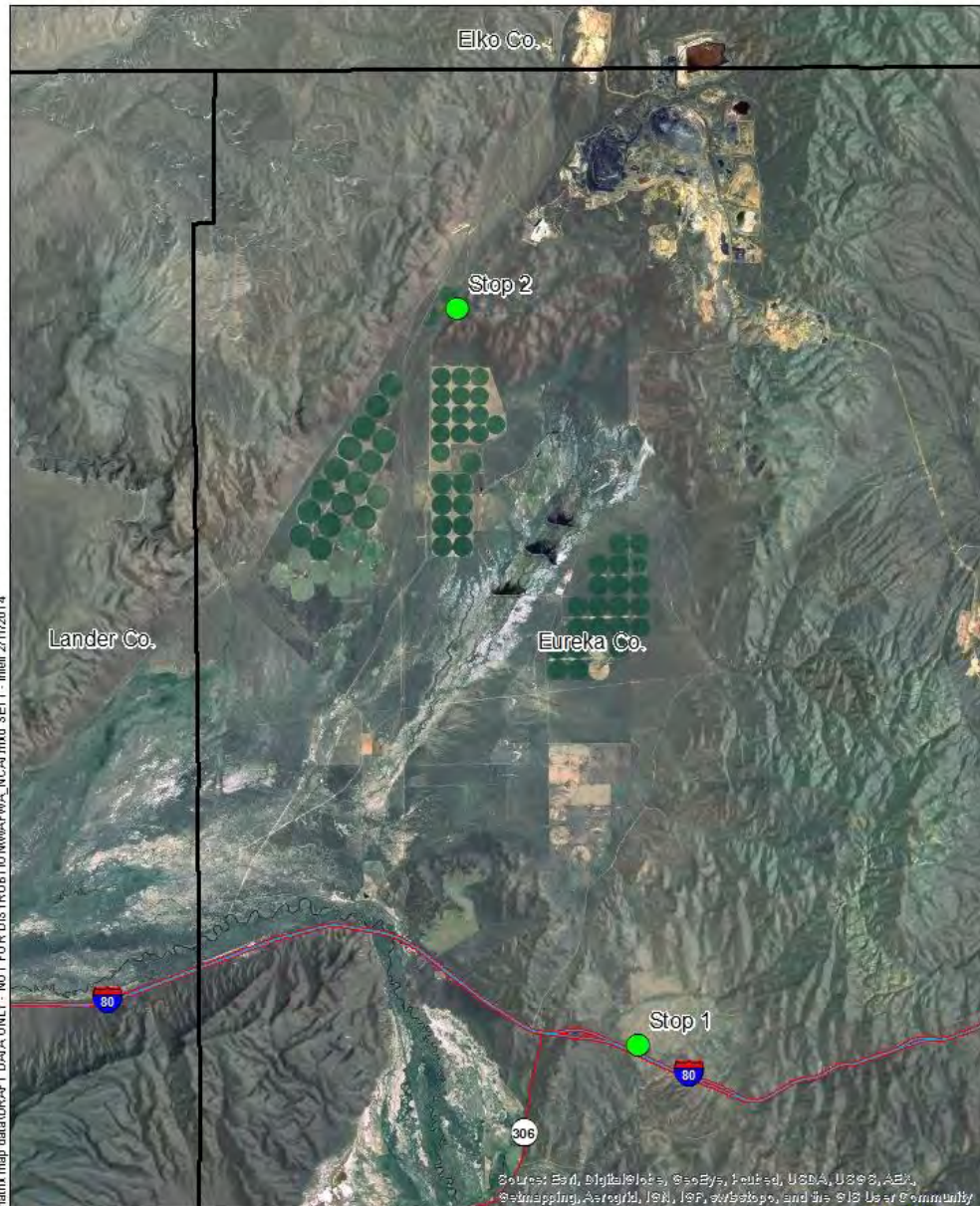
Miles

**SNWA Field Tour- Nevada  
Cheatgrass Action Team**

Stop locations for field tour  
August, 2013








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Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar, USDA, USGS, Aero, Swmapping, AstorId, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

 Potential Newmont Project Locations

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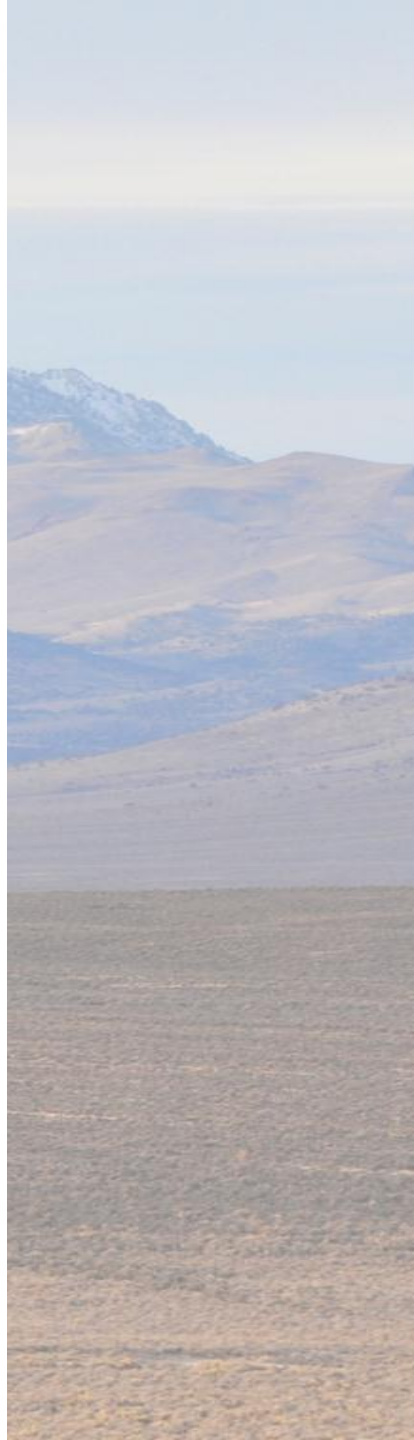
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Miles

**Newmont Field Tour- Nevada  
Cheatgrass Action Team**

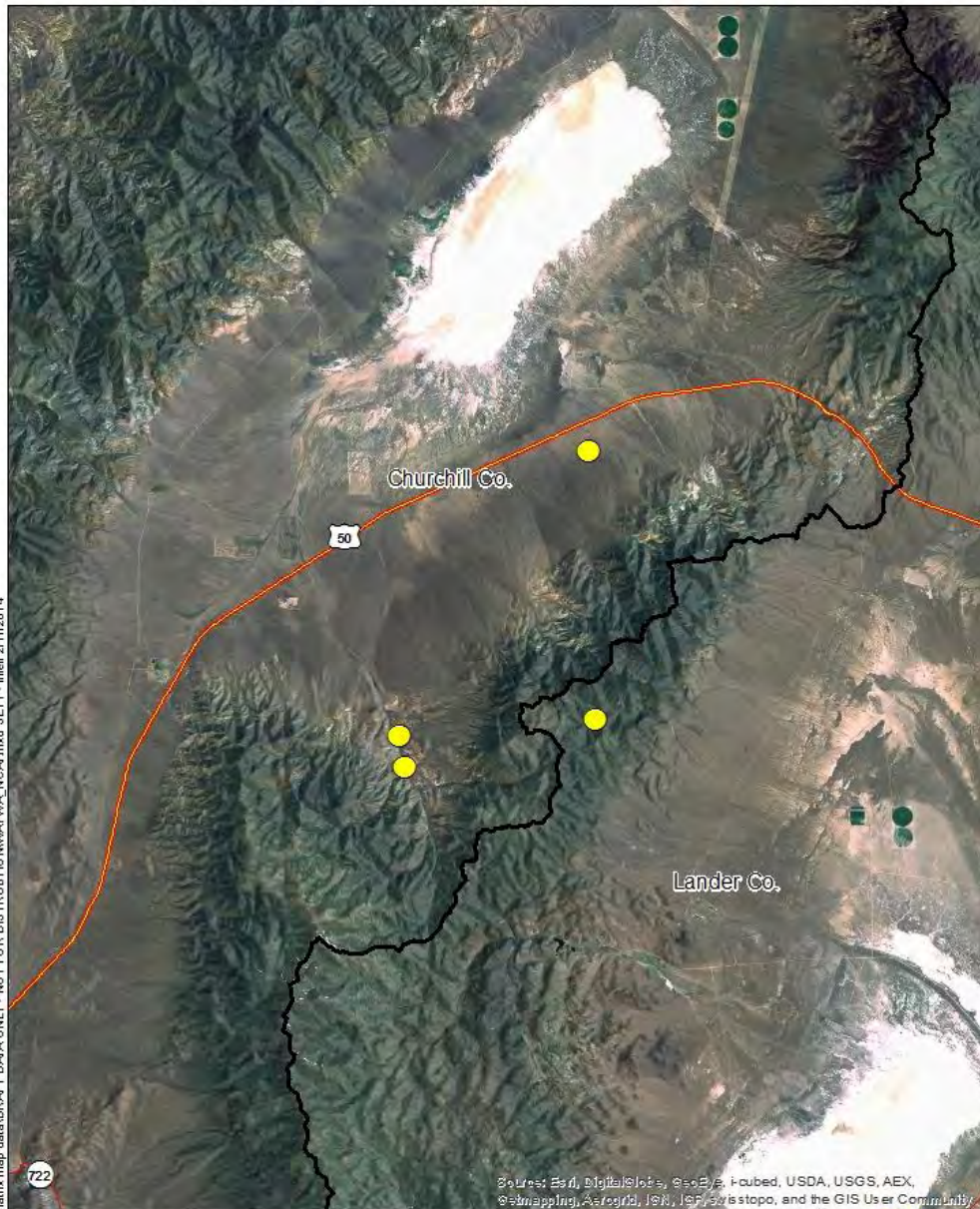
Stop locations for field tour  
October, 2013



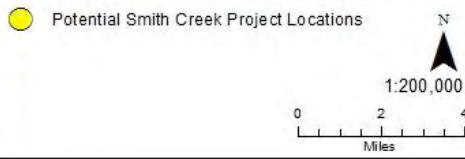




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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Seamless, AeroGRID, IGN, ISF, Landsat, and the GIS User Community



**Smith Creek Field Tour- Nevada  
Cheatgrass Action Team**

Stop locations for field tour  
November, 2013



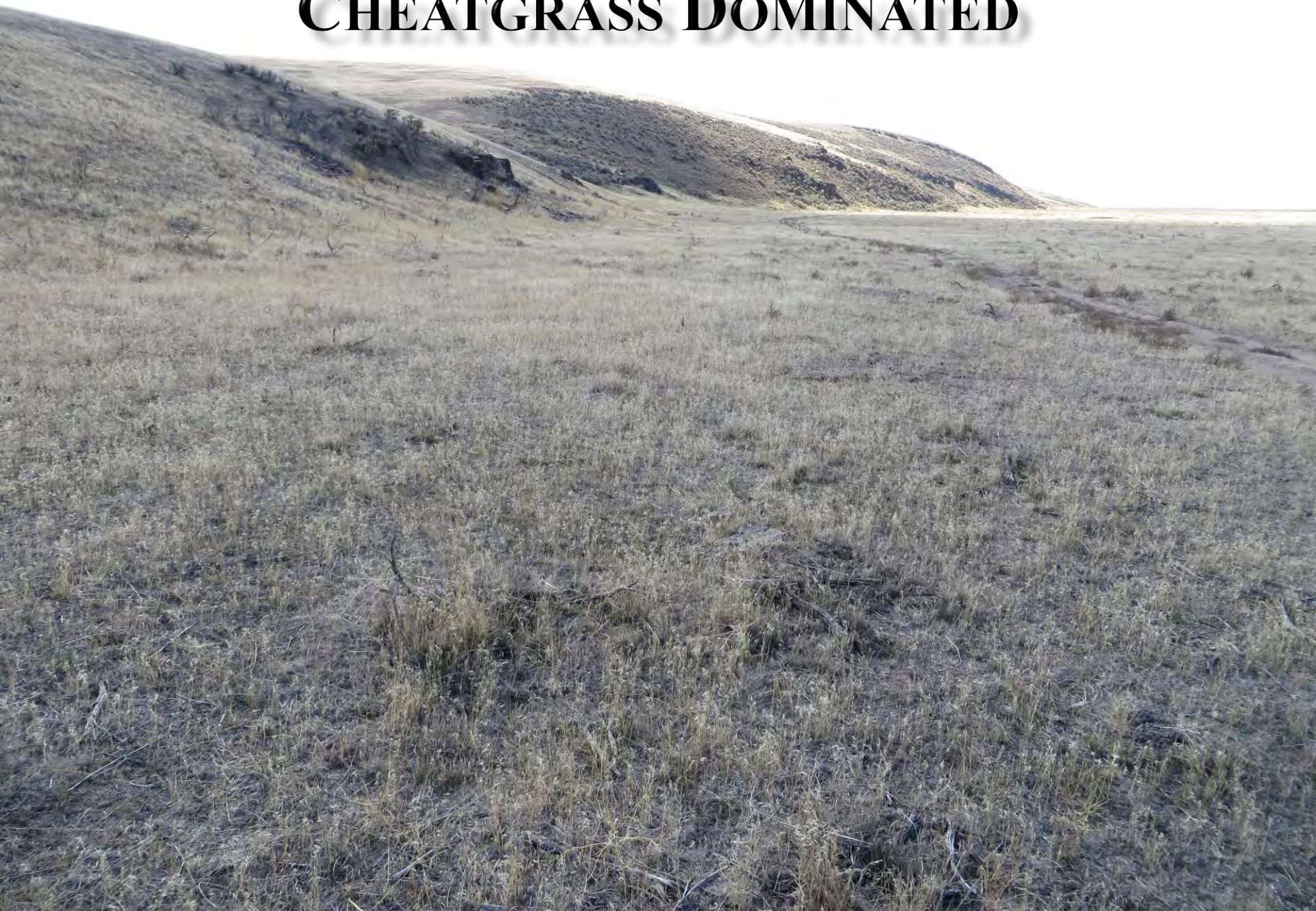


# NEVADA CHEATGRASS ACTION TEAM

- Identified three site scenarios and possible treatment options
  - Intent is to replicate these across three properties with livestock grazing as a variable
- Site scenarios
  - Cheatgrass dominated site
  - Mix of cheatgrass and native perennials with minimal shrub component
  - Sagebrush community with depauperate understory



# CHEATGRASS DOMINATED





# CHEATGRASS DOMINATED

## PURPOSE

- Breakup homogenous landscape
- Establish native species and/or forage kochia to provide habitat/reduce fire risk

## TREATMENT

- Herbicides alone and in combination with seeding/seedlings
- Targeted fall grazing in combination with seeding
- Compare different drill types with seeding to compare recruitment success
- Establish islands on slopes using snow drift fences
- Potential for watering option
- ACK55 - Biocontrol



# CHEATGRASS- NATIVE PERENNIALS





# CHEATGRASS- NATIVE PERENNIALS



## PURPOSE

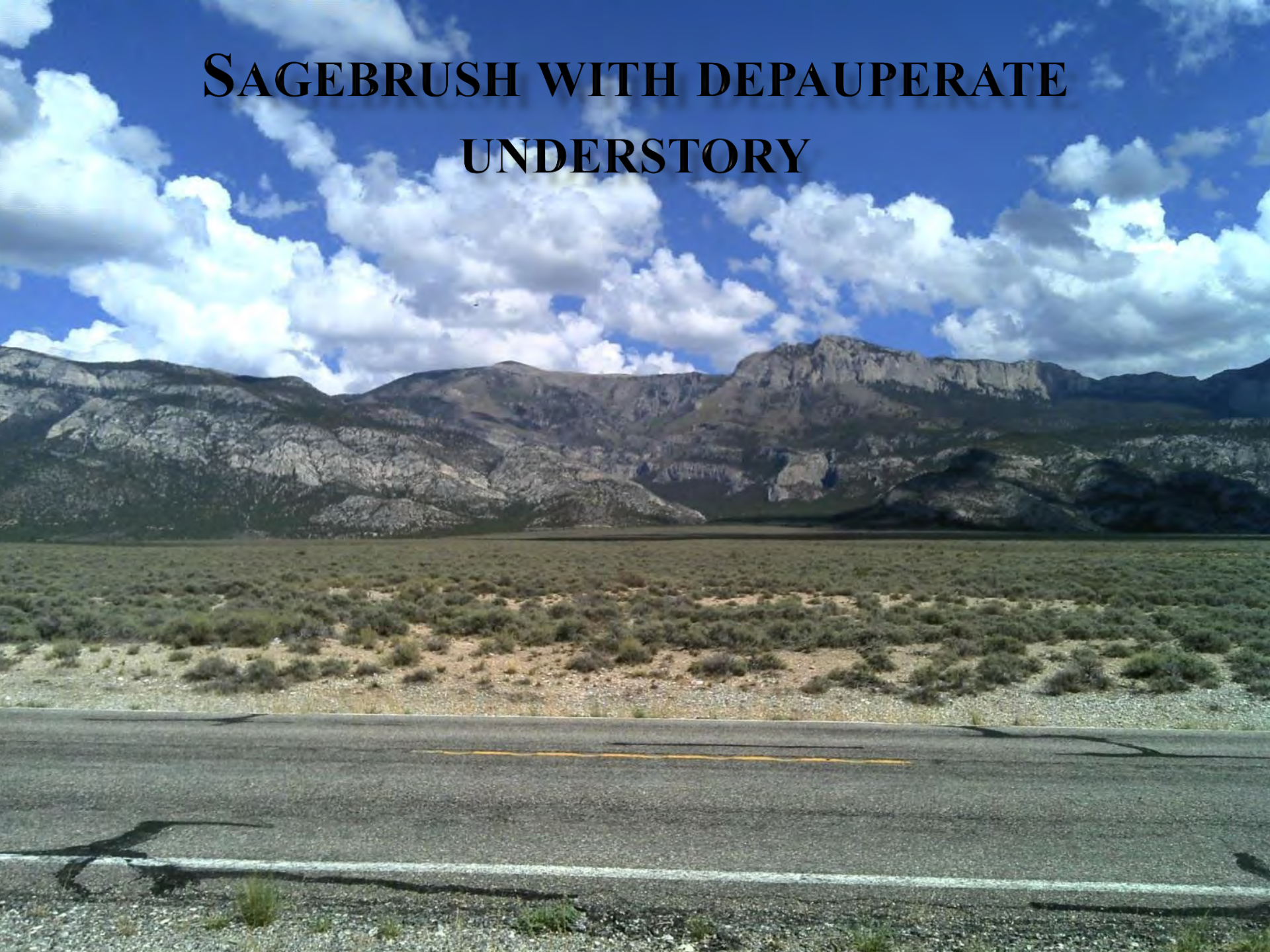
- Reduce cheatgrass to release native perennials

## TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Targeted grazing on cheatgrass during green up
- High intensity and short duration
- Compare spring grazing to small exclosures



# SAGEBRUSH WITH DEPAUPERATE UNDERSTORY





# SAGEBRUSH WITH DEPAUPERATE UNDERSTORY

## PURPOSE

- Restore native perennial understory to increase resilience

## TREATMENT

- Interseeding
- Herbicides
- Transplants



# Next Steps

- ▣ Work with landowners to further identify specific site locations and treatment options
- ▣ Assemble an experiment design team
- ▣ If needed, gather baseline data
- ▣ On federal land, seek approval to proceed
- ▣ Seek/apply for funding
- ▣ Implement treatments
- ▣ Data collection
- ▣ Review, adjust, and repeat