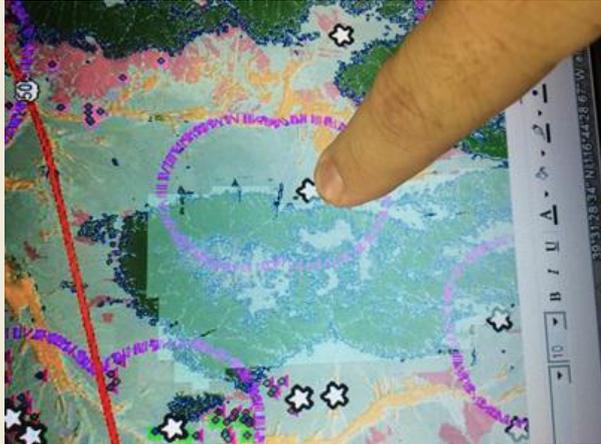


# Summary of FIAT Assessments August 2015



Sandy Gregory, SGB FIAT Lead



# What is FIAT

- A rapid assessment using the procedures outlined by the FIAT Tech Team using the COT report as a base line
- FIAT was applied to areas where Invasive Plants and Wildfire were identified as the greatest threat to Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe
- Identified project areas and potential projects for implementation
- Prioritized projects and landscapes to be protected
- Is one of the key implementation documents that FWS will consider when making a decision regarding the Greater Sage Grouse
- FWS also is watching to see if we can implement the projects and protections outline in the assessment



**COT Report May 2013**



**National Policy Team Sept 2013**



**August 2014 FIAT Teams Organized**



**Workshops for all Assessment Teams Fall and Winter 2014/5**



**Final FIAT Reports Completed March 2015**

## **Time Line for FIAT**

Southern Great Basin FIAT Team	
1. Team Leader	Sandy Gregory
2. Fire Planner	Mike Boomer Ryan Elliot Ty Mizer
3. Fuels Specialist	Chad Lewis Brad Washa
4. Veg Specialist	John Wilson
5. Wildlife Biologist	Tyson Gripp Nancy Herms Mace Crane Steve Foree Cheri Howell
6. Ecologist	
7. Forester/Woodland Management Specialist	Coreen Francis Kyra Reid
8. GIS Specialist	Steve Levitt
9. Writer - Editor	EMPSI EMPSI
10. FWS Liaison	Sarah Kulpa Lee Corum
11. FS Liaison (Veg Restoration Spec)	Brett Glover
12. State Agency Liaison	Lara Niell John Copeland
13. NRCS Liaison	Thad Heater
*Ad Hoc Member (SNPLMA)	Robert Wandel

## Project Planning Areas

### STEP 1

- Are a Subset of Priority Areas Conservation where management strategies will be focused on 75% breeding bird density
- Are within or near conifer expansion in the landscape with greater than 25% sage brush cover
- Areas that provide connectivity of habitat

### Resilience and Resistance – GTR -326

- Are areas with warm/dry soil regimes
- Intersection with 75% breeding bird Densities
- Other finer scale data layers leks, telemetry

### STEP 2

#### Proposed Treatments were evaluated in

Identified & Suggested Activities & Objectives

- ❖ Incorporate site Specific & past treatment information as available
- ❖ Priority Level 1, 2, 3 for Fire Management, Fuels Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation

#### NEPA needed to address identified & suggested objectives

- Evaluate and determine specifics of implementation
- Incorporate on the ground knowledge, information, and Agency Policy in the planning

## FIAT PROCESS OVERVIEW

NEPA Completed that addresses identified & suggested objectives

Implement when funding is available

Evaluate and monitor implementation

Re-treat areas as determined in order to meet FIAT Objectives

# SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT MATRIX

## Proportion of Landscape Dominated by Sagebrush

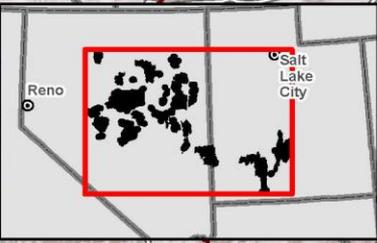
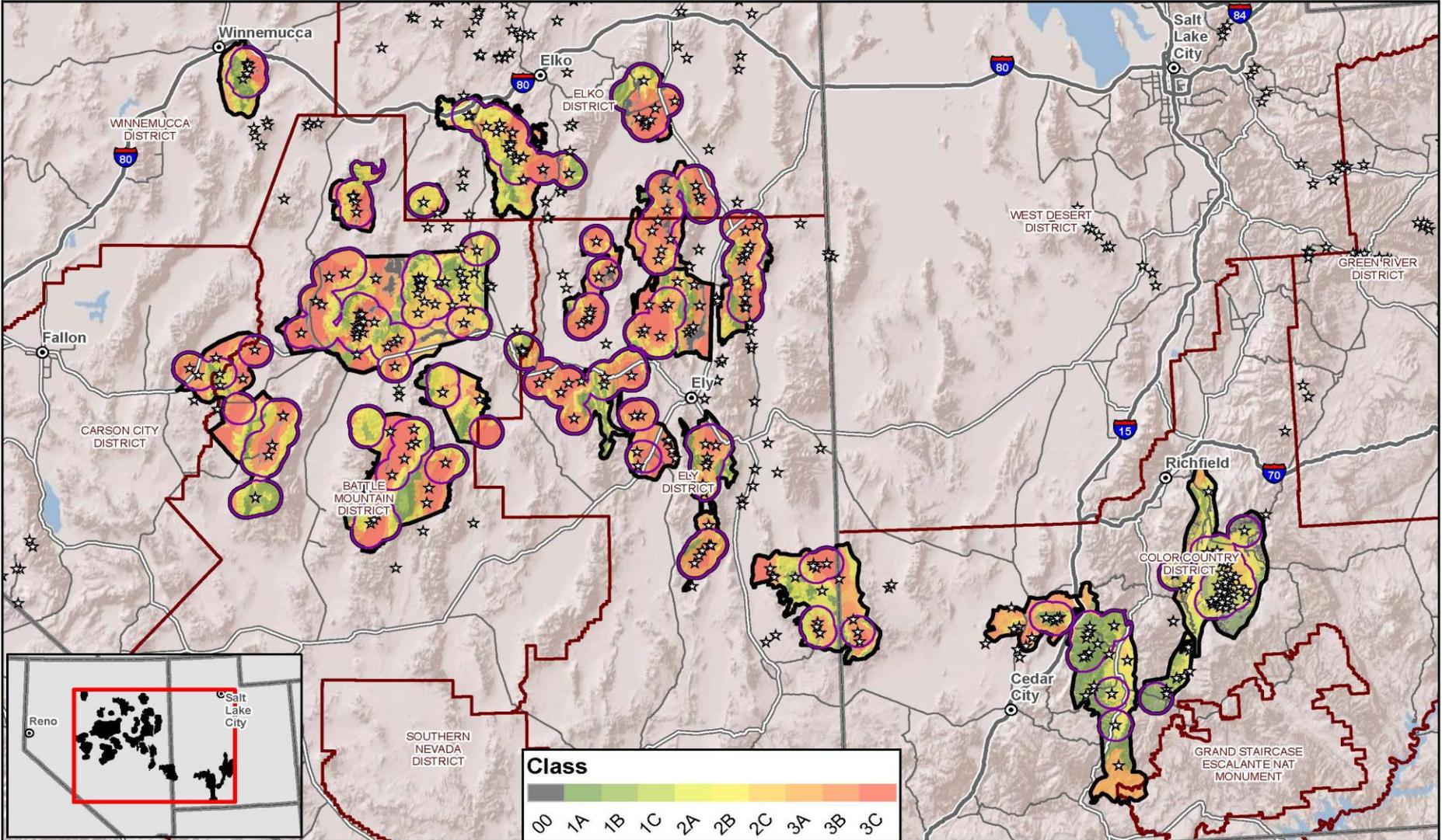
Resilience to Disturbance & Resistance to Invasive Annual Grasses

	<i>Low</i> < 25% Sagebrush-Dominated Landscape	<i>Medium</i> 25-65% Sagebrush-Dominated Landscape	<i>High</i> > 65% Sagebrush-Dominated Landscape
<i>High</i>	<p><b>1A</b> Natural sagebrush recovery possible. Sagebrush restoration potential is high</p>	<p><b>1B</b> Natural sagebrush recovery is likely to occur, but certain areas may lack connectivity</p>	<p><b>1C</b> Natural sagebrush recovery is likely to occur.</p>
	<p>Perennial grasses and forbs sufficient to recover Annual invasive risk is low Restoration potential high Recovery from inappropriate grazing high</p>		
<i>Moderate</i>	<p><b>2A</b> Natural sagebrush recovery is possible, but time required for may be too great</p>	<p><b>2B</b> Natural sagebrush recovery is likely to occur, but certain areas may lack connectivity</p>	<p><b>2C</b> Natural sagebrush recovery is likely to occur</p>
	<p>Perennial grasses and forbs usually adequate for recovery Risk of annual invasives is moderately high on warmer and drier sites Seeding-transplanting success depends on site characteristics Recovery following inappropriate livestock use depends on site characteristics</p>		
<i>Low</i>	<p><b>3A</b> Natural sagebrush recovery or restoration not likely</p>	<p><b>3B</b> Natural sagebrush recovery may occur, but time required will likely be too great</p>	<p><b>3C</b> Natural sagebrush recovery may occur, but time required will likely be too great</p>
	<p>Perennial grasses and forbs inadequate to recover Annual invasive risk is high Restoration potential low; needs multiple interventions Recovery from inappropriate grazing is low</p>		

# Resistance/Resilience with Active LEKs and 75% BBDs

Greater Sage-Grouse, Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessments

Southern Great Basin  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



- Cities
- ★ Active LEK
- 75% BBD
- ⊕ Project Planning Area
- ▭ State Boundary
- ▭ BLM District Boundary
- ⤵ Interstate Hwy
- ⤵ US Route
- ⤵ State Route

## Project Planning Areas

### STEP 1

- Are a Subset of Priority Areas Conservation where management strategies will be focused on 75% breeding bird density
- Are within or near conifer expansion in the landscape with greater than 25% sage brush cover
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## FIAT PROCESS OVERVIEW

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Implement when funding is available

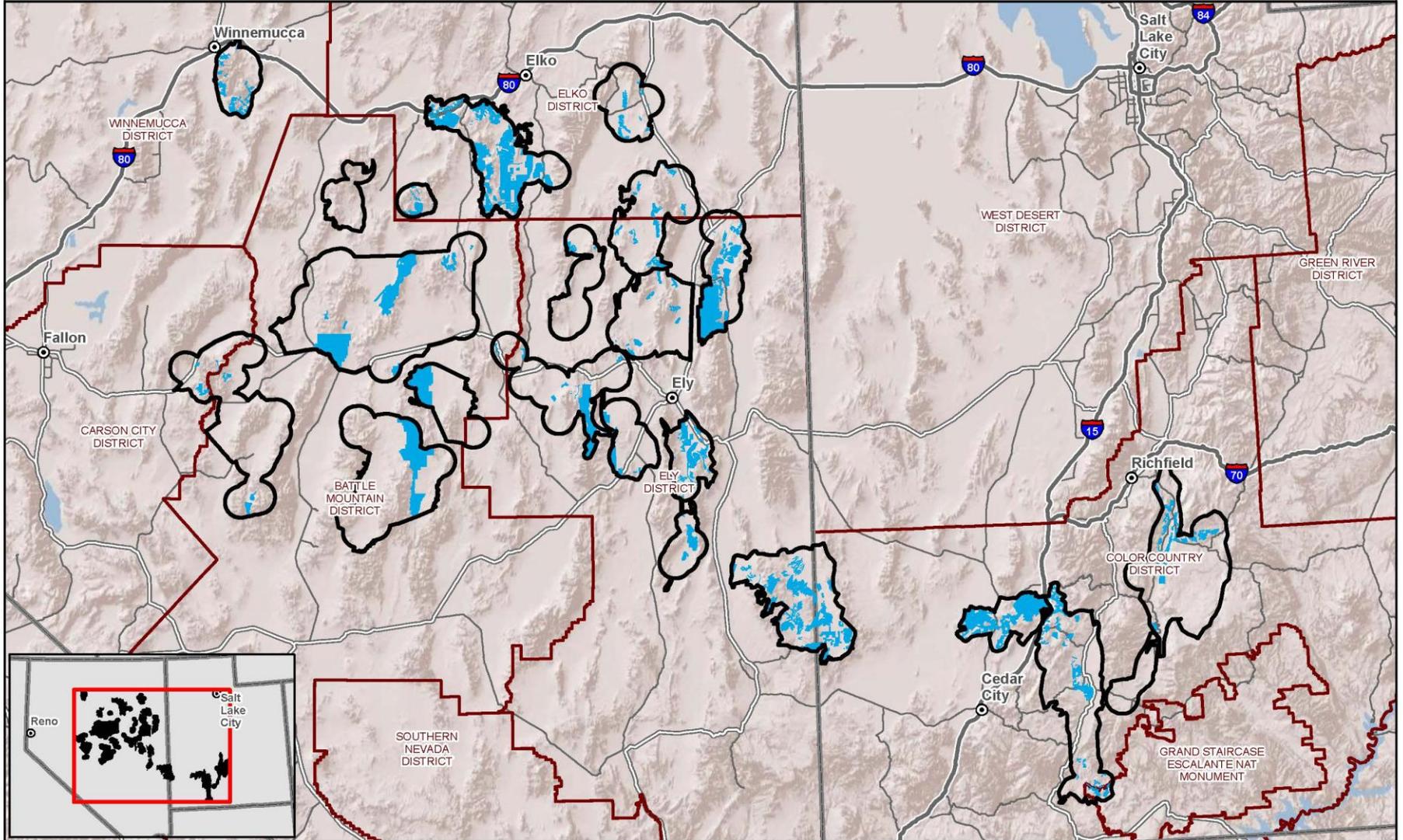
Evaluate and monitor implementation

Re-treat areas as determined in order to meet FIAT Objectives

# Vegetation Treatments (Completed & Ongoing) 1,216,614 acres

Greater Sage-Grouse, Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessments

Southern Great Basin  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



- Project Planning Area
- Vegetation Treatment
- State Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- Interstate Hwy
- US Route
- State Route

3/5/2015  
Data Sources: Bureau of Land Management, ESRI Basedata  
1:2,782,791





# Big Den Project

In cooperation with the Nevada Division of Wildlife, the Permit tee and NRCS. Biomass removal, mastication and lop and scatter methods were employed. The project is adjacent to a WSA.



LINK

Documents and Resources

Foundational Documents

BLM's current efforts build on an extensive foundation of previous work with our sister Federal agencies, State wildlife agencies and other partners. The following links provide background on the underpinnings of our current joint efforts:

- November 2004 BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (243 kb PDF)
- November 2004 Guidance for Addressing Sagebrush Habitat Conservation in BLM Land Use Plans (81kb PDF)
- November 2004 Guidance for Management of Sagebrush Plant Communities for Sage-Grouse Conservation (363kb PDF)

2008 Sagebrush Memorandum of Understanding among Federal agencies and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Greater Sage-Grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (2006) (4MB PDF)

March 5, 2010 Sage-Grouse Management Considerations for Energy Development (Supplement to *National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy*)

Background on March 5, 2010 Sage-Grouse Guidance

Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Mult-scale Habitat Assessment Tool, August 2010 (3.3MB PDF)

BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy Charter, August 22, 2011 (2MB DF)

2011 Interagency Greater Sage-Grouse Memorandum of Understanding (283kb PDF)

Federal Register Notice:

The BLM's Notice of Intent to Address Sage-Grouse in Land Management Plans (December 9, 2011).

Instruction Memoranda:

- Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures (12/27/11)
- BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Planning Strategy (12/27/11)
- National Technical Team Report (12/27/11) (645kb PDF)

Secretarial Order

Secretarial Order 3336 Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration

Fire and Invasives Assessment Tool (FIAT) Reports

- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses and Conifer Expansion Assessment, June 2014 (6 mb PDF)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment: Central Oregon, March 2015 (26 mb PDF)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment: Snake/Salmon/Beaverhead, March 2015 (95 mb PDF)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment: Northern Great Basin, March 2015 (103 mb PDF)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment: Southern Great Basin, March 2015 (67 mb PDF)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment: Western Great Basin, March 2015 (77 mb PDF)

If you are interested in the spatial data depicting FIAT potential treatments, management strategies, project planning areas, and other data, contact scottle@blm.gov. In your email, specify which FIAT geodatabase(s) you would like, and it will be provided via email.

Webinars:

Greater Sage-Grouse: A Federal and State Partnership for Conservation Success 04/17/12

TOPICS PAGES

- Home
- Conservation
- Documents and Resources
- News and Information
- Frequently Asked Questions

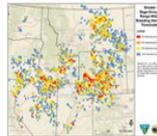
MAPS and GRAPHICS

Planning Strategy Boundaries Map



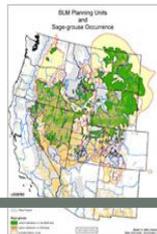
See the strategy boundaries »

Greater Sage-grouse Breeding Densities Map



See where the Greater-sage Grouse are found »

The BLM and Sage-grouse



Where the BLM and Sage-grouse overlap »

Where do I find the Reports?

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

Search FIAT

Documents and Resources

FIAT REPORTS



# How Do I Use the FIAT Report

http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Communications\_Directorate/public\_at\_... blm.gov

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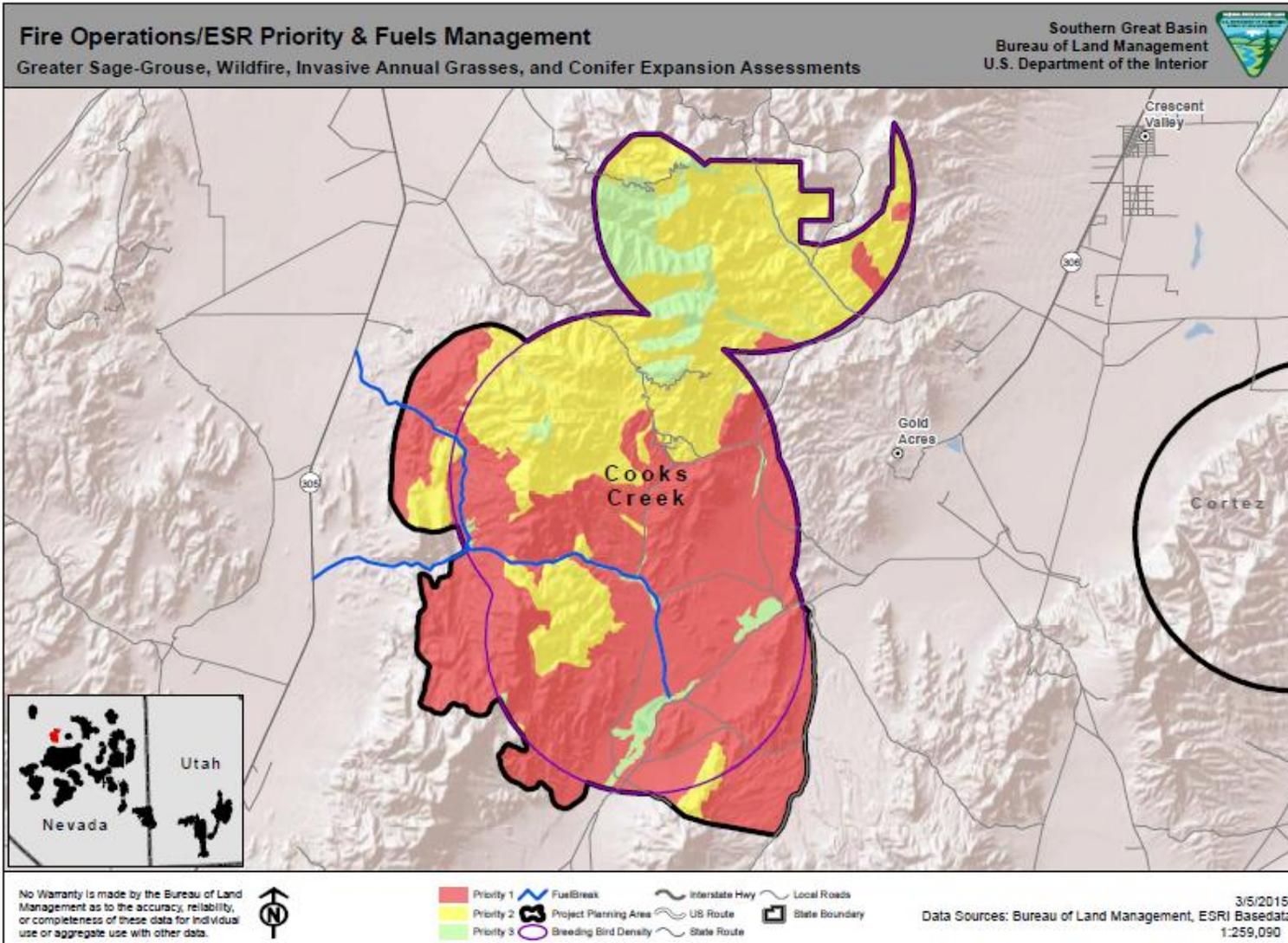
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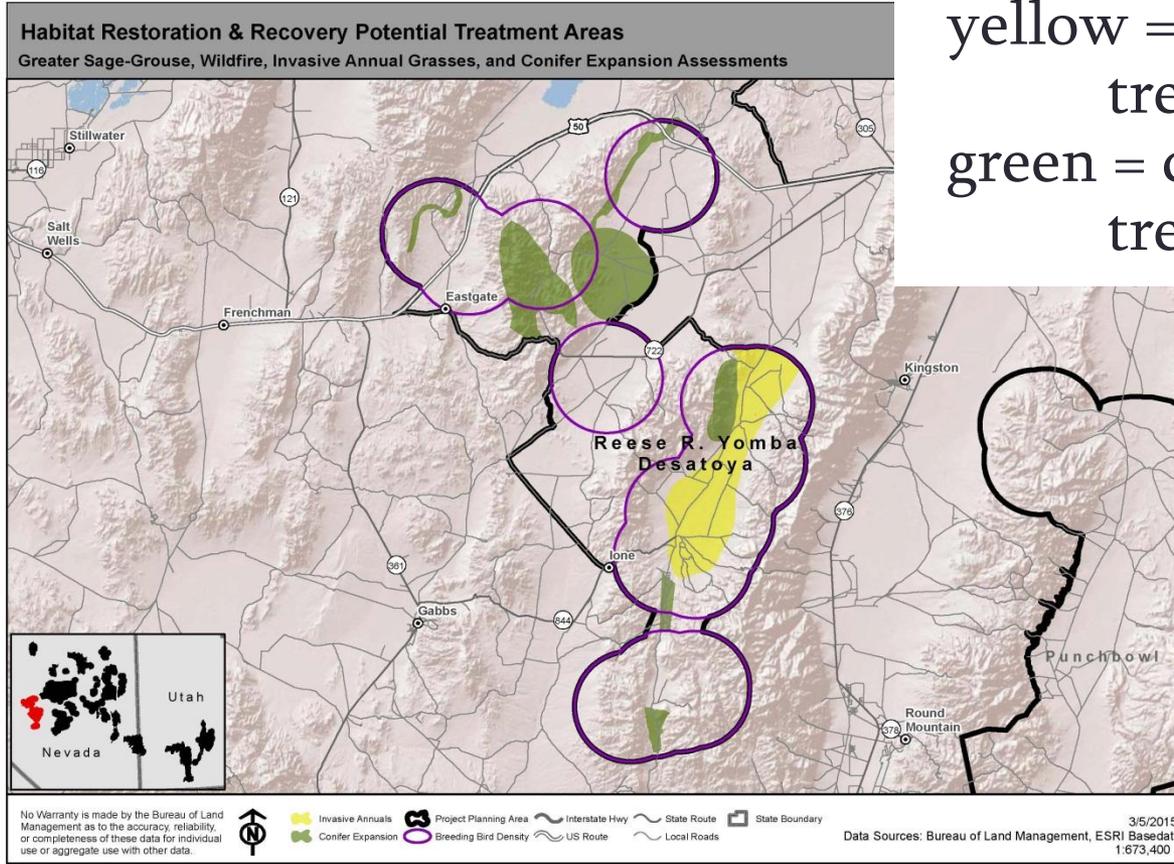
March 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Wildlife, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessment Southern Great Basin



# Establishing fire operations priorities tied to R/R



# Identifying annual grass and conifer treatment areas



yellow = invasive grass  
treatment  
green = conifer  
treatment



# Reports contain a summary table for all treatments in each PPA (see Section 4 of assessments)



## 4. Focal Habitat and Project Planning Areas

**Table 4-17**  
**Reese River/Yomba/Desatoya Project Planning Area Treatment Summary Table**

Treatment Description	Priority	Threats Addressed				NEPA		Treatments									
		1st	2nd	3rd	Conifer (C)	Invasive annual grasses (I)	Riparian Degradation (R)	Wildfire (W)	Initiated (I)	Completed (C)	Needed (N)	Time Frame	Certainty of Effectiveness <sup>1</sup>		Maintenance Time Frame (Years) <sup>2</sup>	Completion Time Frame (0-2, 3-5, 5+ years) <sup>3</sup>	
Name/Type	Acres/Miles											Pending Funding (P) <sup>1</sup>	Implementing (I) <sup>1</sup>	Likely	Unlikely		
Camp Creek Road fuelbreak	4 mi.	X					W			N		P		LI		0-5	0-2
Upper Reese River riparian restoration	64,702	X						R		N		P		LI		0-2	5+
Shoshone pinyon-juniper removal	10,329	X				C	W		C			P		LI		10-20	5+
Porter Fan pinyon-juniper removal	6,402	X				C	W		I			P		LI		10-20	3-5
Cloverdale pinyon-juniper removal	3,674	X				C	W		I			P		LI		10-20	3-5
Clan Alpine pinyon-juniper removal	3,610	X				C	W			N		P		LI		10-20	3-5
Haypress pinyon-juniper removal	30,520	X				C	W			N		P		LI		10-20	5+
Smith Creek Valley West pinyon-juniper removal	33,147		X			C	I	W		N		P		LI		10-20	5+
Cloverdale Connection pinyon-juniper removal	3,748		X			C		W		N		P		LI		10-20	3-5
Big Den pinyon-juniper removal	2,500					C		W		C		P		LI		10-20	Completed
Desatoya Mountains	3,000					C		W		C		P		LI		10-20	Completed



# Assessment Area Acreages

FIAT Assessment Areas	Acres
Central Oregon	813,699
Northern Great Basin	15,108,794
Snake/Salmon/Beaverhead	5,478,452
Western Great Basin	7,116,066
Southern Great Basin	12,913,128
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>41,430,139</b>

# All Mgmt. Opportunities combined\*

Summary of All FIAT Mgmt. Strategies, Potential Treatments								
Treatment or Strategy Type	Acres				Miles			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Priority	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority	3 <sup>rd</sup> Priority	Total	1 <sup>st</sup> Priority	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority	3 <sup>rd</sup> Priority	Total
Habitat Restoration	7,550,000	3,675,000	1,215,000	<b>12,440,000</b>				
Fuels Treatments	331,000	76,000	159,000	<b>566,000</b>	4,950	3,835	1,801	<b>10,586</b>
Fire Operations Priorities	17,517,000	7,547,000	7,779,000	<b>32,843,000</b>				
Post-Fire Priorities (ESR)	9,381,000	5,761,000	4,007,000	<b>19,149,000</b>				

\* It is expected that the extent of these treatments will be refined and reduced during NEPA and project planning



## Project Planning Areas

### STEP 1

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### NEPA needed to address identified & suggested objectives

- Evaluate and determine specifics of implementation
- Incorporate on the ground knowledge, information, and Agency Policy in the planning
- Determine cost

## FIAT PROCESS OVERVIEW

NEPA Completed that addresses identified & suggested objectives

Implement when funding is available

Evaluate and monitor implementation

Re-treat areas as determined in order to meet FIAT Objectives

# Next Steps

1. Summer 2015, prioritization of Fire Management Areas was completed from the FIAT was completed. Fire Operations priority areas and select shovel-ready treatments were identified.
2. Need to further prioritize the FIAT-identified 1<sup>st</sup> order priorities
3. National Implementation Team – WO developing the prioritization process
  - a. SFA and FIAT treatment prioritization



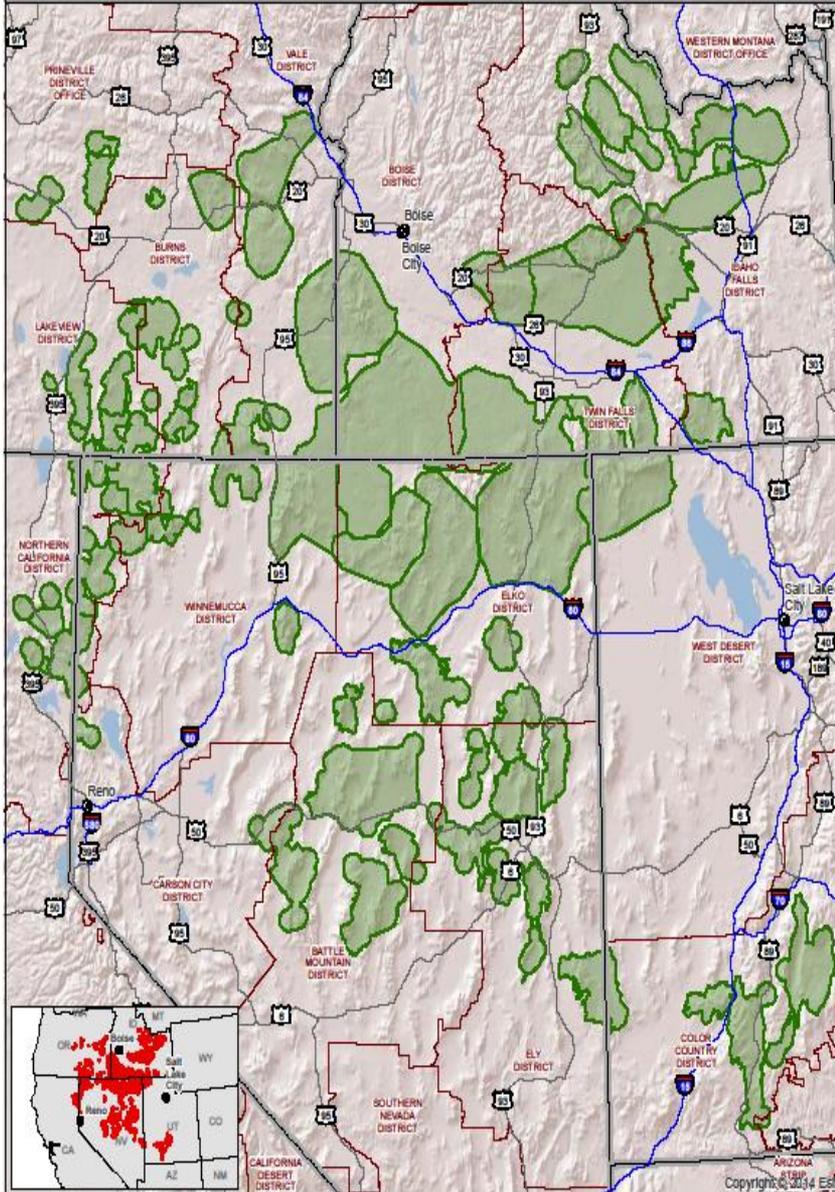
# Summary

- The identified FIAT potential program of work will require over a decade to complete
- Assessments must be revisited as landscape conditions change
- Additional screening to occur in NEPA and project refinement
- Implementation will be measure of FIAT success



# FIAT Project Planning Areas

Nevada Fire & Aviation  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Date: 5/20/2015

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

- FIAT Project Planning Areas
- State Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- Interstate Hwy
- US Route

1:4,000,000