



The Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS)

Update on 2017 State Solicitation for Conservation Credit System Projects

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT)

Kelly McGowan, Program Manager

Katie Andrle, NDOW

Dan Huser, NDF

Sara McBee, NDSL

Vacant, NDA



Overview

- **November of 2016** - State announced more than \$1,000,000 in funding through the SEP for projects that generate credits through preservation, enhancement, and restoration of high quality GRSB habitat within the State of Nevada.
- **January of 2017** - Eleven Letters of Interest describing potential credit projects were received.
- **Early March of 2017** - Six projects were selected to submit full proposals.
- **Late March of 2017** - Full proposals for the six selected projects were received by the SETT. Potential credit yields were evaluated for each potential project. Projects were ranked according to established criteria.
- **Early April of 2017** - The four highest-ranking projects are being recommended by the SETT to proceed. Next steps will likely include fine-tuning of actions and budgets, as necessary, ensuring project proponents are committed to credit generation, and working on formal funding agreements.



2017 Solicitation Update

- Full proposals with more refined project details and budget received by the SETT.
- Potential credit yields were evaluated for each potential project. These estimates were calculated using:
 - HSI values rather than site scale measurements.
 - The delineation of significant meadow habitats.
 - The digitization of all known anthropogenic disturbances.
 - A 75% weight and 6 km distance for major powerlines (current recommendation).
- ❖ Please keep in mind that these are **estimates**.



2017 Solicitation Update

- Full proposals were also ranked according to the following established criteria:
 - 1) *Current Habitat Quality* – Estimated landscape-scale and local-scale metrics in HQT.
 - 2) *Assessment of Anthropogenic Disturbances* – Within the vicinity of project areas, anthropogenic disturbances were assessed that may indirectly impact greater sage-grouse, their habitats, and the potential generation of meaningful credits in the project areas.
 - 3) *Habitat Improvement & Risk Reduction* – Estimated increase in habitat function based on proposed conservation actions.
 - 4) *Credit Generation Readiness & Probability* – Ability to complete the project this year and commitment to participate in the CCS.
 - 5) *Cost Effectiveness of State's Investment* – Estimated investment by the State per credit generated.
 - 6) *Other* – Very meaningful characteristics of the project not captured by other criteria

FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTIONS, FUNDING REQUESTS, AND RANKINGS

PROPOSED PROJECT	MGMT CATS	PROPOSED ACTIONS	ACRES	TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED*	TOTAL ESTIMATED CREDITS	ESTIMATED CREDITS PER ACRE	PROPOSED STATE INVESTMENT PER ESTIMATED CREDIT	RANKING SCORE
Eureka Livestock	PHMA (99%), GHMA (1%)	Protecting high quality habitat, utilizing adaptive grazing management, installing additional fencing and a cattle guard.	1,641	\$99,750	1,956	1.19	\$51	18 of 25
Crawford Cattle Co.	PHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, utilizing adaptive grazing management, installing additional fencing, increasing/protecting forbs in wet meadows, aeration, seeding of sagebrush, opening up areas with decadent sagebrush, and conducting weed management.	12,394	\$473,431	4,838	0.39	\$98	17 of 25
Heguy Ranch	PHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, utilizing adaptive grazing management, installing additional fencing, increasing/protecting forbs in wet meadows, aeration, seeding of sagebrush, opening up areas with decadent sagebrush, conducting weed management, and developing livestock water sources.	6,450	\$238,896	1,708	0.26	\$140	16 of 25
RDD	PHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, utilizing adaptive grazing management, removing old fencing, establishing new fencing, and seeding forbs in wet meadows.	1,155	\$214,461	1,011	0.88	\$212	15 of 25
Earthton Coogan	PHMA (91%), GHMA (9%)	Protecting high quality habitat, conducting PJ removal, and seeding forbs and sagebrush.	1,938	\$159,138	451	0.23	\$353	11 of 25
Getch Fields	GHMA (85%), OHMA (15%)	Protecting high quality habitat, utilizing adaptive grazing management, installing additional fencing, increasing/protecting forbs in wet meadows, aeration, seeding of sagebrush, opening up areas with decadent sagebrush, and developing livestock water sources.	5,268	\$514,584	1,223	0.23	\$421	9 of 25
AVERAGE			4,808	\$283,377	1,865	0.39	\$152	14.3 of 25
TOTALS			28,846	\$1,700,260	11,187			



2017 Solicitation Update

- The SETT is recommending that the Council approve the top four (or potentially five) ranking projects for funding should contract terms be agreed upon in April/May of 2017.
- This approval will not be a guarantee of funding, but will allow the SETT to work to:
 - Refine, if necessary, and ultimately finalize proposed actions and budgets.
 - Ensure project proponents are committed to credit generation.
 - Review the need for the State to recover the upfront funding provided upon the sale of credits to seed additional credit projects.
 - Pursue finalization of agreement terms with funding anticipated to potentially be as high as the amounts requested (including 5% for contingencies).

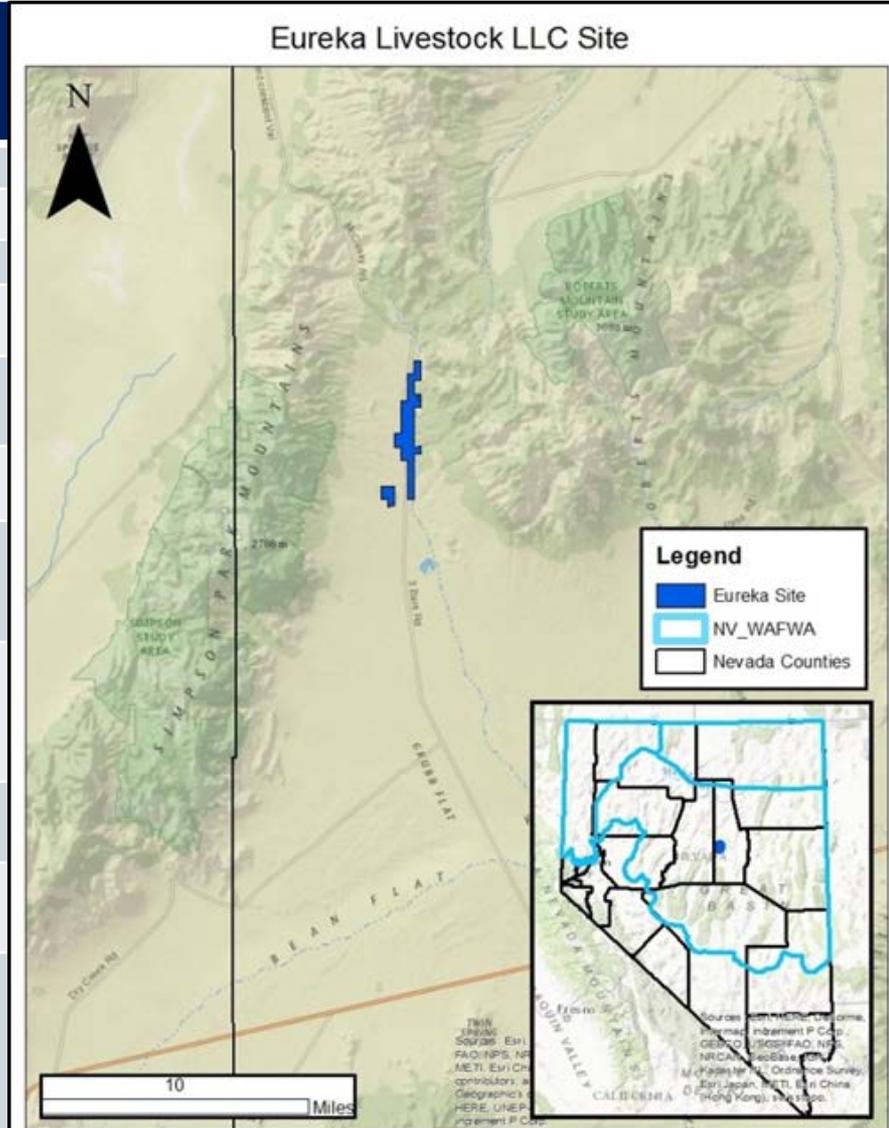


Recommended Projects

EUREKA LIVESTOCK

County	Eureka
Acres	1,641
Potential Credits	1,956
Requested Funding	\$99,750.00
Management Categories	PHMA (99%), GHMA (1%)
Land Ownership	Private
Management Action Type	Preservation; More Details Below
WAFWA MZ, BSU & PMU	III, Central Great Basin, Three Bar
Partners	NA
Total Project Rating Score	18 out of 25

Proposed work consists of protecting high quality habitat, implementing adaptive grazing management, and installing additional fencing and cattle guards to allow for better long-term habitat protection.

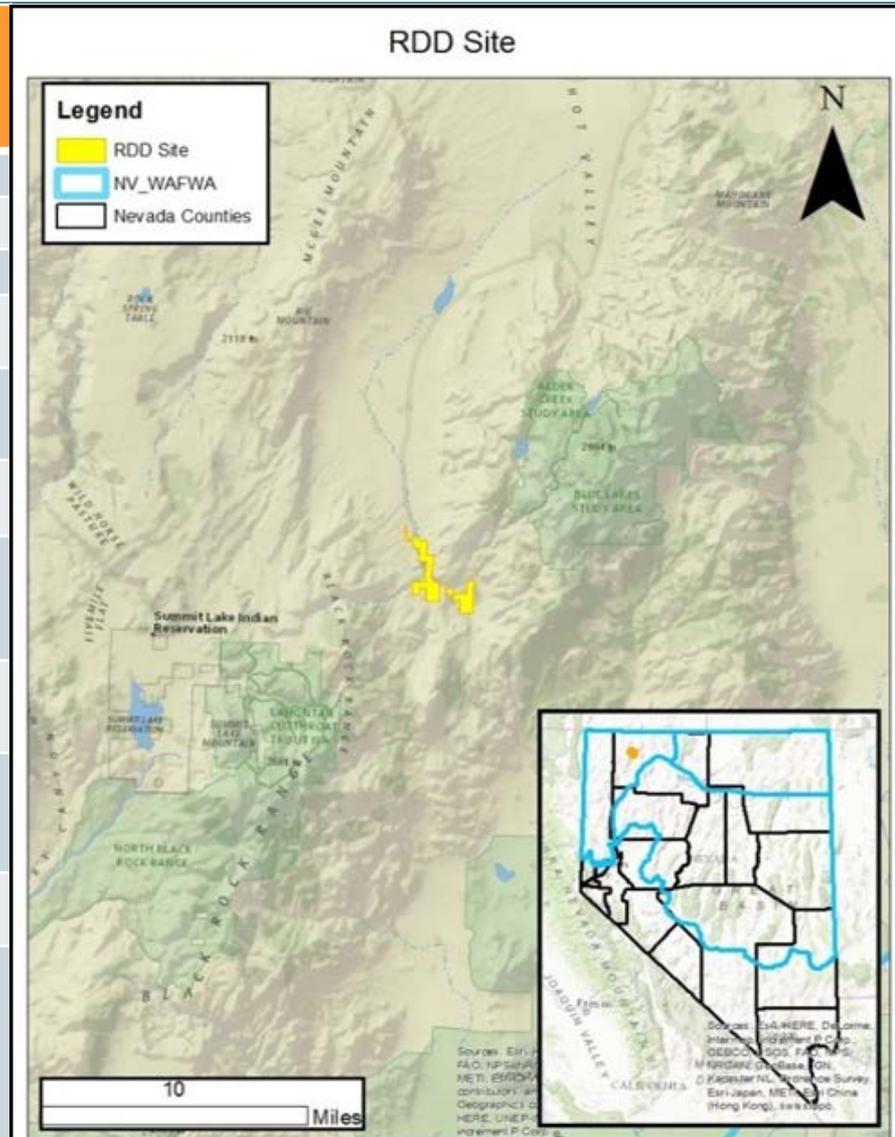




Recommended Projects

RDD	
County	Humboldt
Acres	1,155
Potential Credits	1,011
Requested Funding	\$214,461
Management Categories	PHMA
Land Ownership	Private
Management Action Type	Enhancement; Preservation; More Details Below
WAFWA MZ, BSU & PMU	V; Black Rock; Pine Forest and Black Rock
Partners	None
Total Project Rating Score	15 out of 25

Proposed work consists of protecting high quality habitat, implementing adaptive grazing management, removal of six miles of old fence materials, installation of six miles of replacement fencing, and seeding forbs on 250 acres.





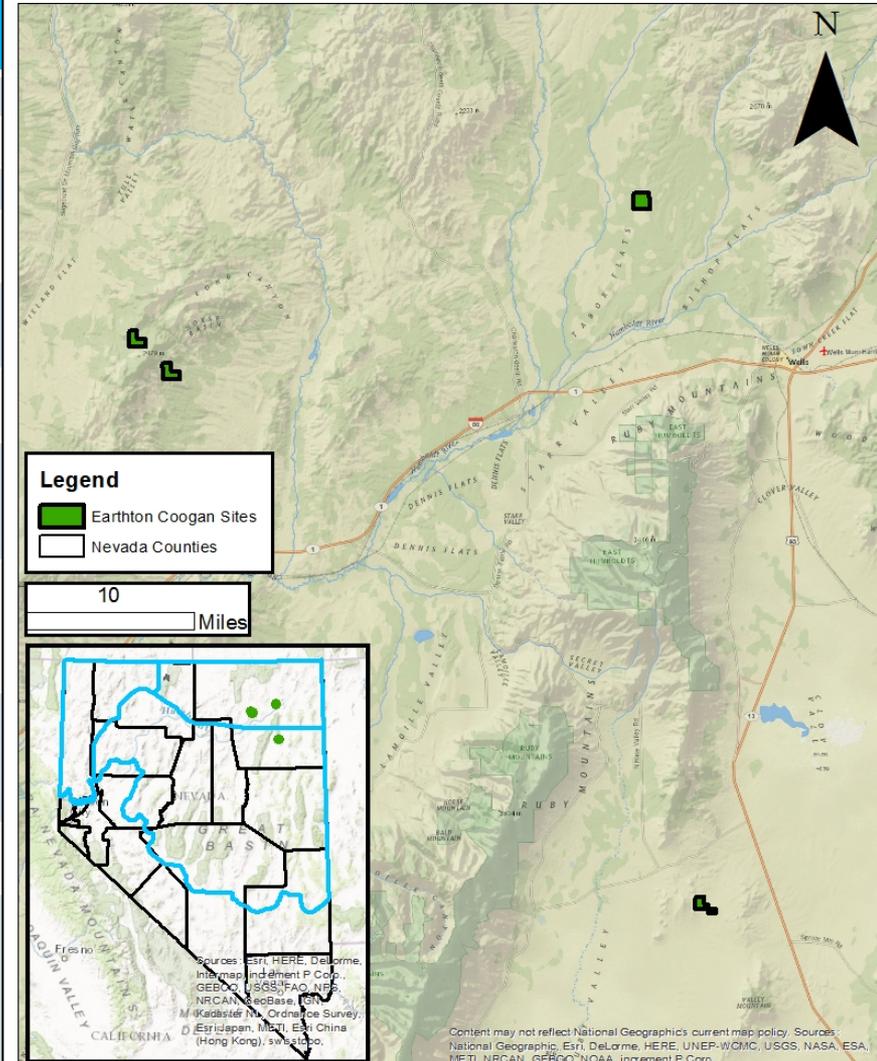
Recommended Projects

Earthton Coogan

County	Elko
Acres	1,938
Potential Credits	451
Requested Funding	\$159,138
Management Categories	PHMA (91%) and GHMA (9%)
Land Ownership	Private
Management Action Type	Enhancement; Preservation; More Details Below
WAFWA MZ, BSU & PMU	IV and III; Central Elko: Ruby; North Fork, O'Neil Basin, Ruby Valley
Partners	Magnolia Land Partners, Earthton Holdings, Coogan Holdings, Conservation Districts
Total Project Rating Score	11 of 25

Proposed work consists of protecting high quality habitat, installation of wildlife-friendly riparian fencing, PJ removal, removal of old poles and fence, and seeding forbs and sagebrush.

Earthton Coogan Sites





2017 Solicitation Update

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Council agree with the staff recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Motion to approve four (or potentially five) projects and have the SETT pursue final negotiations with the approved project proponents to fund up to the amounts requested which are adjusted to include 5% for contingencies.”