



State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

SOLICITATION STAFF REPORT

SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM TECHNICAL TEAM

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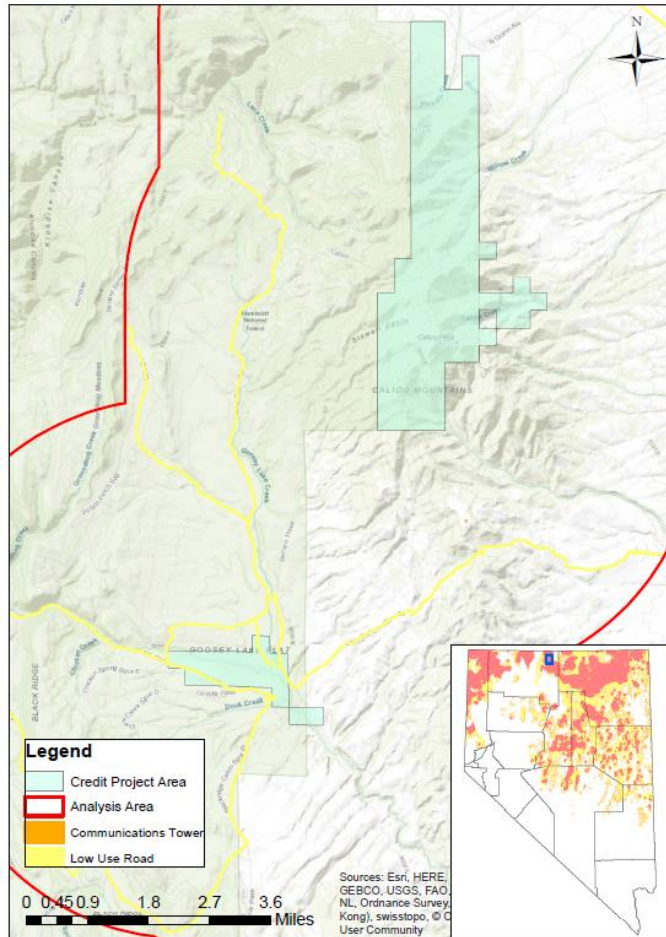
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December 2019

CALICO MOUNTAIN



Calico Mountain is a high-elevation section of PHMA owned by Shane Hall of Crawford Cattle LLC. The northern property divides BLM land on the east from Forest Service land on the west and has many leks within the analysis area. There are several stringer drainages that split down the mountain on both sides. There is some amount of timber (mahogany) in the canyons, but it's mostly open with scattered meadows. The southern parcel is a large open meadow with scattered willows, with short-term intense grazing in the fall. There is perennial water year-round with some beaver activity. The current use of both areas is livestock grazing and recreation.

While cheatgrass is present, the sites are predominantly native grass and shrub cover. Medusahead is a concern in the neighboring Forest Service allotments. The southern meadow has an incised channel that would benefit from riparian enhancements.



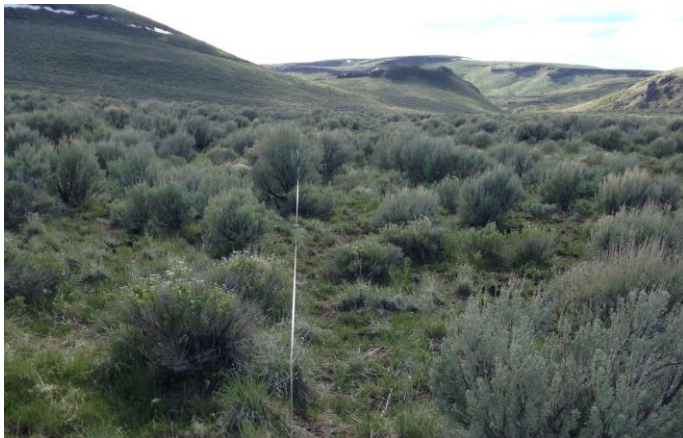
Rank	County	Management Category	Proposed Uplift Actions	Acres	Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	Funds Requested for Uplift
1	Humboldt	PHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, medusahead prevention, meadow enhancements, adaptive management	5,125	\$98,373.35	\$40,000.00
Credit Estimate		1,375	Credits/Acre	0.27	Total Funds Requested + 5% Contingency	
					\$145,292.02	

CRAWFORD CATTLE – 2017 SOLICITATION ROUND

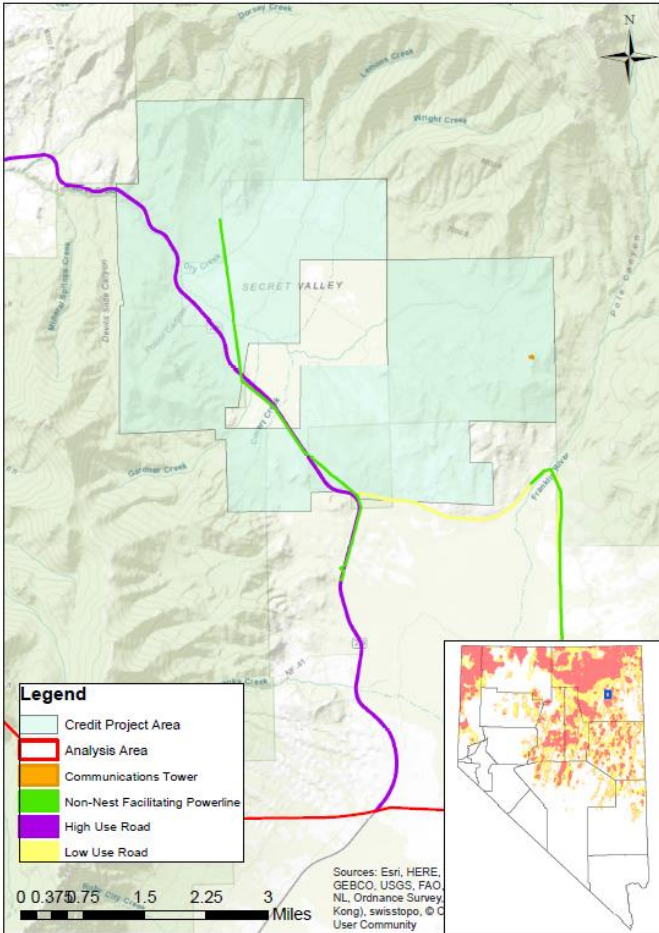
In 2017, Crawford Cattle was awarded funds through the second CCS Solicitation for the Snowstorms and Sonoma projects for running of the HQT, creation of a management plan, fencing, seeding, weed management, and decadent sagebrush treatments. As of December 2019, they have completed their HQT and signed their management plan. With consultation from the SETT, it was determined that decadent sagebrush treatments were not needed. In good faith, Shane Hall has reverted a portion of his remaining awards, \$89,609.93, back to the state, which is the remainder of the work for the Credit Analysis and the decadent sagebrush treatment.

The remainder, he would like to use to fulfill the initial agreement, putting up fencing in Spring 2020 and seeding in Fall 2020.

Project Milestone	Amount Awarded	Remaining
Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	\$261,667.00	\$70,609.93
Funds Requested for Uplift	\$189,220.00	\$181,536.58
5% Contingency	\$22,544.35	\$22,544.35
Total	\$473,431.35	\$274,690.86



SECRET PASS



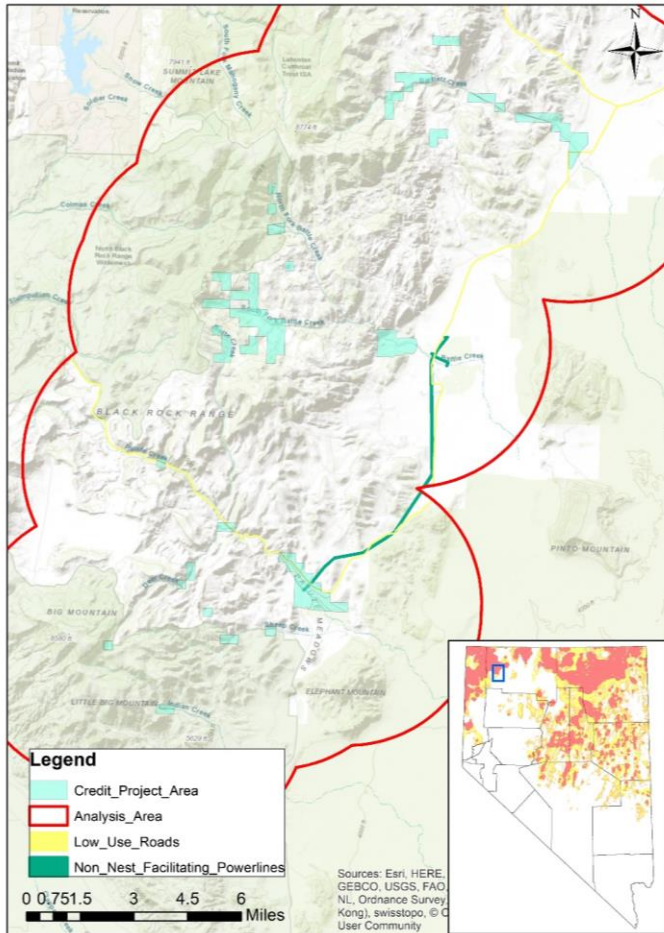
Secret Pass is a high-elevation section of mixed management areas owned by Jared Sorensen. The property ranges from flood irrigated meadows to upland pastures and beaver ponds on up to steep mountain terrain with seeps and springs, and is home to several leks. Holistic planned grazing has been implemented for the past 15 years. The management emphasizes improving soil health and increasing forage production which benefits fish, fowl, livestock and other wildlife.

Plans for self-funded uplift is to use high-tinsel single-strand electric fence to cross fence and improve grazing, rest and distribute livestock on the upland pasture. The ranch is experimenting with inter-seeding cover crops into marginally productive perennial pastures, and will also continue to apply compost tea and soil amendments as needed.



Rank	County	Management Category	Proposed Uplift Actions	Acres	Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	Funds Requested for Uplift
2	Elko	PHMA, GHMA, OHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, electric fencing to better control grazing, seeding cover crops, soil amendments	10,492	\$182,372.50	None. Will use their own funds as match.
Credit Estimate		2,505	Credits/Acre	0.24	Total Funds Requested + 5% Contingency	
						\$191,491.13

FOSTER RANCH



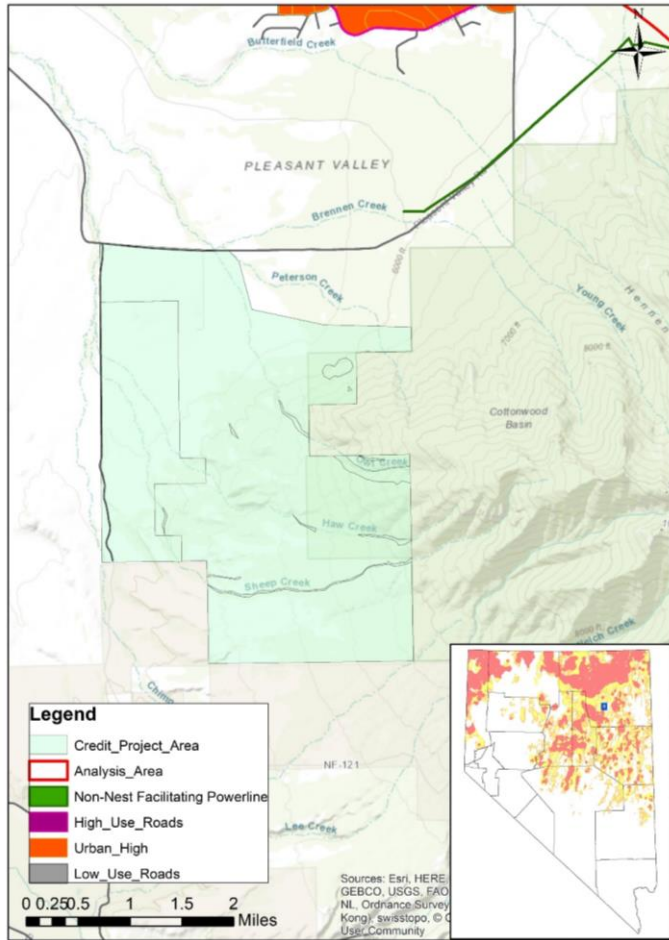
The Foster Ranch is a medium to high-elevation section of mixed management areas surrounded by BLM and owned by Greg Foster. Numerous springs and seeps are found on the property, which is home to many leks. The current use of the land is rest-rotation grazing for organic beef operation, with an organic haying operation offsite.

The owner is conservation-minded, and would like to further improve lands by fencing out riparian areas to control feral horse impacts as well as control access of livestock. The land owner is interested in spring developments to better offer water to livestock while reducing impacts to meadows. Funds are requested also to clean up the areas around prior improvements of \$50,000.



Rank	County	Management Category	Proposed Uplift Actions	Acres	Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	Funds Requested for Uplift
3	Humboldt	PHMA, GHMA, OHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, PJ cutting, fencing to better control grazing, meadow enhancements	5,070	\$107,550.00	\$140,000.00
Credit Estimate		1,508	Credits/Acre	0.30	Total Funds Requested + 5% Contingency	
						\$259,927.50

OWL CREEK RANCH



Owl Creek Ranch is a high-elevation section of PHMA and GHMA owned by Michael Sarman. The property is located at the foothill area of the Ruby Mountains with two leks to the south, and the landscape goes from from gently sloping to steep terrain. The meadows on site are a mix of flood irrigated pastures to seeps and springs. The project area is actively grazed in the summer and fall.

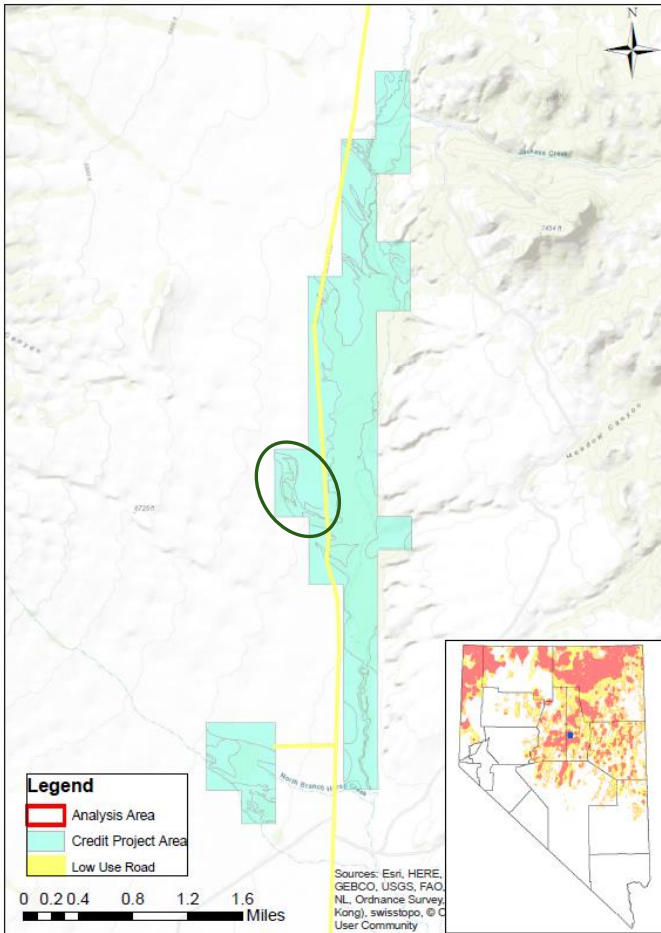
While cheatgrass is present in the lower elevations along the roads and meadow, scotch thistle is the biggest focus of improvements, estimated to cover 15-25 acres. There is around 50 acres of juniper on the project area that would need to be cut, and the owner would like to install a cross-fence to help with grazing management. Future meadow enhancements will be completed as match should the aforementioned projects be completed.



Rank	County	Management Category	Proposed Uplift Actions	Acres	Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	Funds Requested for Uplift
4	Elko	PHMA, GHMA	Protecting high quality habitat, PJ cutting, fencing to better control grazing, noxious weed removal, meadow enhancements	5,802	\$123,000.00	\$32,000.00
Credit Estimate		1,683	Credits/Acre	0.29	Total Funds Requested + 5% Contingency	
					\$162,750.00	

EUREKA LIVESTOCK

In 2017, Eureka Livestock LLC was awarded funds through the second CCS Solicitation for their project for running of the HQT, creation of a management plan, and fencing. As of December 2019, they have completed their HQT. Through the HQT and consultation with the SETT, they determined that meadow enhancements and PJ removal were needed. They request additional funds to complete these actions to meet the SETT's requests.



Rank	County	Management Category	Proposed Uplift Actions	Acres	Funds Requested for Credit Analysis	Funds Requested for Uplift
5	Eureka	PHMA, GHMA	Conifer Removal and meadow enhancements	186	None. Credit Analysis already completed.	\$60,000.00
Credit Estimate		24+meadow uplift	Credits/Acre	Unknown	Total Funds Requested	\$60,000.00

SUMMARY OF SOLICITATION

- Have approximately \$750,000.00 + \$89,609.93 in funds to award
 - Total of \$844,301.40
- Total requested plus 5% contingency: \$819,460.64
- Recommend to remove:
 - Foster Ranch's clean-up request (\$50,000)
 - Requested remainder totals to \$772,460.64
- Projects awarded are expected to start running the HQT in Spring 2020, with plans for uplift to begin simultaneously
 - Management Plans to be completed with credits available for sale and uplift completed within 2 years