NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT - 2026

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Adaptive Management Response Team (AMRT) annual report is to provide a summary of the results of the adaptive management process as outlined by the Nevada Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan. The adaptive management process identifies habitat and population triggers reached within the State of Nevada across seven Conservation Planning Areas. Following identification of triggers, the local AMRT within each conservation planning area will identify causal factors and develop management recommendations to address habitat and population triggers.

Through the summer of 2020 the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team worked with members of a Statewide Technical Team to collect data necessary to assign triggers to Population Management Units (PMU) which had habitat warnings consistent with the Nevada Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan adaptive management process. The Statewide Technical Team is comprised of representatives from Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada Association of Counties, University of Nevada – Reno (UNR), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). This team reviewed warnings and assigned triggers in 2020. Limited local AMRT regional meetings occurred throughout the winter of 2020-2021 to address new triggers and to clarify and update previous management recommendations. These teams consisted of willing participants from stakeholder groups in a defined area such as local conservation groups, grazing permittees, other affected land users, and federal/State agencies.

This process is intended to determine the potential reasons for population and habitat declines. In the case of habitat triggers where the trigger is self-evident (fire or anthropogenic impact), determining any appropriate management response will be the main effort. These triggers may be used in prioritizing funding for restoration efforts and management actions. The Adaptive Management report outlines the results of the triggers reached by the Statewide Technical Team, the results of the causal factor analysis and management recommendations developed by the AMRTs, and clarifications and updates to previous recommendations made in 2019. Due to the COVID pandemic, and staff turnover, the 2025-2026 statewide adaptive management process set out to revive the process by monitoring past management recommendations, updating the status of projects, and including management actions that have occurred since 2021.

Adaptive Management Partners

A special thank you to our various partners for being involved in the adaptive management process and for completing restoration work throughout the state of Nevada in greater sage grouse (GRSG) habitat and beyond.

Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)
Nevad Division of Forestry (NDF)
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Nevada Cattleman's Association
University of Nevada Reno (UNR)
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP)
Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL)
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NVACD)
Private Landowners
Vya Conservation District
Washoe-Storey Conservation District
Washoe County
Storey County
Eureka County Conservation District
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Nevada Gold Mines (NGM)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Summit Lake Tribe
Pheasants Forever

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DEFINITIONS

Adaptive Management Response Team (AMRT) - An interdisciplinary team that includes appropriate land management agencies, the statewide technical team, and federal/state/local partners to participate, comment, and provide input during the causal factor analysis

Appropriate Management Level (AML) – The point at which wild horse and burro populations are consistent with the land's capacity to support them and other mandated uses of those lands, while also protecting ecological processes and habitat for wildlife and livestock.

Biologically Significant Units (BSUs) - Represents nested lek clusters with similar climate and vegetation conditions.

Categorical Exclusion (CX) – Are specific types of actions that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has identified as normally not having significant environmental impacts, meaning they generally do not require an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) unless extraordinary circumstances exist

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) – A procedural document used to confirm that a proposed land-use action has already been sufficiently analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Environmental Assessment (EA) – An EA is a document that identifies environmental effects of a proposed action and determines their significance. If it seems unlikely that a proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment, the BLM will prepare an EA.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - An EIS is a comprehensive document that analyzes the impacts of a federal action that will have a significant effect on the human environment. An EIS describes the purpose and need for a proposed action, describes the affected environment, discusses alternatives to a proposed action, and analyzes environmental impacts and ways to mitigate them.

Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG) - The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), also called the sagehen, is the largest grouse species in North America and is obligately associated with sagebrush ecosystems.

Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) - A designated geographic area identified by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state wildlife agencies to protect and manage habitat for the **greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus)**, a large, vulnerable bird species that depends on sagebrush ecosystems

Herd Management Areas (HMAs, this acronym won't be used to avoid confusion with Habitat Management Areas) - The BLM manages wild horses and burros in 175 herd management areas across 10 western states. Each Herd Management Area is unique in its terrain features, local climate and natural resources, just as each herd is unique in its history, genetic heritage, coloring and size distribution.

Habitat Triggers: Warnings evaluated by a statewide technical team of specialists that are determined to warrant significant management responses to address GRSG habitat declines. Generally, a management response will be warranted if an action could be taken that could effectively improve conditions for GRSG.

Habitat Warnings - Include the occurrence of wildfire or natural disturbance larger than 1,000 acres, fire risk, or new anthropogenic disturbance that results in direct and indirect effects (as defined by the Sagebrush Ecosystems HQT process).

Lek - Individual breeding display site where male and female GRSG congregate, with males performing courtship displays to gain mating opportunities with females.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - A U.S. federal law enacted on January 1, 1970 that requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of major federal actions—often through Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)—before making decisions**.**

PMU (Lek cluster) - A group of leks in the same vicinity, among which GRSG may interchange over time and represent a group of closely related individuals.

Population Hard Triggers - Represents a threshold that indicates that immediate action needs to be considered to address significant deviation from GRSG population declines.

Population Soft Triggers - Represent a threshold that indicates that management action should be considered at the project or implementation level to address GRSG population declines

Population Warnings - Represent precursors to triggers that indicate a change to populations that could result in a trigger being reached.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Adaptive management as it relates to GRSG and their habitats is a structured, iterative process of robust decision making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reduce uncertainty over time through continued monitoring. Through a collaborative approach, including a wide variety of knowledge, local participants and management agencies leverage efforts and resources across multiple disciplines and perspectives into a framework that guides and targets management efficiently for optimum outcomes. This approach can enable problem solving from a wider viewpoint than is possible from an agency-specific analysis. Through monitoring management efforts, and evaluating results and strategies, subsequent decisions can be adjusted as results from actions become better understood. A true adaptive management process can result in iterative changes that become more targeted, focused, and effective through time.

The purpose of the State of Nevada's Adaptive Management efforts is to:

1. **Adapt** to changing conditions in GRSG populations and habitat.
2. **Provide** opportunities for local involvement in GRSG planning and conservation efforts.
3. **Determine** potential reasons for population and habitat declines to prioritize restoration and management actions.

The adaptive management strategy includes warnings, soft and hard triggers and responses. Triggers are not specific to any particular agency effort but identify GRSG population and habitat thresholds outside of natural fluctuations or variations (with the exception of wildfires). Triggers are based on the two key metrics that are being monitored; population status and habitat loss.

Adaptive management, responding to specific triggers, can provide added confidence that management actions are robust and able to respond to a variety of conditions and circumstances to enable conservation of GRSG habitat and populations. Reaching a trigger will initiate a local-state-federal interagency dialogue in collaboration with affected authorized land users (e.g., grazing permittee) to evaluate causal factor(s) and recommend adjustments to implementation-level activities to reverse the trend. The State of Nevada will use a collaborative and consensus-based process with stakeholders, appropriate state and local agencies, and affected authorized land users when developing and implementing management responses when a trigger has been identified.

The following figure shows the overall process and flow of the State's adaptive management causal factor analysis process:

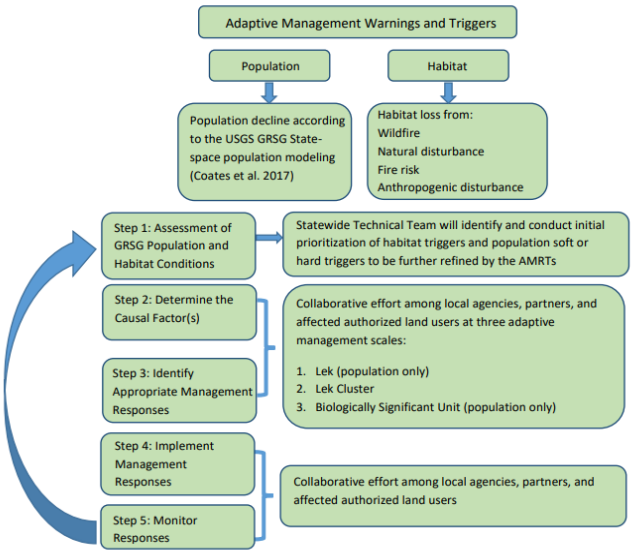


Figure 1. Adaptive Management process visualized

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT SCALES

The scales used to analyze population triggers and apply management responses are at the individual lek, lek cluster, and BSU (Figure 1). Adaptive management responses will only apply to habitat management areas (HMAs), which include PHMA, GHMA, OHMA, within these scales. Habitat adaptive management warnings and triggers will be analyzed only at the lek cluster scale. The boundaries of the BSU and lek clusters may be adjusted over time, based on the understanding of local GRSG population interactions, genetic sampling and climate variation. Population and habitat analyses used to identify warnings and triggers may be updated based on new science and advances in technology (e.g., integrated population models).

The hierarchy of GRSG population and habitat scales is as follows:

- **Lek**
- **PMU (Lek cluster)**
- **Biologically Significant Units (BSUs)**

Figure 2 below corresponds to lek clusters and BSUs that were defined by the USGS modeling analysis. They are different boundaries than the PMUs and BSUs that are defined by the State of Nevada, by NDOW. While USGS identifies population triggers according to their lek cluster and BSU spatial boundaries, for the purposes of this adaptive management strategy the SETT will be using the NDOW PMU and BSU boundaries to identify causal factors and management responses. USGS population triggers reached, such as individual lek or lek cluster triggers, will be applied to and identified with the NDOW PMU and BSUs.

Habitat triggers as identified by the Statewide Technical Team will be based on the PMU or BSU spatial scale (i.e., Tuscarora PMU reached a habitat trigger due to fire within a large portion of that PMU).

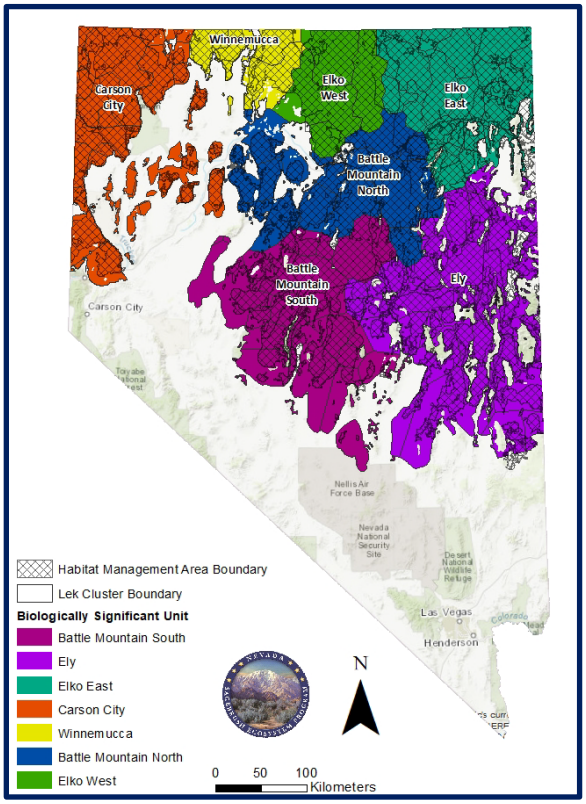


Figure 2. Adaptive Management trigger analysis areas: USGS defined Biologically Significant Units and lek clusters (PMUs) for GRSG in Nevada

I. Population Triggers – Statewide Overview

Population trigger information was unavailable for 2025-2026.

II. Habitat Triggers – Statewide Overview

The Statewide Technical Team created a list of habitat warnings (wildfires, new anthropogenic disturbance, other events causing sagebrush habitat loss) over a three-year period. A process was developed to prioritize and rank warnings based on several data layers to inform importance of habitat that was impacted, which included proportion of leks affected, genetic connectivity, fire risk, resistance and resilience scores, and others. Professional opinion and judgement were used to help refine the initial rankings. Habitat triggers are only analyzed at the PMU and BSU scales. PMUs will be assessed in the spring of 2027 to create new or ongoing areas of priority management for restoration throughout GRSG habitat.

III. 2026 Habitat Trigger Process

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff turnover, adaptive management meetings were put on hold, and the SETT is in the process of reinitiating the efforts. With this lag in timing, the 2025-2026 effort focused on previous habitat triggers and management recommendations, along with PMUs that need management further recommendations, and conservation projects that occurred within them since 2020. The main drivers behind PMUs being listed here are that there are anthropogenic disturbances, wildfire instances over 1,000 acres, Pinyon Juniper encroachment and invasive grasses that are affecting GRSG populations and habitat.

	Year First Identified	*PMU*	*Trigger*	*Conservation Planning Area*
1	2019	Lone Willow	Habitat Trigger	North Central
2	2019	Virginia/Pahrah**	Habitat Trigger	Washoe-Lassen
3	2019	Desert**	Habitat Trigger	Elko Stewardship
4	2019	Santa Rosa	Habitat Trigger	North Central
5	2019	Tuscarora**	Habitat Trigger	Elko Stewardship/South Central
6	2019	North Fork	Habitat Trigger	Elko Stewardship
7	2020*	Shoshone**	Habitat Trigger	South Central
8	2020	South Fork**	Habitat Trigger	Elko Stewardship
9	2020	Buffalo/Skedaddle	Habitat Trigger	Washoe-Lassen
10	2020*	Cortez**	Habitat Trigger	South Central
13	2025	Ruby Valley**	Habitat Trigger	Elko Stewardship
14	2025	Sheldon	Habitat Trigger	Washoe-Lassen
15	2025	O'Neil**	Habitat Trigger	North Central
16	2025	Spring/Snake Valley	Habitat Trigger	Lincoln
17	2025	Massacre**	Habitat Trigger	Washoe-Lassen
18	2025	Quinn	Habitat Trigger	Lincoln
19	2025	Schell/Antelope**	Habitat Trigger	Lincoln
20	2025	Vaya**	Habitat Trigger	Washoe-Lassen
21	2025	Diamond**	Habitat Trigger	South Central
22	2025	Reese River	Habitat Trigger	South Central

24	2025	Three Bar**	Habitat Trigger	South Central
25	2025	Toiyabe**	Habitat Trigger	South Central

* PMU was identified as a population trigger in 2019 and has existing management recommendations.

** Reidentified in 2025-2026 as a PMU that was still triggered or trending downwards

Table 1. Lists previous habitat triggers from 2019 & 2020

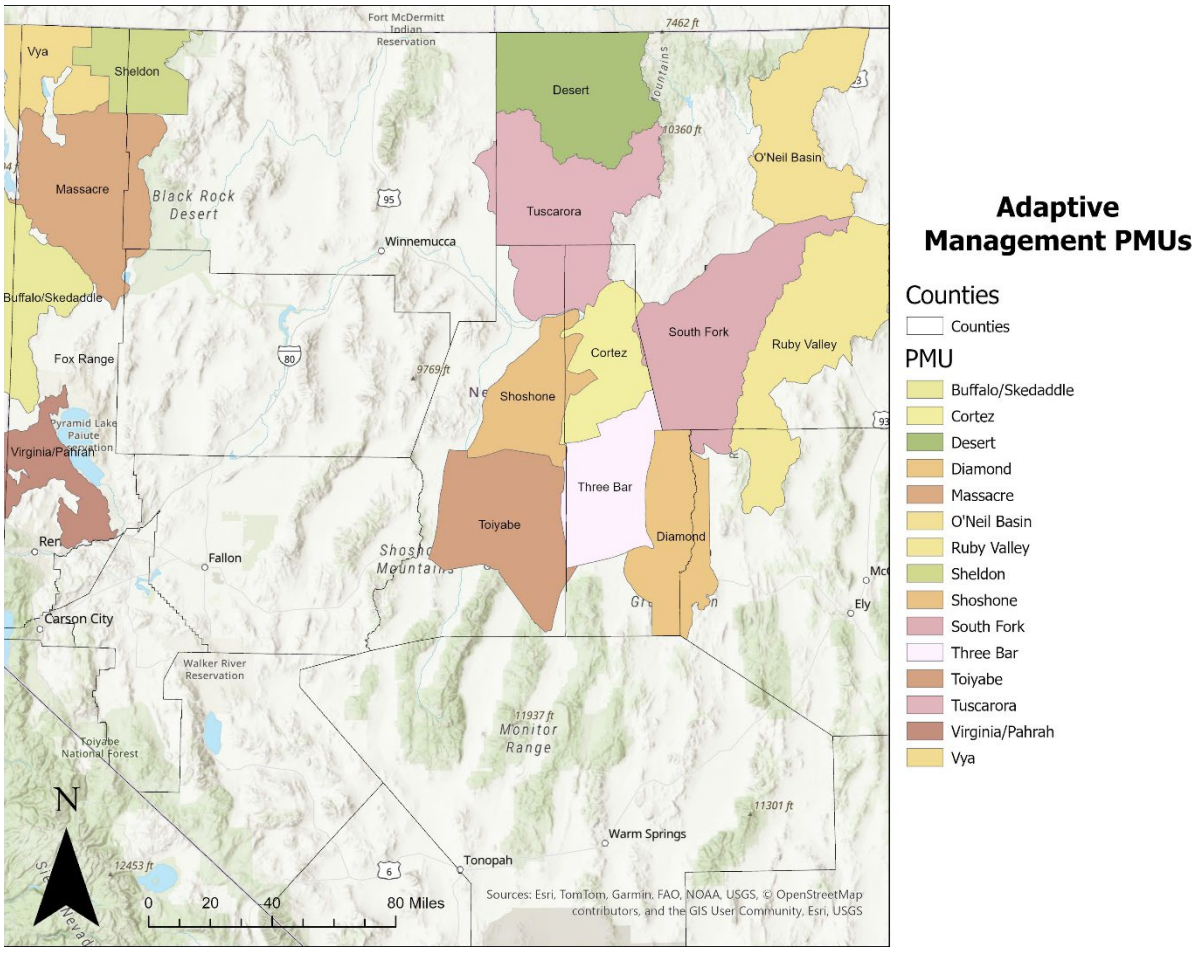


Figure 3. The PMUs that were discussed during the 2025-2026 adaptive management Causal Factor Analysis

WILDFIRE OCCURRENCES (2018 – 2025)

Year	Name	Acres	PMU
2025	Bartlett	6168	Black Rock
2024	Stockade Canyon	18168	Buffalo/Skedaddle
2020	Poodle	13476.99	Buffalo/Skedaddle
2020	W-5 Cold Springs	14532.77	Buffalo/Skedaddle
2024	Brome Canyon	8,323	Butte/Buck/White Pine
2020	Brown	8034.073	Butte/Buck/White Pine
2018	Goshute Cave	15623.52	Butte/Buck/White Pine
2022	Emigrant	1,024	Cortez
2019	Horse	1479.112	Cortez
2018	Power	1086.163	Cortez
2025	Cornucopia	3513	Desert
2018	WEST DUCK	7294.361	Desert
2025	Barber	17583	East Range
2020	Ibapah	7153	East Valley
2020	Lost	7118	East Valley
2020	Shafter	3142	East Valley
2019	Shafter	4000+	East Valley
2022	Goshute	1965.76	Elko
2021	Huff	1470	Elko
2025	Hot Canyon	12794	Gollaher
2019	Goose	6815.491	Gollaher
2018	Goose Creek	63074.85	Gollaher
2025	Burnt Canyon	1067	Lincoln
2021	Wilson Creek	1,614	Lincoln
2020	Big Summit	8461	Lincoln
2020	Miller	4519.143	Lincoln
2024	Stockade Canyon	18,168	Massacre
2024	Moonshine	2863	Lone Willow
2025	Sentinel	1247	Lone Willow
2024	Wilder	17,271	Lone Willow
2025	Adobe Mountain	106667	North Fork
2021	Huff	1471.48	North Fork
2018	Gance	5379.188	North Fork
2018	Owyhee	5330.836	North Fork
2018	South Sugarloaf	225665.7	North Fork
2018	Stag	4356.086	North Fork
2018	Willow	1355.225	North Fork
2024	North Creek	1,100	Schell/Antelope

2022	Becky Peak	5436.4	Schell/Antelope
2022	Kinsley	3179.57	Schell/Antelope/East Valley
2020	Baldy	1327.224	Schell/Antelope
2020	Flat	2610.754	Schell/Antelope
2022	Wildcat	21429	O'Neil Basin
2018	Pole Canyon	2106.487	O'Neil Basin
2018	Road	1833.188	O'Neil Basin
2018	Echo	6550.538	Ruby valley
2018	Hogan	10900	Ruby Valley
2024	Hobson	1,080	Ruby Valley
2018	Crum	2878.173	Shoshone
2018	FRANCIS	1080.987	Shoshone
2018	HD	4713.581	Snake
2020	Taft	1118.22	Spring/Snake
2019	Buffalo	3770.509	Sonoma
2019	Sheep Canyon	1632.486	Sonoma
2019	Summit	3201.286	Sonoma
2018	Gregg	9160.203	Sonoma
2020	Cedar	2357.868	South Fork
2019	Cherry	2717.554	South Fork
2019	Corta	16523.26	South Fork
2018	County Line	13215.87	South Fork
2018	Dixie	2520.345	South Fork
2018	Emigrant	1524.733	South Fork
2018	Range Two	9208	South Fork
2025	Big Butte	3612	Tuscarora
2025	MP 22	3828	Tuscarora
2025	Snowstorm	22316	Tuscarora
2025	Jakes	82216	Tuscarora
2025	Sheep Creek	59788	Tuscarora
2025	Cottonwood Peak	132603	Tuscarora
2024	Castle Ridge	25,884	Tuscarora
2018	Sheep Creek	59788	Tuscarora
2025	Rancho	1482	Virginia/Pahrah
2025	Gold	1268	Virginia/Pahrah

Table 2. Wildfire occurrences greater than 1,000 acres related to PMUs

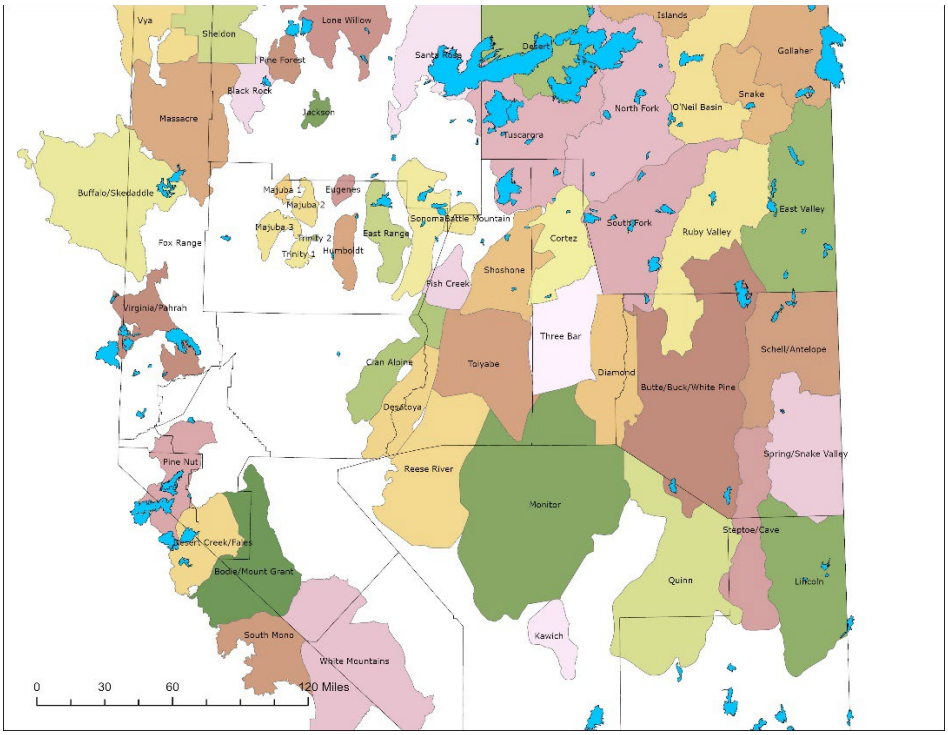


Figure 4. Map of Wildfire Occurrences Greater Than 1,000 Acres (2018-2025) with PMUs

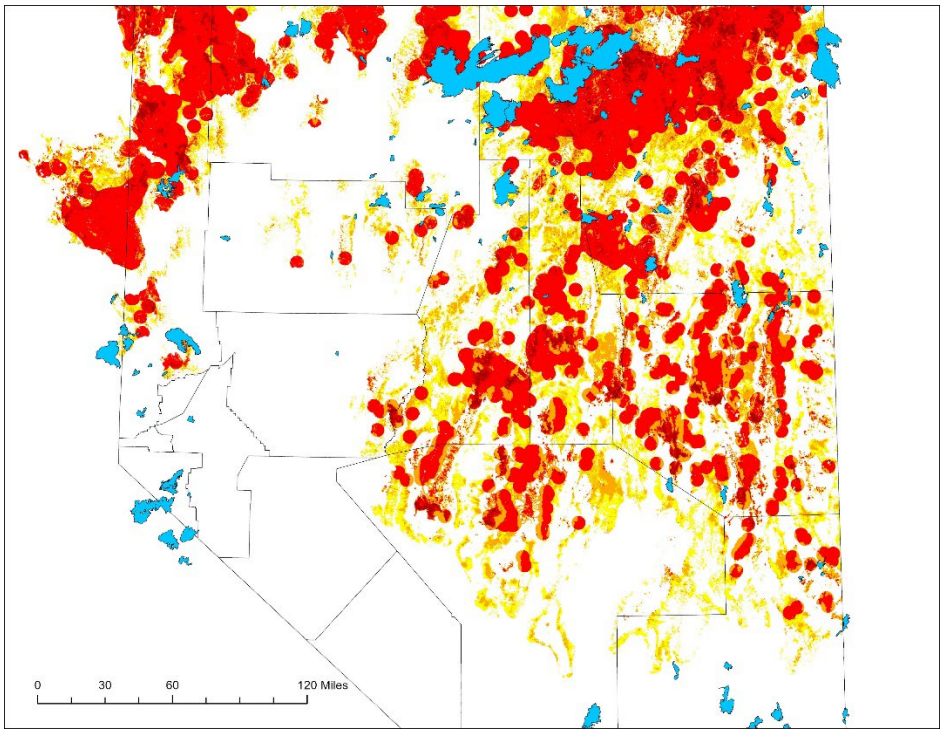


Figure 5. Map of wildfire occurrences greater than 1,000 acres (2018-2025) with GRSG HMAs

Pinyon Juniper Management

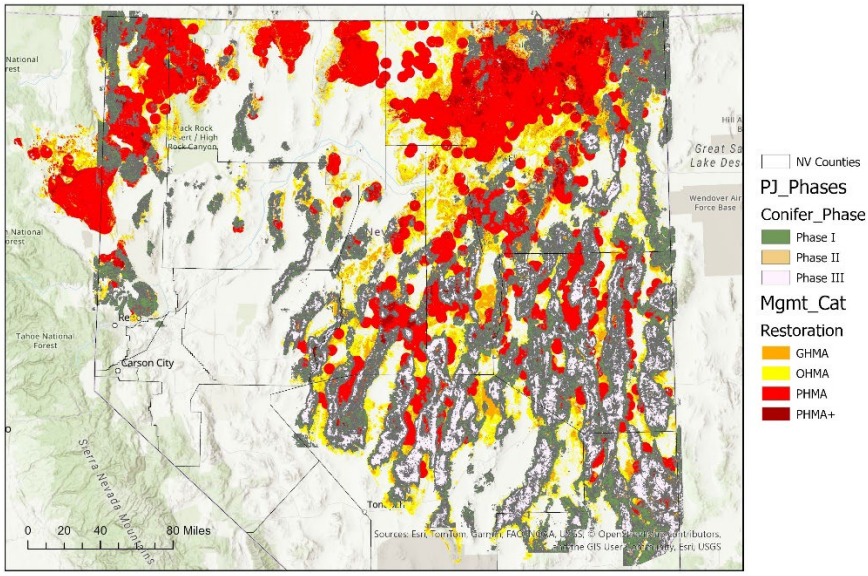


Figure 6. Pinyon Juniper Phases with GRSG HMAs

Wild Horse and Burro Management

Herd Area			**Herd Management Area**		**Estimated Populations**			
BLM Acres	Total Acres	Acres Transferred from BLM	BLM Acres	Total Acres	Horses	Burros	Total	High AML
19,778,204	23,028,204	437,436	14,032,947	15,688,20	33,338	4,685	38,023	12,811

Table 3. Wild Horse and Burro HMA overview

I. CAUSAL FACTOR ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local AMRTs are tasked with completing a causal factor analysis and provide management recommendations associated with each population or habitat trigger. The results from this process are provided below in a *Causal Factor* table for each Conservation Planning Area.

5.1 ELKO CONSERVATION PLANNING AREA

PMU: Ruby	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Wildfire	• Reseeding occurred on the Echo fire scar. ○ Agreement for fencing to be put back up was made but did not happen due to lack of capacity • Fire coordination meetings are taking place and are ongoing.
Pinyon Juniper Encroachment	• Sagebrush enhancement project was completed for Pinyon Juniper, still around 200 acres of piles left to burn. – Follow up with USFS
Predators (Ravens)	• Various projects are ongoing throughout the area with egg oiling, subsidies, etc. – Follow up with NDOW about the specifics
Invasive Annuals and Noxious Weeds	• Noxious weed treatments are ongoing. – Follow Up with NDA
Wild Horse and Burro	• Wild horses should be reduced to AML ○ Had been working towards AML with past horse gathers. – Follow up with BLM
PMU: South Fork	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**

Wildfire	• Corta Fire Rehabilitation
	  ○ NDOW completed a seeding of the burned area.
	  ○ Bitterbrush and sagebrush plantings occurred in 2019.
	  ○ More to come in the next couple of years.

Noxious Weeds	• Various treatments occurred throughout the PMU since the last adaptive management iteration. – Follow up with BLM, NDA and NDOW needed

Pinyon Juniper Encroachment	• 4,500 acres of Pinyon Juniper were treated, lots of wood was left behind.
	  ○ More funding and capacity needed to remove wood.
	  ○ Public Lands Credit Projects suggested as a gap between funding and capacity and removal of wood, this was explored and deemed to not fit into the nature of the CCS.

PMU: O'Neil	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Wildfire	• Wildcat Fire Restoration ○ Reseeding has been completed (drill seeding was used), the response was positive. – NDOW • SANE Firefighters are still working, recently got a new engine to help combat fires. • Implementation status of prescribed burns in stringer meadows is unknown – Follow up with NDF needed
Improper Management	• Support for the Winecup-Gamble grazing projects and research are ongoing – UNR, USGS, Legislative Natural Resources Committee
Noxious Weeds	• Efforts are underway to create and streamline a noxious weeds inventory through Early Detection Rapid Response platform - NDA
Multiple	• Creation and implementation of EA for HV-11 is still being worked on. – Follow up with BLM Wells Field Office • Complete NEPA and Implement CA-5 – still ongoing – BLM Wells Field Office • Complete NEPA and Implement CA-2 – still ongoing – BLM Wells Field Office • Complete NEPA and implement CW2- status unknown – BLM Wells Field Office

5.2 Lincoln Conservation Planning Area

Given the 5-year gap between previous adaptive management LAWG meetings and the reintroduction of the adaptive management process, the state was unable to hold a meeting to determine progress of projects.

5.3 North Central Conservation Planning Area

Given the 5-year gap between previous adaptive management LAWG meetings and the reintroduction of the adaptive management process, the state was unable to hold a meeting to determine progress of projects.

5.4 Sane Conservation Planning Area (Point of Contact – SANE, C/O Robin Boies)

Given the 5-year gap between previous adaptive management LAWG meetings and the reintroduction of the adaptive management process, the state was unable to hold a meeting to determine progress of projects.

*Please see the SANE Conservation plan for specific project details available at http://www.saneconservation.org/documents.html

5.5 South Central Conservation Planning Area

PMU: Cortez	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Anthropogenic Features	• A green strip was created in the Dell flats area in 2022 • BEA was created and has gone into effect. Since then, there have been numerous projects to try and offset anthropogenic disturbances in the Cortez PMU and beyond. ○ Horse Creek 1 Lek – NGM laydown yard, noise and traffic <mile, BEA is intended to offset these impacts and has been in effect. • Modarelli Mine 1 Lek – uncertainties of lek. 2-track road and fence. Gather more data on what is happening with GRSG at Modarelli lek – lek counts, collaring, etc. – SETT to follow up with NDOW and BLM • Flight diverters on fence at Modarelli Lek – Work may have been done, SETT to follow up with BLM
Predators (Ravens)	• Direct strategic focus of raven control around leks and critical habitats through NDOW Project 21. Develop other strategic corvid projects through a holistic view by pairing with habitat work (through BEA), fire rehabilitation, or other entity efforts. Synergize corvid control with habitat enhancement. – SETT to follow up with NDOW
Wild Horse and Burros	• Gather and remove estray horses
Wildfire	• Post-fire efforts on the Horse Fire have shown to be effective; non-natives (crested wheatgrass and Siberian wheat grass plantings) were establishing well at the time of monitoring. • BEA has completed • Horse Fire: ○ Non-natives are establishing very well as seen during last monitoring (crested wheatgrass and Siberian wheatgrass were planted.) – Follow up is needed
Pinyon Juniper Encroachment	• Several areas were identified as priority for PJ cutting in 2026-2027. • Work needs to be done near Tonkin Road. • 5,000 acres of PJ have been cut, lopped and scattered and masticated through partnerships of several federal, state and local agencies.
PMU: Diamond	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Pinyon Juniper Encroachment	• Treatment to be a priority

	• Determine if Sulphur Springs Hazardous Fuels EA would cover removing some of the trees – Work is being completed through the GRSG Initiative – Work is being completed through the GRSG initiative
Anthropogenic Features	• Look at perching structures, such as powerlines, in area to determine if mitigation measures need to be installed.
PMU: Shoshone	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Wild Horse and Burro	• Get and maintain wild horses at AML in the HMA. This is understanding there are other higher gather priorities. – NEPA on AML is needed as soon as possible • Lots of opportunities for ESR after horses are at AML • Lander County sent a letter in support of the Callahan HMA gathers. The process is in scoping period.
Wildfire	ESR efforts: • Fire Creek ESR o Overall mixed results for ESR o HECLA had exclosures identified and built in 2022-2023 that enclose fire creek and offsite water was developed. o Weed treatments were completed • Mill Creek ESR: o Herbicide treatments for post ESR and future fuel breaks were completed. o Seeding in Mill Creek at upper elevation did well, lower elevations did not respond as positively. o Future treatments for noxious weeds are possible with ability to use new herbicides. • Crum Canyon Fire ESR: o No green strips yet. o Tumeras: not sure if green strip has been completed – Eureka County to Follow Up o Targeted grazing and aerial seeding have occurred; no drill seeding has been completed. o Fire was 60/40 private to public land; this created challenges for the ESR efforts. • Elephant Head Fire ESR o ESR plan was completed. Last year's monitoring showed positive results. o No follow up treatments have occurred since the ESR plan closed. o BLM is currently working on updating weeds ESR to include most recent EIS at Battle Mountain Field Office – Follow up will occur

	• Fuel Breaks along I-80 and the railway to protect against fire stars (NDOT, UP, BLM, NGM, Private Landowners) o NGM was read but there was no further movement. – Follow up is needed

Anthropogenic Features	• Many crews with multiple mines doing lek counts during the same time frames need to cut down on potential impacts through data sharing, coordination, and data collection protocols.
	  o Conversation has been held between NDOW and crews that are doing lek surveys to coordinate lek counts better.
	• Argenta Permit Renewal
	  o Argenta permit renewal was successful.

Meadow Degradation	• Meadows at the Park – Restoration and grazing plan of area
	  o A series of wells was identified on the southeast side of the park, NEPA covered them, but they could not get the water rights. This may be implemented over the next year. – Follow up with BLM is needed
	  o Grazing plan tied to permit renewal, season of use changes occurred.

Multiple	• BEA was completed – Actions under the BEA are designed to directly address many of the causal factors, all habitat related: post-fire rehabilitation, annual grass treatments, PJ cutting, wet meadow restorations. • 30,000 acres in total have been treated under the BEA. Project Map included as Image #.

Predators (Ravens)	• Limit raven subsidies at Battle Mountain Dump
	  o Dump has been covering well since the last time adaptive management was conducted (2020)
	  o APHIS has been treating around the area with chemical applications
	  o Pam to follow up with the dump.

PMU: Three Bar	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**

Anthropogenic Features	• Increased traffic to Cortez PMU
	  o Henderson pass is not to be used
	  o Mine traffic at Lone Mountain Leks and Kobeh Valley has caused a decline in lek activity – Need to Address This
	• Gold Bar Mine
	  o Mitigation measures to be completed
	  o Projects occurred
	  o Monitoring is needed for completed projects

	○ Treatment Acres and Acres remaining for mitigation – Follow up with BLM Battle Mountain Field Office for status and treatment polygons.
Multiple	• BEA was signed in 2020, and the EA allows for many options to manage the ecosystem. ○ 30,000+ acres of habitat work have been completed. ○ Further information above. • 3-Bars Project ROD ○ ROD was signed and work has been completed • SETT to try and connect Gold Bar Mine with nearby landowners for potential CCS project – Roberts Creek Ranch – SETT to follow up
Wild Horse and Burro	• Horses were gathered in the Robert's Range. • Rocky Hills has benefitted from gathers outside of the boundaries due to horses being able to move across HMA boundaries fluidly.
Pinyon Juniper Encroachment	• PJ encroachment and expansion into GRSG habitat must be addressed. There are many avenues to help address this, including, 3-Bars Project EIS, BEA EA, and Great Basin Programmatic EIS for rangeland restoration. ○ PJ cutting has occurred near Frazier Creek, Three Bar Ranch, and Tonkin Road.
Wildfire	• Completed mowing at Three Bars Road adjacent to leks to give birds "room" to move off the roads for breeding. ○ Roadside NEPA only allows for 100' of treatment, looking into the use of a CX in addition but no further mowing has occurred past 100'. • BLM DNA to Greater Programmatic Fuel Break EIS may present an opportunity for further work. – Follow up with BLM to occur to follow status of CX creation.
Predators (Ravens)	• More collaborative effort to help NDOW is needed for future raven takes and raven management. • Annual takes have increased but funding sources are currently lacking. • NDOW has completed work on the highway corridor from Austin to Battle Mountain.
Meadow and Riparian Degradation	• Springs on the East Slope of Simpson Parks could use pipe rail exclosures to improve. • BLM is working on EA for spring exclosures, and pipe outs, to get water to livestock – SETT to follow up with BLM Tonopah Field Office
	PMU: Toiyabe
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations & Progress**
Wild Horse & Burro	• Getting WHB HMA to AML is the number 1 priority
Meadow and Riparian Degradation	• Cowboy Rest and Skull Creek exclosures completed – BLM • Working funds could not cover Willow Creek exclosure.

	• Work completed within Callahan Creek Watershed in collaboration with NRCS and private landowner.

Anthropogenic Features	McGinnis Hills Geothermal Mitigation:
	• Noise abatement efforts have been undertaken by ORMAT.
	  o Design to plant and turbines to limit noise levels.
	  o BLM reviewed ORMATs noise level and raven mitigation – 2023
	• Support continuation of path NDOW is working on with ORMAT to assist the entire PMU.
	  o Wildlife Working Group fell off but was revived mid-COVID-19 pandemic.
	• Onsite education with plant employees like Gold Bar Mine recommendation on why GRSG impacts matter. – Follow-up needed to see if this has occurred.

Predators (Ravens)	• Egg oiling was conducted
	  o NDOW to consult with USGS crew in the area.
	  o Egg oiling has been completed along Hwy 305 up to Battle Mountain.
	  o Need to follow up with egg oiling completed in Grass Valley, if any.

PMU: Tuscarora	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Anthropogenic Features	• Noise from Geothermal – Geothermal is no longer there, no further monitoring necessary.
Predators (Ravens)	• Raven egg oiling still ongoing – NDOW & USFWS • Not seeing transitory populations

Wildfire	• Forest Service increased funding $67 million in CA to do additional treatments – SETT to follow up with BLM on status
	• Castle Ridge Fire Restoration – SETT to follow up with BLM
	• Martin Fire Restoration
	  o Seeding completed, meets objectives on the border. – (NDOW, BLM)
	• Seeding after fires must occur.
	  o BLM is working to establish a relationship to find seed mix that works.
	  o Imazapic treatments are underway.
	  o One active fuel break is being treated – Follow up with BLM
	• Get the Rancher Liaison Program up and running.
	  o Rancher Liaison has been hosting meetings in the Spring in Elko.
	• Prioritize retaining unburned islands of sagebrush whenever possible, bias against “back burns” unless absolutely necessary.

Multiple	• Though there have been considerable efforts made in restoring areas in this PMU, there is massive need for more intensive restoration work.

	○ Potentially developing small 10–20-acre habitat islands that are strategically placed across the landscape sagebrush/perennial grass/forb communities. ○ Couple the islands with chemical/fallow/reseeding treatments within the planned communities exhibiting winter annuals would make a big difference. – SETT to follow up with NDOW • Develop map of connectivity between habitat and projects to connect what projects are already happening, then fill the gaps. – NDOW, BLM, NGM, USFS
Invasives	• Cheatgrass near IL Ranch is getting worse, the area has burned multiple times. NGM participated in targeted grazing that slowed the progress of three separate fires. • Targeted grazing occurring along I-80 with Maggie Creek. Timing did not work, could not get them on the cheatgrass at the right time. • Rejuvra treatments being completed – NDOW • Fuel break near Wild Horse reservoir – Follow up with NDOW needed • Use BLM EA to look for more opportunities for prescribed grazing

5.6 WASHOE/LASSEN CONSERVATION PLANNING AREA

PMU: Virginia/PahRah	
Potential Causal Factors	**Management Recommendations & Progress**
Wildfire	• Green strip completed in the Dell Flats area in 2022 - BLM • Seed plantings complete at high elevations – BLM • NEPA in progress for future fire work – Wildland Fire Service • Herbicide treatments are completed around fire perimeters • Conservation Districts have requested grant funding near Virginia Peak to restore ~850 acres of burn scar from the Perry Fire. This will include Spring Protections, Plantings, Fine Fuels Reduction, and PJ cutting
Virginia/PahRah PMU: ½ mile wide fuel break along 395, and Fish Springs Road county road, Winnemucca Ranch Road (**Carson- FO, Eagle Lake- FO, NDOT, Caltrans, CDFW, Washoe County, Lassen County**)	The Virginia Mountains Vegetation Treatments Project has planned and funded projects in this area to address fire starts along 395. Further planning is not needed. Coordination with CDFW is planned to extend treatments onto CA state lands.
Low Elevation Degradation	• Herbicide treatments completed in 2026 to combat cheatgrass infestations • Steve Capuro Ranch needs rehabilitation and restoration • Fish Springs ranch would benefit from rehabilitation as well
Predators (Ravens)	• Targeted corvicide due to increase in raven activity from traffic and trash

	• Potential education program for employees of Sheep Spring Solar Field to be discussed further • Shepp Spring Lek was recommended as an area to heavily target to combat medusahead encroachment
Wild Horse and Burro	• There has been an increase in Wild Horses in the Flannagan Allotment and would benefit from removal efforts.
Spring Degradation	• Spring Protection projects that have been completed include • Grazing renewal included several changes, including year round grazing with rotation in pastures and less overall AUMs • Recent construction and repair of riparian fencing by the permittee has contributed to progress in some areas of the allotment.
PMU: Massacre	
Potential Causal Factor	**Management Recommendation and Progress**
Invasive Weeds and Grasses	• 5,000 acres treated in the fall of 2025 in the lost fire scar between Hart Mountain and Cherry Mountain. Seeding to occur next year. – Applegate BLM & NDOW • Additional 5,000 acres in Lost fire burn scar to be targeted – Applegate BLM & NDOW • Roughly 5,000 acres of herbicide applied to Rock Fire burn scar in 2023 - BLM
Overutilization	• Overutilization continues to be a problem in the Home Camp Allotment. • Fenced 3 or 4 springs since 2020 in the allotment with a goal to minimize utilization on riparian areas within the allotment.
Riparian Degradation	• Funding received and fencing will occur on Grassy Pond. The fencing will be around 20 acres with the potential for low tech process-based restoration structures in coming years. A gate will be installed for management purposes - NDOW
PMU: Sheldon	
Potential Causal Factor	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Long Term Drought	• A dozen horses were moved off the refuge in 2017-2018. Eliminating the need to fence springs for overutilization. Area has responded favorably to habitat restoration efforts post-wild horse. However, due to drought, vegetation has not naturally rebounded as well as previously thought. • Several low-tech riparian restoration projects completed to bring meadows back in degraded and incised areas. – BLM/NDOW
Allotment Health	• Sherman Swanson completed a General Grazing Management course for riparian pastures and functional grazing. This was identified as a need in 2019.

	○ Classes included information on Proper Functioning Conditions of riparian areas, as well as proper grazing management for at-risk and currently functioning riparian systems. • Improper spring grazing continues to be an issue in the Sheldon PMU.
Meadow Degradation	• Exclosures for wet meadows include light grazing. • Low-tech riparian restoration and BDAs completed in various areas throughout the Sheldon PMU. • Long-term monitoring with cameras on some springs – NDOW • Virgin Valley and the wetland areas burned the past tow years in hopes to stimulate regeneration. Progress was trending in a positive direction and reseeding was not needed.
Wild Horse and Burro	• Horse removal occurred around 2017-2018. There are around 21-20 horses left in the HMA. • Sand Creek allotment horses are coming in the Vya area and maybe Sheldons as well. • Areas have responded well to restoration projects when WHB levels are at or close to AML.
PMU: Vya	
Potential Causal Factor	**Management Recommendations and Progress**
Long Term Drought	• As is the case with all of Nevada, drought and fire has affected this PMU.
Invasives	• Ventenata spread is a concern, with Modoc County confirming its presence. With continued drought pressures, spread may be an issue in the near future. • Russian knapweed has been spreading along the roads. • The county is not spraying the roadsides anymore, however, blading the edges may help ease spread of noxious/invasives.
Meadow Degradation	• Exclosures created for wet meadows include light grazing.

5.7 White Pine Conservation Planning Area

No triggers in this area