

Organization Name:		Nevada Department of Wildlife		
Organization Type:		501(c)(3) EIN#	Governmental entity? Y/N State Government	
Address:		1100 Valley Road Reno, Nevada 89512		
Project Name:		Southern Eureka County Mule Deer and Sage Grouse Habitat Enhancement Project		
Amount requested: \$12,000.00		Website: www.ndow.org		
This funding will be used to (complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences):		This funding will be used to expand the scope of an ongoing habitat project primarily focused on mule deer and sage grouse habitat. Project is in area north and west of Eureka, NV.		
Key People:	Director:	Ken Mayer		
	Board Chair:			
	Project Contact:	Name:	Dr. Lee Turner	
		Position:	Habitat Ecologist- Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Coordinator-Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (NPCD)	
		Phone:	775-688-1542	
		Fax:	775-688-1595	
Email:		leeturner@ndow.org		
Organization Mission:	The NDOW manages, protects, and restores Nevada's wildlife and its habitat, and promotes safe boating on Nevada waters.			
Project is on (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private land.				
Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.				

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

Indicate the description that best fits the project you are proposing. Mark no more than three categories:

- A. Projects that improve, protect, or restore habitat
- B. Projects that embrace unique opportunities for advancing the mission of wildlife conservation in Nevada
- C. Projects that address emergent needs
- D. Other projects that meet the evaluation criteria

Specific Project Goals and Measurable Outcomes

The purpose for this proposed project is to retard or reverse pinyon-juniper woodland encroachment and infill on up to 570 acres of important wildlife habitat in southern Eureka County. This project is needed to enhance habitat for wildlife, including sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), because pinyon and juniper trees have increased in both distribution and density at the expense of shrubs, grasses, forbs, and water availability in the project area.

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife in conjunction with the Eureka County Department of Natural Resources, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Eureka County Conservation District proposes to hand thin (reduce the density of) or substantially remove pinyon pine and juniper trees from up to 10 acres around each of 11 different target areas on up to 500 acres on private land owned by various individuals on Roberts Mountain and on the Diamond and Monitor Ranges. All of the target areas are moist areas, including springs, seeps and associated riparian habitats on mountain ranges in southern Eureka County, Nevada and are all within 40 miles of the town of Eureka. The Proposed Project sites fall within portions of the hunt units 142,143,144 and 145. The pinyon and juniper trees would be thinned by crews using chainsaws.

Measurable outcomes of this project will include acres of conifer reduction, changes in cover, density and abundance of all plant species including noxious weeds and changes through time of sage grouse use of leks and other habitat affected by the treatments. Further discussion of methods for accessing project outcomes in “Success” section below.

Project Location

Table 1 contains public land survey information for project locations across the entire Southern Eureka County Habitat Project.

Township	Range	Sections
17N	52E	11
18N	48E	14, 23
18N	52E	23
18N	54E	16
19N	54E	5, 6, 26, 35
20N	54E	3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 31
21N	52E	3, 26
21N	54E	34, 35
22N	51E	8
23N	51E	2, 13, 14, 24, 26, 27
23N	52E	5, 10
25N	53E	7, 19

Table 1. Public Land Survey (PLSS) Information

Project Description

Figure 1 depicts a large portion of southern Eureka County, Nevada. The project sites where this funding would be utilized are around spring sites and on small private land parcels. The spring sites and private land parcels are in the Roberts, Sulphur Springs, Whistler and Diamond Mountains. It is not yet clear which parcels this funding would be used on. That decision can be made on an as needed basis during the ongoing project work.

Southern Eureka County Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project Figure 1

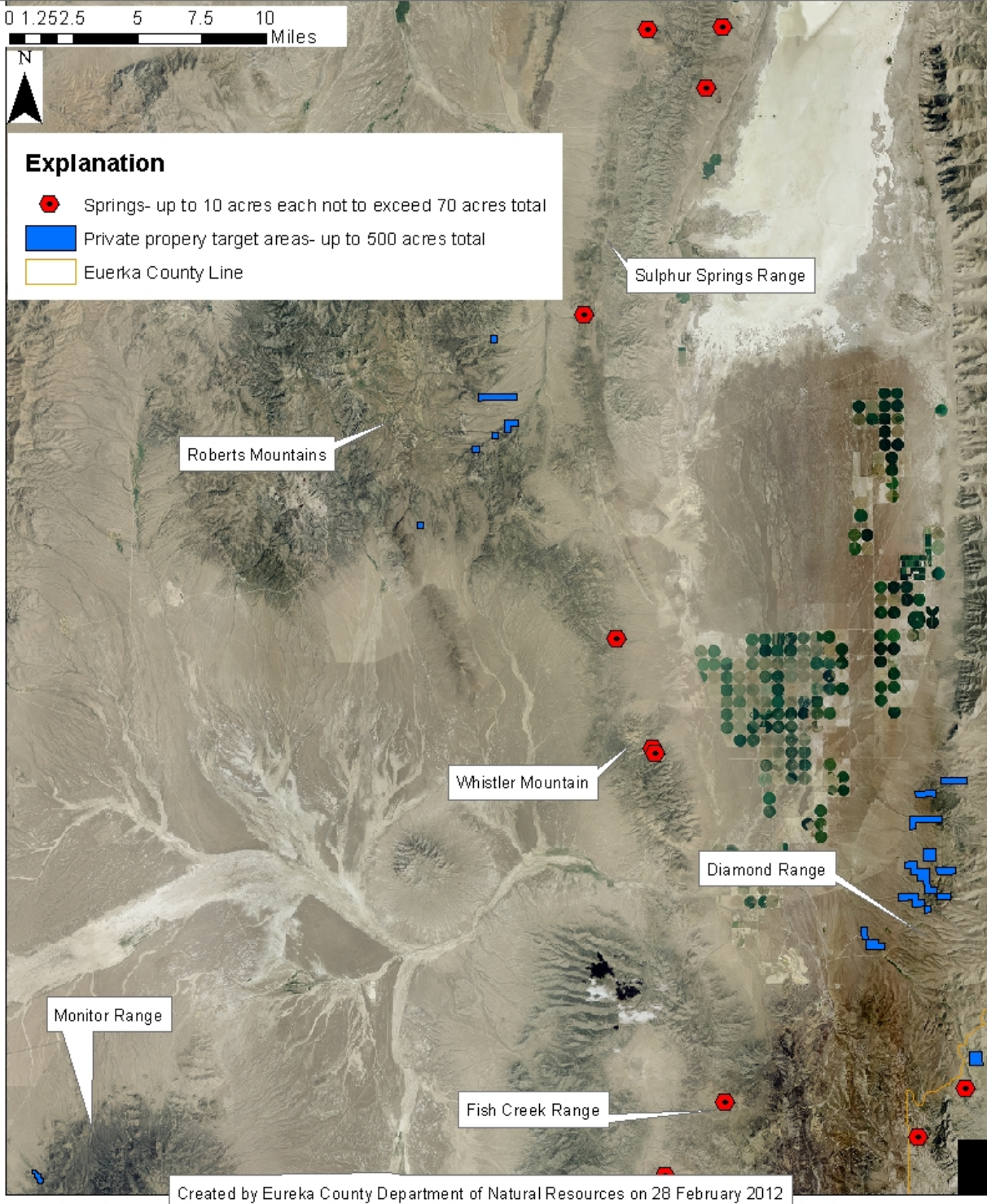


Figure 1. Map of larger Southern Eureka County Habitat Projects.

Principals

Jake Tibbetts (Natural Resource Manger for Eureka County), Lee Turner (NDOW and NPCD), various private landowners in Eureka County, Mike Podborny (NDOW) are the primary project leads.

Permitting

The work that this funding would support is being performed on private lands. The nature of the treatments does not require any National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) analyses. All landowners have been consulted and are actively and enthusiastically participating in the larger habitat improvement efforts.

Future Phases

All the Pinyon-Juniper thinning is being scheduled occur in FY13 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013). It is anticipated that additional needs for supplemental seeding and weed control will be required over the next three to five years based on current conditions. Eureka County and the Battle Mountain BLM have allocated funding for these activities in FYs 13-17.

Time Line

- Treatment areas located in fall 2011 and spring 2012
- Initial funding sources secured and verified in spring and summer 2012
- Permanent plots located and sampled in August 2012
- Pinyon-Juniper thinning contractor retained in August 2012
 - Work to begin in September 2012 and continue until weather suspends activity
 - Work to restart in spring 2013 and be finished by June 30, 2013
- Reports prepared by October 1, 2013
- Ongoing weed and permanent plot monitoring into next 5 years
- Fires within the project sites may alter scheduled activities but as of August 18, 2012 none of the selected treatment sites had been impacted by wildfire

Success and Measuring Results

The Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (NPCD) will assist across the project site to install permanent vegetation sampling locations prior to any vegetation treatments. These permanent plots were installed and sampled in August 2012. Dr. Tamzen Stringham, Rangeland and Riparian Scientist from the University of Nevada, Reno has performed pre-thinning site assessment to help highlight and address specific resource issues and concerns on the ground prior to actual thinning commencing. The target areas will be visited to assess the general conditions and photos will be taken to document these conditions. Further, photos will also be taken at select sites established with GPS that can be revisited, post-treatment, to monitor general response to treatments. The project area will be monitored by the Eureka County Department of Natural Resources, at least twice annually (spring and fall), and reported to stakeholders and interested parties for at least three (3) years.

The project area will be monitored by the NPCD two and four years following treatments to resample the permanent plots. The Eureka County Department of Natural Resources will revisit photo point monitoring sites at least twice annually (spring and fall), and reported to stakeholders and interested parties for at least three years. Monitoring will be composed of re-taking of photos at established photo points determined at pre-treatment assessment and checking for weed outbreaks and other issues (e.g., increased erosion). Depending on the results determined through monitoring, weed outbreaks will be treated accordingly in coordination with Eureka County Weed Control and other efforts taken to address issues (e.g., erosion) targeted through professional consultation.

Weed inventoring will take place in the project area and on land adjacent to the project area during both the pre-treatment assessment and during treatment itself. Any identified weed outbreaks/areas will be sprayed on the private land with the proper herbicide through coordination with Eureka County Weed Control. Weeds found on BLM administered land will also be treated and reported through a current agreement between Eureka County and BLM. Eureka County Weed Control will continue to monitor for and treat weeds in the project area on a yearly basis during the field season for the foreseeable future.

Staff Positions

The Eureka County Natural Resource Department has full time staff that is the 'on the ground' management entity for this project. There are two people that are dedicated part-time to this project. The NDOW and NPCD project ecologists are dedicated on a part-time basis to this project. No salary money is being requested via this Dream Tag proposal. All salaries for state and county employees is generated by other sources.

Volunteers Involved

Volunteers have been used to date to help determine where Pinyon-Juniper vegetation requires treating. Primarily, this has been the individual landowners. Each of the landowners has also indicated that they will supply equipment and personnel during treatments. Dr. Tamzen Stringham from UNR, volunteered to perform pretreatment ecological analyses across the treatment sites. Sportsmen's groups such as Nevada Muleys are being contacted for volunteer requests.

Grant Match

This Dream Tag proposal is not intended to be the primary source of funding for the Southern Eureka County projects. The total budget of secured funding (including in-kind) is \$145,296.00 and budget detail is provided. The total budget of non-federal monies necessary to satisfy the Dream Tag requirement of at least 25% match has been met and exceeded. The Dream Tag request is being made to allow for the overall effectiveness and collaborative nature of the project to be expanded.

For most habitat projects, numerous funding sources are necessary and each source applied for has a match requirement. Obtaining the \$12,000.00 requested here will allow leveraging of an additional \$36,000.00 in federal funds. This additional \$48,000.00 will be used to put ecologically meaningful treatments on the ground across the Southern Eureka County Habitat project sites.

Dream Tag Charitable Fund 2012 Request for Proposal
 Southern Eureka County Habitat Project

Grant Match

Match amount to be provided:		\$ 145,296.00																														
Match details:	Please provide the form of your matching funds. If match is made up of both cash and in-kind, fill in both sections.																															
	Match is:																															
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Cash</td> <td>\$ 113,296.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-kind</td> <td>\$ 32,000.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.</p>	Cash	\$ 113,296.00	In-kind	\$ 32,000.00	For the cash portion of your match, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project? Yes XXX No __																										
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Dream Tag Charitable Fund 2012 Request for Proposal
 Southern Eureka County Habitat Project

Budget

Budget Item	DT\$	Other Funding Name	Match \$	Project Total	Expenditure to Date DT	Expenditure to Date
Chainsaws, Trailers and Generators	0.00	See note	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Chemicals for weed treatments (includes in-kind)	0.00	See note	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00
Dr. Stringham (in-kind)	0.00	See note	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Eureka County Services (includes in-kind)	0.00	See note	8,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00
NPCD Vegetation Monitoring	0.00	See note	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	0.00
Pinyon-Juniper Vegetation Removal Contractor	12,000.00	See note	105,796.00	117,796.00	0.00	0.00
Pinyon-Juniper Vegetation Removal (in-kind)	0.00	See note	9,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	12,000.00		145,296.00	157,296.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Funding sources are mixed from Eureka County, NDOW, NPCD, UNR and private landowners/volunteers.