

### Cover Sheet

<b>Organization Name:</b> Nevada Department of Wildlife			
<b>Organization Type:</b> 501(c)(3) EIN# <u>State Agency</u> Governmental entity? <input checked="" type="radio"/> N			
<b>Address:</b> 60 Youth Center Road, Elko, Nevada 89801			
<b>Project Name:</b> Spruce Mountain Restoration project			
<b>Amount requested:</b> \$200,000.00 (U.S. Dollars)		<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/epa/spruce_restoration.html">http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/epa/spruce_restoration.html</a>	
<b>Project start date (mm/yyyy):</b> October 2013		<b>Project completion date (mm/yyyy):</b> January 2021	
<b>This funding will be used to (complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences):</b> Conduct restoration activities in the vicinity of Spruce Mountain to improve habitat resilience and mule deer winter range quality.			
<b>Key People:</b>	<b>Director:</b>	Tony Wasley	
	<b>Board Chair:</b>	Not Applicable- Steve Foree (Supervising Habitat Biologist)	
	<b>Project Contact:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Caleb K. McAdoo
		<b>Position:</b>	Game Biologist
		<b>Phone:</b>	(775) 777-2323
		<b>Fax:</b>	N/A
		<b>Email:</b>	cmcadoo@ndow.org
<b>Organization Mission:</b> To protect, preserve, manage, and restore wildlife and its habitat for its aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefit to citizens of Nevada			
<b>Project is on (check all that apply)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private land.			
<b>Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>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.</b>			
<b>Has your organization received other grants from the Dream Tags Fund?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No (use additional to list ALL funded projects)	<b>If yes,</b>		
	Date awarded:		
	Project # & title:		
	Amount of Award:		
	Date awarded:		
	Project # & title:		
	Amount of Award:		

### Grant Match

<b>Match amount to be provided:</b>	<b>\$ 193,500.00</b>				
<b>Match details:</b>	<p>Please provide the form of your matching funds. If match is made up of both cash and in-kind, fill in both sections.</p> <p>Match is:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 2px 5px;">Cash</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$ 193,500.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">In-kind</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;"><b>\$</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>For the cash portion of your match, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project? Yes <u><b>X</b></u> No <u>  </u></p>	Cash	<b>\$ 193,500.00</b>	In-kind	<b>\$</b>
Cash	<b>\$ 193,500.00</b>				
In-kind	<b>\$</b>				

### DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

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

- X** 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

### Narrative

1. **Specific project goals and measurable outcomes:** The objectives of the Spruce Mountain Restoration Project are to:

- Reverse the expansion of pinyon-juniper woodlands to provide resilient habitats with an adequate understory which meet ecological site descriptions;
- Improve existing crucial winter habitat for mule deer;
- Prevent catastrophic large-scale wildland fires resulting from the buildup of fuels and the conversion of fuel type based on prediction from historic assessments;
- Improve plant and wildlife species composition and diversity;
- Reverse the decreasing quality of wildlife habitat and forage due to damage from wildfires and pinyon and juniper encroachment; and
- Prevent the establishment and expansion of invasive non-native species.

These objectives will be met with a multi-year, multi-methodology treatment approach. By utilizing varied vegetation treatment methods, restoring and rejuvenating vegetative communities will ensure resilience of the plant communities and the wildlife which inhabit them.

For many areas, project success will be simply measured by number of acres in which the successional stage of the plant community was set-back to a more productive grass/browse dominated site. It is likely, that the magnitude of the benefits from this action will be so large that they will not, in their entirety, be able to be measured simply through vegetative monitoring and wildlife surveys. The true benefits of ecological resilience are often only fully understood when they are absent from the ecosystem entirely.

In other areas, the successful reduction of annual grasses and the integration of perennial plant species into the vegetative communities previously dominated by invasive annuals will be the measure of success.

For mule deer, by successfully rejuvenating senescent browse to be more palatable and nutritious, should be realized in the long-term by an increase in observed spring fawn recruitment.

2. **Project location:** The Project is Located in the immediate vicinity of Spruce Mountain, Elko County, Nevada, Approximately 38 miles south of Wells, Nevada (Figure 1). Major access roads to the project site extend from

Highway 93 and include the Tobar Road and the Goshute Valley Road. More specifically, the Project is Located within all or parts of the following Townships and Ranges: Township 29 North, Ranges 63-66 East; Township 30 North, Ranges 63-66 East; Township 31 North, Ranges 63-66 East; Township 32 North, Ranges 63-66 East; Township 33 North, Ranges 63-66 East; and Township 34 North, Ranges 63-66 East.

3. **Project description:** Pinyon-Juniper encroachment into sagebrush ecological sites is a West-wide phenomenon, largely due anthropomorphically manipulated fire regimes. Due to less frequent fires, late succession plants, such as pinyon and juniper trees, begin to dominate the landscape and as a result, understory species composition and abundance decreases. These tree dominated sites are typically low in wildlife diversity and provide little wildlife value. Additionally, catastrophic wildfires are more likely to occur in these heavy fuel loaded areas. For mule deer, these areas provide marginal habitat, with the best asset being that of thermal cover from the trees. The decadent habitats provide very little wildlife value in these Phase 3 and 4 areas. Such encroachment has occurred in the Spruce Mountain area in Northeastern Elko County and is reducing the quality and quantity of valuable wintering habitat for Mule deer. Spruce Mountain is the primary wintering area for the deer which summer in the East Humboldt Range, which is part of the larger “Ruby-Butte Deer herd” (Area 10 herd). Thousands of deer migrate each fall and spring to and from the East Humboldt’s and Spruce Mountain.

As such, the Department of Wildlife initiated a 10,000 acre habitat restoration project, in cooperation with Elko Bureau of Land Management, in the immediate vicinity of Spruce Mountain. The Project has completely undergone the NEPA process and restoration activities have already been initiated. Beginning in the fall of 2013, \$153,500.00 has been spent on on-the-ground habitat restoration within the project area. Because of the large-scale of this project, treatments will be conducted over several years to accomplish treatment objectives.

More specifically, the Proposed Project is to implement vegetation treatments within 13 treatment polygons with the specific objectives of:

- Reversing the expansion of pinyon-juniper woodlands;
- Prevent catastrophic large-scale wildland fires resulting from the buildup of fuels and the conversion of fuel type based on prediction from historic assessments;
- Improve species composition and diversity;
- Reverse the decreasing quality of wildlife habitat and forage due to damage from wildfires and pinyon and juniper encroachment; and
- Prevent the establishment and expansion of invasive non-native species.

The 13 above mentioned treatment polygons are depicted on the Figures 1-5, below. The proposed vegetation treatments would be implemented individually or in combination depending on site conditions within the treatment polygons; if it is determined that a certain type of treatment is not appropriate for a site within a treatment polygon, those treatments would not be implemented on that site. Table 1 illustrates the approved treatment types and the treatment polygons which would be implemented.

For a more in depth look at the approved Project subsequent Environmental Assessment, please visit the project website:

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_information/nepa/spruce\\_restoration.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/nepa/spruce_restoration.html)

4. **Permitting:** An Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for this Project and a record of Decision was issued. Field work was initiated in October of 2013, upon approval of the EA. Archaeological clearances may be required in certain treatment polygons at the discretion of the BLM’s Field Office.
5. **Future Phases:** Because of the Project scale (10,000 acres of treatment) the Project will be implemented over multiple years. Multi-year Project Rehabilitation Projects are inherently expensive, as such, budget requirements have not been completely matched with funding sources. At a minimum, the following funds have been or will be Pursued: Healthy Lands Initiative (HLI) funding from BLM, Internal BLM funding, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Partners for Conservation Development, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Reno, Elko Bighorns, NDOW Habitat Assessment Fee, and the Wildlife Heritage Fund.

6. **Principals involved:** Caleb K. McAdoo (NDOW) - Mr. McAdoo is the managing biologist for the Spruce Mountain Area and is Project lead for the Department of Wildlife.

Matthew Murphy (BLM) – Mr. Murphy is the Fuels and Forestry Specialist with the BLM and is the Primary Point of contact for the Bureau of Land Management.

7. **Number of staff positions involved:** The overseers of this Project are comprised entirely of Government Agencies\employees and project implementation will be conducted by numerous contractors and volunteers. No money used from the Dream Tag Fund or other donations, will be used for salaries or administrative costs, but rather, will be used for direct implementation of on the ground work through the use of contract services.

That being said, eight part-time positions (NDOW and BLM) will be involved in the Project to ensure objectives are met and to ensure quality assurance and quality control. These positions include; Game and Habitat Biologists, Range Specialists, Conservation Education Staff, Media Specialists, and Supervising staff.

8. **Number of volunteers involved:** Opportunities for volunteer participation in the Spruce Mountain Restoration Project are almost limitless; however; it realistically anticipated that up to 75 volunteers and 5,000 volunteer hours could be logged by completion of the project in 2020.

The Project proponents will endorse and encourage volunteer participation and will utilize NDOW's Volunteer Program to involve participation from the general public and non-governmental organizations.

9. **Time Line of Project.**

**Table 2. Approximate timeline and objectives associated with the Spruce Mountain Restoration Project**

Date	Objectives/Milestones Verbal Description	Task(s) completed	Objective Treatment Acreages
Winter 2013/2014	Utilize Hand-thinning in the "Upper Spruce Spring" Treatment Polygon	X	250
Spring 2013	Continue Hand-thinning in "Upper Spruce Spring" Treatment Polygon	To be completed	250
Winter 2014/2015	Conduct mechanical treatment in the "Coyote East and Upper Spruce Spring" Treatment Polygons	To be completed	1,200
Winter 2015/2016	Conduct Mechanical treatment in the "Basco" treatment Polygon	To be completed	1,500
Winter 2016/2017	Conduct mechanical treatment in the "Coyote North Bowl"	To be completed	1,200
Winter 2017/2018	Conduct maintenance/mechanical treatment in the "Honeymoon" treatment Polygon	To be completed	2,000
Winter 2018/2019	Conduct treatment in the "Westside Lower" treatment polygon	To be completed	2,000
Winter 2019/2020	Conduct treatment in the "Lower Spruce Spring", "Coyote Basin bottom", and Indian Creek Treatment Polygons	To be completed	1,200
Winter/2020/2021	Conduct annual grass removal in the "East Spruce Ridge" treatment polygon	To be completed	400

**Table 1 Spruce Mountain Restoration Approved Treatments**

Treatment Polygons	Proposed Treatments		Management of Wildland Fire	Chaining	Mastication	Hand Thinning	Herbicide	Seeding	Vegetation Treatment	Firewood Cutting	Maintenance
	Broadcast Burning	Pile Burning									
Basco Chaining Maintenance		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brush Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Coyote Basin Bottom		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Coyote East		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Coyote North Bowl	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstration							X				
East Spruce Ridge							X	X	X		X
Honeymoon Chaining Maintenance		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indian Creek		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lower Spruce		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Upper Spruce	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Westside Lower		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Westside Upper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

#### 10. Success.

The Project Proponent would not only inform all charitable donors of endeavors towards the completion of the Spruce Mountain Restoration Project, but to also publicly recognize them, as well. As a funding partner in this project, the Project proponents would commit to submitting yearly progress reports which would, at a minimum, document: treated acreages, annual budgets, treatment methods, and any available monitoring data. Furthermore, at the request of the Committee, coordinated field tours could be made to show the ongoing progress and responses to treatments.

In addition to alerting the Committee of Project completion, the Project proponents would eagerly recognize our funding partners in all publications and media releases (website publications, T.V. spots, Facebook and Twitter posts, radio, etc.). At the desire and approval of the committee, the Nevada Dream Tags Fund logo would be used in such social media to give further recognition and advertisement of the benefit of the fund towards worthwhile projects.

#### 11. Grant match.

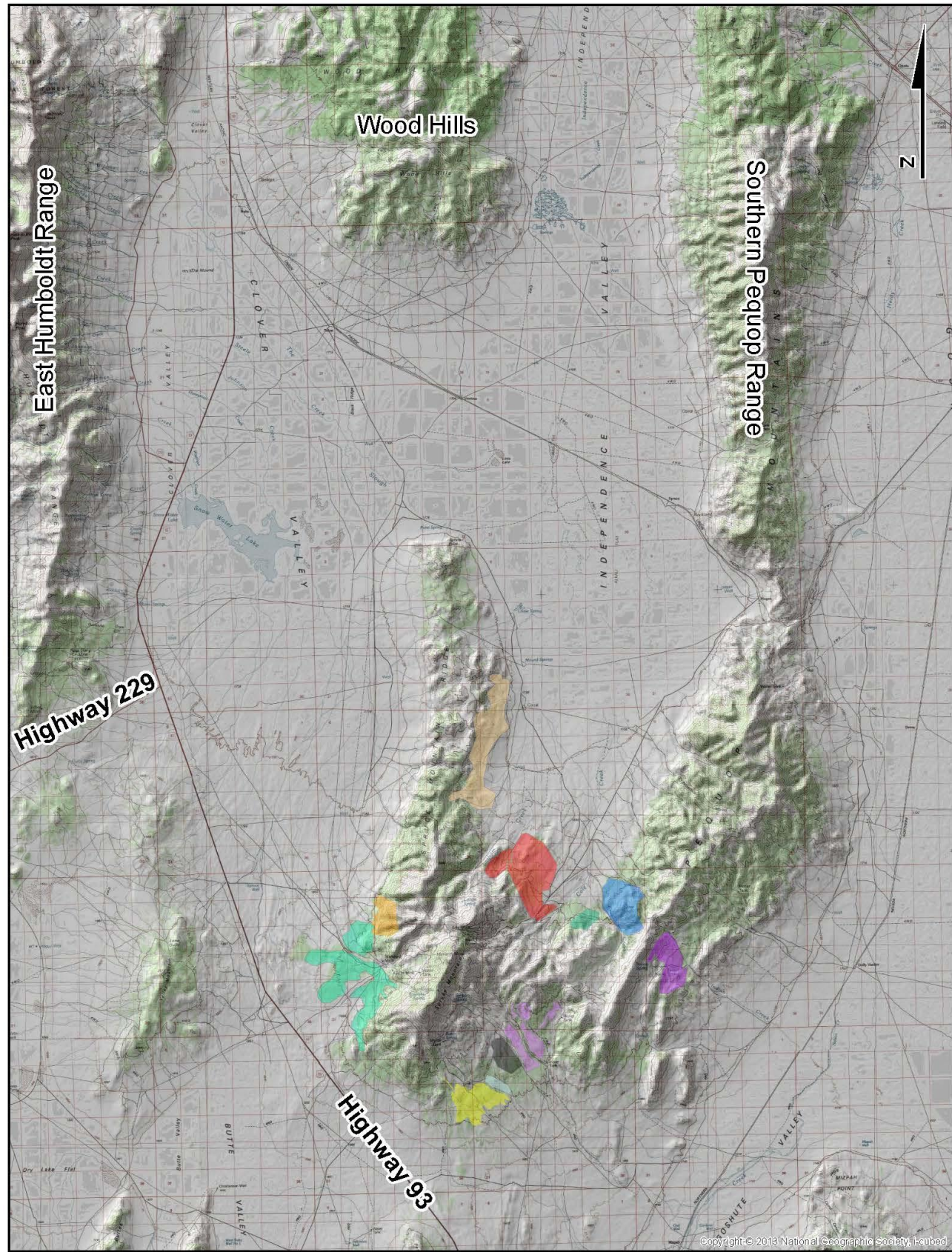
The Project proponents fully recognize the importance of leveraging dollars towards the benefit of habitat improvement and wildlife projects and towards having investment into the project. In the above “Grant Match” section, along with the \$200,000.00 requested, we show a vested commitment of over **75 percent total grant-match** of that being requested from the Nevada Dream Tags Fund. This 75 percent has already been dedicated and implemented for this project. Additionally, for fiscal year 2015, nearly a 1:1 grant match would be committed by the project proponents to that requested from the Dream Tag Foundation.

## 12. Project budget:

**Table 3 Spruce Restoration Projected Budget Needs and Funding Sources**

<b>Budget Item Description*/Implementation Year</b>	<b>Dream Tag Fund</b>	<b>Other Funding Name**</b>	<b>Match \$</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Projected Budget Needs***</b>
<b>FY2014</b>					
Design/Engineering	\$-----	NDOW	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Permitting	\$-----	BLM/NDOW	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
Labor—volunteer	\$-----	NDOW	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Implementation	\$-----	BLM Base	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
	\$-----	Heritage(fy13)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
	\$-----	RMEF	\$23,500.00	\$23,500.00	
	\$-----	Habitat Cons.	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
	\$-----	Partners	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
Totals	\$ 0.00	-----	\$193,500.00	\$193,500.00	
<b>FY 2014 Sub Total</b>				<b>\$193,500.00</b>	<b>\$193,500.00</b>
<b>FY2015</b>					
Implementation	\$200,000.00*	Heritage	\$100,000.00*	\$300,000.00	
		Habitat Cons.	\$ 40,000.00*	\$ 40,000.00	
		BLM	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Totals	\$200,000.00	-----	\$190,000.00	\$390,000.00	
<b>FY 2015 Sub Total</b>				<b>\$390,000.00*</b>	<b>\$390,000.00</b>
<b>FY2016</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(200,000.00)</b>
<b>FY2017</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(150,000.00)</b>
<b>FY2018</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(400,000.00)</b>
<b>FY2019</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(400,000.00)</b>
<b>FY2020</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(200,000.00)</b>
<b>FY2021</b>	**	**	**	**	<b>\$(100,000.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	-----			
			<b>\$383,500.00</b>	<b>\$583,500.00</b>	<b>\$(1,450,000.00)</b>
<i>*Approval pending by authorizing committee</i> <i>**Funding Sources have not been matched to budget needs</i> <i>***Based on a goal of 10,000 acres of treatment (@ \$203.35/acre average cost). For Fiscal Years where budget needs exceed available funds, total acreages would be curtailed to match the available funding</i>					





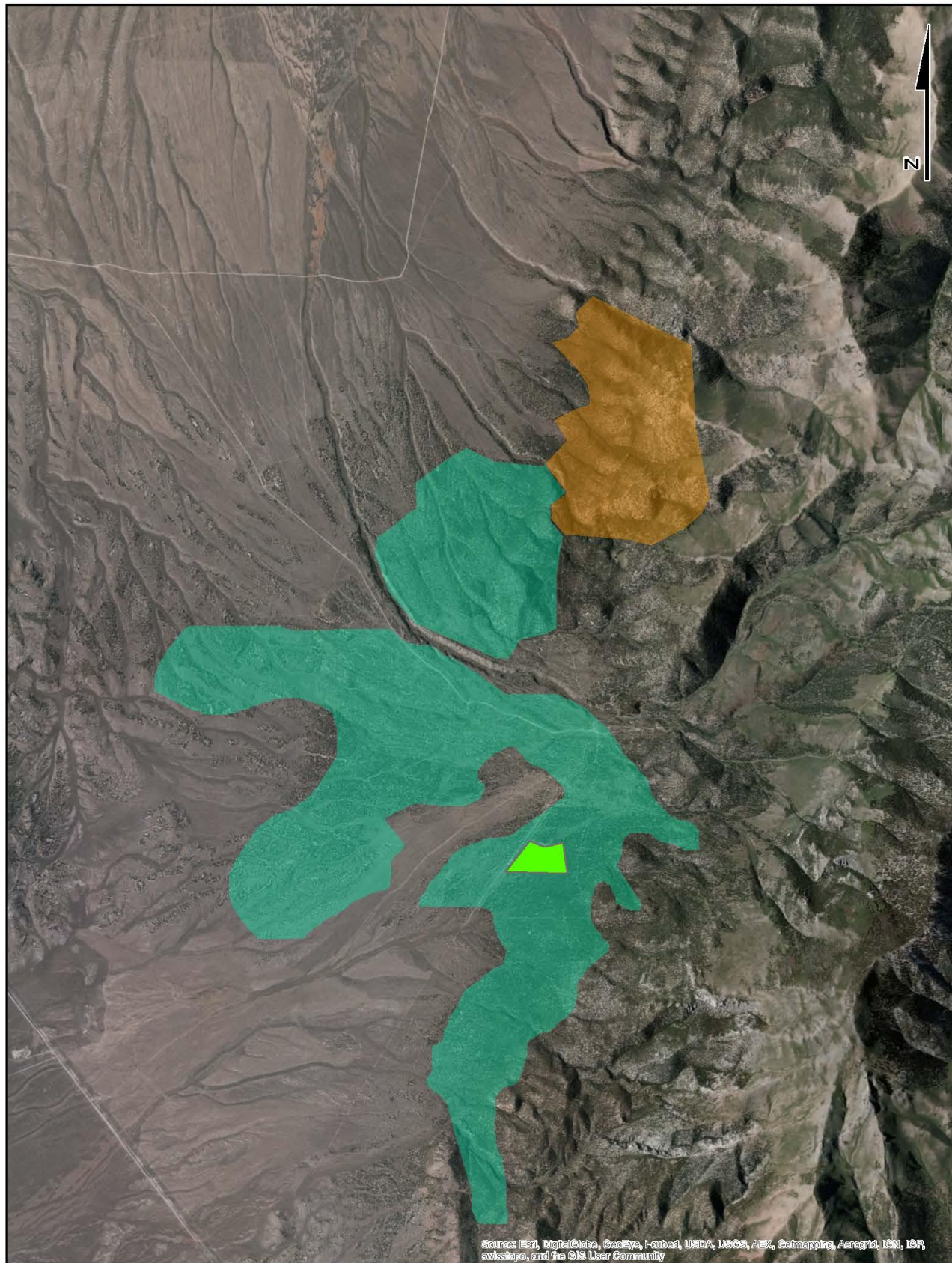
- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Basco Chaining Maintenance | Honeymoon                   |
| Brush Creek                | Indian Creek Treatment Area |
| Coyote Basin Bottom        | Lower Spruce Spring         |
| Coyote East                | Demonstration               |
| Coyote North Bowl          | Upper Tausch Mastication    |
| East Spruce Ridge          | Westside Lower              |
|                            | Westside Upper              |

**Figure 1**  
**Spruce Mountain**  
**Restoration Project**  
**Treatment Polygons**



0 2.75 5.5 11 Miles





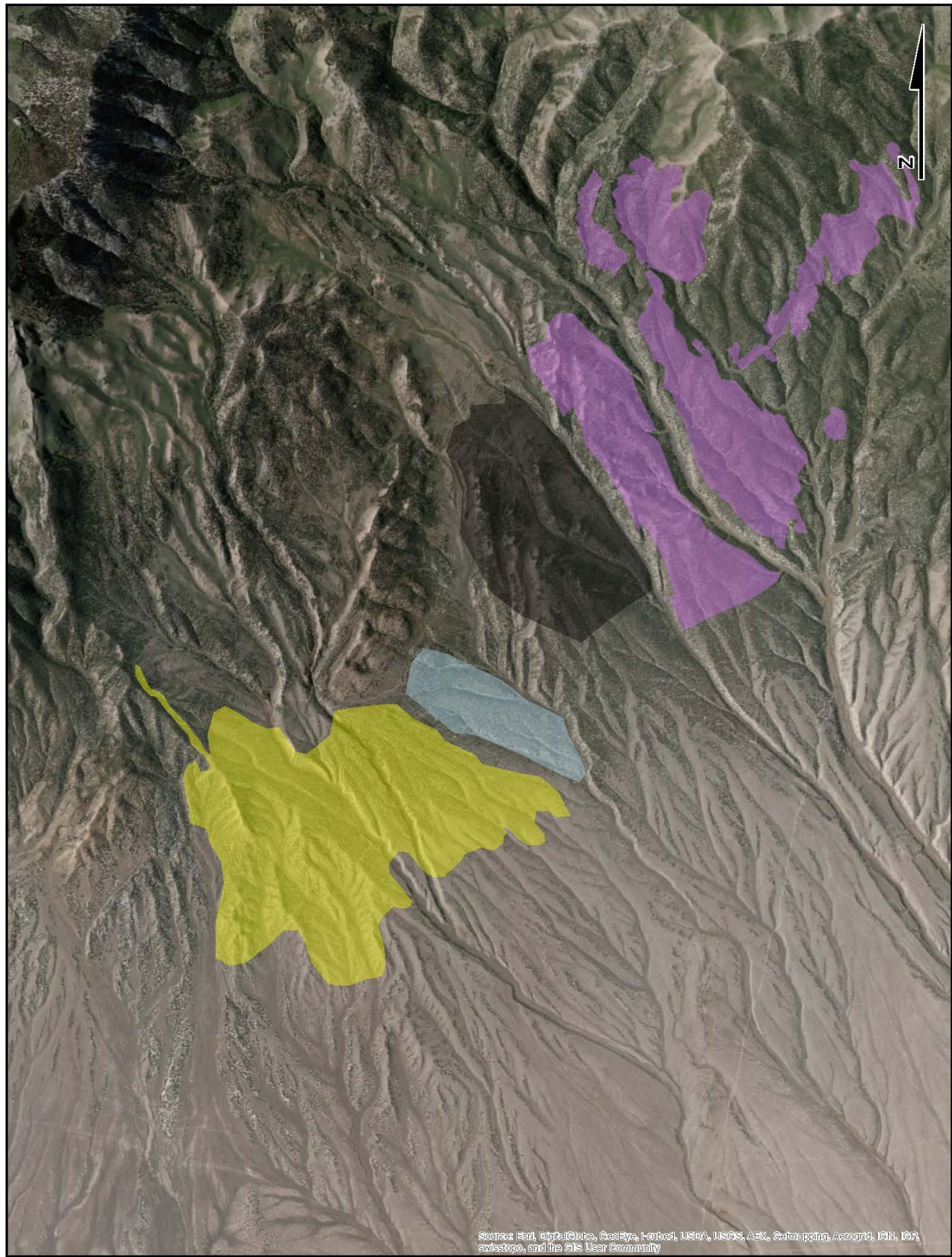
- Demonstra...
- Westside  
Lower
- Westside  
Upper

**Figure 2**  
**Spruce Mountain**  
**Restoration Project**  
**Westside Treatment**  
**Areas**



0 0.25 0.5 1  
Miles





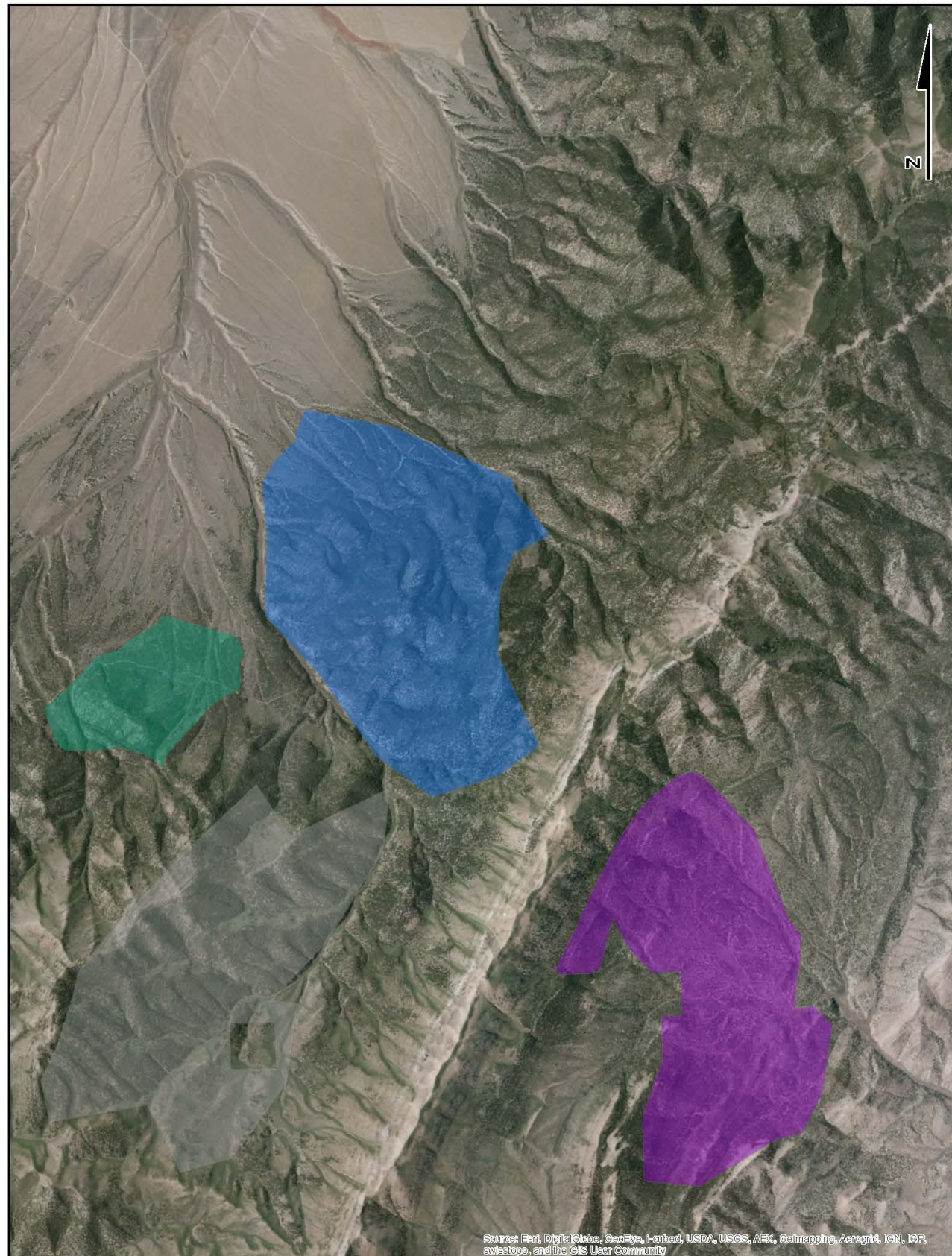
- Basco Chaining Maintenance
- Coyote East
- Lower Spruce Spring
- Upper Tausch Mastication

**Figure 3**  
**Spruce Mountain**  
**Restoration Project**  
**Southern Treatment**  
**Areas**



0 0.225 0.45 0.9  
 Miles





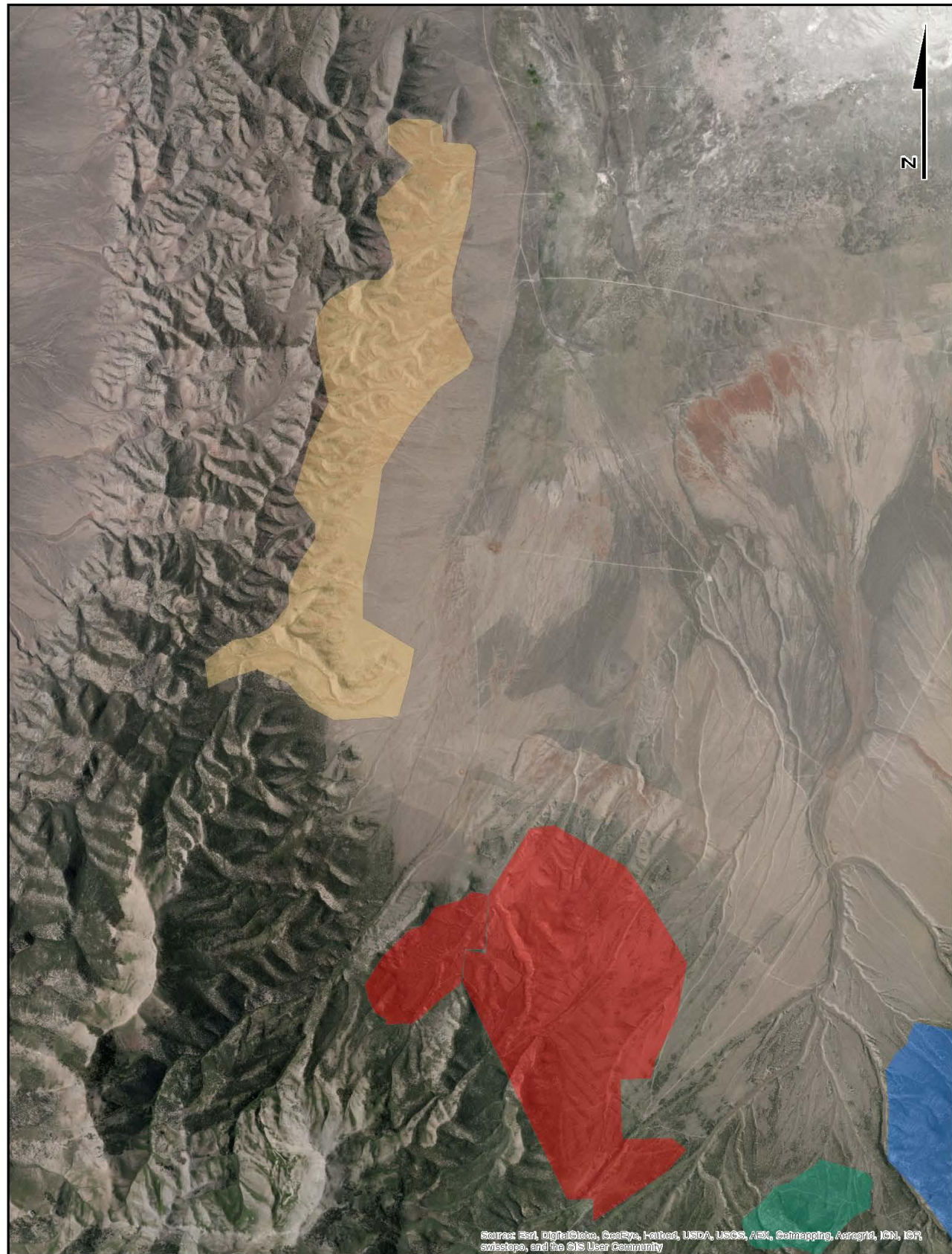
- Brush Creek
- Coyote Basin Bottom
- Coyote North Bowl
- Indian Creek Treatment Area

**Figure 4**  
**Spruce Mountain**  
**Restoration Project**  
**Eastern Treatment**  
**Areas**



0 0.225 0.45 0.9  
 Miles





- Brush Creek
- Coyote Basin Bottom
- East Spruce Ridge
- Honeymoon

**Figure 5**  
**Spruce Mountain**  
**Restoration Project**  
**Northern Treatment**  
**Areas**



0 0.3250.65 1.3  
 Miles