

DT #122 O'Neil PPA Sagebrush Habitat Restoration

Dream Tags Charitable Fund- Spring 2026

Nevada Department of Wildlife

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Application Form

Grantee Requirements & Project Evaluation Criteria

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Monies are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Dream Tags Fund shall be used exclusively to provide support for the preservation, protection, management or restoration of Nevada's big game and wildlife habitat
- The Charitable Beneficiaries may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement with all of the terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:
 1. Charitable Beneficiaries must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
 2. Charitable Beneficiaries shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
 3. Charitable Beneficiaries must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
 4. Charitable Beneficiaries must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
 5. Charitable Beneficiaries must implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation forthwith;
 6. Charitable Beneficiaries must provide the Community Foundation with quarterly reports detailing the activities of their projects and/or programs; and
 7. Charitable Beneficiaries must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be evaluated on criteria that include but are not limited to:

- Measurable outcomes in accordance with the exclusive goal of the Dream Tags Charitable Fund.
- Monitoring and reporting to learn from the project and track project accomplishments.
- Closeness of project focus to areas of funding emphasis (on-the-ground habitat improvements).
- Readiness of sponsoring organization to undertake and complete project.
- Opportunities to partner with others to leverage funds and accomplish larger outcomes.
- Consistency with established Dream Tags Charitable Fund operations (timeline, match, etc.).
- Impact on preservation, protection, management, or restoration of Nevada's big game and wildlife habitat
- Absence of negative or unintended consequences.
- Solutions to known problems as identified through past research and monitoring.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Organization Type*

Governmental Entity

EIN

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-600022

Director of Organization*

Alan Jenne

Project Contact Name*

Brittany Allen

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Habitat Biologist

Project Contact Email*

ballen@ndow.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-777-2393

Organization Mission*

To protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of Nevada.

Project Information

Project Name*

Name of Project.

DT #122 O'Neil PPA Sagebrush Habitat Restoration

Amount Requested*

\$75,000.00

Project Start Date*

08/01/2026

Project End Date*

02/28/2028

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

This funding will be used to restore sagebrush habitat in various project areas covered under the O'Neil PPA EA within the Area 7 Mule Deer migration corridor and sage grouse priority habitat, including the South Cricket Fire, Hepworth Fire, and Deer Fire scars. Dream Tag funds will be used in combination with other project funding to restore habitat values for wildlife through a combination of herbicide application to treat invasive annual vegetation and/or seeding to reestablish desirable forage and cover.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land

Private land

Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?*

Yes

If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?

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.

Yes

Previous Funding from Dream Tags Charitable Fund

Has your organization received other grants from the Dream Tags Fund?*

Yes

If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.

Please see attached list of previously funded projects.

Description of Project Under Consideration

Indicate the description that best fits the project you are proposing*

Mark no more than three categories.

A. Improve, protect, or restore habitat, especially big game habitat

Narrative Requirements

1.) How do the specific project goals and measurable outcomes tie to the project description?*

All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.

This project aims to restore up to 10,000 acres of sagebrush habitat in older burn scars that have been invaded by annual grasses and are lacking sufficient forage and cover for wildlife, namely migrating mule deer and sage grouse. Pre-emergent herbicides will be applied in August-September 2026 to reduce cheatgrass in preparation for seeding in fall/winter 2027 in areas that need to be supplemented with desirable vegetation in order to prevent cheatgrass from reinvading, restore ecological function, and to provide habitat values for wildlife. Drill seeding and/or chaining will be used where possible to improve seed-soil contact and increase seeding success. Aerial seeding will be used to apply species that prefer surface contact, like sagebrush and kochia, and to apply seed in areas inaccessible to drills or chains. In areas that have existing perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs with a heavy annual grass component, a single herbicide treatment that can provide multiple years of cheatgrass control will sufficiently improve habitat conditions and seeding may not be necessary. If sufficient funds are secured, the goal is to treat multiple project areas at

the same time to provide the largest overall habitat uplift for the Area 7 mule deer herd and other wildlife that use these areas, including sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, elk, and many others.

In addition to restoring wildlife values, these treatments will reduce fuel continuity and wildfire risk, restore ecological processes and services, and improve the long-term resilience of this landscape for the benefit of all stakeholders.

2.) Describe the project location.*

The O'Neil PPA EA covers the entire O'Neil Basin in northeastern Elko County and has multiple project areas cleared for restoration. For this project, degraded habitats throughout the Area 7 mule deer migration corridor will be prioritized, including but not limited to the 2006 Deer Fire and the 2007 Hepworth Fire in hunt unit 075, and the 2001 South Cricket Fire in hunt unit 077 (see attached map).

3.) Project Description*

Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.

The South Cricket Fire, Hepworth Fire, and Deer Fire are included in the O'Neil PPA EA as 3 of the 12 "Restoration Units" over old burn scars that never recovered to functional condition. All three of these project areas are priority habitat for sage grouse, with multiple active, pending, inactive, and historic leks in or around each project area, as well as important habitat in the Area 7 mule deer migration corridor, pronghorn antelope, and elk habitat. These old fires have become infested with cheatgrass, limiting perennial vegetation recovery and limiting ecological function for wildlife. Addressing this challenge requires a two-pronged strategy:

- Reducing cheatgrass densities to limit competition and fuel buildup.
- Promoting the establishment of perennial grasses and shrubs to stabilize soils and rebuild perennial plant communities. These intact communities are also critical in building in resistance and resilience to prevent reinvasion of winter annuals.

The Area 7 mule deer herd is estimated to have 9,200 individuals and migrates through all three of these project areas each year during their transition from summer range to winter range and back. Collar and survey data has shown that while some individuals will move through these degraded areas, a majority of the herd avoids them, likely because of the lack of forage and cover available (see attached map). This suggests that these animals have changed their migration paths and are expending extra energy during their migration to seek out quality habitat rather than taking the easiest path through these degraded project areas. Similarly, these areas provide limited habitat value for sage grouse due to the complete absence of sagebrush.

Landscape scale efforts like this one are largely driven by the rapid decline of the sagebrush biome. Throughout the Great Basin, these ecosystems are vanishing at a staggering pace, with an estimated 1.3 million acres lost each year. In Nevada, the trend is especially stark—core sagebrush habitat has diminished by nearly 71% since the 1980s, dropping from about 13.5 million acres to just 3.5 million acres of healthy, functioning communities. Safeguarding and restoring what remains is essential to preventing further collapse of this vulnerable ecosystem.

Preemergent herbicides will be used to reduce winter annual grass densities to reduce competition for desirable perennial species and enhance ecological function. The specific chemical used for this project will depend on site conditions at the time of assessment (spring/fall 2026) and whether any follow up revegetation will be required. Indaziflam is the primary preemergent herbicide that will be used on this project where a perennial plant community is coexisting with cheatgrass, but imazapic may also be used in areas that may require additional seeding to reestablish desired perennial species. Drill seeding and/or

chaining will be used where possible to improve seed-soil contact and increase seeding success, and aerial seeding will be used to apply species that prefer surface contact, like sagebrush and kochia, and to apply seed in areas inaccessible to drills or chains.

By implementing this project, the Nevada Department of Wildlife will work in collaboration with the Elko BLM District and various private landowners to restore critical habitat values for wildlife.

4.) Permitting*

Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.

All permitting necessary for the project is complete.

5.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.*

All funds for the project are being sought in 2026 to be able to complete all herbicide and seeding required through 2027, but if acquired funding is not sufficient, Elko BLM Fuels funding, Heritage, Habitat Conservation Fee, and/or additional Dream Tag funds would be pursued.

6.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.*

Brittany Allen, Eastern Region Habitat Biologist

7.) Number of staff positions involved in project.*

Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.

“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.

1

8.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.*

With the nature of this work requiring contracting, no volunteer work is included.

9.) Timeline of Project*

List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.

***Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

Herbicide purchase May 2026
Herbicide application August-September 2026
Seed purchase summer 2027
Seed application fall-winter 2027

10.) What factors will indicate a successful project?*

Project success will be indicated by the restoration of perennial vegetation providing habitat values for wildlife, restoring ecological function, reducing fuel continuity and wildfire risk, and improving the long-term resilience of this landscape.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a match of at least 25 percent for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind
\$475,000.00

Cash

\$475,000.00

For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

No

In-kind

***Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$0.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

AB578 Shared Stewardship Funding: \$200,000 (secured)

Elko BLM Fuels Funding: \$150,000 (incoming summer 2026-summer 2027)

Heritage Funding: \$100,000 (proposal to be submitted Mar. 1, 2026, anticipated award June 2026)

Habitat Conservation Fee: \$25,000 (proposal to be submitted Mar. 1, 2026, anticipated award June 2026)

NDOW Restoration Grant and/or NGO funds to supplement if needed

Attachments

Project Budget*

*Provide detail on line-item expenditures and show which costs are to be paid for by the Dream Tags Charitable Fund grant, which expenses will be paid by other sources of funding, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. **Note: Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent.***

*Grants from the Dream Tags Charitable Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget. **Please contact Lauren Sgandurra, Director of Donor Services at CFNN, at laurens@nevadafund.org for a Sample Budget Template if needed.***

BudgetTable_DT.doc

Supplemental Attachments

Please upload any additional attachments here.

DT_ProjectList_Maps.docx

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- BudgetTable_DT.doc
- DT_ProjectList_Maps.docx

ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET

REIMBURSEMENT REPORT

Budget Item Description*	DT \$	Other Funding Name**	Match \$	Total	REIMBURSEMENT REPORT		
					Expenditures to date DT (cumulative)	Expenditures to date (other sources-cumulative)	Current Request
Design/Engineering							
Permitting							
Labor--paid	\$25,000	AB 578/ /Elko BLM/Heritage/HCF	\$150,000	\$175,000			
Labor--volunteer (\$20/hr)							
Construction							
Materials	\$50,000	AB 578/ /Elko BLM/Heritage/HCF	\$325,000	\$375,000			
Other (be specific)							
Overhead (max 25%)							
TOTAL	\$75,000		\$475,000	\$550,000			

Attachment A: List of Dream Tag projects previously awarded to NDOE

FY13	DT #7	Overland Pass/Big Wash Sage Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project
FY15	DT #36	DT #36 Mud and Upper and Lower Scott Springs Habitat Enhancement Project
FY17	DT #41	Seeds for 2016 Wildfire Habitat Restoration \$100K
FY17	DT #42	2016 Wildfire Habitat Restoration \$125K
FY18	DT #45	2017 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Funds
FY19	DT #58	Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects
FY19	DT #61	Cave Valley Ranch Pinyon and Juniper Removal Project
FY21	DT #67	Emergency Proposal-2020 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
FY21	DT #68	Emergency Proposal-Southern Nevada Guzzler Fill
FY22	DT #72	Emergency Fire Rehab
FY22	DT #73	Nelson Creek Habitat Improvement Project
FY22	DT #74	Whistler Mountain Pinyon Juniper Hand Thinning Project
FY22	DT #75	Douglas Canyon 2021
FY22	DT # 76	DT # 76 Smith Valley 2021
FY22	DT #80	2022 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
FY22	DT #81	Dry Valley Rim and Parsnip Fire Seeding Project
FY23	DT #84	Pole Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement
FY23	DT #86	FY24 Wildcat Fire Mule Deer Migration Corridor Bitterbrush Planting
FY23	DT # 87	DT # 87 2023 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
FY23	DT # 88	DT # 88 Waking Spring Project
FY23	DT #89	Pole Canyon Easement Access (Fence)
FY23	DT #90	Parrado Purchase
FY24	DT # 91	South Schells Land Acquisition
FY24	DT # 97	Sheep Creek Habitat Improvement Project
FY24	DT # 92	2024 Wildfire Habitat Restoration & Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
FY24	DT # 95	Granite Range Mule Deer Habitat Restoration
FY25	DT # 102	Management Area 7 Fence Removal and Modification in Mule Deer Migration Corridors
FY25	DT # 104	North Pequop Mountains & Murdock Mountain Habitat Enhancement
FY25	DT # 107	Area 7 Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat Restoration
FY25	DT # 109	Northwestern Nevada Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration
FY25	DT # 110	Management Area 10 Fence Modification and Removal in Mule Deer Migration Corridors

FY25	DT # 112	Sheep Creek Range Restoration, Phase 2 - Facilitating Succession for Mule Deer Survival
FY25	DT # 113	Eastern Nevada Antelope Collaring Project
FY25	DT # 115	Emergency Proposal - 2025 Drought Management of Water Developments and Bighorn Sheep

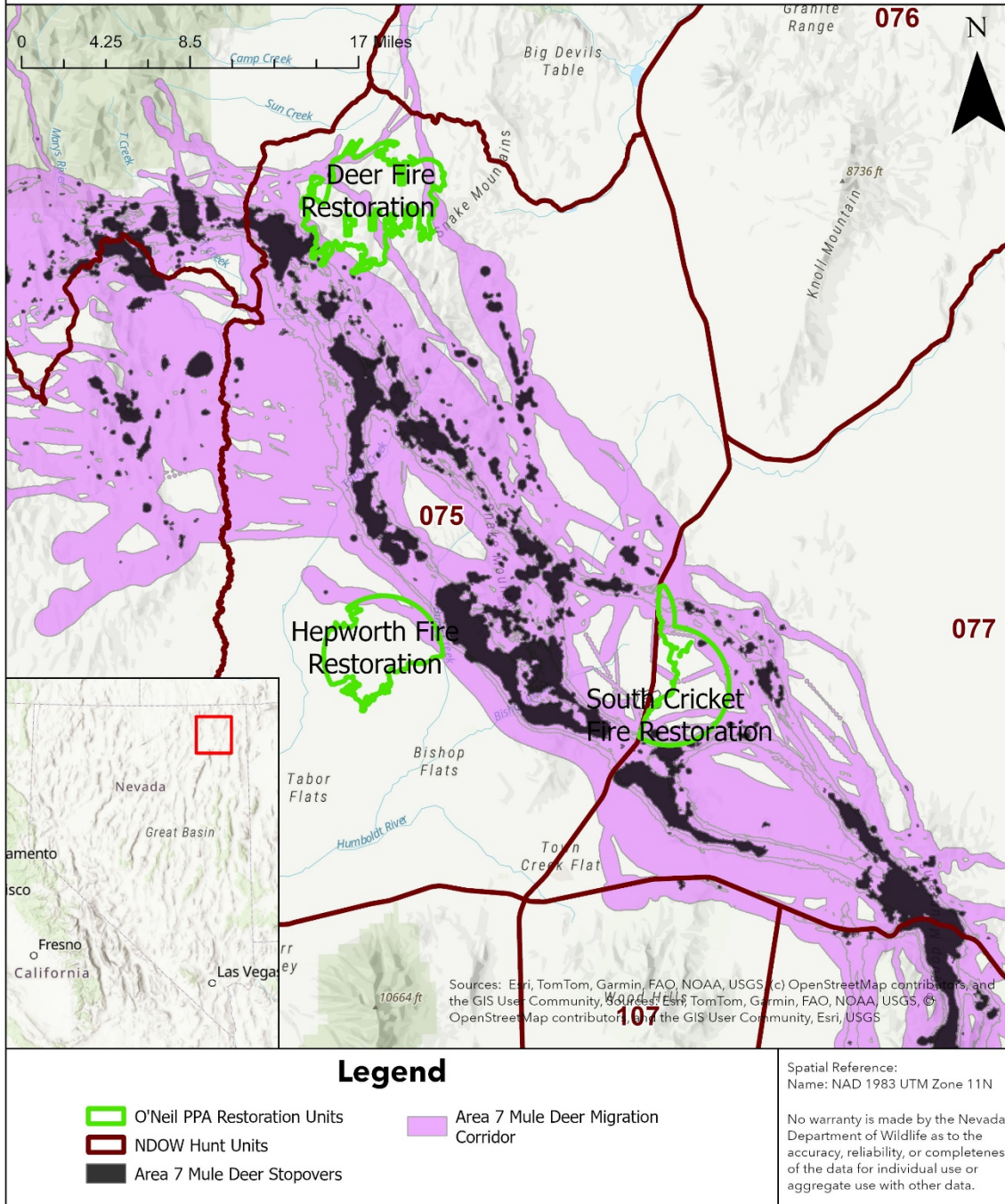
Project Maps

Map 1: Treatment areas and Area 7 mule deer migration corridor

O'Neil PPA EA Sagebrush Habitat Restoration

Author Name: Brittany Allen

Date: 1/29/2026

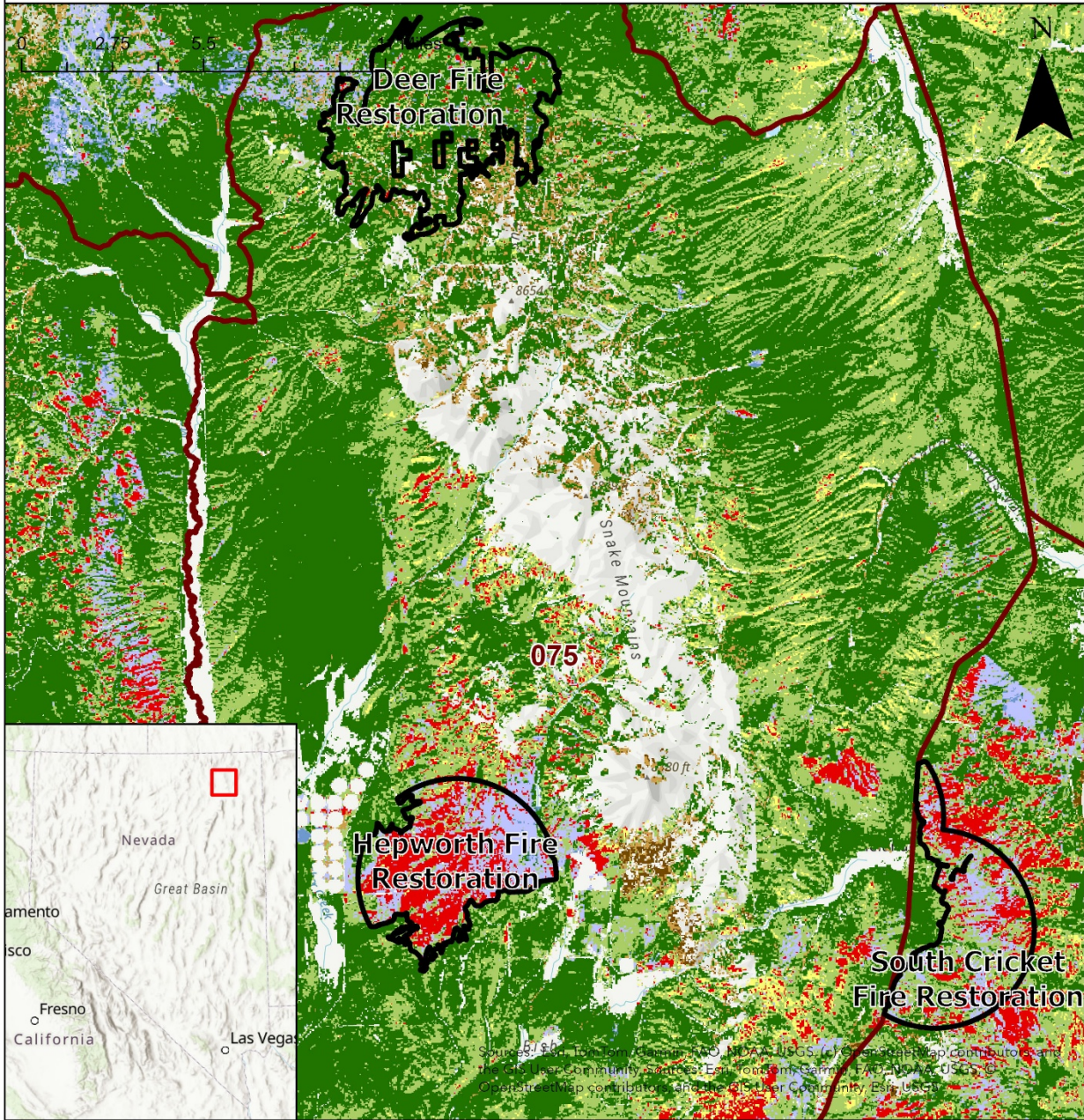


Map 2: Treatment areas and current habitat conditions (“ecostates”).

O'Neil PPA EA Sagebrush Habitat Restoration

Author Name: Brittany Allen

Date: 1/29/2026



Source: SRTM, Topographic, NOAA, NAD 83, USGS, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, Garmin, EA, NOAA, USGS, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, Garmin

Legend

- O'Neil PPA Restoration Units
- NDOW Hunt Units
- Ecostate 2022-2024**
- A: Good condition shrubland
- A-C: Intermediate condition shrubland
- C: Poor condition shrubland
- B: Good condition grassland
- B-D: Intermediate condition grassland
- D: Poor condition grassland
- Tree: low-mid cover
- Tree: high cover

Spatial Reference:
Name: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N

No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.