

DT #124 Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Habitat Enhancement, year 2

Dream Tags Charitable Fund- Spring 2026

Walker Basin Conservancy

Jeff Bryant
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Miguel Gonzales

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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*

Walker Basin Conservancy

Organization Type*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

EIN

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

47-1989228

Director of Organization*

Peter Stanton

Project Contact Name*

Miguel Gonzales

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Stewardship Director

Project Contact Email*

miguel.gonzales@walkerbasin.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

7754639887

Organization Mission*

The Walker Basin Conservancy works to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural, environmental, and recreational interests throughout the Walker Basin.

Project Information

Project Name*

Name of Project.

DT #124 Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Habitat Enhancement, year 2

Amount Requested*

\$25,895.72

Project Start Date*

04/01/2026

Project End Date*

12/31/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Enhance wetland and upland habitats by removing hazardous and obsolete barbed wire fences and treating noxious and invasive weeds at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land

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

No

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.

No

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.

February 04, 2022

#82 Walker Basin Conservancy Seed Orchard to Support Habitat Restoration in Priority Mule Deer Migration Corridors
\$26,320

March 5, 2025

#114 Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Habitat Enhancement
\$25,000

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.

The goals of this project are to remove hazards, reduce invasive weed cover, and improve wetland ponds to protect mule deer and enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA). To achieve this, we are proposing to remove 6,000 feet of barbed wire fence and treat a minimum of 130 of the highest priority acres for invasive White Top, Hoary Cress, and other noxious weeds.

The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area is 17,742 acres of former ranches along the Walker River managed by Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to provide habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for the public. This area provides critical water access and habitat for mule deer, waterfowl,

and other wildlife in one of the driest parts of the state and in an area where otherwise prime habitat is dominated by industrial agriculture. In the spring and summer of 2023 the area was hit with a devastating flood destroying roads, sections of water lines, food plots, agricultural fields, and the flood waters acted as a vortex spreading weed seeds throughout the area. NDOW employees have been working diligently to repair the infrastructure and treat weeds, but still have not fully restored MVWMA to its pre-flood condition. The WMA faced an additional challenge in the years following the flood as NDOW was not able to fill a seasonal Conservation Aid position that usually assisted with invasive weed mitigation and other maintenance tasks.

Accordingly, the noxious and nuisance weed populations on the area have been expanding resulting in further degradation of wildlife habitat. Assistance from Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC) crews in the seasonal control of these noxious weeds will help the MVWMA curtail expansion and overtime reduce the weed population to pre-flood levels, allowing native species to flourish in some of the most critical habitat areas.

The barbed wire fences that were once used to delineate the former privately owned ranches that make up the WMA are in a state of disrepair and pose a hazard to mule deer, other wildlife, bird dogs, and are an annoyance to the sportsmen who utilize the area. MVWMA staff have been working to remove these fences overtime, but the recent lack of seasonal assistance is slowing that process. Additionally, the flooding knocked down several stretches of fence and covered many sections with debris increasing the risk of entanglement and injury to both wildlife and visitors. WBC crews will work with MVWMA staff to prioritize fence removal on the most hazardous and impactful sections of fence. Removal in these areas will reduce the hazard to mule deer, visitors, and other wildlife and facilitate easier access to water resources on the WMA.

The flood also redistributed sediment throughout the area, partially filling some duck ponds and making management of water for the ponds and wetlands difficult and inefficient. NDOW staff have been working on improvements to better facilitate water movement through the WMA and maximize the amount of area they maintain as functioning wetlands. Assistance from WBC with the invasive and fence removal will allow staff to refocus efforts on these wetland improvements. Additionally, the invasive treatments and weed removal will focus on priority areas around and in conjunction with the wetland improvements, compounding impacts by facilitating easier access to the improved wetland areas and reducing weed cover in and around the ponds.

In 2025 Walker Basin Conservancy partnered with Nevada Department of Wildlife and received funding through Dream Tags to begin weed treatment and fence removal. The original project proposal was for two years for treatments funded by the Dream Tags fund, with a third and potentially fourth year funded through other sources as the seed bank decreases. The committee funded the first year of treatment, which was highly successful and resulted nearly double the amount of fence removed, acres surveyed, and acres treated that was planned for the first year of treatment. This year's proposal seeks funding for the originally planned second year of treatment. Moreover, WBC in partnership with NDOW has applied for and received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that will further weed treatment efforts and add 40 acres of restoration on treated lands in 2027. This proposal in conjunction with the additional NFWF funding will have a compounding effect on diminishing the noxious seed bank and replenishing native habitat at the management area.

2.) Describe the project location.*

The project will take place on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area managed by Nevada Department of Wildlife in Mason Valley, Lyon County, NV. The project focus will be on areas in and around priority wetland and riparian habitat.

3.) Project Description*

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

Walker Basin Conservancy will collaborate closely with the MVWMA's Supervisor to identify and prioritize areas for invasive treatment and fence removal that will have the greatest impact on wildlife habitat. WBC identified 235 acres for priority weed treatment in 2025 and treated 140 of those acres. Treatment this area will focus on retreatments of the initial 140 acres as needed and new treatments in the in the remaining 95 acres that did not receive treatment in 2025. WBC crews will utilize herbicide provided by NDOW and manual removal tools to reduce populations of tall whitetop, hoary cress, tamarisk, bull thistle, Canada thistle, and other invasive weed species. By reducing the invasive weeds in the area, desirable native vegetation will be able to reclaim more space and provide enhanced habitat for mule deer and other wildlife on the WMA. WBC Conservation Specialists are licensed pesticide applicators and will be leading seasonal technicians on the invasive treatments. Crews will make use of skid sprayers mounted to a truck, ATV mounted sprayers, and backpack sprayers for chemical application based on what will be most practical and efficient on any given site. The varied terrain on the area ranges from dense stands of shrubs to flooded wetlands, combined with the wide range of target weed population densities makes estimating exact goals of chemical applied difficult. WBC crews expect to re-survey the 235 priority acres identified in 2025 to assess regrowth needing additional treatments and prioritize new acres for this year. We expect to treat a combined 130 acres of new and retreatments in May-June 2026, bringing total treated acres for the project to at least 200 acres.

WBC crews will also work with the WMA's supervisor to identify the next highest priority areas for fence removal. WBC removed more than 9,000 feet of dilapidated fence in 2025. For 2026, we are planning to remove at least another 6,000ft, for a total of 15,000ft removed over the 2-year period. Removal will focus on the most hazardous sections as well as sections where removal connects habitat and facilitates easier access to water resources. Hazard fences will be removed, bundled, and staged at nearby roads by WBC hand crews and disposed of by NDOW staff. Fencing removal will largely coincide with weed treatments for practical efficiency, allowing staff to treat weeds in the morning and transition to fencing removal in the event that wind or temperature prevent safe and effective herbicide application.

While WBC crews are working on weed control and fence removal, NDOW employees will be working on wetland enhancement, hauling and disposing of torn down fence materials, assisting with priority weed treatments, and starting prep work on the NFWF funded native plant reseeding effort. NDOW expects to contribute approximately \$5,000 in herbicide for weed treatment and at least 360 staff hours of labor to the above efforts.

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 work falls within normal operating tasks for the management area and we do not anticipate needing additional permits.

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

The primary purpose of this project is to enhance wildlife habitat in a comprehensive way that neither NDOW nor WBC could typically do independently. This project is a crucial step towards managing weeds and removing wildlife hazards throughout the WMA. This will allow treatments in future year to maintain those priority areas and have a snowballing effect as treatments expand to lower priority sections. NDOW is pursuing additional internal funds, such as duck stamp funding, to continue and expand on the additional phases of this project. WBC and NDOW have already secured \$32,000 from NFWF to support another year of

weed treatments as well as native revegetation in some treated areas in 2027. WBC is continuing to work with NDOW staff to identify and pursue additional external funding opportunities to continue the partnership and expand the treatment and revegetation effort.

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

Name: Miguel Gonzales
 Position: Stewardship Director
 Organization: Walker Basin Conservancy
 Phone: (775) 463-9887 ext. 110
 Email: miguel.gonzales@walkerbasin.org

Name: Isaac Metcalf
 Position: Wildlife Area Supervisor II Habitat
 Organization: Nevada Department of Wildlife, Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area
 Phone: 775-531-8368
 Email: imetcalf@ndow.org

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.

4-8 part-time staff

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

0

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.*

We plan to begin scouting treatment sites in early May of 2026 and begin spray treatments in mid-May through June depending on weather and plant phenology. Once spray treatments begin, we will also start fence removal. If unforeseen circumstances such as flooding or unfavorable weather arise, we will pause our work and take advantage of the fall treatment window in September and October.

The most likely cause of delays on this project are weather related. Windy conditions will cause spray to drift, heat can cause herbicide to volatilize and drift, rain can wash herbicide from plants (rendering the application ineffective), and at temperatures below 50 degrees some of the target species of weeds have much lower

metabolic activity and therefore chemicals will not translocate effectively. We are keeping the option to switch to removal of fence we should be able to stay ahead of our milestones.

April 2026

- Meet with NDOW to reassess sites and reprioritize for the season.

May 11, 2026

- Begin bi-weekly site scouting to assess plant phenology.
- Begin treatment when plant phenology and weather permits.
- Conduct fence removal outside of weed treatment windows.

July 1, 2026

- End spring treatment window, 100 acres will have been treated for weeds.
- 3,000 feet of fence will be removed.

September 14, 2026

- Begin fall season scouting to assess plant phenology.
- Conduct additional spot treatments as needed.
- Continue fence removal outside of weed treatment windows.

October 31, 2026

- End fall treatment window, 235 acres will have been surveyed and 130 acres treated for weeds.
- 6,000 feet of fence will have been removed.

December 2026

- Conduct final project meeting with NDOW.
- Submit final grant report.
- Conclude Dream Tags funded portion of project.

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

Success for fence removal will be 6,000ft of fence removed from priority areas in 2026, leading to the removal of the fence hazard, connection of habitat, and easier access to water resources for wildlife.

Success for weed treatment will be measured in 130 acres treated for invasive weeds in 2026, leading to a reduction in overall weed load that places the priority areas on a trajectory to recovery.

Continued monitoring of the 235 surveyed acres and mapping both treated and non-treated areas where invasive weeds are found will provide the area manager data to better allocate resources for future weed management decisions.

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

\$8,700.00

Cash

\$0.00

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

Yes

In-kind

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

\$8,700.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

NDOW has committed to providing \$8,700 in matching in-kind donations for 2026. The match will be providing various herbicides and surfactants worth \$5,000. Additionally, NDOW will utilize \$3,700 worth of staff labor to assist with treatments and other enhancements in the wetland complex and surrounding areas.

Additionally, WBC received a grant from NFWF for additional \$20,000 towards weed treatments and \$12,000 towards revegetation work at the Mason Valley WMA planned in 2027. This \$32,000 is not included as match here because the funded work will likely not take place until after the period of performance of this Dream Tags grant proposal, but it is part of the larger project efforts at the WMA.

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.***

MVWMA Dream Tags Budget_1.26.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please upload any additional attachments here.

MVWMA Dream Tags_Map+LOS_2026.pdf

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

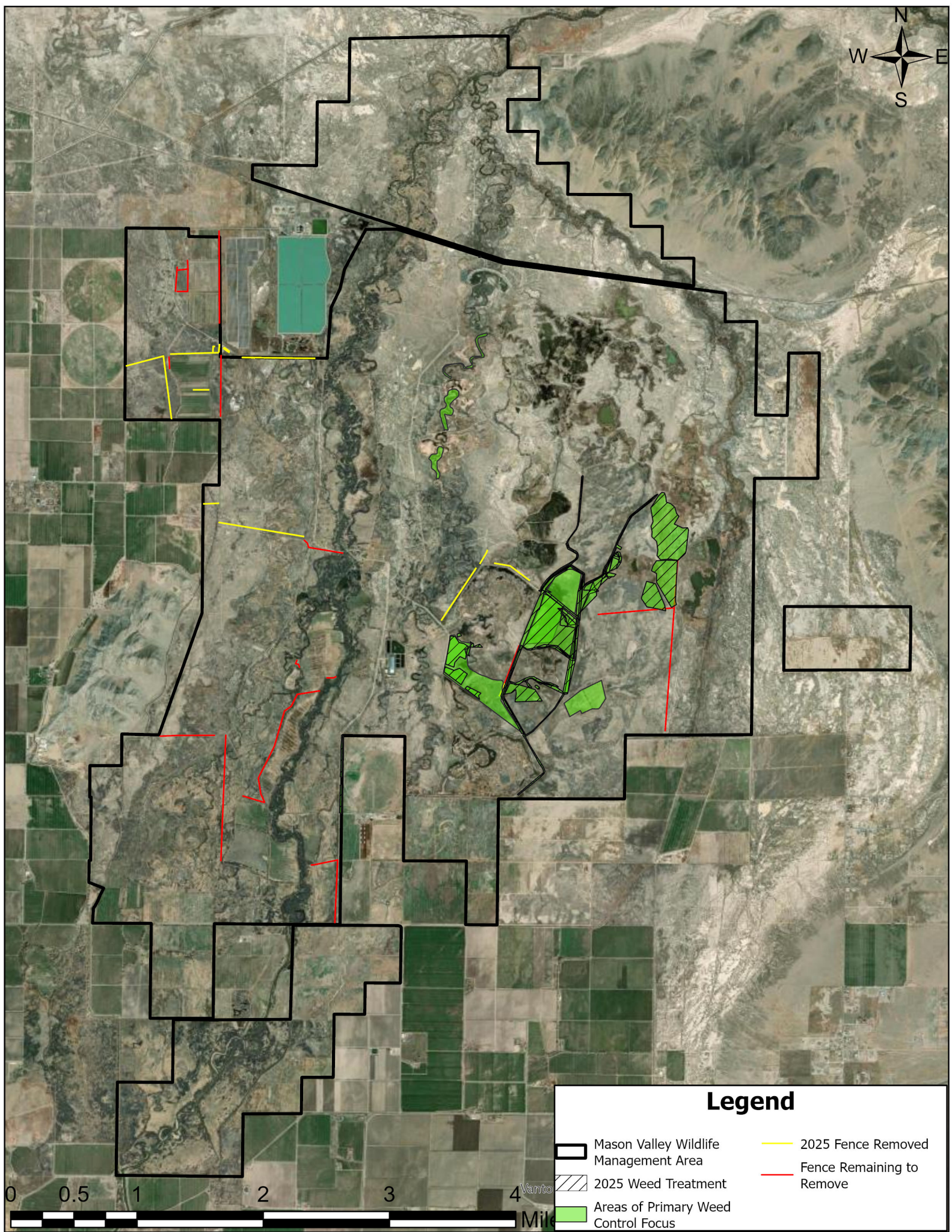
- MVWMA Dream Tags Budget_1.26.pdf
- MVWMA Dream Tags_Map+LOS_2026.pdf

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Habitat Enhancement, 2026




ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET					
Budget Item Description	Dream Tags \$	Other Funding Name	Match \$	Total	Expended
Labor--paid					
Seasonal Tech	\$ 10,530.00			\$ 10,530.00	\$ -
Staff Specialist	\$ 5,369.00	MVWMA in-kind	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 9,069.00	\$ -
Stewardship Director	\$ 2,288.00			\$ 2,288.00	\$ -
Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,319.82	MVWMA in-kind	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,319.82	\$ -
Mileage	\$ 1,008.00			\$ 1,008.00	\$ -
ATV and Sprayer x2	\$ 2,003.20			\$ 2,003.20	\$ -
Overhead (15%)	\$ 3,377.70			\$ 3,377.70	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 25,895.72		\$ 8,700.00	\$ 34,595.72	\$ -

75%

25.15%



Legend

-  Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area
-  2025 Weed Treatment
-  Areas of Primary Weed Control Focus
-  2025 Fence Removed
-  Fence Remaining to Remove





Greetings members of the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada,

I, Robert Biggs, am the Chairmen for the Mason Valley Ducks Unlimited chapter. I am pleased to inform you that the Mason Valley Ducks Unlimited chapter fully supports Walker Basin Conservancy's 2026 Dream Tags grant proposal. Our mission is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands associated with waterfowl habitat. I can personally attest that the wetlands of our region are among the most precious yet scarce ecosystems in the state. Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area is indeed a site in need of further enhancement. It is axiomatic that the flooding from 2022 has adversely affected the quality of habitat at the management area. While in 2022 the excess water certainly provided a banner year of habitat for waterfowl, the long-term effects of weeds spread through flood waters that are degrading habitat is concerning and warrant immediate action. The progress made by NDOW and WBC in 2025 was spectacular in terms of habitat improvement. However, when mitigating perennial herbaceous weeds, it is very typical to treat sites at least two years in a row to deplete the seed bank. Moreover, while WBC more than doubled the proposed project goals set forth in their 2025 grant request, the vast size of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area still has miles of hazardous barbed wire fences that need to be removed, hundreds of acres of marshes that could greatly benefit from this proposal.

The collaboration between Walker Basin Conservancy and Nevada Department of Wildlife has yielded the pragmatic grant proposal you are reviewing. By utilizing the Conservancy's crew to deal with the weed abatement and fence removal needs of the area, NDOW will be able to utilize their staff's time to operate equipment to improve water efficiency, wetland habitat throughout the project area, and plant food plots to benefit the areas wildlife. By accomplishing these complementary tasks, the area will see immediate benefits for mule deer and waterfowl as well as long-term resiliency for the management area.

I thank you for your sincere consideration of Walker Basin Conservancy's proposal and look forward to seeing further wildlife habitat improvements in Mason Valley.

Sincerely,

Robert Biggs

Chairman

Ducks Unlimited, Mason Valley Chapter

January 23, 2026

Grant Review Committee
Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
Dream Tags Charitable Fund – Spring 2026

Subject: Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Habitat Enhancement Project

To Dream Tags Fund Review Team,

I am writing today in support of the Walker Basin Conservancy's (WBC) proposal for the second year of wetland and upland habitat enhancement at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA). The proposed project will enhance wildlife and game habitat by reducing invasive weeds, increasing native vegetation, and removing hazards. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has committed to providing \$14,000 of in-kind match for the project in the form of herbicide, technical assistance, and project labor.

The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area provides habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for the public. A devastating flood in 2023 destroyed roads, damaged wetlands and ponds, flooded fields, and spreads invasive plants seeds throughout the flood zone. The noxious weed populations in the management area have drastically increased since the flood, infesting ponds and wetland areas and degrading wildlife habitat. Additionally, many barbed wire fences that once delineated former ag field boundaries are now in a state of disrepair and pose a hazard to mule deer and other wildlife and are an annoyance to the sportsmen who utilize the area. MVWMA is committed to working with the WBC to identify priority areas for invasive treatment and fence removal around the impacted wetlands and ponds.

This proposal is for the second year of project work originally proposed in 2025. The first year of work was highly successful and we hope to continue progress for the second year of treatment. MVWMA has also partnered with WBC on a pollinator habitat restoration grant that will leverage another \$20,000 in outside funding for additional weed treatments and revegetation efforts at the management area, further enhance this project. Reducing the invasive weeds and removing the fence hazards from these critical areas alongside the pond enhancements will help restore resilient habitat for mule deer, waterfowl, and other wildlife. Thank you for your consideration and support for the better management of wildlife.

Sincerely,



Isaac Metcalf
Wildlife Area Supervisor II Western WMA Complex
Nevada Department of Wildlife