

MOORE FFR 0606

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW and RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

2013 Supplement to the Moore FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment

The Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Moore FFR allotment was drafted in 2006 as a portion of the grazing permit renewal process. Until 2013, no rangeland health determination was completed and the permit authorizing grazing use in this allotment has not been fully processed for renewal. The current document consists of the 2006 RHA, in full, supplemented by new information available since the 2006 document was completed. Portions of this 2013 document that supplement the 2006 document are presented in this two-field table format with the header above, while those portions carried forward unchanged from the 2006 document are outside the two-field tables. The 2013 supplement to the document includes data compiled between 2006 and 2013, as well as the completion of the 2013 evaluation report and determination consistent with the Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal Desk Guide for Idaho Bureau of Land Management, May 2009. The 2013 determination can be found at the end of this document.

Field Office: **Owyhee**

Date: **December 2006**

1. Allotment Name/Number: **Moore FFR - 0606**
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: **Craig A. and Georgene Moore - 1101382**
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): **2/28/2013**
4. Allotment Acres: Public land: **326** Private **500** State **24** Other **None**
5. Percent public land in the allotment: **38**
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both?
The allotment is located at the edge where a large block of private land meets a block of public land. The public land in the allotment is part of a larger block outside of the allotment boundary.
7. Is the public land fenced separately from the private land? **No**
8. Is any public land within the allotment identified for exchange/disposal in the land use plan?
YES Percent of Allotment **100**. If yes, has two year notification been sent? **No**
9. Does BLM have administrative access separate from the grazing permit/lease? **No**
10. Does public have legal access to the allotment? **No**
11. Is the public land physically isolated from the adjoining public land?
The public land is isolated by allotment boundary fences.
12. What is the livestock grazing management category (M, I, or C)? **C**

13. List all Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives and decisions (consider resource list for No. 14, objectives and decisions in the LUP), other grazing decisions, and other NEPA Documents pertaining to the allotment:

Owyhee RMP (December 30, 1999) and Proposed Owyhee RMP and EIS (July 1999) - See Land Use Plan Review.

Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997) - see guidelines 1-20 below

14. Check the Standards, Guidelines and Resources that are applicable to this allotment. Following ID Team disclosure of information and data (monitoring data, studies, inventories, etc., information from other agencies, local governments, and the public) and the ensuing discussions, briefly describe in the comment section any issues with supporting information. This information will be used to determine if existing data is adequate, or if more information is needed to determine compliance with the Idaho Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Standard,	Applicable	Comments
Watershed (Standard 1)	X	In 2001, one Rangeland Health Evaluation was completed for this allotment. Overall, the indicators relating to watershed function showed a “None to Slight” departure from reference condition. Based on this evaluation, the watershed appears to provide for proper infiltration, retention and release of water appropriate to soil type. The amount of bare ground and litter movement were appropriate for site stability. At the evaluation location the soil surface had good organic matter with no surface crusting. The only water flow patterns were observed on sideslopes associated with trails. There were no gullies, deposition areas, or litter movement observed. Some pedestals were observed in interspaces but were rare in loamy soils. This site is as near to reference sites conditions.
Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)	X	Josephine Creek (0.2 mi) (JOS-005 FAR mid/high 10/2000) Intermittent stream 30-40 percent with surface water. The 0.2 mile segment was inventoried as part of a larger segment of the stream in October of 2000. The riparian vegetation was in moderate condition. On portions of the segment, the vegetation was controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks, and shading water areas. Portions of the segment had riparian vegetation with deep strong binding roots sufficient to stabilize streambanks. Invader and shallow rooted species were a minor component of the floodplain. Willows were present but had less density than expected. In October 2000 stubble height was 6 inches, young shrubs 50% and mature shrubs 25-50% utilization. Noxious weeds were not identified.

Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)	X	Josephine Creek (0.2 mi) (JOS-005 FAR mid/high 10/2000) Intermittent stream 30-40 percent surface water. The 0.2 mile segment was inventoried as part of a larger segment of the stream. The riparian vegetation was in moderate condition and had appropriate riparian-wetland species at some locations. Willows density was less than expected. The stream channel was not entrenching. Stream width, width/depth ratio, gradient, and sinuosity were appropriate on portions of the segment. The stream had access to the floodplain. There was little evidence of excessive soil compaction due to human activities. Streambanks are within an appropriate range of stability. Noxious weeds were not identified.
Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)	X	<p>In 2001, one Rangeland Health Evaluation was completed for this allotment. Overall, the indicators relating to native plant communities showed a “None to Slight” departure from reference condition. At the evaluation site the native plant community was supporting proper functioning of ecological processes (i.e., energy and nutrient cycling). Plant vigor and seedstalk production of perennial species was adequate to enable reproduction and recruitment of plants in response to favorable climatic events. There was adequate litter and vegetation cover present for site protection relative to site potential. Although annual production was within 80 percent of potential, a considerable amount of this production is from shrubs.</p> <p>Juniper, rabbitbrush and cheatgrass are common throughout the area. This site is as near to reference sites as it gets.</p> <p>Actual Use Reports submitted by the grazing permittee exist from 1990-1992, 1994, 2001, 2005, and 2006. In 1990 – 23 cattle from 6/8 to 10/31 consumed 225 AUMs. 1991 – 42 cattle from 6/3 to 11/2 consumed 207 AUMs (staggered turnout during this year). 1992 – 40 cattle from 6/13 to 11/1 consumed 187 AUMs. 1994 – 26 cattle from 6/3 to 11/7 consumed 248 AUMs. 2001 – 39 cattle from 6/2 to 10/30 consumed 196 AUMs. 2005 – 44 cattle from 6/1 to 11/5 consumed 229 AUMs. 2006 – 43 cattle from 6/1 to 11/1 consumed 218 AUMs.</p> <p>There is no utilization data or trend information for this allotment.</p>
Seedings (Standard 5)		NA
Exotic Plant Communities (Standard 6)		NA
Water Quality (Standard 7)	X	Josephine Creek flows through 0.2-miles of public land within the Moore FFR allotment which has not been assessed or assigned beneficial uses for water quality standards or listed pollutants. There was a BURP assessment on Josephine Creek near the confluence with Rock Creek. At that point in 2003, the water temperature met criteria for cold-water aquatic life. Activities affecting the reach were identified as grazing, recreation and roads. The Josephine Creek riparian assessment in 2000 rated the segment as Functional-At-Risk mid/high. No noxious weeds.

Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)	X	<p>The 0.2-miles of assessed stream riparian habitat in this allotment are Functioning-At Risk mid/high. Structural diversity, composition and vigor of hydric vegetation are partially lacking in this stream reach, resulting in habitats that were generally not adequate to provide for the needs for dependant special status animals.</p> <p>The allotment was at or near reference conditions in the uplands. Abundance and diversity of grasses, forbs and shrubs were generally as expected for the site. They are providing habitat that was adequate for the needs of most dependant special status and other wildlife species. Increased shrub densities and scattered juniper encroachment has contributed to minor reduction in grasses.</p> <p>The allotment has unclassified habitat but could be considered as possessing suitable sage grouse habitat. No lek surveys or other sage grouse data exists for this allotment.</p> <p>This allotment is within elk and mule deer spring/summer/fall ranges. As previously mentioned, it appears that resource conditions are providing for adequate big game habitat.</p> <p>Redband trout occupy Josephine Creek, but inventories have not been completed to verify their presence in this allotment. The 1999 Owyhee RMP Table RIPN-1 lists 0.21 miles of Josephine Creek located in this allotment as having unsatisfactory fish habitat. Water temperature meets cold-water aquatic life temperature criteria.</p> <p>Botany -No federally listed plant species are known to occur in this allotment, although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considers all of Idaho to be within the potential range of Ute ladies'-tresses (<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>), a federally threatened orchid species (USFWS 2002). No BLM special status plants are known to occur within this allotment.</p>
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Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
1	Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote significant progress toward adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage and stabilize soils.	Adequate data exists; and grazing practices appear to be adequate to maintain current soil, plant health, and infiltration conditions at the site evaluated.
2	Locate livestock management facilities away from riparian areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland functions	NA
3	Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote soil conditions that support water infiltration, plant vigor, and permeability rates and minimize soil compaction appropriate to site potential.	See Number 1, above.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
4	Implement grazing management practices that provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient regrowth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions, including good plant vigor and adequate vegetative cover appropriate to site potential.	See Number 1, above. Implementation of rest or deferment would require fencing across private lands entirely. Due to the fact that livestock use is determined by how private lands are used, BLM has no control over making management changes in this allotment.
5	Maintain or promote grazing management practices that provide sufficient residual vegetation to improve, restore, or maintain healthy riparian-wetland functions and structure for energy dissipation, sediment capture, ground water recharge, streambank stability, and wildlife habitat appropriate to site potential.	See Standards 2 and 8, above. Adequate data exists. It appears that current grazing management practices in this allotment are maintaining riparian areas however, they are not providing for improvements.
6	The development of springs, seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural and historical/ archaeological/ paleontological values associated with the water source.	NA
7	Apply grazing management practices to maintain, promote, or progress toward appropriate stream channel and streambank morphology and functions. Adverse impacts due to livestock grazing will be addressed.	See Standard 3, above.
8	Apply grazing management practices that maintain or promote the interaction of the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow that will support the appropriate types and amounts of soil organisms, plants and animals appropriate to soil type, climate and landform.	See Number 1, above
9	Apply grazing management practices to maintain adequate plant vigor for seed production, seed dispersal, and seedling survival of desired species relative to soil type, climate and landform.	See Numbers 1, above
10	Implement grazing management practices and/or facilities that provide for complying with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.	See Standard 7, above.
11	Use grazing management practices developed in recovery plans, conservation agreements, and Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultations to maintain or improve habitat for federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals.	See discussions under Standard 8 and Number 1 (above).
12	Apply grazing management practices and/or facilities that maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native plant populations and wildlife habitats in native plant communities.	See discussions under Standard 8 and Number 1 (above).
13	On areas seeded predominantly with non-native plants, use grazing management practices to maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions to achieve healthy rangelands.	NA
14	Where native communities exist, the conversion to exotic communities after disturbance will be minimized.	See Number 1, above.
15	Use non-native plant species for rehabilitation only in those situations where: a) native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities, b) native plant species cannot maintain or achieve the standards or c) non-native plant species provide for management and protection of native rangelands Include a diversity of appropriate grasses, forbs, and shrubs in rehabilitation efforts.	NA

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
16	On burned areas, allow natural regeneration when it is determined that populations of native perennial shrubs, grasses, and forbs are sufficient to re-vegetated the site. Rest burned or rehabilitated areas to allow recovery or establishment of perennial plant species.	NA
17	Carefully consider the effects of new management facilities (e.g., water developments, fences) on healthy and properly functioning rangelands prior to implementation.	NA
18	Use grazing management practices, where feasible for wildfire control, and to reduce the spread of targeted undesirable plants (e.g., cheatgrass, medusahead wildrye, and noxious weeds) while enhancing vigor and abundance of desirable native or seeded species.	NA
19	Employ grazing management practices that promote natural forest regeneration and protect reforestation projects until the Idaho Forest Practices Act requirements for timber stand replacement are met.	NA
20	Design management fences to minimize adverse impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, to maintain habitat integrity and connectivity for native plants and animals.	NA

Land Use Plan Review		
Livestock Grazing	X	<p>This allotment is identified as a "Custodial" category allotment in the 1999 Owyhee RMP. Custodial category allotments are also referred to as Fenced Federal Range (FFR) allotments. Generally, these allotments include less than 50% public lands intermingled with unfenced private and State lands. Livestock grazing is generally authorized as season long (3/1 - 2/28) and at the grazing permittee's discretion, as long as grazing management guidelines are adhered to.</p> <p>Active Permitted Use – 48 AUMs</p> <p>LVST 1: Provide for sustained level of livestock use compatible with meeting other resource objectives. VEGE 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory vegetation health/condition on all areas. SOIL 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas. SOIL 2: Achieve stabilization of current, and prevent the potential for future, localized accelerated soil erosion problems (particularly on streambanks, roads, and trails).</p>
Botanical	X	SPSS1: Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is not longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
Cultural	X	There are no recorded sites within the allotment boundaries.
Fire, Fuel		NA
Fisheries	X	FISH 1-Improve or maintain perennial stream/riparian areas to attain satisfactory conditions to support native fish.
Forestry		NA
Land		Under Objective LAND 2 of the Owyhee RMP these lands are in Zone 3 and may be made available for potential disposal.
Minerals		NA
Recreation		NA

Special Status Species	X	SPSS1: Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is not longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
Wild Horses		NA
Wildlife	X	WLDF1: Maintain or enhance the condition, abundance, structural stage and distribution of plant communities and special habitat features required to support a high diversity and desired populations of wildlife.
Water Quality	X	WATR 1-meet or exceed State of Idaho water quality standards
Riparian	X	RIPN 1-maintain or improve riparian-wetland areas to attain proper functioning and satisfactory conditions.
Soils/Watershed	X	SOIL 1-Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas.

15. Describe BLM’s ability or inability to manage the allotment by considering the following, as applicable: Whether or not there is legal access; whether percent of public land comprises the majority of the allotment; whether the public land acreage is small (less than 640 acres) and surrounded by private land (isolated); whether the federal land is fenced separate from the private land; etc.

The BLM has no legal access to this allotment. Public land is relatively small, only 326 acres and represents 38 percent of the allotment. The public land acres are found in 3 parcels that are separated by allotment boundary fences and private lands within the allotment. One hundred percent of the public lands are available for disposal.

BLM is unable to manage this allotment due to its limited land ownership, a lack of separation from private lands, and a lack of access. The actions on the private lands determine how the allotment is used and managed.

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Although the total acreage of public land and the percent public land may be minimal in this allotment, public and/or administrative access may be limited, and absence of high-value resources may lead to the categorization of this allotment with a low priority for management attention, the BLM’s obligation is to manage public lands.

Based on the information above the following is recommended to the field manager: (check the appropriate category)

1. ___ Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issue. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. (see numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 15 above). **This is the RHA. Complete the Evaluation/Determination Form.**
2. X Review of available information indicates that grazing or other issues are known to exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management (see numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 15 above). Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. **This is the RHA for this allotment. Complete the Evaluation/Determination form and consider the public land for disposal.**

3. ____ Review of existing information indicates the physical characteristics (e.g., slope, rock, location on the landscape, and lack of livestock forage) of the tract deter livestock grazing use on the public land. **Consider not issuing a new livestock grazing permit or lease. Further documentation is not recommended.**

4. ____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) may or may not exist. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). **Available information is adequate to complete the RHA. Complete RHA and the evaluation/determination.**

5. ____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) exists. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). More information is needed to determine current conditions. **Gather additional information and data. Complete the RHA and evaluation/determination.**

List the names and title of the member of the ID team involved with this review:

Name	Title
Jake Vialpando	Supervisory Rangeland Management Spec.
Bruce Zoellick	Fisheries Biologist
John Doremus	Wildlife Biologist
Kathi Kershaw	Natural Resource Specialist
Mike Mathis (retired)	Wildlife Biologist
Dianna Sampson	GIS Specialist
Brian McCabe	Archaeologist
Kelley Moore	Lands/Realty
Zig Napkora	Hydrologist
Pam Druliner	Fisheries
Pat Kane	Weeds/Range
Ryan Homan	Recreation Specialist
Paul Seronko	Environmental Protection Specialist/Soils

Prepared by: Ecosystem Management Inc., Contractor November 2006

Modified by: Jake Vialpando – Team Lead **Date:** December 16, 2006

Field Manager’s Finding and Rationale:

Field visits completed in 2001 indicate that healthy, productive, and diverse plant communities are being maintained as they are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform to provide for nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow on public lands in this allotment. Based on the monitoring information available, current livestock grazing management in the Moore FFR Allotment is adequate for maintenance of current conditions.

This allotment includes only 38% Federal land (326 BLM, and 500 Private) and 100% of these lands are identified for disposal in the 1999 ORMP. Livestock grazing is authorized as season long (3/1-2/28) and at the grazing permittee’s discretion, as long as, grazing management

guidelines are adhered to. BLM does not have the ability to appropriately manage this grazing allotment and its associated public land acreage.

Therefore, it is my conclusion to: (1) accept the above mentioned recommendation from the ID Team that there are livestock grazing or other issues known to exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management; (2) conclude that the available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination; (3) accept this Initial Allotment Review as the Rangeland Health Assessment; and (4), move forward and complete the Evaluation and Determination for this allotment.

Field Manager

Date

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List of reviewers (2013)

Name	Title
Jake Vialpando	Project Manager
Bonnie Claridge	Fisheries Biologist
Jason Sutter	Wildlife Biologist
Jayson Murgoitio	GIS Specialist
Brian McCabe	Archaeologist
Steve Christensen	Range Management Specialist
Ryan Homan	Recreation Specialist
Gina Rone	Soils
Susan Filkins	Botanist
Jessica Gottlieb	Writer/Editor

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Additional information used by the 2013 team available since the 2006 Moore FFR allotment IAR was drafted include the following:

Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock use in the Moore FFR allotment is authorized for 48 animal unit months (AUMs) active use annually through a term grazing permit, currently issued to Craig and Georgene Moore. The permit authorizes cattle grazing on the Moore FFR allotment in accordance with mandatory terms and conditions as presented in Table ALLOT-1.

Table ALLOT-1: Terms and Conditions of permitted livestock use

Operator Name & No.	Livestock Kind & No.	Season of Use	Public Land	AUMs		
				Active	Suspended	Permitted
Craig and Georgene Moore (1101382)	47 Cattle	12/1-12/31	100 %	48	0	48

The permit includes a term and condition allowing the number of cattle and the season of use to be determined at the permittees' discretion concurrent with grazing management scheduled for the private land fenced in conjunction with public land in the Moore FFR allotment.

Actual use records for the Moore FFR allotment provided by the permittee, including use from public, private, and state lands, are presented in Table LVST-1.

Table LVST-1: Moore FFR allotment actual use

Year	Date	AUMs
2012	6/11-10/30	205
2011	6/10-11/7	219
2010	6/15-11/7	206
2009	6/1-11/3	210
2008	6/5-11/5	223
2007	6/1-11/1	218
2006	6/1-11/1	218
2005	6/1-11/5	229

Recorded utilization in the Moore FFR allotment is limited to 28 percent documented in 2012 on bluebunch wheatgrass.

Riparian

Approximately 0.25 mile of Josephine Creek traverses BLM lands in the Moore FFR allotment. Where the stream enters the BLM portion of the allotment, it supports a large wet meadow area, and at the FFR fenced allotment boundary, the stream becomes more of a defined channel. The reach was assessed as a lotic system and was functioning-at-risk (FAR) in 2013 because there was shearing of the riparian soil that is leading to the drying of the riparian zone and the encroachment of upland species. The channel is incised and erosion is occurring; however, the gradient is low and the flow has low energy. Thus, currently the vegetation present could protect the stream banks and channel against the low flows. However, the stream is vulnerable to high flows and would lose the vegetation component and riparian soil if a high flow event occurred.

Botany

No populations of special status plant species are known to occur in this allotment. There is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that may occur in this allotment. Records show no reported special status plants in this allotment for this reason this standard is not applicable.

Information sources

Elemental Occurrences (EOs) for special status plant (SSP) populations are recorded in the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS) Species Diversity database (IDFG, 2011). EOs are derived by completion and review of Idaho Rare Plant Observation Report through the Idaho Natural Heritage Program. Other sources that were used to assess and evaluate the composition and condition of SSP habitats within the Moore FFR allotment include RHAs, photographs, field notes, Plants database (USDA NRCS, 2013), literature search, and information summarized above in Standards in this document. Records show no reported special status plants in this allotment.

Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

The 2006 RHA erroneously included PFC information that was collected along Josephine Creek in the Long Valley allotment (0502) downstream of the Moore FFR allotment (see above); therefore, the information provided previously is not relevant to the Moore FFR allotment.

A PFC assessment was conducted along 0.25 miles of Josephine Creek within the allotment in 2013; the reach was assessed as FAR (see above in amendment box). Soil shearing was noted as contributing to drying of the riparian area and the subsequent encroachment of upland species into the riparian zone. Structural diversity, composition, and vigor of hydric vegetation are partially lacking in FAR reaches and result in less-than-adequate habitat conditions for dependent special status animals and other wildlife species. Woody riparian habitat that provides nesting and foraging substrate and cover for migratory birds and other dependent wildlife species is absent on BLM lands, although the potential for this habitat type exists, as evidenced by its occurrence upstream on private lands. FAR reaches also lack adequate herbaceous hydric vegetation cover to protect banks and dissipate energy leaving these habitats vulnerable during high flow events.

Although surveys have not been conducted within the allotment, spotted frogs have been detected within the Josephine Creek sub-watershed (6th HUC) and within Josephine Creek 2 miles downstream of the Moore FFR allotment.

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Evaluation Findings and Determination

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Watersheds provide for the proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).

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Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Watershed indicators show very little departure from expected conditions. Although the allotment is labeled as at risk for juniper encroachment that, over time, can alter soil stability and

hydrologic function, the existing plant community and soil conditions remain adequate to provide for proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Current livestock management is compatible with attainment of Standard 1 for the Moore FFR allotment.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).
5

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Approximately 0.25 mile of Josephine Creek traverses BLM lands in the Moore FFR allotment. The reach was assessed as a lotic system and was FAR in 2013 because there was shearing of the riparian soil that is leading to the drying of the riparian zone and the encroachment of upland species. Additionally, the channel is incised and erosion is occurring.

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Stream channels and floodplains are properly functioning relative to the geomorphology (e.g., gradient, size shape, roughness, confinement, and sinuosity) and climate to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).

7

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Approximately 0.25 mile of Josephine Creek traverses BLM lands in the Moore FFR allotment. The reach was assessed as a lotic system and was FAR in 2013 because there was shearing of the riparian soil that is leading to the drying of the riparian zone and the encroachment of upland species. Additionally, the channel is incised and erosion is occurring.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants are maintained or promoted as appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors (*altered fire regimes; juniper*)

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). ____

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Standard 4 is not met in the Moore FFR allotment. One RHA was completed in 2001 and concluded that the biotic integrity of the site departed in the none-to-slight category from reference site conditions. The indicator for invasive plants identified the presence of juniper. As noted from photos accompanying that assessment and 2011 NAIP imagery, juniper dominates most public land portions of the allotment. Ecological site descriptions for the Loamy 13-16" ARTRV/PSSP-FEID site identify juniper as an invasive species that when dominant, results in a new state requiring management inputs to restore ecological function of the reference site mountain big sagebrush/bunchgrass state. Juniper dominance of the public land portions of the allotment lead to a finding that Standard 4 is not met due to altered fire regimes.

Standard 5 (Rangeland Seeding)

This standard does not apply in this allotment.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities)

This standard does not apply in this allotment

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Surface and ground water on public lands comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). ___

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Current IDEQ information identifies that none of the streams on BLM lands within the Moore FFR allotment have been assessed. Therefore, although short reaches of stream are present, Standard 7 is not applicable in the allotment.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Habitats are suitable to maintain viable populations of threatened and endangered, sensitive, and other special status species.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward meeting
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). 5, 8, 12

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination**Botany**

No populations of special status plant species are known to occur in the Moore FFR allotment. There is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that may occur in this allotment. For this reason, this standard is not applicable.

Wildlife

Overall, Standard 8 for wildlife is not being met in the Moore FFR allotment. Upland and riparian habitats are not providing adequate conditions for many shrub-obligate and riparian dependent species. Upland habitats are not meeting Standard 8, primarily due to the conversion

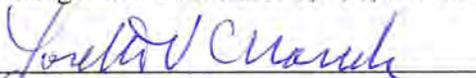
of shrub steppe habitat types to woodland/forest habitat types. The increase in woodland habitats in ecological sites where juniper is considered an invasive species and a minor habitat component, at most, comes at the expense of shrub steppe habitats, which are the reference state plant communities and condition for the ecological sites that predominate within the allotment. Although an increase in juniper woodlands in the allotment provides novel habitat for special status species such as flammulated owl, Lewis' woodpecker, and Williamson's sapsucker, a loss of shrub steppe vegetation communities results in a deficiency of adequate habitat for sagebrush-obligate and shrub-dependent special status wildlife species including sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, and loggerhead shrike.

Riparian habitat (Josephine Creek) within the allotment is not in proper functioning condition (see Standard 2). The reach of Josephine Creek on BLM lands is not providing adequate breeding and foraging conditions for many dependent wildlife species due to a lack of structural diversity, channel incision and erosion, and de-watering of the riparian zone due to soil shearing. These factors result in less than suitable habitat for a diversity of species including migratory birds, redband trout, and Columbia spotted frogs. Current livestock grazing management practices are the causal factor for not meeting Standard 8 wildlife in riparian habitats.

In addition, because the condition, abundance, structural stage, and distribution of plant communities required for diverse and desired wildlife populations are not maintained or enhanced, and because special status species habitats are inadequate to increase or maintain populations so as to preclude an impetus for listing (for sagebrush- and shrub-obligates and -dependent species, in particular), these major ecological site alterations from their reference states discussed above do not conform with ORMP objectives WDLF-1 and SPSS-1.

Determination

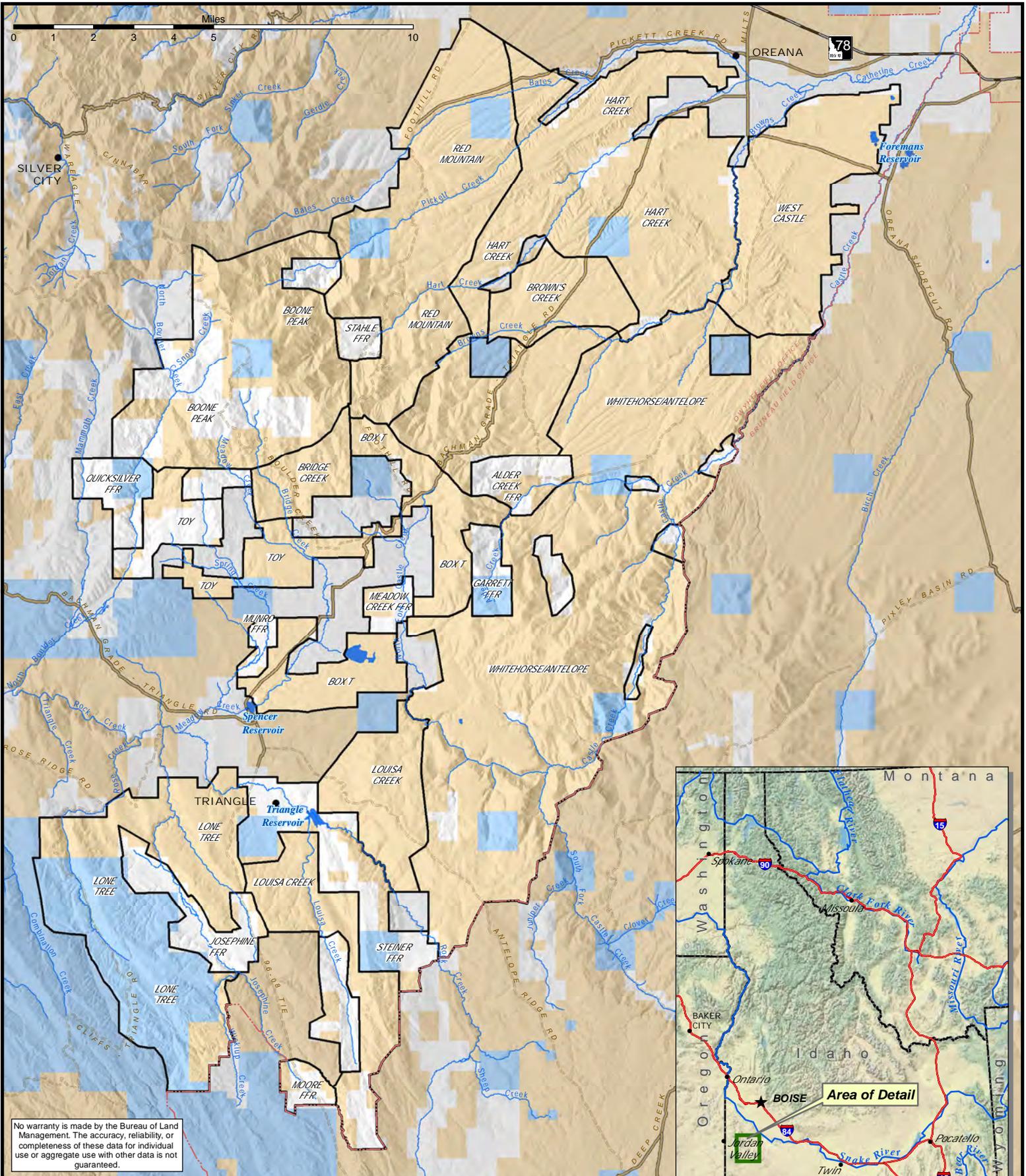
I have determined that Standards 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health is not being met in the Moore FFR Allotment, whereas Standard 1 is met and Standards 5, 6 and 7 are not applicable to resources present within the allotment. Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors in not meeting Standards 2, 3, and 8, whereas current livestock management practices are not significant factors in not meeting Standard 4. Current livestock management practices do not conform with the applicable Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines 5, 7, 8, and 12 for the Standards not met.


Field Manager
Owyhee Field Office

10/21/13
Date



GEN-1, Toy Mountain Allotments Overview

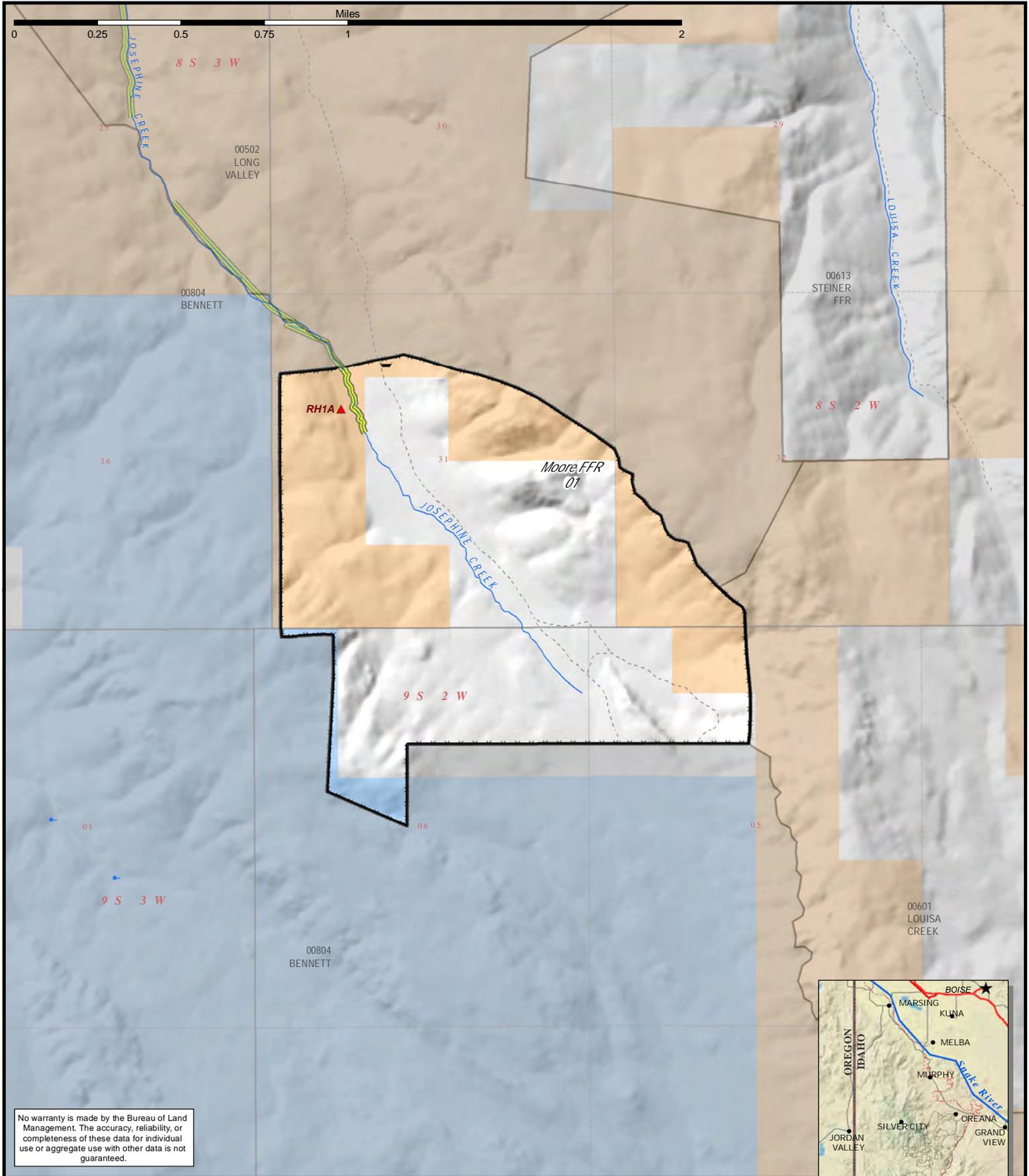


- Legend**
- Allotment Boundary
 - ~ Perennial Stream
 - BLM Field Office Boundary
 - Highway
 - Lake/Reservoir
 - ~ Improved Road
 - Town/City
 - Unimproved Road

- Surface Management Agency**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Private
 - State



RNGE-1: Moore FFR (00606), Range and Riparian Overview



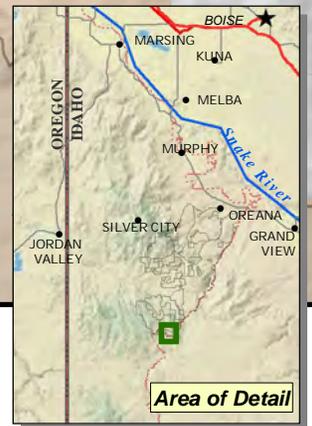
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Nested Plot Frequency Trend
- Rangeland Health Assessment Point
- Allotment of Interest Boundary
- Pasture Boundary
- Other Allotment Boundary
- Enclosure

- Spring/Stream Assessment Rating**
- PFC (Proper Functioning Condition)
 - FAR (Functioning At Risk)
 - NF (Non-Functioning)
 - MIM Riparian Monitoring
 - Perennial Stream

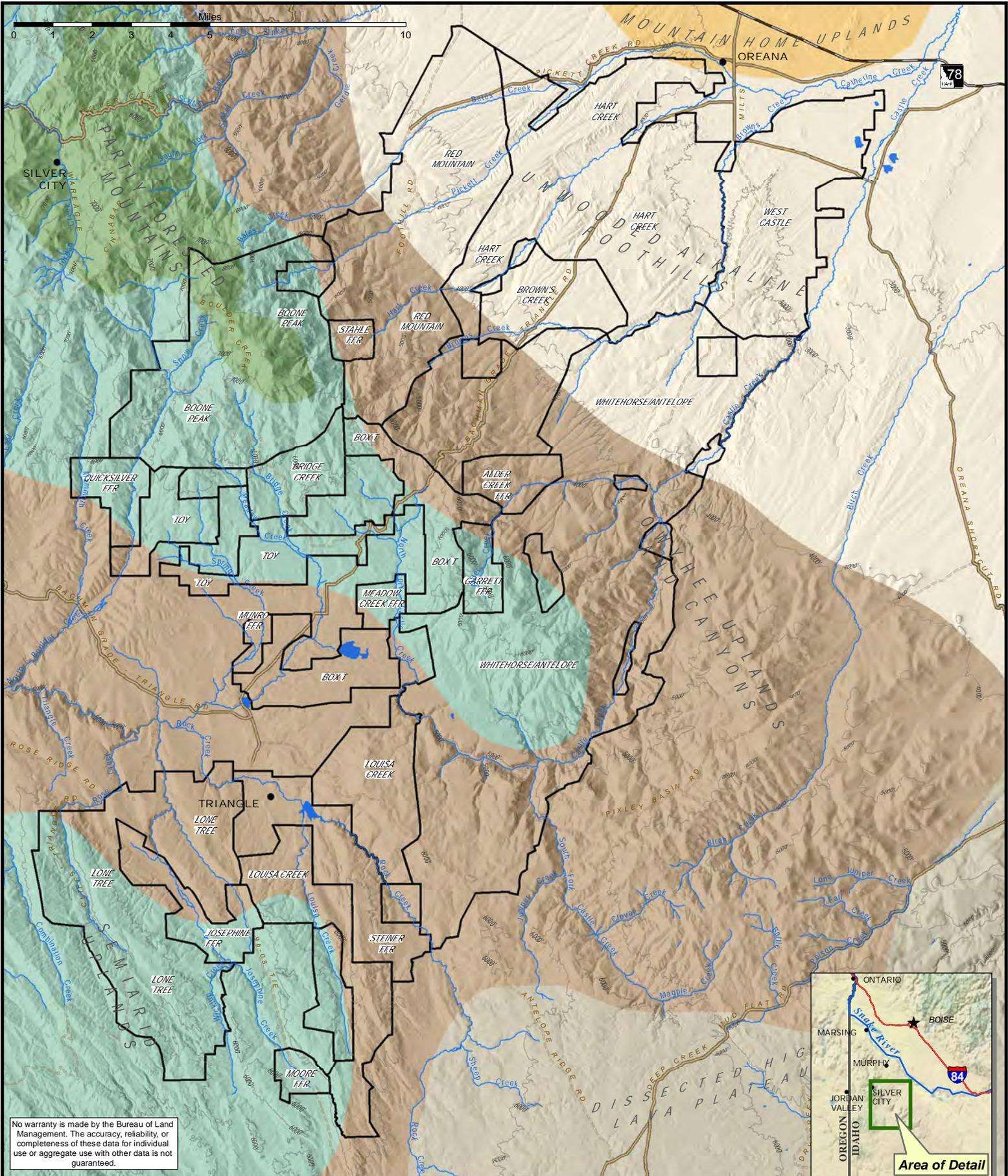
- Improved Road
- 4WD Road
- Gate
- Stock Pond
- Spring
- Trough

- Management**
- BLM
 - State
 - Private
 - Lake/Reservoir





WDLF-1, Ecoregions, Toy Mountain Allotments



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Highway
- Lake/Reservoir
- Improved Road
- Town/City
- Unimproved Road
- 1000' Contour

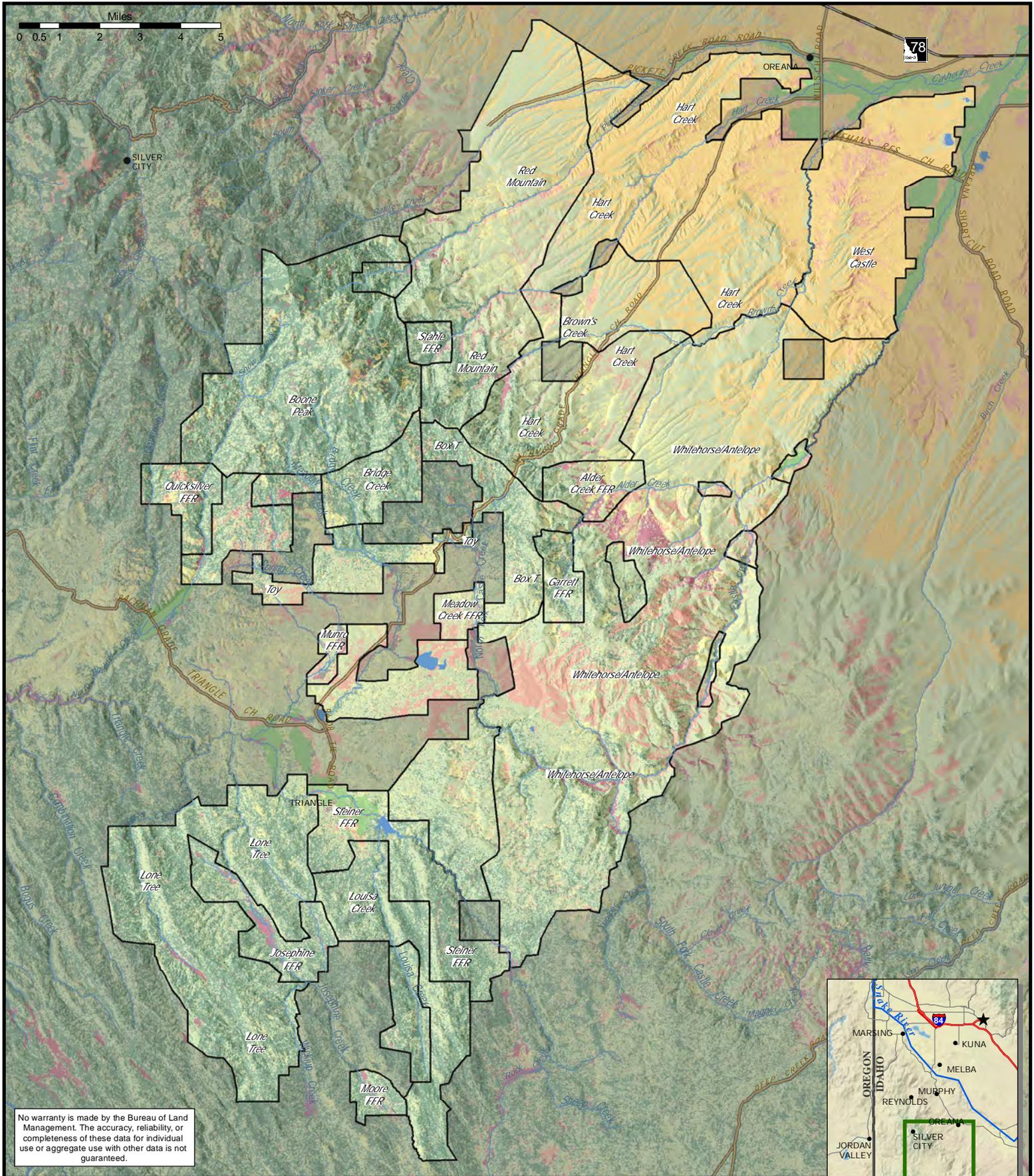
- Ecoregion Classification**
- Dissected High Lava Plateau
 - Mountain Home Uplands
 - Owyhee Uplands and Canyons
 - Partly Forested Mountains
 - Semiarid Uplands
 - Unwooded Alkaline Foothills



1:200,000



WDLF-2: Habitat/General Cover Types, Toy Mountain Allotments

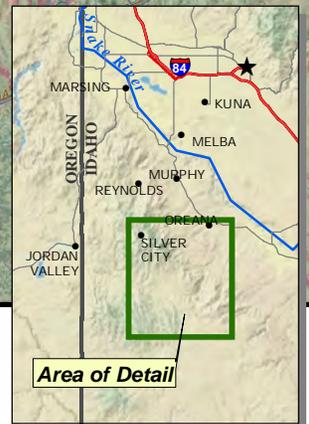


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Allotment Boundary
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Perennial Stream
- Lake/Reservoir

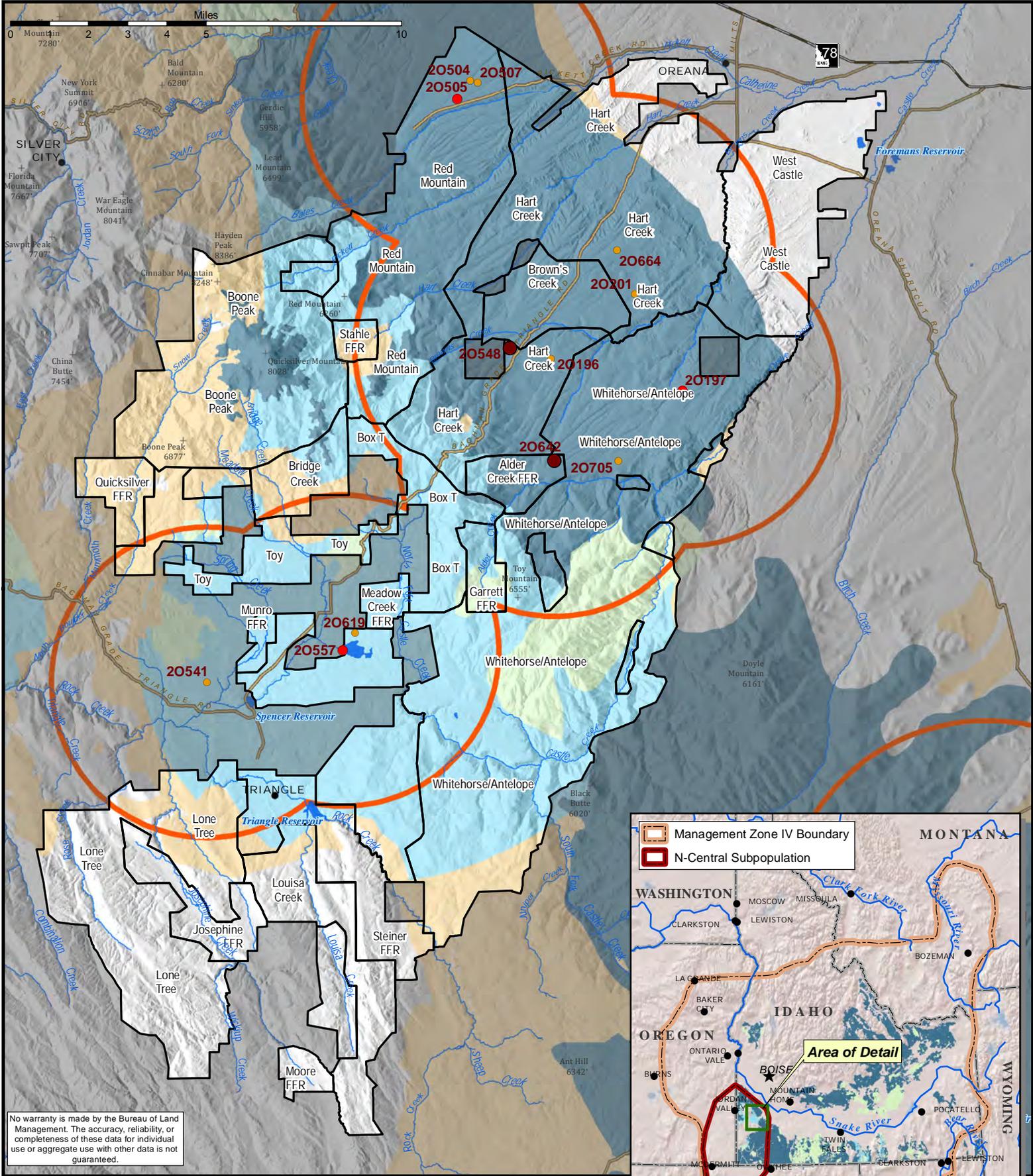
Vegetation Cover Classification

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture | Non-native/Disturbed |
| Forest | Salt Desert Shrub |
| Shrub Steppe | Urban |
| Grassland | Riparian |





WDLF-3, Sage-grouse Overview, Toy Mountain Allotments



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

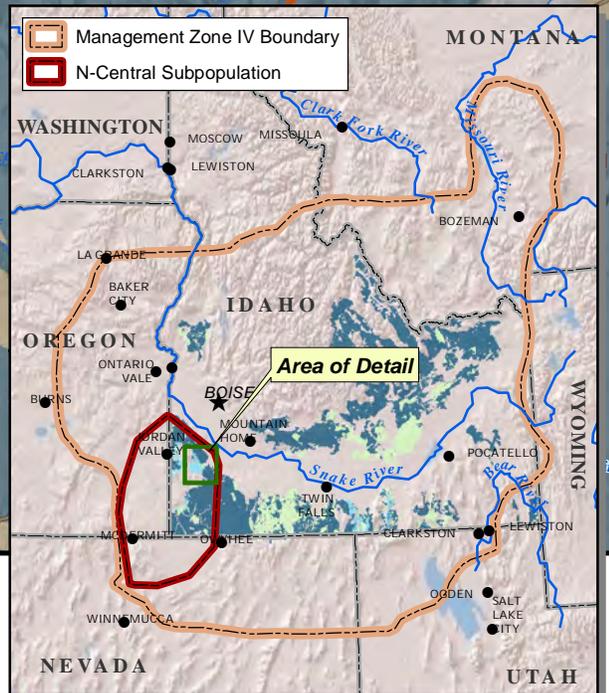
- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Lake/Reservoir
- Highway
- Improved Road

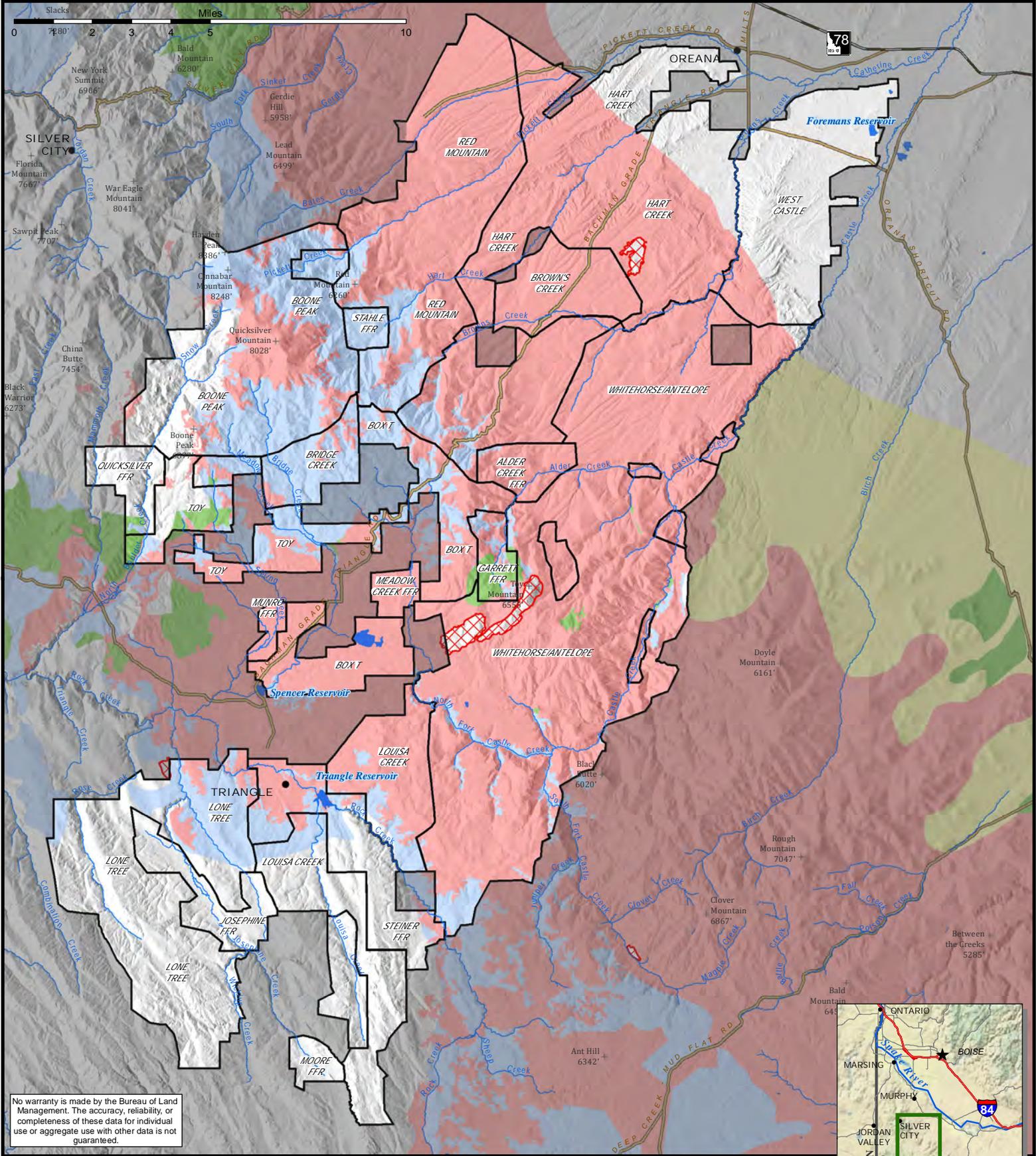
Idaho Occupied Sage-grouse Leks

- Maximum Count (2008-2012)
- 2 - 9
 - 10 - 29
 - 30 - 49
 - More than 50

Idaho Sage-grouse Habitat Classes

- PPH - Sagebrush
- PPH - Perennial grassland
- PPH - Conifer encroachment
- PGH - All subtypes
- 75% Breeding Bird Density





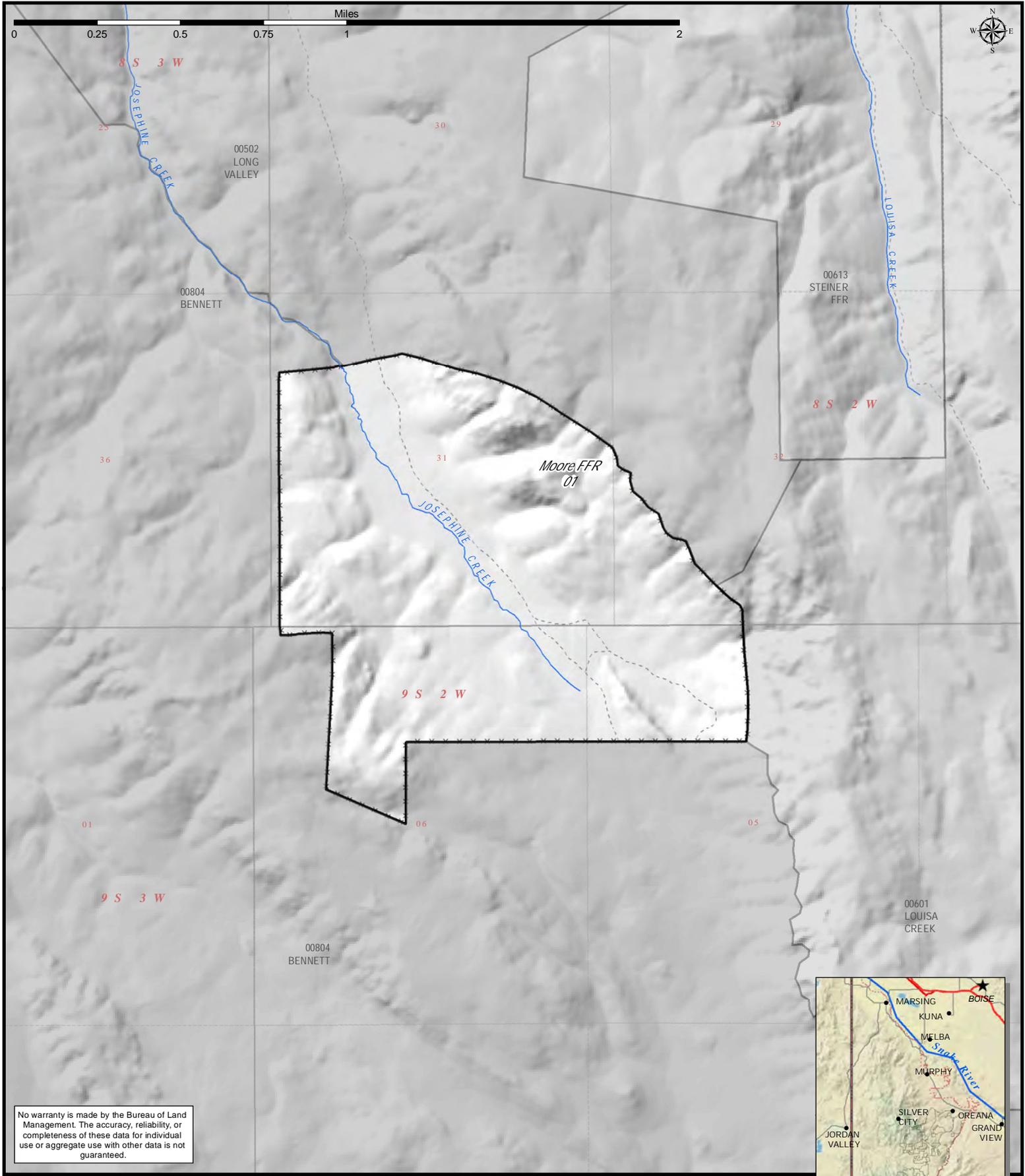
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Lake/Reservoir
- Highway
- Improved Road
- 2012 Sage Grouse Habitat**
- (K1) Key Habitat
- (R1) Perennial Grasslands
- (R2) Annual Grasslands Dominate
- (R3) Conifer Encroachment
- Area of Recent Burn





WDLF-5: Moore FFR (00606), Key Sage-grouse Habitat and Assessment Sites



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- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Allotment of Interest Boundary | 2012 Sage Grouse Habitat | Habitat Assessment Site |
| Pasture Boundary | (K) Key Habitat | Perennial Stream |
| Other Allotment Boundary | (R1) Perennial Grasslands | Spring |
| Improved Road | (R2) Annual Grasslands Dominate | Lake/Reservoir |
| 4WD Road | (R3) Conifer Encroachment | Area of Recent Burn |

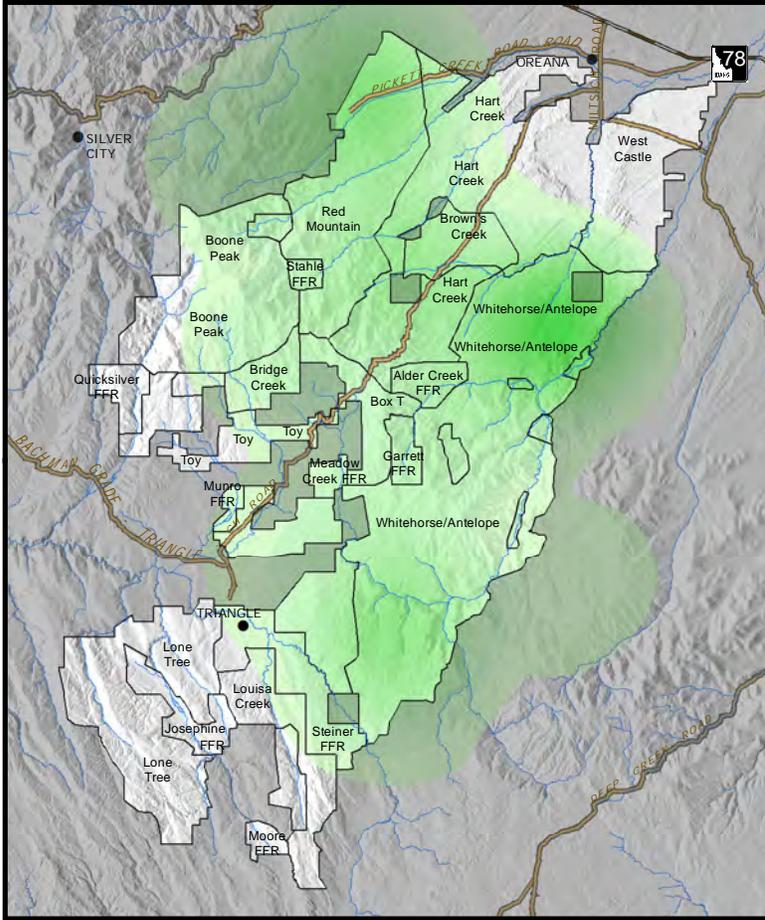




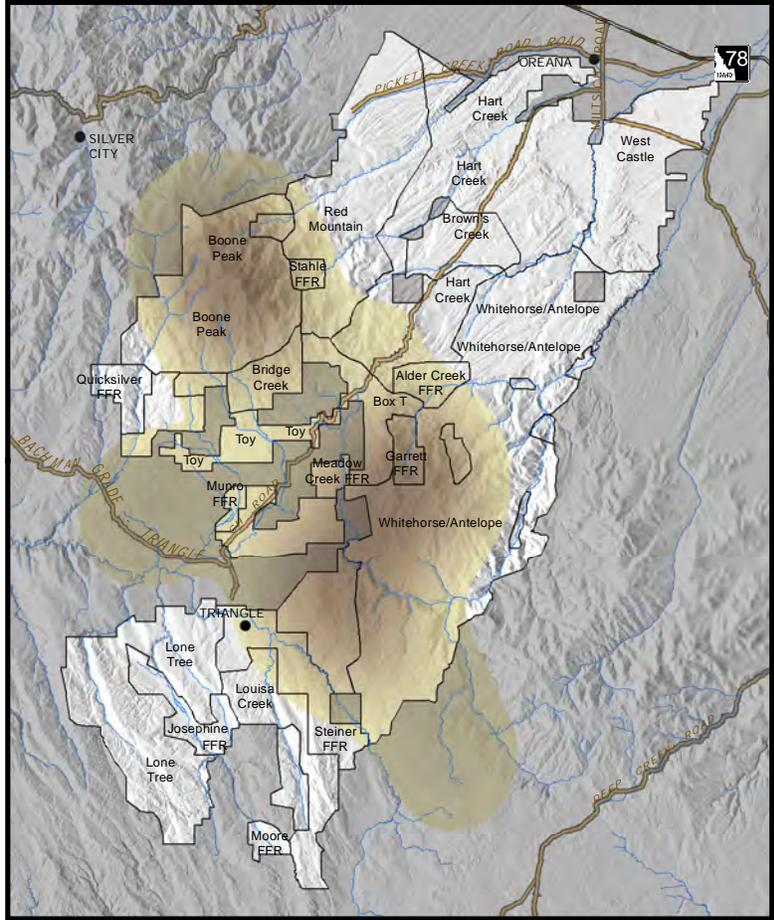
WDLF-6: Seasonal Sage-grouse Habitat, Toy Mountain Allotments



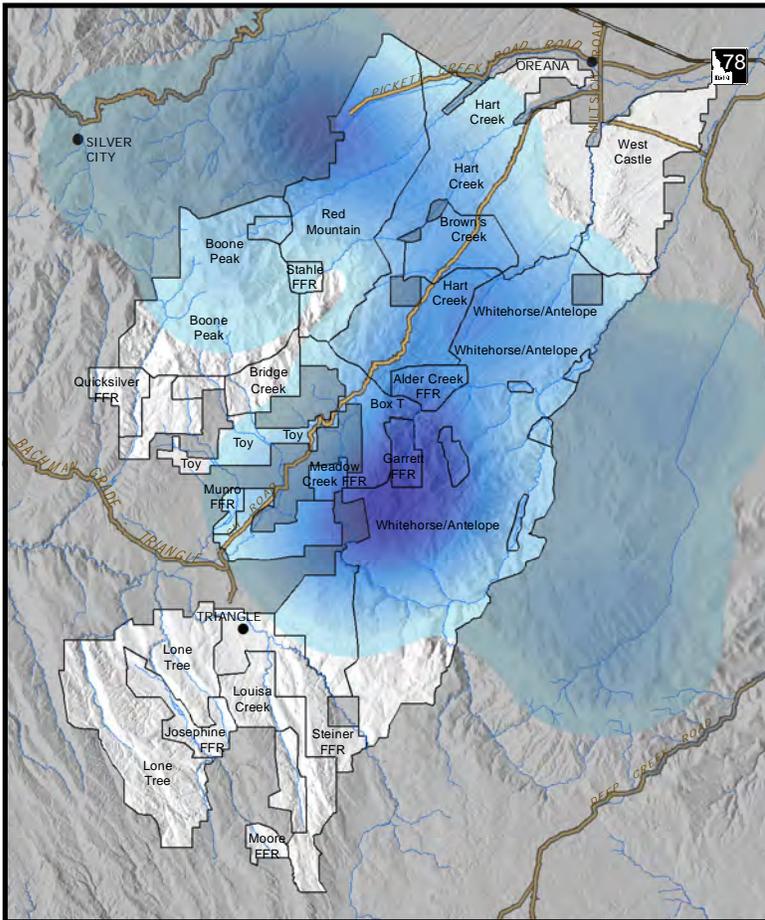
Breeding Habitat



Upland Summer Habitat

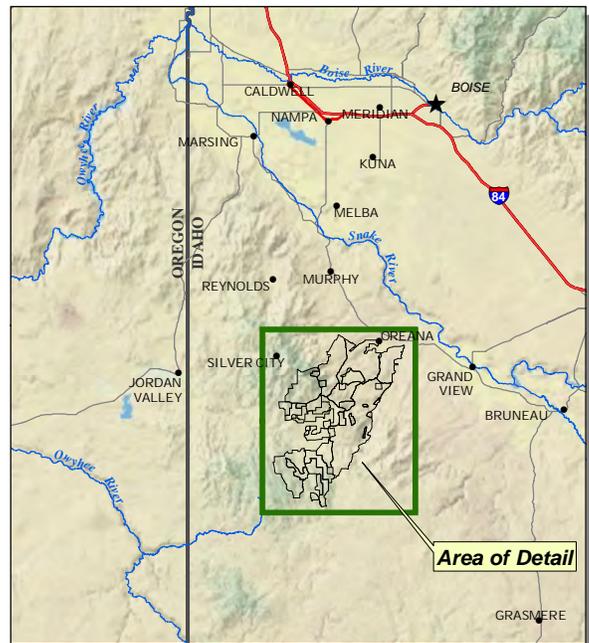


Winter Habitat



- Allotment Boundary
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Perennial Stream

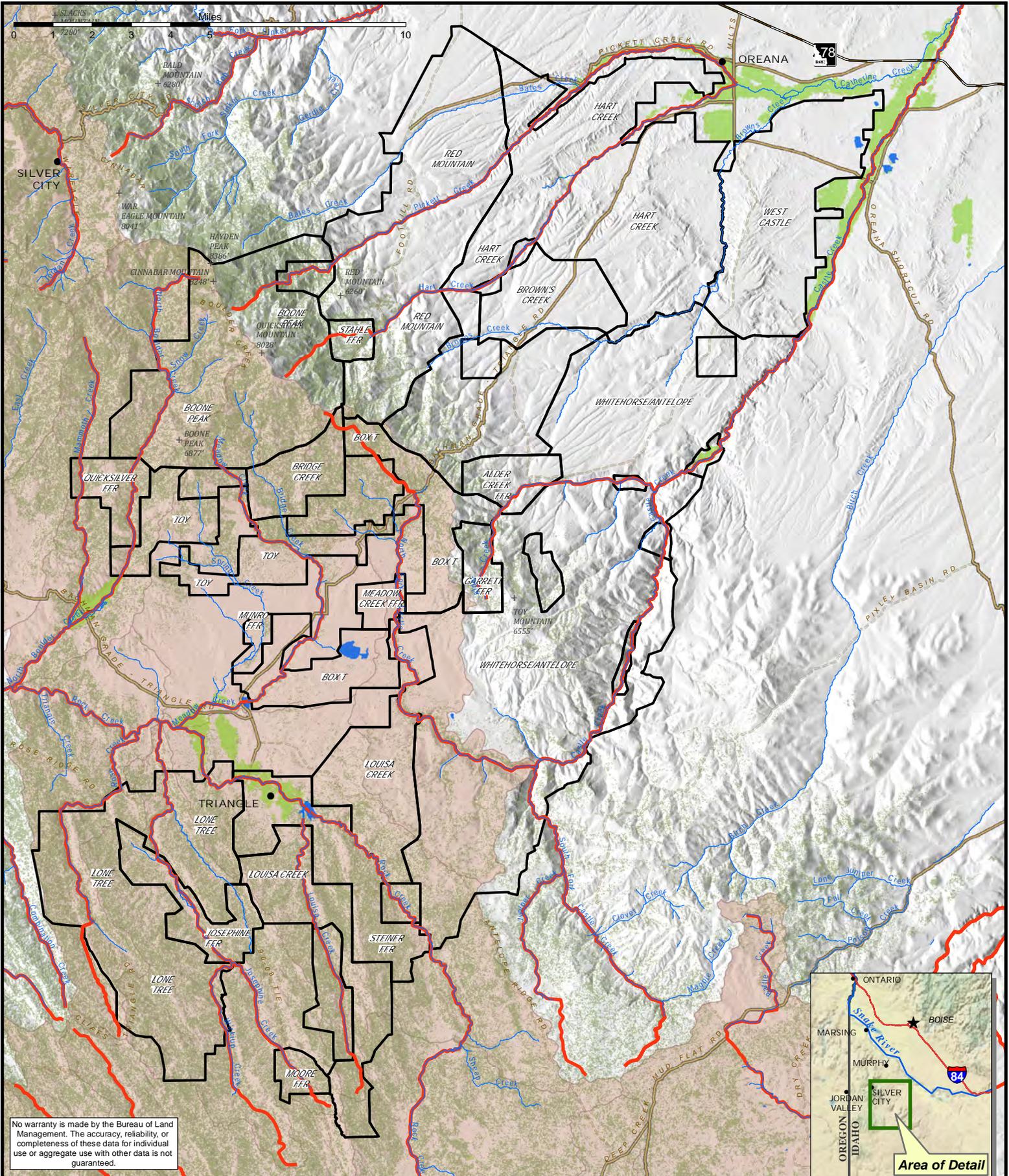
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



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WDLF-7, Columbia Spotted Frog and Redband Trout Overview, Toy Mountain Allotments



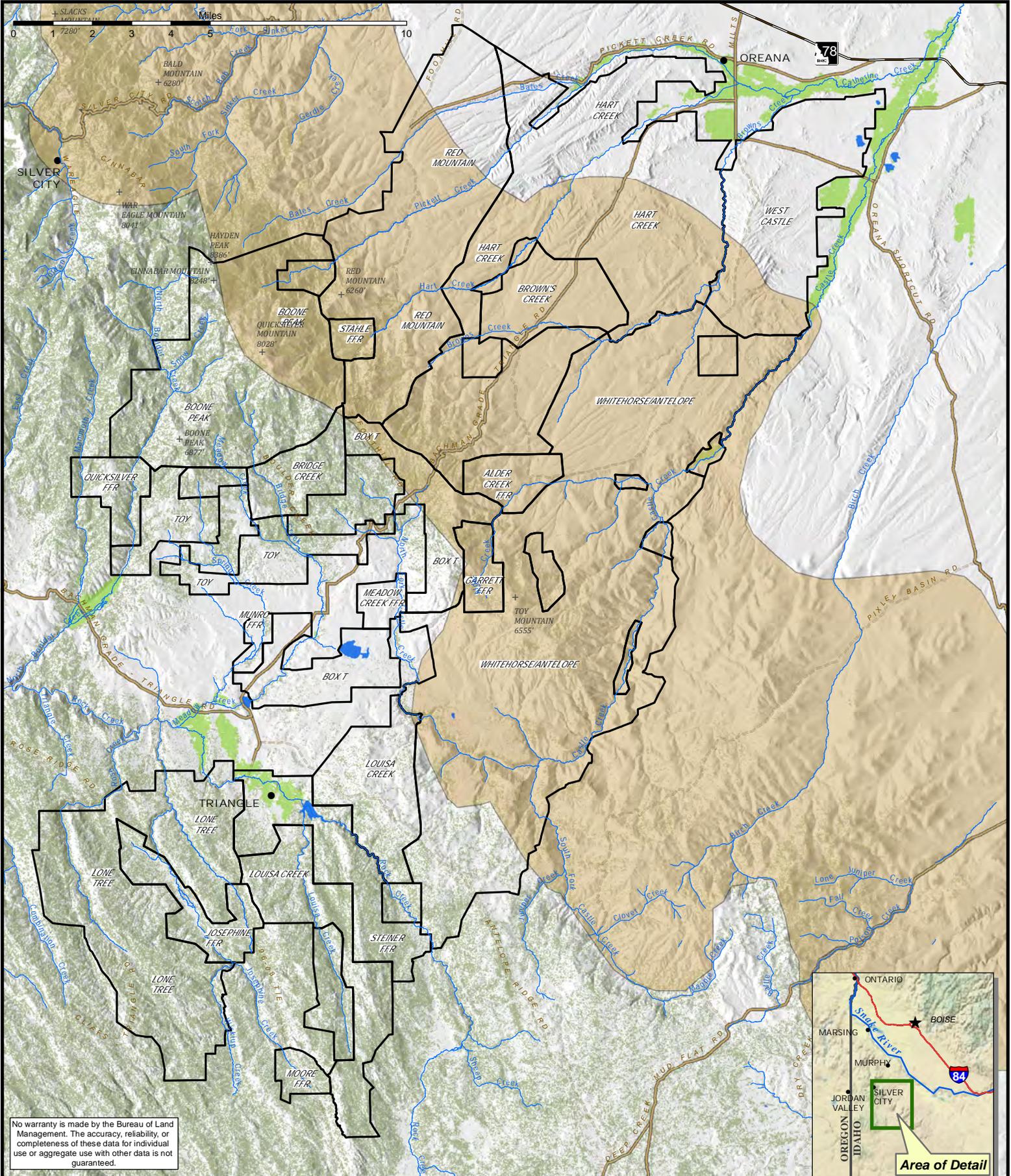
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Columbia Spotted Frog Occupied Watershed
- Vegetation Cover
- Highway
- Lake/Reservoir
- Columbia River Redband Trout Presence
- Agriculture
- Improved Road
- Town/City
- Unimproved Road
- Wooded





Map 8, Bighorn Sheep Overview, Toy Mountain Allotments



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- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Lake/Reservoir
- Town/City
- IDFG Bighorn Population Management Area
- Vegetation Cover**
- Agriculture
- Wooded

