

Garrett FFR (0626)

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW and RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

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

The Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Garrett 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 for the Garrett FFR allotment is found at the end of this document.

Field Office: **Owyhee**

Date: **December 2006**

1. Allotment Name/Number: **Garrett FFR - 0626**
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: **Scott and Sherri Nicholson - 1101497**
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): **2/28/2012**
4. Allotment Acres: Public land – **651** Private - **1,807** State- **667** Other-None
5. Percent public land in the allotment: **21**
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both?
Public land generally surrounds the 6 pastures of the allotment. Within the 6 pastures, the public lands are small tracts fenced in larger blocks of private lands. Furthermore, these pastures are not contiguous to one another and are scattered over 8 square miles.
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? **Isolated by numerous allotment and pasture fences.**
12. What is the livestock grazing management category? (M, I, or C) **I - low priority**

13. List all Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives and decisions (consider resource list for No. 14 below for 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.

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	Check (if applicable)	Comments
Watershed (Standard 1)	X	<p>In 2002, six Rangeland Health evaluations, one in each Pasture. In pasture 1, watersheds ranged from 'none to slight' to 'moderate'. The moderate rating was associated with water flow patterns observed as long and sporadically occurring. In pastures 2, 3, 5, and 6, watersheds ranged from 'none to slight' to 'slight to moderate'. The higher ratings were associated with water flow patterns and pedestals and terracettes. Water flow patterns were associated with increased slopes, but in general, patterns were as expected for the site. Pedestals and terracettes were noted as being present, especially on Sandbergs bluegrass mostly found within flow areas. In pasture 4, watersheds rated in the 'none to slight' category and appeared appropriate for the site. Based on a general summary of all sites evaluated, the watersheds appear to provide for proper infiltration, retention and release of water appropriate to soil type in each pasture.</p>
Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)	X	<p>The riparian conditions throughout the pastures were rated as generally being adequate and maintaining healthy systems. The following is a summary of existing data: Castle Creek - Castle Creek crosses public land in Pasture 4. Approximately 0.4 miles was inventoried in June 1999. The segment of the stream was rated Proper Functioning Condition. The largest concern noted was the existence of noxious weeds. Greenline, shade, photos 8.5.91. Alder Creek – Alder Creek crosses public land in Pasture 2. Approximately 0.2 miles was inventoried in May 2000. The short segment of the stream was rated Functional-At Risk, no apparent trend noted. Again the greatest concerns regarded the existence of noxious weeds.</p>
Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)	X	See Standard 2, above.
Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)	X	<p>In 2002, six Rangeland Health Evaluations were conducted; one in each pasture. Observations at these sites were associated with functional/structural groups, soil surface loss or degradation, and invasive plants.</p> <p>In pasture 1, plant mortality and reproductive capability were rated as being 'moderate'. Observations indicated that decreaser bunchgrasses exhibited poor vigor and appeared associated with plants which were pedestalled. Seedheads were noted as being present on plants found only under the shrub canopies (potentially associated with 2002 spring grazing). In addition some shrub decadence was observed. In pasture 2, it was noted that in general perennial grasses observed were as expected with a good component of decreaser and increaser grasses present in the interspaces.</p>

Standard	Check (if applicable)	Comments
		<p>However, it appeared that Sandbergs bluegrass was the dominant bunchgrass found in the interspaces. The presence of Wyoming sagebrush was as expected, however, low rabbitbrush recruitment was apparent. In pasture 4, it was noted that cheatgrass was the dominant grass found in the interspaces. Pastures 5 and 6 included ‘moderate to extreme’ ratings associated with invasive plants. Evaluations for both pastures indicated that western juniper was common and cheatgrass was scattered to common. The remaining ratings were in the ‘none to slight’ and ‘slight to moderate’ categories.</p> <p>The majority of the ratings from ‘moderate’ to ‘moderate to extreme’ were associated with invasive plants and one exception in pasture 1 was associated with plant mortality and reproductive capabilities, which appeared more historic versus current. In general, it appears that the majority of the sites possess the capabilities to function properly for stand maintenance and slight improvement.</p> <p>Actual Use Reports submitted by the grazing permittee only exist for 2002 and 2005, and both indicate No Use occurred.</p> <p>There is no utilization or trend information on record for this allotment.</p>
Rangeland Seedings (Standard 5)		NA
Exotic Plant Communities (Standard 6)		NA
Water Quality (Standard 7)	X	<p>There is 0.2 mile of Alder Creek in Pasture 2, 0.4 miles of Castle Creek and 0.5 miles of Horse Thief Creek in Pasture 4. IDEQ has placed all these creeks in the Castle Creek Assessment Unit. The unit is assigned Cold Water Aquatic Life (CWAL), Salmonid Spawning (SS), and Primary Contact-Recreation (PCR) water quality standards. CWAL is not supported in the unit. SS and PCR have not been assessed. Alder Creek was not meeting CWAL criteria for temperature (BLM 2001). With a 2003 data logger, BLM recorded excessive temperature, not meeting cold water aquatic life criteria at a site 0.8 miles upstream of the allotment.</p>
Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)	X	<p>Alder Creek was Functional-At Risk (FAR). Alder Creek’s structural diversity, composition and vigor of hydric vegetation are at least partially lacking in this stream resulting in habitat that is generally not adequately providing for the needs for dependant special status animals. Castle Creek was in PFC. From 2003 water quality data, BLM recorded excessive temperature, not meeting cold water aquatic life criteria at a site 0.8 miles upstream of pasture 6. Castle Creek is generally providing for the needs for dependant special status animals.</p> <p>Abundance and diversity of grasses, forbs and shrubs are generally as expected for the sites and are likely to be providing habitat that is adequate for the needs of most dependant special status and other wildlife species. The functional and structural groups are generally close to what is expected for the sites and are likely to be providing habitat that is marginally adequate for the needs of most dependant special status and other wildlife species. The localized lack of large</p>

Standard	Check (if applicable)	Comments
		<p>decreaser bunchgrasses was limiting cover structure and forage for sage grouse, numerous songbirds, pygmy rabbits and others including a diversity of insects, rodents, birds and others that are critical prey for most raptors including prairie falcons, northern harriers and ferruginous hawks in most pastures.</p> <p>The allotment has key habitat for sage grouse. Habitat quality is limited by low levels of sagebrush and encroachment of juniper. Sage grouse lek surveys from 1994 to 2003 have identified active leks within and in close proximity of this allotment.</p> <p>This allotment is within antelope and elk spring/summer/fall range. It also includes mule deer winter/yearlong range and California bighorn sheep yearlong habitats. As was previously discussed under the other applicable Standards above, current conditions appear to be minimally adequate for big game wildlife. This is said primarily due to the fact that concerns exist regarding the abundance of invasive grasses, lack of large decreaser bunchgrasses, and western juniper encroachment.</p> <p>Redband trout occupy Alder and Castle Creek; inventories (1994) have been conducted upstream within a mile of pasture 6.</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>

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.
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
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 privatelands 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.	Adequate data exists; and as was stated under Standard 2, it appears that the riparian characteristics are adequate for riparian stability and functionality. However, improvement is not apparent.
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 2 and Number 5, 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).

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
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
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>The allotment is identified in the "Improve" category low priority in the 1999 Owyhee RMP. Permitted Active Use in Table LVST-1 is 31 AUMs. It is a Fenced Federal Range (FFR) allotment. 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: 31 AUMs</p> <p>LVST 1: Provide for sustained level of livestock use compatible with meeting other resource objectives.</p> <p>VEGE 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory vegetation health/condition on all areas.</p> <p>SOIL 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas.</p> <p>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	TABLE RIPN-1 lists Castle Creek as having a .43 mile segment and a .73 mile segment as unsatisfactory fish habitat 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 there is legal access; whether % federal land comprises 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 legal access to public lands in the allotment. However, the 651 acres of public land in the allotment are divided into separate parcels of public land in six noncontiguous pastures. Each pasture is dominated by a core of private land containing riparian areas. The public land is only 21 percent of the allotment.

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 determines how this allotment and its noncontiguous pastures are 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 the 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 The RHA and 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 2002 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.

Opportunities to manage these small tracts are limited as the public lands are scattered, they represent only 21 percent of the land ownership and significant changes are not achievable.

The majority of the creek miles in the allotment are located on private lands. Castle Creek is the longest segment on public lands and the 0.4 mile segment is in Proper Functioning Condition but is listed in the RMP as having unsatisfactory habitat (excessive temperature-manageable only at the watershed scale). Alder Creek also crosses public land for a short 0.2 mile stretch. It is Functional-At Risk.

Six Rangeland Health Evaluations were completed on the allotment in 2002. Sites had a “None to Slight” to “Moderate to Extreme” departure from Ecological Site Descriptions. However, the later rating was due to the presence of invasive plants (cheatgrass) and western juniper encroachment in which further grazing management modifications generally would make little difference towards converting these rangelands from cheatgrass to a community dominated by large decreaser bunchgrasses. Based on the monitoring information available, current livestock grazing management in the Garrett FFR Allotment is adequate for maintenance of both upland and riparian resources.

This allotment includes only 21% Federal land (651 BLM, and 1,807 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 lands found within this allotment are isolated, landlocked by private lands, scattered in separate pasture over eight square miles, and inaccessible without acquiring permission from the private land owners. BLM does not have legal access, nor the ability to appropriately manage livestock grazing in this allotment.

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

<i>2013 Supplement to the Garrett FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment- List of Reviewers</i>	
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 compiled since the 2006 Garrett FFR allotment IAR was drafted include the following:

Livestock Grazing Management

Although the Garrett FFR allotment is composed of six separate pastures, each of which includes both private land and public land, actual use data received between 2005 and 2012 identified one on-date and one off-date. Table LVST-1 shows those reported data.

Table LVST-1: Actual use data for the Garrett FFR allotment

Year	Date	AUMs
2012	12/1-12/31	308
2011	12/1-12/31	31
2010	12/1-12/31	31
2009	9/30-10/30	37
2008	12/1-12/31	30
2007	Rest	0
2006	Rest	0
2005	Rest	0

Riparian

The reach of Alder Creek that traverses pasture 2 was re-visited in 2011. The observers did not apply the PFC protocol because there is a private water right upstream and the private road crosses the stream. Both beaver and fish were documented, and based on the photographs taken by observers, the reach appears to be in PFC.

The reach of Castle Creek in pasture 4 that was assessed in PFC in 1999 was re-visited in 2011. Again, the PFC protocol was not applied based on the water rights and a diversion on private land. The reach appears to be in PFC, and both beaver and fish were present. Additionally, a reach of Horse Thief Creek was visited in 2011. The PFC protocol was not applied because the stream is geologically confined and well protected with rock and willows. The reach appears to be in PFC.

Two short reaches of Castle Creek were also assessed in pasture 6 in 1999. One was rated FAR because there was inadequate vegetation cover present to protect stream banks, the channel was incised, and there was lateral instability. The second reach was in PFC and was re-visited in 2011. Again, the PFC protocol was not applied based on the water rights and a diversion on private. Again the reach appears to be in PFC and both beaver and fish were present.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Botany

One special status plant species, mountain ball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*), is known to occur

in the Garrett FFR allotment. This population is located in pasture 1. There is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that may occur in this allotment. Livestock do not target this perennial plant as forage. This plant grows in open gravelly or sandy places on talus slopes screens and serpentine substrate.

An Idaho Rare Plant Observation Report was completed in 2013 for this population when photographs were discovered during an allotment review in the hard file for the BLM Rangeland Health Evaluation Summary Worksheet, which was completed July 9, 2002 (RHA U06261-070902-3A). The photographs indicate a population of mountain ball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*), a BLM SSP Type 4 species, was present. Currently, there is no associated elemental occurrence (EO) number for this particular population, as it has not been recorded at this time in the new Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS) Species Diversity database (IDFG, 2011).

Mountain ball cactus grows in dry mountain valleys and rocky ridges in sagebrush desert habitats (eFlorals, 2003). These perennial cacti have vivid magenta flowers that crowd at the top center of the individual plant from April to June.

Information sources

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

Wildlife

Information Sources

Information sources that were used to assess and evaluate the composition and condition of wildlife habitats within the Garrett FFR allotment include sage-grouse habitat assessments (SG HA 2012), land cover classification (2002), aerial imagery (2011), photographs (1999, 2000, 2002, 2011, 2012, and 2013), and field visit (2013), in addition to information summarized above in Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 in this document.

Landscape Setting

Three Level IV Ecoregions of Idaho are represented within the present allotment and include the Unwooded Alkaline Foothills (12j), the Owyhee Uplands and Canyons (80f), and the Semiarid Uplands (80j) (Map WDLF-1) (McGrath, et al., 2002).

Habitat, Cover Types, and Ecological Sites

A variety of major habitats and general cover types occur within the allotment (Table WDLF-1; Map WDLF-2). These upland and riparian habitats and cover types occur within a variety of ecological sites that will be discussed by pasture in more detail below.

Table WDLF-1: Major habitat and general cover types within the Garrett FFR allotment

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Percentage of Allotment	
		General Cover Type	Habitat Type
Salt Desert Shrub	salt desert shrub	2	2
Grassland	bunchgrass	9	9
	seeding	<1	
Shrub Steppe ¹	big sagebrush	21	53
	mountain big sagebrush	27	
	low sagebrush	5	
Mountain Shrub	mountain shrub	10	10
	bitterbrush	<1	
Forest	aspen	1	11
	juniper	9	
	Douglas--fir	1	
Riparian	wet meadow	3	3
Non-native/Disturbed	exotic annuals	9	12
	rabbitbrush	<1	
	sparse vegetation	<1	
	agriculture	3	

¹Shrub steppe habitat type includes the predominant big and low sagebrush communities in the area. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) cover types include communities dominated by the subspecies Wyoming (*wyomingensis*) and Basin (*tridentata*) and mixed communities of both species. Mountain big sagebrush (*A. tridentata vaseyana*) and low sagebrush (*A. arbuscula*) cover types comprise the remaining sagebrush communities.

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Population Ecology

No fewer than six leks (occupied or active) are located near the allotment. In addition, the allotment is located within several 75 percent breeding bird density (BBD) lek buffers (4 mile; Table WDLF-2).

Table WDLF-2: Attendance at occupied leks¹ within 4 miles of the Garrett FFR allotment, 2007-2012

Lek ²	Pasture/s	Survey Year ³					
		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
20642*	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	41	40	--	0	--
20196*	2	23	16	11	8	4	16
20197*	1, 2, 4	37	34	32	19	17	19
20705	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7	8	6	11	12	--

¹A traditional display area where two or more male sage-grouse have attended in 2 or more of the previous 5 years

(Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee 2006).

²Leks with 75 percent BBDs are designated by an asterisk.

³Surveys were not conducted in years indicated by dashes (--).

Several additional leks that occur in proximity (≤ 4 miles) to the allotment that have been active within the last 5 years but that do not qualify as occupied include 2O557 (pasture 3 is within BBD), and 2O619.

Habitat Characteristics

Northern Great Basin Population/Owyhee Subpopulation Mid-Scale

Recently, Idaho BLM initiated a modeling effort to identify preliminary priority sage-grouse habitat (PPH) within the Snake River Plain MZ (Makela & Major, 2012). Priority habitat includes breeding, late brood-rearing, and winter concentration areas. Because priority habitat areas have the highest conservation value for maintaining the species and its habitat, it is BLM policy (as per WO IM 2010-071) to identify these areas in collaboration with respective state wildlife agencies. The current model indicates that all pastures are comprised entirely of PPH (Map WDLF-3).

Owyhee Front/Triangle Local Population Fine-scale

A review of the 2012 PPH output revealed that the area around the Toy Mountain group allotments in one of the critical input data layers (i.e., Idaho Sage-grouse Key Habitat Planning Map) had, for the most part, not been refined since its initial creation in the early 2000s. Much of the area was coarsely classified as Conifer Encroachment (R3). Review of recent (2012) aerial imagery and an Owyhee Field Office (OFO) land cover classification (Bunting & Strand, 2008) of the area have provided better habitat information and edits to be incorporated into the 2013 Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Planning Map (as per IM ID-2013-010). The update identifies large areas of currently Key Habitat (K) that were misclassified as R3 across the OFO, especially in the Toy Mountain group area. The update reveals that, with the exception of pasture 3 which contains key habitat, conifer encroachment, and perennial grassland, the majority of pastures are classified as key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Allotment/Pasture Site-scale

Based on a telemetry study of sage-grouse from the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population, seasonal locations show that the allotment contains differing amounts of breeding, upland summer, early and late brood-rearing riparian summer, and winter seasonal habitats (Table WDLF-3; Map WDLF-6; also see narrative under each allotment pasture).

Table WDLF-3: Seasonal habitat types within the Garrett FFR allotment on BLM lands

Allotment	Pasture	Seasonal Habitat			
		Breeding	Upland Summer	Early/Late Brood-rearing Lentic/Lotic Areas	Winter
Garrett FFR	1	X			X
	2	X		X	X
	3	X	X		X
	4	X		X	X
	5	X	X		X
	6	X		X	X

Habitat Assessments

The current conditions of sage-grouse seasonal habitats were assessed following protocols outlined in the Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework (SG HAF; (Stiver, Rinkes, & Naugle, 2010)). The primary habitat indicators and habitat suitability ranges within the SG HAF are consistent with sage-grouse habitat management guidelines provided by Connelly et al. (2000), the State of Idaho's sage-grouse management alternative (The State of Idaho, 2012), and interim BLM sage-grouse habitat management guidance as per WO-IM 2012-043. Habitat indicators and suitability ranges should not be viewed independently but rather as an assembly of vegetation components that contribute to providing for sage-grouse seasonal habitat requirements.

Pasture 1

General Upland Habitat

Several upland habitats and cover types occur within a few ecological sites within pasture 1 (Table WDLF-4).

Table WDLF-4: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 1

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Salt Desert Shrub	Shadscale	Calcareous Loam 7-10 ATCO-PIDE/ACHY- ACTH7	<1	<1
Shrub Steppe	Wyoming Big Sagebrush	Sandy Loam 8-12 ARTRW8/ACHY	96	100
		Loamy 8-12 ARTRW8/PSSPS- ACTH7	4	

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 1 is entirely within the breeding and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The pasture is located within a relatively open portion of the Castle Creek valley just upstream from where the creek enters a deep, narrow canyon. The majority of Castle Creek has limited potential as sage-grouse habitat due to the surrounding steep terrain and narrow flood plain; however, the relatively open setting of pasture 1, with its wider floodplain, has much higher potential to be used by sage-grouse than other parts of Castle Creek. The dominant Wyoming big sagebrush ecological site typically supports breeding (including early brood-rearing) and winter sage-grouse habitat. Although riparian habitats are absent on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture, Castle Creek traverses the pasture on private land and several ditches direct water on to the floodplain creating irrigated pasture that extend on to BLM lands. Overall, the anthropogenic disturbances within the pasture (irrigation works, ranch house and outbuildings) may be limiting sage-grouse use of the area

more than the landscape setting or habitat conditions. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Sage-grouse HAs have not been conducted in pasture 1.

Pasture 2

General Riparian Habitat

A 10-foot stretch of Alder Creek crosses BLM lands within pasture 2. Although the reach was rated as FAR in 2000, photos taken during the most recent visit (2011) show conditions have improved and would have been rated PFC if an assessment had been conducted (see Standard 2). Riparian habitat was structurally complex and species composition was diverse (cottonwoods, willows, and vigorous herbaceous understory). Beaver and fish were detected during a site visit in 2011. Conditions appear to be providing adequate breeding and foraging substrates and cover for dependent migratory birds and wildlife species.

General Upland Habitat

Several upland and riparian habitats and cover types occur within a few ecological sites within pasture 2 (Table WDLF-5).

Table WDLF-5: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 2

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Shrub Steppe	Wyoming Big Sagebrush	Sandy Loam 8-12 ARTRW8/ACHY	97	100
		Loamy 8-12 ARTRW8/PSSPS-ACTH7	3	

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 2 is also entirely within the breeding and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The dominant Wyoming big sagebrush ecological site typically supports breeding (including early brood-rearing) and winter sage-grouse habitat. Although lentic riparian habitat is absent on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture, perennial Alder Creek supports lotic riparian habitat. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Breeding Habitat

One SG HA was used to assess breeding habitat conditions within pasture 2 (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5). The SG HA was located within what appears to be a Loamy Bottom 8-14” LECI4/ARTRT inclusion in the dominant Wyoming big sagebrush matrix. This ecological site probably accounts for less than 10 percent of BLM lands within the allotment and is limited to areas immediately adjacent to Alder Creek. When compared with information collected at the

RHA site in 2002, conditions at the ARTRT ecological site may not be indicative of conditions within the surrounding Wyoming big sagebrush matrix in the uplands.

The current rating of sage-grouse breeding conditions within the ARTRT ecological site within pasture 2 was marginal.

- **06S01W15-2012 (R011XY015ID)**

Marginal (provisionally). Although this assessment was not conducted at the appropriate time of year, this ecological site is provisionally on the lower end of marginal because most of the primary indicators fell within the marginal or unsuitable range (excessive sagebrush CC and height, lack of forb CC, diversity or abundance; Figure WDLF-1). Perennial herbaceous understory vegetation CC and height was in the suitable range; however, this is made up entirely of a non-native AGCR seeding, which typically is not selected by sage-grouse. Although it is not certain what forb diversity and abundance is like in the spring, it is unlikely that it would be markedly different due to the AGCR seedings, which typically are forb-limited. Despite the tall AGCR, the mixed sagebrush growth form and very tall sagebrush probably are not providing adequate nesting cover. In addition, the data displays a thorough BRTE invasion, which may be inhibiting movement through the understory in addition to depressing ability to detect predators, as well as potentially increasing predators' ability to detect grouse.

Brood-rearing and Summer Riparian Habitats

Perennial Alder Creek provides lotic riparian habitat with abundant trees, willows, and herbaceous understory. The relatively tall trees may be providing perching opportunities for raptors, which may be inhibiting use of the area by sage-grouse. Forbs were not particularly diverse nor abundant during surveys (July and September), and the extreme cheatgrass cover (56 percent) in the ARTRT ecological site may be outcompeting desirable perennial bunchgrasses and forbs in addition to inhibiting movements, especially of young chicks.

Although pasture 2 contains an intermittent/ephemeral stream valley that may support early brood-rearing habitat, it has not been assessed for PFC primarily because it does not support woody, and in most cases, herbaceous riparian vegetation communities. At best, these areas may support succulent vegetation in the early spring.

Pasture 2 does not contain any known spring-associated lentic riparian/wetland areas.

In general, the riparian habitats available to, and most likely used by, sage-grouse are probably not providing adequate conditions for early brood rearing. Raptor perch trees, lack of forbs, and prohibitive cheatgrass cover are not adequately providing habitat conditions females and their brood require.

Winter Habitat

One SG HA was used to assess winter habitat conditions within pasture 2 (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5). The SG HA was located within what appears to be a Loamy Bottom 8-14" LECI4/ARTRT inclusion in the dominant Wyoming big sagebrush matrix. This ecological site probably accounts for less than 10 percent of BLM lands within the allotment and may not be indicative of conditions within the surrounding Wyoming big sagebrush matrix in the uplands. The current rating of sage-grouse winter conditions within the ARTRT ecological site within pasture 2 was suitable.

- **06S01W15-2012 (R011XY015ID)**

Suitable. This ecological site is on the lower end of suitable primary because of the potential limits of the

extremely tall shrubs of mixed and columnar form to provide adequate concealment and thermal cover (Figure WDLF-2). However, because availability of forage is not limited, and tall grass provide a modicum of vertical cover, the site merits a suitable rating.

Pasture 3

General Upland Habitat

Several upland habitats and cover types occur within a variety ecological sites within pasture 3 (Table WDLF-6).

Table WDLF-6: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 3

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Shrub Steppe	Mountain Big Sagebrush	Loamy 13-16 ARTRV/PSSPS-FEID	47	73
		Loamy 16+ ARTRV/FEID	26	
	Low Sagebrush	Shallow Claypan 12-16 ARAR8/FEID	21	21
Mountain Shrub	Mountain Shrub	Mahogany Savanna 16-22 CELE3-SYOR2/FEID-ACHNA	5	5

Approximately 1.4 percent of the pasture is classified as an unknown/no data. Other Ecological Sites <0.1 percent of the pasture includes Loamy 12-16 ARTRV/FEID-PSSPS.

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 3 is entirely within the breeding, summer, and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The pasture is located along the crest of the Owyhee Front. The majority of BLM lands within pasture 3 are composed of mountain shrub habitat types that are not typically selected by sage-grouse. However, the remaining big and low sagebrush habitats normally support breeding (including early brood-rearing), summer, and winter sage-grouse habitat. Riparian habitats are absent on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Sage-grouse HAs have not been conducted in pasture 3.

Pasture 4

General Riparian Habitat

Reaches of Castle and Horse Thief Creeks cross BLM lands within pasture 4. Both creeks are located in relatively deep, steep-sided valleys with narrow floodplains. Castle Creek was assessed as PFC in 1999 (see Standard 2). Riparian woody species in Castle Creek display diverse species and age-classes with multiple canopies which are providing structurally complex breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat for dependent species. Beaver and fish were detected during a site visit in 2011. Areas of open water are providing foraging opportunities for aerial foragers such as swallows and bat species. Although Horse Thief Creek has not been assessed for

PFC, woody riparian habitat, while not abundant, is present and nearly continuous along the reach. Both creeks were visited in 2011 and appeared to be in PFC, although formal assessments were not conducted. Conditions appear to be providing adequate breeding and foraging substrates and cover for dependent migratory birds and wildlife species.

General Upland Habitat

Several upland and riparian habitats and cover types occur within a variety ecological sites within pasture 4 (Table WDLF-7).

Table WDLF-7: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 4

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Shrub Steppe	Wyoming Big Sagebrush	Sandy Loam 8-12 ARTRW8/ACHY	1	96
		Loamy 8-12 ARTRW8/PSSPS-ACTH7	95	
	Mountain Big Sagebrush	South Slope Gravelly 12-16 ARTRV/PSSPS	2	2

Approximately 1.8 percent of the pasture is classified as an unknown/no data.

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 4 is entirely within the breeding and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The pasture is located in relatively steep, rough terrain. The predominant Wyoming big sagebrush habitats normally support breeding (including early brood-rearing) and winter sage-grouse habitat. Riparian habitats are present on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture; however, although they are available, their location in deep, steep-sided valleys may be limiting sage-grouse use. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Sage-grouse HAs have not been conducted in pasture 4.

Pasture 5

General Upland Habitat

Several upland habitats and cover types occur within a variety ecological sites within pasture 5 (Table WDLF-8).

Table WDLF-8: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 5

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Shrub Steppe	Wyoming Big Sagebrush	Loamy 8-12 ARTRW8/PSSPS-ACTH7	10	10
	Mountain Big Sagebrush	Loamy 12-16 ARTRV/FEID-PSSPS	62	66

	South Slope Gravelly 12-16 ARTRV/PSSPS	4	
Low Sagebrush	Shallow Stony Loam 8-16 ARAR8/PSSPS	24	24

Other Ecological Sites <0.1 percent of the pasture includes Loamy 13-16 ARTRV/PSSPS-FEID.

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 5 is entirely within the breeding, summer, and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The mountain big sagebrush and low sagebrush ecological sites support breeding (including early brood-rearing), upland summer (including late-brood rearing), and winter sage-grouse habitat. Although lentic riparian habitat is absent on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture, several intermittent streams may support limited riparian habitats; however, these areas are largely unusable for sage-grouse due to the density of junipers along their stream courses. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Breeding Habitat

One SG HA was used to assess breeding habitat conditions within pasture 5 (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5). The SG HA was located within what appears to be a Very Shallow Stony Loam 10-14" ARAR8/POSE-PSSPS inclusion in the dominant mountain big sagebrush matrix. This ecological site constitutes a substantial amount of the usable sage-grouse habitat within the pasture, and therefore is generally representative of the conditions that predominate within pasture 5. The current rating of sage-grouse breeding conditions within the ARAR ecological site within pasture 5 was marginal.

- **06S01W31-2012 (R025XY044ID)**

Marginal (provisionally). Although assessment was not conducted at the appropriate time of year, it appears that breeding habitat within the ecological site would provisionally fall within the marginal range due to low sagebrush and perennial herbaceous vegetation heights which may not be providing adequate nesting cover (Figure WDLF-3). Concealed nesting locations are probably limited. Although it is uncertain whether forb diversity and abundance would be adequate during the breeding season, it stands to reason that forb availability would be adequate during the spring when soil moisture would be higher. JUOC encroachment is occurring in the surrounding area and may be a greater issue in the future, absent any management actions.

Upland Summer Habitat

One SG HA was used to assess upland summer habitat conditions within pasture 5 (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5). The current rating of sage-grouse upland summer habitat conditions within the ARAR ecological site within pasture 5 was suitable.

- **06S01W31-2012 (R025XY044ID)**

Suitable. This ecological site is on lower end of suitable. Although some of the primary indicators are within the marginal ranges (sagebrush height), forb diversity and abundance are probably outweighing the marginal vertical concealment components (Figure WDLF-4). Perennial herbaceous vegetation heights and CC (as well as sagebrush CC) may be providing adequate cover and ameliorate some of the concealment limitation of the low sagebrush height.

Winter Habitat

One SG HA was used to assess winter habitat conditions within pasture 5 (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5). The current rating of sage-grouse winter habitat conditions within the ARAR ecological site within pasture 5 was marginal.

- **06S01W31-2012 (R025XY044ID)**

Marginal. Overall the ecological site within the pasture may be limiting the potential to provide suitable winter habitat. However, in the pasture this ecological site is found on a windswept ridge, which may prevent deep snow accumulations and may allow forage availability. Nonetheless, based on the indicators, this site is rated as marginal winter habitat because of the uncertainty regarding snow accumulations and sagebrush heights tall enough to emerge from deep snow and provide available forage for sage-grouse (Figure WDLF-5).

Pasture 6

General Riparian Habitat

Several reaches of Castle Creek cross BLM lands within pasture 6. Castle Creek is located in a deep, steep-sided canyon. Within pasture 6, one reach of Castle Creek was assessed as FAR with a static trend and the other reach was assessed as PFC (see Standard 2). Riparian woody species in Castle Creek display diverse species and age-classes with multiple canopies that are providing structurally complex breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat for dependent species. Beaver and fish were detected during a site visit in 2011. Areas of open water are providing foraging opportunities for aerial foragers such as swallows and bat species. Castle Creek within pasture 6 was visited in 2011 and appeared to be in PFC, although formal assessments were not conducted. Conditions appear to be providing adequate breeding and foraging substrates and cover for dependent migratory birds and wildlife species.

General Upland Habitat

Several upland and riparian habitats and cover types occur within one ecological site (note large proportion of unknown) within pasture 6 (Table WDLF-9).

Table WDLF-9: NRCS Ecological Sites within Garrett FFR allotment pasture 6

Habitat Type	General Cover Type	Ecological Site Description	Percentage of Allotment	
			Ecological Site Description	General Cover Type
Shrub Steppe	Basin Big Sagebrush	Loamy 11-13 ARTRT/PSSPS	44	44

¹Approximately 55.9 percent of the pasture is classified as an unknown/no data

Focal Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse

Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Assessments

Pasture 6 is entirely within the breeding and winter seasonal ranges of the Owyhee Front/Triangle local population (Map WDLF-6). The pasture is located in relatively steep, rough terrain along Castle Creek. The predominant basin big sagebrush habitat could support breeding (including early brood-rearing) and winter sage-grouse habitat but are not normally preferentially selected by sage-grouse. Riparian habitats are present on the BLM-managed portion of the pasture; however, although they are available, their location in deep, steep-sided Castle Creek

may be limiting sage-grouse use. The pasture is composed entirely of key habitat (Maps WDLF-4 and WDLF-5).

Sage-grouse HAs have not been conducted in pasture 6.

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Figure WDLF-1: Summary of breeding SG HA in pasture 2 of the Garrett FFR allotment

Form H-3	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		BREEDING	0626-02-06S01W15-2012	R011XY015ID			
Date:	9/26/2012	County:	Owyhee	State:	Idaho	Subpopulation:	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID	
Evaluators:	Harmon, Jensen					Home Range Name:	Owyhee Front/Triangle	
Legal Description:	T06SR01WS19QSEQQNW		Allotment-Pasture Names:		Garrett FFR-Garrett FFR 2		Associated Leks:	20705, 20197, 20642
Land Cover Type:	ARTRT/AGCR-BRTE					Ecological Site:	Loamy Bottom 8-14 LEC14-ARTRT	
Number of Transects:	1	Area Sampled (ha):	1			Site Info:	Mesic	
List UTM Coordinates:								
Starting (NAD83)	4749842 N	545482 E						
Ending (NAD 83)	4749815 N	545523 E						

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	\bar{x}	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	15-25%		5-<15% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height Mesic Site (mean)	160.0	40-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm	
Arid Site (mean)		30-80 cm		20-<30 cm or >80 cm		<20 cm	
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	Mixed	Spreading		Mix of Spreading and Columnar	X	Columnar	
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)	45.3	≥18 cm	X	10-18 cm		<10 cm	
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean)	34.0	≥15%	X	5-<15%		<5%	
Arid Site (mean)		≥10%		5-<10%		<5%	
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean)	2.0	≥10%		5-<10%		<5%	X
Arid Site (mean)		≥5%		3-<5%		<3%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)	Sparse	Preferred forbs are common with several species present		Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	X
Number of Preferred Forb Species (n)	3.0						3 sp. total

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	\bar{x}	Suitability	Rationale
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Other Shrub Height (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	Marginal	Suitable breeding habitat should have total shrub CC ≥42%; no other shrubs were recorded so this amount is due entirely to sagebrush (see above)
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	160.0	Marginal	Suitable breeding habitat should have shrub heights between 40-80 cm
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	45.9	Suitable	Suitable breeding habitat should have perennial grass heights ≥18 cm
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	There should be some Poa sp. representation in this Ecological Site; lack of Poa sp. probably due to the excessive amounts of BRTE
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	56.0	Unsuitable	Exceedingly high BRTE cover indicative of invasive weed issue; increased risk of wildfire and irreversible potential community State shift
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	0.0	Unsuitable	Much lower than expected based on ESD; possibly indicative of fine fuel (litter) build-up due to BRTE

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?

YES	NO
	X

Drought Condition:

Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
		X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?

Unknown-not noted

Evidence of recent livestock use?

Unknown-not noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

Although this assessment was not conducted at the appropriate time of year, this ecological site is provisionally on the lower end of marginal because most of the primary indicators fell within the marginal or unsuitable range (excessive sagebrush CC and height, lack of forb CC, diversity or abundance). Perennial herbaceous understory vegetation CC and height was in the suitable range; however, this is made up entirely of a non-native AGCR seeding which typically is not selected by sage-grouse. Although it is not certain what forb diversity and abundance is like in the spring, it is unlikely that it would be markedly different due to the AGCR seeding which typically are forb limited. Despite the tall AGCR, the mixed sagebrush growth form and very tall sagebrush probably are not providing adequate nesting cover. In addition, the data displays a thorough BRTE invasion which may be inhibiting movement through the understory in addition to depressing ability to detect predators as well as potentially increasing predators ability to detect grouse.

Site-Scale Suitability

Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
	P	

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Figure WDLF-2: Summary of winter SG HA in pasture 2 of the Garrett FFR allotment

Form H-6	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		WINTER	0626-02-06S01W15-2012	R011KY015ID			
Date:	9/26/2012	County:	Owyhee	State:	Idaho	Subpopulation:	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID	
Evaluators:	Harmon, Jensen					Home Range Name:	Owyhee Front/Triangle	
Legal Description:	T06SR01WS15QSEQQNW		Allotment-Pasture Names:		Garrett FFR-Garrett FFR 2		Associated Leaks:	20705, 20197, 20642
Land Cover Type:	ARTRT/AGCR-BRTE					Ecological Site:	Loamy Bottom 8-14 LEC14-ARTRT	
Number of Transects:	1	Area Sampled (ha):	1			Site Info:	Mesic	
List UTM Coordinates:								
Starting (NAD83)	4749842 N	545482 E						
Ending (NAD 83)	4749815 N	545523 E						

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	\bar{x}	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	>10%	X	5-10%		<5%	
Sagebrush Height above Snow		>25 cm		10-25 cm		<10 cm	
0 cm snow (annual mean)	160.0	>40 cm	X	25-40 cm		<25 cm	
15 cm snow (annual mean)		>55 cm		40-55 cm		<40 cm	
30 cm snow (annual mean)							

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	\bar{x}	Suitability	Rationale
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	Mixed	Marginal	Mix of sagebrush forms may be limiting concealment and thermal cover in combination with extremely tall shrubs; normally form would not be a critical limiting factor as availability of forage is more important
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Other Shrub Height (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	Suitable	Sagebrush is the only constituent to this metric and normally would be providing adequate concealment and thermal cover
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	160.0	Marginal	Sagebrush is the only constituent to this metric; excessive height may be limiting the ability to provide concealment and thermal cover

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?

YES	NO
	X

Drought Condition:

Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
		X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?

Unknown-not noted

Evidence of recent livestock use?

Unknown-not noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

This ecological site is on the lower end of suitable primary because of the potential limits of the extremely tall shrubs of mixed and columnar form to provide adequate concealment and thermal cover. However, because availability of forage is not limited, and tall grass provide a modicum of vertical cover, the site merits a suitable rating.

Site-Scale Suitability

Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
X		

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Figure WDLF-3: Summary of breeding SG HA in pasture 5 of the Garrett FFR allotment

Form H-3	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		BREEDING	0626-05-06501W31-2012 R025XY044ID	
Date:	7/26/2012	County:	Owyhee	State:	Idaho
Evaluators:	Jost, Roseman		Subpopulation:		NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Legal Description:	T06SR01WS31QNEQQSE		Allotment-Pasture Names:		Garrett FFR-Garrett FFR 5
Land Cover Type:	ARAR/PSSPS-POSE		Associated Leks:		20642, 20705, 20619
Number of Transects:	1	Area Sampled (ha):	7	Ecological Site:	Very Shallow Stony Loam 10-14 ARAR8/POSE-PSSPS
List UTM Coordinates:			Site Info:		Arid
Starting (NAD83)	541287E	4745519N			
Ending (NAD 83)	4745574N	541284E			

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)							
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	15-25%		5-<15% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height Mesic Site (mean)	24.9	40-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm	
Arid Site (mean)		30-80 cm		20-<30 cm or >80 cm		<20 cm	
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	Spreading	Spreading	X	Mix of Spreading and Columnar		Columnar	
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)	15.7	≥18 cm		10-18 cm	X	<10 cm	
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean)	36.0	≥15%	X	5-<15%		<5%	
Arid Site (mean)		≥10%		5-<10%		<5%	
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean)	2.0	≥10%		5-<10%		<5%	X
Arid Site (mean)		≥5%		3-<5%		<3%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)	Common	Preferred forbs are common with several species present	X	Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (n)	9.0		9 sp. total				

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)			
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitability	Rationale
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Other Shrub Height (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	Marginal	Entirely based on sagebrush; suitable breeding habitat should have between 15-25% CC
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	24.9	Marginal	Suitable breeding habitat should have shrub heights between 30-80 cm
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	16.4	Marginal	Suitable breeding habitat should have perennial grass heights ≥18 cm
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	28.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	4.0	Marginal	Lower than expected based on ESD; bare ground should range between 20-30%; not due to litter build-up from BRTE therefore probably not indicative of an invasive weed problem, but possibly an increase in wildfire spread potential

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?

YES	NO
	X

Drought Condition:	Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use? Unknown-not noted

Evidence of recent livestock use? Unknown-not noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating: Although assessment was not conducted at the appropriate time of year, it appears that breeding habitat within the ecological site would provisionally fall within the marginal range due to low sagebrush and perennial herbaceous vegetation heights which may not be providing adequate nesting cover. Concealed nesting locations and probably limited. Although it is uncertain whether forb diversity and abundance would be adequate during the breeding season, it stands to reason that forb availability would be adequate during the spring when soil moisture would be higher. JUOC encroachment is occurring in the surrounding area and may be a greater issue in the future absent any management actions.

Site-Scale Suitability

Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
	P	

2013 Supplement to the Garrett FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment
Figure WDLF-4: Summary of upland summer SG HA in pasture 5 of the Garrett FFR allotment

Form H-4	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		UPLAND SUMMER	0626-05-06S01W31-2012	R025XY044ID			
Date:	7/26/2012	County:	Owyhee	State:	Idaho	Subpopulation:	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID	
Evaluators:	Jost, Roseman					Home Range Name:	Owyhee Front/Triangle	
Legal Description:	T06SR01WS1QNEQQSE		Allotment-Pasture Names:		Garrett FFR-Garrett FFR 5		Associated Leaks:	20642, 20705, 20619
Land Cover Type:	ARAR/PSSPS-POSE					Ecological Site:	Very Shallow Stony Loam 10-14 ARAR8/POSE-PSSPS	
Number of Transects:	1	Area Sampled (ha):	7			Site Info:	Arid	
List UTM Coordinates:								
Starting (NAD83)	541287E	4745519N						
Ending (NAD 83)	4745574N	541284E						

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)							
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitability	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	10-25%		5-<10% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height (mean)	24.9	40-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm	
Perennial Grass and Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	38.0	≥15%	X	5-15%		<5%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)	Common	Preferred forbs are common with several species present	X	Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (n)	9.0		9 sp. total				

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)			
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitability	Rationale
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	Spreading	Suitable	Spreading sagebrush growth form provides adequate concealment cover
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)	15.7	Suitable	Suitable upland summer habitat should have perennial herbaceous vegetation heights ≥10 cm
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	36.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	2.0	Suitable	Suitable upland summer habitat should have perennial forb CC ≥105; belt transect reveals that forb diversity and abundance are adequate
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Other Shrub Height (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	Suitable	Shrub CC is providing abundant concealment cover
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	24.9	Marginal	Suitable upland summer habitat should have shrub heights between 40-80 cm
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	16.4	Suitable	Suitable upland summer habitat should have perennial grass heights ≥10 cm
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	28.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	4.0	Marginal	Lower than expected based on ESD; bare ground should range between 20-30%; not due to litter build-up from BRTE therefore probably not indicative of an invasive weed problem, but possibly an increase in wildfire spread potential

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	YES	NO
		X

Drought Condition:	Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	Unknown-not noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	Unknown-not noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating: This ecological site is on lower end of suitable. Although some of the primary indicators are within the marginal ranges (sagebrush height), forb diversity and abundance are probably outweighing the marginal vertical concealment components. Perennial herbaceous vegetation heights and CC (as well as sagebrush CC) may be providing adequate cover and ameliorate some of the concealment limitation of the low sagebrush height.

Site-Scale Suitability	Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
	X		

2013 Supplement to the Garrett FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment
Figure WDLF-5: Summary of winter SG HA in pasture 5 of the Garrett FFR allotment

Form H-6	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet – WINTER		0626-05-06S01W81-2012 R025X044ID				
Date:	7/26/2012	County:	Owyhee	State:	Idaho	Subpopulation:	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Evaluators:	Jost, Roseman		Home Range Name:		Owyhee Front/Triangle		
Legal Description:	T06SR01W531ONEQOSE		Allotment-Pasture Names:		Garrett FFR-Garrett FFR 5		
Land Cover Type:	ARAR/PSSPS-POSE		Associated Leaks:		20642, 20705, 20619		
Number of Transects:	1	Area Sampled (ha):	7		Ecological Site:		Very Shallow Stony Loam 10-14 ARAR6/POSE-PSSPS
List UTM Coordinates:			Site Info:		Arid		
Starting (NAD83)	541287E	4745519N					
Ending (NAD 83)	4745574N	541284E					

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)							
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	>10%	X	5-10%		<5%	
Sagebrush Height above Snow		>25 cm		10-25 cm		<10 cm	
0 cm snow (annual mean)	24.9	>40 cm		25-40 cm		<25 cm	X
15 cm snow (annual mean)		>55 cm		40-55 cm		<40 cm	
30 cm snow (annual mean)							

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)			
Habitat Indicator	X	Suitability	Rationale
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	Spreading	Suitable	Spreading sagebrush growth form provides adequate concealment and thermal cover
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Other Shrub Height (mean)	0.0	Suitable	Appropriate based on Ecological Site potential
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	42.0	Suitable	Abundant sagebrush CC is providing adequate concealment and thermal cover
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	24.9	Marginal	Sagebrush may not be available under typical persistent snow levels; however, location on a windswept ridge may be preventing deep snow accumulations and maintaining forage availability

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?

YES	NO
X	

Drought Condition:

Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
		X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?

Evidence of recent livestock use?

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

Overall the ecological site within the pasture may be limiting the potential to provide suitable winter habitat. However, in the pasture this ecological site is found on a windswept ridge which may prevent deep snow accumulations and may allow forage availability. Nonetheless, based on the indicators this site is rated as marginal winter habitat because of the uncertainty regarding snow accumulations and sagebrush heights tall enough to emerge from deep snow and provide available forage for sage-grouse.

Site-Scale Suitability

Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
	X	

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

Garrett FFR Allotment 2013 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).

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Watershed indicators show little departure from expected conditions for the ecological site in pastures 2, 3, 4, and 5. Areas in pasture 1 contain increased water flow patterns, although all other soil and hydrologic function-related indicators vary between none-to-slight and slight-to-moderate.

Overall, the pastures contain stable soils that display historic and some active impacts, although abundant gravel, adequate litter, and plant diversity are in place to decrease erosion potential. While the biotic function is reduced in localized areas of pastures 4 and 5 due to an increase in cheatgrass and western juniper, soil and hydrologic indicators show that watershed function still maintains proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling and energy flow. Current livestock management is compatible with attainment of Standard 1 for the Garrett 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).

—

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

The Garrett FFR allotment is not meeting Standard 2 but is making significant progress in pastures 2 and 6. The standard is being met in pasture 4 and is not applicable in pastures 1, 3, and 5. The named streams that occur on BLM lands in pastures 2, 4, and 6 are Alder, Castle, and Horse Thief Creeks. A short reach of Alder Creek was rated FAR in 2000, but appeared to be in PFC in 2011. Although there is a private water right and a road affecting the stream, the vegetation was vigorous, the banks were well protected and stable, and both fish and beaver were present. Three short reaches of Castle Creek occur on BLM lands in pastures 4 and 6; the reach

in pasture 4 and one of the reaches in pasture 6 was in PFC in 1999 and appeared in PFC again in 2011, and the second reach in pasture 6 was rated FAR in 1999, but appeared to be in PFC in 2011. Horse Thief Creek that traverses pasture 4 and was visited in 2011. An assessment was not conducted, but the stream appeared to be in PFC. The stream is geologically confined and well protected with rock and willows.

Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant causal factors for not meeting Standard 2. Therefore, current livestock grazing management practices are in conformance with the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management applicable to Standard 2.

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).

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

See discussion under Standard 2 above.

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

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 met in the six pastures that make up the Garrett FFR allotment. Public land upland vegetation communities within the six pastures of the Garrett allotment are primarily the slopes and benches associated with private land in valley bottoms. As noted in the 2006 findings of the IAR, “Six Rangeland Health Evaluations were completed on the allotment in 2002. Sites had a “none-to-slight” to “moderate-to-extreme” departure from Ecological Site Descriptions. However, the latter rating was due to the presence of invasive plants (cheatgrass) and western juniper encroachment.” The overall departure of biotic integrity from reference site conditions at the six assessment sites was rated none-to-slight or slight-to-moderate.

Reported annual grazing use of the Garrett FFR allotment in the fall through early winter season in recent years, a period of limited impact to upland vegetation communities, is consistent with the finding that Standard 4 is met.

Although juniper trees are noted in the 2002 assessment and present within associated photos for pasture 3 and in 2011 GIS NAIP imagery, their presence on the landscape is limited to ridges and some draws and is not so wide-spread as to limit the vegetation community as a whole from providing proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, or energy flow.

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

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) designates basins, sub-basins, and

assessment units in order to manage the state’s waterways. The 2010 Integrated Report (303(d)/305(b)) uses assessment units (AUs) within the sub-basin. Assessment units are groups of similar streams within a sub-basin that have similar land use practices, ownership, or land management. Assessment units are assessed for pollutants and assigned beneficial uses with associated Water Quality Standards. According to the Clean Water Act, each state must develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for all the waters on the 303(d) list. The objective of a TMDL is to determine the loading capacity of the water body and to allocate that load among different pollutant sources so that the appropriate control actions can be taken and water quality standards achieved. The TMDL process is important for improving water quality because it links the development and implementation of control actions to the attainment of water quality standards. Once a TMDL is developed for a particular pollutant or pollution, it is effectively removed from the 303(d) list.

Current IDEQ information identifies that the BLM portion of five of the pastures (1, 2, 4, 5, and 6) within the Garrett FFR allotment contain approximately 2.7 miles of streams that are not supporting the watershed’s beneficial uses. Pasture 3 does not contain measureable reaches of stream on BLM land. The allotment contains portions of five AUs with associated beneficial uses and pollutants (Table RIPN-2). Although all of the AUs are currently not supporting the beneficial uses, all of the streams that occur within them have been removed from the 303(d) list because they have approved TMDLs developed. A TMDL for both temperature and sediment has been developed.

Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) TMDLs were developed for temperature for the AUs that occur within the allotment. Idaho water quality standards include a provision (IDAPA 58.01.02.200.09), which establishes that if natural conditions exceed numeric water quality criteria, exceedance of the criteria is not considered to be a violation of water quality standards. In these situations, natural conditions essentially become the water quality standard, and the natural level of shade and channel width become the target of the TMDL. The in-stream temperature that results from attainment of these conditions is consistent with the water quality standards, even though it may exceed numeric temperature criteria (Jordan Creek TMDL, 2009). However, current IDEQ information indicates that a reach of Castle Creek that occurs on BLM lands in pasture 6 and has been evaluated for temperature using the PNV approach is not meeting the shade target established.

Standard 7 is being met in the Garrett FFR allotment because the streams have all been removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters. Therefore, the allotment is in conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Table RIPN 2: Water quality summary for the Garret FFR allotment

AU #	AU Name	Pasture AU occurs in	Beneficial Use Not Being Met	Pollutant/ Pollution	TMDL
ID17050103SW014_02	Castle Creek - 1st & 2nd order rangeland tributaries	1, 5, 6	CWAL ¹	temperature	All Streams

ID17050103SW014_02a	Castle Creek - 1st & 2nd order forested tributaries	2, 4, 5, 6	CWAL SS ²	temperature	All Streams
ID17050103SW014_03	Castle Creek - 3rd order tributaries	2, 6	CWAL SS	sedimentation/siltation temperature	All Streams All Streams
ID17050103SW014_02a	Castle Creek - 1st & 2nd order forested tributaries	4	CWAL SS	temperature	All Streams
ID17050103SW014_04a	Castle Creek - upper 4th order (canyon section)	4, 6	CWAL	temperature	All Streams

¹CWAL = cold water aquatic life

²SS = salmonid spawning

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).

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Botany

Standard 8 for special status plant species (SSPS) is met in this allotment. There is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that may occur in the Garrett FFR allotment. One record of a population of special status plant

species is currently under review as an official record with the IDFG Natural Heritage Program.

Wildlife

Overall, Standard 8 for wildlife is not being met in the Garrett FFR allotment, but making significant progress. Upland and riparian habitats are generally providing adequate conditions for many shrub-obligate and riparian-dependent species. Standard 8 for wildlife in upland habitat is met in all pastures. Abundance and diversity of grasses, forbs, and shrubs are generally as expected. Functional and structural groups are near to what is expected for the sites and are likely to be providing habitat that is marginally adequate for the needs of most dependent special status and other wildlife species. Sage-grouse usage of the allotment is not expected to be similar across pastures as several pastures are located in rough, steep terrain, and deep canyons. Although SGHAs showed predominantly marginal conditions, the assessment sites were located in areas that even under optimal habitat conditions would not be preferentially selected by sage-grouse due to ecological site potential or location on the landscape.

Standard 8 for wildlife in riparian habitats is being met in pasture 4 and is not applicable in pastures 1, 3, and 5. Wildlife riparian habitats are not meeting Standard 8 but are making significant progress in pastures 2 and 6. Riparian habitats within the allotment were PFC or have shown improvements in condition and are minimally providing adequate breeding and foraging conditions for many dependent wildlife species. Riparian woody species in Alder and Castle Creeks display diverse species and age-classes with multiple canopies that are providing structurally complex breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat for dependent species. These components result in suitable habitat for a diversity of species including migratory birds, small mammals, beavers, and redband trout.

Because the condition, abundance, structural stage, and distribution of plant communities required for diverse and desired wildlife populations are being maintained or enhanced and because special status species' habitats are adequate to increase or maintain populations so as to preclude an impetus for listing, current livestock grazing management practices are in conformance with the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management and conform with ORMP objectives WDLF-1 and SPSS-1.

Determination

I have determined that Standards 2, 3, and 8 of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health are not being met in the Garrett FFR allotment, but current livestock management practices conform with the Guidelines and significant progress has been made. Standards 1, 4, and 7 are met and Standards 5 and 6 are not applicable to resources present within the allotment.



Field Manager
Owyhee Field Office

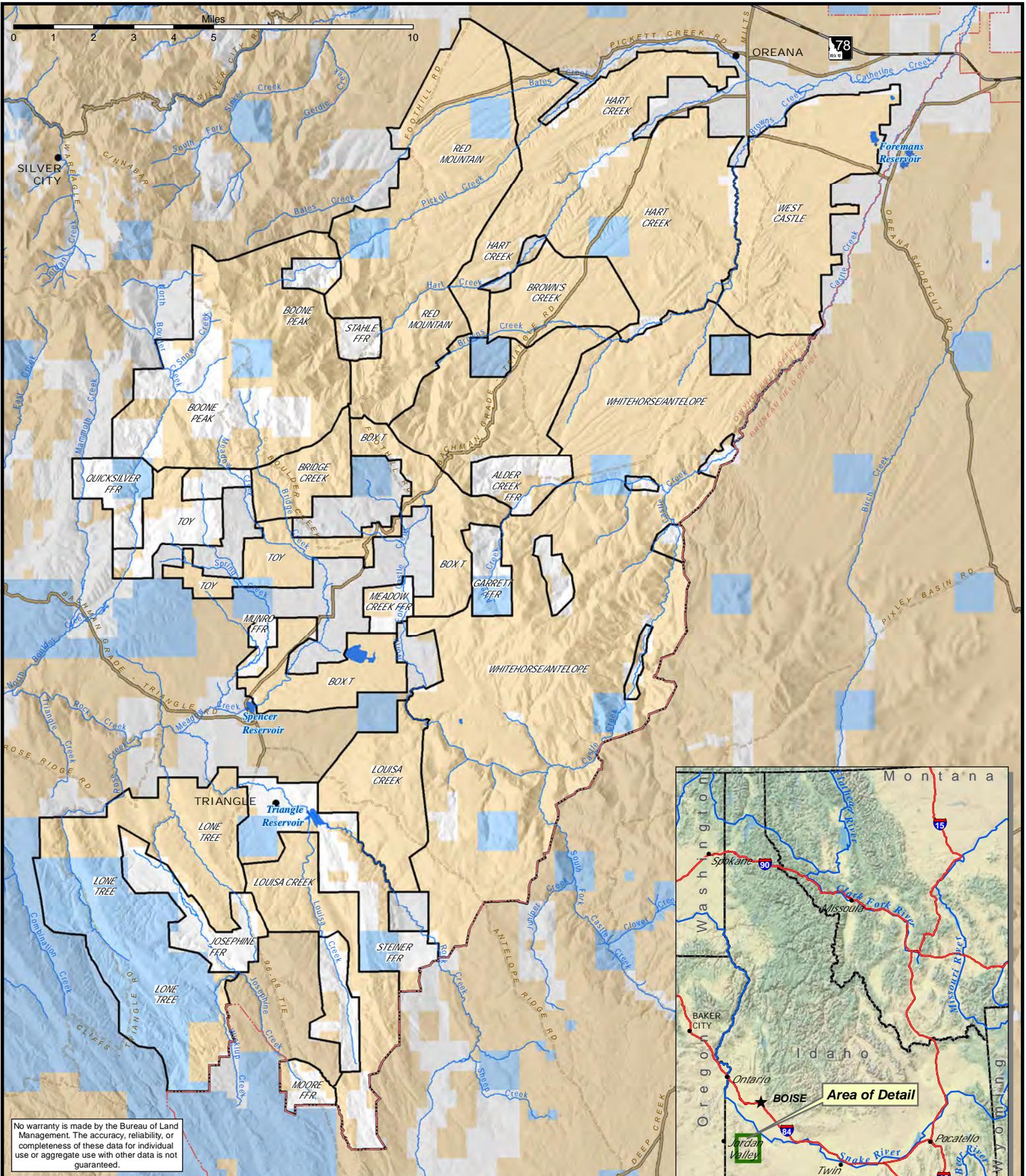
10/30/13
Date

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GEN-1, Toy Mountain Allotments Overview

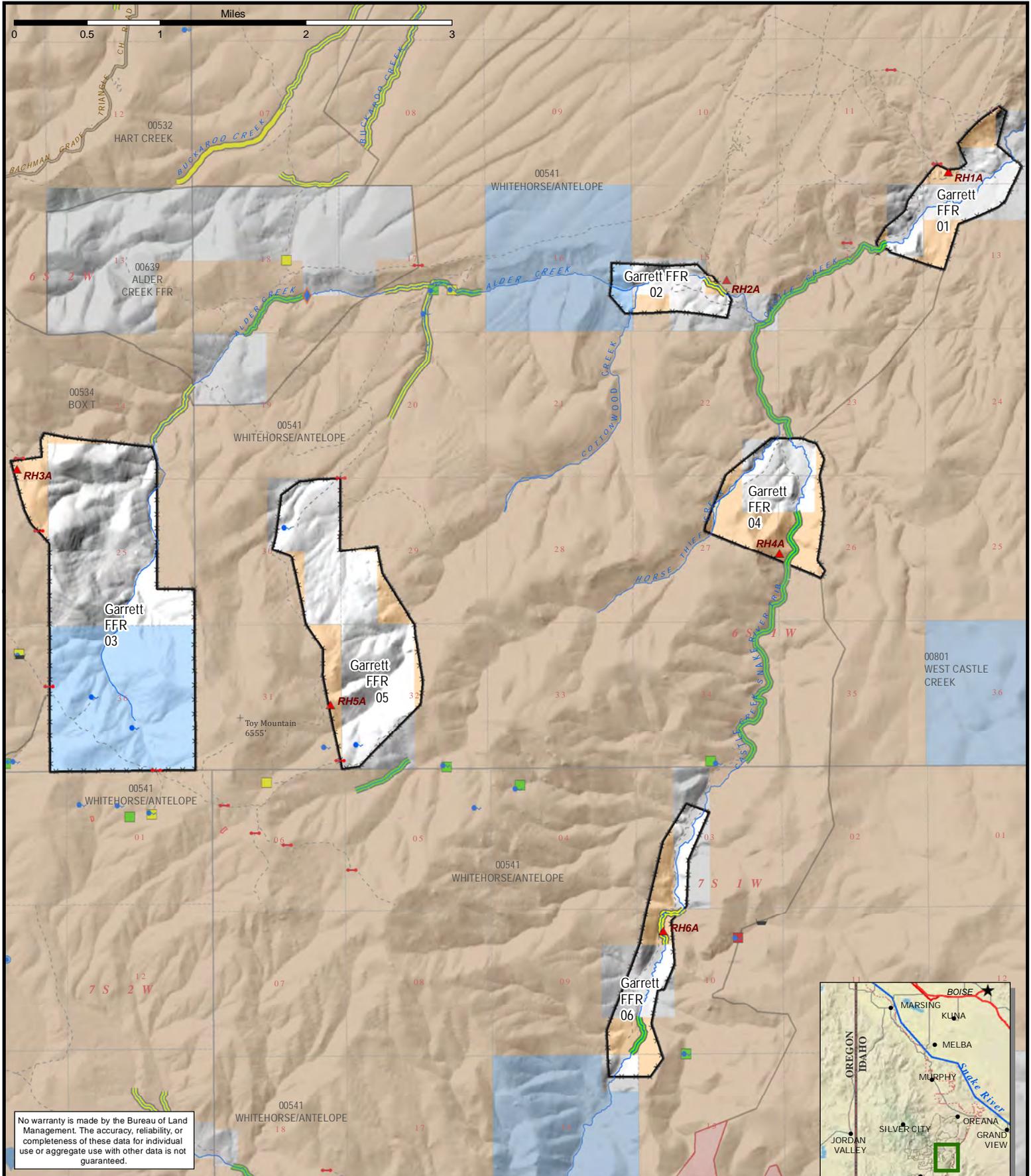


- Legend**
- Allotment Boundary
 - ~ Perennial Stream
 - Lake/Reservoir
 - Highway
 - Improved Road
 - Unimproved Road
 - BLM Field Office Boundary
 - Town/City

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



RNGE-1: Garrett FFR (00626), Range and Riparian Overview



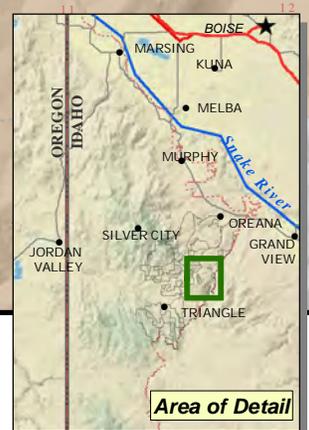
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

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

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

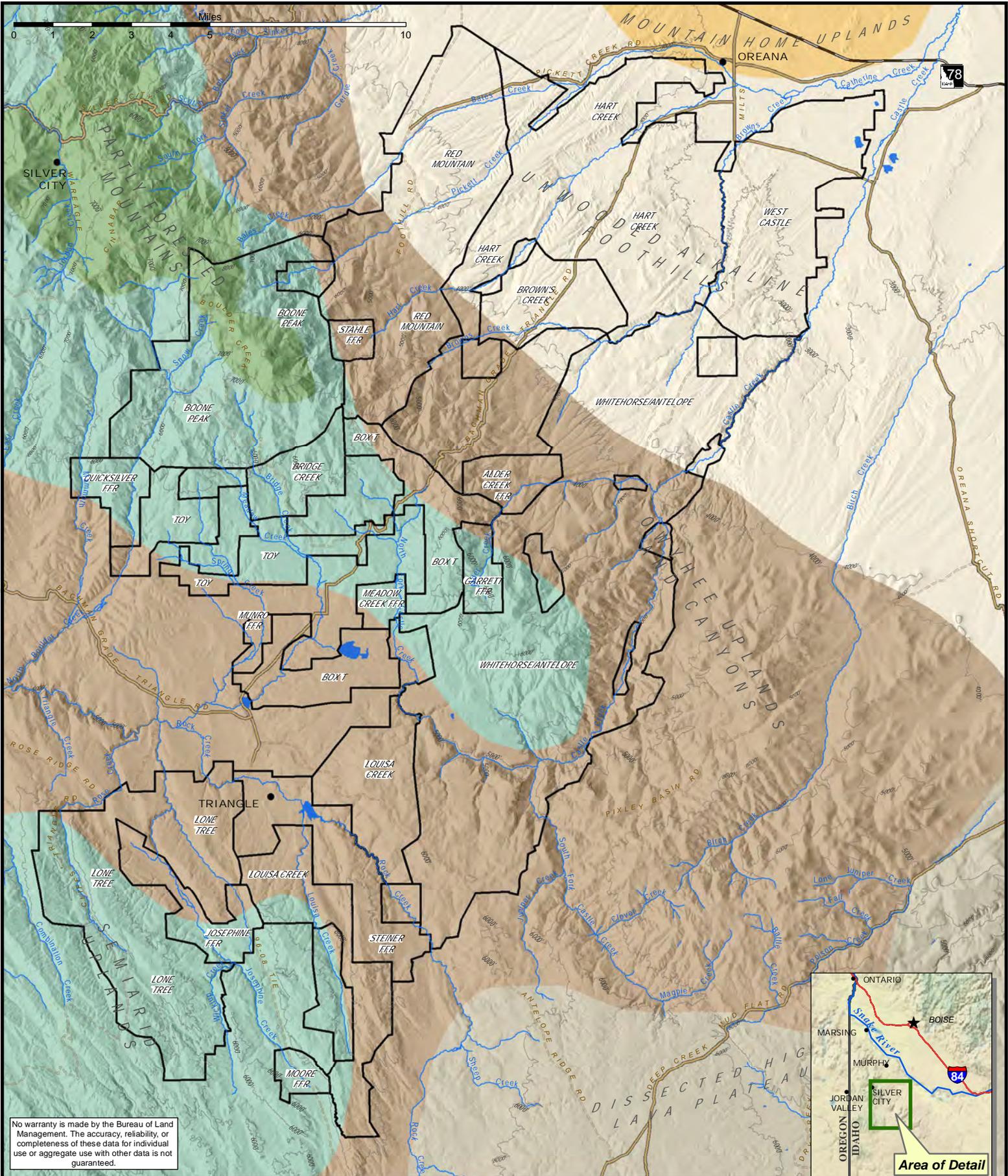
- Improved Road
- 4WD Road
- Gate
- Stock Pond
- Spring
- Trough

- 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

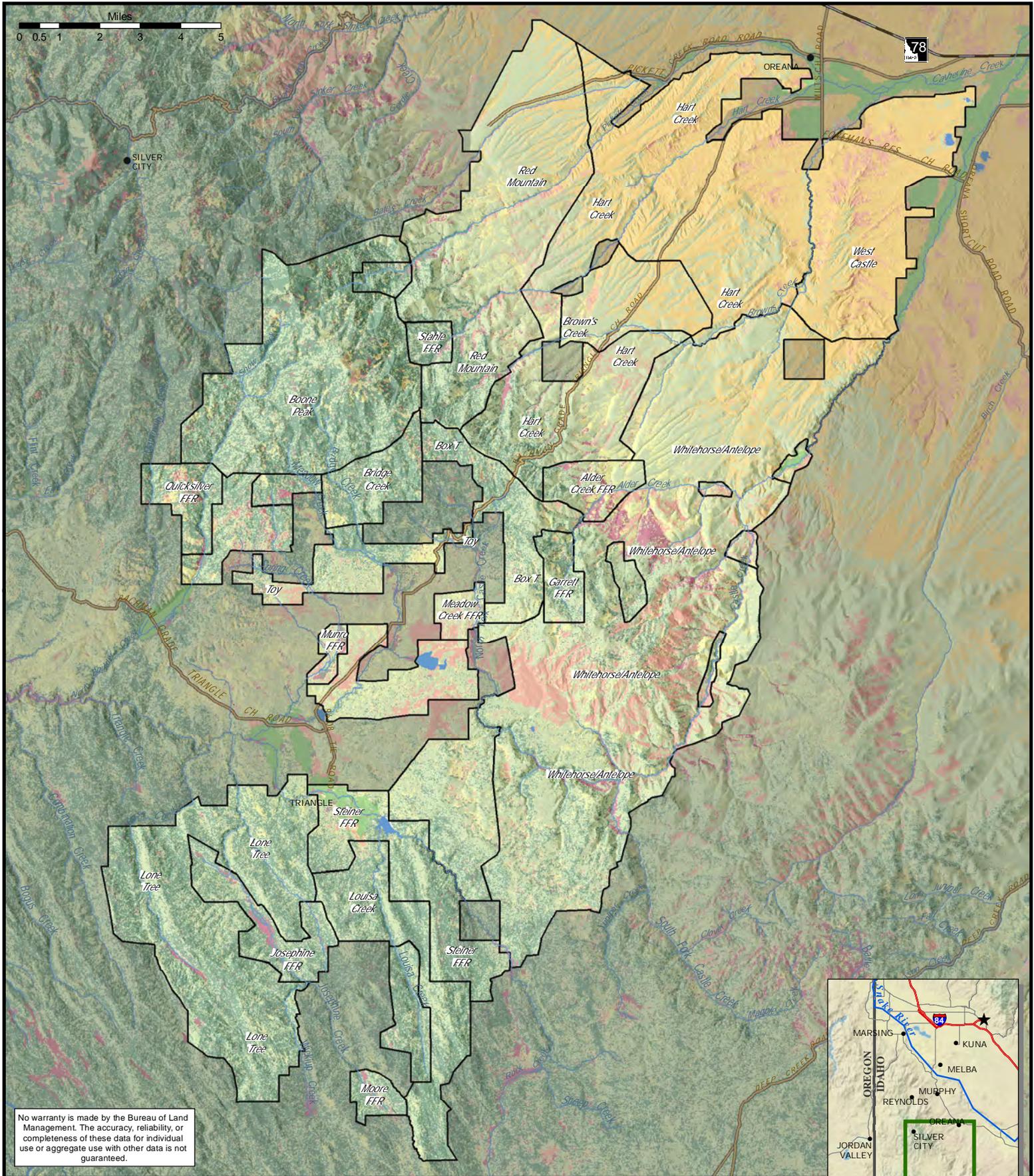
- Ecoregion Classification**
- Dissected High Lava Plateau
 - Mountain Home Uplands
 - Owyhee Uplands and Canyons
 - Partly Forested Mountains
 - Semiarid Uplands
 - Unwooded Alkaline Foothills



1:200,000



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

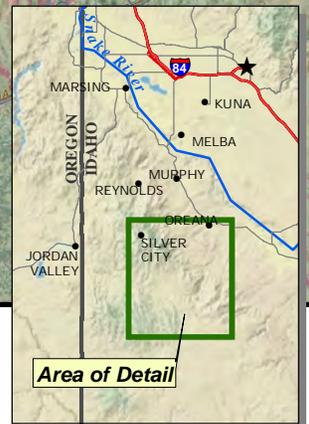


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

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

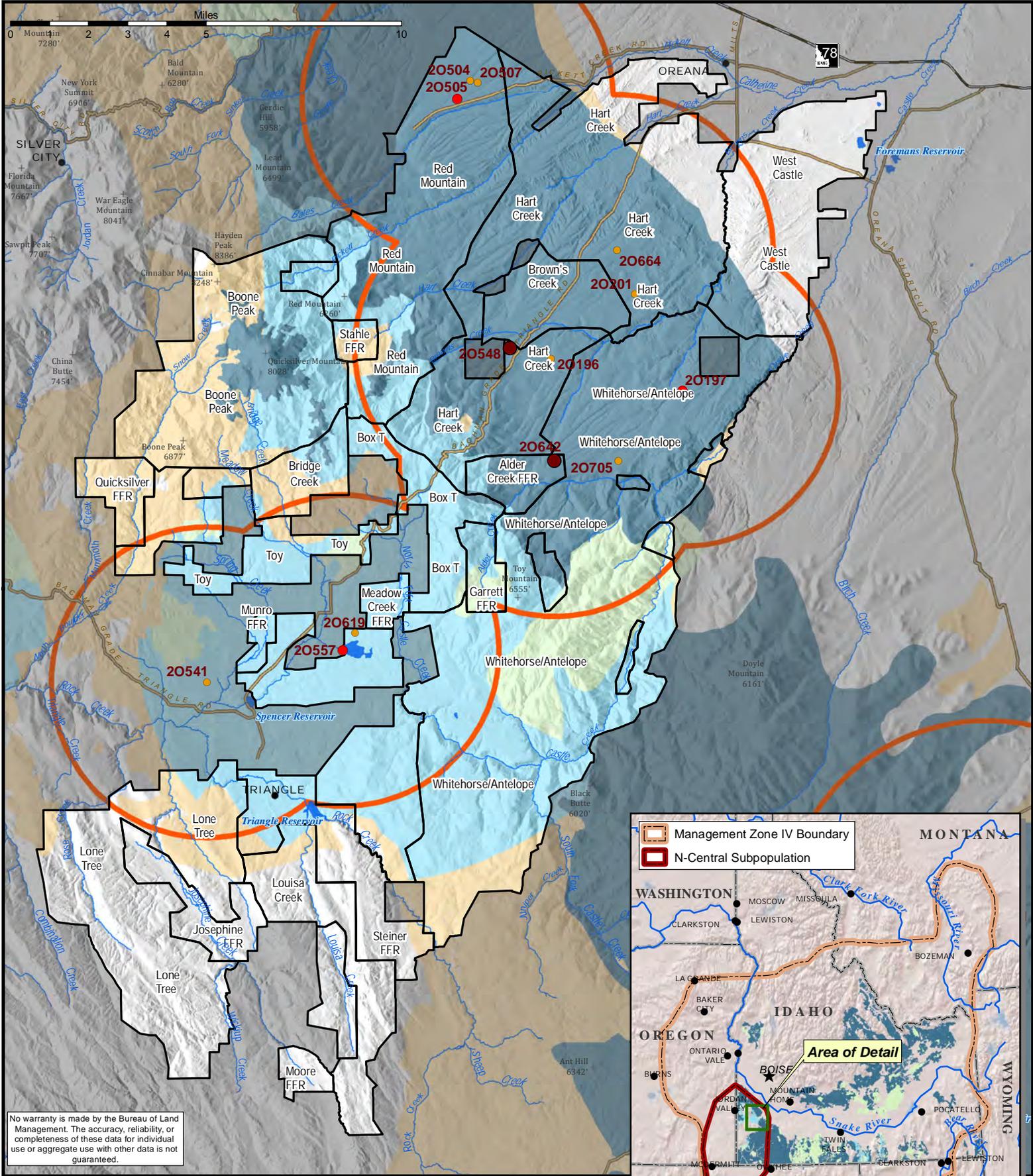
Vegetation Cover Classification

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 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.

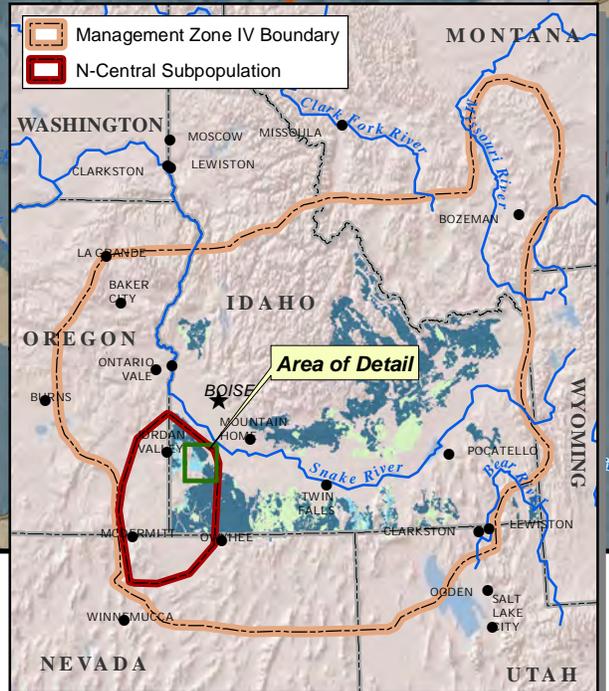
- Allotment Boundary
- Perennial Stream
- Lake/Reservoir
- Highway
- Improved Road

Idaho Occupied Sage-grouse Leks

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

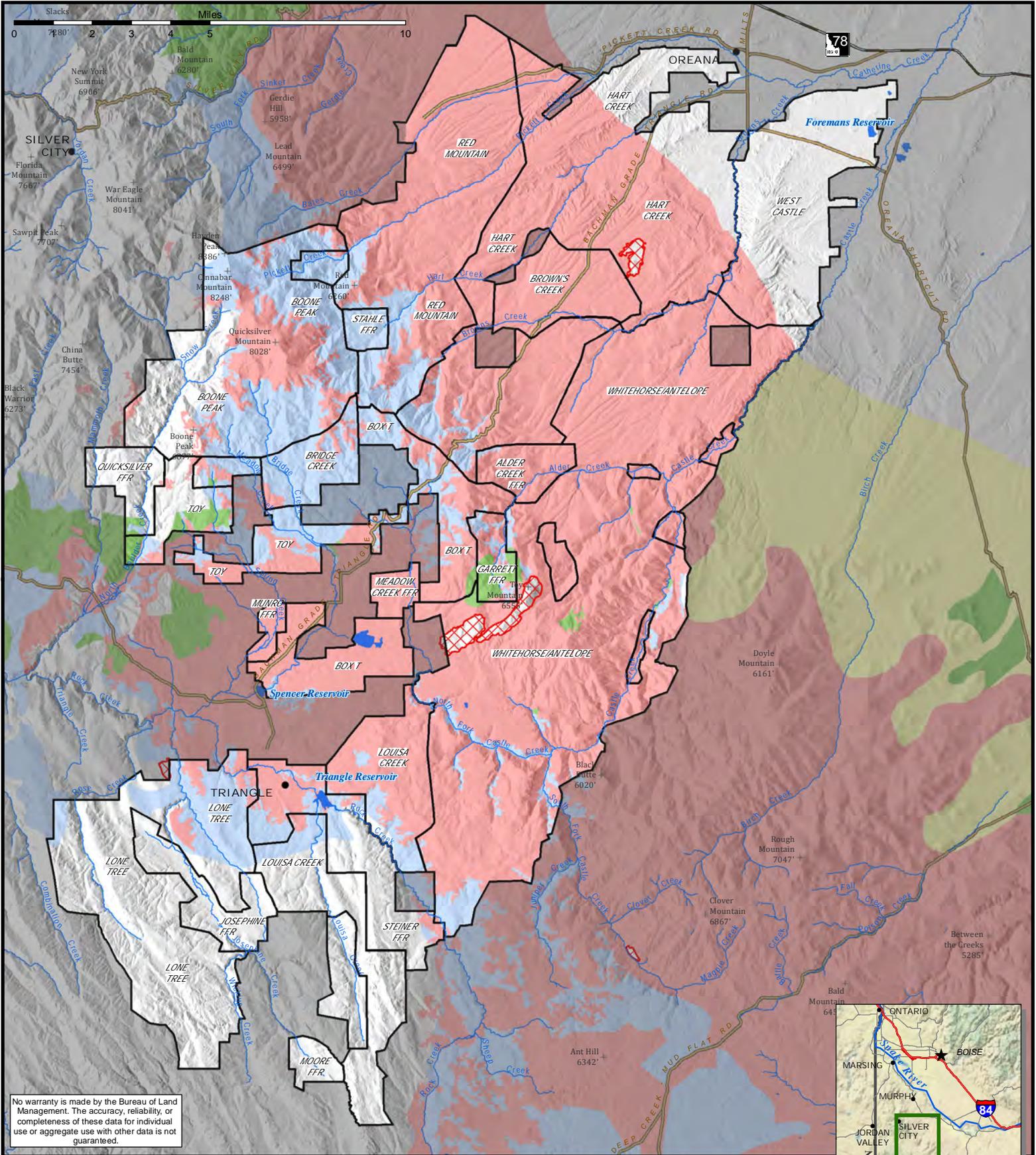
Idaho Sage-grouse Habitat Classes

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





WDLF-4, Key Habitat Overview, Toy Mountain Allotments



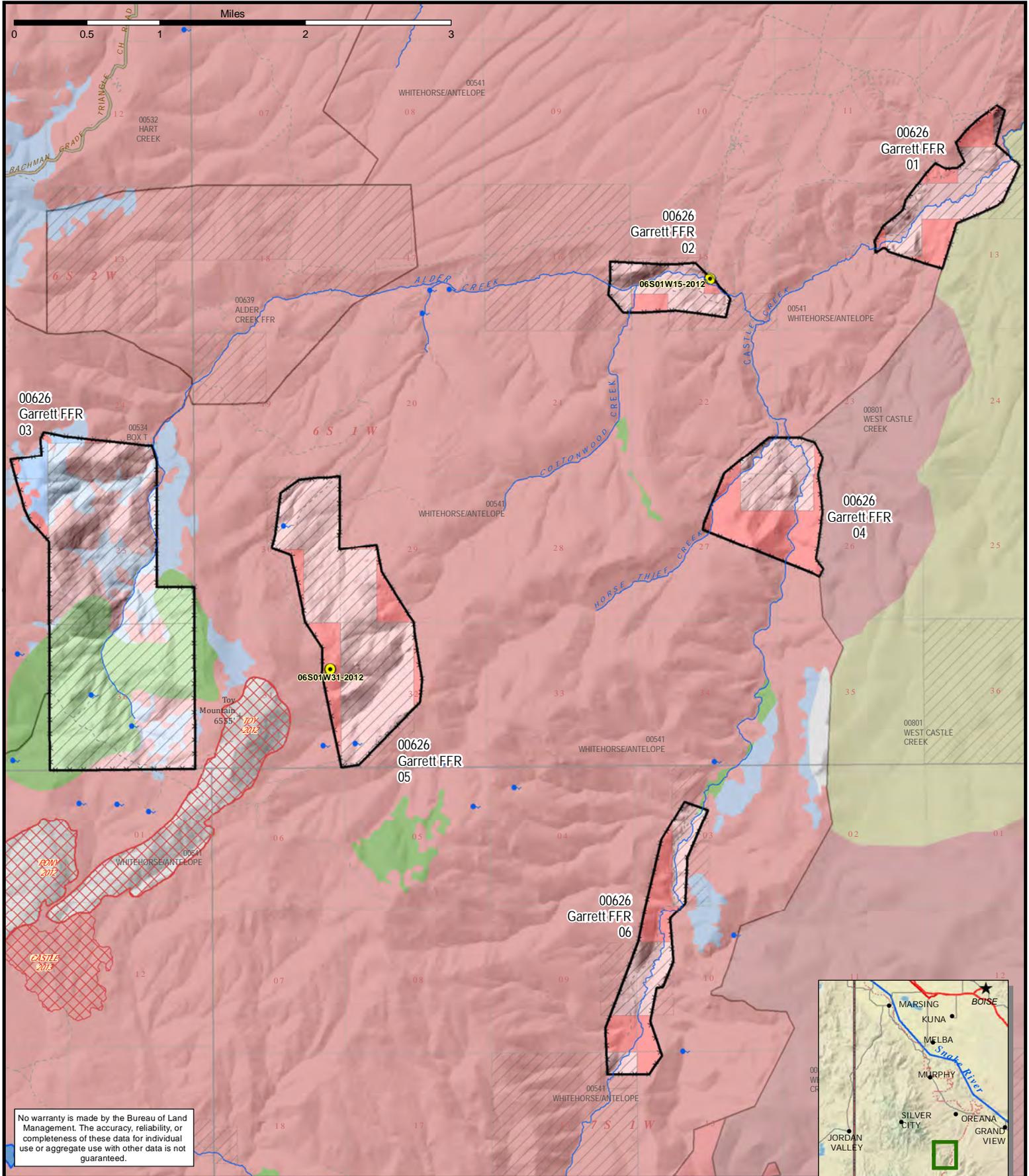
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

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





WDLF-5: Garrett FFR (00626), Key Sage-grouse Habitat and Assessment Sites



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- Allotment of Interest Boundary
- Pasture Boundary
- Other Allotment Boundary
- Improved Road
- 4WD Road

- 2012 Sage-grouse Habitat**
- (K) Key Habitat
 - (R1) Perennial Grasslands
 - (R2) Annual Grasslands Dominate
 - (R3) Conifer Encroachment
 - Non-BLM Managed Lands

- Habitat Assessment Site
- Area of Recent Burn
- Perennial Stream
- Spring
- Lake/Reservoir

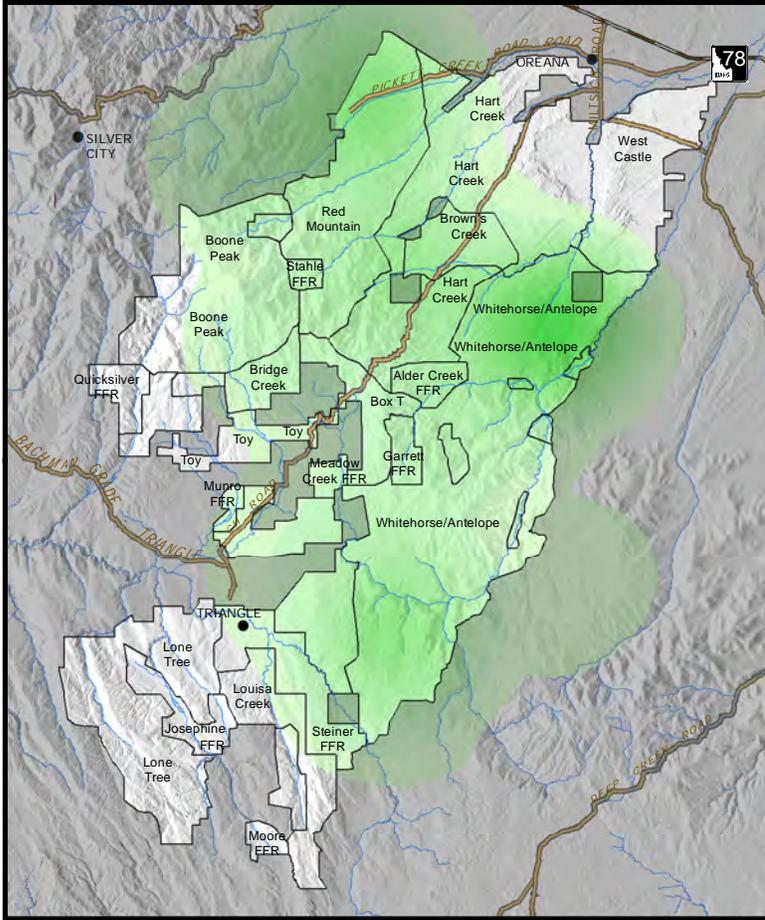




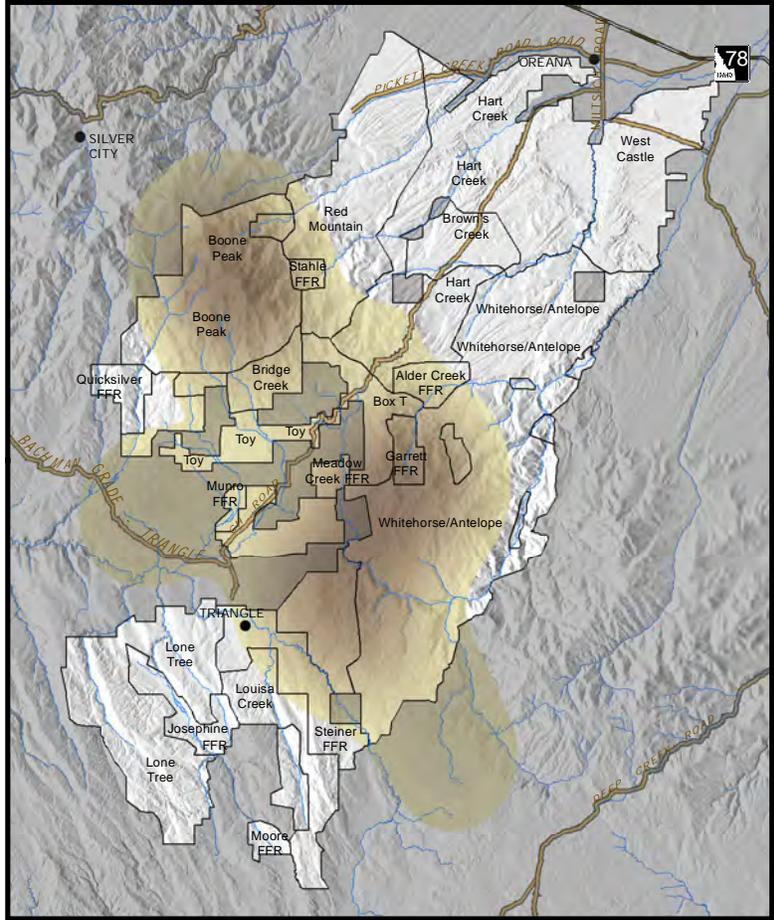
WDLF-6: Seasonal Sage-grouse Habitat, Toy Mountain Allotments



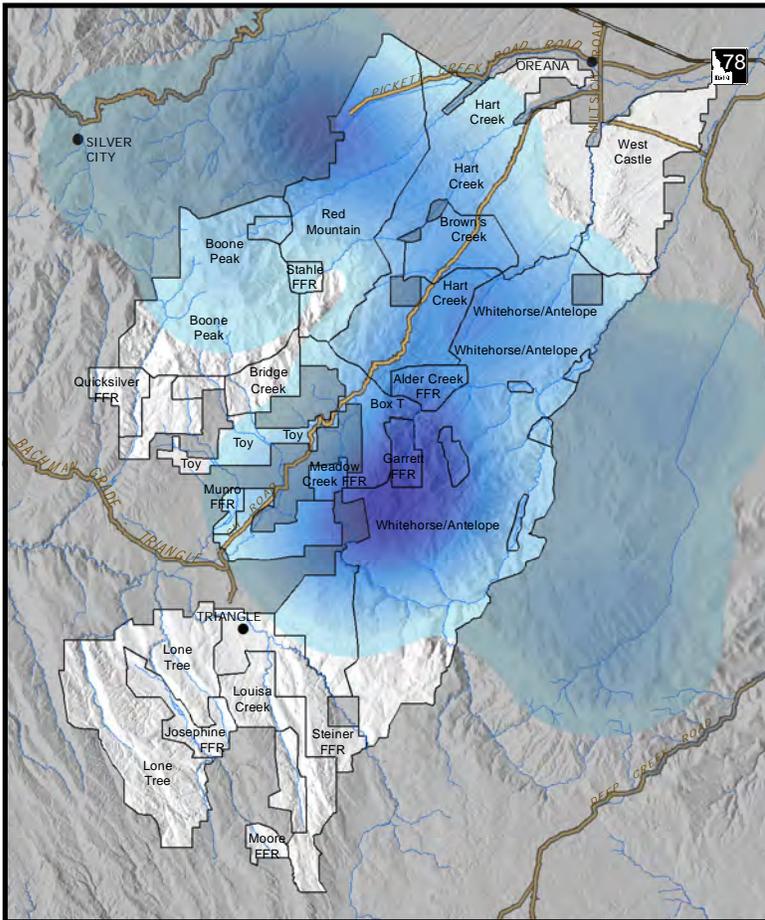
Breeding Habitat



Upland Summer Habitat



Winter Habitat



- Allotment Boundary
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Perennial Stream

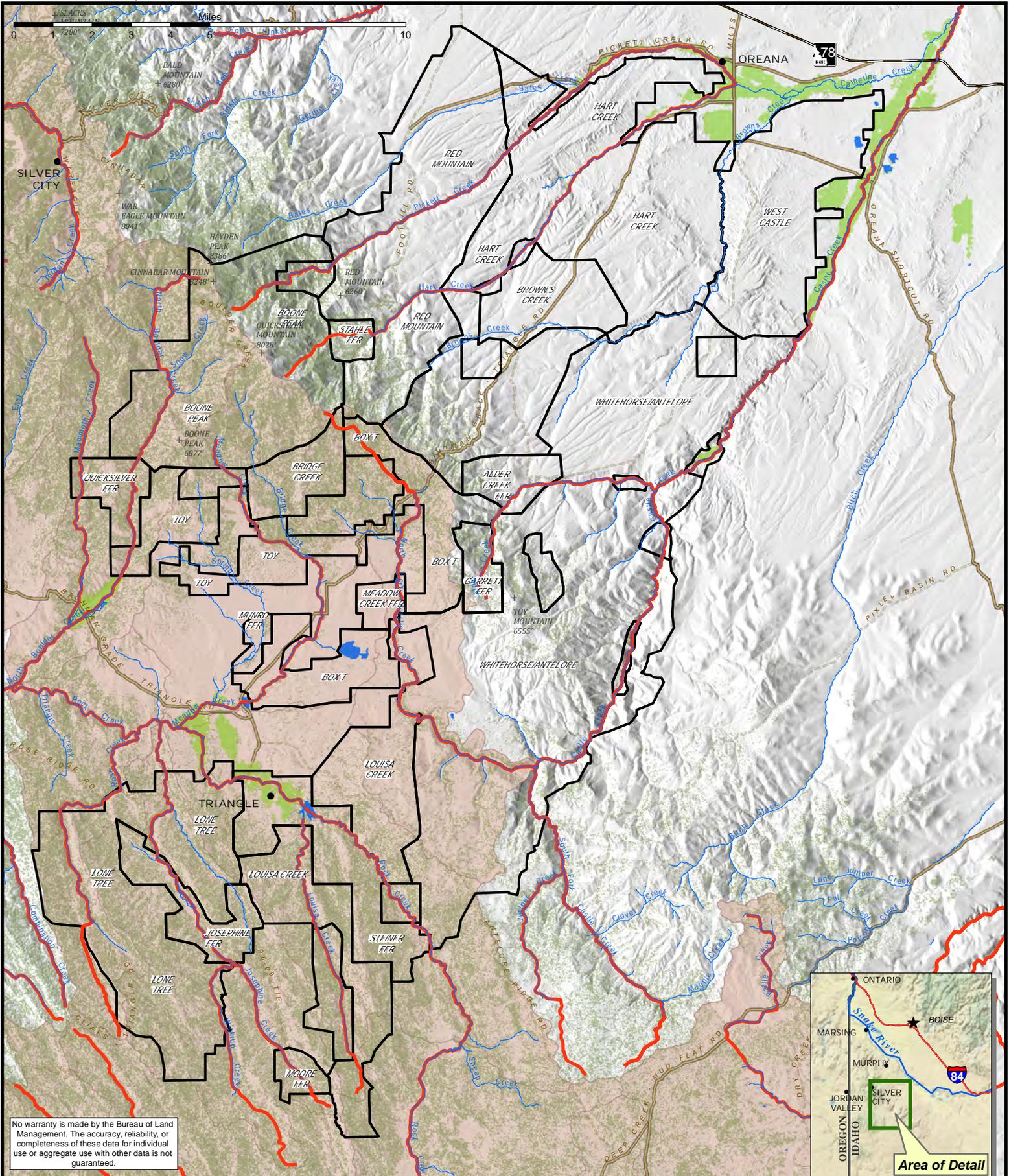
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



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



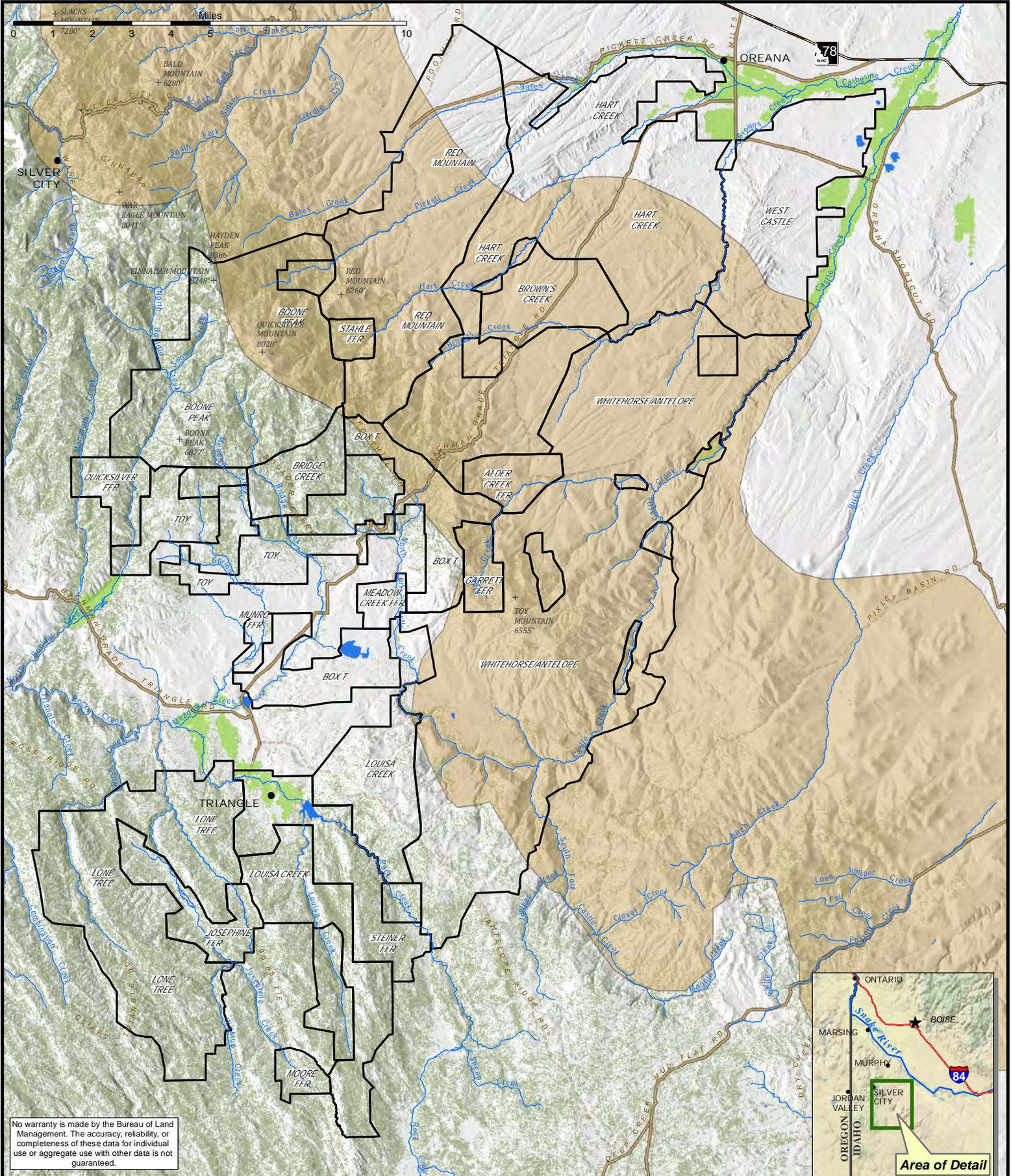
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

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





Map 8, Bighorn Sheep Overview, Toy Mountain Allotments



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

