

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater NVC01000

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-0018 -DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Township 17 North (T17N); Range 38 East (R38E); Sections 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23.
APPLICANT (if any):

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office is proposing to improve habitat for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and increase the health of aspen stands within the area surrounding Haypress Creek (see Figures 1 and 2) in the Desaotya Mountains. The project would consist of removing the single-leaf pinyon (*Pinus monophylla*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) that have encroached into the sagebrush and aspen communities within the 2,530 acre project area.

The pinyon/juniper that has encroached into the sagebrush community is currently at Phase 1 density, which means that trees are present but shrubs are the dominant vegetation that influences ecological processes at the site. Pinyon/juniper in sagebrush habitat will be removed via lop and scatter. Old-growth pinyon/juniper (trees with a diameter at breast height greater than 18 inches) will not be cut within the sagebrush habitat.

Pinyon/juniper has encroached into the aspen stands within the project area and is causing a decline in the quality and quantity of the aspen habitat within the location. To increase the quantity and quality of aspen within the project area, pinyon/juniper within and out to at least 150 feet from the aspen stands will be removed. Pinyon/juniper within the aspen stands will be removed through hand felling, with the slash piled away from the aspen stands. Pinyon/juniper outside of the aspen stands can be removed via lop and scatter or through hand felling and slash piling. The slash will either be left to function as habitat for small wildlife or be burned. Burn plans would be required before any piles can be burned. Slash will only be piled, and subsequently burned if appropriate, in areas that a BLM approved archaeologist has deemed appropriate.

Mitigation Measures Common to Treatments in Sagebrush and Aspen Habitats:

- The greater sage-grouse Haypress Lek occurs within the project boundary. To avoid impacts to lekking greater sage-grouse, no project related activities are to occur from

March 1 to May 15. Since the majority of greater sage-grouse will nest within 5 km of a lek, the restriction can be extended to June 30 if it is determined that project related activities could impact nesting grouse.

- To avoid any violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, project related activities that could disturb nesting migratory birds will not occur unless a pre-disturbance nest survey is conducted by qualified personnel. The nesting season is approximately March 15 to May 30 for pinyon jays (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), March 1 to July 31 for raptors, and April 1 to July 31 for all other avian species. The survey must be done no more than 14 days before project related activities are to occur. If nesting migratory birds are found within the project area, an appropriate buffer from each active nest will be established and maintained until the young birds have fledged or the nest has failed.
- Cultural resources evaluated as eligible under the National Register of Historic Places and unevaluated cultural resources identified during implementation of the project would be avoided. As always respect for all cultural resources would be maintained especially in the case of human remains that would be inadvertently discovered in the process of conducting the proposed project.
- Pinyon/juniper on steep and rocky slopes will not be cut.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

Date Approved May 9, 2001

Other Document _____

Date Approved _____

Other Document _____

Date Approved _____

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- WLD-2.3: Protect and maintain existing and potential fisheries habitat and riparian habitats in a good or better condition
- WLD-2.4: Maintain and improve wildlife habitat, and reduce habitat conflicts while providing for other appropriate resource uses.
- WLD-2.6: Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands so as to enhance productivity for all rangeland values (including wildlife).

- LSG-1.1: Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland and watershed values.
- LSG-2.A: Maintain a sufficient quality and diversity of habitat and forage for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses through natural regeneration and/or vegetation manipulation.
- RIP-1.E: Prescribe management for riparian-wetland values that is based upon site-specific characteristics and settings.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Document Type: Environmental Assessment
Title: Desatoya Mountains Habitat Resiliency, Health, and Restoration Project
Document Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA
Decision and Rationale: July 17, 2012

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

Though the boundary for the Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project would be predominantly outside any of the designated treatment areas identified in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA, the project would occur within the overall project boundary analyzed in the EA (Figure 1). The environmental consequences of removing pinyon/juniper within sagebrush and aspen habitats through methods that include lop and scatter, tree cutting and slash piling, mechanical tree shredding, and whole tree removal were analyzed for the entire project boundary (not just within treatment units) in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA. Therefore, the proposed action and potential environmental consequences from the Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project is essentially similar to an alternative analyzed in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

The range of alternatives analyzed in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA are still appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, since the EA analyzed the environmental consequences of removing pinyon/juniper from sagebrush and aspen stands, as well as a no action alternative. There are no new environmental concerns, interests or resource values in the area that would necessitate analyzing any additional alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

There are no new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances that would require additional NEPA analysis. For example, there have been no updates to the BLM sensitive species list since DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA was completed. Furthermore, no additional species (associated with the project area) have been listed under the Endangered Species Act since DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA was completed. As a result, the circumstances have not changed to the extent that would make the existing analysis inadequate.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

The potential impacts from the new proposed action would be the same as those analyzed in DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA. More specifically, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of removing pinyon/juniper from sagebrush habitat and aspen stands were analyzed within DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes.

Public outreach efforts and the interagency review conducted for DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA qualifies as adequate public involvement for the Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project. More specifically, the EA was made available for a 30 day public review and comment

period on March 5, 2012 until April 4, 2012. The EA was made available by hard copy at the Carson City District Office and the website at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

All comments received were reviewed, considered and responded to by the BLM Carson City District Office.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u> <u>Represented</u>
Linda Appel	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM <i>La</i> 4/21/14
Jill Devaurs	Land Law Examiner/Weed Coordinator	BLM <i>JD</i> 4-21-14
Chris Kula	Wildlife Biologist	BLM <i>CK</i> 4/21-14
Dan Westermeyer	Outdoor Recreation Planner	BLM <i>DW</i> 4-21-14
Kristin Bowen	Archaeologist	BLM <i>KB</i> 6/2/2014
Angelica Rose	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	BLM <i>AR</i> 6/2/14

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



6/3/14

Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator

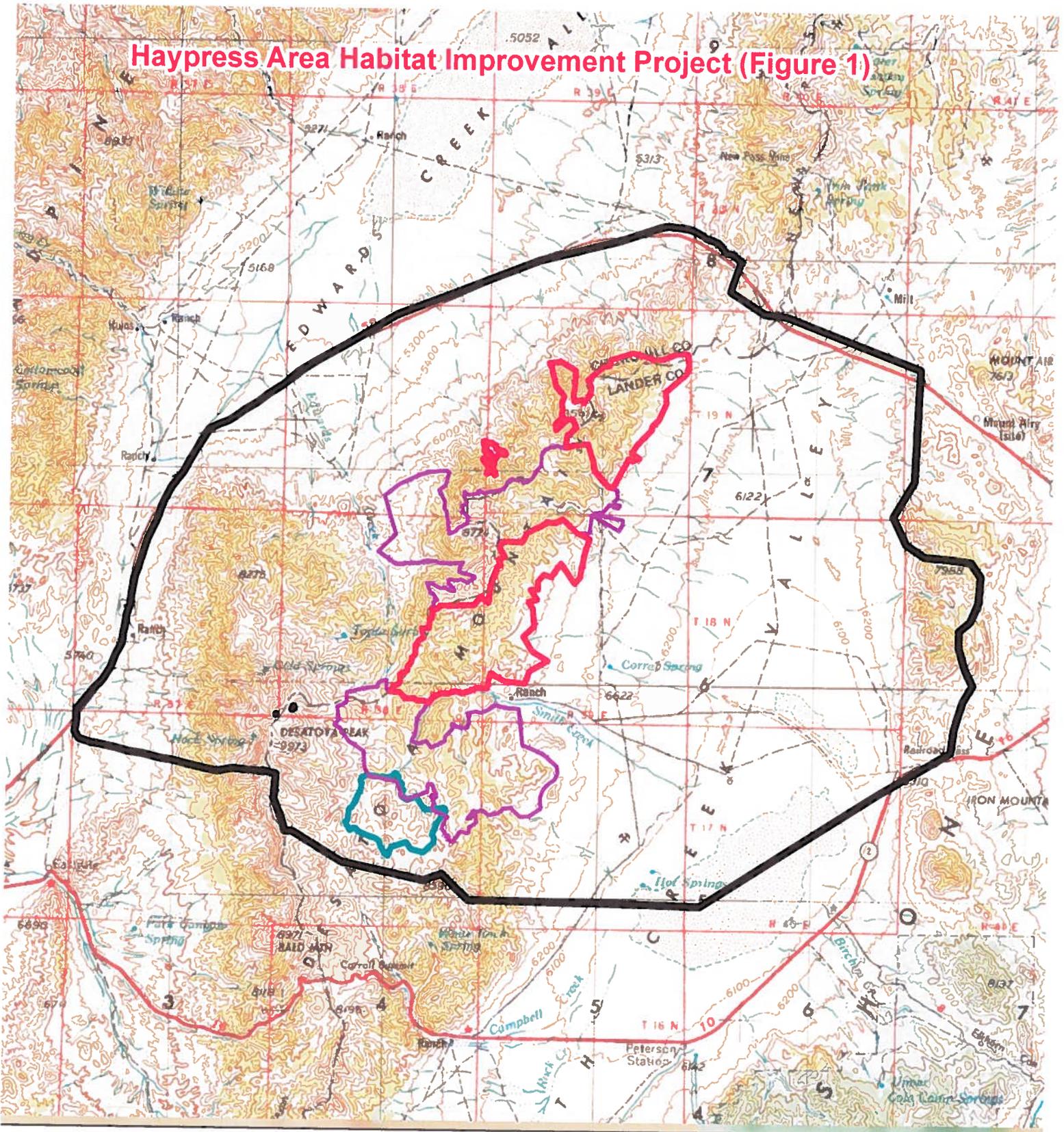


Signature of Responsible Official

Date *6/12/2014*

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project (Figure 1)



	2012 Desatoya EA Project Boundary
	Woodland Treatment Area 2012 Desatoya EA
	Sage Grouse Treatment Area 2012 Desatoya EA
	Haypress Treatment Area
Land Status	
	Bureau of Land Management
	Private
	Forest Service

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

N

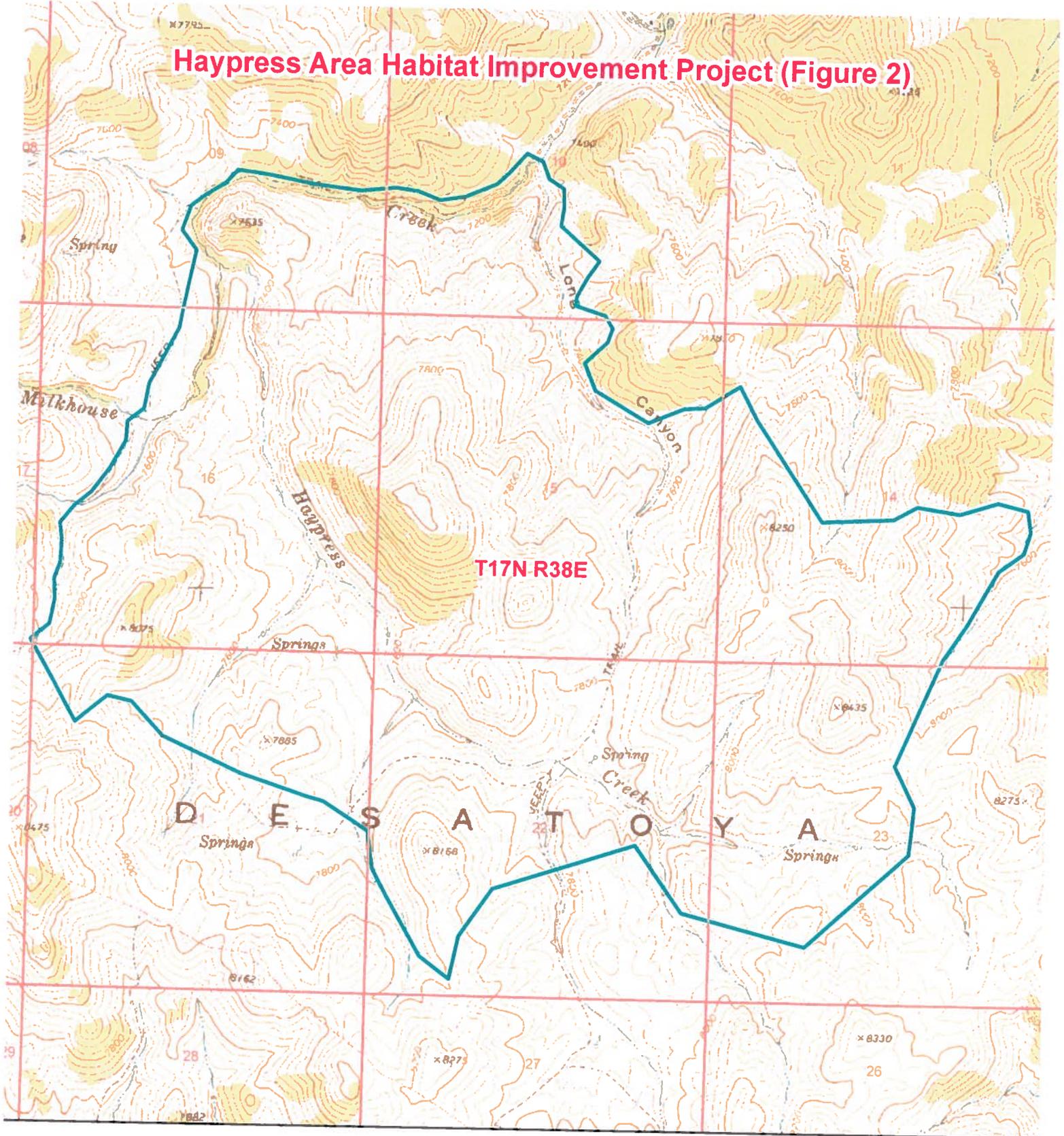


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Map Produced by: Chris Kula
 04/09/2014

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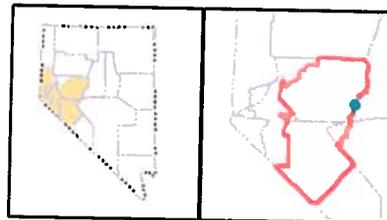
Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project (Figure 2)



 Haypress Treatment Area

Land Status

 Bureau of Land Management
 Private



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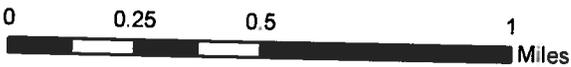
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Reference Scale: 1:24,000

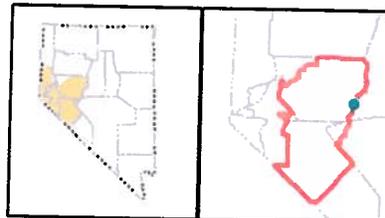
Haypress Area Habitat Improvement Project



 Haypress Treatment Area



Reference Scale: 1:24,000



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