

2020 Mule Deer Mitigation Projects Update

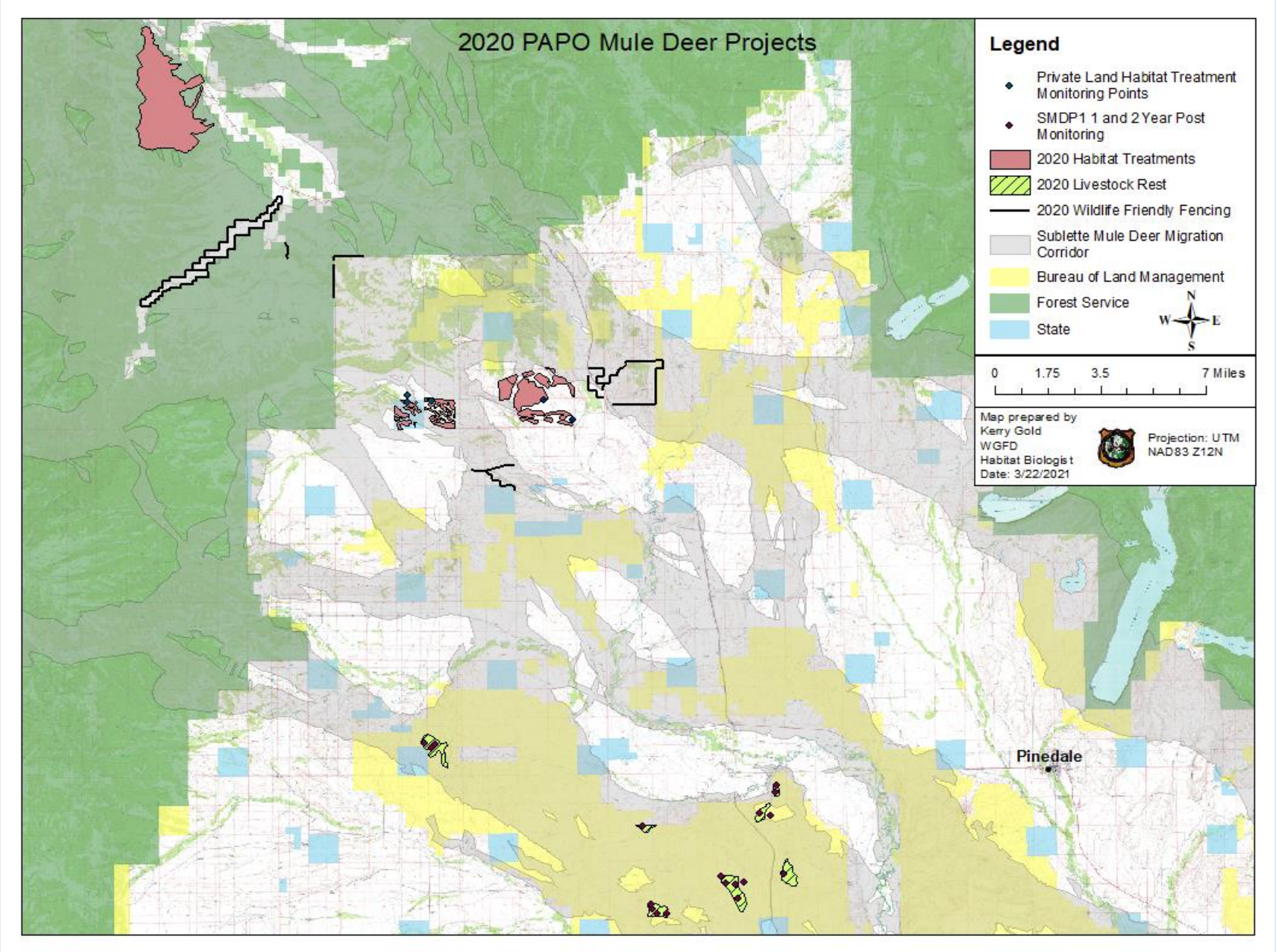
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Overview

PAPO mule deer projects 2020

- Habitat
 - Habitat treatments
 - Pretreatment and post-treatment monitoring
- Wildlife friendly fencing



Gold, K. 2020. Mule Deer Habitat Mitigation Projects. 2020 Annual Update. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Habitat Treatments

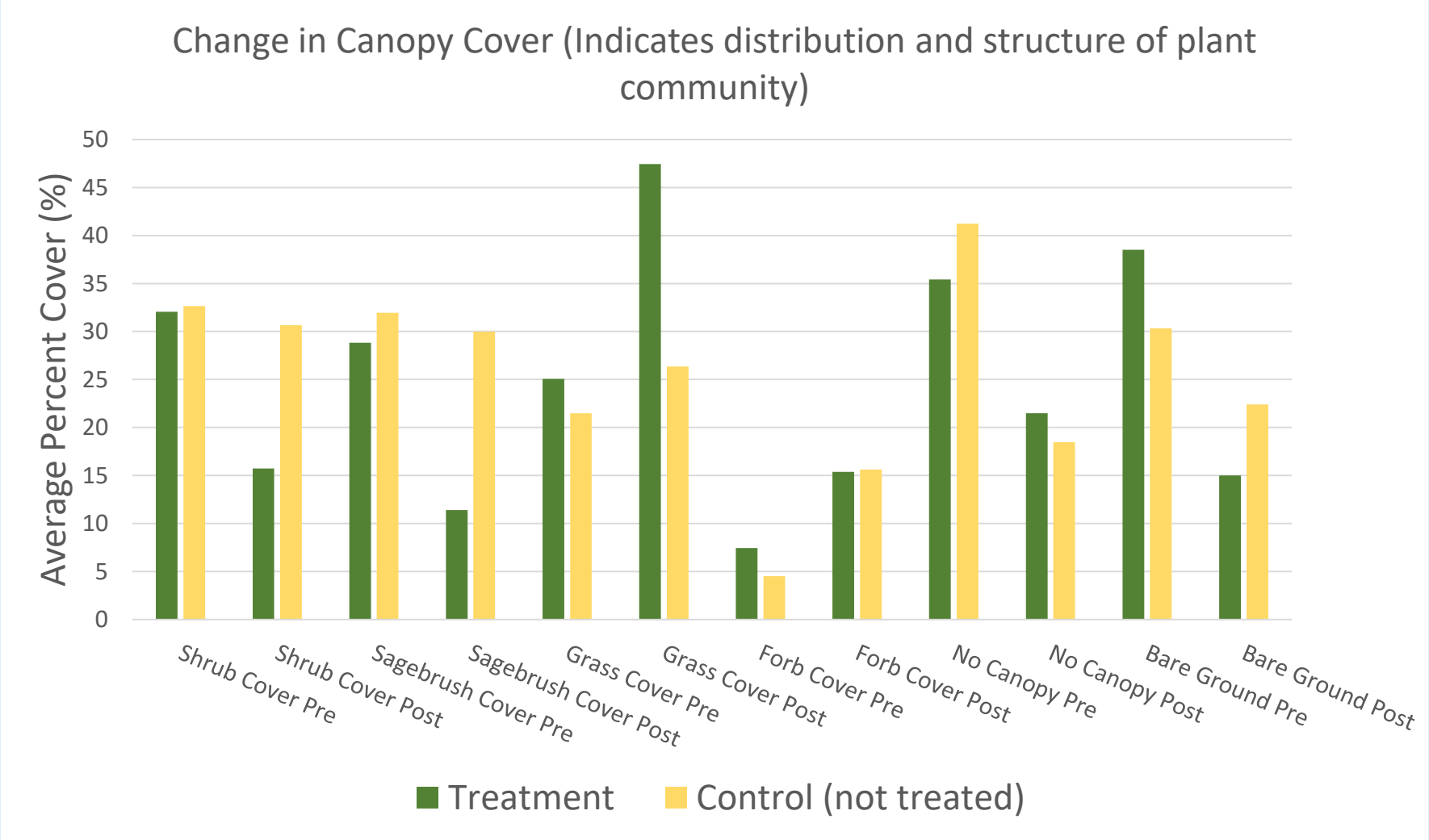
- Sublette Mule Deer Mitigation Plan (BLM 2016)
- Treatment rest with riders and electric fencing
- Two-year post surveys: 18 monitoring points
 - LPI, shrub density belts, annual shrub production surveys, browse level surveys, photopoints



Soapholes 2018 vs 2020

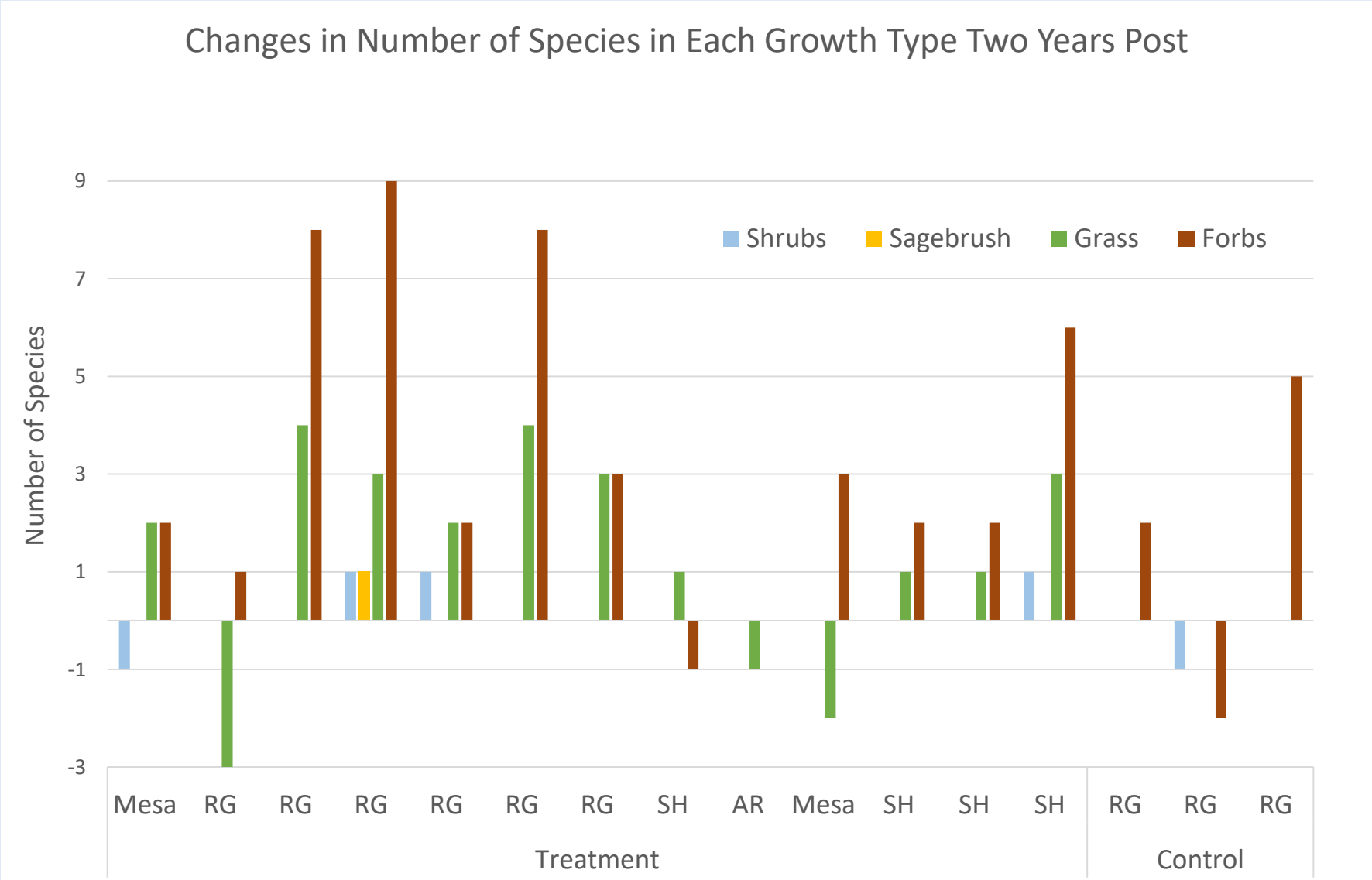
Habitat Treatments

- Treatments display more grass and less shrub, sagebrush, and bare ground cover than controls
- Little difference in forb and open canopy cover between treatments and controls



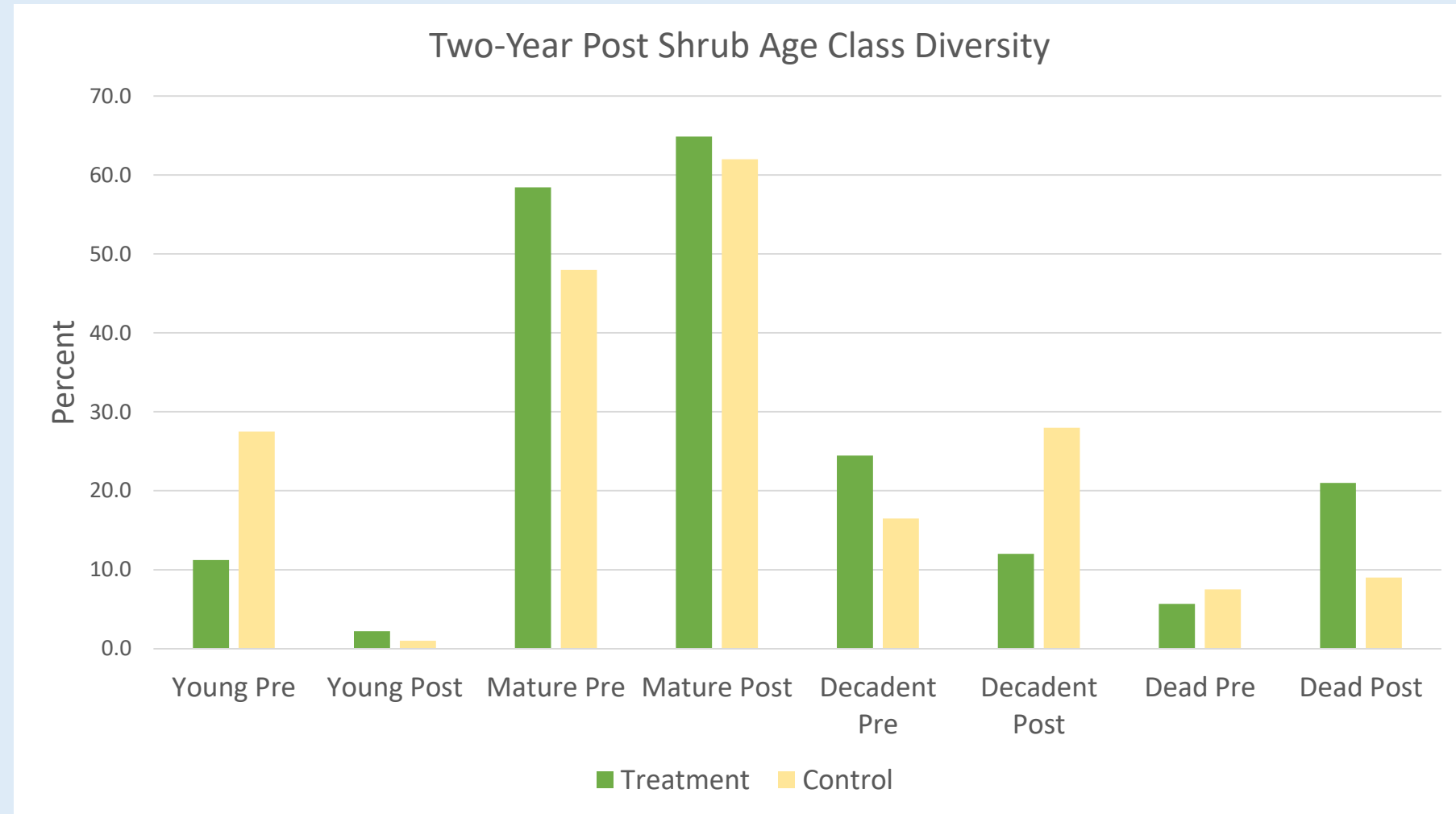
Habitat Treatments

- Treatments generally recruit more species of plants across more life types than controls (though still inconclusive overall)
- RG = Ryegrass, SH = Soapholes, AR = Aspen Ridge



Habitat Treatments

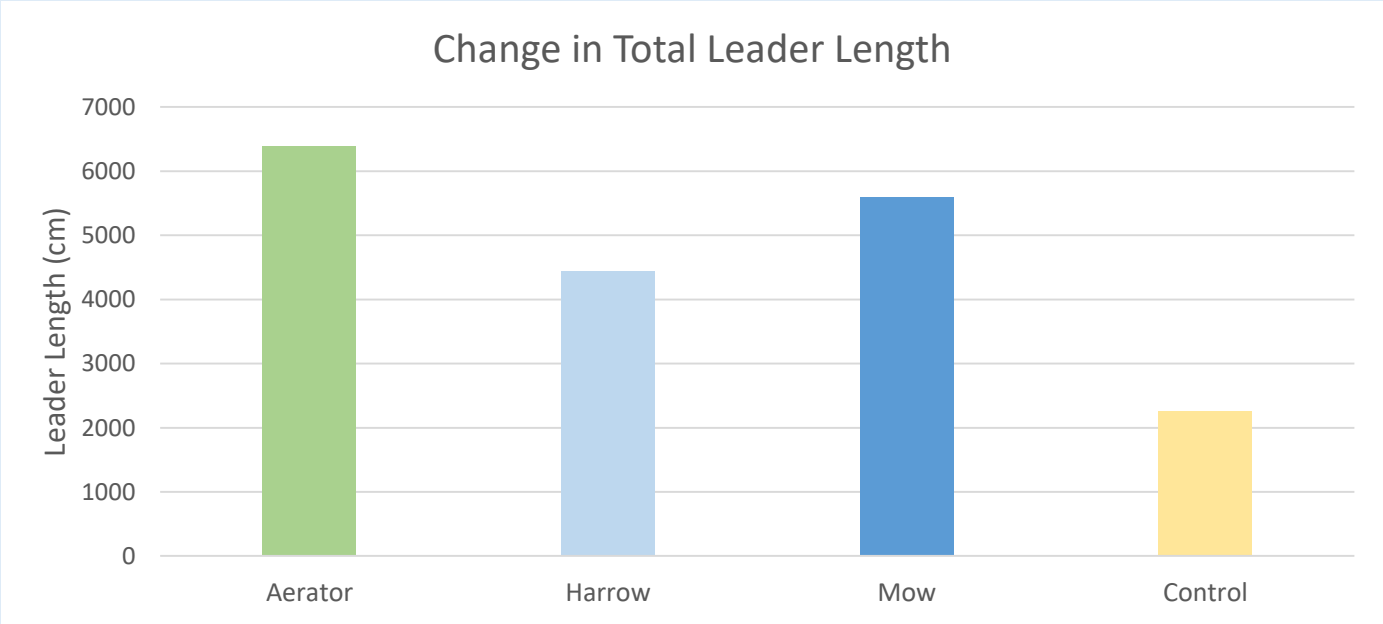
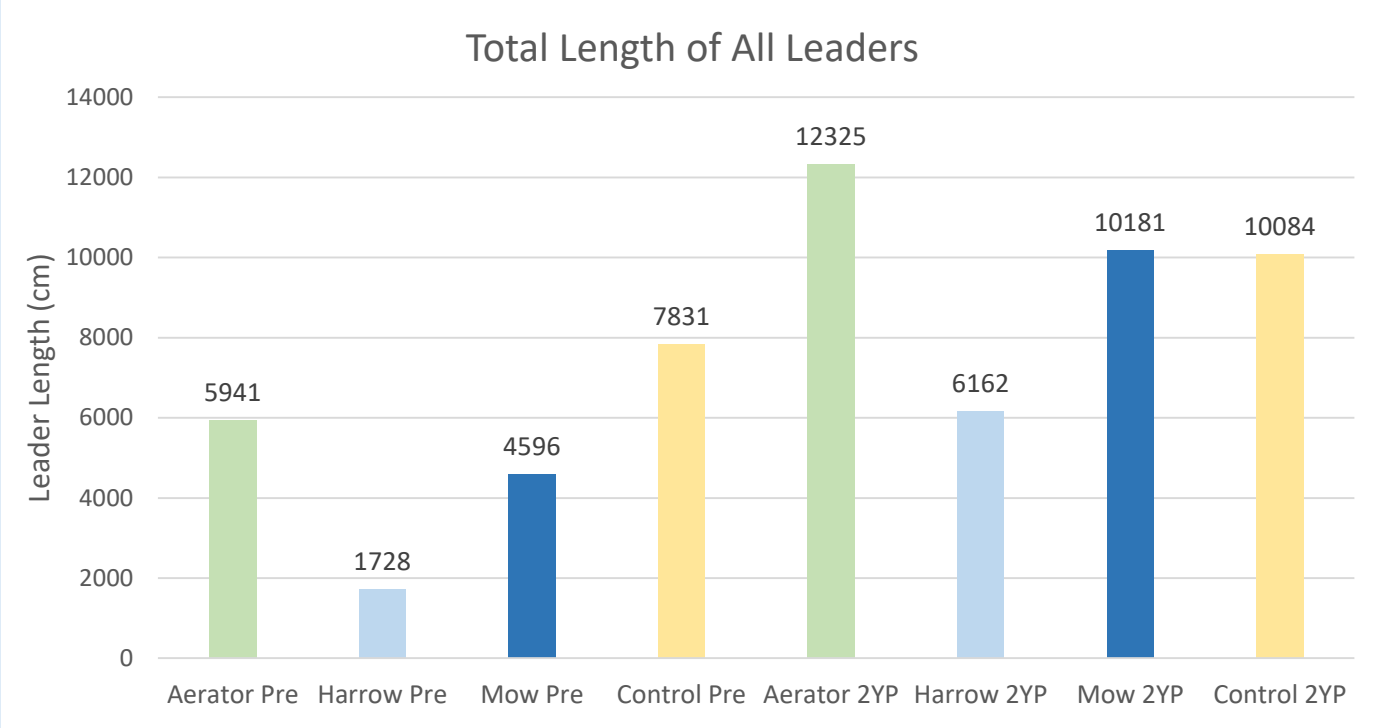
- Shrub age class effects mainly seen in older age groups
- Younger age classes need more time for responses



Habitat Treatments

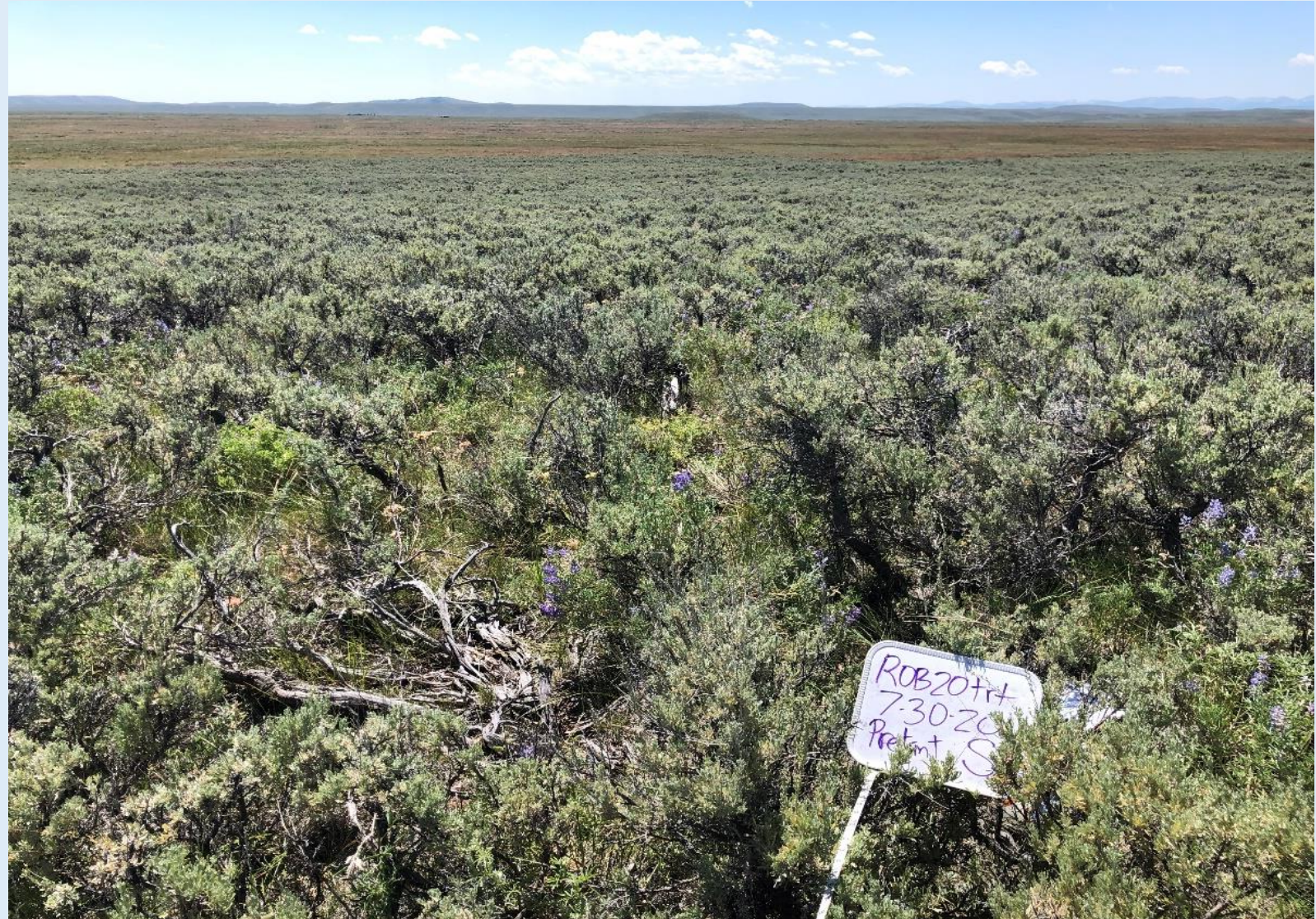
Ryegrass MX Treatments

- Three mechanical treatment techniques implemented next to each other in Ryegrass project area in 2018 (aerator, harrow, mower)
- Pretreatment and two-year post monitoring results
- Aerator yielded greatest increase in leader production and greatest production of leaders overall across all treatments and controls



Habitat Treatments

- Hoback Rim 2020 Habitat Treatments
 - 500 acres Spike herbicide
 - 660 acres random mosaic mowing
 - Pretreatment monitoring



Hoback Rim 2020 pretreatment

Wildlife Friendly Fencing

- 12 miles in 2020
 - Four-strand & top rail
- Jackson Fork Ranch
 - Nine new bison fence modifications, adjustments to four 2019 modifications





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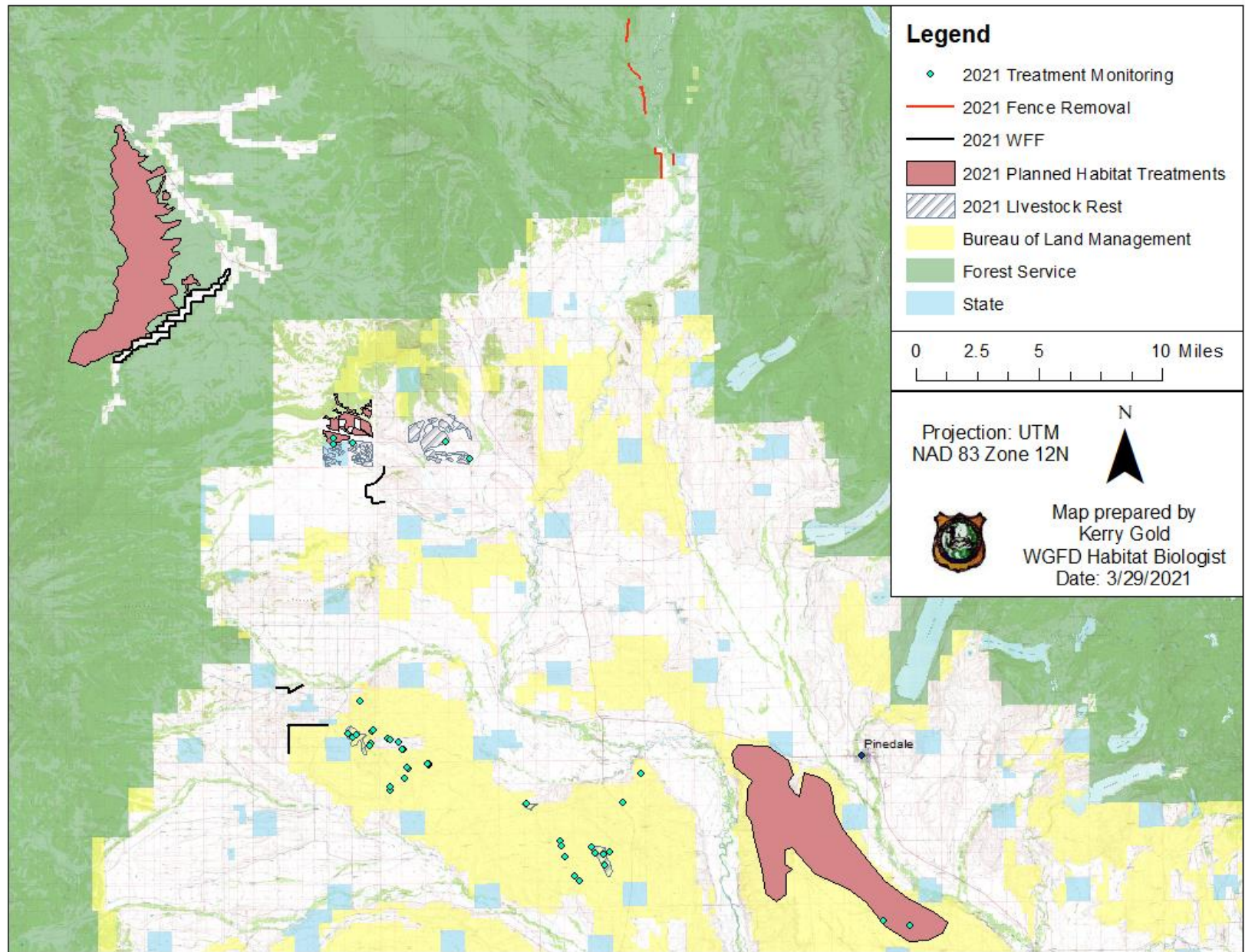
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2021 Planned Work

- Continue monitoring and livestock resting for Sublette Mule Deer Mitigation Project and Hoback Rim treatments
- Mesa shrub planting
- Hoback Rim mechanical treatments and pretreatment surveys
- ~8 miles of wildlife friendly fencing (possibly more)
- Bison fence modifications
- Defunct fence removal in Upper Green
- Monument Ridge slash/pile



Questions?

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