Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: **Nash Wash WMA Greasewood Removal** **Proposal Number:** 1202

DWR Region: Southeastern Region **Lead Agency:** DWR **County:** Garfield

Project Manager: Daniel Eddington **PM Phone:** 4356133717 **Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat **Proposed Start Date:** 09/01/2008

Project Location: Project is located at the base of the Book Cliff range on the Nash Wash WMA.

Project Description: Reduce greasewood and cheatgrass density by pipe harrowing, herbicide application, and seeding on 30 acres in the Nash Wash WMA.

Description of Problem/Need: Through disturbances by heavy grazing and drought, many of the understories of Wyoming big sagebrush have become dominated by black greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus) and cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum). The monoculture of greasewood and cheatgrass has reduced the forage capacity of this range type and has increased fire disturbance; further reducing shrub and herbaceous understory diversity and density. In 1999 and 2000, an attempt to improve the understory with a drill and harrow was tried, but much of the area has reverted back to a cheatgrass monoculture. This area is critical mule deer winter habitat and continues to decline in size. Greasewood sites are important for maintaining wildlife habitat, but typically have become overgrown. Greasewood provides forage for pronghorn and mule deer, and small mammals such as white-tailed prairie dogs, kangaroo rats, chipmunks, porcupines and jackrabbits (Wood, Buchanan, and Skeet 1995).
Greasewood is slightly harmed or undamaged by fire. It resprouts from the stem base or roots following burning and quickly reestablishes and increasing stem density (Rickard and McShane. 1984). Herbicide applications cause resprouting similar to burning (Cluff, et al. 1983). Reducing the competition of cheatgrass/greasewood and facilitating seeding should provide the necessary control of black greasewood and cheatgrass to establish a shrub/perennial herbaceous understory.

Objectives: Increase critical mule deer winter range on the Nash Wash WMA for mule deer coming off of the Book Cliffs.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Mule deer are a Tier III species and this low desert shrub habitat is critical habitat for their survival.

Potential Risks: Without good precipitation seeded species in theis low elevation habitat may not provide the necessary long-term competition with cheatgrass.

Proposed Methods: In September of 2008, a D-6 dozer with a harrow/ripper will be used to remove approximately 35 acres of greasewood and cheatgrass. An application of Plateau herbicide will follow to gain additional control of the cheatgrass. Herbicide application will be applied at a rate of 6 oz/acre with a 30 ft boom sprayer (GBRC) attached to a tractor. In late October or November a rangeland drill/harrow be used to establish perennial grass and forb seed. A dribbler will be used for shrub species.

Shapefile Name: Nash Wash WMA Greasewood removal.shp **Seed Source:** GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☑ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Details: Photo plots.

Cons. Outreach Details:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Merriam's Wild Turkey

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner		Acres
DWR		22
SITLA		20
	Total	42

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source		Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Habitat Acct 174		$8,655.00		$0.00
	Totals	***$8,655.00***		***$0.00***

PROPOSED BUDGET

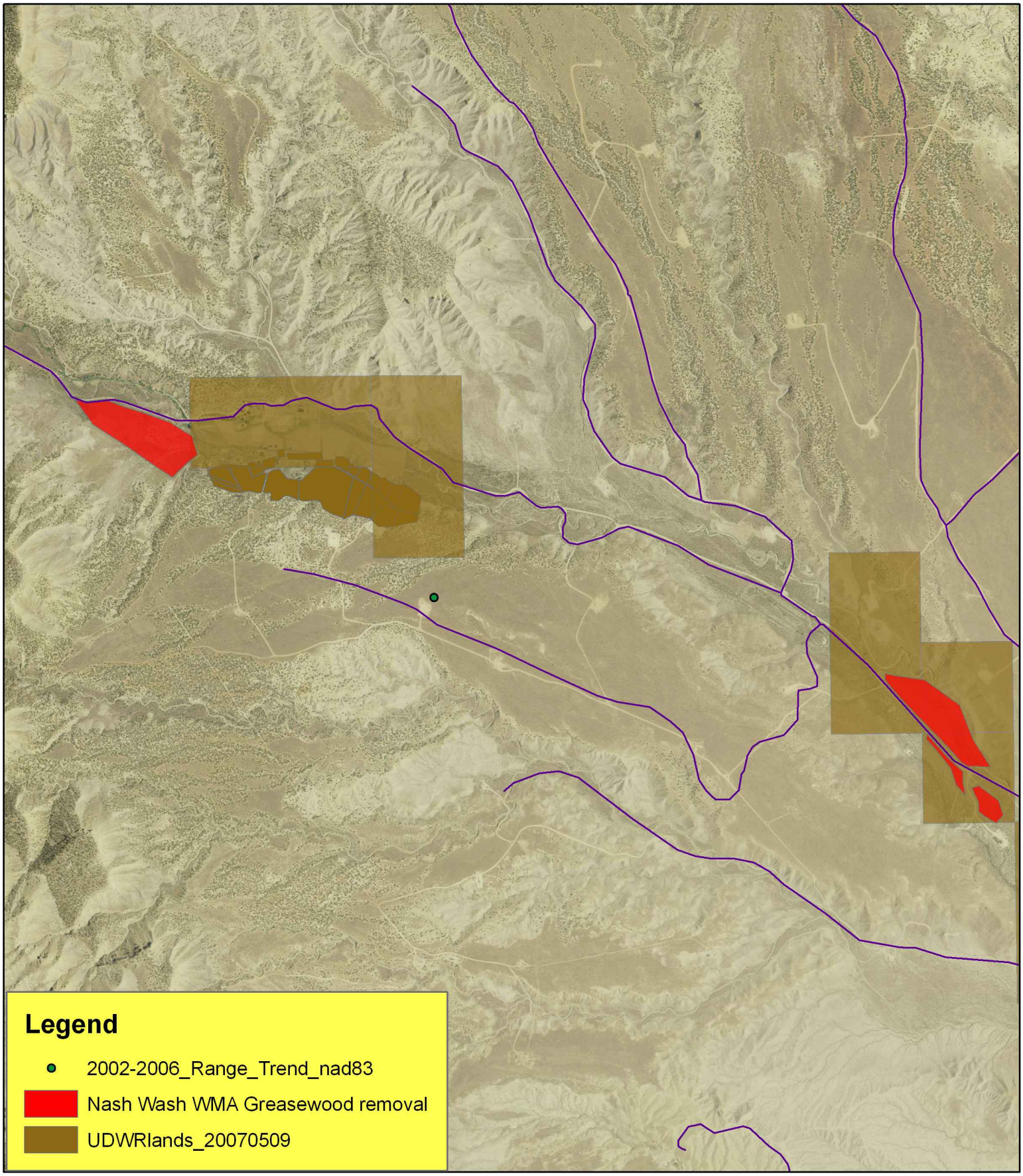
Item	Description		DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	$75/acre for 35 acres		$2,625.00	$0.00
Equipment Rental	D-6 dozer (40 hrs)		$2,500.00	$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Fuel		$1,500.00	$0.00
Equipment transport	harrow, tractor		$1,000.00	$0.00
Other	repairs		$500.00	$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Plateau $265/gal need 2 gals		$530.00	$0.00
		Totals	***$8,655.00***	***$0.00***

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type		Funding Percent
Big Game		90
Upland Game		10
	Total	***100.00%***

Project Map:

Nash Wash WMA Greasewood Removal



0.4 0.2 0 0.4 Miles

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