

South Sanpete Valley

Wildlife Management Areas



Habitat Management Plan

April 2025

Prepared by:

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - Central Region



UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

South Sanpete Valley Wildlife Management Areas

Habitat Management Plan

Central Region Habitat Section

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Habitat Management Plan for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in South Sanpete Valley

Executive Summary - April 2025

This habitat management plan (HMP) contains the following sections:

- **Background information** (purpose of Division ownership, public recreation opportunities, historic uses, key wildlife species, etc.)
- **Property information** (property description, acquisition history, encumbrances, etc.)
- **Property inventory** (capital improvements, existing habitats, etc.)
- **Management goals and objectives**
- **Strategies for property management**
- **Strategies for habitat management**
- **Appendices** contain location maps of the WMAs and an access plan that explains public access opportunities.

There are ten WMAs covered in this Habitat Management plan, totaling 27,966 acres. The DWR purchased the WMAs in this plan for big game habitat values. As a result, mule deer and elk are the primary beneficiaries of the WMAs, especially during winter months when they migrate from higher-elevation summer ranges on the Wasatch Plateau to lower winter ranges along the foothills of the valley.

This HMP provides management direction to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) personnel for the WMAs contained herein. Listed below is a short summary of the contents of the HMP.

PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WMAs: To preserve and protect big game winter and transitional range and reduce depredation by deer and elk on surrounding private lands. The WMAs also provide hunting access and opportunity for the public.

WILDLIFE SPECIES: The primary species benefiting are mule deer and elk. Numerous other species also benefit from the WMAs including black bear and mountain lion, furbearers (bobcat, etc.), upland game (chukar, mourning dove, cottontail, etc.), raptors (golden eagles, etc.), Neotropical migratory birds and small mammals.

SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED: There are animal species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) that inhabit habitats in and around these WMAs including golden eagles in the winter.

HABITAT CONDITIONS/PROBLEMS: The WMAs contain a variety of habitat types beginning with big sagebrush at the lower elevations, transitioning to Gambel oak and mahogany, then mixed mountain brush and aspen conifer types at the highest elevations. Overall, the habitat conditions are in fair to good condition. Big sagebrush densities on some areas of the WMAs have declined over the years primarily due to

poor recruitment and competition with perennial and invasive annual grasses and juniper and pinyon pine trees.

While an approved activity on WMAs, motorized vehicle recreation, including OHV's, must be better managed. As part of this 2025 revised habitat management plan (HMP), we worked with local user groups and held multiple meetings to develop an official trail system for the White Hill and Black Hill WMAs. The DWR will name, map, and mark with signs all of the newly approved roads and trails. The DWR will close all unapproved roads and trails as soon as they are discovered. Unmanaged motorized vehicle traffic, especially during winter and spring months, can and has resulted in the degradation of access roads and critical habitats. Winter closures will continue to be enforced on all WMAs that have existing closures and a new winter closure will be enforced on the Black Hill WMA to reduce human impacts to wildlife during this critical time and to prevent damage to wildlife habitats, roads, and trails. The unauthorized creation of roads and trails on WMAs is an ongoing problem that is difficult to control. The Division will work with Sanpete and Sevier counties, local municipalities and law enforcement agencies, private landowners, and other state and federal land management agencies to ensure that recreation is done in a responsible manner that does not negatively affect the WMAs and still allows management goals to be met. The Division will work with WMA visitors to ensure that all activities comply with administrative rule R-657-28, Use of Division Lands.

ACCESS PLAN: Motorized and non-motorized vehicle traffic will be confined to authorized roads and trails. Roads and trails will be named, signed, and maintained as needed to maintain public access. Unauthorized user-created roads and trails will be closed and rehabilitated.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES: Fence inspection, repairs, replacement, gates, locks, road grading as needed, road closures, boundary signs, entry signs, surveys, and noxious weed control will occur annually. Annual weed control is a priority to keep weeds from expanding.

HISTORY OF WILDFIRES:

Fire can have a significant impact on the WMAs and the mule deer carrying capacity due to the destruction of winter forage in the form of big sagebrush and bitterbrush, both of which are not fire tolerant.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT: For the WMA to reach its potential as critical big game winter range, browse communities need to be enhanced and protected. The Division may employ a variety of methods to achieve this including prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, reseeding and seedling transplants, and mechanical treatments. Grazing will be utilized as a habitat management tool. High intensity short duration grazing systems during spring and early summer months will be used to improve browse communities for wintering big game. Water developments should only be pursued if they help reach the management objectives of the WMAs. Water developments that would result in big game becoming year-round residents on these

important winter ranges should be discouraged. Water development projects that help with the grazing management plan should be pursued.

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Habitat Management Plan for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in The South Sanpete Valley 2025

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

This management plan has been developed to guide management on some of the lands owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in Sanpete and Sevier counties. The WMAs were originally purchased for big game habitat values. As a result, mule deer and elk are the primary beneficiaries of the WMAs, especially during winter months when they come down from higher elevation summer ranges on the Wasatch Plateau to winter.

PURPOSE OF DIVISION OWNERSHIP

The WMAs in this Habitat Management Plan (HMP) were acquired primarily to protect, preserve, and enhance critical big game winter and transitional ranges. These WMAs can also provide a variety of recreational and access opportunities including hunting, hiking, camping, and limited OHV use, as long as they are compatible with the primary purpose of WMA.

HISTORIC USES

Prior to Division ownership, these WMAs were primarily used for livestock grazing and some limited farming operations. Initially, sheep operations were the dominant activity with cattle grazing being of secondary importance. A few small alfalfa fields existed on the Twelve-Mile WMA prior to Division ownership. Since being taken out of agriculture, these areas became degraded and dominated by weeds, were rehabilitated, but could still be improved to be better habitat.

Quarries on the White Hill and Black Hill WMAs have provided for a limited amount of rock mining both prior to and during Division ownership. They were in operation sometime during the nineteenth century, and provided building materials for many of the local historic buildings. Although the quarries are not active at the present time, the Division still receives requests by local residents to take small quantities of rock from the old quarries for personal use. Operation of the quarries is under jurisdiction of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM). Several sand and gravel operations can be found adjacent to many of the WMAs. These operations are not under state supervision (DOGM).

PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

All activities occurring on Division lands are managed under the direction of Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. This rule discusses approved uses, prohibited activities, and the process for applying and receiving the various permits required to use Division lands. The Division will work with WMA visitors to ensure that all activities are in compliance with this rule.

The WMAs under this HMP are popular for big game and upland game hunting as well as hunting and trapping for mountain lions and furbearer species. Non-consumptive uses include: hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.

PUBLIC ACCESS

This plan provides abundant opportunities for public access to the WMAs. Motorized and non-motorized (e.g. mountain bikes) access is limited to authorized roads and single-track trails as shown on the unit access maps in Appendix B. As part of the process in developing this plan, the DWR met multiple times in 2022 and 2023 to discuss changes to the access plans for the White Hill and Black Hill WMAs with local residents of Sanpete County. We had representation from various recreational groups such as mountain bike teams, horse bike riders, and motorcyclists to gather their input on developing the access plan. Sanpete County also had a representative at all of the meetings and we presented our final plan to the county commissioners at their public hearing on June 6, 2023. In response to our presentation to the county commissioners, the county sent us a letter with their recommendations, and we implemented as much of their feedback into the plan as we felt we could and still achieve the purpose of these lands for benefiting wildlife. As part of the public process of revising the access plan, we identified multiple user-created trails and redundant roads that will be closed to protect the value of these WMAs for wildlife. All approved trails and roads were also named and numbered and will be signed for the public to know they are on a legal trail or road. We also added a winter closure to all of the WMAs in this plan so they all have a consistent winter closure from December 1 to April 30.

Additional information on public access to the WMAs, including horseback riding and rules for dogs, can be found in the access management plan, which is included as Appendix B.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted on all WMAs, and unless posted otherwise, is limited to 10 days as noted in Rule R657-28-4(1). The Division reserves the right to change the length of camping stays if this action is needed to reach the goals and objectives of the habitat management plan. If the Division determines this is needed, changes in camping regulations will be posted on the WMAs where the change is implemented.

CAMPFIRES

Small open campfires will be allowed, but this activity is subject to state and federal policies and guidelines including closures during high-risk fire seasons. Non-combustible materials or large furniture, pallets, or other large objects cannot be used in the building of fires and must be removed. The burning of small firewood with no nails is allowed. The Division reserves the right to ban open fires on any or all WMAs if needed to protect valuable wildlife habitat on the WMA and adjacent private and municipal lands. The Division may also restrict open fires to designated areas if the use of open fires becomes a management problem.

MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED USE

Motorized (e.g. OHVs) and non-motorized (e.g. mountain bike) use is permitted, but is restricted to authorized roads and trails that will be signed (see Appendix B, Access Management Plan). Many of the WMAs have been heavily impacted by recreation resulting in the creation of numerous unauthorized roads/trails. Region personnel annually work to close and rehabilitate unauthorized roads/trails in an attempt to preserve and protect wildlife habitat. These efforts will not be successful unless WMA visitors adhere to the Division's rules by staying on signed roads and trails to protect wildlife habitat.

KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES

The WMAs contained in this HMP were originally purchased for big game habitat values, primarily for mule deer, and secondarily for elk. As such, big game are the primary beneficiaries especially during winter months when they come down from high elevation summer ranges on the Wasatch Plateau to winter in the Sanpete Valley.

The WMAs are also home to numerous other species at some time during the year including: black bear and mountain lion, furbearers (bobcat), upland game (chukar, mourning dove, cottontail, etc.), raptors (bald eagle, etc.), Neotropical migratory birds and small mammals.

GRAZING

Grazing is used as a management tool to enhance wildlife habitat, primarily big game winter range. Grazing can help the Division achieve wildlife habitat goals by reducing fire danger and releasing browse species to provide winter forage for big game. The 'Livestock Grazing Plan' is included on pages 24-25 of this HMP and outlines specific grazing activities and a complete grazing schedule for all WMAs.

II. PROPERTY INFORMATION

PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

This habitat management plan (HMP) contains 10 wildlife management areas (WMAs) totaling approximately 27,966 acres. The WMAs are: White Hill, Black Hill, Bald

Mountain, Manti Face, Maple Canyon, Six-Mile, Nine-Mile, North Hollow, Twelve-Mile, and Willow Creek. A short description of each WMA is listed below. All of the WMAs contained within this plan, with the exception of Maple Canyon, are found along the west slope of the Wasatch Plateau in Sanpete and Sevier Counties. The Maple Canyon WMA lies along the southeastern portion of the San Pitch Mountains on the west side of the Sanpete Valley. All WMAs are fee title lands owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), acquired in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid Division. DWR also holds 1,016 acres in the Sterling and Sorensen conservation easements which are private lands adjacent to the Nine-Mile and North Hollow WMAs respectively. Copies of deeds and exchange agreements can be found in either DWR's Salt Lake Office, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT, 84114, or in the Central Region Office at 1115 North Main Street, Springville, UT, 84663 or through the Utah Lands Tool for Resources and Assets (ULTRA) database for those with login credentials.

White Hill WMA

This WMA is located approximately 4 miles northeast of Ephraim. It consists of 1,506 acres found in Township 16S, Range 3E, sections 1, 2, 11-14; and Township 16S, Range 4E, sections 7 and 17. This unit was acquired from a livestock company in 1984. All water rights owned by the grantor and appurtenant to the 1,161 acres were transferred to DWR. However, water rights numbers were not specified in the warranty deed. Approximately 445 acres of School Trust Lands were transferred to Division ownership in 2013 as part of a land exchange agreement.

Black Hill WMA

This WMA consists of 1,668 acres and is located south of White Hill and just east of Ephraim. The WMA lies within Township 16S, Range 3E, sections 25-27 and 34-36; and Township 17S, Range 3E, sections 1 and 3 and Township 16S, Range 3E, section 30. Most of the property was acquired from a livestock company and three private landowners from 1980-1984. A 25-acre parcel was received in a land trade with Ephraim City in 1999 and 491 acres was acquired in an exchange with School Trust Lands in 2013. DWR also acquired the water rights held by the grantor appurtenant to 1,610 acres. However, only Water Right #65-455 for 0.107 cfs is specified on 470 acres. No water right numbers were specified for the remaining acres.

Bald Mountain WMA

This WMA consists of 2,572 acres southeast of Ephraim. It lies within Township 17S, Range 3E, sections 13-15 and 22-24. It was acquired from three private landowners between 1968-1977. A 22' wide right-of-way, which provides access to the NW part of the management area, was also acquired with the purchase of the largest parcel. DWR acquired the water rights held by the grantors and appurtenant to 2,494 acres, except for an unnamed spring located in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 14 in T17S and R3E,

SLB&M. No water rights numbers were specified in the warranty deeds for the properties. There is a significant spring located in section 24.

Manti Face WMA

This WMA is located northeast of Manti and consists of 2,531 acres. It lies within Township 17S, Range 3E, sections 27-28 and 33-34; and Township 18S, Range 3E, sections 4-5 and 7-9. It was acquired from one corporation and four private landowners between 1968-1985. DWR also acquired the water rights held by the grantors and appurtenant to approximately 270 acres. Water Right #40639 (65-1697) is associated with the 25.6 acres acquired in Section 5. No other water right numbers were specified in the warranty deeds for the remaining acreage.

Maple Canyon WMA

This WMA is located west of Manti and consists of 1,168 acres. It lies within Township 17S, Range 2E, and includes parts of sections 19, 29, 30, 31, and 32. It was acquired from two private landowners in 1968. The warranty deeds indicate that water rights that might be appurtenant to the lands were also transferred to DWR with the acquisition of the land. However, there were no water right certificate numbers associated with the land. A spring in Dodge Canyon is located in T18S, R2E, section 5, about 1 mile south of the WMA boundary. Water rights to this spring belong to the Keeler Family Trust in Manti, Utah (Water Right #65-2451) N 1900 feet E 1800 feet from SW corner, Sec 5 T 18S R 2E SLBM.

Six-Mile WMA

This WMA is located south and east of Manti and consists of 2,806 acres, and is bordered on the southwest by Palisade Lake State Park. Two of the golf course fairways are actually within the WMA boundary. The WMA lies within Township 18S, Range 3E, section 18; and Township 18S, Range 2E, sections 13, 24-26, and 35-36. The property was acquired from nine private landowners, two BLM transfers, and one corporate land trade between 1957-1986. Although the grantor of one of the parcels within section 13 retained the water rights to Crystal Spring, the deed indicated that water would be provided for wildlife if the spring were developed. However, no number was specified for this water right. The acquisition documents did not mention anything about water rights pertaining to the lands purchased for any other acreage within the WMA.

Nine-Mile WMA

This WMA is located southeast of Sterling and consists of 2,511 acres. It lies within Township 19S, Range 2E, sections 2-4 and 9-11. The property was acquired from seven private landowners and the Division of State Lands between 1943-1984. Water rights were acquired appurtenant to only 240 acres in Section 3. The 143-acre Sterling

conservation easement is immediately adjacent to the WMA and is further described below.

North Hollow WMA

This WMA consisted of 1,503 acres northeast of Mayfield and north of Twelve-Mile Canyon prior to 2014. The property lies within Township 19S, Range 2E, sections 22, 26-28, and 33-34. It was acquired from three private landowners between 1942-1982. Water rights were acquired appurtenant to 404 acres in Sections 26, 27 and 34, but water rights numbers were not specified. A public access easement was acquired to the existing road in sections 33 and 34. The 873-acre Sorensen conservation easement borders this WMA on the east and is further described below. In 2014, a land exchange with School Trust Land added 2,100 acres to the WMA consisting of section 14, the southern portion of 15, most of section 16 and all of section 23 of Township 19S, Range 2E. This addition added land that connected the Nine Mile WMA to the north with the North Hollow WMA to the south. Instead of creating a new WMA, this new addition has been added to the North Hollow WMA.

Twelve-Mile WMA

This WMA is south of Mayfield and consists of 9,185 acres. The southernmost portion lies within Sevier County. This WMA is within Township 19S, Range 2E, sections 33-34; Township 20S, Range 2E, sections 2-5, 8-11, 15-17, 21-23, 26-28, and 33-35. It was acquired from 13 private landowners, a livestock company, and two BLM transfers between 1942-1997. There are approximately 640 acres of private in-holdings that fall within the WMA. Water rights were acquired appurtenant to a total of 1,926 acres in 10 different sections, but the water right numbers were not specified. Water rights were also acquired by DWR for Olsen and Order Canyons (#63-4193). DWR disposed of 27 acres of land and 80% of the water rights to Mayfield Town, with the understanding that the remaining 20% of the water right would be used on the property for irrigation and wildlife and livestock watering. The Division is working with Mayfield City to exercise this water right which includes a pipeline and trough on the north end of the WMA, and filling the old irrigation pond for livestock watering during the grazing season. In 2014 a land exchange between the DWR and School Trust Lands added 158 acres of land in section 33.

Willow Creek WMA

This is the southernmost WMA in this HMP. It is located approximately 6.5 miles south of Mayfield and just south and east of Willow Creek Reservoir approximately 1 mile south of the Sanpete/Sevier County line. The property consists of 1,237 acres that lie within Township 21S, Range 1E, sections 1 and 12; Township 20S, Range 2E, section 31; and Township 21S, Range 2E, section 6. The WMA was acquired from private landowners in 1983. All water rights owned by the grantor and appurtenant to the 1,237 acres were transferred to DWR. However, water right numbers were not specified in the warranty deed.

Sterling Conservation Easement

The Sterling conservation easement was acquired by Sportsmen for Habitat, Inc. of North Weber, Utah, and transferred to DWR in January of 2004. This easement consists of 143 acres and is just north of and adjacent to the Nine-Mile WMA. The easement lies within Township 19S, Range 2E, section 2. A complete description of the easement including property location and description, historic and current uses, and easement stipulations can be found in the deed of conservation easement and baseline inventory filed in the Salt Lake and Central Region offices of DWR.

Sorensen Conservation Easement

The Sorensen conservation easement was acquired in 1996 from Lee and Karen Sorensen of Mayfield. This easement consists of 873 acres and is adjacent to the North Hollow WMA. The easement lies within Township 19S, Range 2E, sections 26 and 34-35. A complete description of the easement including property location and description, historic and current uses, and easement stipulations can be found in the deed of conservation easement and baseline inventory filed in the Salt Lake and Central Region offices of DWR.

Land Acquisition History

The 10 WMAs included in this HMP were acquired from numerous individuals, private entities and Federal and State agencies between 1942 and 2014. Small acreages have also been acquired from local governments through land exchanges deemed beneficial to both parties. The majority of the acquisitions have involved federal grants through the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Program, often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson or P-R Act, which authorizes federal participation in cooperative wildlife restoration projects with state wildlife agencies. This program is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Federal Aid Division which the Division partnered with to acquire these WMAs. The following wildlife restoration projects were developed for acquisition and preservation of wildlife habitats which resulted in the creation of the WMAs contained in this HMP. These are:

- Project W-11-L (1941) Twelve-Mile Canyon Deer Winter Range
- Project W-24-L (1943) Ephraim Game Winter Range
- Project W-87-L (1957, 1968) Manti Canyon Deer Winter Range (Ephraim BGWR)
- Project W-130-L (1976) Fairview-Mt. Pleasant Big Game Winter Range.
- Project W-137-L (1983) Salina Big Game Winter Range

Because federal funds were used in the acquisition of these properties, the Division is required to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines when considering actions that could affect the environment. The USFWS is the responsible party for issuing the record of decision with regards to proposed actions on these WMAs.

Encumbrances

DWR generally obtained only the surface rights to the lands they acquired. The oil, gas, mineral, (sometimes coal) and geothermal rights appurtenant to the lands were generally retained by the sellers or grantors of those respective lands, including the Utah Trust Lands Administration (TLA). The sellers or grantors generally also retain the right to lease the rights of egress and ingress for the exploration, development and removal of those minerals. However, the seller or lessee shall compensate DWR for interference with or damages to DWR's surface lands that have resulted from activities related to mineral exploration or removal. In 2004-05, TLA permitted oil and gas leases on portions of seven of the ten WMAs included in this HMP. Without going to the Sanpete County Records Office and searching each parcel number that comprises the DWR lands, there is no easy way of determining whether oil and gas leases have been issued by the private sector. Interest in oil and gas rights has increased tremendously during recent years due to the high yield of petroleum products from a well near Sigurd, Utah, just about 25 miles south of these WMAs.

Several county roads pass through these WMAs, and unless an agreement is reached for seasonal closure with Sanpete and/or Sevier County, all county roads remain open for public use year-round. Refer to the access management plan which is included as Appendix B for maps showing authorized roads and trails on each WMA.

Several historic livestock trailing areas exist on WMAs in Sanpete and Sevier counties. These are important for moving livestock from private lands on the valley floor to summer allotments on National Forest lands. The Division recognizes these historic livestock trails and their use by livestock producers for trailing purposes.

In addition to mineral rights and county roads, some of the WMAs had additional easements associated with the property at the time of acquisition. The Division has also granted utility easements and rights-of-way (ROW) on some WMAs since acquisition. As previously stated, all activities occurring on Division lands are managed under the direction of Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. This rule discusses approved uses, prohibited activities, and the process for applying and receiving the various permits required to use Division lands. The following is a list of encumbrances for each of the ten WMAs contained in this HMP.

White Hill WMA:

- Previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- Easement to Chester Irrigation Company for ditches & canals (Sec. 12).
- Small mining operation at one quarry (Sec. 12)—inactive since 1999.

Black Hill WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.

- Small mining operations in several quarries (Sections 26 and 35)—inactive since 1976.

Bald Mountain WMA:

- Previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- Easement for Utah Power & Light (Sec. 15).
- Easement for Ephraim City waterline (Sec. 14).

Manti Face WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- Grantor reserved the privilege of moving livestock across the 1,680 acres deeded to DWR to adjacent lands.

Maple Canyon WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, oil, coal, and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.

Six-Mile WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- The ROW for ditches and canals existing on property (Sec. 24, 25, 26, & 35).
- The ROW and easement for a 24" penstock, hydropower plant, and transmission lines associated with FERC Project No. 6764 that expires in 2021 (Sec. 24, 25 and 36).
- Easement with Manti Irrigation Co. for ditches & canals (Sec. 13 & 18).

Nine-Mile WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- The Cove Creek Coal Co. holds an interest in coal in Section 2.
- Sterling Town has an easement for a culinary water line through Section 2.
- Utah Power & Light easement for a buried power line through portions of Sec. 4 and 33; expires in 2022.
- One grantor holds the right to trail livestock through 103 acres in Section 2.
- Easement or ROW for highways, ditches, tunnels, phone & transmission lines (Sec. 11).

North Hollow WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- Water line easement (865 feet long and 50 feet wide) to Mayfield Town (Sec. 33).
- TLA retained mineral rights to the 2,160 acres transferred to the DWR in 2014.

Twelve-Mile WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.
- Waterline easement to Mayfield Town (Sec. 2-3, 10-11, and 33) from Olsen and Order Canyons.
- Storage and irrigation water for Pole Canyon water rights (Sec. 15 and 22).
- Ditches and canals reserved to M.C. Jensen (Sec. 3).
- 30 foot wide ROW to C.S. Wiss (Sec. 3).
- ROW for ditches and canals constructed by authority of the USA (Sec. 21-22, 26, 28, 33, and 35).
- UP&L utility easement (Sec. 21 and 22).
- Pipeline easement to LDS Church and Gerald Willden (Sec. 21, 22, 27 and 28).

Willow Creek WMA:

- The previous owners reserved all mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (but not including sand and gravel) on the property and the ingress/egress for using those rights.

Conservation Partners Involved in Acquisition

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through its federal aid program, has been a major partner in acquiring the WMAs described in this HMP. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has granted land to the Division for big game management on some of the WMAs as well. Sportsmen's organizations and the Division's Habitat Council have played a key role in providing funds to acquire conservation easements on adjacent private lands and deeding these easements to the Division to manage in conjunction with adjacent WMAs.

III. PROPERTY INVENTORY

EXISTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

FENCES

Most of the existing improvements on these WMAs are roads and fences. Roads and fences are maintained on an annual basis or as needed.

ROADS/PARKING

Several roads on these WMAs have been improved and are continuously maintained by the DWR when there is damage. Several parking areas have been constructed on the Black Hill and White Hill WMAs to allow for trailering horses and other recreational uses and turn-around areas.

TRAILS

A new trail system has been developed on the White Hill and Black Hill WMAs to allow for motorcycle, mountain biking, and horseback riding to occur on the properties in a more responsible manner. All other trails are not permitted. This will provide recreational opportunities but also protect the value of the properties for wildlife. See the access plan on Appendix B.

WATER DEVELOPMENTS

A water system consisting of ~2 miles of pipeline and several troughs exists on the Twelve-Mile WMA. A portion of this pipeline was rebuilt by dedicated hunters in 2005. The Division uses dedicated hunters and/or livestock permittees who have a permit to graze the WMA to conduct needed maintenance on the water line and troughs as needed.

The Black Hill WMA has a single water trough that is tied to an existing pipeline that crosses the management area. The trough was placed as part of an agreement with a local landowner who has the water rights to the pipeline. The agreement allows for water to be taken from the line and placed in the trough for livestock and wildlife watering.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Other improvements include habitat improvement projects which are mentioned here. See the following table for information about projects that have occurred on the WMAs of this HMP. These projects can be found on the WRI database (wri.utah.gov) which includes details of the projects, budgets, funding sources and photos.

South Sanpete County WMAs Habitat Improvement Projects				
Project no.	Project Name	Year	Treatment Type	Acres
273	Twelve Mile WMA Habitat Improvement	2007	Lop and Scatter	1,254
273	Twelve Mile WMA Habitat Improvement	2007	Herbicide and Seed	40
710	Black Hills WMA Lop and Scatter	2008	Lop and Scatter	878
1051	6-Mile Habitat Improvement	2009	Lop and Scatter	787
1059	Twelve Mile WMA Habitat Improvement	2009	Chaining	618
1625	Black Hill WMA Habitat Restoration and Access Plan	2011	Trail Closure	18
1707	Manti Face Lop and Scatter	2013	Lop and Scatter	852

2235	Central Region WMA Browse Enhancement	2013	Interseeding	202
2242	12 Mile Habitat Improvement Project	2013	Oak Removal Herbicide	302
2276	North Hollow WMA and LS Conservation Easement	2013	Chaining/ Lop and Scatter	410
2352	Maple Canyon WMA Habitat Improvement	2013	Lop and Chip/ Bullhog	829
3418	Pigeon Hollow Winter Habitat Improvement Project	2016	Bullhog	107
3797	Willow Creek Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction	2017	Bullhog/ Lop Pile and Burn	446
4435	Willow Fuels Project- Phase 1	2019	Bullhog	88
4519	White Hill WMA Plateau Project	2020	Herbicide/Seeding	192
4809	Six Mile WMA In-House Bullhog Project- Phase 1	2020	Bullhog	446
4812	Central Region Shrub Restoration Projects FY 2020	2020	Shrub Seedling Planting	20
5279	Central Region Shrub Restoration Projects FY 2021	2021	Shrub Seedling Planting	5
5552	Ephraim Watershed Restoration Phase 3	2022	Shrub Seedling Planting	10
5685	Six Mile WMA In-House Bullhog Project- Phase 2	2022	Bullhog	560
5916	Twelve Mile Watershed Restoration Project FY 23	2023	Bullhog/Lop and Scatter	1,386
6584	Ephraim Watershed Restoration Phase 4	2024	Shrub Seedling Planting	38
6842	Twelve Mile Mule Deer and Watershed Restoration Project FY 25	2025	Bullhog	915
6934	Ephraim Mule Deer and Watershed Restoration Project FY 25	2025	Shrub Seedling Planting	51
Total				10,454

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Division's archaeologist conducted a CURES database search and identified several cultural resource inventories that have been completed. These include:

- 1982 - Black Hill WMA by Madsen Archaeological
- 1983 - Manti Face WMA by the Division of State History
- 1991 - Six-Mile WMA by the Nielsen Consulting Group.

Numerous historic and pre-historic sites have been identified. Caution should be used before any ground disturbing activities are planned or approved within any of the WMAs to ensure that cultural resources are adequately identified and avoidance measures are taken.

SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

A search of the Division's Natural Heritage database resulted in the following species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) which are found on or in close proximity to the WMAs in this HMP. For a more complete list of species found on or within 2 miles of these WMAs included in this plan, see appendix C for the wildlife habitat assessment tool (WHAT) report for these properties.

BIRDS

There are golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), band-tailed pigeons (*Patagioenas fasciata*), and Pinyon jays (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*) within a half mile of the WMAs in this plan.

AMPHIBIANS

There is not a lot of water located on these properties themselves, but there are some ponds and ephemeral creeks. In these water bodies or within a half mile of the WMAs there can be found northern leopard frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*).

PLANTS

There are several SGCN plant species found on or within a half-mile of these properties, including arapian stick-leaf (*Mentzelia argillosa*), and Lost Creek buckwheat (*Eriogonum mitophyllum*).

IMPORTANT FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS

Critical big game winter ranges on the east benches of the Sanpete Valley are the most important wildlife habitats existing on these WMAs. As residential and recreational development, oil and gas development, and loss of open space continues to increase in the Sanpete Valley, these WMAs will become increasingly important for wintering big game herds in the Sanpete Valley. The upper elevations also provide important transition habitat for big game traveling between summer and winter ranges. Mammalian carnivores, primarily mountain lions, also frequent the WMAs in winter months as they follow annual winter migrations of big game herds to the benches above the Sanpete Valley. The vegetation zones occupied by sagebrush and mountain browse provide important breeding and nesting habitats for neotropical migratory birds.

Many lands adjacent to the WMAs are private agriculture tracts, and as a result, big game depredation issues with private landowners are common. It is extremely important that the WMAs are maintained and protected to assist the Division in minimizing big game depredation on private lands.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF HABITATS

HABITAT TYPES

Much of the WMAs are located primarily within historic sagebrush-steppe and pinyon-juniper zones. Large portions of some of the WMAs have been mechanically treated due to the expansion of pinyon-juniper woodlands into the sagebrush type. Throughout the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, 2-way anchor chaining followed by seeding was employed by the Division to enhance and restore habitat for wildlife species.

Prior to the implementation of chaining projects, pinyon and juniper trees had encroached into historic sagebrush habitats. The result was the suppression of

understory shrubs, grasses, and forbs and unstable and eroding watersheds. The area also has a history of heavy domestic livestock use. Anchor chaining and seeding projects helped stabilize these watersheds and provided forage for deer, elk, and domestic livestock. Most of the areas that were chained and seeded are dominated by perennial grasses and are currently lacking in browse forage, but range and watershed conditions are generally fair to good.

On the upper portions of the Bald Mountain, Six-Mile, Nine-Mile, North Hollow and Twelve-Mile WMAs, the mountain brush and oak zones are prominent. These areas provide important transitional ranges for big game, including deer fawning and elk calving areas.

RANGE AND WATERSHED CONDITIONS

The Division's Big Game Range Trend Studies program monitors habitat conditions statewide by sampling permanently placed vegetation transects that have been established in key areas. Transects are read on a 5-year rotational schedule based upon the Division's five administrative regions. Eleven of these transects are found within WMAs contained in this HMP. The following list contains each study by name and number as well as the WMA where it is found:

- Manti Face Chaining - #16C-1, Manti Face WMA
- Willow Creek - #16C-2, Bald Mountain WMA
- North Manti Face - #16C-3, Manti Face WMA
- Bald Mountain - #16C-4, Bald Mountain WMA
- Cane Valley - #16C-5, Black Hill WMA
- Black Hill - #16C-6, Black Hill WMA
- Mayfield Mountain Face - #16C-7, Twelve-Mile WMA
- Pole Canyon Oak - #16C-9, Twelve-Mile WMA
- Above South Hollow - #16C-11, Twelve-Mile WMA
- Manti Dump - #16C-12, Six-Mile WMA
- Olsen Canyon - #16C-45, Twelve-Mile WMA

These studies sample the following vegetation types: 7 pinyon-juniper chainings, 2 mountain brush sites, and 2 mountain big sagebrush sites. Most of these studies were established in 1989, and re-read in 1997, 2002, 2007, 2024, 2019 and 2024. Olsen Canyon 16C-45, was established in 2007. These sites are scheduled to be re-sampled every 5 years. Statewide range trend data and digital photographs for specific sites can be found at the following web address: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/range-trends>.

In general terms, range trend data show most sites are dominated by perennial grasses, with forbs and preferred browse being limited. Preferred browse species are primarily represented by big sagebrush, black sagebrush, bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany. Due to higher precipitation, mid-elevation sites contain more browse, but they also have a higher occurrence of pinyon and juniper trees reinvading back into

previously chained areas. Limited preferred browse and the reinvasion of pinyon and juniper into old chainings are two issues that could become limiting factors to providing adequate critical big game winter range. Strategies to address these issues are discussed in the habitat improvement section of this HMP.

The WMAs described in this HMP fall within the boundaries of the San Pitch River watershed. Personnel from the Division's Central Region office participate in the watershed planning process with their involvement in the San Pitch Watershed Stewardship Group.

HABITAT LIMITATIONS

The lack of browse on some of the WMAs is the major habitat limitation. Adequate winter browse for big game herds, especially mule deer, is needed in order for the WMAs to achieve management goals. Although browse species were seeded as part of most chaining and seeding treatments, perennial grasses have largely become the dominant vegetative component on many of the WMAs. The re-invasion and/or release of pinyon and juniper into previously chained areas is also common.

Most of the water rights were retained by the grantors when the Division acquired these lands. Acquiring shares or rights to water will be difficult in the future. In some cases, lack of water does limit the ability of the Division to adequately graze livestock on these WMAs. However, because the primary purpose of the WMA is to provide big game winter range, water is not as limiting to wildlife as in some other areas, especially at higher elevations.

A more detailed discussion of these limitations and their associated solutions can be found in the habitat improvement section of this HMP.

HUMAN USE - RELATED PROBLEMS

Most of the Division parcels contained in this HMP lie in close proximity to municipalities within Sanpete County and/or are adjacent to National Forest lands. Furthermore, all of the WMAs with the exception of Maple Canyon are located along the US 89 corridor, a heavily traveled state highway leading through the heart of Sanpete County. As a result, these Division parcels experience heavy visitation from a variety of users, some of which detract from the purpose and management goals of these lands. Unauthorized activities do occur on the WMAs, and often create conflicts between users and place a heavy maintenance burden on the Division. While public recreation is encouraged, the use of these lands by the public must be conducive to the purpose for which these parcels were acquired, and should not become barriers to the Division being able to reach the management goals and strategies presented in this HMP.

MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES

A major issue facing the Division on the WMAs in Sanpete County is motorized (e.g. OHVs) and non-motorized (e.g. mountain bikes) vehicle use. While an approved activity, OHV, mountain bike, e-bike, and motorcycle use of the WMAs must be closely managed. Mountain biking and e-bikes in particular are growing in popularity and the construction of new bike trails or off-roading is a real issue. Unmanaged motorized vehicle traffic can and has resulted in degradation of access roads and critical habitats and fragmentation of crucial big game winter ranges. The creation of unauthorized roads and trails is an on-going problem that is difficult to control. As part of this revised plan in 2025, the DWR has worked to identify roads and trails that will be closed and reclaimed to reduce the negative impacts on wildlife and has revised the access plan found in to show these changes. The Division will continue to work with Sanpete County, local municipalities, law enforcement agencies, private landowners, mountain bike groups, OHV groups, and other state and federal land management agencies to manage recreational activity in a responsible manner that maintains public access to the WMAs, while helping the Division to achieve its management objectives.

LITTERING

Littering and trash dumping is a frequent occurrence on these lands, especially on the Black Hill WMA located east of Ephraim. WMA visitors are bringing furniture, appliances, automobiles, and yard waste onto WMAs, dumping them and leaving them. Littering and dumping of all forms of trash, including yard waste, is prohibited on all WMAs. The prohibition of littering will be enforced. The Division will work to adequately sign the WMA to inform the public that littering and dumping of garbage is prohibited, and to encourage better stewardship of these important areas for wildlife.

CAMPING

Long-term camping in a few areas has been a recurring problem. As previously stated, camping is limited to 10 consecutive days unless otherwise posted and/or a special use permit has been obtained from the Division authorizing a different term.

DOGS

As the human population continues to grow in close proximity to these properties, we anticipate that dog walking will become more popular. Dogs can chase and harm wildlife life so all dogs must be on a leash unless they are actively helping to legally pursue game such as pheasants or chukars. The owner can only have the dog off leash during legal hunting seasons. Violators will be prosecuted.

ADJACENT LAND USES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Most of the lands adjacent to these WMAs are privately held agricultural lands, county/municipal lands, National Forest lands within the Manti-La Sal National Forest, or public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office. Crop depredation by big game on adjacent private agricultural lands is an on-going

problem that the Division faces. Livestock grazing occurs on many of the adjacent private lands often resulting in trespass onto Division lands. Adjacent private lands are receiving increasing market-driven pressures to convert to housing subdivisions which has resulted in the loss of important big game ranges. Commercial rock quarries and gravel pits adjacent to several WMAs are common. WMAs that share a boundary with a quarry or pit will need to be monitored closely to ensure encroachment onto Division lands is avoided.

The Division will pursue exchanges and conservation easements with private landowners, municipalities, counties, and other state and federal agencies that block up land, improve public access, and preserve critical wildlife habitats. This would include lands adjacent to or within existing WMAs, as well as parcels throughout the county outside of existing WMAs that would meet the same objectives.

ZONING AND LAND USE ORDINANCES

Sanpete County has the following zoning classifications:

- PF: Public Facilities
- BC: Business/Commercial
- A: Agricultural; 5-acre minimum lot size per single dwelling
- RA-1: Residential Agricultural (1/2 mile beyond corporate limits); 1/2-acre minimum lot size per single dwelling
- RA-2: Residential Agricultural (1 mile beyond corporate limits); 1-acre minimum lot size per single dwelling
- SL: Sensitive Lands; 40-acre minimum lot size per single dwelling

The majority of the WMAs are zoned as sensitive lands as are all of the National Forest lands that border the WMAs on the east. The westernmost portions of the Manti Face and Bald Mountain WMAs are zoned as A or RA-2 due to their close proximity to the towns of Ephraim and Manti. The Nine-Mile WMA is zoned completely as A or RA-2 due to its close proximity to the town of Sterling. A portion of the Nine-Mile WMA falls within the “culinary water protection zone” for the town of Sterling. Management activities for wildlife will still maintain the desired groundwater protection. The North Hollow WMA has 2 small parcels on the west boundary that are zoned as RA-1 or RA-2 due to their close proximity to the town of Mayfield. The majority of the lands adjacent to the WMA are privately owned and zoned as agricultural.

The proposed management of these WMAs does not conflict with the zoning ordinances established by Sanpete County. However, because the WMA provides a large portion of the critical big game winter range available within Sanpete County, some conflict does arise as deer and elk move into private agricultural fields, haystacks, and municipal boundaries during winter months.

IV. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The management of these WMAs will take into account the goals, objectives, and strategies of other Division planning efforts. These other plans are briefly discussed below.

DWR Strategic Plan

Maintain existing wildlife habitat and increase the quality of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state.

The management of the WMAs in this plan has relevance to the following goals and objectives outlined in the Division's most current strategic plan:

Resource Goal: Conserve, enhance and actively manage Utah's protected wildlife populations.

- Objective R1: Increase, decrease or maintain wildlife populations, as needed, to meet the objectives in our management plans.
- Objective R2: Maintain existing wildlife habitat and increase the quality of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state.
- Objective R5: Conduct management work to help prevent species of concern from being federally listed as threatened or endangered, and work to delist those species that are currently listed.
- Objective R7: Decrease the number of wildlife-related incidents — including property damage, crop depredation and threatened or endangered species listings — that negatively affect private property owners.

Constituency Goal: Strengthen support for wildlife management by demonstrating the value and importance of wildlife to all Utahans'.

- Objective C6: Increase hunting and fishing opportunities.

These goals and objectives will be achieved through a variety of measures specified in the property and habitat management sections of this plan and include development and maintenance activities, habitat improvements, access management, fire management, and livestock grazing. Current and future partnerships and cooperative efforts will also aid the Division in addressing and reaching these goals and objectives. Examples of these are the Sanpitch Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) and the Sanpitch Watershed Stewardship Group.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The Draft 2025 edition of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) was created with the express purpose and goal of managing native wildlife species and their habitats to help prevent listings under the Endangered Species Act. To help achieve this goal, the WAP provides a statewide approach for the partnership-based, coordinated planning and

implementation of wildlife and habitat conservation practices. The WAP addresses the following elements:

- Conservation targets include: species of greatest conservation need, and those species' key habitats; information about the status and distribution of these species; information about the location and condition of these key habitats.
- Threats and limiting factors facing these species and habitats, and research required to help managers more effectively address these problems. Threats are measured and prioritized on a statewide basis, based on how many targets they impact, and how severely the targets are impacted.
- Conservation actions required to abate the highest-priority threats, and improve the supply of these limiting factors.
- Monitoring the status of these targets, and in particular the effectiveness of these actions.
- Approaches for including the public, partners, and stakeholders, in consideration of the mission and authority of partners.
- Provisions for coordinating the WAP with other natural resource management plans.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN KEY HABITATS

The Utah Wildlife Action Plan identifies several key terrestrial habitats that occur on the WMAs in this plan. These key habitats include:

- Lowland Sagebrush: The lower elevations of the WMAs in this plan contain pockets of low sagebrush habitats, specifically Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Shrubland and Great Basin Xeric Mixed Sagebrush Shrubland.
- Mountain Sagebrush: Mountain sagebrush habitats on these WMAs are widespread and often interspersed with invading juniper and pinyon trees before transitioning into the Gambel oak type at high elevations. The dominant type consists of Inter-Mountain Basin Montane Sagebrush Steppe - mountain sagebrush type. These types are key to providing browse forage for wintering big game animals on the WMAs.
- Mountain Shrub: Mountain shrub key habitats on the WMAs in this plan are commonly found on the higher elevations of the Bald Mountain, Manti Face, the northeast corner of the Six Mile and the southeastern portion of the Twelve Mile WMAs. The type consists of Inter-Mountain Basin curl-leaf mountain mahogany woodland and Rocky Mountain Bigtooth Maple ravine woodland habitats. This habitat includes some species which resprout after fires, while other species do not resprout.
- Aspen Conifer: Aspen conifer key habitats occur in isolated areas on the highest elevations of the Bald Mountain, Manti Face and Twelve Mile WMAs.

These habitats consist primarily of Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, and Intermountain basin aspen-mixed conifer forest and woodland - low elevation. The southeast edge of the Twelve Mile WMA contains some areas of Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland habitat.

The South Sanpete and North Sevier County WMAs HMP process is used to address wildlife species and habitats found on these WMAs by including their needs in management activities. This aligns well with the intent of the WAP, which identifies specific management actions that can be taken to reduce priority threats to these species and habitats.

One of the intentions of the WAP in identifying these habitats is that local-area management efforts can better focus actions on those specific habitats where actions can have the most benefit for species of greatest conservation need. Management of the WMAs attempts to address threats to these habitats to the extent possible, by managing for a diverse range of habitats in various successional stages which maintain and benefit the wide variety of wildlife species found on the property.

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES

All of the WMAs in this HMP lie within the boundaries of wildlife management unit 16, Central Mountains. Elk and deer management plans were completed for this unit in 2023 and 2020 respectively. The management of the WMAs will address the limiting factors and habitat needs identified in those plans and seek to implement habitat management strategies that are needed to reach population objectives. Revisions to these plans are typically done every 5 years, and will be incorporated into the management of the WMA as needed. Deer and elk management plans can be found on the DWR website <https://wildlife.utah.gov/>.

V. STRATEGIES FOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Division will maintain existing capital improvements on the WMAs. The WMAs have established boundaries and fences that are maintained regularly. Surveys will be completed where boundary disputes occur and fences will be constructed to establish legal boundaries. Where fences are in disrepair replacement fences will be constructed. Property boundaries are signed and additional signage identifying road closures, rehabilitation areas, etc. will be placed as needed. Perennial water sources are limited. Water development projects that would improve the Division's capacity to adequately administer a grazing program on the WMA should be pursued. Unauthorized roads and trails will be closed and rehabilitated. Authorized roads will be signed and maintained to ensure access and safety to the public.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

- Establish property boundary
 - Maintain fencing to delineate WMA boundaries,
 - Resolve existing trespass issues, both livestock and human, with neighbors,
 - Install structures and signs to reduce and prevent vehicle trespass and damage to the WMA,
- Signage
 - Establish information kiosks at entry points to the WMAs,
 - Install signs relating to harassment of wildlife,
 - Sign authorized motorized vehicle routes,
 - Sign unauthorized trails/roads and explain closures and rehabilitation efforts,
 - Identify WMA boundaries with fences and/or property boundary signage,
 - Maintain seasonal closure signs,
- Public access
 - Work with agencies and adjacent landowners to prepare access plans or agreements that enhance wildlife habitat, range conditions, escape opportunities for big game, hunting opportunities and that reduce trespass from unauthorized vehicles. Such plans or agreements may emphasize a mix of permanent and seasonal road closures and vehicle type restrictions.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Assessments by Division personnel will be made annually, and a maintenance budget will be requested for the following types of activities:

- Inspect boundaries and fences and repair as needed to prevent unauthorized access into additional areas, especially by ATVs,
- Road maintenance/closures: Maintain existing roads and road closures to protect habitat and minimize abuse. Maintain close relationship with adjacent private landowners and Sanpete Counties on access agreements and issues,
- Parking areas: Monitor and maintain parking areas including gates, signs and fencing to facilitate non-motorized access to the WMA,
- Noxious weed control:
 - Implement an integrated weed management program using herbicide applications and biological controls. This will include an annual inventory of known infestations, the documentation of new infestations and chemical applications in these areas. Target species include whitetop, thistles and squarrose knapweed. If available, biological controls will be used where appropriate to help control musk thistle.
 - Monitor for dyers woad, which is found in the area and may invade the WMAs in the future.
 - Work cooperatively with the Sanpete County and Forest Service weed crews to address weed infestations.

- Sign replacement: Annual inspection and replacement of missing or vandalized signs. Maintain main entrance signs to identify ownership; utilize additional signs for WMA restrictions and problems.

VI. STRATEGIES FOR HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT PLANS FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES

Strategies for habitat management will be consistent with those outlined in the deer and elk management plans for Wildlife Management Unit 16 Central Mountains, previously mentioned. Strategies consistent with the WMAs in this HMP include:

- Continue to improve, protect, and restore sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer. Cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as pinyon-juniper removal, reseeding, controlled burns, grazing management, water developments, etc. on public and private lands. Habitat improvement projects will occur on both winter ranges as well as summer ranges.
- Manage vehicle access on WMAs to limit human disturbance during times of high stress, such as winter and fawning.
- Protect deer winter ranges from wildfire by reseeding burned areas, creating fuel breaks and vegetated green strips and reseed areas dominated by cheatgrass with desirable perennial vegetation.
- Reduce expansion of pinyon-juniper and other woodlands into sagebrush habitats and improve habitats dominated by pinyon-juniper woodlands by completing habitat restoration projects like lop & scatter, bullhog, and chaining.
- Seek opportunities to increase browse in burned areas of critical winter range as well as areas dominated by aggressive introduced grasses.

HABITAT STRATEGIES SPECIFIC TO THE SOUTH SANPETE COUNTY WMAS

- Maintain past pinyon-juniper chaining treatments via lop & scatter and bullhog treatments.
- Maintain sagebrush and mountain brush habitats by treating phase one and two juniper woodlands on WMAs where possible.
- Increase preferred shrub populations with targeted planting of shrub seed and seedlings.
- Maintain guzzlers and other water sources.
- Monitor recreation activities closely to prevent impacts to wildlife and close user created roads and enforce winter closures.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Specific, detailed habitat improvement plans are beyond the scope of this HMP. However, when needed and as determined by Division personnel, habitat improvement projects will be submitted to the Division's Habitat Council and other potential partners for funding. Habitat improvement project plans will include specific recommendations including treatment methods, seed mixes and a total acreage targeted for treatment.

IMPROVE BROWSE COMMUNITIES

In order for the WMAs to reach their potential as critical big game winter range, browse communities need to be enhanced and improved. The Division will employ a variety of methods to achieve this including prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, reseeding and seedling transplants, and mechanical treatments. Priority areas will include sagebrush-steppe and mountain browse communities.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

Grazing will be utilized as a habitat management tool. High intensity, short duration grazing systems during spring and early summer months will be used to improve browse communities for wintering big game.

WATER DEVELOPMENTS

Water developments should only be pursued if they help reach the management objectives of the WMA. Water developments that would result in big game becoming year-round residents on these important winter ranges should be discouraged. Water development projects to help with the grazing management plan should be pursued.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Access Management Plan for the South Sanpete County WMAs is found in Appendix B.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

All activities dealing with wild and prescribed fire will be coordinated with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL) according to guidelines established in the Memorandum of Understanding (2005) between DWR and DFFSL. Fire management provisions include:

- When prescribed fire is needed as a habitat management tool, DWR will provide all applicable information to DFFSL to ensure burn plans are complete and submitted by deadlines.
- Wildfires will be aggressively battled at lower elevations in sagebrush habitats to protect the browse communities on crucial winter ranges.
- As needed, green strips will be seeded to reduce the threat and spread of wildfire.

- Hazardous fuels will be reduced in the form of conifer removal or thinning to prevent catastrophic wildfire.
- Open fires are allowed, but cannot be unattended and adequate provisions must be taken to prevent the spread of fire (R657-28). State, federal or local fire restrictions will apply to the WMA when deemed necessary by fire officials and DWR.
- The use of fireworks and explosives are prohibited on the WMA (R657-28).

WOOD PRODUCTS

The main wood products on these WMAs are juniper posts and firewood. Any wood product is managed according to Administrative Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING PLAN

Livestock grazing is managed according to Administrative Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. Livestock grazing is used as a management tool to reduce fire danger and release browse species for wintering big game. Cattle will be the primary class of livestock to help achieve this goal. WMAs will be evaluated by regional personnel and grazed when habitat conditions indicate the need for herbaceous fuel reduction and/or when shrubs show suppression by perennial grasses. Stocking rates and season of use will be adjusted as needed to obtain desired habitat conditions. Grazing will typically be administered through a high intensity/short duration strategy with a grazing season from mid-May through June. Regional personnel will evaluate each WMA annually to determine which, if any, will benefit from grazing and where grazing will be employed the following year. The table below contains historic stocking rates and season of use.

WMA Grazing Summary

<u>Area</u>	<u>AUM's</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	
Twelve-Mile (Manti Face, South Hollow)	100	5/15 to 6/30	-
North Hollow	50	5/22 to 6/16	
Six-Mile	100	5/15 to 6/30	
Black Hill	100	5/15 to 6/30	
Bald Mountain	75	5/15 to 6/30, potential grassbank	
White Hill	50	5/15 to 6/15, potential grassbank	
Nine-Mile	0	Some grazing w/North Hollow WMA	
Manti Face	80	5/15 to 6/30	
Willow Creek	0	Potential grassbank needs fencing	
Maple Canyon	150	5/15 to 6/30	

Stocking rates and season of use will be adjusted as needed to obtain desired habitat conditions. Grazing will typically be administered through a high intensity/short duration strategy. Division personnel reserve the right to make changes to stocking rates, season of use, and the grazing schedule as needed. The Division also reserves the right to graze any WMA if needed to reach habitat objectives. Prescribed grazing may result in permits being issued to a grazer outside of the competitive bid process in order to find willing parties that are able to follow a prescribed grazing plan.

LIVESTOCK TRESPASS

At times, trespass livestock are found on the WMAs due to poor boundary fences and/or gates being left open by WMA visitors. Occurrences of trespass livestock will be handled by Division personnel according to the guidelines outlined in the Division's Land Use, R657-28-10.

VII. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED USES

The primary goals and objectives of the South Sanpete County WMAs presented in this HMP are to preserve, enhance and protect big game winter range and wintering wildlife and reduce deer and elk depredation on surrounding private lands. The Division will allow for and provide wildlife-related recreational activities that are consistent with the goals and purposes for which this WMA was acquired.

VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regional habitat section personnel, the area wildlife biologist and the district conservation officer will be responsible for monitoring overall effectiveness of the program. Appropriate sections will provide expertise as required. The lead and assistant habitat maintenance specialists will monitor the needs and effectiveness of physical facilities and improvements. Range Trend program personnel will continue to monitor the existing trend studies on a 5-year rotation and will add additional monitoring sites as needed. The regional habitat section will amend this habitat management plan as needed.

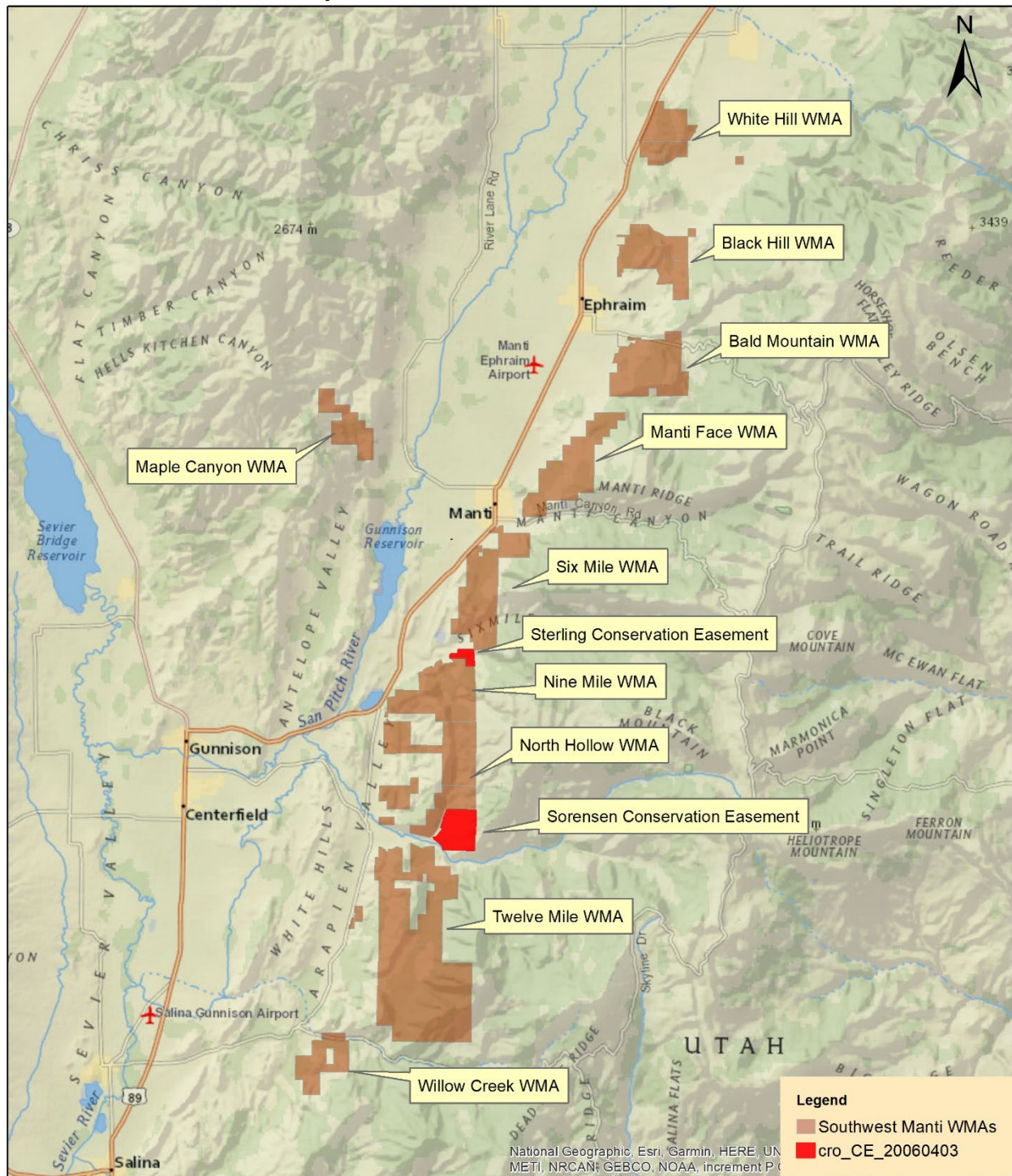
IX. Appendices

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 - Black Hill Approved Single Track Trail Names
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Appendix A – Maps

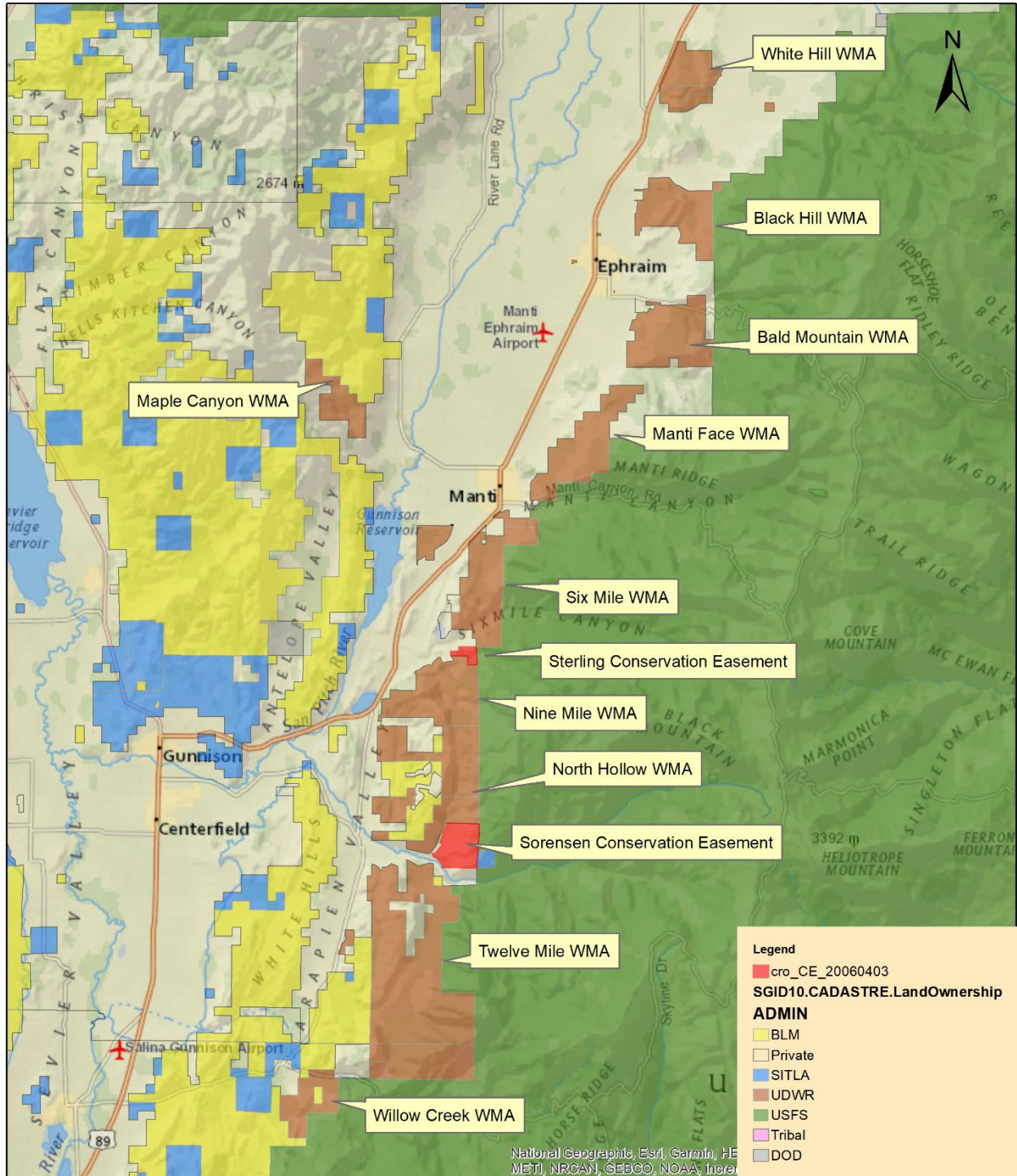
Map A1 - General Location



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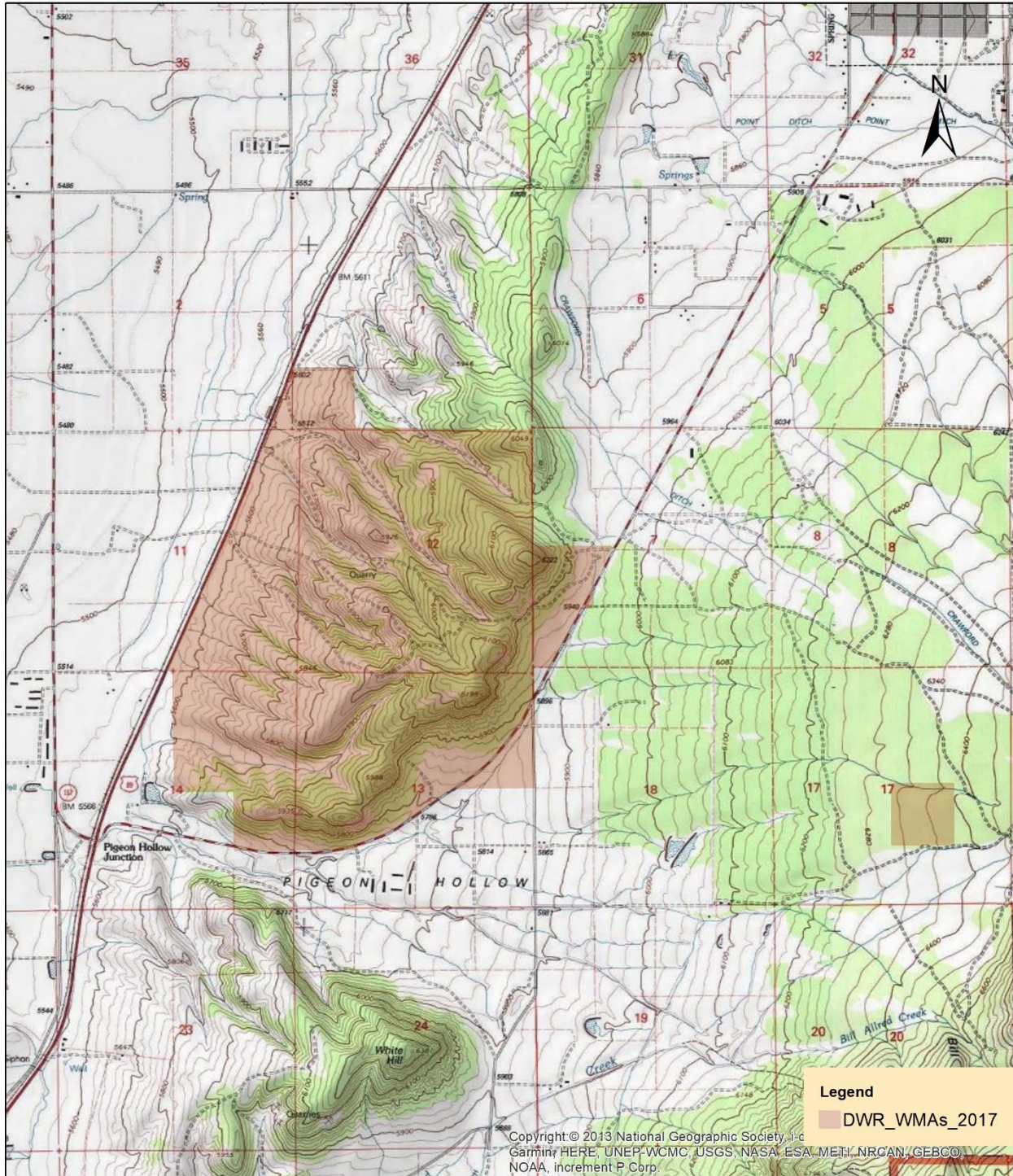
0 2 4 8 12 Miles

Map A2 - Landownership



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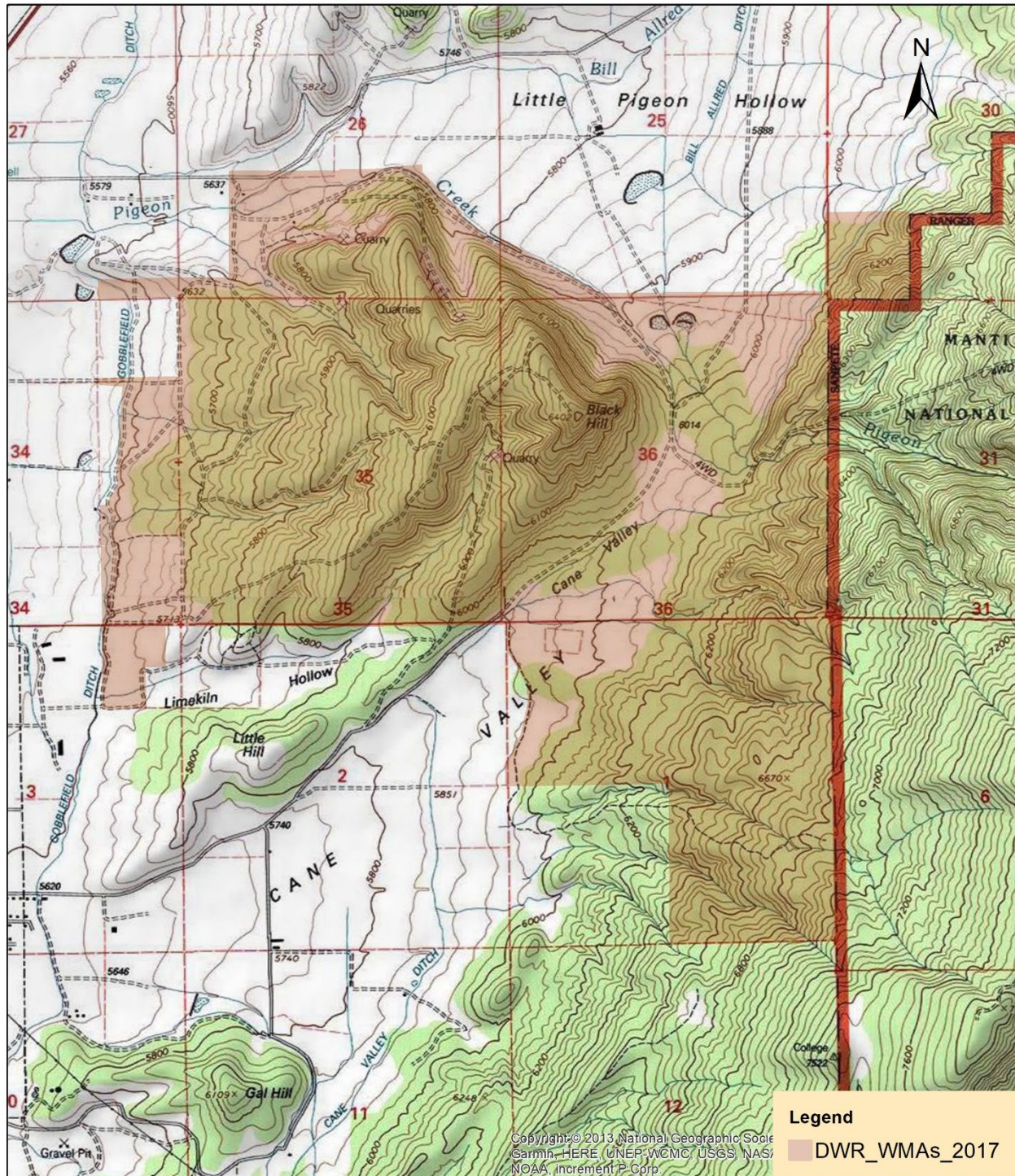
Map A3 - White Hill WMA



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0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

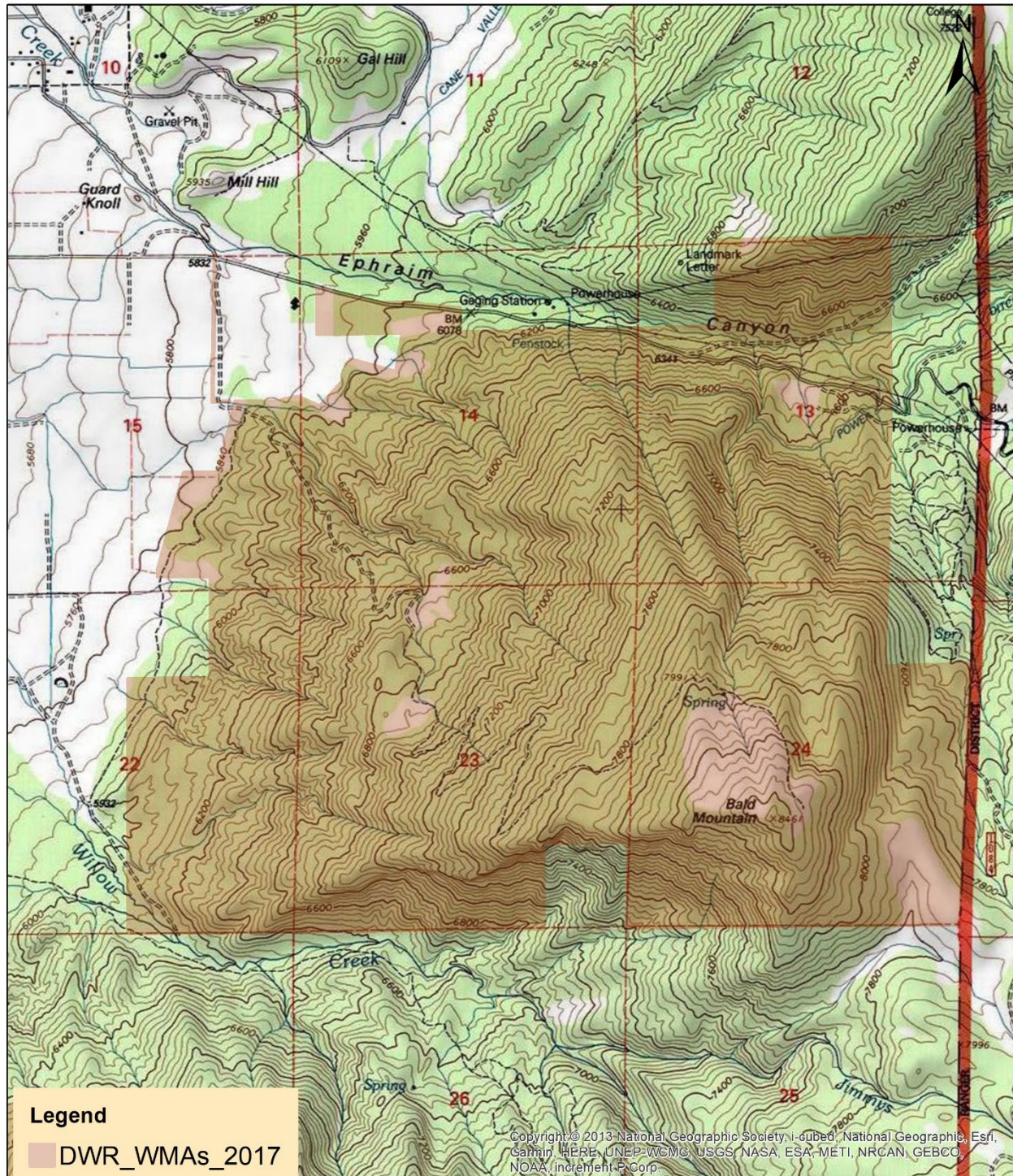
Map A4 - Black Hill WMA



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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

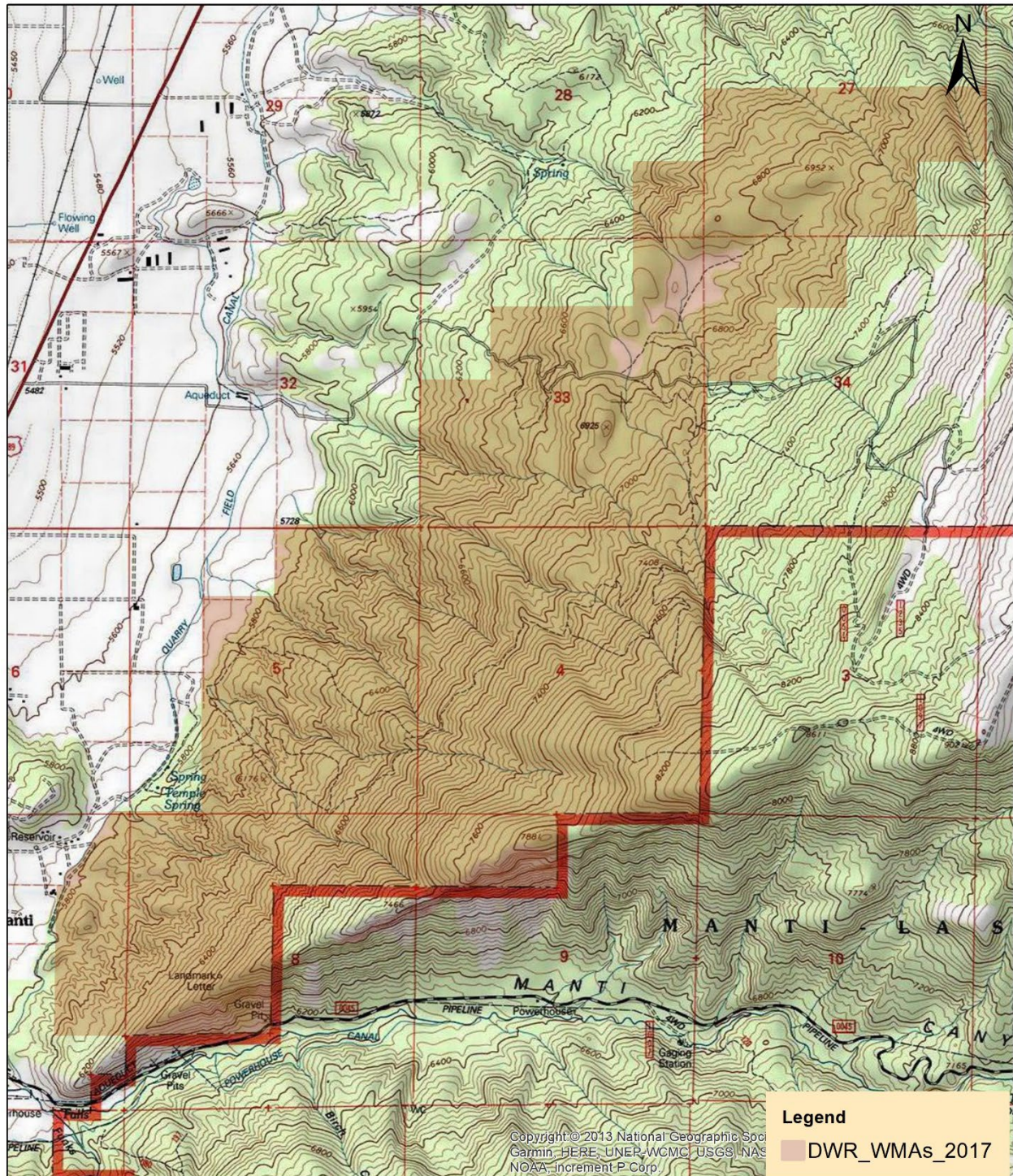
Map A5 - Bald Mountain WMA



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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

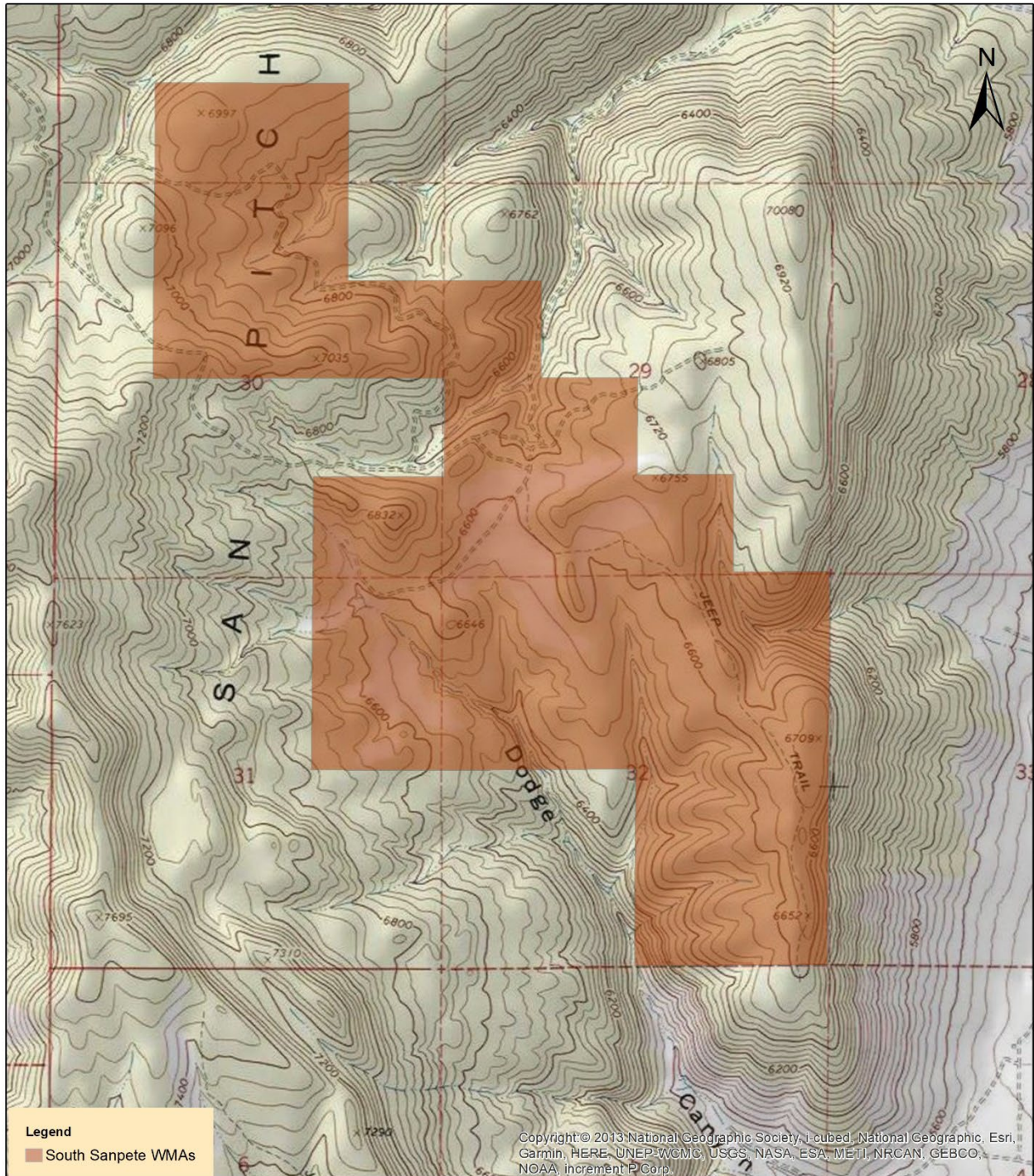
Map A6 - Manti Face WMA



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0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

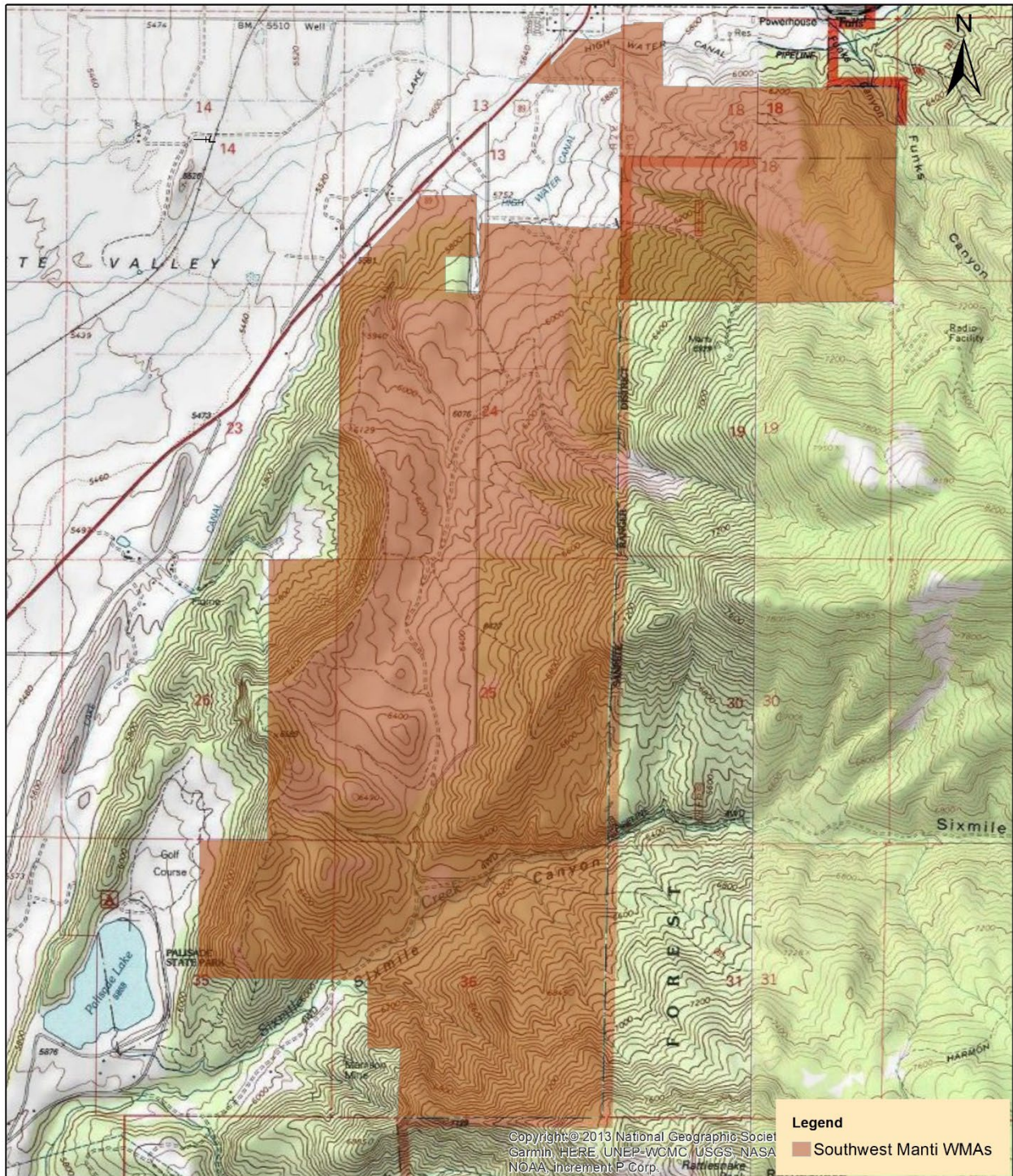
Map A7 - Maple Canyon WMA



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0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles

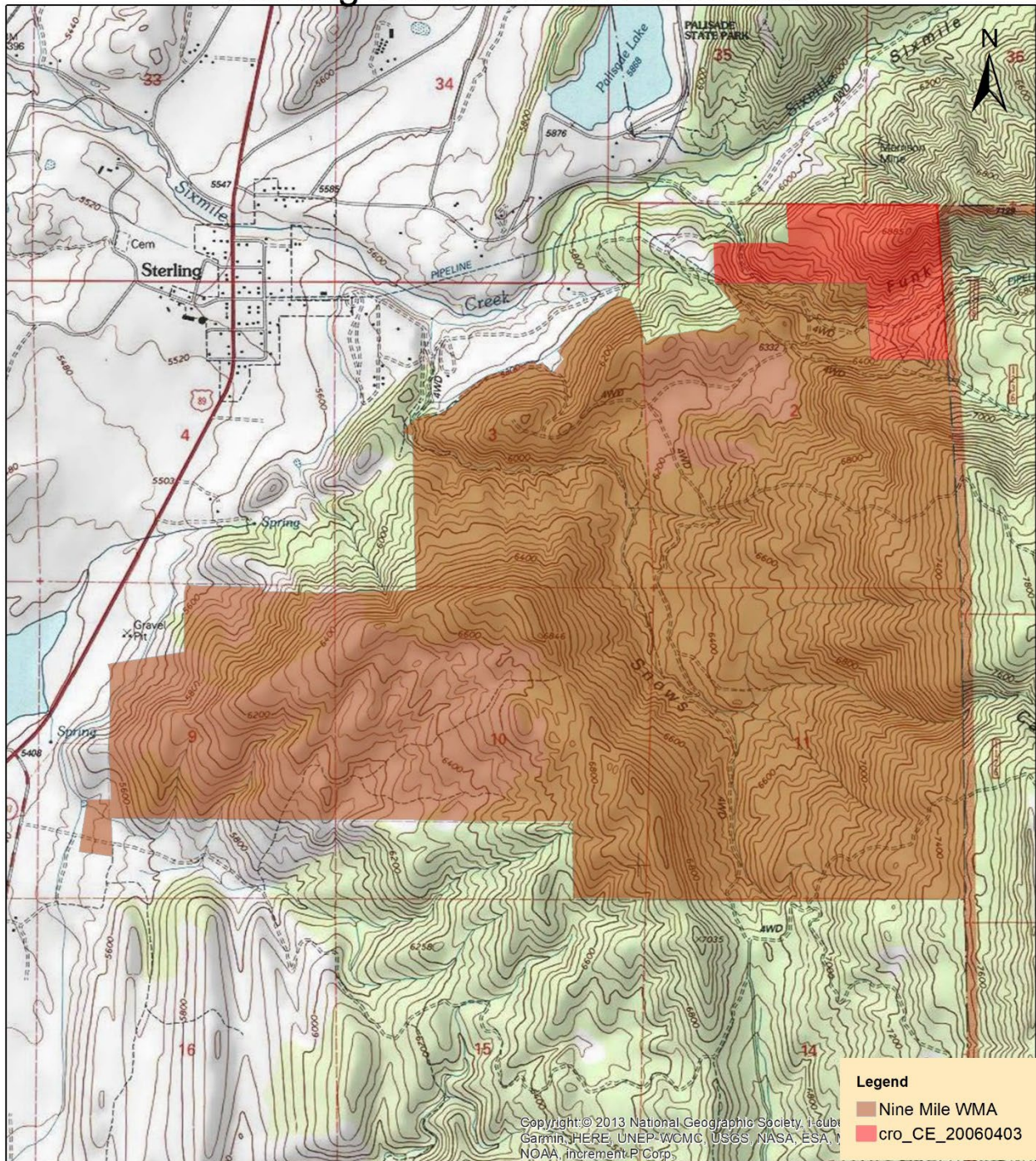
Map A8 - Six Mile WMA



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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

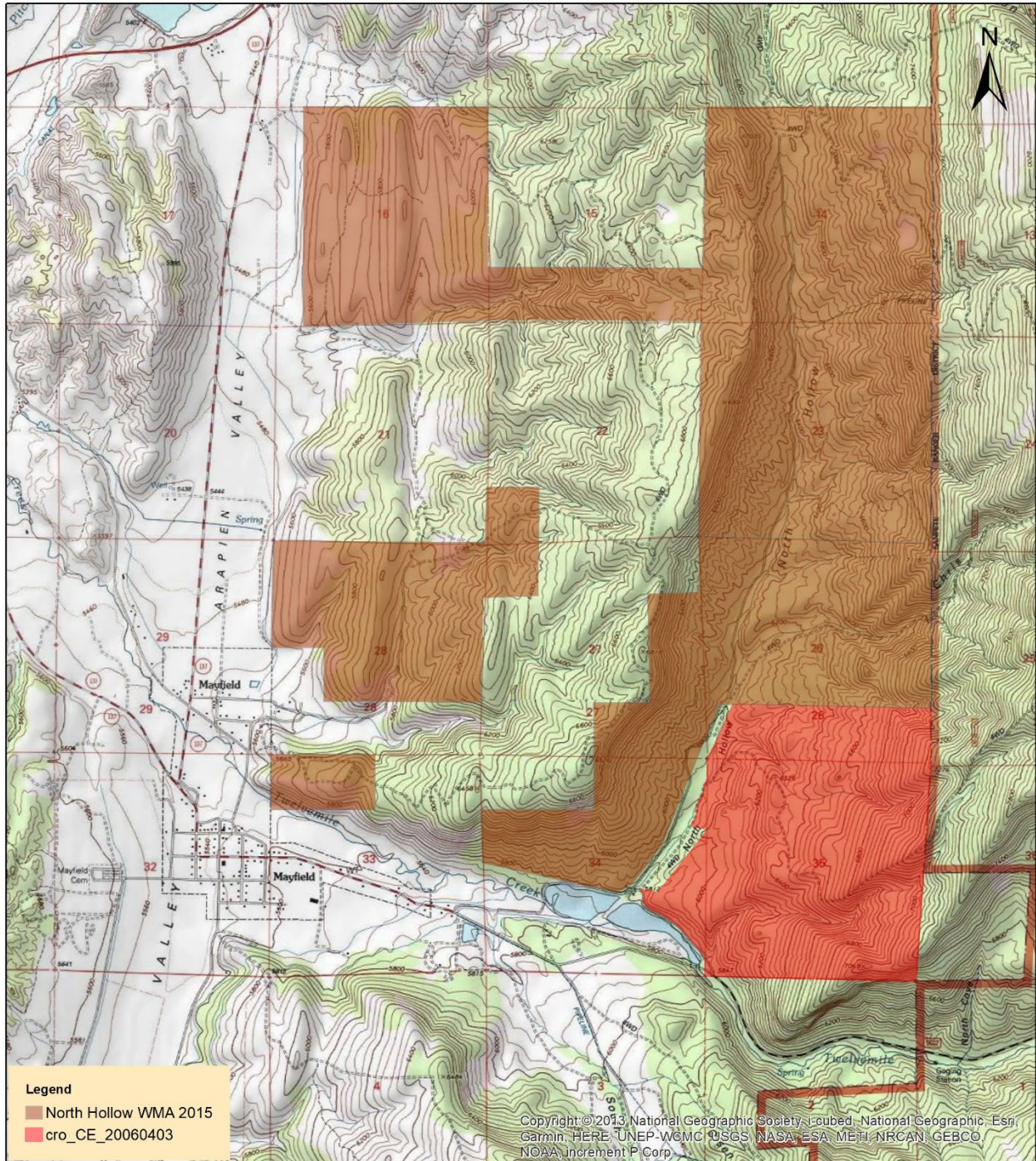
Map A9 - Nine Mile WMA and Sterling Conservation Easement



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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

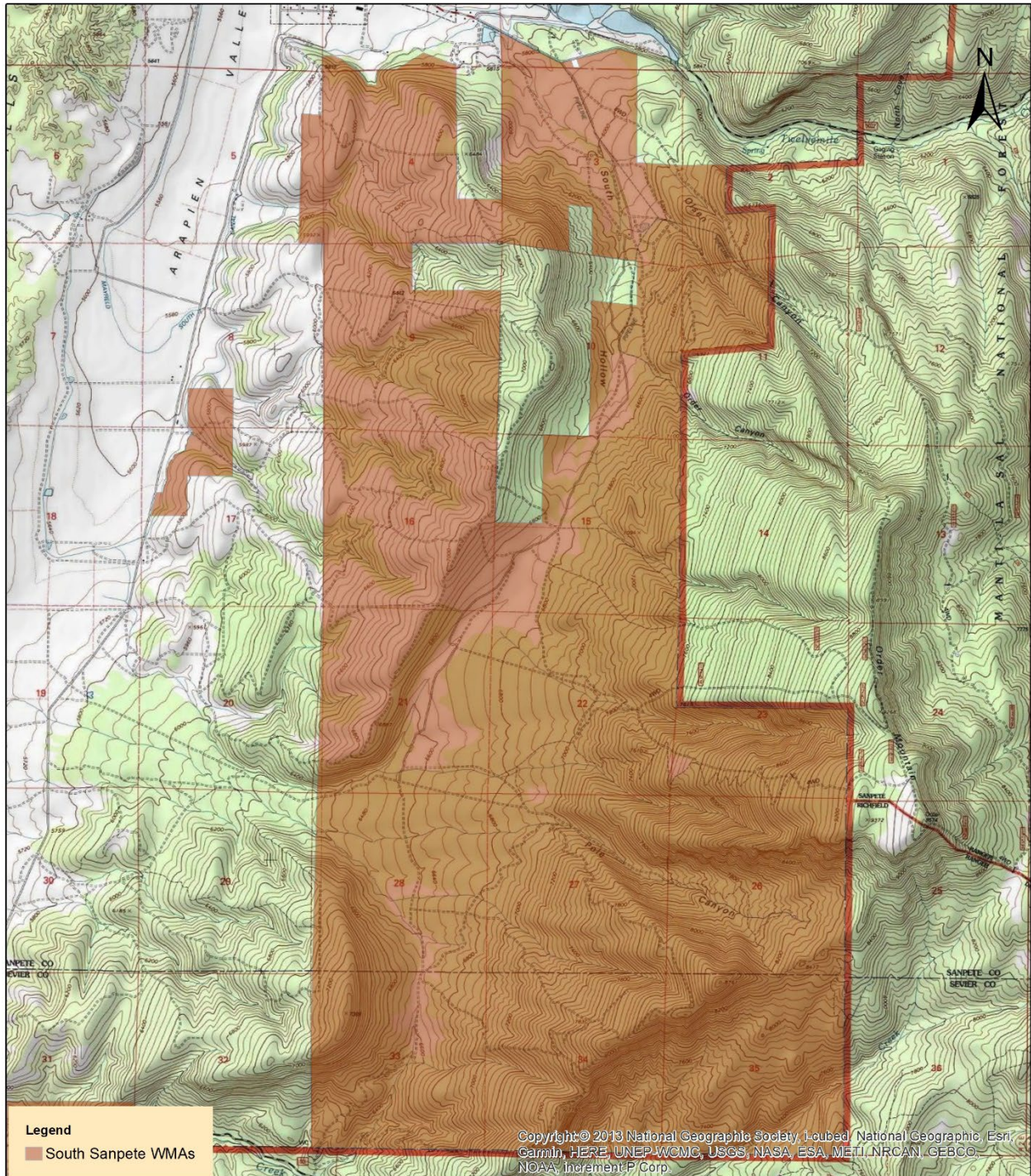
Map A10 - North Hollow WMA and Sorensen Conservation Easement



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0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

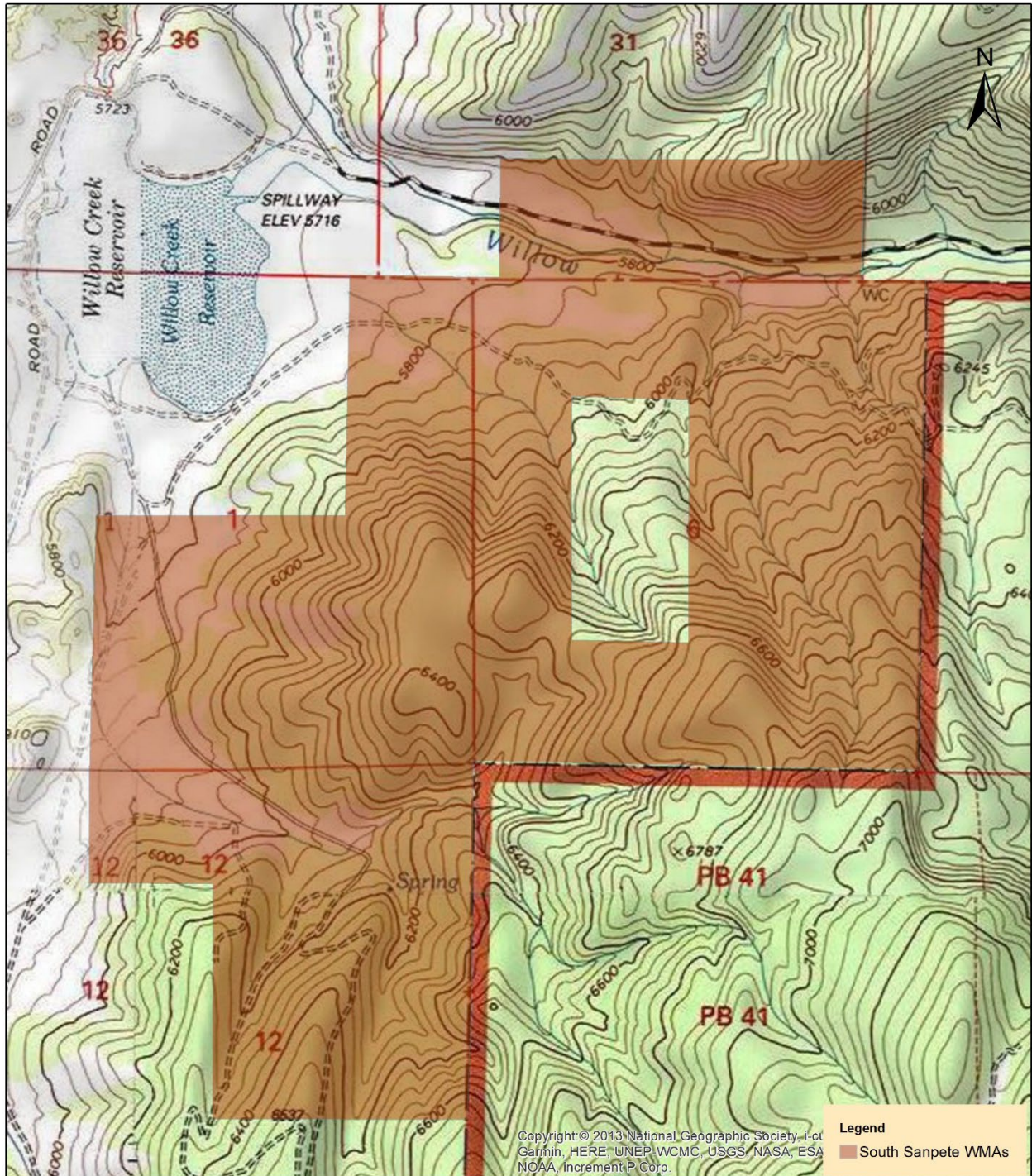
Map A11 - Twelve Mile WMA



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0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 Miles

Map A12 - Willow Creek WMA



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0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles

Appendix B – Access Management Plan and Access Maps of WMAs

ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN – SOUTH SANPETE COUNTY WMAS

PURPOSE

The WMAs contained in this plan were acquired to preserve and protect big game winter range and wintering animals. These lands provide crucial winter and spring habitat for big game in this area. The access management plan will ensure that public access and use of the WMA is done in a manner that assists the Division in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the habitat management plan.

BACKGROUND

In addition to providing crucial habitat for wintering big game, the Division recognizes the importance of these lands as popular hunting, trapping, and outdoor recreation areas for local residents in Sanpete County as well as sportsmen statewide. As such, the Division solicited comments for the purpose of including key stakeholder and constituent interests in determining how access should be managed on the WMAs. DWR held several public meetings with recreational user groups such as horsemen, mountain bike riders, and dirt bikers. We held several public meetings that had approximately 10- 20 people in attendance from the spring of 2022 to the summer of 2023. We also had a representative from Sanpete County at all of our meetings and we presented our final plan to the Sanpete County Commissioners on June 6, 2023. Feedback was gathered from these groups of what trails and roads were important to them and a plan was created that would protect wildlife resources as well as preserve public access and recreational opportunities. DWR developed approved single-track trails, roads, as well as created a new horse only trail. These trails were given wildlife names to remind the public that the primary role of these properties is to benefit wildlife (See trail names map). DWR also identified a network of redundant trails and roads that are to be closed.

Lastly, most properties in this plan previously had a winter closure except for the Black Hill WMA which did not. Through meetings with the user groups, it was decided that a winter closure would be acceptable as long as recreational use was permitted at other times of the year and that the county road remained open. Through the process, we developed a plan to be able to leave the county road open to public access while still closing segments of the property during the winter to provide a refuge for wintering big game. The winter closure will be from December 1st through April 30, to remain consistent across all WMAs in Sanpete County. Additional seasonal restrictions will be used to address rising public and OHV use as needed.

ROAD DESIGNATION

Roads are typically categorized as one of three types: Open year round, seasonally closed, or permanently closed. Some roads on these WMAs have an additional designation of administrative access only.

OPEN ROADS

These are roads that are open year round due to agreements and/or established rights-of-ways with counties, other agencies, and private landowners with in-holdings to a Division property. Roads that do not occur within crucial habitat and/or do not result in habitat damage may also be left open year round.

SEASONALLY CLOSED ROADS

These are roads that are closed for a portion of the year and are not on established rights-of-way or under an agreement with another entity to be left open year round. Roads that fall within this category are closed to motorized vehicles generally during the winter and early spring. The purpose of seasonally closed roads is to limit disturbance to wintering wildlife, protect sensitive and crucial habitats and to prevent excessive road damage during wet winter and spring months.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCESS ONLY

These roads are not for public use but are to access power lines, power poles and other types of infrastructure as well as allow DWR staff to manage the property.

PERMANENTLY CLOSED ROADS

These are roads that serve no useful purpose for management or recreational use and that fragment and damage crucial habitats. User-created roads and trails not authorized by the Division also fit into this category. These roads will be closed using signs, berms, fencing or other means. Where needed, roads may be ripped and seeded. Others will be closed and allowed to return to their natural state.

As needed, seasonal and/or permanent road and trail closures are done under the authority of Administrative Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands.

GENERAL ACCESS PROVISIONS

Motorized/non-motorized access is restricted to existing roads and trails as authorized by the Division. All authorized roads and trails, including their designation, are shown on the WMA access maps at the end of this plan. Roads and trails not shown on WMA access maps are considered unauthorized. The Division reserves the right to close all unauthorized roads and trails. Authorized travel routes will be signed as open making them easy to distinguish.

Motorized/non-motorized vehicles, including OHV's, dirt bikes, e-bikes, and bicycles are restricted to existing and designated roads and trails (Utah Code Section 41-22-10.1) and this policy will be enforced. Harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment, including abuse of lands, watershed, or impairment of plant or animal life while operating motorized/mechanical vehicles is illegal (Utah Code Section 41-22-13), and this policy will be enforced. The creation of new roads or trails by unauthorized motorized and non-motorized traffic is prohibited.

Horseback riding is also only permitted on trails that are designated as permitting horseback riding. Horseback riding cannot occur on trails that are not labeled as such because of the damage that horse hoofs can have to these trails. Horseback riding can occur on all authorized roads.

The Division cautions against motorized travel on the WMA during extended periods of wet weather. Under these conditions, roads become slick and difficult to navigate and are also easily degraded resulting in permanent damage.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times unless the owner is actively hunting during a legal hunting season and has a current hunting license.

SEASONALLY CLOSED TRAILS

All single-track trails will be closed to all access, except for foot access, for sensitive winter periods to reduce the impact of these trails on wildlife. This closure is from December 1 to April 30th.

ENFORCEMENT OF ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

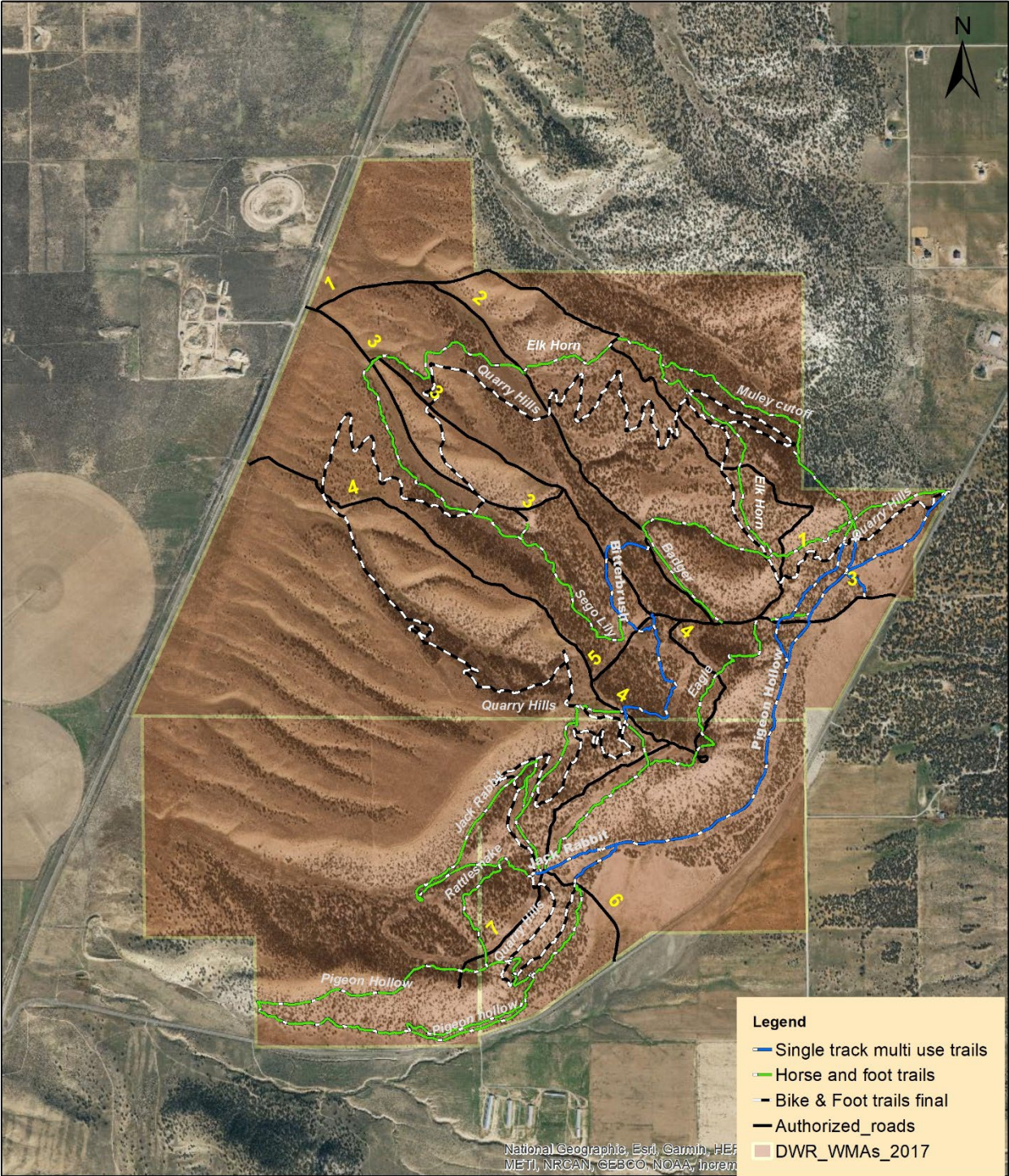
Enforcement of the access management plan will be carried out by DNR Law Enforcement and DWR personnel. However, due to the high amount of public use on the WMAs, the Division will work closely with the county sheriff's office and other local law enforcement agencies to keep motorized vehicle travel on authorized travel routes.

Informing the Public

Division personnel will inform the public of the access plan by adequately signing access points, roads and trails, parking areas, and fence lines. In addition, media coverage may be used to disseminate information regarding the access plan and how it relates to the overall goals and objectives of the WMA contained in this plan. Seasonal closures or other issues relating to access will also be included in hunting proclamations that are published annually by the Division.

The Division will work with local municipalities, the county, and other state and federal agencies to coordinate access and travel plans that are consistent with other planning efforts.

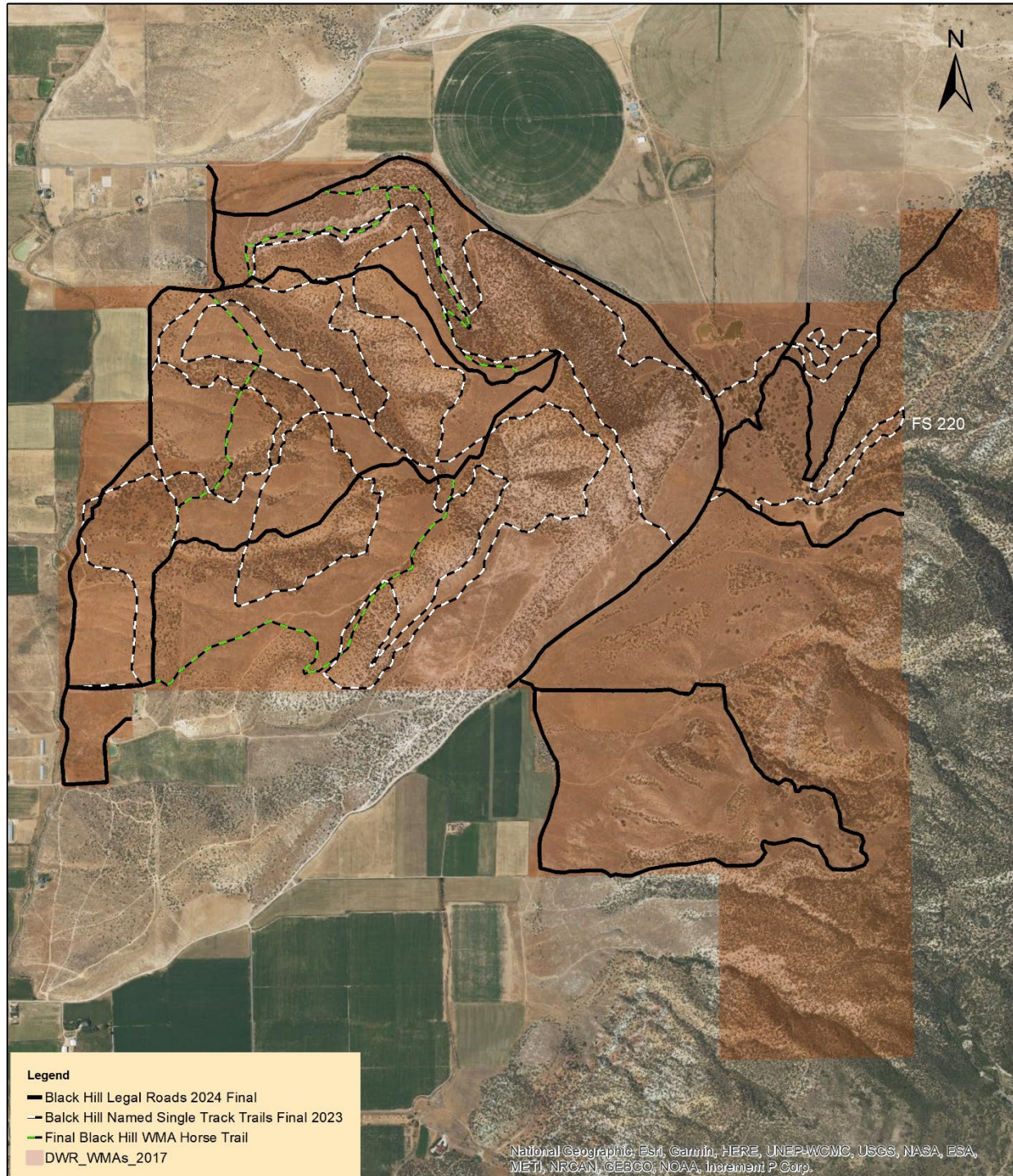
Map B1 - White Hill WMA Access Map



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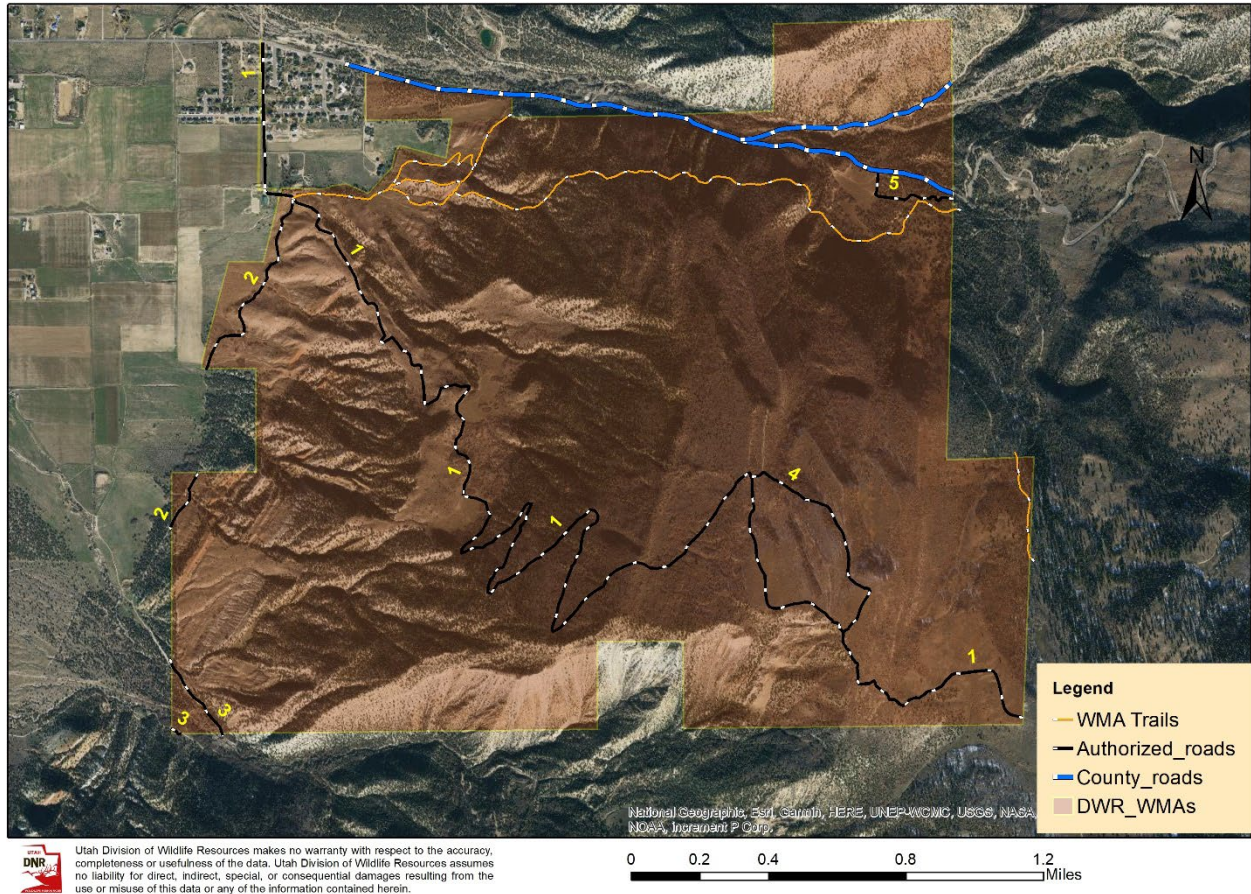


Map B2 - Black Hill WMA Access Map

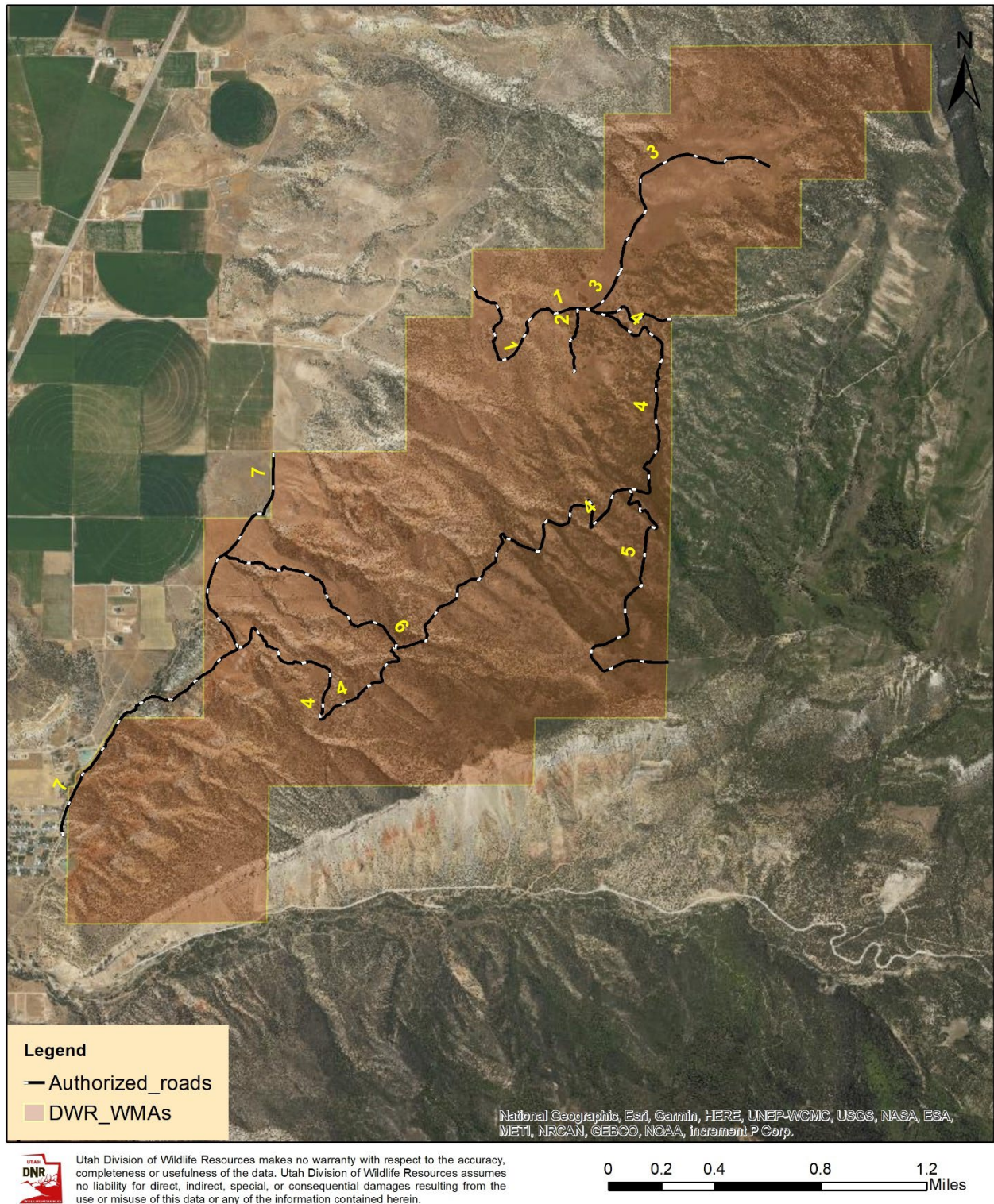


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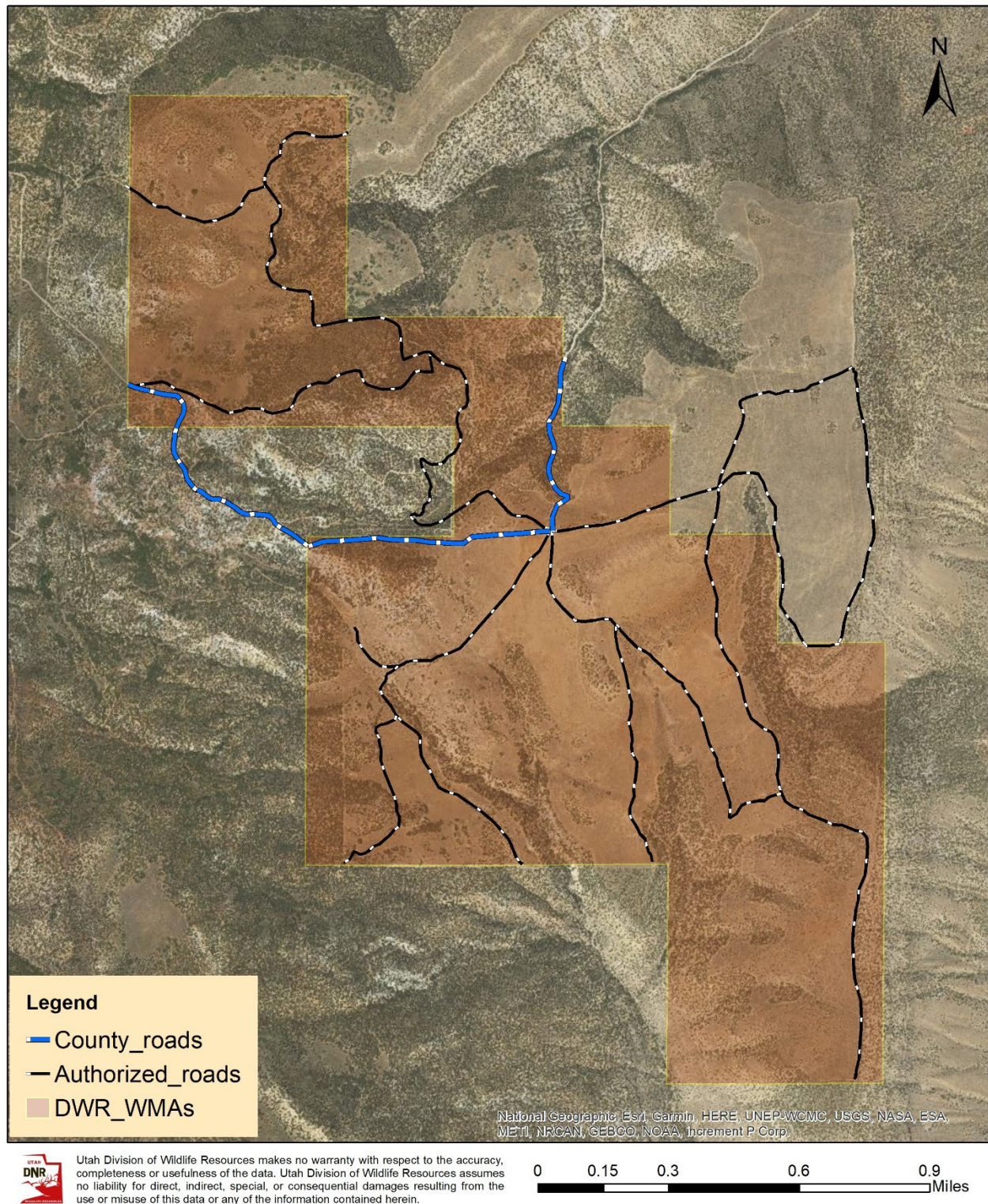
Map B3 - Bald Mountain WMA Access Map



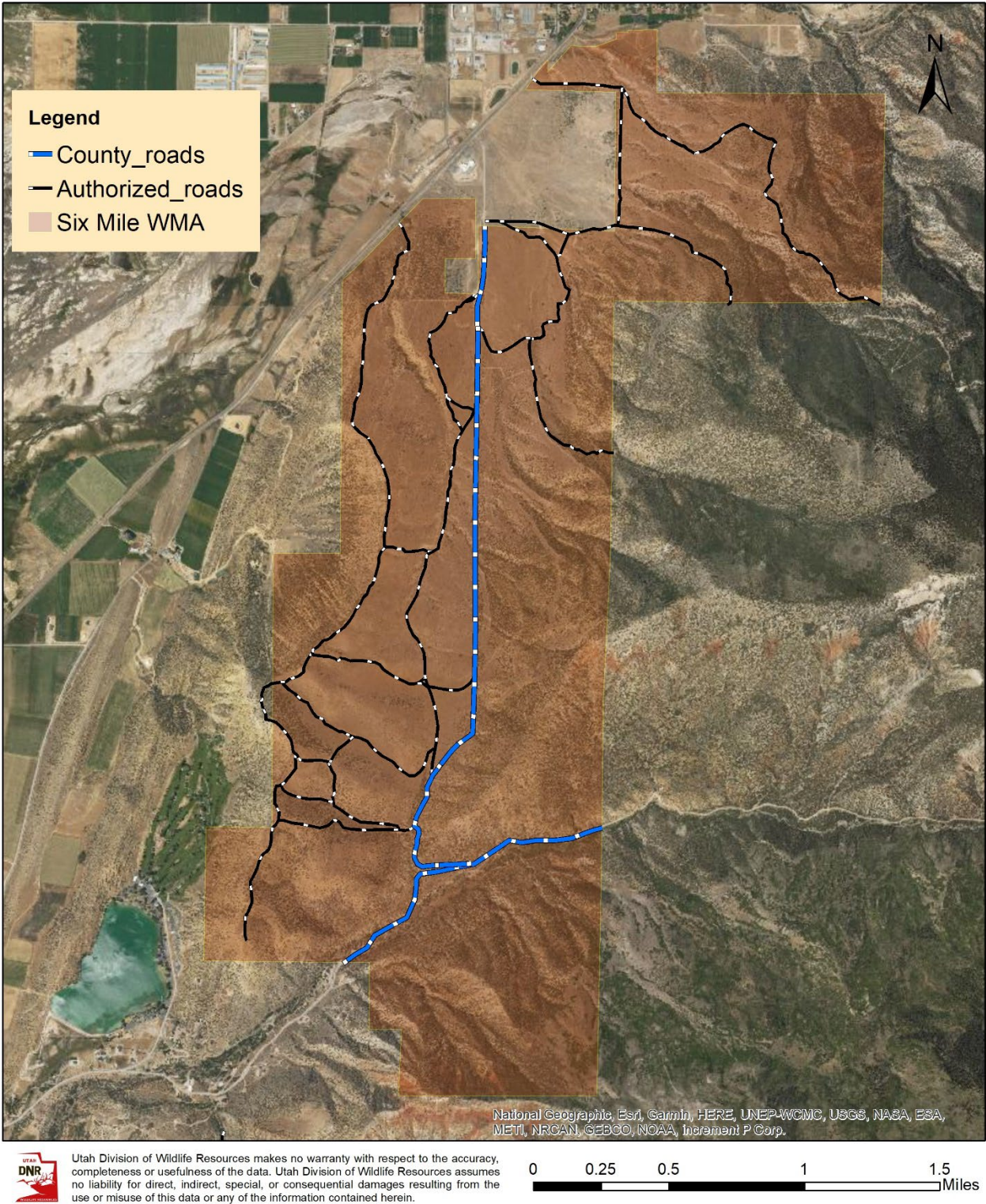
Map B4 - Manti Face WMA Access Map



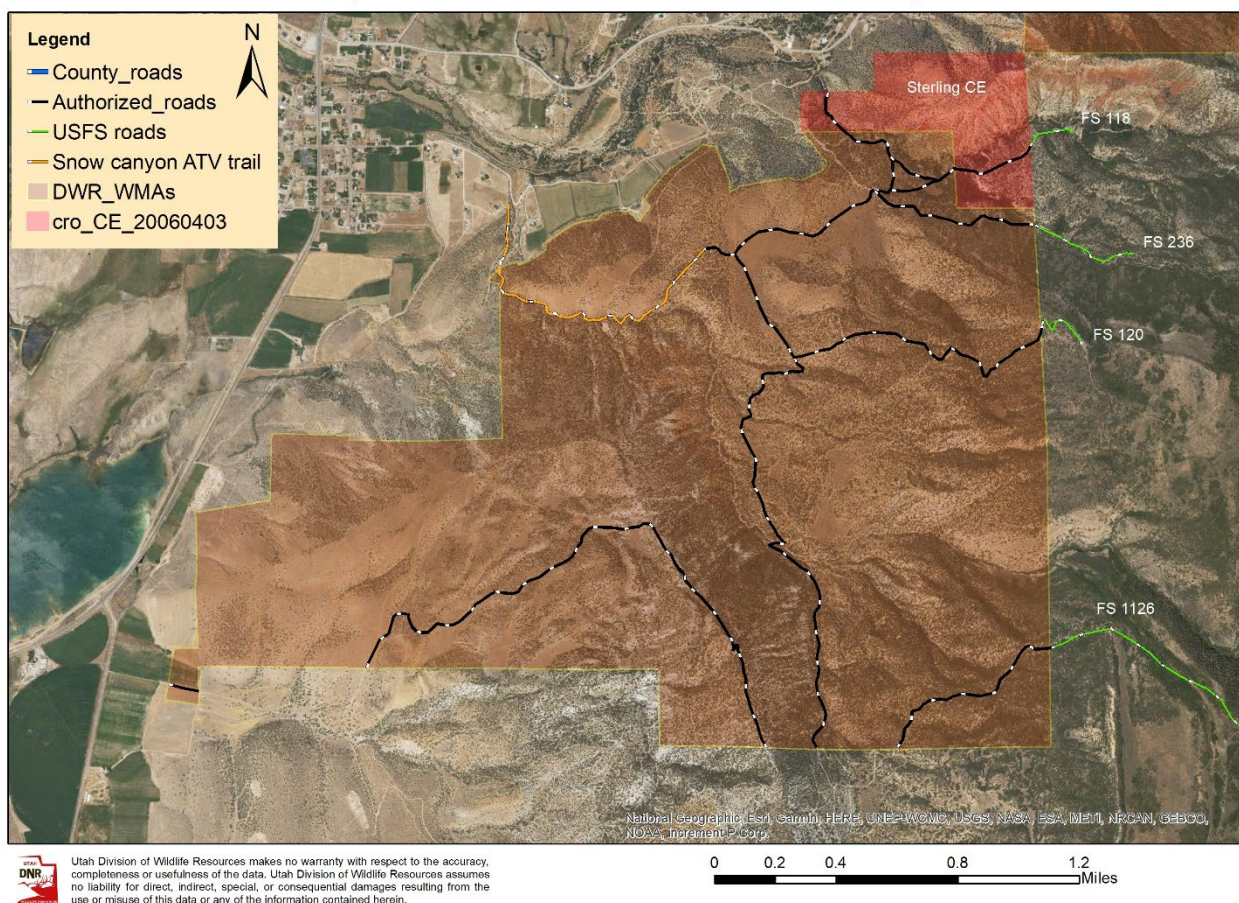
Map B5 - Maple Canyon WMA Access Map



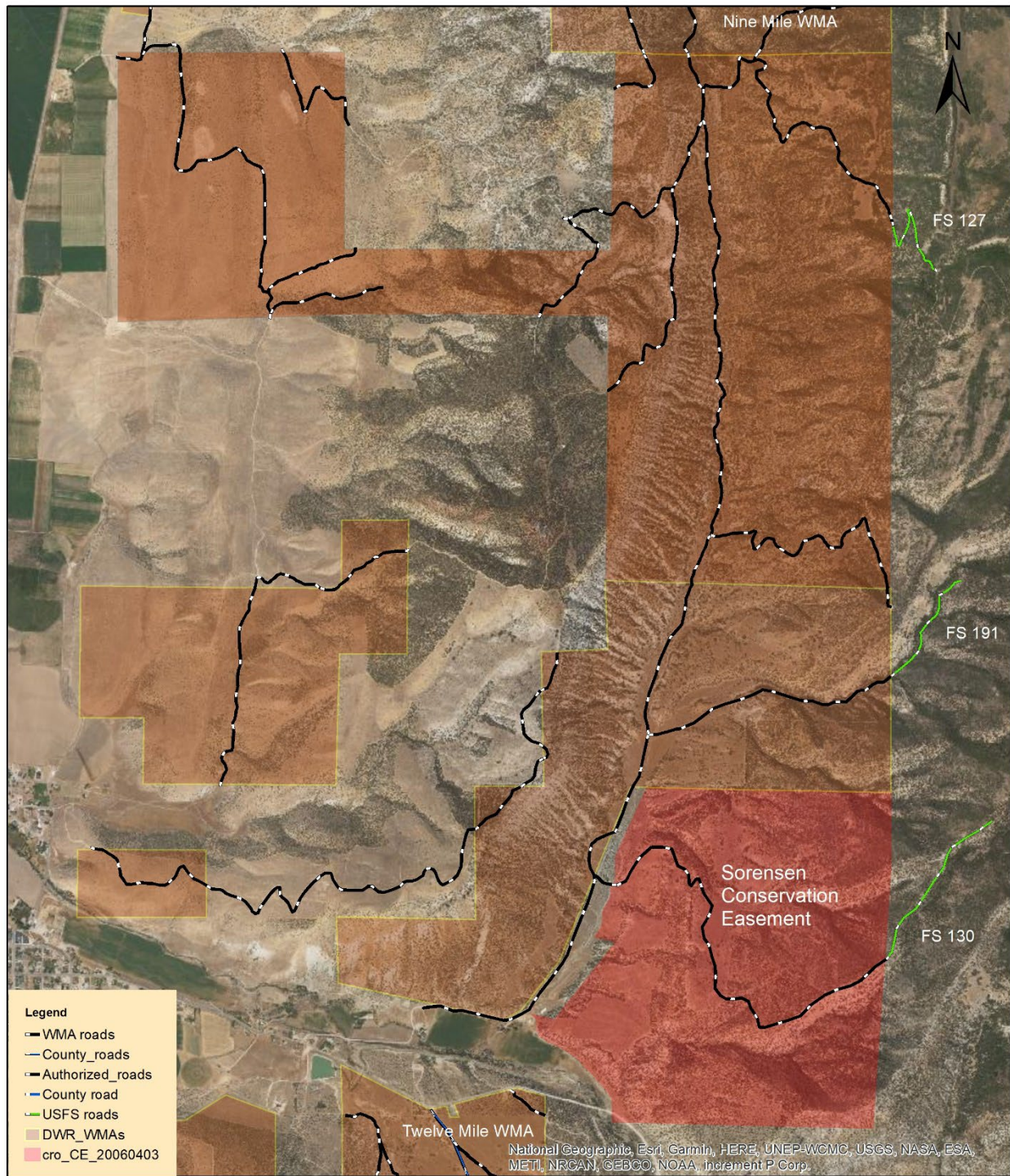
Map B6 - Six Mile WMA Access Map



Map B7 - Nine Mile WMA Access Map



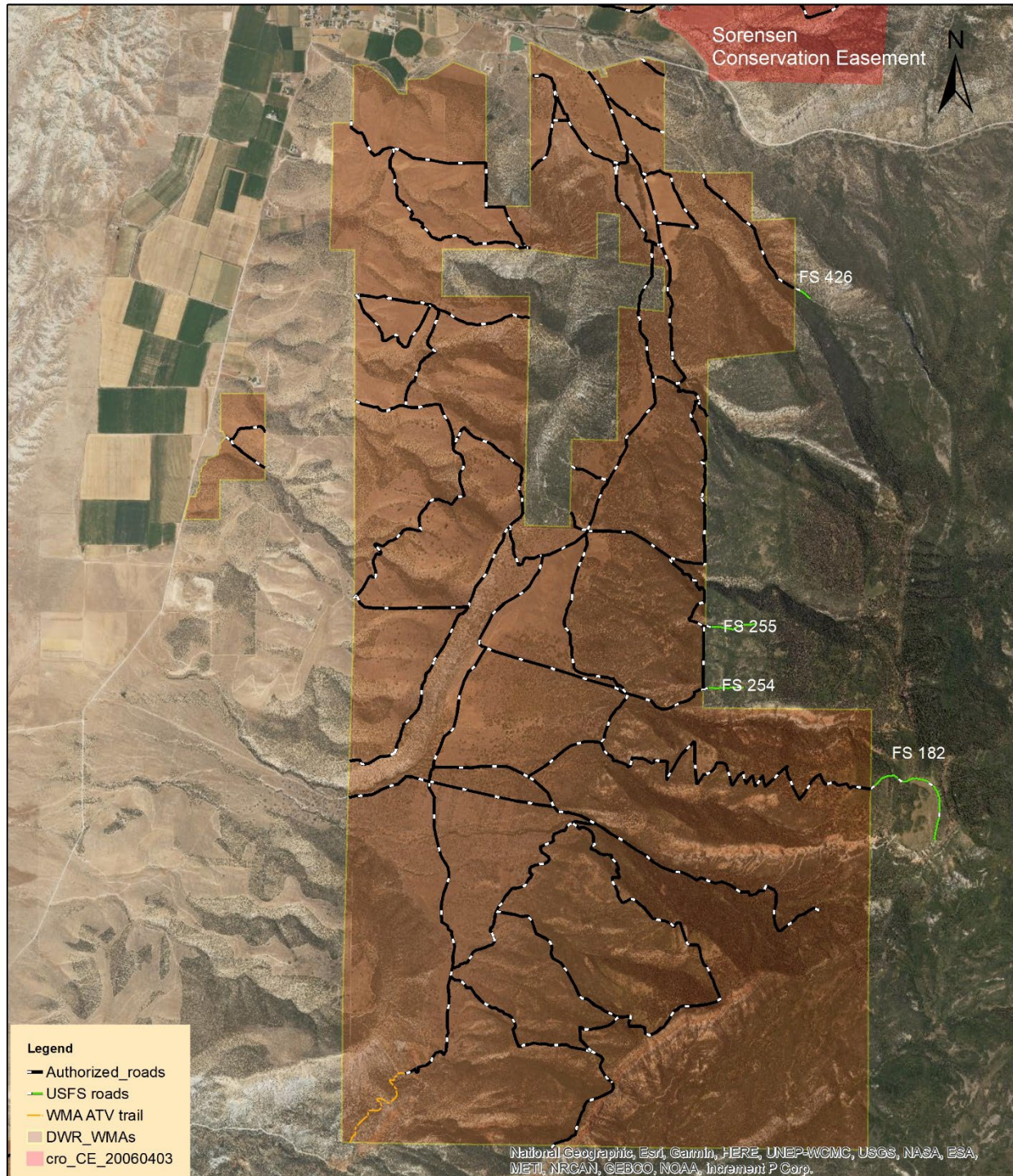
Map B8 - North Hollow WMA Access Map



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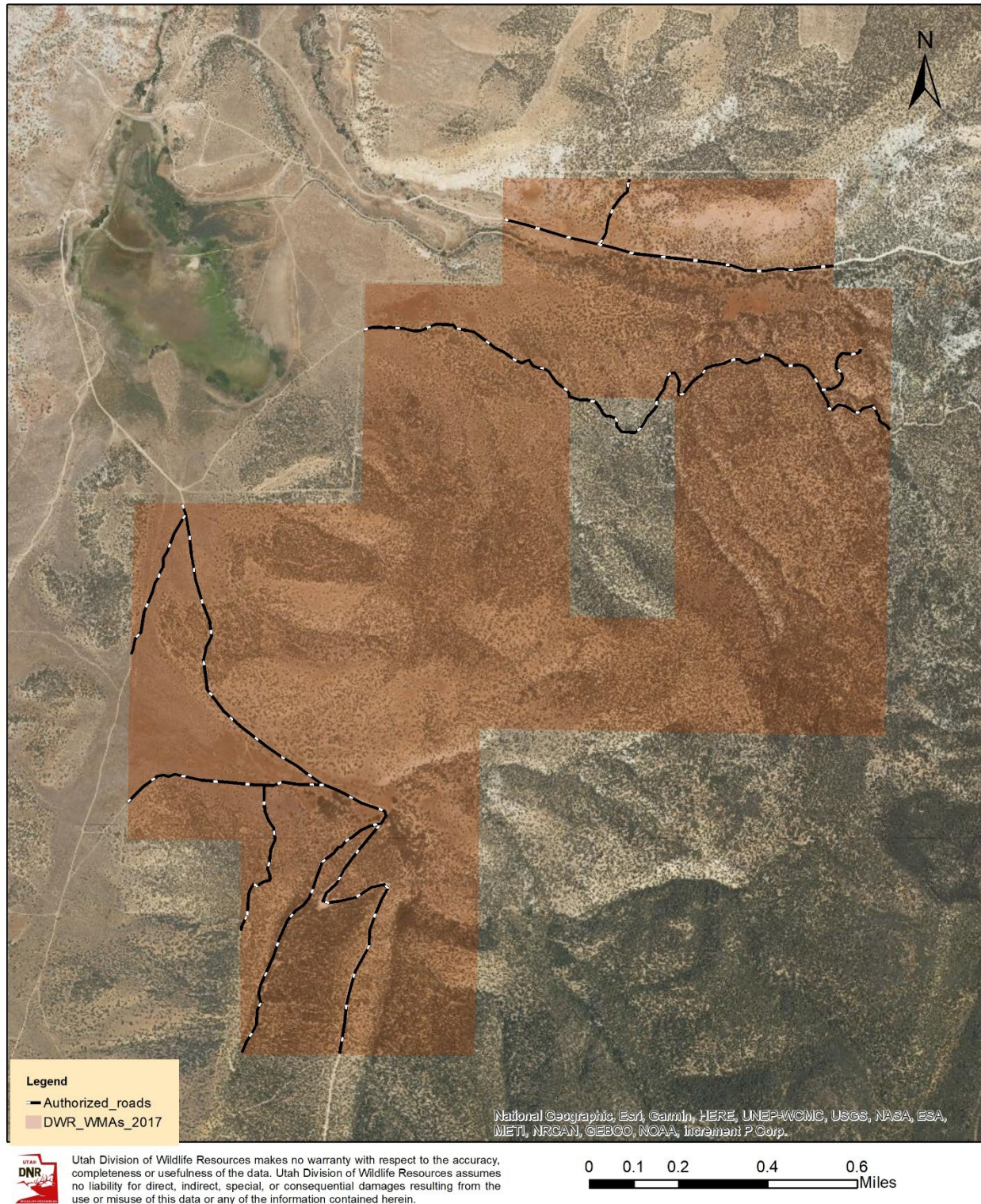
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

Map B9 - Twelve Mile WMA Access Map

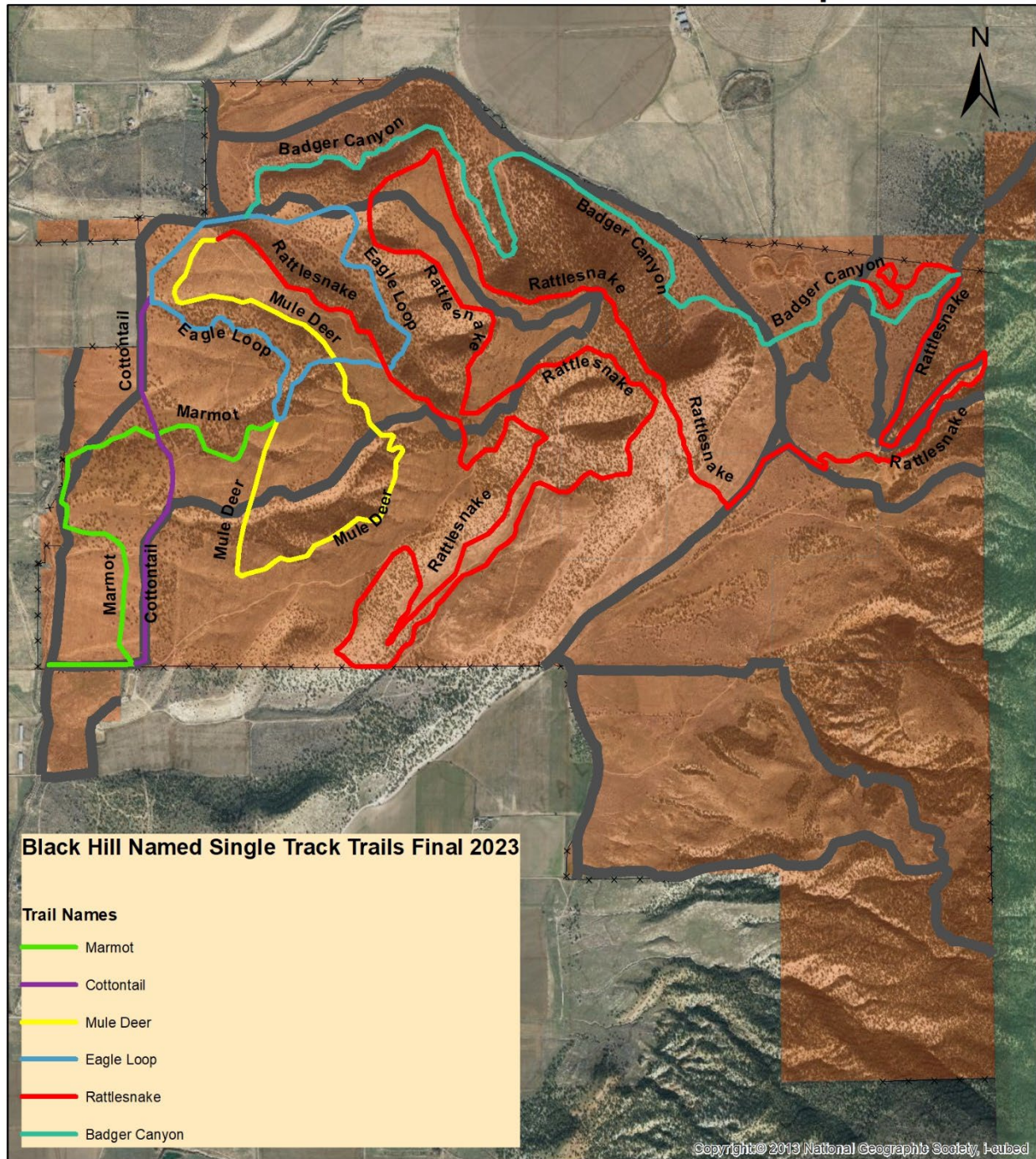


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Map B10 - Willow Creek WMA Access Map



Black Hill Authorized Trail Names Map



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0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles

Appendix C- Wildlife Habitat Assessment Tool (WHAT) Report for South Sanpete Valley

DRAFT



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 538-4700, wildlife.utah.gov



Report Number: red_16862
Report Date: 2025-02-26 11:21:30

South Sanpete Valley HMP

Location: South Sanpete
Description: UDWR HMP



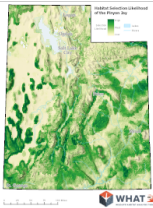



Project Area of Interest with a half-mile and two-mile radius.


Half-Mile Radius

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Tidestrom Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon tidestromii</i>	None	None	1993-06-22 00:00:00	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	SGCN	None	2012-05-25	








Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	SGCN	None	2021-10-17	 Full View
	<i>Bombus huntii</i>	None	None	2023-05-30	
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	SGCN	None	2022-06-24	 Full View
Mountain Marshsnail	<i>Stagnicola montanensis</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Ash Gyro	<i>Gyraulus parvus</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Ninemile Pyrg	<i>Pyrgulopsis nonaria</i>	SGIN	None	2019-12-19	
Bear Lake Springsnail	<i>Pyrgulopsis pilsbryana</i>	SGCN	None	2021-04-07	
Montane Snaggletooth	<i>Gastrocopta pilsbryana</i>	SGIN	None	1949-12-29	
Tidestrom Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon tidestromii</i>	None	None	2019-06-20 00:00:00	
Elsinore Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ostlundii</i>	None	None	1993-08-18 00:00:00	

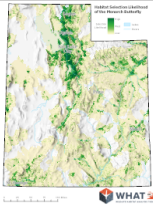








Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Ward Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon wardii</i>	None	None	1984-06-02 00:00:00	
Rainbow Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> var. <i>iridis</i>	None	None	2004-09-01 00:00:00	
Lost Creek Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum mitophyllum</i>	SGCN	None	2012-08-09 00:00:00	
Arapien Stick-leaf	<i>Mentzelia argillosa</i>	SGCN	None	2004-09-17 00:00:00	
Utah Phacelia	<i>Phacelia utahensis</i>	SGCN	None	2004-09-02 00:00:00	
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	None	None	2005-SPR	
Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	None	None	2002-08-08	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	None	None	2017-06-06	
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	None	None	1983-08-15	
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	None	None	2005-SPR	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	None	None	2015-02-11	
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	SGCN	None	2021-06-03	 Full View
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	SGCN	None	2014-12-01	
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	SGCN	None	2022-07-14	
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	SGIN	None	1968-05	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	SGIN	None	2015-06-27	
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii utah</i>	None	None	2002-08-08	
	<i>Bombus bifarius</i>	None	None	2021-08-21	
San Rafael Prickly-poppy	<i>Argemone corymbosa</i> ssp. <i>arenicola</i>	None	None	2012-01-27 00:00:00	
Common Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	None	None	2001-06-27	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii utah</i>	None	None	2002-08-05	

Two-Mile Radius

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Tidestrom Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon tidestromii</i>	None	None	1993-06-25 00:00:00	
Southern Leatherside Chub	<i>Lepidomeda aliciae</i>	SGCN	None	2010-07-12	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	SGCN	None	2012-05-25	
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	SGCN	None	2010-08-17	
	<i>Bombus nevadensis</i>	None	None	2022-06-15	
Tadpole Physa	<i>Physa gyrina</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Morrison's Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus morrisoni</i>	SGCN	None	2020-05-17	
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	SGCN	None	1947-07-24	


Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	SGCN	None	2021-10-17	 Full View
Torrey Bitterweed	<i>Tetrandeum torreyana</i>	None	None	1991-05-18 00:00:00	
San Rafael Prickly-poppy	<i>Argemone corymbosa ssp. arenicola</i>	None	None	2012-01-27 00:00:00	
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	None	None	2020-06-03	
Northern Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	SGCN	None	1995-07-22	
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	None	None	1995-07-27	
California Myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	None	None	1995-07-25	
Ubiquitous Peaclam	<i>Pisidium casertanum</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Ash Gyro	<i>Gyraulus parvus</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
	<i>Bombus huntii</i>	None	None	2023-05-30	






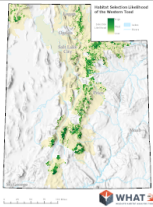

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Marsh Pondsnailed	<i>Stagnicola elodes</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Tadpole Physa	<i>Physa gyrina</i>	None	None	2019-12-21	
New Zealand Mudsnailed	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	None	None	2019-12-19	
Golden Fossaria	<i>Galba obrussa</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Mountain Marshsnailed	<i>Stagnicola montanensis</i>	None	None	1991-07-17	
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	SGCN	None	2022-06-24	 Full View
Ninemile Pyrg	<i>Pyrgulopsis nonaria</i>	SGIN	None	2019-12-19	
Bear Lake Springsnailed	<i>Pyrgulopsis pilsbryana</i>	SGCN	None	2021-04-07	
Montane Snaggletooth	<i>Gastrocopta pilsbryana</i>	SGIN	None	1949-12-29	
Coulter Biscuitroot	<i>Cymopterus coulteri</i>	None	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Ward Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon wardii</i>	None	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	
Elsinore Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ostlundii</i>	None	None	1993-08-18 00:00:00	
Tidestrom Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon tidestromii</i>	None	None	2019-06-20 00:00:00	
Rainbow Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> var. <i>iridis</i>	None	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	
Lost Creek Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum mitophyllum</i>	SGCN	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	
Arapien Stick-leaf	<i>Mentzelia argillosa</i>	SGCN	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	
Utah Phacelia	<i>Phacelia utahensis</i>	SGCN	None	2016-09-09 00:00:00	
Sigurd Easter Daisy	<i>Townsendia jonesii</i> var. <i>lutea</i>	SGCN	None	2007-12-31 00:00:00	
Graham's Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon grahamii</i>	SGCN	None	2012-08-16 00:00:00	
Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	None	None	2002-08-08	
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	None	None	1983-08-15	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	None	None	2005-SPR	
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	None	None	2005-SPR	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	None	None	2017-06-06	
Long-eared Myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	SGIN	None	1995-07-27	
Utah Chub	<i>Gila atraria</i>	None	None	2003-07-10	
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	None	None	2005-SPR	
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	None	None	2020-05-30	
Southern Leatherside Chub	<i>Lepidomeda aliciae</i>	SGCN	None	2020-06-18	
Least Chub	<i>Notichthys phlegethontis</i>	SGCN	None	2021-10-07	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	None	None	2016-12-28	
Northern Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	SGCN	None	1995-07-27	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	SGCN	None	2007-06-12	
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	SGCN	None	2017-07-27	
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	SGCN	None	1950-08-23	
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	SGCN	None	2022-07-18	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	SGCN	None	2017-01-10	
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	SGCN	None	2023-06-14	
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	SGCN	None	2021-06-03	 Full View
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	SGIN	None	2015-06-27	
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	SGIN	None	1968-05	
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii utah</i>	None	None	2002-08-08	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	None	None	2020-06-03	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	None	None	2021-06-04	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	None	None	2007-05-15	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	SGCN	None	2004-06-24	
California Myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	None	None	1995-07-06	
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	None	None	1995-07-22	
Western Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i>	SGIN	None	1995-07-22	
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	SGCN	None	2021-09-08	 Full View
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	SGCN	None	1947-07-24	
	<i>Bombus nevadensis</i>	None	None	2022-06-15	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
San Rafael Prickly-poppy	<i>Argemone corymbosa ssp. arenicola</i>	None	None	2012-01-27 00:00:00	
Torrey Bitterweed	<i>Tetrameuris torreyana</i>	None	None	1991-05-18 00:00:00	
Common Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	None	None	2001-06-27	
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	SGCN	None	1995-07-06	
Northern Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	SGCN	None	1995-07-22	
Western Toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>	SGCN	None	1929-08-13	 Full View
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii utah</i>	None	None	2002-08-05	

Definitions

State Status	
SGCN, SGIN	Species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) or the special subcategory, species of greatest Information need (SGIN), are listed in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan (UWAP) and also included in the Utah Field Guide

U.S. Endangered Species Act	
LE	A taxon that is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "endangered" with the probability of worldwide extinction
LT	A taxon that is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "threatened" with becoming endangered
LE;XN	An "endangered" taxon that is considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be "experimental and nonessential" in its designated use areas in Utah
C	A taxon for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to justify it being a "candidate" for listing as endangered or threatened
PT/PE	A taxon "proposed" to be listed as "endangered" or "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Species Distribution and Habitat Suitability Models

Species distribution and habitat suitability models (SDHMs) can inform wildlife management decisions such as habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration. They may also help assess environmental impacts by identifying species' habitats. When reevaluating SDHMs with new information, they can help identify or track changes or trends in habitat quality. SDHMs assess habitats' spatial arrangement and connectivity, identify crucial habitats, or describe the environmental conditions a species selects. SDHMs provide an understanding of the impacts of invasive species spread and identify suitable areas for species translocations/re-introductions.

SDHMs show a predicted suitable habitat for a species based on various biotic and abiotic environmental factors. These models may be useful for statewide evaluation but should not be considered verified species presence or absence. Field survey information should be utilized to verify the presence or absence of taxa when making species-specific decisions. Models produced by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) were conducted using a blend of Generalized Linear Models, Generalized Additive Models, Random Forest Models, Boosted Regression Tree Models, and Maximum Entropy Models.

Mitigation Strategies

Typical recommendations to consider and help guide project activities to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on wildlife and their habitats from project disturbances are displayed below for some wildlife species found within/near your project area.

Common Name	Strategy
Golden Eagle	Avoid disturbance within 0.5 miles from nest Feb. 1 - Aug. 15
Bald Eagle	Avoid disturbance within disturbance buffer (determined by activity; either 330 ft or 660 ft) from nest Jan. 1 - Aug. 15
Pinyon Jay	This species has been petitioned for federal listing, consideration of this species should be included in any project environmental analyses.
Western Toad	Boreal toad is a species of conservation importance in Utah's Wildlife Action Plan. Work with local management agency for ways to minimize impacts.
Elk	Avoid disturbance in crucial summer range during calving May 15 - July 15. Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is

Common Name	Strategy
	recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.
Elk	Avoid disturbance in crucial summer range during calving May 15 - July 15. Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.
Elk	Avoid disturbance in crucial winter habitats Dec. 1 - Apr. 15. Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.
moose	Avoid disturbance in crucial winter habitats Nov. 1 - May 15. Consider voluntary mitigation if avoidance is not possible or there is permanent habitat loss.
mule deer	Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.
mule deer	Avoid disturbance in crucial winter habitats Dec. 1 - Apr. 15. Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.

The DWR understands that mitigation strategies might conflict. Please reach out to DWR staff to develop strategies to minimize impacts on wildlife while still achieving project goals. Your project is located in the following UDWR region(s):

DWR Region Full Name	Regional Phone	Impact Analysis Biologist	Email	Phone
Central Region	801-491-5678	Josee Seamons	jseamons@utah.gov	385-421-1277
Southern Region	435-865-6100	Jess Kinross	jessicavan@utah.gov	435-691-2372

This project area contains multiple valuable wildlife habitats, where standard recommendations may conflict or be overburdensome. We strongly recommend reaching out to our team of experts for tailored/project-specific suggestions and solutions and DWR staff may contact you.

Wildlife Action Plan

The [Utah Wildlife Action Plan](#) (UWAP) is Utah's guiding document for native species conservation. The DWR encourages parties to use the UWAP in their environmental planning, as it provides a conservation framework to prevent future listings under the ESA.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this report is based on data existing in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' central database at the time of the request. It should not be regarded as a final statement on the occurrence of any species on or near the designated site, nor should it be considered a substitute for on-the-ground biological surveys. Moreover, because the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' central database is continually updated, any given response is only appropriate for its respective request.

The Utah DWR provides no warranty nor accepts any liability occurring from any incorrect, incomplete, or misleading data or from any incorrect, incomplete, or misleading use of these data.

The results include a query of species tracked by the Utah Natural Heritage Program and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, which includes all species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, species in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan, and other species. Other significant wildlife values might also be present on the designated site.

For additional information about species listed under the Endangered Species Act and their Critical Habitats that may be affected by activities in this area or for information about Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, please visit <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> or contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Utah Ecological Services Field Office at (801) 975-3330 or utahfieldoffice_esa@fws.gov.

The "Not For Consultation" watermark is meant to inform users that this tool is not a substitute for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) environmental review process. While this tool provides courtesy information on ESA species for context, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the authority on Information for Planning and Consultation Endangered Species Act Reviews. Additionally, the Wildlife Habitat Analysis Tool provides information to assist in analysis but does not replace coordination and consultation with Utah Division of Wildlife Resource biologists who can often serve as an expert resource for site-specific information.

Supplemental Data

Migration Corridors

Species	Type
Mule Deer	low use

Unmapped Corridors

Unmodeled Corridors: Present

Wildlife Habitat Information

Species	Season	Value	Comments
Band-Tailed Pigeon	spring-fall	crucial	
Band-Tailed Pigeon	spring-fall	substantial	

Species	Season	Value	Comments
Black Bear	year-long	crucial	
California Quail	year-long	crucial	
Chukar	year-long	crucial	
Chukar	year-long	substantial	
Dusky Grouse	year-long	crucial	
Elk	spring/fall	crucial	
Elk	spring/fall	substantial	
Elk	spring/fall	substantial	
Elk	summer	crucial	
Elk	winter	crucial	
Elk	winter	crucial	
Elk	winter	substantial	
Moose	winter	crucial	
Moose	year-long	substantial	
Moose	year-long	substantial	Moose transplants have occurred in this area and have failed. Biologists do not believe habitat is the limiting factor.
Mule Deer	spring/fall	crucial	
Mule Deer	spring/fall	substantial	
Mule Deer	summer	substantial	
Mule Deer	winter	crucial	
Mule Deer	winter/spring	crucial	
Ring-Necked Pheasant	year-long	substantial	
Ruffed Grouse	year-long	substantial	
Snowshoe Hare	year-long	substantial	Taken from the 1995 GAP Product.
Turkey	year-long	NA	

Species	Season	Value	Comments
White-Tailed Jackrabbit	year-long		

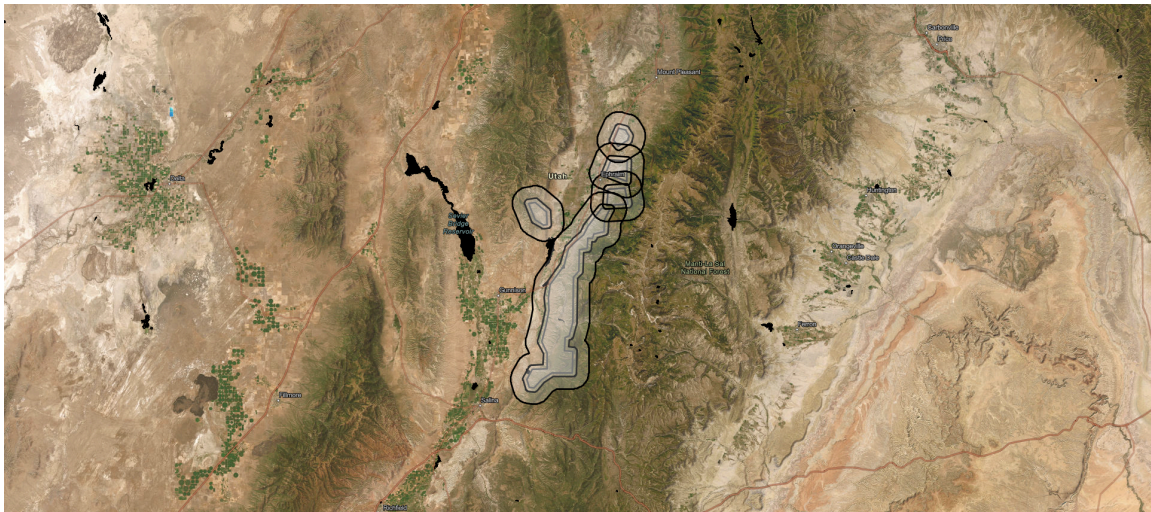
Terrestrial Key Habitat



Description: These polygons representing 13 terrestrial key habitats have been generalized for web mapping applications, and often under-represent the presence of key habitats, particularly small areas of discontinuous habitat.

Habitat Name
Aspen Conifer
Desert Grassland
Desert Shrub
Lower Montane Mixed Conifer
Lowland Sagebrush
Montane and Subalpine Conifer
Mountain Sagebrush
Mountain Shrub
Riparian
Salt Desert Shrub
Subalpine Grassland

Lakes and Reservoirs



Elevation	Gnis Name
0	
0	
1788.6	Palisade Lake

Rivers and Streams



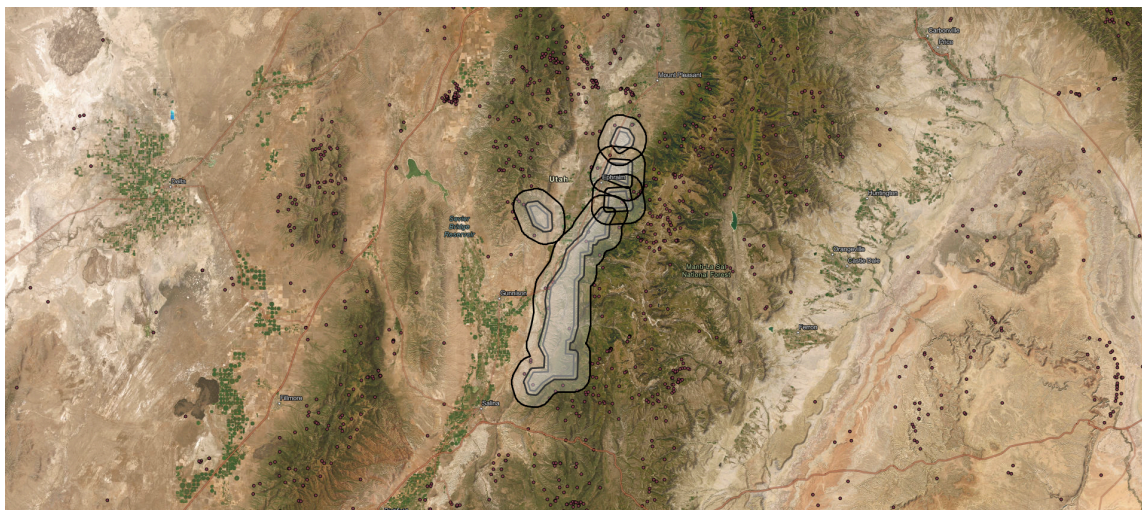
Description: Lineworks copied directly from NHDHighRes data that's present on SGID10 database. UDWR Water Names and Water Id's have been assigned to the features. Original NHD features copied from the NHDHighRes feature class around 2014. Please note that some of the line work could of been captured prior to 2014 and be from an earlier version of the NHDHighRes data set. Permanent_Identifier and ReachCode were copied directly from the NHDHighRes data set. Updated on 10/01/2019 to remove duplicates linework.

Water Name
TWELVE MILE CR
EPHRAIM CR
WILLOW CR
MANTI CR
SIX MILE CR
WILLOW CR
TWELVE MILE CR
MANTI CR
MANTI CR
WILLOW CR
MANTI CR
SIX MILE CR
TWELVE MILE CR
SIX MILE CR
MANTI CR
EPHRAIM CR
TWELVE MILE CR
TWELVE MILE CR
WILLOW CR
WILLOW CR
MANTI CR
TWELVE MILE CR
MANTI CR
EPHRAIM CR
WILLOW CR
MILL CR

Water Name
SIX MILE CR
SIX MILE CR
WILLOW CR
SIX MILE CR
TWELVE MILE CR
MANTI CR
EPHRAIM CR
EPHRAIM CR
TWELVE MILE CR
CLEAR CR
MANTI CR
TWELVE MILE CR
WILLOW CR
WILLOW CR
WILLOW CR
TWELVE MILE CR
SIX MILE CR
TWELVE MILE CR
EPHRAIM CR
EPHRAIM CR
MANTI CR
NEW CANYON CR
TWELVE MILE CR
SIX MILE CR
SIX MILE CR
EPHRAIM CR

Water Name
SIX MILE CR
WILLOW CR

Springs



Description: This feature class contains a subset of springs extracted from the Springs Stewardship Institute Springs Online database (<http://springsdata.org>), exported at 12:07:06 hrs, Saturday, December 24, 2022 from Springs Online. Each record in the feature class has a unique SiteID assigned by the online database. This feature class is related to the primary table, tbl_Surveys, in a one to many relationship.

Site Name
79787633 NHD_ID
79649149 NHD_ID
79649125 NHD_ID
79648825 NHD_ID
Temple
79648393 NHD_ID

Report Generated For

Name: Robert Edgel
Organization: UDWR
Email: redgel@utah.gov
Phone: (435)-671-0160

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

End of Report

Thank you for using the Utah Wildlife Habitat Analysis tool. Feel free to reach out to the department for additional information or assistance.