2025 HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Management Areas

Habitat

Prepared by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Southern Region

UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Management Areas

Habitat Management Plan

RDCC Project Number and Submission Date:

Habitat Council Review Date:

RAC Review Date:

Director's Approval: _____ **Date:**_____

Director

Habitat Management Plan for Sevier and Piute Big Game Wildlife Management Areas

Executive Summary – January 2025

PRIMARY PURPOSE OF SEVIER AND PIUTE BIG GAME WINTER RANGE WMAS

The primary purpose of the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs is to provide winter range for big game species. In addition, there is vital, high-quality turkey habitat on some of the units. Allowed recreation uses include hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, and horseback riding. Dispersed camping will also be allowed but not promoted. OHV use will be allowed on the WMAs only on designated right of ways and marked open roads. Destruction and/or degradation of wildlife habitat from any of these uses may result in further restrictions to protect the resource

WILDLIFE SPECIES

While the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs were originally purchased to protect big game (deer and elk) winter range, they also provide habitat for many species of game and non-game wildlife. These species include but are not limited to turkey, upland game, and songbirds. A survey of City Creek through the WMA yielded no results for sportfish and other fish species in fall of 2024, but the creek is potential habitat for Bonneville Cutthroat trout and other fish species. An undetermined number of amphibian and reptile species also inhabit the WMA.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

- Pinyon and juniper will be managed to reduce encroachment and loss of sagebrush and herbaceous understory including the maintenance of previous treatments.
- Increase preferred browse by utilizing both seeding and seedling transplants.
- Manage invasive species such as cheatgrass, utilizing herbicides and other methods.
- Improve and enhance seasonal streams and associated riparian vegetation using low-tech erosion control structures.
- Explore use of existing water right on Monroe WMA to establish a 15 acre food plot.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Motorized access to the WMA is provided through a series of roads. Overland travel is limited to foot and horse traffic. The use of E-bikes is prohibited outside of the identified open roads. Creation of new roads and trails is prohibited. In addition to the identified open roads, there are several additional administrative roads that serve as access for maintenance and management purposes.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Typical annual maintenance actions include weed control, fence maintenance, road maintenance and signage. Fence maintenance will include walking the perimeter and interior fences as well as working with the DNR Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) and internally to identify fencing that is problematic to deer and replacing it with wildlife friendly fencing. Road maintenance and signage will involve working with the DLE to address illegal use of trails and roads on the WMA and keeping signage current and legible throughout the year. Water developments will also be maintained and improved to provide water for wildlife.

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Habitat Management Plan for Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range
Wildlife Management Areas

January 2025

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

This Habitat Management Plan (HMP) has been developed to guide management on lands owned and managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for the primary purpose of providing big game winter range in both Sevier and Piute counties, Utah. These lands were acquired in various transactions from 1938 to 1977. The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) HMP covers 4 different WMAs including Monroe (aka - Poverty Flat) WMA, White Horse Flat WMA, Marysvale (aka Deer Flat) WMA and City Creek WMA. While there are several other WMAs within Sevier and Piute counties, they will be addressed in separate HMPs due to differences in management objectives and strategies.

Public entities that have be given an opportunity to review and comment on this HMP include representatives from Sevier County Commission, Piute County Commission, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW), Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Trust Lands Administration (TLA) and adjacent private landowners. Their feedback has been incorporated into this HMP where it is applicable.

PURPOSE OF DIVISION OWNERSHIP

The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs were purchased to protect big game winter range but also provide seasonal and year-round habitat for upland game, turkey, sportfish and other game and non-game species. In addition, the WMAs provide access for hunters and anglers to enjoy these resources. The WMAs include borders along federal and state lands (BLM, USFS, and TLA) and often serve as an access point for those lands.

HISTORIC USES

All of these properties were used historically to graze sheep and cattle. Some portions of the Monroe WMA were also historically used for farming with alfalfa as the main crop; however, very little evidence of agricultural use remains today. Other historic uses may have included fire-wood gathering and post cutting.

PUBLIC RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC ACCESS

The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs are open to the public year-round with motor vehicle use restricted to identified open roads (See access maps Appendix B) and no motorized overland travel allowed. Parking areas and walk-through gates are provided at several locations allowing ease of access for walk in uses.

CAMPING

Dispersed camping is allowed on these properties for no greater than 10 days (see R657-28-4). There are no developed campgrounds or pads on the WMA. In the event that camping becomes detrimental to wildlife, DWR will consider action(s) to address the adverse effects.

KEY WILDLIFE SPECIES

While the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs were originally purchased to protect big game (deer and elk) winter range, they also provides habitat for many species of game and non-game wildlife. These species include but are not limited to turkey, upland game, and songbirds. A 2024 survey of City Creek through the WMA yielded no results for sportfish and other fish species, but the creek is potential habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout and other fish species. An undetermined number of amphibian and reptile species also inhabit the WMA.

GRAZING

The DWR may use domestic livestock grazing to manage vegetation on Division lands if the Division determines that such grazing is beneficial for the maintenance or improvement of wildlife habitat. In 2025 grazing is not permitted on any of the WMAs managed under this plan in an effort to preserve forage for wildlife and reduce neighboring depredation. However, they are all eligible for use as a grassbank property and can be made available for grazing as in-kind

trade for conservation actions on public or private lands, emergency forage for DWR grazing permittees or any other purpose designated by the DWR (see rule R657-28-5).

II. PROPERTY INFORMATION

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs plan includes a complex of individual WMAs located within Sevier and Piute Counties in Utah (see appendix B-1). There are other WMAs in both Sevier and Piute Counties that are not covered by this plan. This plan covers approximately 1104 total acres, all of which are within the Sevier River drainage basin. WMAs covered under this plan were assembled from four transactions beginning in 1938, with the most recent occurring in 1977. Transactions included purchases from private and state owned sources.

The plan covers four individual WMAs.

The **Monroe WMA**, located in the south end of Sevier County, consists of two pieces of property totaling approximately 287 acres, located about 3.5 miles south of the town of Monroe (see appendix B-2). The northern property is located in Township 25 south, Range 3 west, section 33. The southern property is located in Township 26 south, Range 3 west, section 4.

The next WMA moving southward is the **White Horse Flat WMA**. It is an approximately 161 acre WMA located about 9 miles south of Monroe and 4.5 northeast of Marysvale and is located in Piute County on the east side of US Highway 89 near the Sevier and Piute County line (see appendix B-3). The WMA is located in Township 27 south, Range 3 west, section 2.

The **Marysvale WMA** is approximately 521 acres located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Marysvale in Piute County (see appendix B-4). It is located in Township 27 south, Range 4 west, section 36.

Lastly, the **City Creek WMA** is 135 acres in Township 29 south, Range 4 west, section 26. This WMA is located approximately 4 miles northwest of the town of Junction (see appendix B-5).

LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY

These properties were purchased from both state funds (Monroe, White Horse and City Creek) and a federal Pittman-Robertson grant (Marysvale).

The first purchase of 135 acres makes up the City Creek WMA and was purchased on August 29, 1938, from Edwin E. and Ida Bell Bay (see appendix C).

On January 7, 1944, 287 acres were purchased from James H. Skougaard to create what is known today as the Monroe WMA (see appendix C).

In another transaction on January 7, 1944, 161 acres were purchased from Genevieve B. and Joseph I. Callahan. That purchase became the WMA known today as White Horse Flat (see appendix C).

The last transaction covered under this plan took place on January 18, 1977. In this purchase 521 acres were sold by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to create the Marysvale WMA (see appendix C).

ENCUMBRANCES

WATER RIGHTS/DEVELOPMENTS

On the Monroe WMA there are four springs on or near the boundary of the southern property that are owned privately and by the BLM (Water Rights 63-1995, 63-3131, 63-3130 and 63-3133). The DWR owns a decreed water right (Water Right 63-3132) from Birch Springs in section 4. This right is to irrigate 15 acres or equivalent livestock or domestic units (see appendix D). This decreed water right does not require proof but could be lost if it is not used for the purposes described.

The Marysvale WMA has a pond and ditch flowing into and out of the pond onto private land. The easement and water right (Water Right 63-2855) associated with the pond and ditches are held privately.

There are no known water rights or water developments associated with the White Horse Flat or City Creek WMAs.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

On the White Horse Flat WMA the Grantor (the Callahans) retained all oil, gas and mineral rights for the property.

All of the mineral rights on the Marysvale WMA are reserved to the Trust Lands Administration (TLA).

The Monroe and City Creek WMAs do not have any known mineral development encumbrances.

RIGHTS OF WAY

As discussed in the water rights section there is an easement held by the Kennedy's associated with a pond and ditch system in the northeastern part of the Marysvale WMA. Additionally, the State of Utah kept rights-of-way for any past, present and future canals, ditches, tunnels, telephone and transmission lines.

The City Creek property is bisected by SR 153. A partial disposal of this property to UDOT provides for this right-of-way.

There are no other known rights of way associated with the Monroe or White Horse Flat WMAs.

III. PROPERTY INVENTORY

EXISTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

ROADS

Three dirt roads cross the northern portion of the Monroe WMA from north to south. One is on the eastern border, the second crosses the middle of the property, and the third is near to the western border. The southern portion of the WMA includes a complex of unimproved dirt roads (see appendix B-2).

The White Horse Flat WMA has a single unimproved dirt road that crosses through the center of the property from north to south (see appendix B-3).

There is a single unimproved dirt road that crosses the Marysvale WMA from east to west near the northern border (see appendix B-4).

State Route 153 connects Junction to Beaver and bisects the City Creek WMA from east to west (see appendix B-5).

FENCING

Portions of these WMAs are fenced to manage livestock and maintain property boundary lines.

The southern property of the Monroe WMA is partially fenced, but the fence is in poor condition. The northern portion of the property is unfenced.

The White Horse Flat WMA is fenced in conjunction with the surrounding property owned by TLA on which DWR holds a grazing permit. This fence is in good condition.

The entire boundary of the Marysvale WMA is fenced. A majority of the fence is net wire and all of it is old fence nearing a need for replacement.

The portion of the City Creek WMA north of SR 153 is fenced and includes parking areas and walk through gates to allow for walk-in-access to the property. The portion south of SR153 is not fenced.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

There are no physical facilities on any of the WMAs covered in this plan.

HABITAT PROJECTS

Habitat projects have been conducted on the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs since the1960's, and likely earlier, though there are limited records of practices and dates. Using the USGS Land Treatment Digital Library here are some of the historical treatments and disturbances:

- Monroe WMA was burned in the 1997 Flat Wildfire, which was reseeded. The fire was retreated again in 2005. The Poverty Flat areas was also chained and seeded in 1966.
- Marysvale WMA was chained and seeded in 1977. A fuels reduction and seeding project also took place in 2002.

Since the creation of the Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) in 2006 approximately 1120 acres have been treated on these WMAs, primarily to enhance mule deer winter range. These

treatments (WRI projects 1995, 3775, 4060, 4084, 6656 and 7252) have included pinyon and juniper tree removal, seeding and cheatgrass control.

In fall of 2011, 42 acres of the City Creek WMA were treated with a skid steer mounted fecon head removing encroaching pinyon and juniper as part of a larger project also including adjacent USFS lands (WRI project 1995).

During the spring of 2017, 480 acres of the Marysvale WMA were treated as part of a larger lop and scatter project that also involved adjacent USFS lands (WRI project 3775).

The White Horse WMA had 323 acres treated by aerial seeding and chaining as part of a project involving adjacent TLA and BLM lands in the fall and winter of 2017-18 (WRI project 4084).

An additional 121 acres of the Monroe WMA have been treated twice. The first was an herbicide treatment using plateau in the fall of 2017 which was followed up with a shrub seeding in the fall of 2018 (WRI project 4060). These same acres were again treated in September of 2023 with a newer cheatgrass control herbicide called Rejuvra (WRI project 6656).

Lastly, the Marysvale WMA again saw treatment of 33 acres in the winter of 2024-25 when it was seeded and chained following it being burned in the Silver King Fire of 2024 (WRI project 7252).

Future projects may include browse planting, sagebrush restoration, fence removal and construction, as well as erosion control intended for improving mesic and riparian habitats.

IRRIGATION

While there is no active irrigation currently on the properties covered under this plan, this plan proposes to explore the possibility of utilizing the water right on the Monroe WMA to irrigate up to 15 acres.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Very little of the Monroe WMA has seen previously archaeological survey. A single past survey dating to the early 2000s, associated with oil and gas seismic exploration, crosses the center of the WMA. This archaeological survey documented a single archaeological site – the historic Bertlesen Ditch. This ditch (or small canal) was recommended eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places for this contribution to the local economy and larger historic of irrigation in the West. One other small archaeological site on BLM land recorded in the 1970 may slightly cross onto the WMA, but was reportedly destroyed in the 70s by road construction.

Three past archaeological surveys from the 1970s and 1980s barely clip the northwest corner of the White Horse Flat WMA. These surveys were associated with power line corridor suitability studies or development in the area. Another archaeological survey cross the northeast corner of the WMA in 2006 as part of an oil and gas seismic exploration project. No cultural resources were documented on the WMA through any of these past archaeological surveys. No other cultural resources are previously documented on the WMA.

Approximately 30 acres of the Marysvale WMA were archaeologically surveyed in 2024 as part of the Silver King Fire rehabilitation. These 30 acres were part of a much larger survey effort (903 acres) that resulted in documentation of a handful of archaeological sites on neighboring BLM and Forest Service lands. No archaeological sites were identified with the 30 acres of Silver King archaeological survey on the Marysvale WMA. Outside of this 2024 fire rehabilitation archaeological survey effort, no other archaeological surveys have been completed on the WMA. Likewise, no archaeological sites have been documented on the WMA.

The State Route 153 road corridor, which crosses through the City Creek WMA, was archaeologically surveyed by SWCA Environmental Consultants in 1995. At that time, UDOT had planned to widen and pave portions of the highway, and the archaeological survey documented three archaeological sites on the WMA . One site is a large Indigenous long-term camp that dates to the Fremont period. This site has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and has seen data recovery excavations. A second archaeological site along State Route 153 on the WMA is an Indigenous short-term camp with lithic and ceramic artifacts. It was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A final archaeological site identified by this past archaeological survey is the historic State Route 153 alignment which was reportedly originally built in the 1930s. It was determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A second archaeological survey was completed in 2017 by DWR in advance of a planned vegetation management project being completed in partnership with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands. This 11-acre survey did not result in the identification of any cultural resources.

SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

The 2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan is a “ten-year plan to help keep native Utah species off the Endangered Species List.” “The goal of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan is: *To manage native wildlife, fish, mollusk, crustacean, amphibian, reptile, insect, and plant species and their habitats, sufficient to prevent the need for additional listings under the Endangered Species Act.*” (Draft UWAP 2025). A query of the Utah Wildlife Habitat Analysis Tool generated a report (see appendix E) including up to 7 SGCNs and multiple notable other species identified within a 2-mile buffer of these WMAs. For many of these, very little is known about the species and surveys have not been conducted in this area. The most relevant are discussed below.

SGCN species:

Arizona mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis pyromelana*)

Historical records observed the Arizona mountain kingsnake within a half mile radius of the City Creek WMA. Habitat conditions on the WMA and nearby are suitable for kingsnakes.

Lewis’s woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

Lewis’s woodpecker has current records of observation within a half mile radius of the Marysvale WMA. Suitable habitat for Lewis’s woodpecker is found near the pond and ditches within the WMA.

Pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

There are current records of Pinyon jay within a 2mile buffer of Marysvale and City Creek WMAs . Suitable habitat for Pinyon jay is found throughout all of the WMAs covered by the plan.

Townsend’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

There are historical records of Townsend’s big-eared bat within a 2 mile radius of both the White Horse and Marysvale WMAs. Both of these WMAs contain suitable habitat for the bats that use a variety of habitats including sagebrush steppe and mountain shrub with nearby caves or mines.

Flammulated owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)

Historical records observed the Flammulated owl within a two mile radius of the City Creek WMA. Habitat conditions on the WMA and nearby are suitable for Flammulated owls.

Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*)

Northern leopard frog has current records of observation within a two mile radius of the Marysvale WMA. Suitable habitat for Northern leopard frog is found in the pond on the WMA.

Other notable non-SGCN species:

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

There are historic records of bald eagle within a half mile radius of the City Creek WMA and within a two mile radius of both the Monroe and Marysvale WMA. Wintering bald eagles are known to forage in the area and these WMAs provide adequate wintering habitat.

Bonneville cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)

There are historical records of Bonneville cutthroat trout within a two mile radius of the Marysvale WMA. Additionally, City Creek which runs through the City Creek WMA is within the mapped habitat for Bonneville's and provides potential habitat for them even though they are currently undetected there.

IMPORTANT FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS

In addition to the SGCNs listed above, the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Ranger WMAs provide crucial habitat for mule deer, elk, turkey and several other upland game species as well as sportfish. The limited amount of quality big game winter range on both the east side of the Beaver Wildlife Management Unit (Unit 22) and west side of the Monroe Wildlife Management Unit (Unit 23) make the WMAs a critical component of the winter range for these 2 units.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF HABITATS

HABITAT TYPES

A majority of the Monroe WMA was historically categorized as lowland sagebrush but after burning several times in recent history it has largely converted to annual invasive grasses

such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). As noted elsewhere in this plan, significant efforts have been made to combat this conversion and restore it with shrubs such as Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata wyomingensis*) and forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*) in an effort to improve mule deer habitat. A portion of the southern unit of this WMA which contains multiple springs and has a vegetative community dominated by Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*).

The White Horse Flat WMA is an example of classic lowland sagebrush being invaded by Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*). Recent treatments on the WMA have helped keep that invasion in check and reset the system to an earlier successional class.

Similarly, the Marysvale WMA is largely lowland sagebrush with recent pinyon and juniper removal treatments helping to combat conversion to later successional classes dominated by those trees. Additionally, the pond and ditch system provide a little variety with more riparian plants such as cottonwoods (Populus spp.) and willows (Salix spp.).

While small in size, the City Creek WMA is rich in habitat diversity. To the south of SR153 the WMA is much like the others listed above being predominantly lowland sagebrush. However when you move to the north of the highway there is a great diversity of vegetation. On the westernmost edge there is a stand of Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) which transitions as you move north and east through a stand of Gambel's oak (Quercus gambelii) on the way to a lush riparian system along City Creek with a solid cottonwood gallery (Populus spp.) and shrub understory including many riparian shrubs.

RANGE AND WATERSHED CONDITIONS

The Monroe WMA has one permanent range trend site on nearby BLM land and one WRI monitoring site also on nearby BLM land. While not directly on the property these sites are reflective of the transitioning conditions related to annual grass invasion subsequent to the recent fire history in the area. Deer winter range on the property is considered to be in poor condition with establishment of preferred browse while continuing to combat annual grass invasion identified as primary ways to improve conditions.

No formal range trend sites exist on or near the White Horse Flat WMA. As noted elsewhere recent treatments have converted the area to an earlier successional phase for lowland sagebrush sites and would be considered between fair and good for deer winter range.

There is a long term range trend site on the Marysvale WMA (Range trend 22R-3). This site has vacillated between poor and fair deer winter range condition since establishment with the most recent reading in 2023 classifying it as fair. The report recommends increasing preferred browse species, diversifying and increasing cover of native perennial forbs, and reducing cheatgrass cover.

The City Creek WMA has a WRI monitoring site (Range trend 22R-24) associated with the 2011 treatment. Prior to treatment the site was characterized as pinyon and juniper invasion into mountain sagebrush and Gambel's oak in phase II and transitioning to phase III. Since treatment the site has maintained integrity as a mountain sagebrush/Gambel's oak phase I community and is categorized as in good condition for deer winter range.

RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND WETLANDS

The Marysvale WMA contains a pond and ditch system with associated riparian vegetation. Water is typically present in this pond and ditch year round.

The City Creek WMA has the perennial City Creek running through it and a robust riparian community associated with it.

HABITAT LIMITATIONS

Drought conditions have had negative effects on the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMA properties. These WMAs have experienced a decline in plant vigor and poor production due to drought conditions. As drought conditions persist, the establishment of younger sagebrush and other browse may be negatively affected. Drought should be a consideration in the WMA management to promote healthy stands of sagebrush that continue to recruit new plants.

Invasive species management is critical for future management of these WMAs. Cheatgrass and other weeds will need to be managed to sustain or create the desired wildlife habitat values. As other invasive species are documented, rapid response strategies are needed to prevent further spread.

Increased fire cycles have also contributed to habitat conversion to invasive annual grasses as demonstrated most significantly on the Monroe WMA, which burned in 1997. Breaking these cycles will be key to restoring desired wildlife habitat.

HUMAN USE RELATED PROBLEMS

Allowed human uses include hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, and horseback riding. OHV use will be allowed on the WMAs only on designated right of ways and marked open roads. Destruction and/or degradation of wildlife habitat from any of these uses may result in further restrictions to protect the resources. Litter has not been a significant problem on these WMAs but there is always some associated with parking areas and roadsides. Creation and use of unauthorized roads is also a concern on the WMA. Winter road use causes unnecessary stress on wintering mule deer.

The creation of new roads and trails on these WMAs will be limited in an effort to continue to conserve and enhance habitat for wildlife in this area. New roads may only be allowed after considering the potential effects on wildlife and following DWR protocol. As per the Access Management Plan (see Appendix A) roads and trails that serve no purpose and damage wildlife habitat by deviating from designated open roads and reducing browse, forbs, and grass species will be permanently closed.

ADJACENT LAND USES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

BLM, USFS, TLA and private lands border the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs. Livestock grazing occurs on most of the adjacent federal lands. Much of the private and SITLA land is grazed as well. In addition, many private lands adjacent to or near the WMAs are farmed, with alfalfa being the main crop. Fence maintenance is important to avoid livestock trespass. Habitat improvement is important to minimize wildlife depredation on surrounding agricultural lands and to counteract the loss of habitat in surrounding areas due to development.

ZONING AND LAND USE ORDINANCES

The Monroe WMA is situated in Sevier County and is zoned as Grazing/Recreation/Forestry/Seasonal, as is all of the public land surrounding it. The nearby private lands are zoned as Grazing/Recreation/Forestry/Residential. While there is some potential for residential growth on these nearby private lands, a majority of the adjacent properties are public lands with less potential for residential growth.

White Horse Flat, Marysvale, and City Creek WMAs are situated in Piute county and are zoned as Agricultural. Similar to the Monroe WMA a mjority of the adjacent lands are public lands with little potential for residential growth.

IV. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The management of the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs considers the goals, objectives, and strategies of other DWR planning efforts, as well as county and state resource management plans. These plans include, but are not limited to, the DWR Strategic Plan, the Utah Wildlife Action Plan, and species-specific management plans. Some of these plans are briefly discussed below. *Note: this is not a comprehensive review of the listed plans, but a summary of relevant objectives and strategies contained within those plans.*

DWR STRATEGIC PLAN

The management of the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the DWR Strategic Plan:

- Agency goal: Create a culture of respect, innovation, efficiency and effectiveness within the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.
    - Objective A6 - Increase our coordination with partners, including local, state and federal agencies; non-governmental organizations; universities and others.
- Constituency goal: Strengthen support for wildlife management by demonstrating the value and importance of wildlife to all Utahns.
    - Objective C1 - Increase participation in fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related activities.
    - Objective C5 - Increase understanding of how the broader public views and values wildlife - and how it contributes to their quality of life - and take reasonable steps to address their needs, wishes, and priorities.
    - Objective C6 - Increase hunting and fishing opportunities.
- 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 R4 - Decrease risks to species and their habitats through integrated implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan, species recovery plans, conservation agreements and other management plans.

Objective R7 - Decrease the number of wildlife – related incidents – including property damage, crop depredation and threaten or endanger species – that negatively affect private property owners.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The 2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) was created with the goal "to manage native wildlife, fish, mollusk, crustacean, amphibian, reptile, insect, and plant species and their habitats, sufficient to prevent the need for additional listings under the Endangered Species Act" (Draft UWAP 2025). The WAP identifies wildlife species most in need of conservation attention and the habitats they require for survival. The WAP includes a statewide threat assessment, which identifies threats to each key habitat and then ranks the impact of that threat according to the number of SGCN's that could be affected. The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs contain multiple key habitats listed in the WAP. The threats listed below are not a comprehensive list of statewide threats identified for these habitats but are those that may be most relevant on the WMAs. Management activities on the WMAs will attempt, to the extent possible, to address these priority threats, and will use the suggested strategies for management as outlined in the WAP.

DESERT GRASSLAND

Threats include:

- Improper Grazing – Livestock (current) (Medium)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (High)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (High)

Strategies for management include:

- Prioritize use of native grasses in restoration or rehabilitation projects.
- Promote and encourage policies that reduce inappropriate grazing by domestic livestock.
- Continue the use of appropriate methods for reducing the spread and dominance of invasive weeds and annual grasses, including early detection and rapid response (EDRR) programs.
- Continue the development of native plant materials suited to this habitat.
- Enhance the prevention and suppression of ignitions in areas that have burned once, which often retain a component of recovering native vegetation and are good candidates for otherwise-passive restoration.
- Support fire suppression during periods of extreme drought, when damage to perennial grasses is likely.

DESERT SHRUB

Threats include:

- Improper Grazing – Livestock (current) (Medium)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (Medium)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (Medium)

Strategies for management include:

- Create and maintain fuel breaks to prevent wildfire from reaching unburned acres, particularly in Great Basin communities where plant cover is higher and annual grass cover is problematic. In habitat still dominated by native plant communities, enhancing the prevention and suppression of ignitions in these unburned areas should be prioritized.
- Continue the search for herbicidal agents and biological controls to use against invasive annual grasses.

LOWER MONTANE MIXED CONIFER

Threats include:

- Improper Grazing – Livestock (current) (Medium)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (High)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (Medium)

Strategies for management include:

- Continue the use of appropriate methods to reduce the spread and dominance of invasive weeds, including EDRR programs.
- Continue the search for herbicidal agents and biological controls to use against invasive annual grasses.
- Continue the search for effective plant restoration materials and methods that can be affordably translated from the research plot scale to the operational project scale.
- Continue the development of new plant materials, especially native forbs, for understory habitat restoration or post-fire revegetation.
- Promote management that includes seeding a diversity of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that will lead to increased resiliency and resistance in the plant community.
- Promote and fund restoration that reduces monotypic or overstocked stand conditions, including cutting or mulching of pinyon and juniper trees and herbicide or mechanical treatment of non-native invasive species.

LOWLAND SAGEBRUSH

Threats include:

- Improper Grazing – Livestock (current) (Medium)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (Very High)
- Droughts (High)
- Invasive Plant Species - Non-native (Very High)
- Problematic Plant Species – Native Upland (High)

Strategies for management include:

- Support federal and state land managers in aggressively suppressing wildfires in lowland sagebrush habitat. If wildfires do occur, ensure that revegetation seed mixes are appropriate, so as to not create additional issues, and ensure that seed mixes contain appropriate sagebrush seed.
- Research whether fuel breaks can help protect intact sagebrush areas.
- Continue with pinyon-juniper encroachment mitigation, where appropriate. Early treatment when trees are small is more cost effective and causes less disturbance.

MOUNTAIN SAGEBRUSH

Threats include:

- Housing and Urban Areas (Medium)
- Improper Grazing - Livestock (current) (Medium)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (Medium)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (Medium)
- Problematic Plant Species – Native Upland (High)

Strategies for management include:

- Although large-scale pinyon-juniper management is controversial, use of this technique to keep sagebrush from being overtaken by pinyon-juniper can be very effective and can benefit a number of sagebrush obligates. Early treatment when pinyon-juniper seedlings are small is more cost effective, has less of a visual impact, and creates less woody debris.
- Fuel breaks around and within large, intact stands of sagebrush can assist firefighters in managing large wildfires and can help reduce acreage of impacts from wildfires.
- Continue to research methods to improve sagebrush habitat.

MOUNTAIN SHRUB

Threats include:

- Housing and Urban Areas (Medium)
- Improper Grazing - Livestock (current) (Low)

- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (Medium)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (Medium)
- Problematic Plant Species – Native Upland (Low)

Strategies for management include:

- Promote policies and management that allow fire to return to a more natural regime.

RIPARIAN

Priority threats include:

- Housing and Urban Areas (Medium)
- Improper Grazing - Livestock (current) (High)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (High)
- Post-fire Precipitation/Flooding (resulting water quality issues) (High)
- Presence of Dams (High)
- Presence of Diversions (High)
- Channelization / Bank Alteration (High)
- Dam / Reservoir Operation (Medium)
- Droughts (High)
- Water Allocation Policies (Very High)
- Agricultural / Municipal / Industrial Water Usage (Very High)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (High)

Strategies for management include:

- Identify riparian habitat impacted by land use practices and continue to support funding for low-tech, process-based restoration (e.g., BDAs, one-rock dams). The use of these methods will restore Riparian Key Habitat by reconnecting floodplains, reducing soil erosion and controlling sediment, and increasing flood and wildfire resilience.
- Continue to support funding for weed treatment in riparian habitat, including Russian olive and tamarisk eradication. Use of mechanical treatment, herbicides, and prescribed fire are options to reduce non-native plant species; however, treatment must be followed up with management of other weeds, such as Russian knapweed and white top, which

can quickly expand in disturbed areas and negate any benefits of initial treatments. Securing funding and follow-up treatments can ensure that initial efforts are successful.

- Identify old water control structures (including levees) that channeled rivers and separated floodplains from streams. Remove obsolete structures where possible to help reconnect floodplains and re-establish riparian zones.
- Assist in revegetation and restoration of burn scars.
- Promote zoning, policies, and laws that lead to responsible human intrusion and development.
- Promote development of BDAs and post-assisted log structures.

SALT DESERT SHRUB

Threats include:

- Improper Grazing - Livestock (current) (Low)
- Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity (High)
- Invasive Plant Species – Non-native (High)

Strategies for management include:

- Create and maintain fuel breaks to prevent fire from reaching remaining unburned acres, particularly in Great Basin communities where plant cover is higher and annual grass cover is problematic. Prioritize the enhanced prevention and suppression of ignitions in unburned areas in habitats dominated by native plant communities.
- Continue the search for herbicidal agents and biological controls to use against invasive annual grasses.
- Continue the search for effective plant restoration materials and methods that can be affordably translated from the research plot scale to the operational project scale.
- Continue the funding and support for weed abatement programs, including EDRR programs.
- Continue the development of new plant materials and restoration techniques suited to this habitat.
- Promote management that includes seeding a diversity of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that will lead to increased resiliency and resistance in the plant community.

WILDLIFE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Unit management plans for deer and elk on Units 22 and 23 call for direct range improvements on winter range, working with partners through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative for fire rehabilitation, managing vehicle access on DWR lands to limit disturbance to wintering big game, and addressing pinyon and juniper encroachment through the use of proactive treatments. The State of Utah Turkey Management Plan places a high priority on winter habitat and medium priority on improving breeding and summer habitat. Similar to the unit management plans for deer and elk, the wild turkey plan addresses the need for maintaining range conditions, reducing disturbances, and proactive habitat improvements to support wild turkey populations. All these directives have historically been implemented and will continue to be implemented on the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs.

LOCAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

In 2015, the Utah Legislature passed H.B. 323 which required each county to develop a Resource Management Plan (RMP) as part of the county's general plan. The State of Utah aggregated the land use decisions and directives that emerged from the county plans, and in 2018 published a RMP for the State of Utah. These local resource management plans were created to address and remedy a disconnect between local land use needs/desires and federal land use planning. The county and state RMPs are intended to provide a basis for coordinating with the federal government. Counties also utilize their RMP's as a basis for coordinating with State planning activities.

Under Utah State Code 63L-10-104, "State agencies and political subdivisions shall refer to and substantially conform to the statewide resource management plan when making plans for public lands or other public resources in the state."

Local RMPs applicable to the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs include the statewide RMP and the Sevier and Piute County RMPs. Management of the WMAs will be consistent with these local resource management plans to the extent possible.

V. STRATEGIES FOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Several ideas have been developed for the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs to improve conditions of the property for both wildlife and DWR constituents that use the properties and are outlined below. In addition to these ideas, typical annual maintenance duties include weed control, fence maintenance, road maintenance and signage**:**

- Work with law enforcement and wildlife biologists to identify fence(s) that are problematic to deer and replace with wildlife friendly fence(s).
- Work with law enforcement to address illegal use of trails and roads on the WMA. Keep signage current and legible throughout the year.
- Maintain and improve water developments to provide water for wildlife.
- Explore ways to utilize existing water rights to irrigate up to 15 acres on the Monroe WMA.
- Resolve known boundary discrepancy issues on the City Creek WMA with private inholdings.

VI. STRATEGIES FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The following ideas have been developed as the habitat improvement plan and are outlined below:

- Pinyon and juniper will be managed to reduce encroachment and loss of sagebrush and herbaceous understory including the maintenance of previous treatments.
- Increase preferred browse by utilizing both seeding and seedling transplants
    - Plant bitterbrush seed using volunteers and division personnel using hand planters and the “bitterbrush planter”. Target plantings in areas that are in early successional states and or have recently burned.
    - Locate areas for planting sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings in recently treated areas to increase the amount of available browse on the landscape.
- Manage invasive species such as cheatgrass, utilizing herbicides and other methods.

- Install low-tech erosion control structures, primarily hand-built rock, or wood structures (Zeedyk Structures), enhancing the seasonal stream and associated riparian woody species, and hand seed around these structures with forbs to increase the amount of forage on the landscape.
- Explore use of existing water right on Monroe WMA to establish a 15 acre food plot.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Motorized access to the WMA is provided through a series of roads. Some of which are seasonally closed. Overland travel is limited to foot and horse traffic. The use of E-bikes is prohibited outside of the identified open roads. Creation of new roads and trails is prohibited. In addition to the identified open roads, there are several additional administrative roads that serve as access for maintenance and management purposes (see appendix A).

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fire suppression is the general practice on big game winter range WMAs. Protecting browse species for wintering wildlife is the highest priority due to the difficulty associated with restoring browse species.

In order to balance fire suppression practices on the WMAs, an aggressive and proactive habitat restoration program has been and will continue to be implemented on the WMAs. These restoration projects serve to reduce fire receptivity and behavior.

WOOD PRODUCTS

Cedar posts and firewood are the most likely available wood products available on these WMAs, with a little potential for Christmas trees. None of these are available in large enough quantities for commercial harvest, but individual use permits may be obtained through the Southern Region office.

VII. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED USES

The primary purpose of the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs is to provide winter range for big game species. In addition, there is vital, high-quality turkey habitat on some of the units. Allowed recreation uses include hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, and horseback

riding. Dispersed camping will also be allowed but not promoted. OHV use will be allowed on the WMAs only on designated right of ways and marked open roads. Destruction and/or degradation of wildlife habitat from any of these uses may result in further restrictions to protect the resource.

VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The district wildlife biologists in conjunction with the area habitat restoration biologist and other habitat staff will evaluate the habitat and prepare habitat improvement proposals. The district conservation officer will monitor human use of the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs and propose management modifications if problems exist with input from habitat and wildlife staff. The Habitat Section of the Southern Region of DWR will present improvement projects to the Watershed Restoration Initiative, Habitat Council, and other sources for approval and funding.

IX. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – SEVIER AND PIUTE BIG GAME WINTER RANGE WMAS ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Ranger WMAs Access Management Plan

The Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs include crucial winter range for big game in the Monroe and Beaver herds (units 22 and 23). Due to the sensitive nature of wintering big game and the potential for human use to further stress animals the DWR has developed this access management plan to direct public access on the properties.

Road Designation

The roads on the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs will be designated in one of two categories: Open roads and Permanently Closed Roads.

Open roads

These are roads that will be left open to the public year-round and are roads on established rights of way granted to counties and roads deemed necessary to provide access to the properties and adjacent lands.

Permanently Closed Roads

All roads that are damaging to wildlife habitat and are unnecessary for public access or WMA management will be permanently closed (Utah Code section 41-22-13). Any road found on the properties that is not identified as an open road on the associated maps is considered a closed road. The roads will be closed using signs, water bars, fencing and other obstructions. Restoration of closed roads may include plowing, seeding or allowing less disturbed areas to return to natural state on their own.

Carrying out Closures

The HMP creation process includes opportunities for counties to review planned road designations and share input. See appendix B for maps of road designations.

Upon approval by the Director of DWR of the Habitat Management Plan, DWR will carry out closures and signing.

OHVs (including E-bikes)

OHVs will be allowed on open roads. There are no existing legal OHV trails on the WMAs (Utah Code section 41-22-13), other than those established on existing county roads and right of ways.

Enforcement of Closures

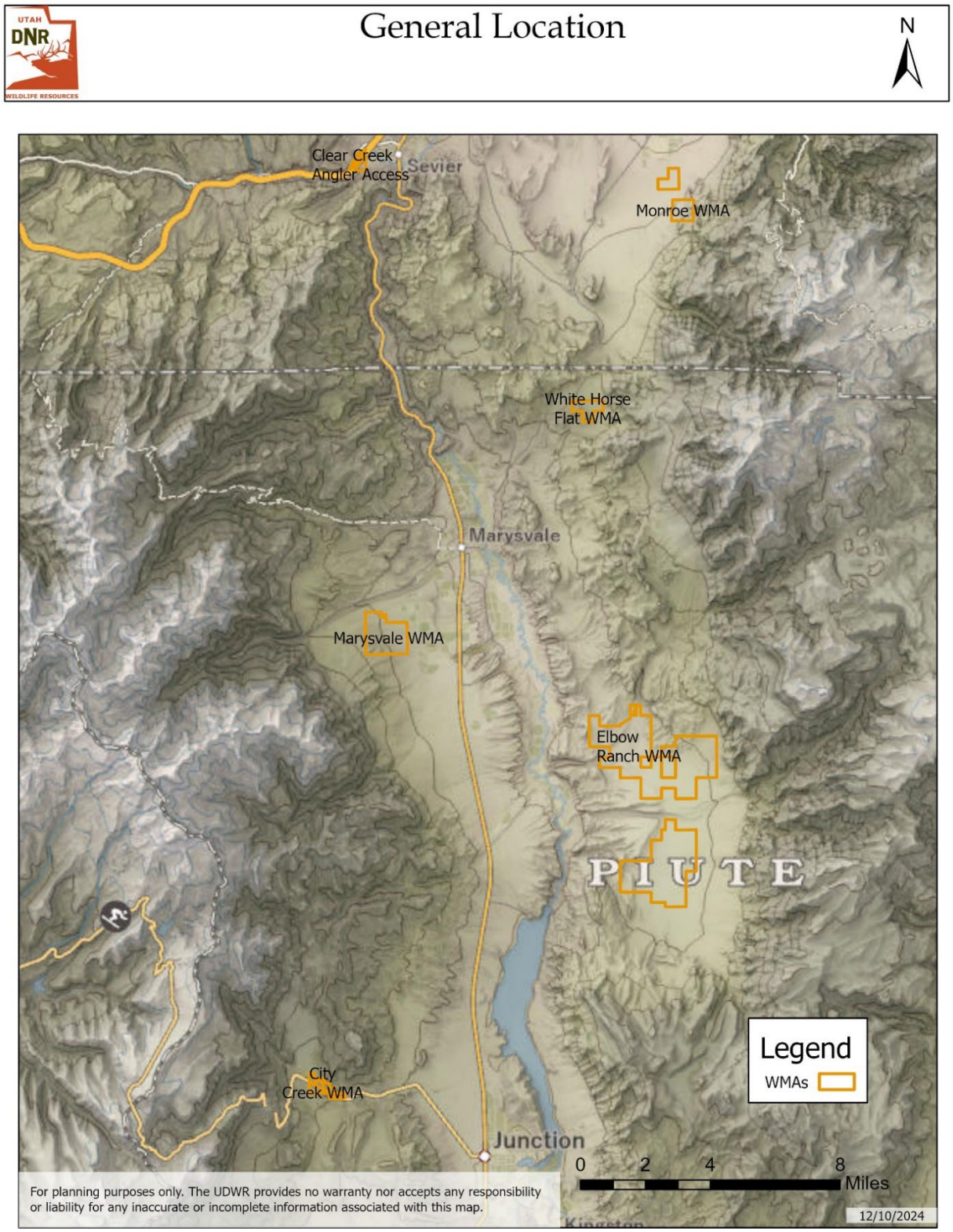
DWR Conservation Officers will carry out the enforcement of road closures. County Sheriff's Departments will also have jurisdiction (Utah Code Section 41-22-16). Trespass on closed roads is punishable as a class C misdemeanor and a monetary fine.

Informing the Public

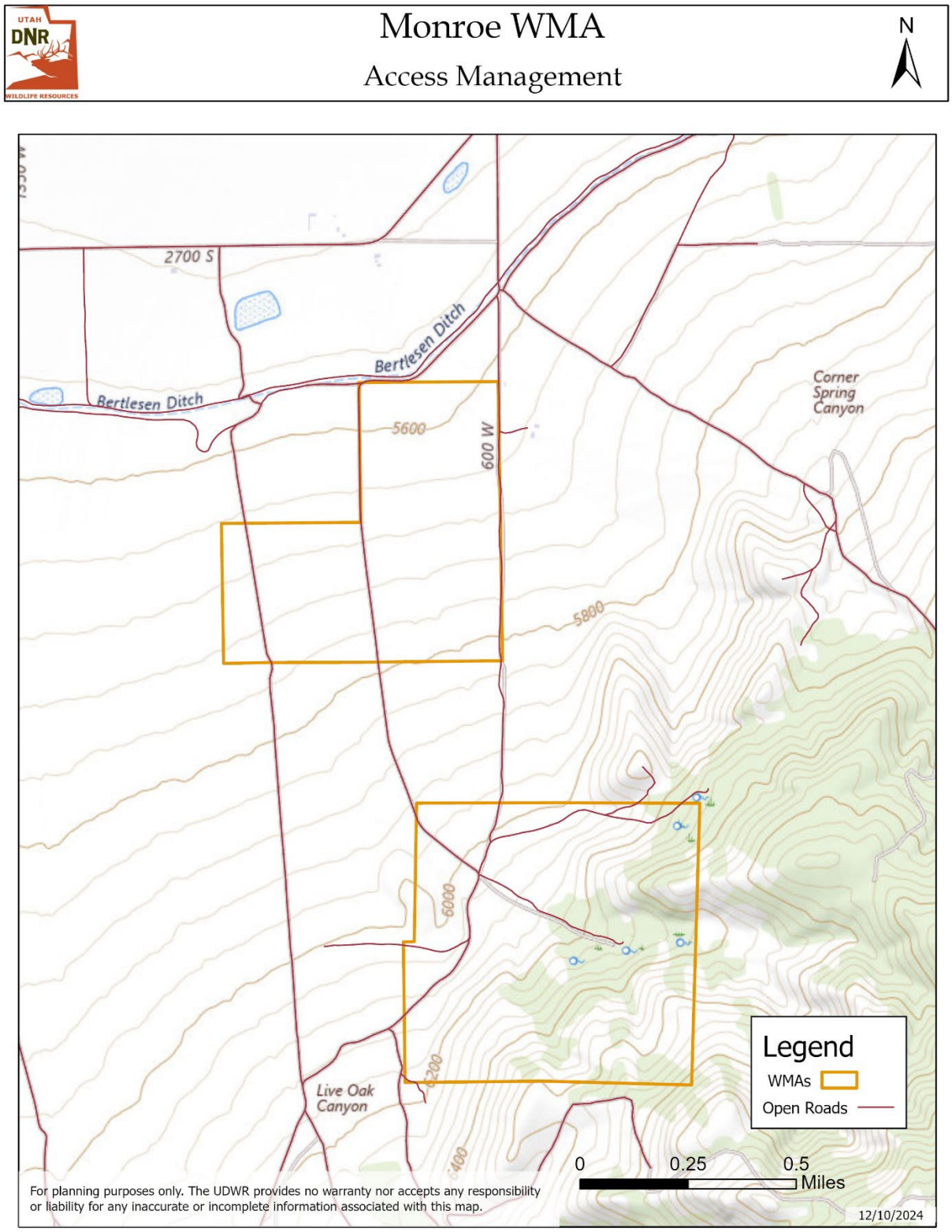
The public will be informed through signs at major access points, and on fence lines. The counties will also be notified of our intent to close roads and given a chance to provide input. Signage will be done as a courtesy to the public rather than being necessary for enforcement (Utah Code section 41-22-10.1).

APPENDIX B - MAPS

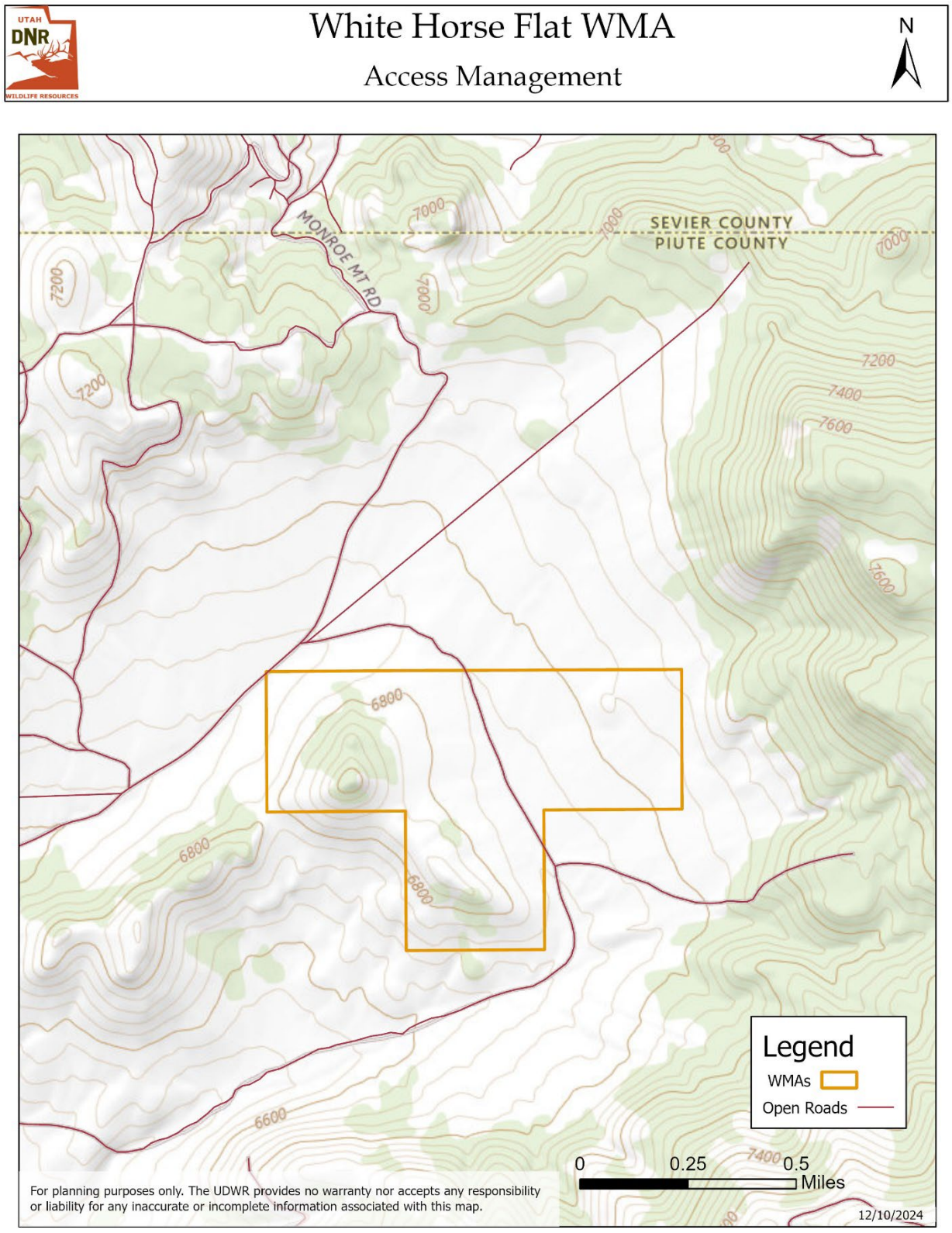
MAP 1 – GENERAL LOCATION MAP OF SEVIER AND PIUTE BIG GAME WINTER RANGE WMAS



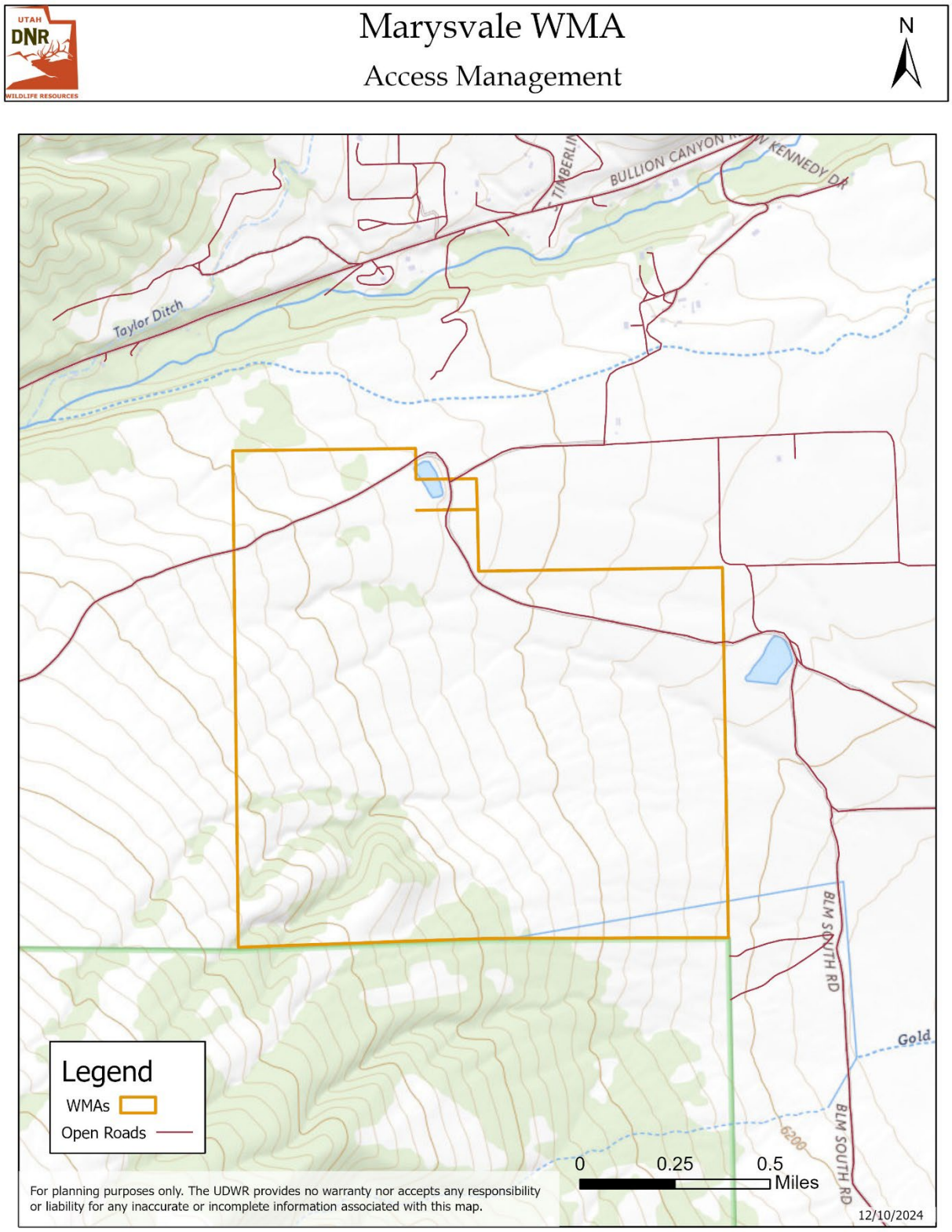
MAP 2 – MONROE WMA



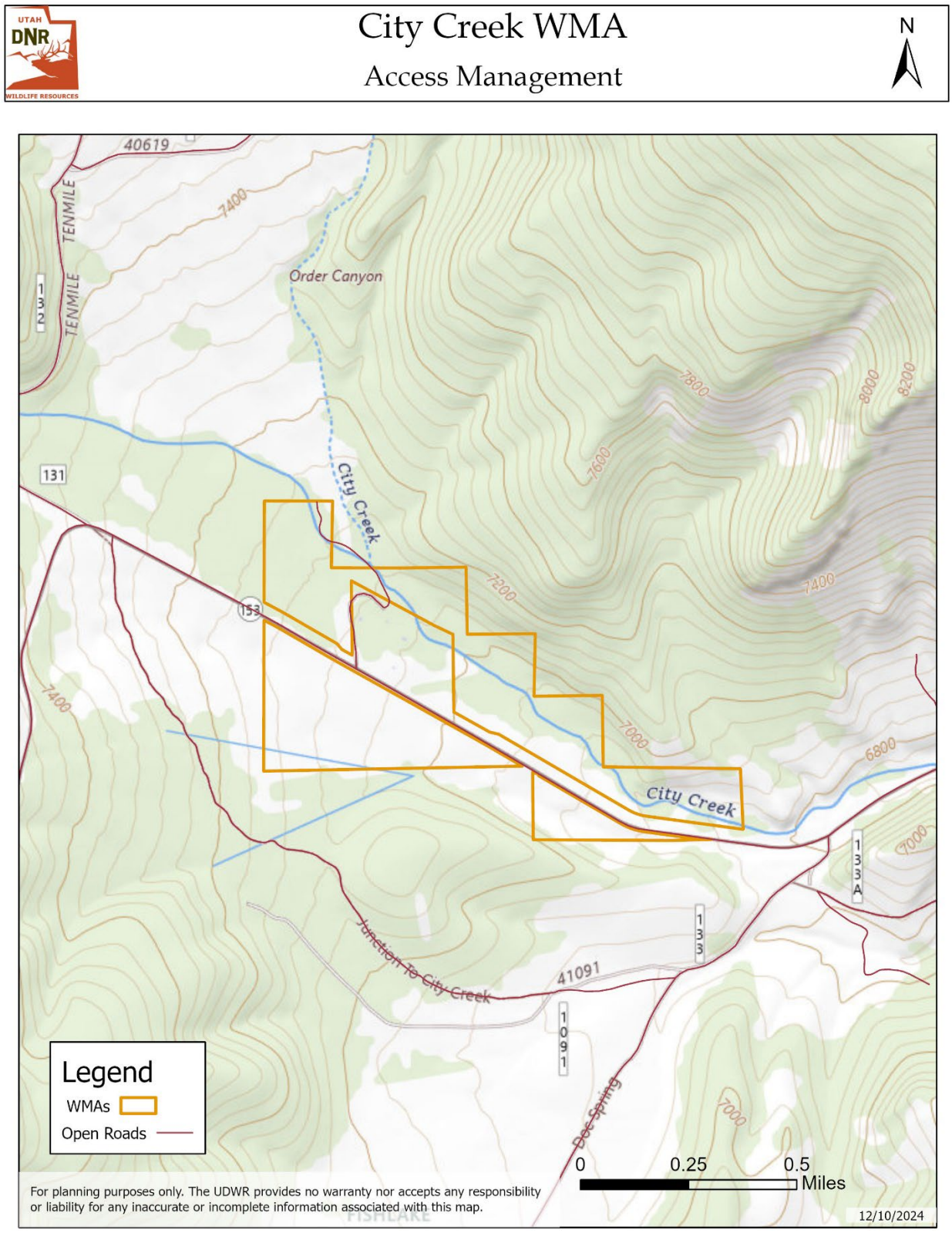
MAP 3 – WHITE HORSE FLAT WMA



MAP 4 – MARYSVALE WMA



MAP 5 – CITY CREEK WMA



APPENDIX C - DEEDS

Copies of deeds associated with the Sevier and Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs can be found at the Southern Regional Office of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1470 North Airport Road, Cedar City, Utah 84721 or through the ULTRA database for those with login credentials.

APPENDIX D - WATER RIGHTS INFORMATION

TABLE 1- SEVIER AND PIUTE BIG GAME WINTER RANGE WMAS WATER RIGHTS

Water Right #	Source	Priority	Flow	Irrigated Acres	Stockwatering	Domestic #
63-3132	Birch Spring	1890	0.38 cfs	15.00	3 elu's	1 family – 3 persons

APPENDIX E – WILDLIFE HABITAT ANALYSIS TOOL REPORT

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

Report Number: gar_16437

Report Date: 2024-12-16 12:19:20

Sevier/Piute Big Game WMAs

Location: Monroe, White Horse Flat, Marysvale, and City Creek WMAs in Sevier and Piute County
Description: Drafting WMA Habitat Management Plan for Sevier/Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs

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
Toquerville Springsnail	*Pyrgulopsis kolobensis*	None	None	2013-09-18	
Wheeler Thistle	*Cirsium wheeleri*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Old-man Prickly-pear	*Opuntia erinacea var. utahensis*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Dusty Beardtongue	*Penstemon comarrhenus*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Arizona Mountain Kingsnake	*Lampropeltis pyromelana*	SGCN	None	2004-07-27	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SGCN	None	1989-12-02	
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter atricapillus*	None	None	1966-07-01	
Brown Hive	*Euconulus fulvus*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Least Grape-fern	*Botrychium simplex*	None	None	1990-07-21 00:00:00	
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	SGCN	None	2004-02-16	

Two-Mile Radius

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Toquerville Springsnail	*Pyrgulopsis kolobensis*	None	None	2013-09-18	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SGCN	None	1982-01-08	
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	SGCN	None	1978-09-29	
Needle-and-Thread	*Stipa comata*	None	None	2020-09-29 21:07:55	
Elsinore Buckwheat	*Eriogonum ostlundii*	SGCN	None	2005-12-31 00:00:00	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	SGCN	None	1997-07-22	
Pinyon Jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	None	None	2020-03-12	 Full View
Long-legged Myotis	*Myotis volans*	None	None	1997-07-22	
Toquerville Springsnail	*Pyrgulopsis kolobensis*	None	None	2013-09-18	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SGCN	None	1988-12-19	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	SGCN	None	1978-09-29	
Pennsylvania Cinquefoil	*Potentilla pensylvanica*	None	None	1988-10-04 00:00:00	
Dragon Wormwood	*Artemisia dracunculus*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Wheeler Thistle	*Cirsium wheeleri*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Dusty Beardtongue	*Penstemon comarrhenus*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
King's Lupine	*Lupinus kingii var. kingii*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Utah Bird's-foot-trefoil	*Lotus utahensis*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Shaggy Fleabane	*Erigeron pumilus*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Old-man Prickly-pear	*Opuntia erinacea var. utahensis*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Watson's Beardtongue	*Penstemon watsonii*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Grizzly Bear Cactus	*Opuntia erinacea var. ursina*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Elsinore Buckwheat	*Eriogonum ostlundii*	SGCN	None	2005-12-31 00:00:00	
Mountain Cactus	*Pediocactus simpsonii*	None	None	2010-07-10 00:00:00	
Arizona Mountain Kingsnake	*Lampropeltis pyromelana*	SGCN	None	2004-07-27	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SGCN	None	1989-12-02	
Flammulated Owl	*Psiloscops flammeolus*	SGCN	None	2022-07-22	
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter atricapillus*	None	None	1966-07-01	
Brown Hive	*Euconulus fulvus*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Rocky Mountain Column	*Pupilla blandii*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Top-heavy Column	*Pupilla syngenes*	SGCN	None	1938-JUN	
Indecisive Vallonia	*Vallonia albula*	None	None	1938-Jun	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Suboval Ambersnail	*Catinella vermeta*	None	None	1938-Jun	
Tadpole Physa	*Physa gyrina*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Forest Disc	*Discus whitneyi*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Western Glass-snail	*Vitrina pellucida*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Mud Amnicola	*Amnicola limosa*	None	None	1936-05-15	
Least Grape-fern	*Botrychium simplex*	None	None	1990-07-21 00:00:00	
	Symphyotrichum welshii	None	None	1986-09-14	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SGCN	None	1989-01-16	
Northern Leopard Frog	*Lithobates pipiens*	SGCN	None	2021-07-18	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	SGCN	None	1999-04-28	
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	SGCN	None	2004-02-16	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Pinyon Jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	None	None	2020-03-12	 Full View
Northern Flying Squirrel	*Glaucomys sabrinus*	None	None	1993-06	
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah*	SGCN	None	1995-04-14	

Definitions

State Status	
SGCN	Species of greatest conservation need 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
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 petioned for federal listing, consideration of this species should be included in any project environmental analyses.
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.
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
Southern Region	435-865-6100	Jess Kinross	jessicavan@utah.gov	435-691-2372

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	high use
Mule Deer	low use
Mule Deer	medium use

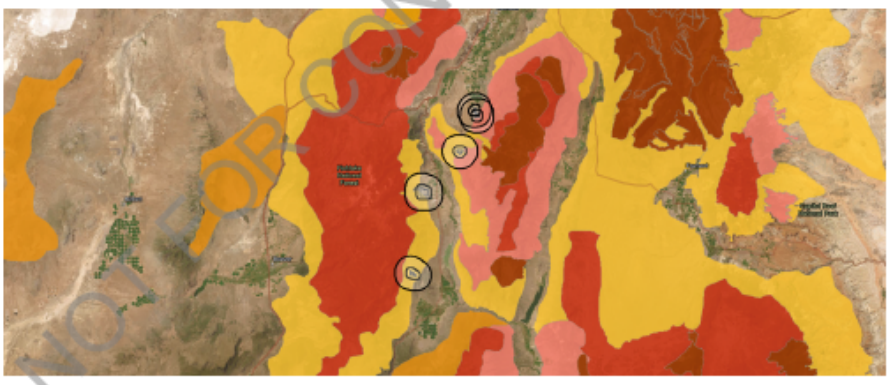
Unmapped Corridors

Unmodeled Corridors: Absent

Wildlife Habitat Information

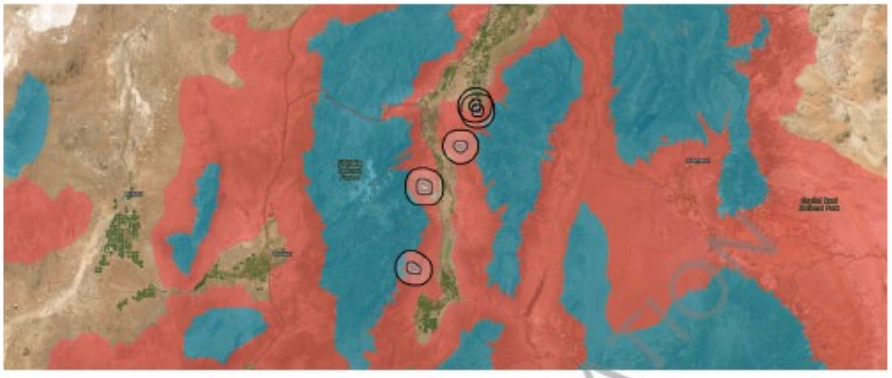
Species	Season	Value	Comments
Band-Tailed Pigeon	spring-fall	substantial	
Black Bear	year-long	crucial	
Elk	winter	crucial	
Elk	winter	substantial	
Mule Deer	winter	crucial	
Turkey	year-long	NA	
White-Tailed Jackrabbit	year-long		

Elk Habitat



Season	Species	Value	Comments
winter	Elk	crucial	
winter	Elk	substantial	

Mule Deer Habitat

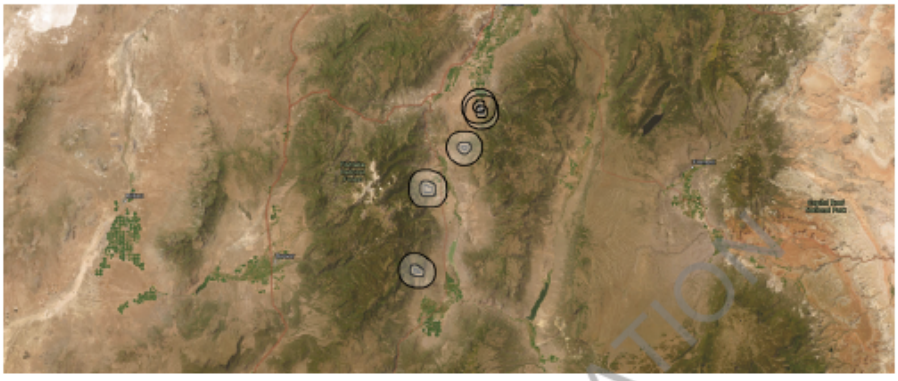


Comments	Season	Species	Value
	winter	Mule Deer	crucial

Migration Corridors

Herd Size	Species	Type
5200	Mule Deer	low use
5200	Mule Deer	medium use
5200	Mule Deer	high use

Terrestrial Key Habitat

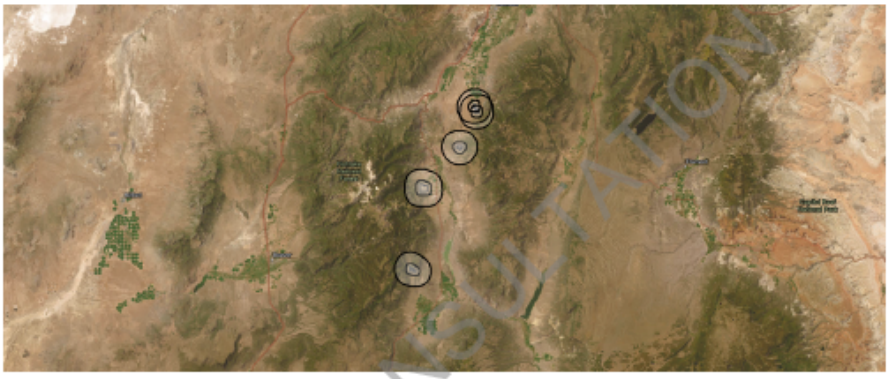


Description: These polygons representing 13 terrestrial key habitats have been generalized for web mapping applications, and often under-represent the presence of key habitats, particularly small areas of discontinuous habitat.

Habitat Name
Lower Montane Mixed Conifer
Lowland Sagebrush
Lowland Sagebrush
Mountain Sagebrush
Desert Shrub
Desert Shrub
Lowland Sagebrush
Desert Shrub
Lower Montane Mixed Conifer
Salt Desert Shrub
Desert Grassland
Lower Montane Mixed Conifer
Mountain Shrub
Lowland Sagebrush

Habitat Name
Riparian
Desert Shrub

Springs



Site Description	Site Name	Site Classification	Ssi Global Id
Imported in 2013 from NHD Database	79787617 NHD_ID	None	284a6804-4474-4ca2-9e90-d2fde769ba99
Imported in 2013 from NHD Database	79787705 NHD_ID	None	3db391e5-a5cf-4b6d-8bf9-9f61db49daec
Imported in 2013 from NHD Database	79787675 NHD_ID	None	28c9e15b-68c5-4ccb-bf41-e49cc707ee13
Imported in 2013 from NHD Database	79787735 NHD_ID	None	71463f50-ceeb-446a-8e4e-dd090744e92a

Report Generated For

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Organization: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
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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.

APPENDIX F – LIST OF HMP REVIEWERS

SFW

MDF

RMEF

NWTF

Sevier County

Piute County

USFS

BLM

Trust Lands Administration

Private Landowners

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Personnel