



Cottonwood Ranch Conservation Credit System Project

Partners and Collaborators:

- ✓ Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
- ✓ Nevada Conservation Districts Program
- ✓ Nevada Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Nevada Department of Wildlife
- ✓ Nevada Division of Forestry
- ✓ Nevada Division of State Lands
- ✓ Cottonwood Ranch Private Landowners

Acres to be Conserved or Treated:

- ✓ 496 acres of meadow habitat
- ✓ 513 acres of upland habitat

Communities to be Affected or Protected:

- ✓ O'Neil Basin and Wells, Nevada



Project Purpose

This project aims to improve, protect, and preserve high quality meadow and upland habitat for greater sage-grouse (GRSG) on 1,009 acres for at least an initial five year period. Upon sale of Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS) credits to a mitigation buyer, the project proponent will commit to preserving the high quality habitat for at least a 30 year term. This will further incentivize the protection of GRSG habitats from invasive species and catastrophic wildfire as well as sustainable water supplies for agricultural and wildlife use.

Project Treatments

Enhancing meadows, seeding forbs, planting sagebrush, treating invasive species, and improved livestock management will all be implemented in the project area by the project proponent and partners as necessary to ensure high quality habitat is preserved and improved. The project should ensure preservation of high quality late brood-rearing and upland habitat for GRSG for the foreseeable future.

Anticipated Impacts & Outcomes

- Long-term anticipated project outcomes include diversification of income for the livestock operation and net conservation gain of GRSG habitat from anthropogenic disturbance mitigation within Nevada through CCS implementation.
- Nevada CCS implementation should also assist in preventing listing of GRSG in the future.

Project Details

Project Timeline	Start to	End
Project Scoping	1/2016	4/2106
Seed Grant Award	5/2016	5/2016
Habitat Quantification	5/2016	6/2016
Management Planning	5/2016	5/2017
Credits Available	6/2017	Present
Mgmt & Monitoring	Annually	
Sale of Credits	TBD	

Priority Landscape(s)

Funding for habitat quantification to determine functional acres of habitat and credit availability was targeted for this area because it is located in Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Area (GHMA) for GRSG in Nevada and has high quality meadow habitat. Treatments were planned based on the likelihood of measureable habitat improvement.

Funding Source(s)

- Sagebrush Ecosystem Program provided seed grant funds (approx. \$50,000).
- Others provided in-kind match.

NDF Contributions

Pursuant to NRS 321.594, Nevada Division of Forestry contributes staff and resources to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to aid in CCS implementation and operations, as well as conservation planning and implementation, project management, and monitoring efforts for on-the-ground projects.

Threats and Risks to the Area

Wildfire and invasive species threats exist in this area and are the main threats to GRSG habitat in Nevada. Often, wildfire is the catalyst that allows invasive species monocultures to proliferate. This leads to continuous fuels and more frequent and devastating wildfires. This project incentivizes protection of the ranch from entering this cycle.

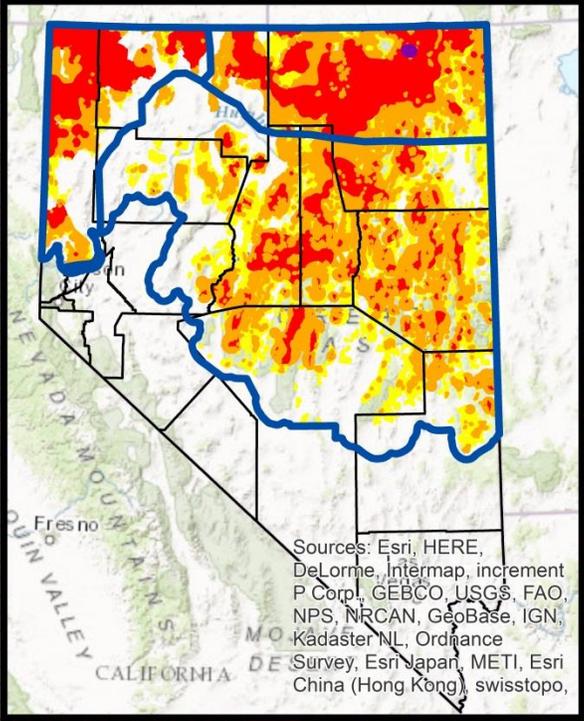
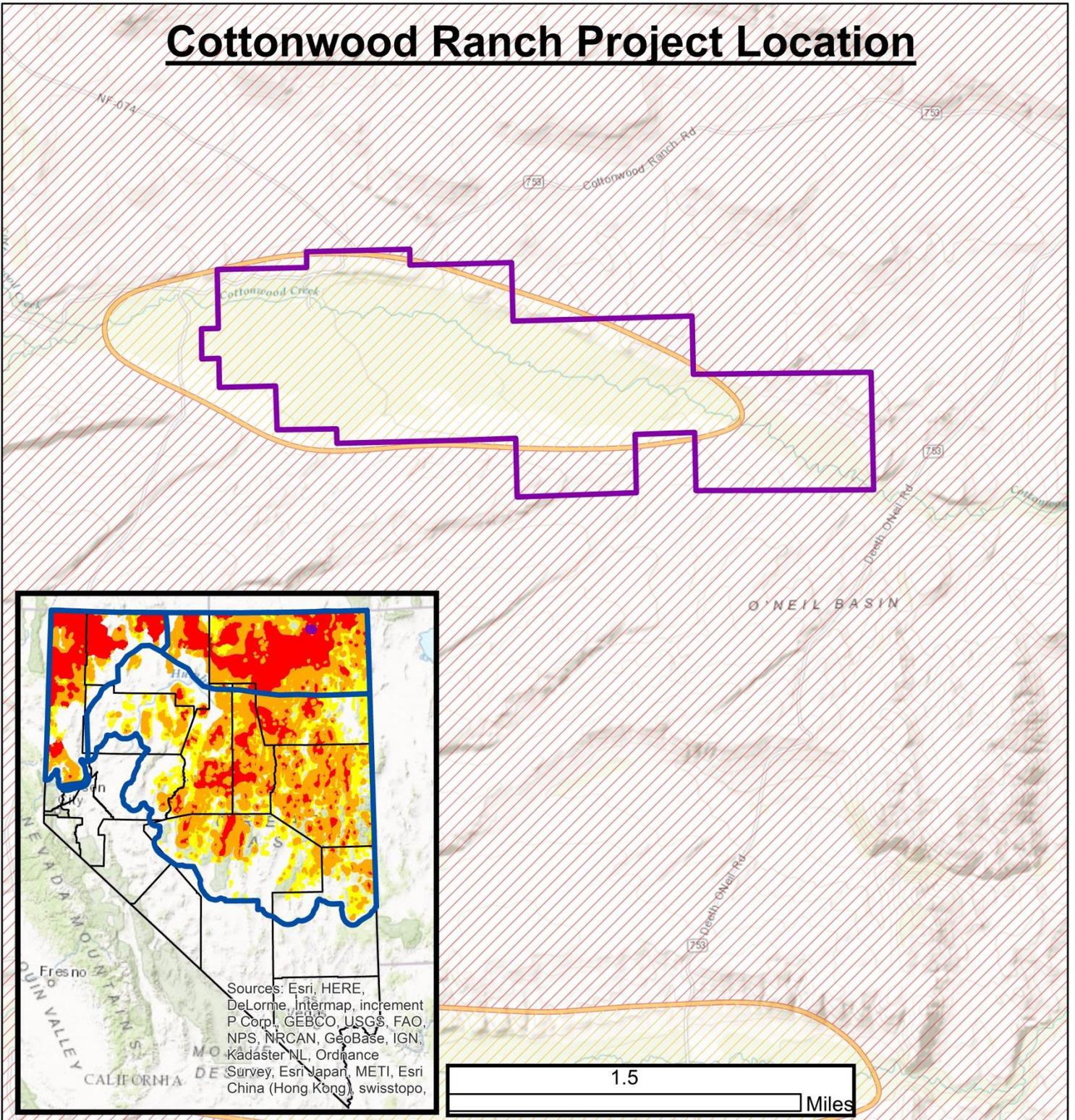
National and Nevada's Cohesive Strategy

This project is part of the strategy because it allows federal, state and local agencies to be more effective and efficient at protecting and improving sagebrush habitat and resilient landscapes.

For more information contact Dan Huser at [684-684-8600 x22] or dhuser@sagebrusheco.nv.gov

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Cottonwood Ranch Project Location



Legend

-  Cottonwood_Ranch
-  Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Greater Sage Grouse Management Zones

Nevada Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Management Categories

-  Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA)
-  General Habitat Management Area (GHMA)
-  Other Habitat Management Area (OHMA)

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