"Moving Management Forward – States' Perspectives on Managing Fire and Sagebrush Steppe Challenges"

The Next Steppe Conference

Wednesday, November 5, 12:30 p.m. -1:45 p.m.

Moderator:

Will Whelan, The Nature Conservancy

Panelists:

Virgil Moore, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

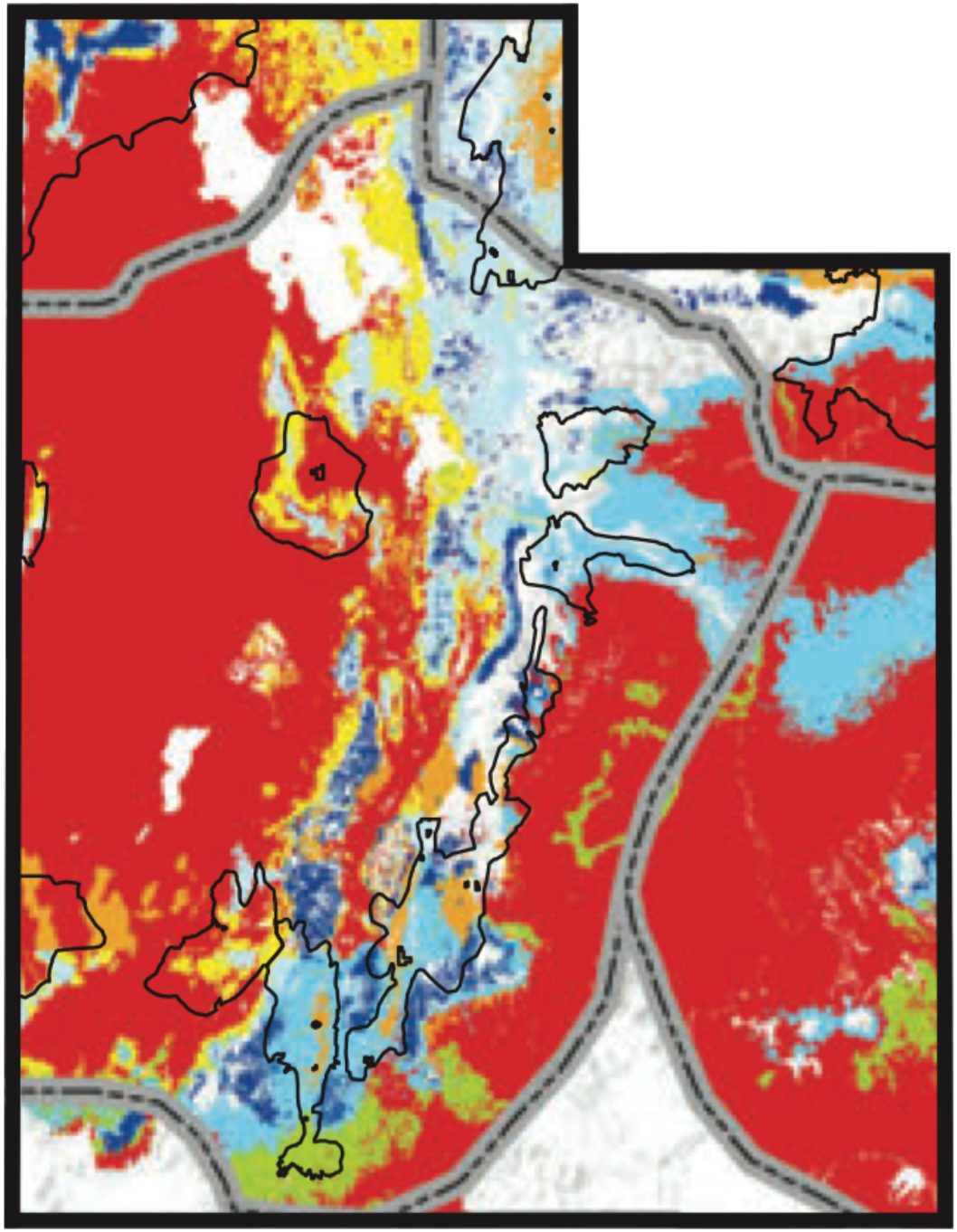
Leo Drozdoff, Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Kathleen Clarke, Utah Public Lands

Utah Wildfire Strategies

Utah Conservation Strategy
Wildfire Management and Restoration

- Prevention
- Suppression
- Post Fire Restoration and Rehabilitation

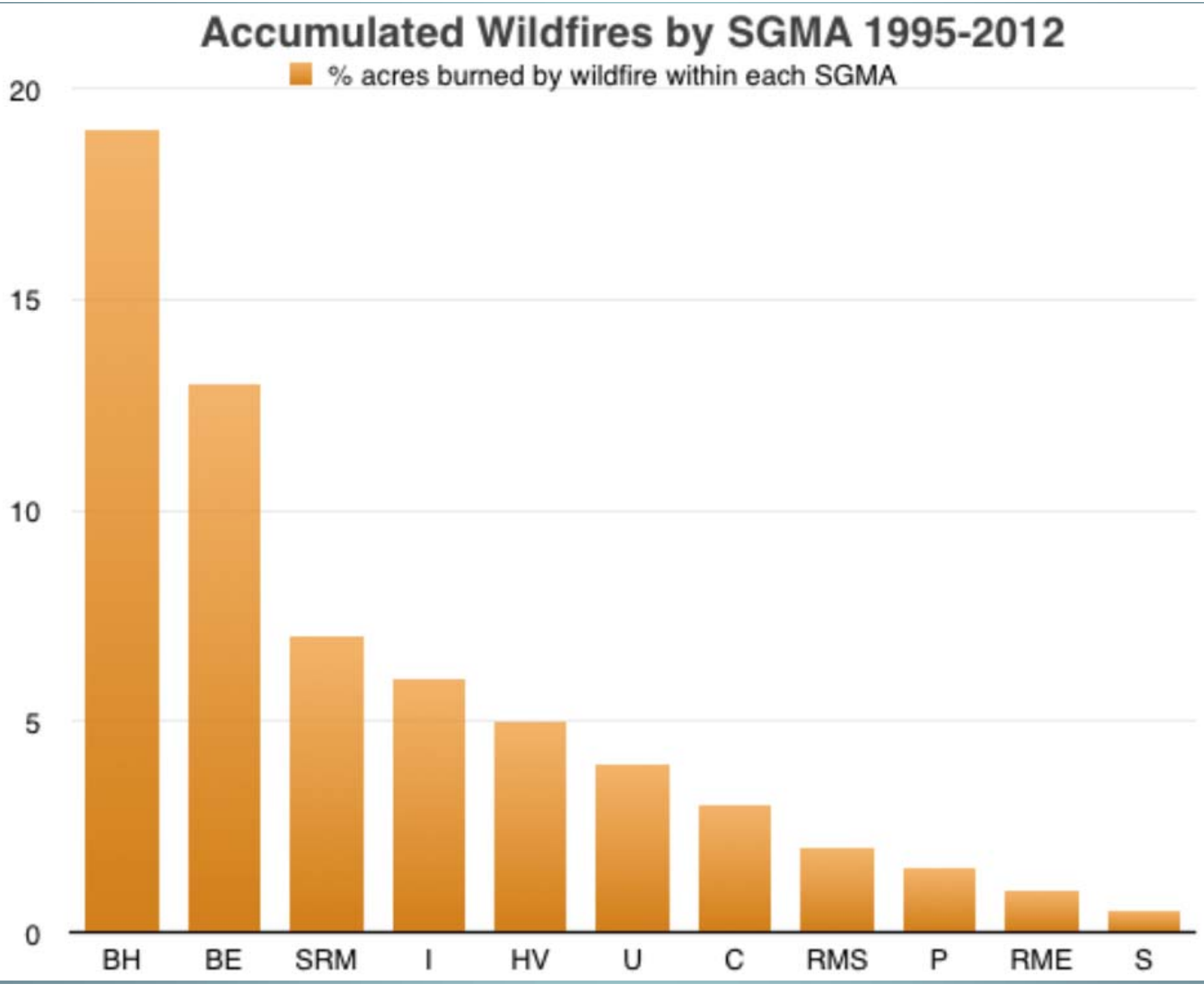


Prioritizing SGMA's utilizing historical and scientific data:

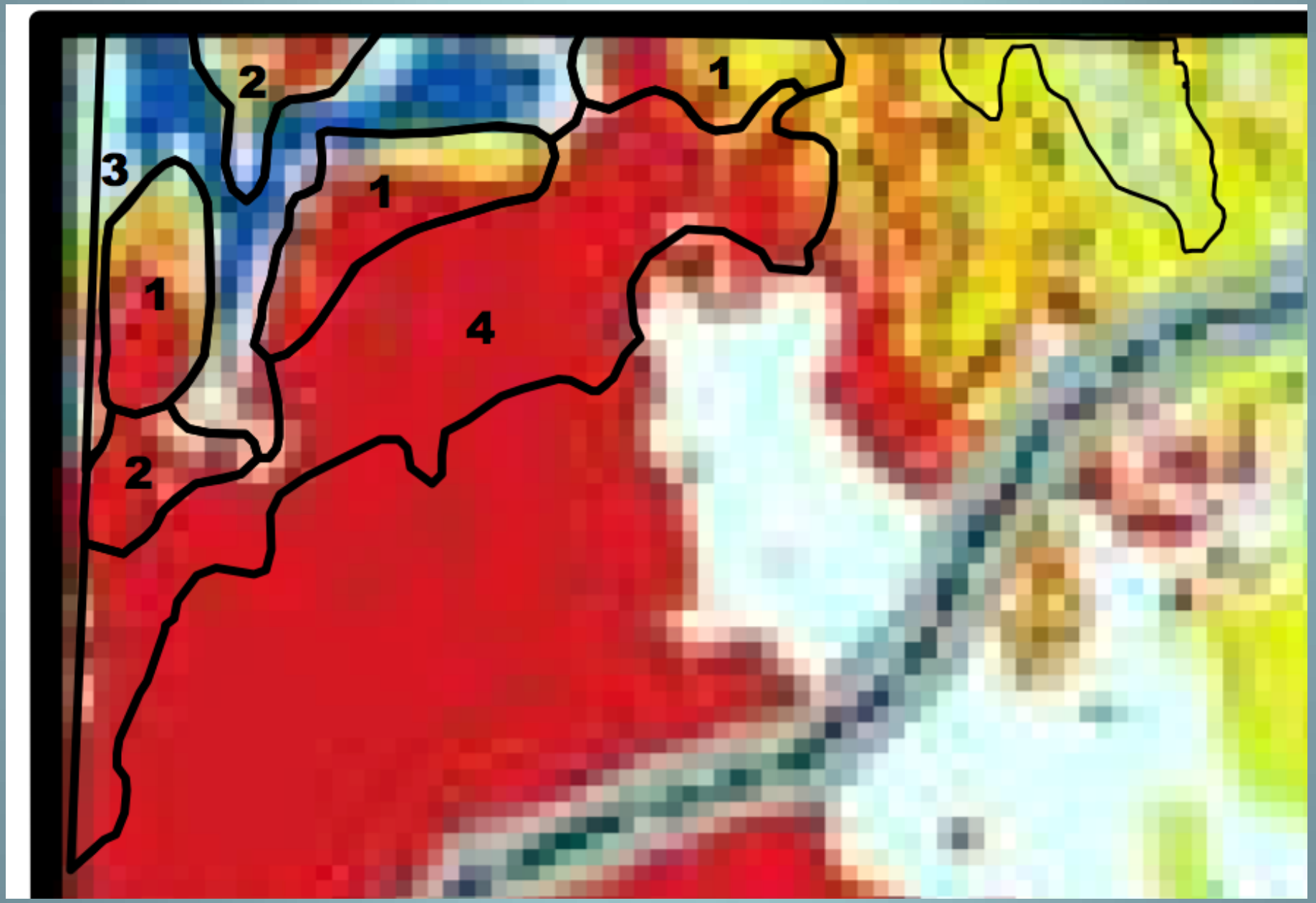
- 5 SGMA's
- 26% of of Utah's birds
- Great Basin

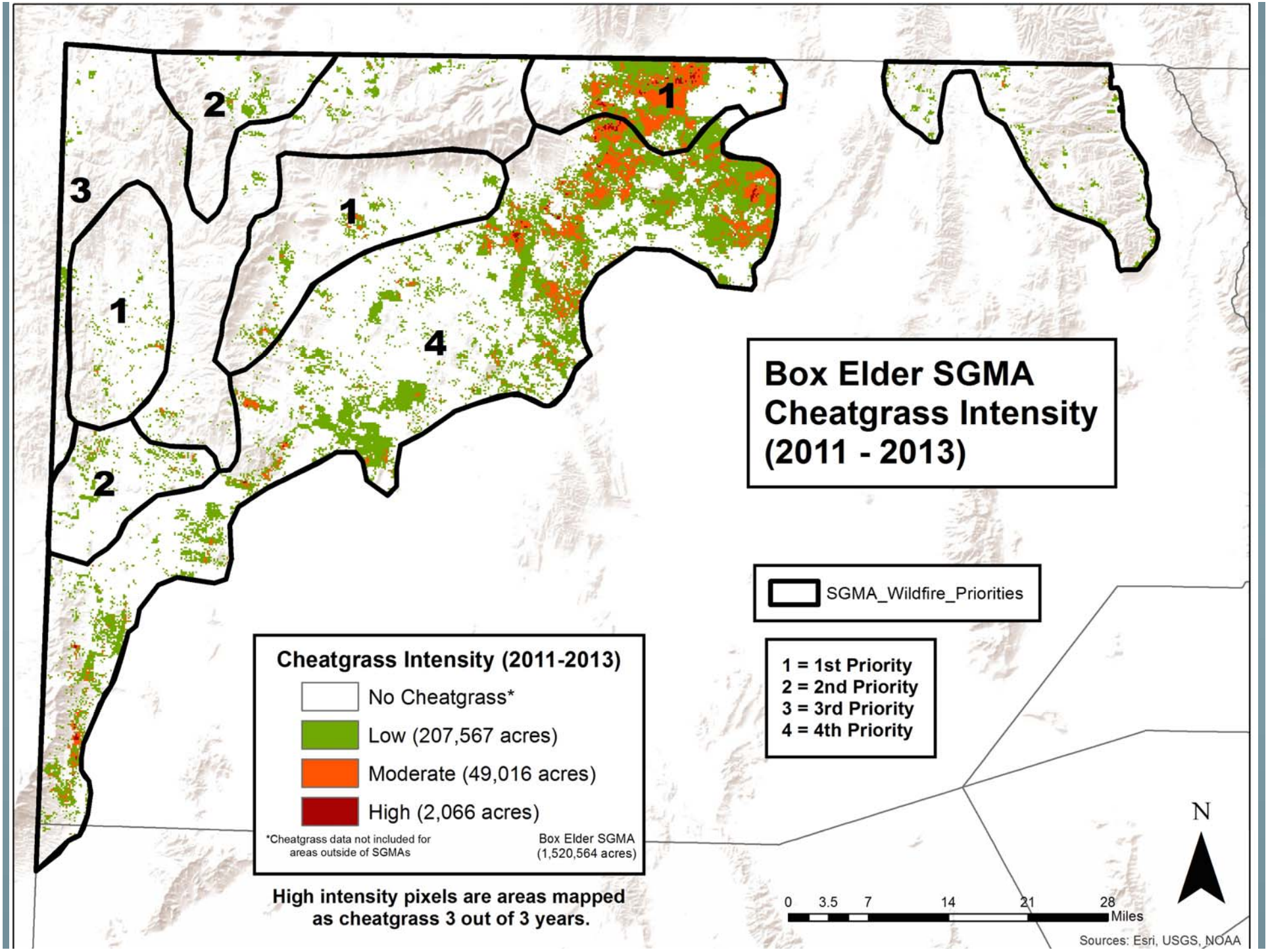
Soil Moisture & Temperature Regime

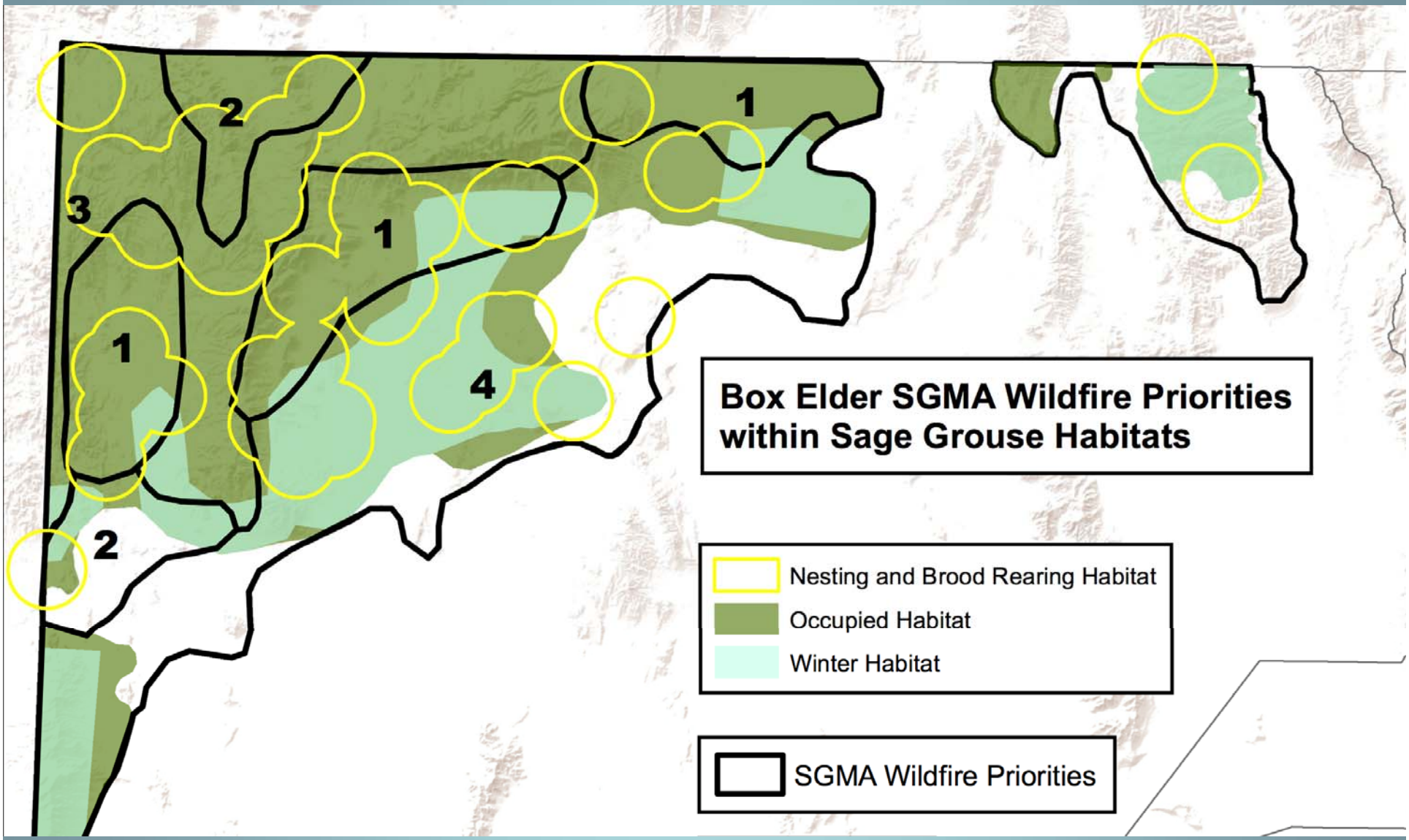
- Cold (Cyric)
- Cool and Moist (Frigid/Ustic)
- Cool and Moist (Frigid/Xeric)
- Warm and Moist (Mesic/Ustic)
- Warm and Moist (Mesic/Xeric)
- Cool and Dry (Frigid/Aridic)
- Warm and Dry (Mesic/Aridic)
- Omitted or No Data
- Sage-Grouse Management Areas


Accumulated Wildfires by SGMA 1995-2012
% acres burned by wildfire within each SGMA
20
15
10
5
0
BH
BE
SRM
I
HV
U
C
RMS
P
RME
S

Prioritization within Utah's SGMAs

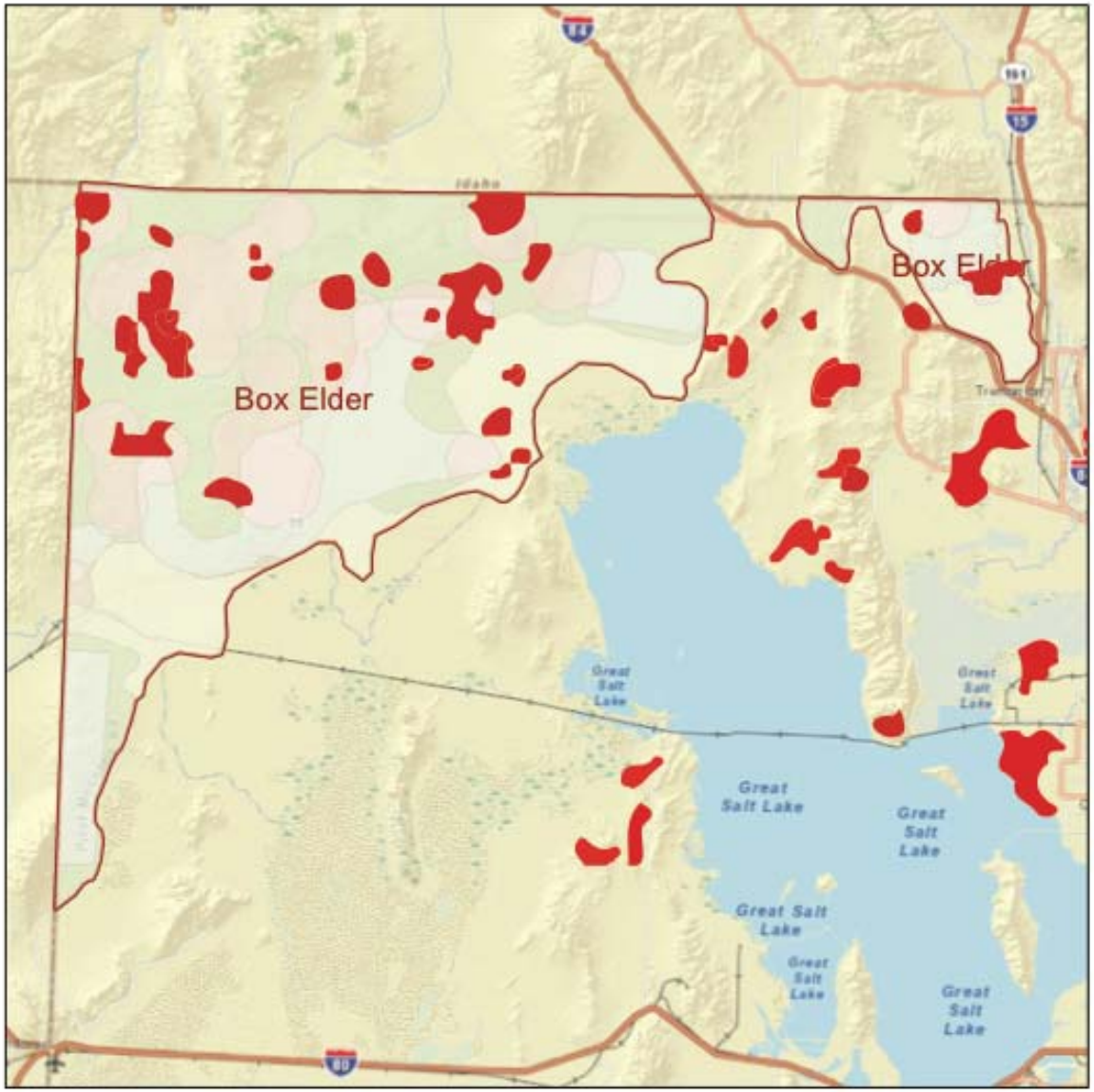


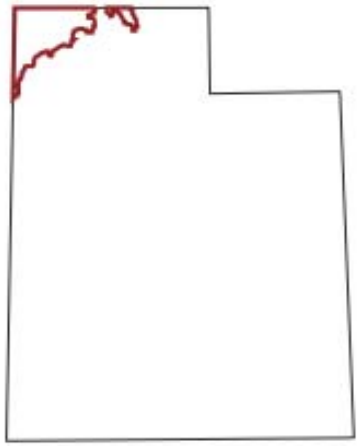

Box Elder SGMA
Cheatgrass Intensity
(2011 - 2013)
SGMA_Wildfire_Priorities
1 = 1st Priority
2 = 2nd Priority
3 = 3rd Priority
4 = 4th Priority
Cheatgrass Intensity (2011-2013)
No Cheatgrass*
Low (207,567 acres)
Moderate (49,016 acres)
High (2,066 acres)
*Cheatgrass data not included for areas outside of SGMAs
Box Elder SGMA
(1,520,564 acres)
High intensity pixels are areas mapped as cheatgrass 3 out of 3 years.
N
0 3.5 7 14 21 28
Miles
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA


1
2
3
1
1
4
2
Box Elder SGMA Wildfire Priorities within Sage Grouse Habitats
Nesting and Brood Rearing Habitat
Occupied Habitat
Winter Habitat
SGMA Wildfire Priorities

Prevention

Box Elder Sage-Grouse Management Area and Watershed Restoration Initiative





Watershed Restoration Initiative

Suppression

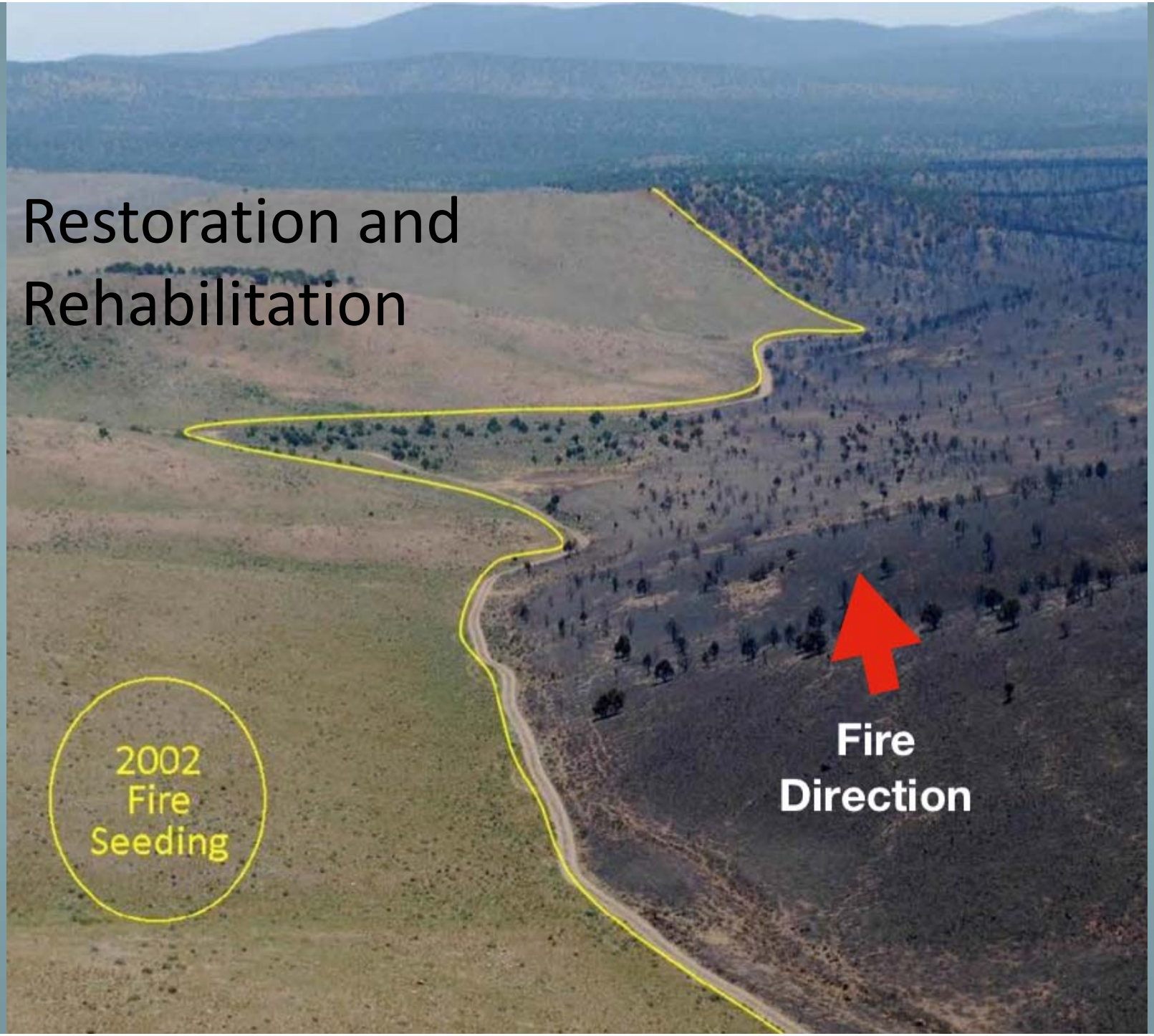
We are already effectively preventing 99% of wildfires from becoming large!

Fire occurrence in Sage-Grouse habitat rangewide						
Fire Size (Acres)	< 1	< 10	< 100	< 1k	< 10k	All Fires
# of fires	16,894	25,126	28,660	30,705	31,552	31,761
% of all fires	53%	79%	90%	97%	99%	100%

*Sage-Grouse habitat data source: National Interagency Fire Center

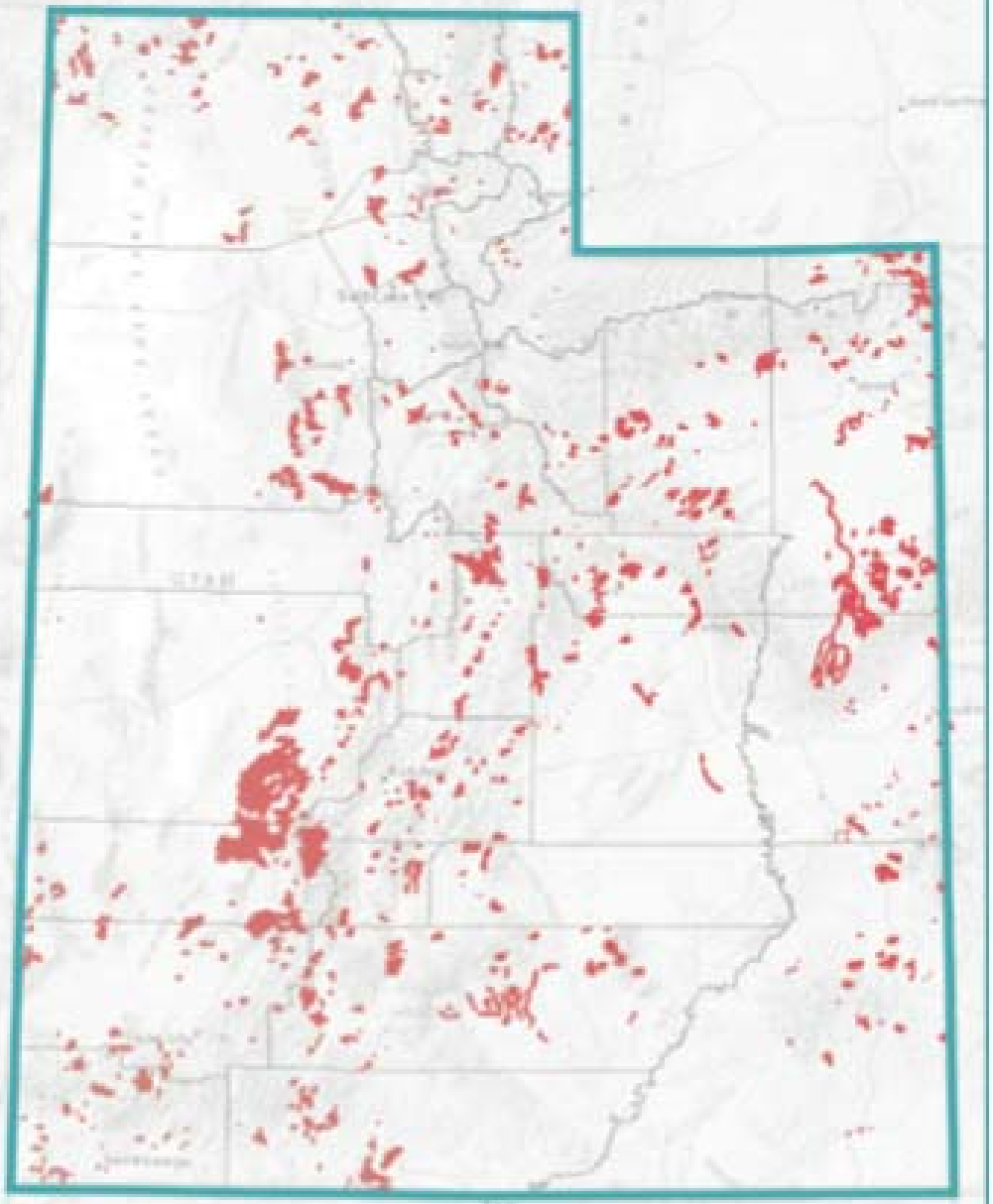
*Fire occurrence data source: Short, Karen C. 2013. Spatial wildfire occurrence data for the United States, 1992-2011 [FPA_FOD_20130422]. Fort Collins, CO: USDA

Restoration and Rehabilitation



Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

Completed and Current Projects since FY2006:

- 1,299 projects
- 1,120,491 acres treated
- 268 miles stream
- $19,853,723 DNR funds
- $107,790,688 partner contributions

For every DNR $1 spent, nearly $6 leveraged from partner contributions.