

**NEVADA STATE PARK
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATION**

Project Narrative

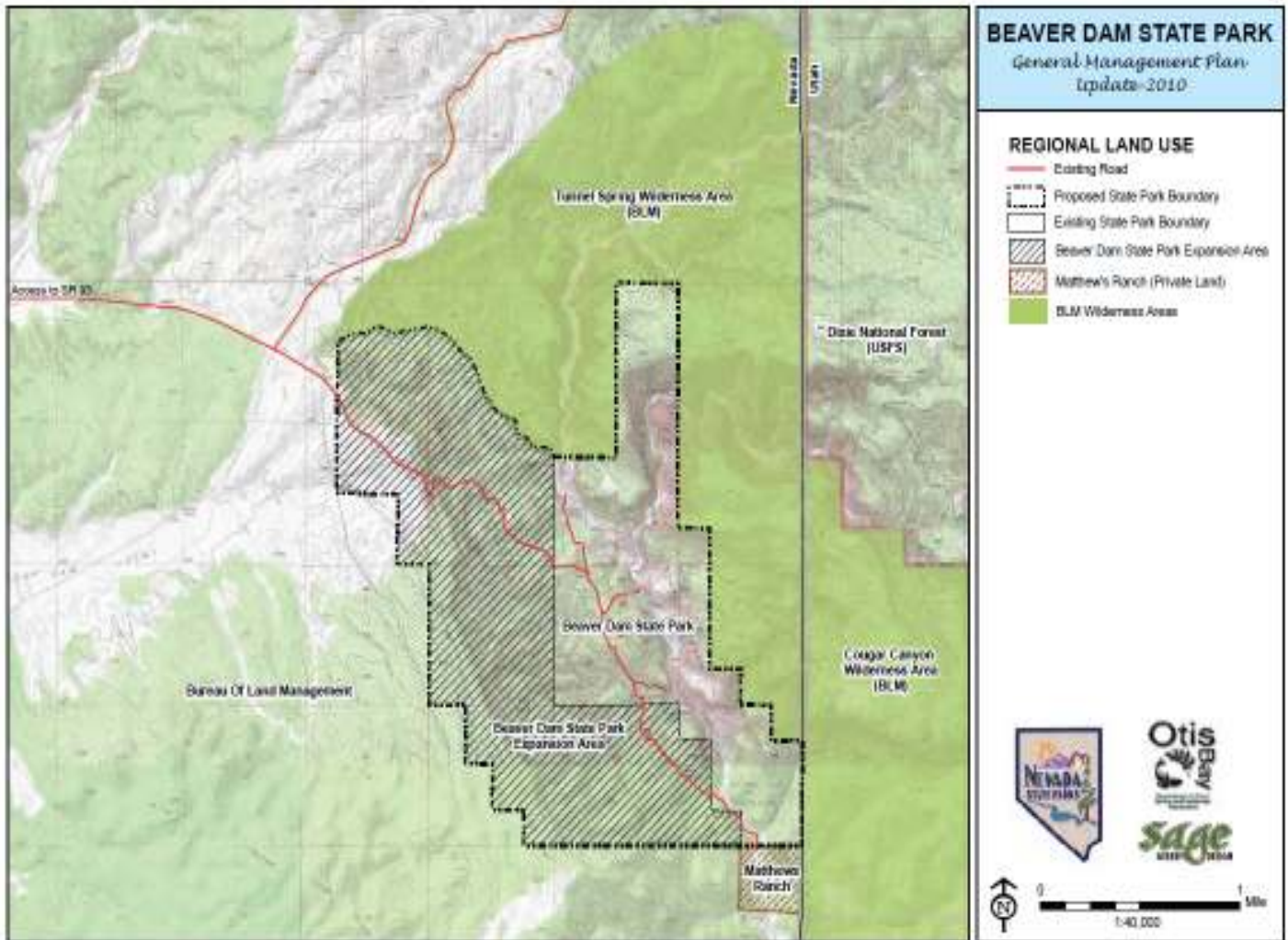
**Beaver Dam State Park
Burned Area Re-vegetation**



PROJECT NARRATIVE – Beaver Dam State Park Burned Area Re-vegetation

PROJECT LOCATION: Beaver Dam State Park covers 2,393 acres with an additional 3,236 acres acquisition pending, about 38 miles northeast of Caliente. The park is adjacent to the Utah border in Lincoln County, southeastern Nevada. (See figure 1-1, Location Map). The park is accessible via a 29-mile graded, dirt road which intersects U.S. Highway 93 about 8 miles north of Caliente. The park encompasses 2,393 acres and ranges in elevation from 4,880 feet to 5,570 feet. Inside the park are three campsites, a day use area, and a seasonal residence for park staff. Beaver Dam State Park is represented in the following maps. The park's property lies in Township 5 North, Range 71 East, sections 5, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

The major amenity of the park is its scenic wilderness character, with abundant natural beauty and relatively unspoiled setting. The park landscape is characterized by deep canyons with high vertical walls, cool meandering streams, diverse vegetation associations and land forms, and dramatic vistas with few man-made improvements. The major recreational activities available at Beaver Dam State Park include camping, fishing, hiking/walking, picnicking, relaxing outdoors and nature study.



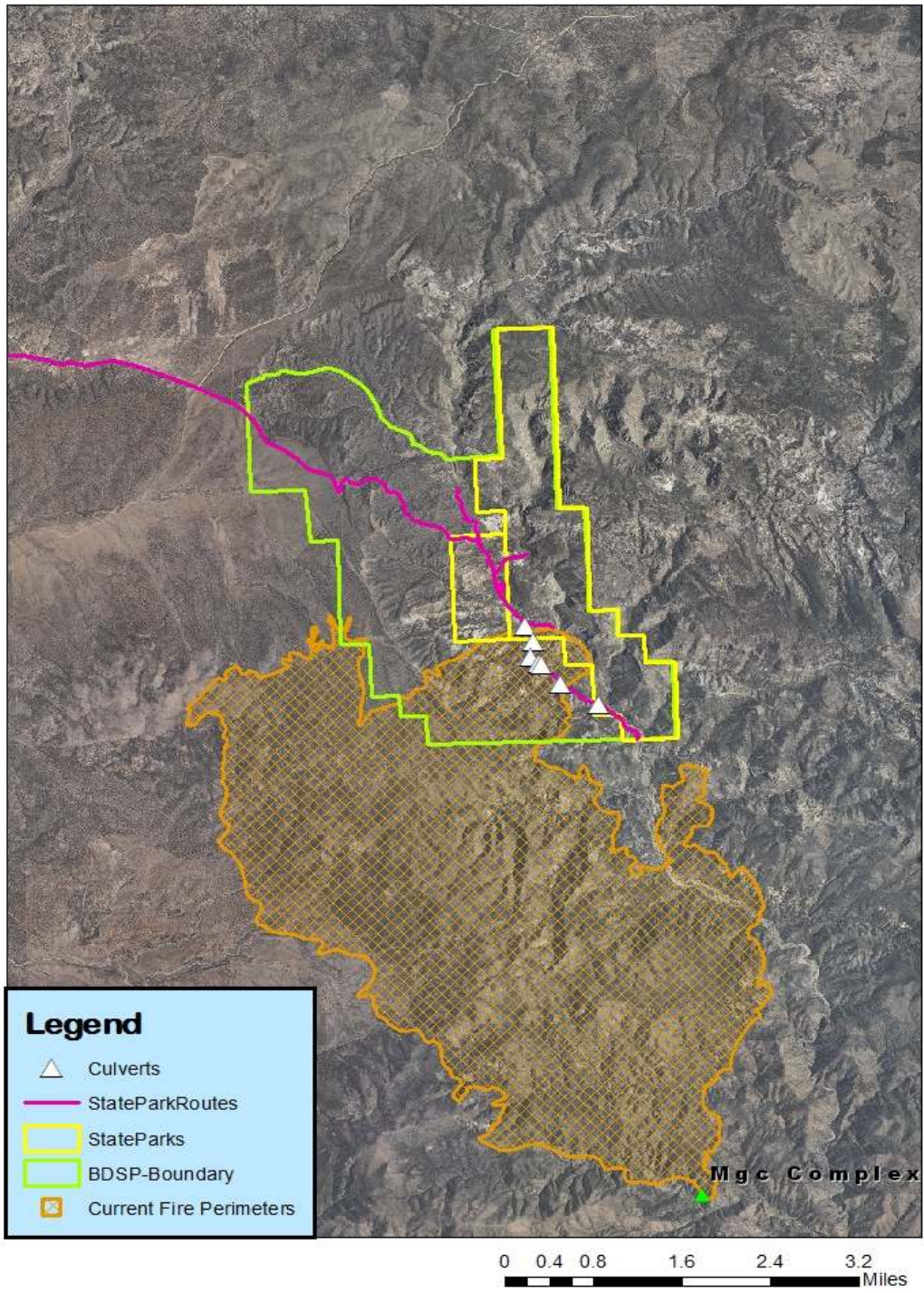
BACKGROUND: On July 1, 2014, the Middle Ridge Fire consumed 10,304 acres of the western slope of the Beaver Dam drainage above Beaver Dam State Park and the Virgin River. Burned acreage in Beaver Dam State Park was 51 acres. BLM lands burned that are to be transferred to State Parks under the 2007 Lincoln County Land Bill are 3,187 with over 800 acres burned.

The 51 acres of park lands are not eligible to receive emergency stabilization funds (ESR) (Federal BLM) for post-fire rehabilitation. The 800 acres to be transferred are being reseeded and treated for erosion control by the BLM. The State Division of Parks and Forestry have been coordinating with the ESR team to determine the most effective techniques for watershed stabilization on the entire burn. The ESR plan has received funding and will begin treatments September of 2014. State Parks and Forestry is applying for a grant through LWCF to stabilize soils and re-vegetate the burned area within the park 51 acres as well as implement a 3-5 year reseeded plan for the additional 800 acres transferring to State Parks from the BLM.

Recreation values are severely impacted: scenic resources are severely degraded, road access and any hiking/biking have been restricted. Field reconnaissance of the area indicates that without rehabilitation there is a high probability of annual invasive dominance. The fire burned at moderate to high intensity consuming almost all surface vegetation and needle cast. Significant sediment and ash output on-and off-site can be expected in the intermittent drainages which drain directly into the Virgin River effecting watershed values; vegetation, habitat, scenic, recreation, fisheries and water quality.

The fire burned 71% of the west side of the Beaver Dam drainage above the State Park. Soils in the burned area are classified as fine to very fine and prone to soil loss. Prior to the fire, the slopes of the fire were heavily vegetated with chaparral, creating soil stability in an otherwise unstable system. While flash flooding is a natural part of the Beaver Dam Wash system, the lack of soil-stabilizing vegetation upstream and upslope of the recreation, camping and private residence area is major concern. On April 26th, this concern became reality with a flash flood localized to one drainage which caused a moderate ash flow and fish kill. The flood also caused a 15 inch debris deposit on the road and an impassible wash out on the access road to the park, both of which are being remedied immediately due to public safety and are not park of the grant. There have been two more flash floods on the area creating further urgency.

MGC Complex Beaver Dam State Park



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Planning, design, and implementation of soil stabilization and vegetation restoration plan. The planning, final design, and project management oversight will be completed by Park and Forestry Division staff.

Development of re-vegetation and soil stabilization 5 year plan for Beaver Dam State Park and the expansion lands Parks is receiving from the BLM through the Lincoln County Federal Lands bill (Acreage of burned area within the park: 50.26 ac; Acreage within Expansion area: 849.72 ac. Total 899.98 acres).

State owned lands (51 acres) are not eligible to receive emergency stabilization funds (ESR) (Federal BLM) for post-fire rehabilitation. The state has been coordinating with the ESR team to determine the most effective techniques for watershed stabilization on the burn. The ESR draft is now available and the State would like to apply specific treatments to stabilize soils and re-vegetate the burned area under a long term plan rather than a one-time emergency treatment scenario. Planning efforts have already begun due to public safety issues and the short time frame for seeding this fall; **we would like to request a waiver to include this staff travel and salary at pre-project match from both State Parks and our sister agency Division of Forestry. This waiver would allow planning and travel costs to be used at match beginning July 7th, 2014.**

The proposed treatment includes the installation of log erosion barriers using contour felling and ground seeding of the burned area with a stabilization and native seed mix in the fall/winter 14/15 and again 15/16 and 17 as needed. This plan is will include the purchase and collection of native, local shrub seed. The collection of Pinus ponderosa cones, grow out of trees and replanting. Chipping and mulching of debris along the length of the road. Detention basins will be cleaned as needed during the project period to protect recreational access to the rest of the park. The work will be done by hand using Forestry crew labor and in-kind staff labor for over-site, monitoring, planning and cleaning out of detention basins to keep the road open.

TES SPECIES: Natural Heritage has completed a database search for the burned area with no results of federally or State listed species.

SECTION 106 SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office has been contacted and given the GIS layers of the area. Preliminary database search showed no issues. However, a forestry report showed one site not recorded in the burned area and that is being submitted to SHPO from a previous project for advice, it was burned. The proposed treatments include but are not limited to log erosion barriers, contour felling and ground seeding of the burned area with a stabilization seed mix in the fall/winter 14/15 and again 15/16 and 17 as needed. This will include the purchase and collection of native, local shrub seed. Chipping and mulching of debris along the length of the road. Detention basins need to be cleaned as needed the next 3-5 years or until vegetation is established enough to slow down soil loss.

Field reconnaissance of the area indicates that without rehabilitation there is a high probability of annual invasive dominance. The fire burned at moderate to high intensity consuming almost all surface vegetation and needle cast. Significant sediment and ash output on-and off-site can be expected in the intermittent drainages which drain directly into the Virgin River effecting downstream values, vegetation, habitat, fisheries and water quality.

SCORP: The goal is to give the watershed a head start in ecological restoration of native plants and habitat: reseedling, seed collection and grow-out of native trees, planting of shrub seed and seedlings. Directional felling of burned trees and other soil stabilization techniques. Monitoring of the re-vegetation success and

identification of challenges that will allow for adaptive management.

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