



Spatial Sage-Grouse Conservation Planning: Finding win-wins for the bird and the ecosystem

Skyler Vold, ODFW

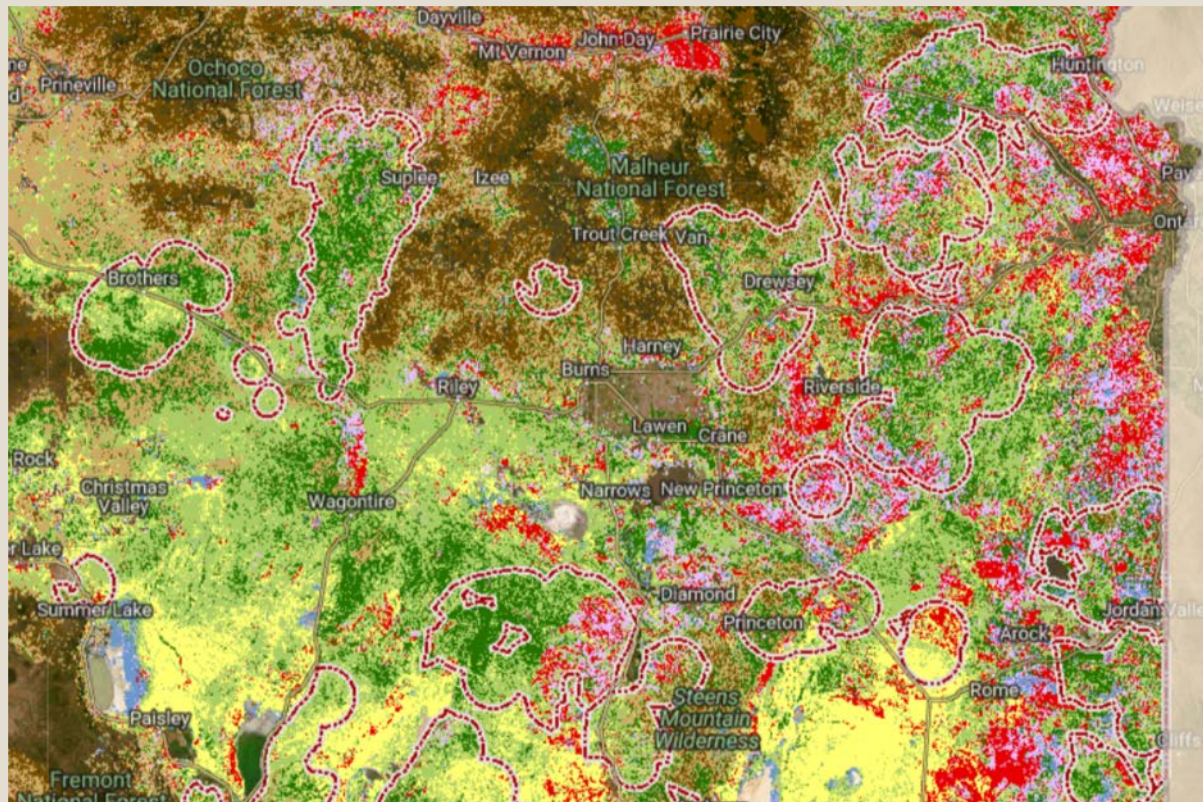
Sept 26, 2023



Let's be realistic...

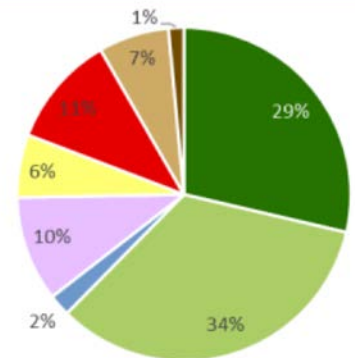
> 6.5 million acres of core and 5 million acres low-density GRSG habitat in Oregon

Only ~1/3 of this area is functioning in 'State A'



Ecostate Data

Condition summary across all sage-grouse PACs in the state



Strategic Planning – Not a new concept!

Threat-based strategic conservation workshops

- Identify priorities for project implementation
- Defend and grow the core
- Biggest bang for the buck

SageCon Summit, 2022



'Biological' vs. 'Social' Factors

Limited Resources

Grow the Core

NEPA

Be Strategic

Quick Turnaround

Sage-Grouse

Funding

Capacity

Cross-Boundary

Large Landscapes

State-level

Opportunistic

National-level

Tight Timelines

Willing Landowners

Sagebrush

Local-level

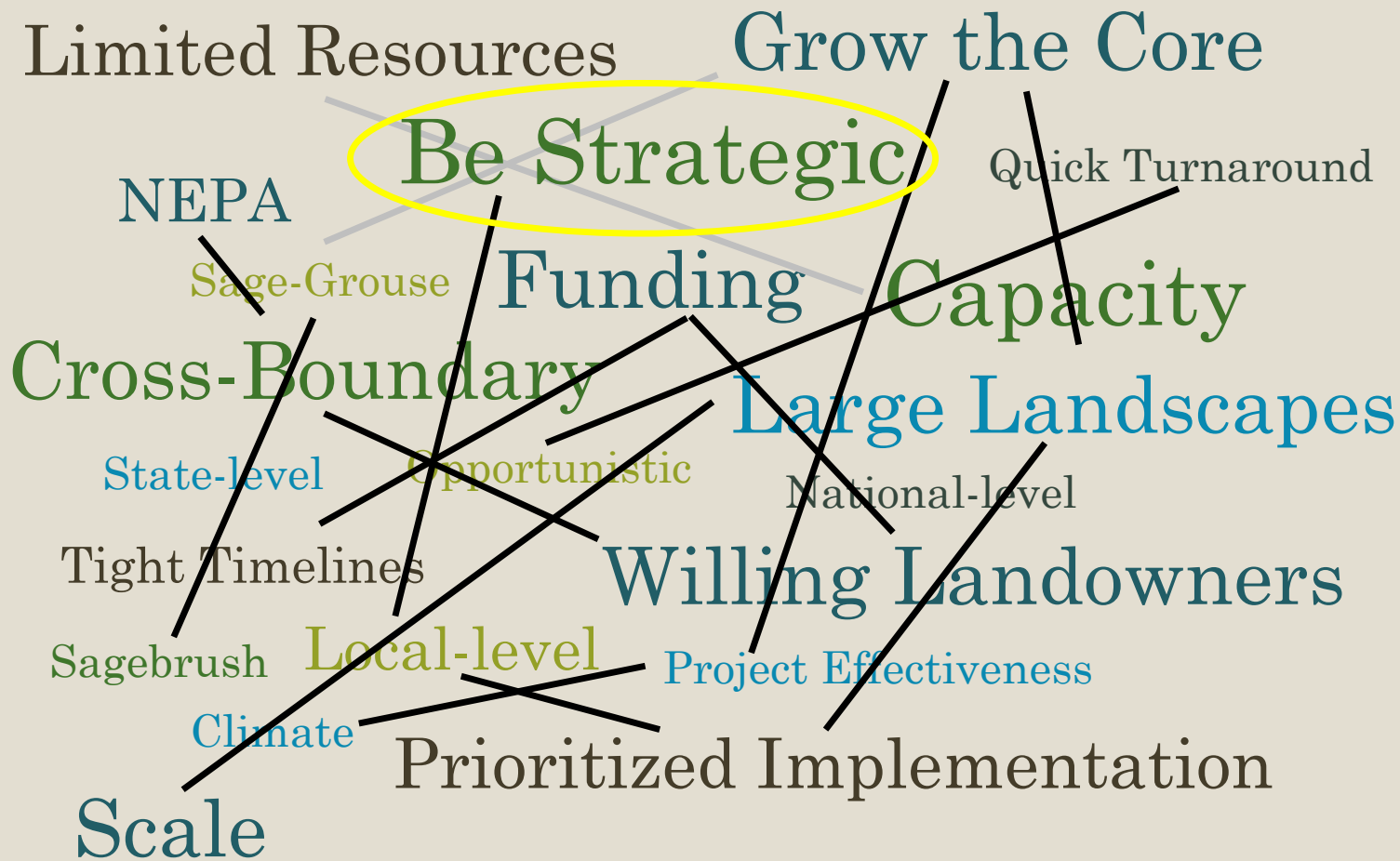
Project Effectiveness

Climate

Prioritized Implementation

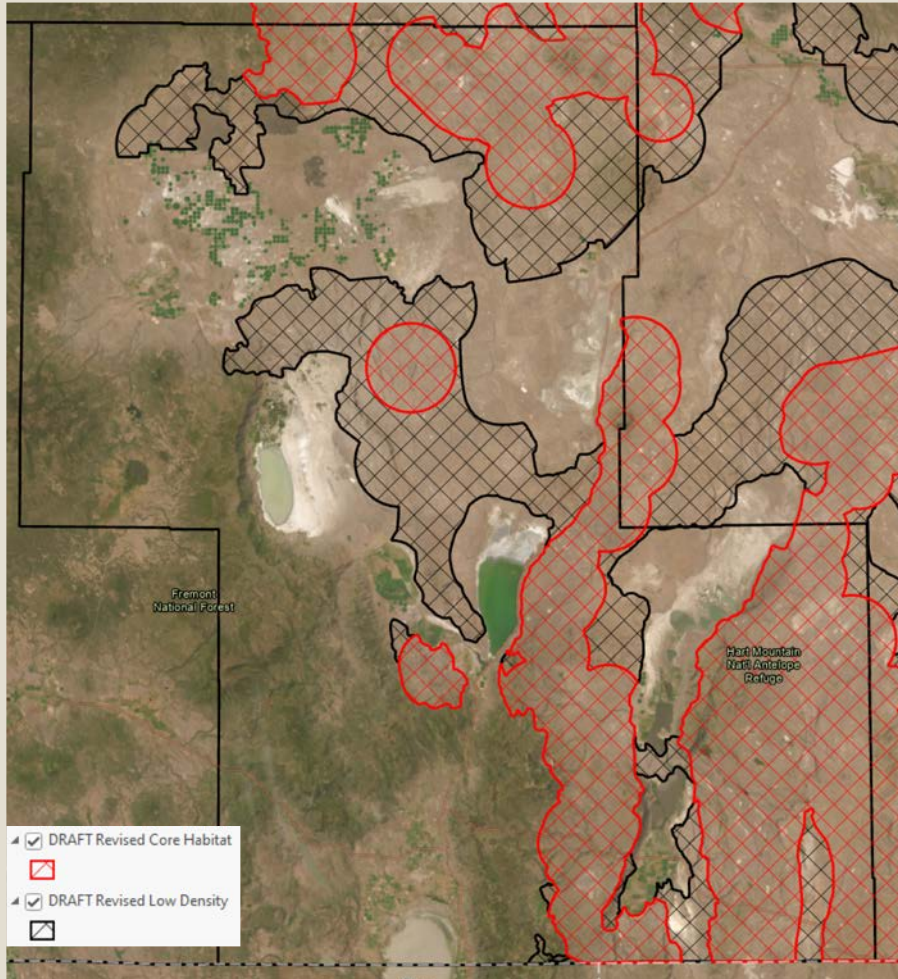
Scale

'Biological' vs. 'Social' Factors

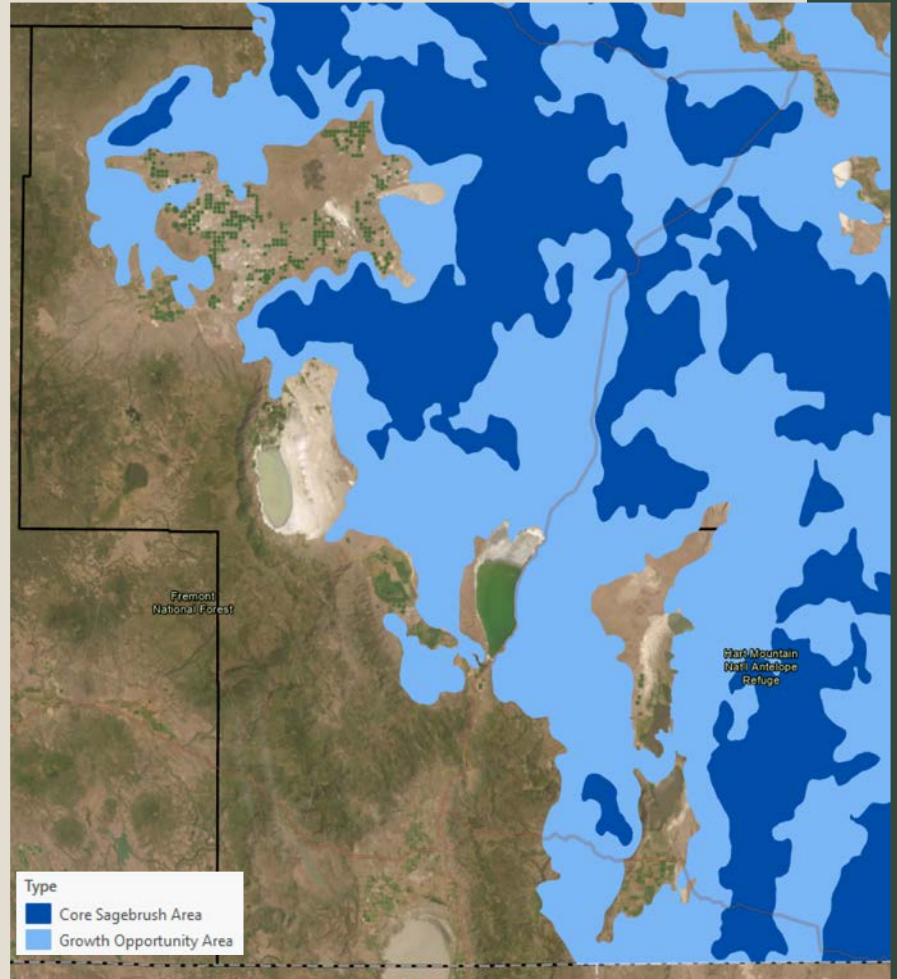


Landscape-Scale Prioritization

- Important to direct funding, but still **too large**.



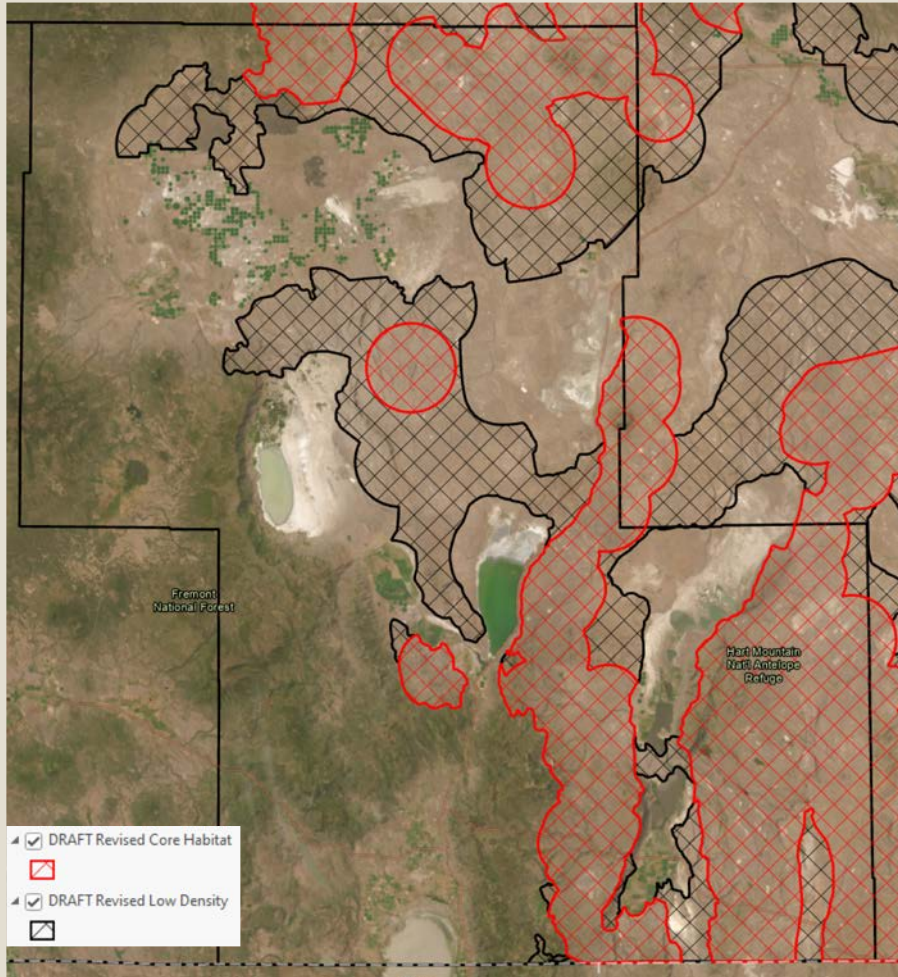
DRAFT Core & Low-Density



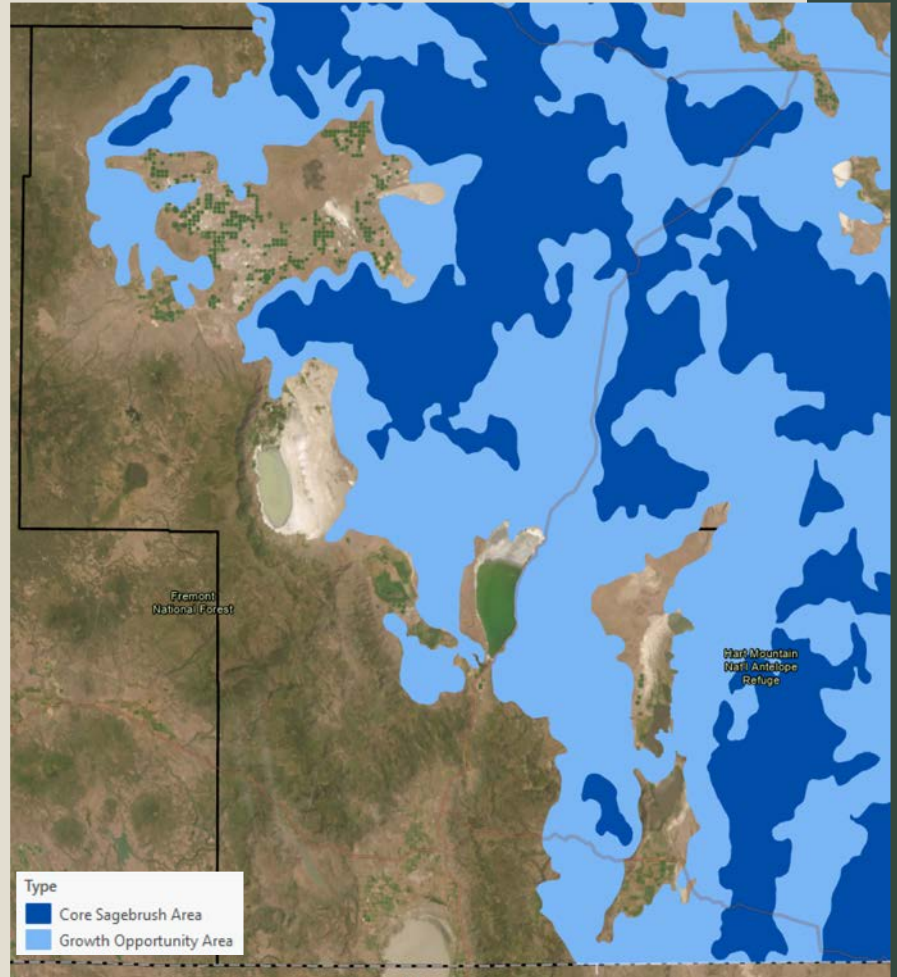
Sagebrush Conservation Design

Landscape-Scale Prioritization

- Important to direct funding, but still **too large**.
- “If everywhere is a priority, nowhere is.”



DRAFT Core & Low-Density

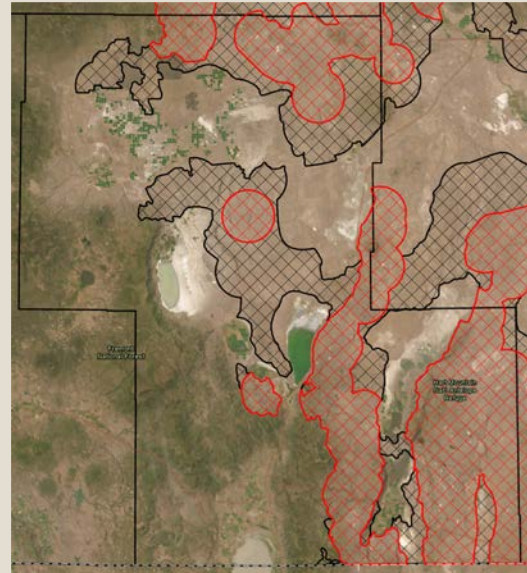


Sagebrush Conservation Design

Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon



- The following is a simplistic example to start the conversation
- How do we prioritize conservation to benefit **sage-grouse** and **sagebrush habitats** in Oregon?



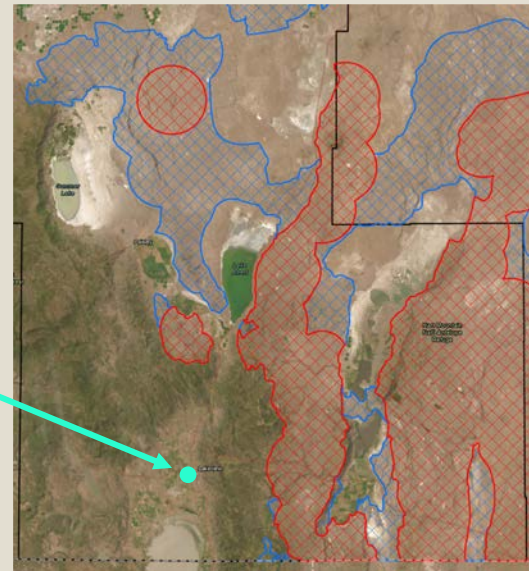
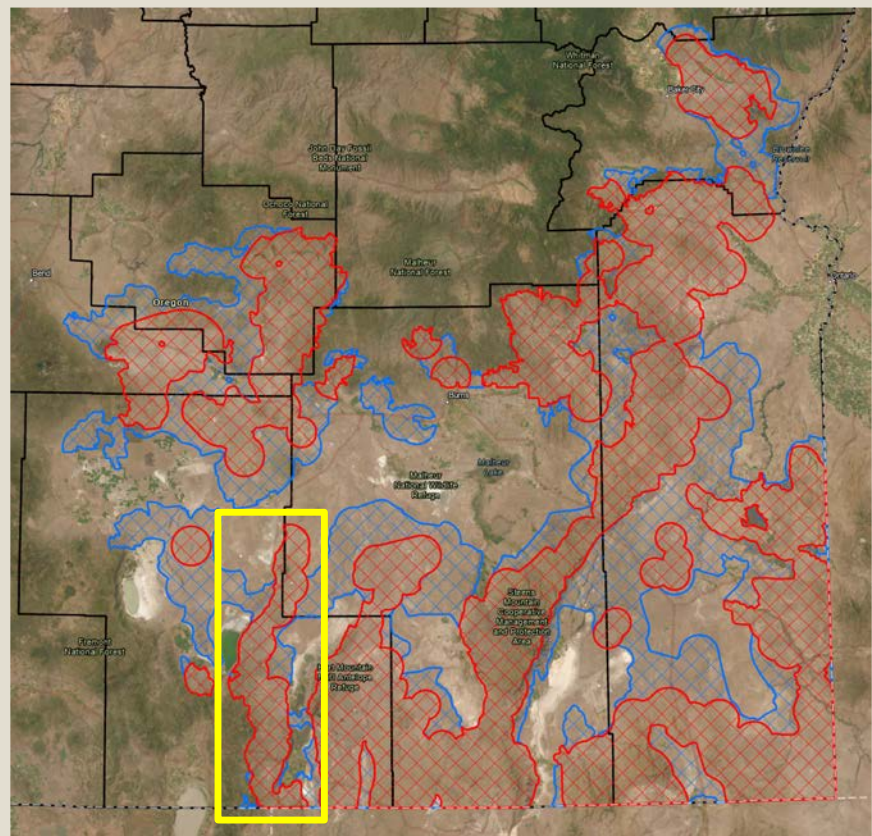
Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon

- What's your area of interest?

This example: Warners PAC



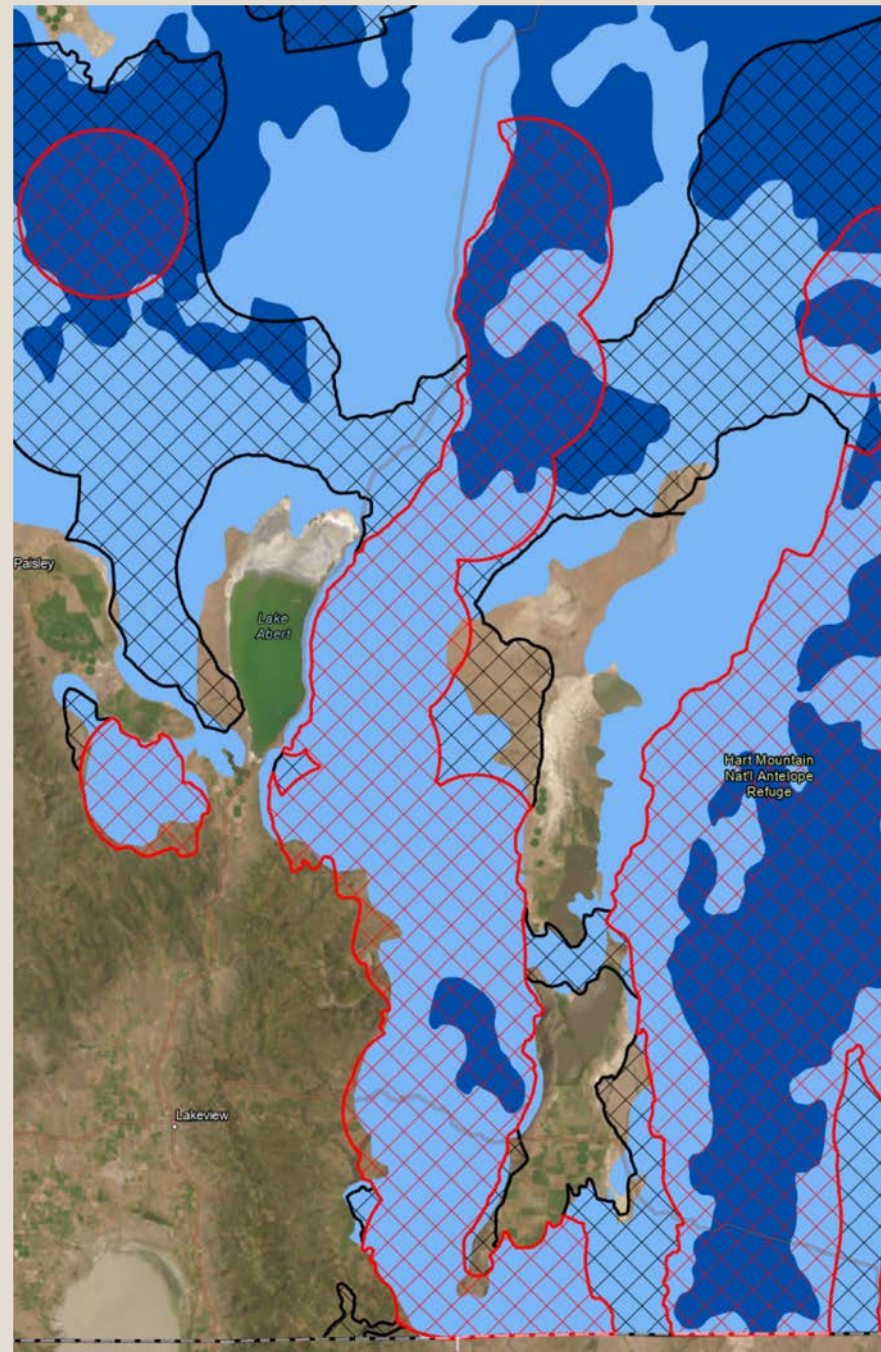
You are here*



*If you're attending the Summit in person

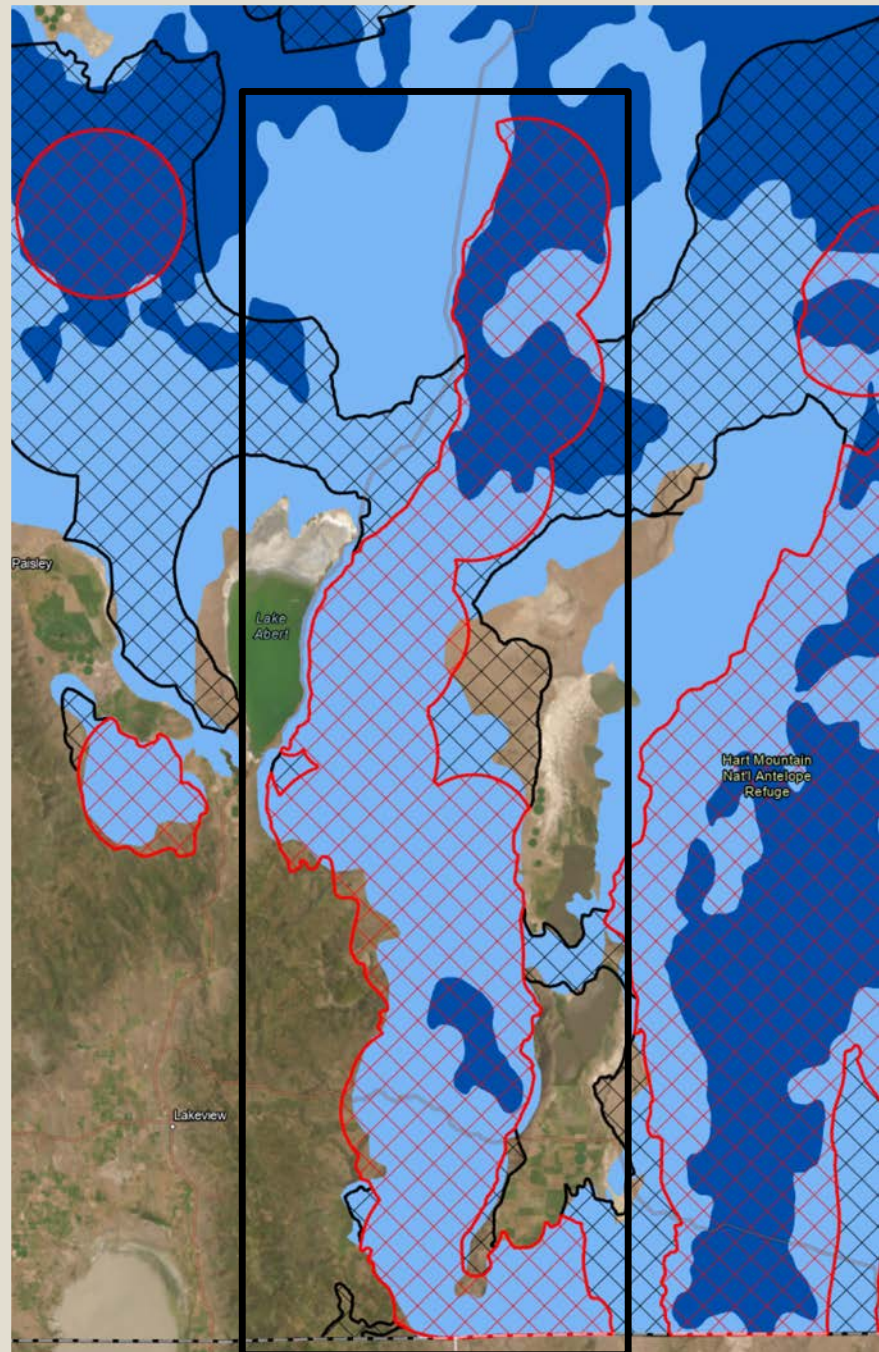
Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon

- Step 1: How well do the landscape-scale products align?



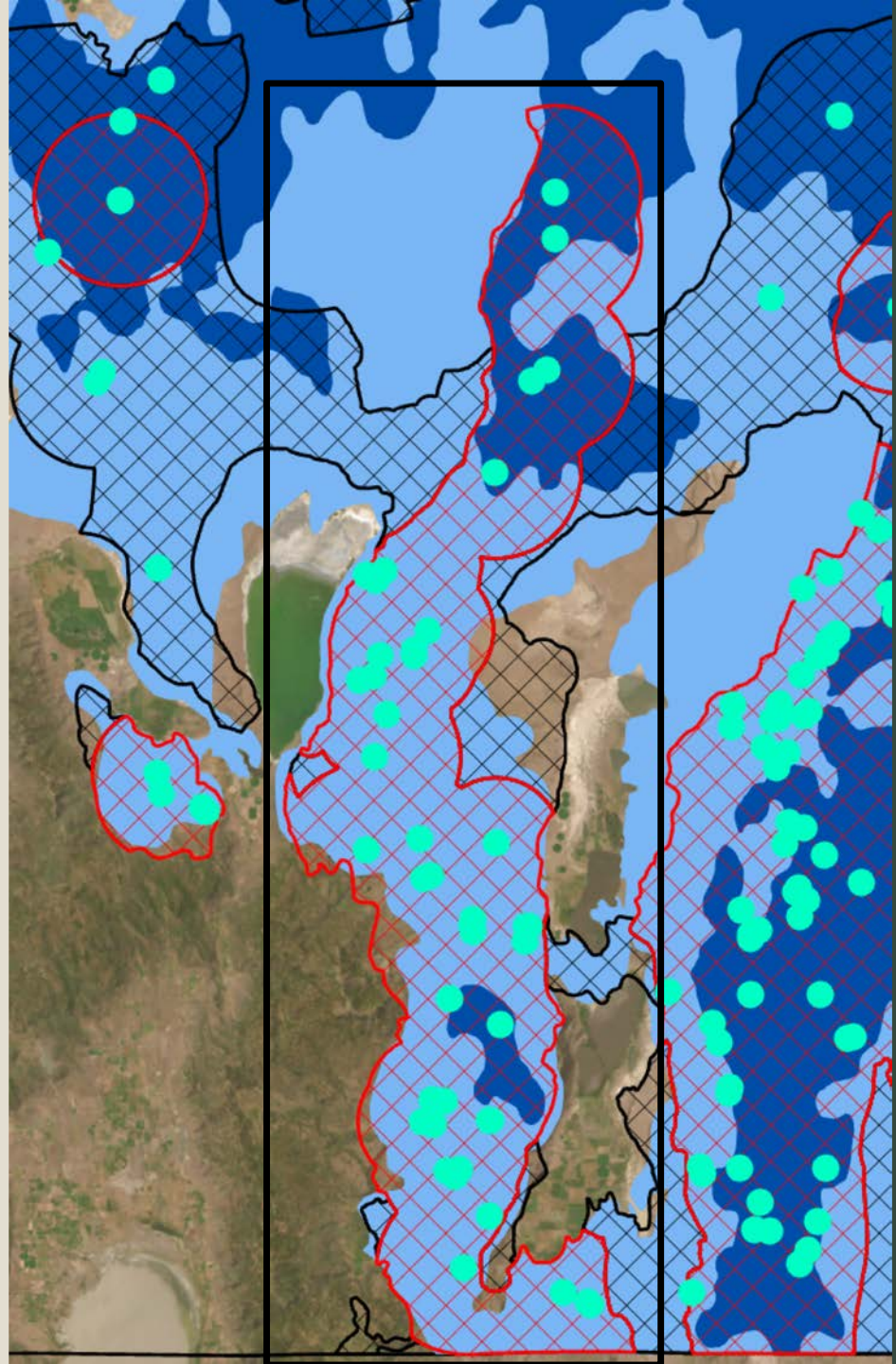
Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon

- Step 1: How well do the landscape-scale products align?
 - Quite well!
- Significant opportunity for siting projects to overlap sagebrush & sage-grouse conservation



Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon

- What reliable sage-grouse data do we have?
 - Leks! Population size at these leks!
- Hens nest within 4mi

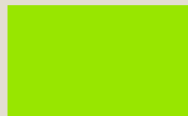


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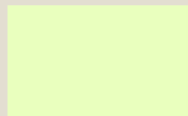
- Step 2: Identify most productive “core” sage-grouse populations



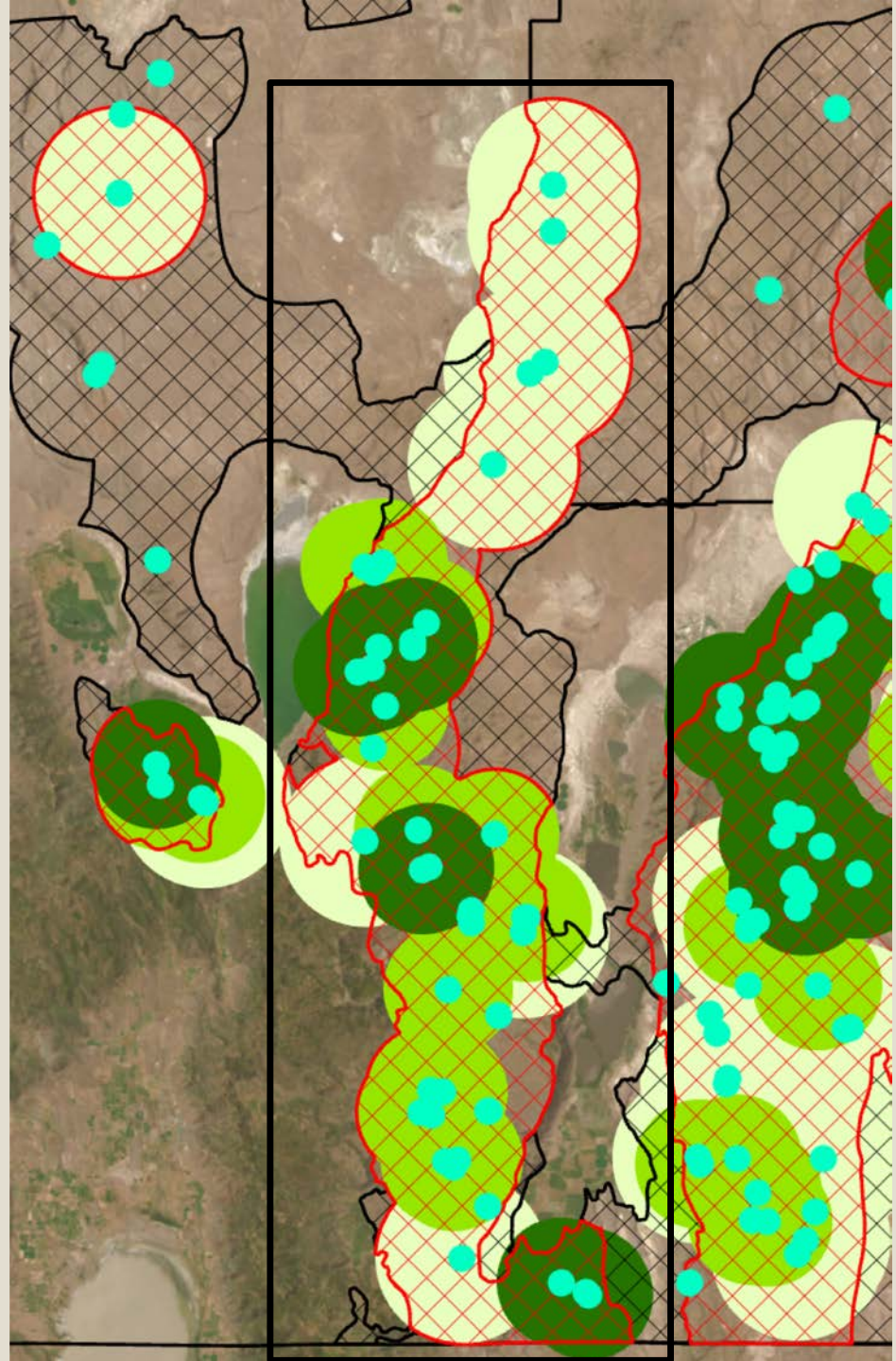
Top 25% lek density



Top 50% lek density



Top 75% lek density

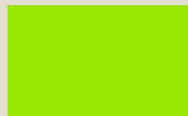


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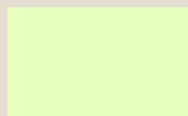
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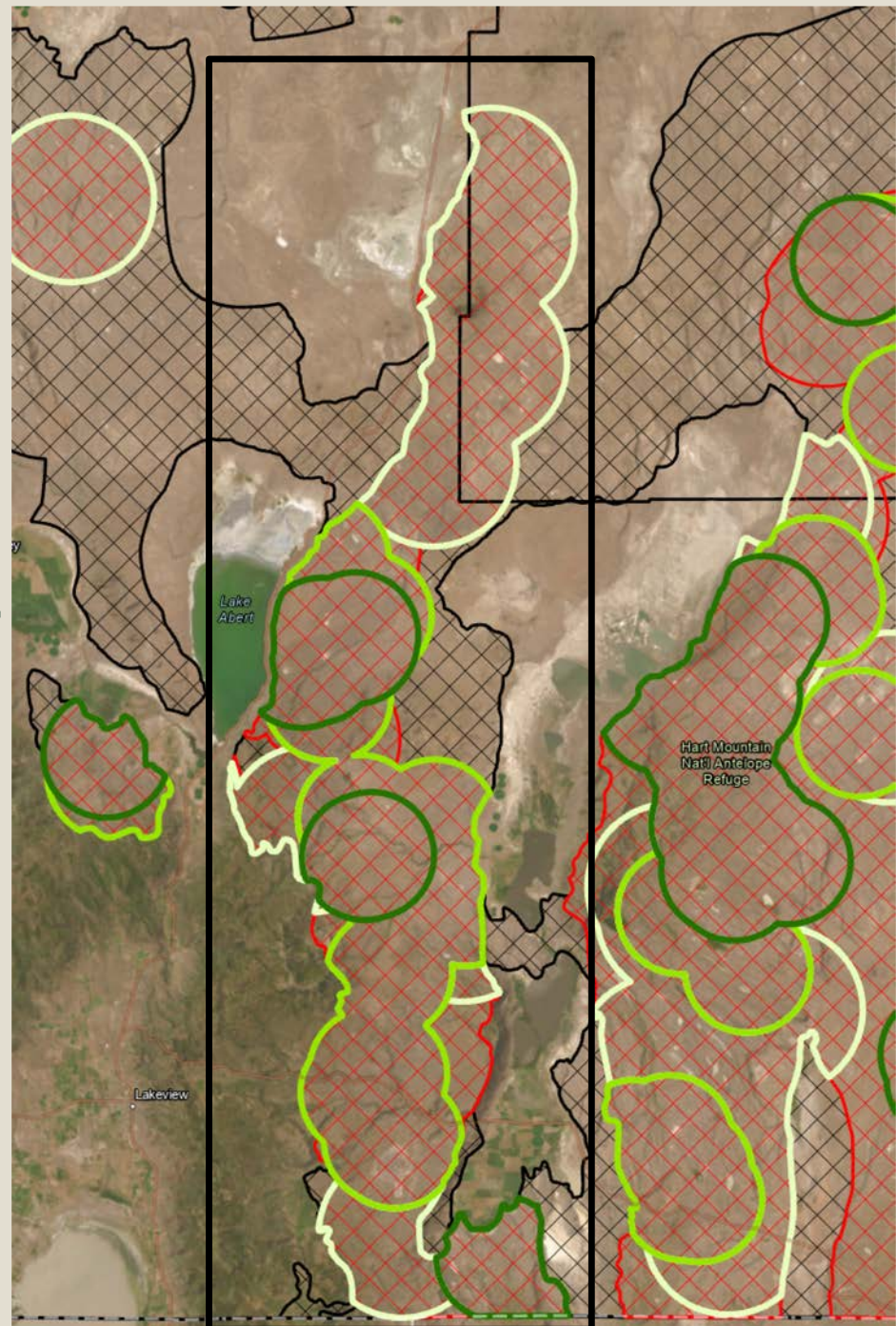
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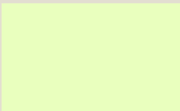


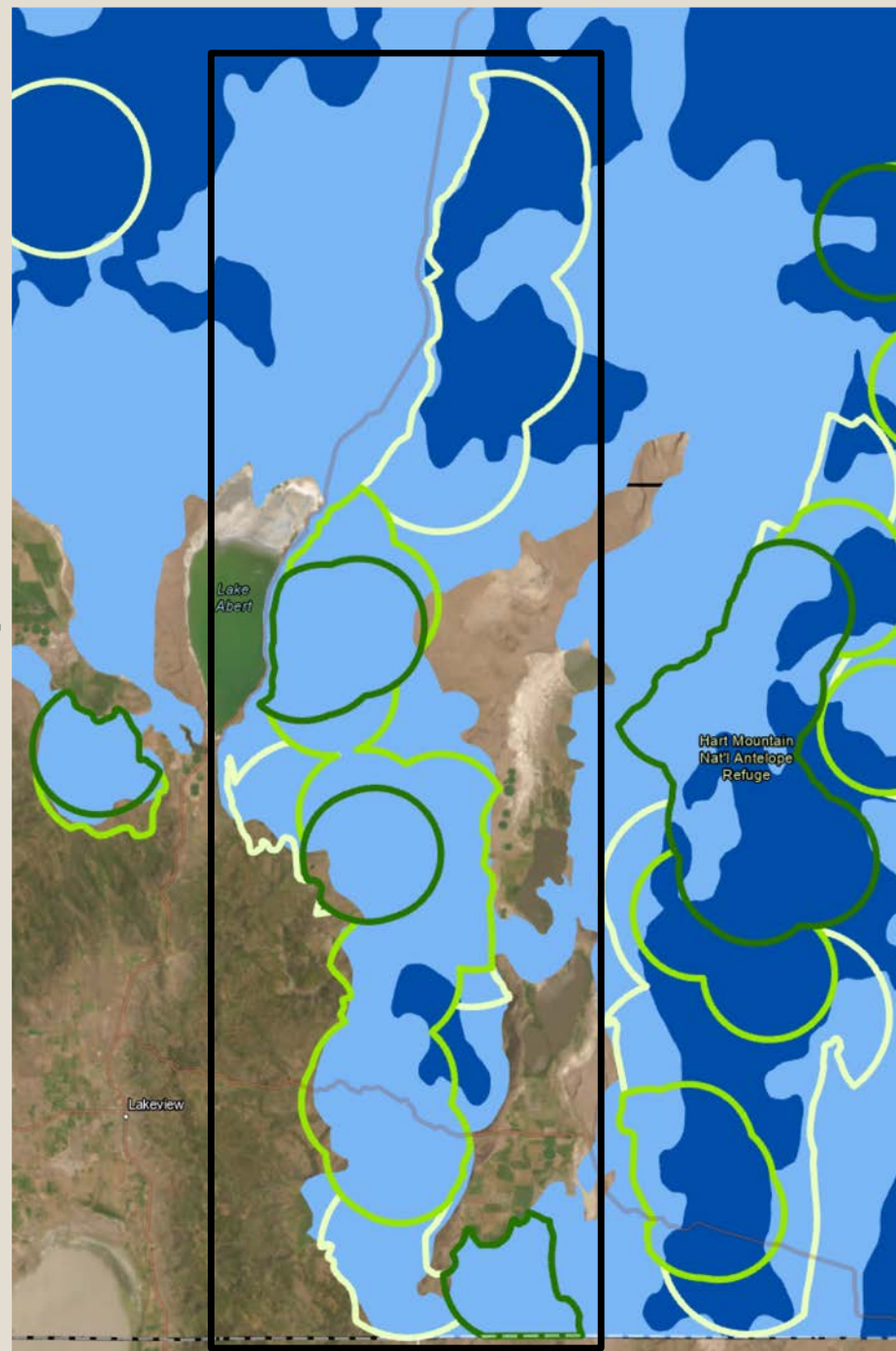
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- Step 2: Identify most productive “core” sage-grouse populations

 Top 25% = **Tier 1**



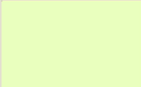
 Top 50% = **Tier 2**

 Top 75% = **Tier 3**








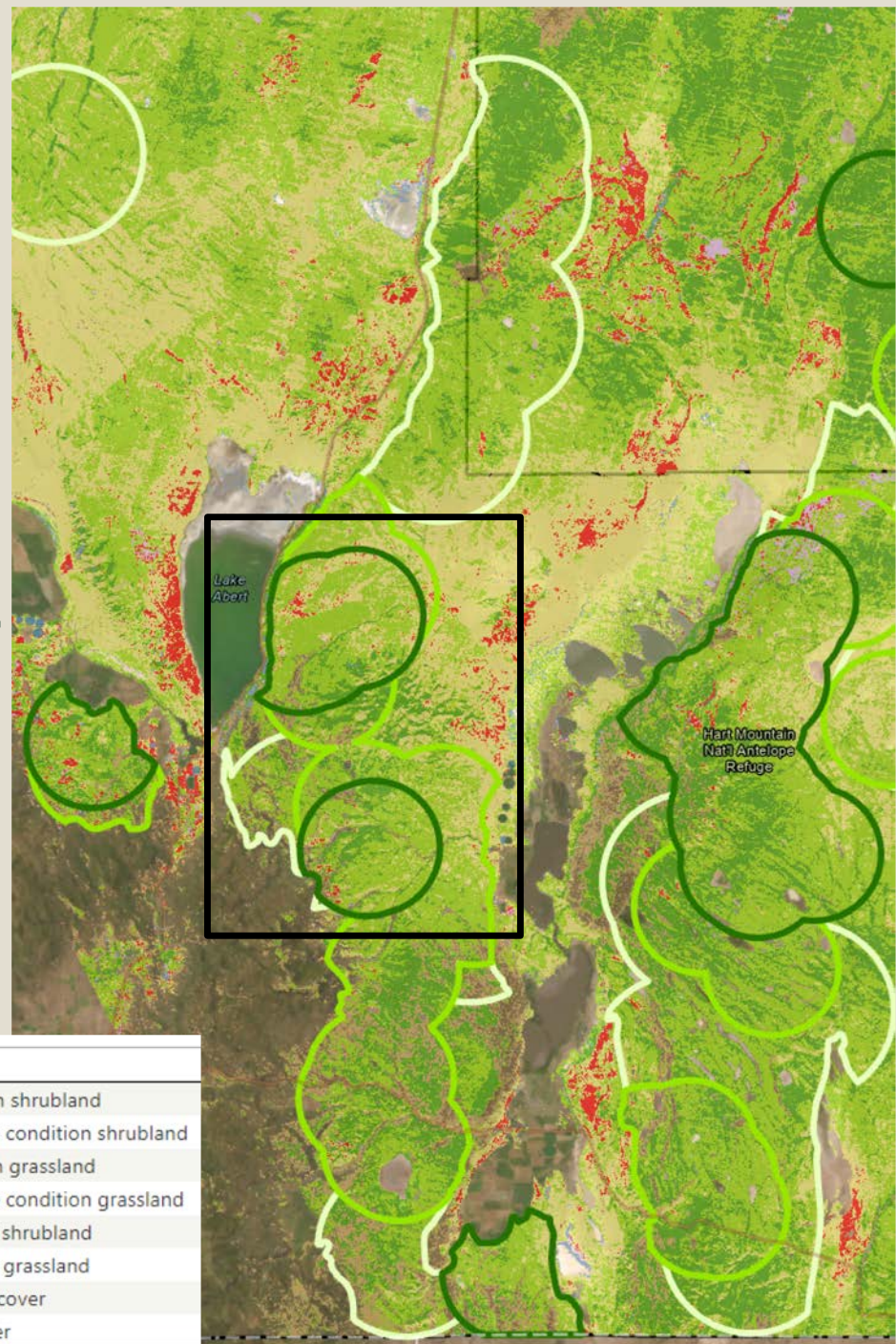
Developing a framework for prioritized conservation of sage-grouse habitat in Oregon

- Step 3: Zoom in!

-  Top 25% = **Tier 1**
-  Top 50% = **Tier 2**
-  Top 75% = **Tier 3**



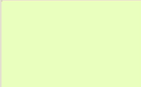
Ecostates
2020–2022

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	A-C: Intermediate condition shrubland
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	Juniper: low-mid cover
	Juniper: high cover











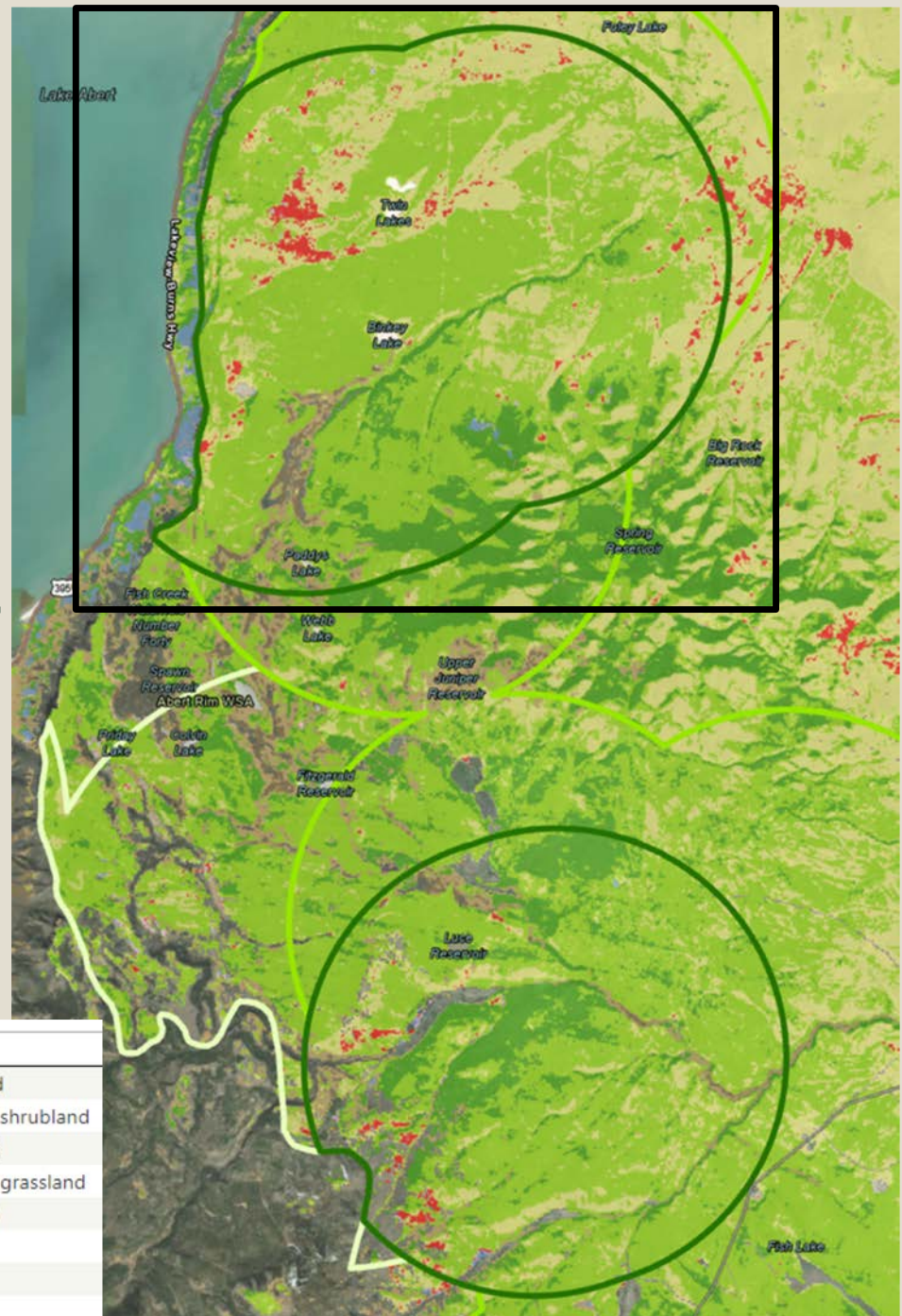
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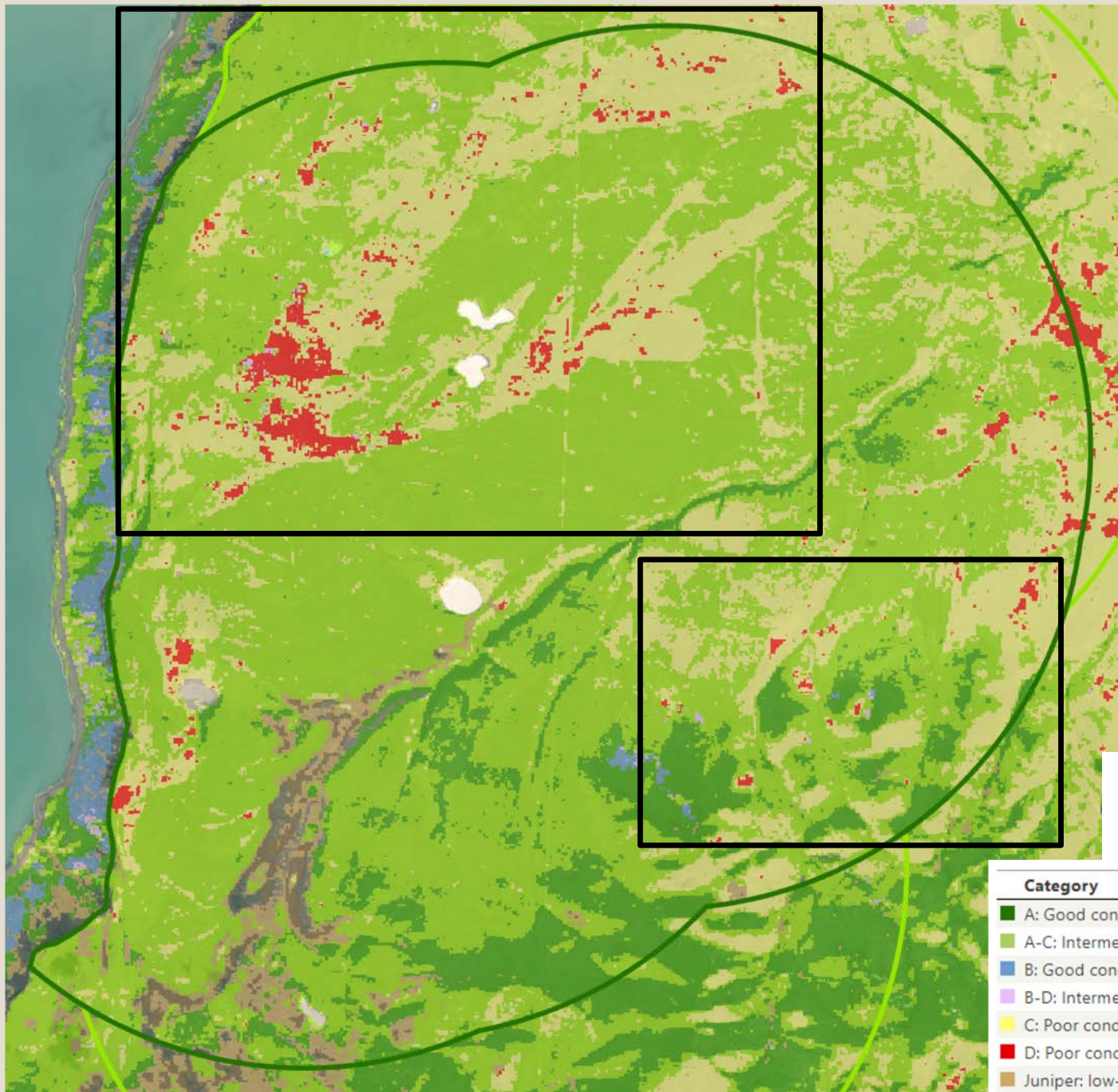
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Ecostates 2020–2022

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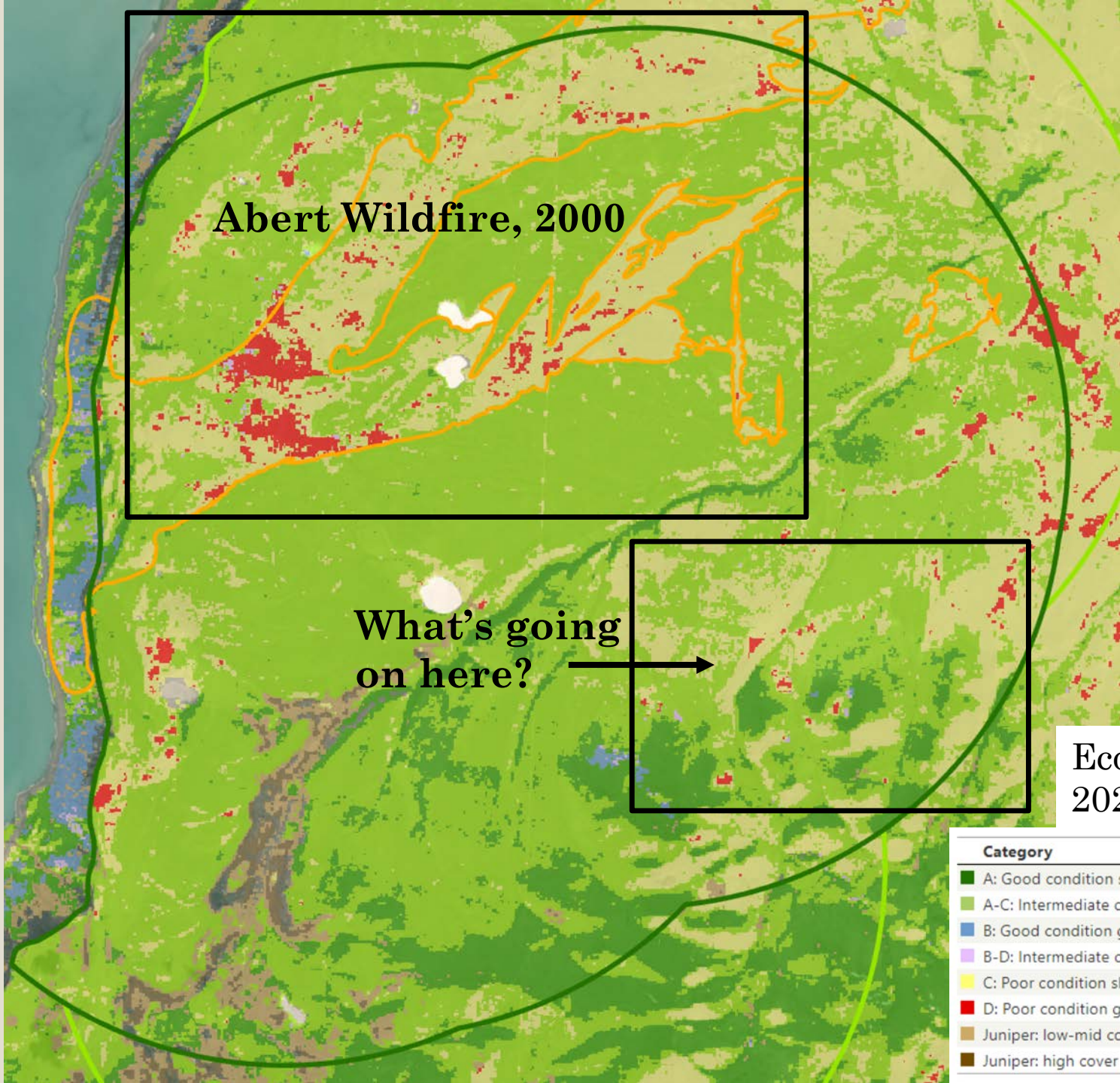
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Abert Wildfire, 2000

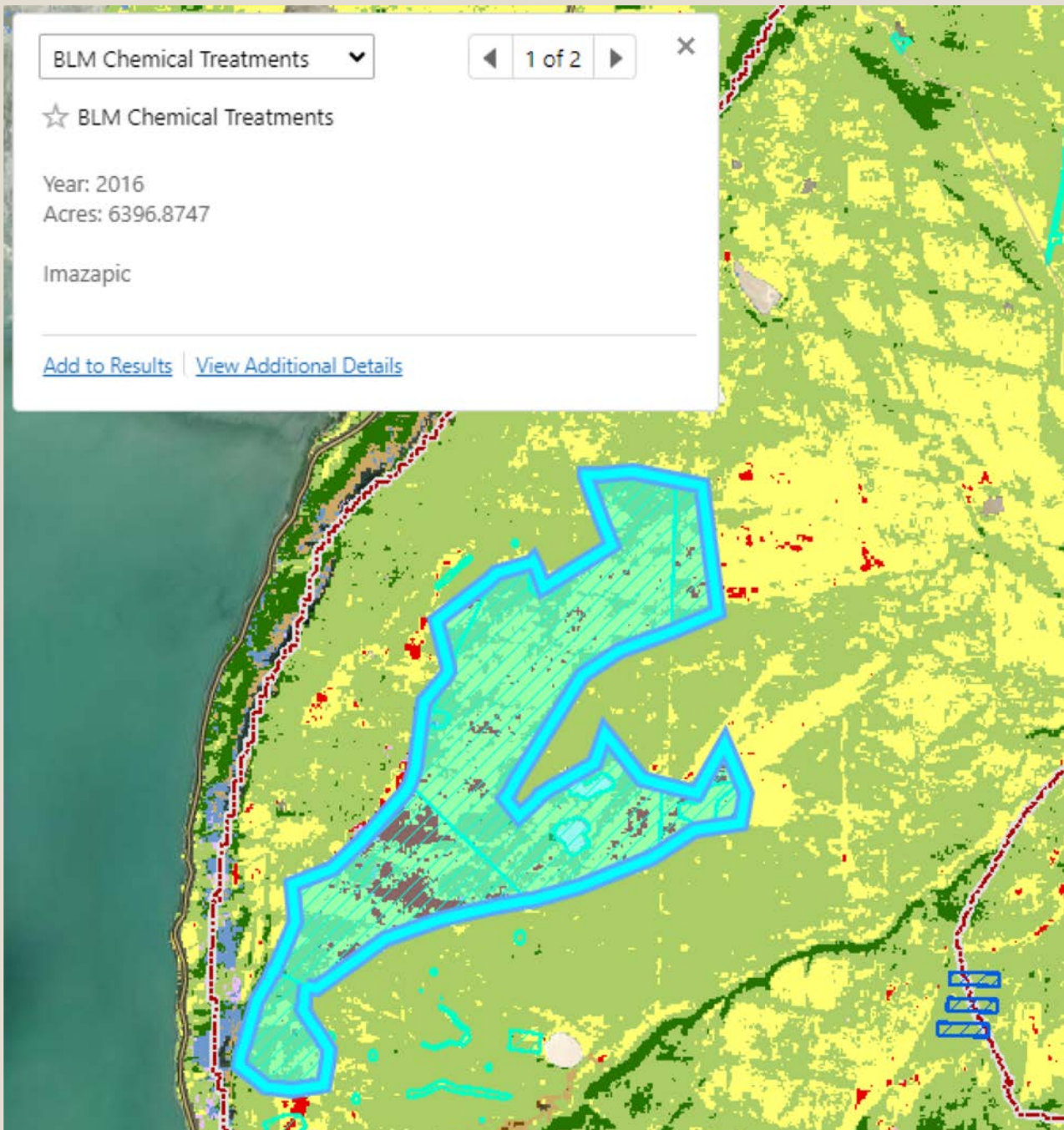
What's going on here? →

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Burned area
was treated
with Imazapic
2016 & 2019



The image is a map of a landscape, likely a forest or park area, showing the extent of the Abert Wildfire in 2000. The wildfire boundary is marked with a thick orange line. A large green circle outlines a specific study area. Within this area, a black rectangle highlights a region where land ownership is BLM. To the right of this rectangle, the text 'DSL' is visible. Below the BLM area, there is a text box with a question and an arrow pointing to the right.

Abert Wildfire, 2000

Land ownership = BLM

DSL

Action: Site visit

Is the ecostate model accurate?

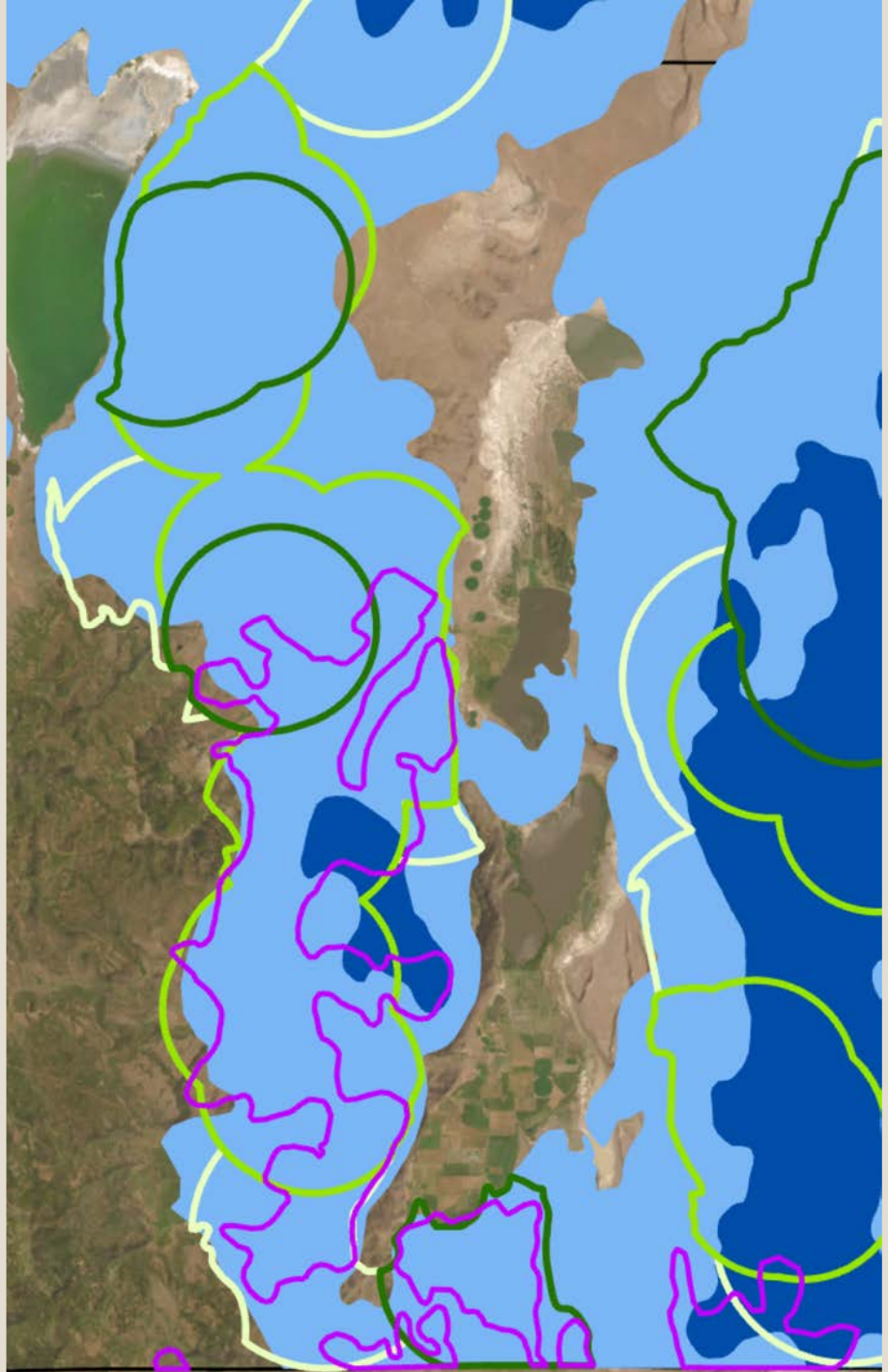
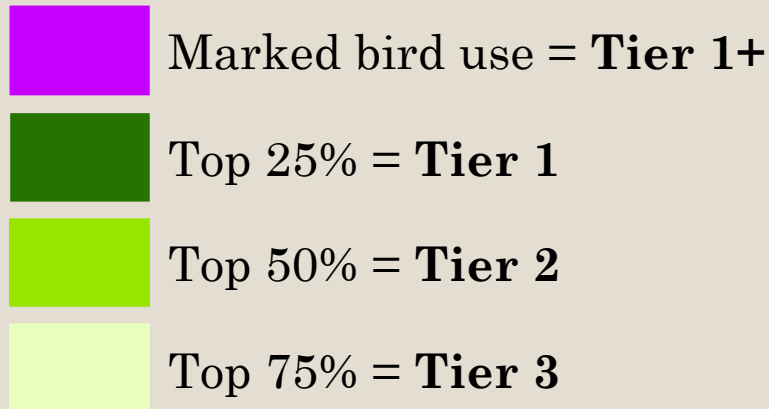
Could the habitat benefit from another IAG treatment?

What's going on here?




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- Bonus step: GPS Data!




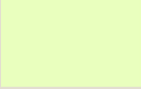
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 Marked bird use = **Tier 1+**

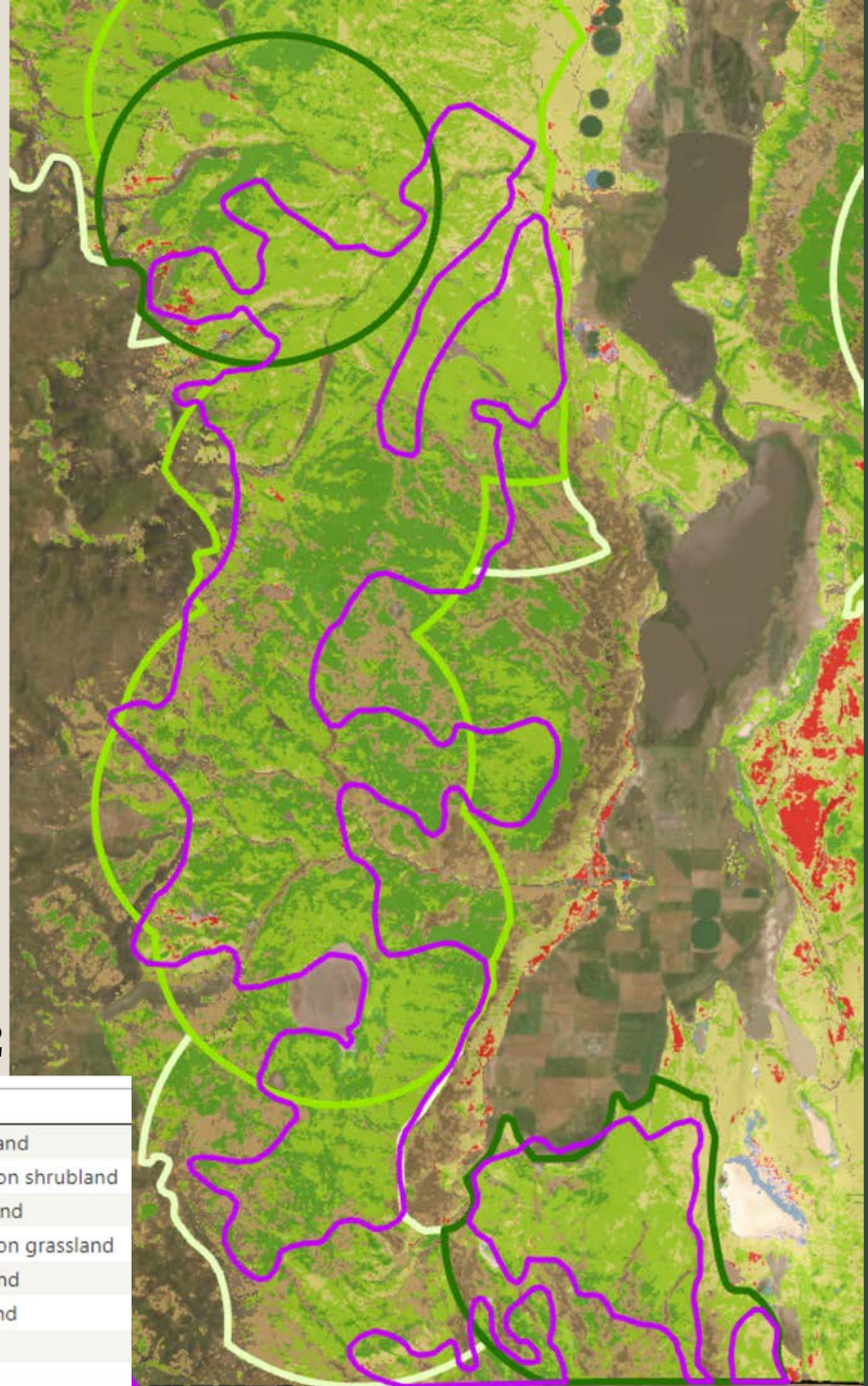
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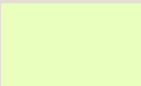
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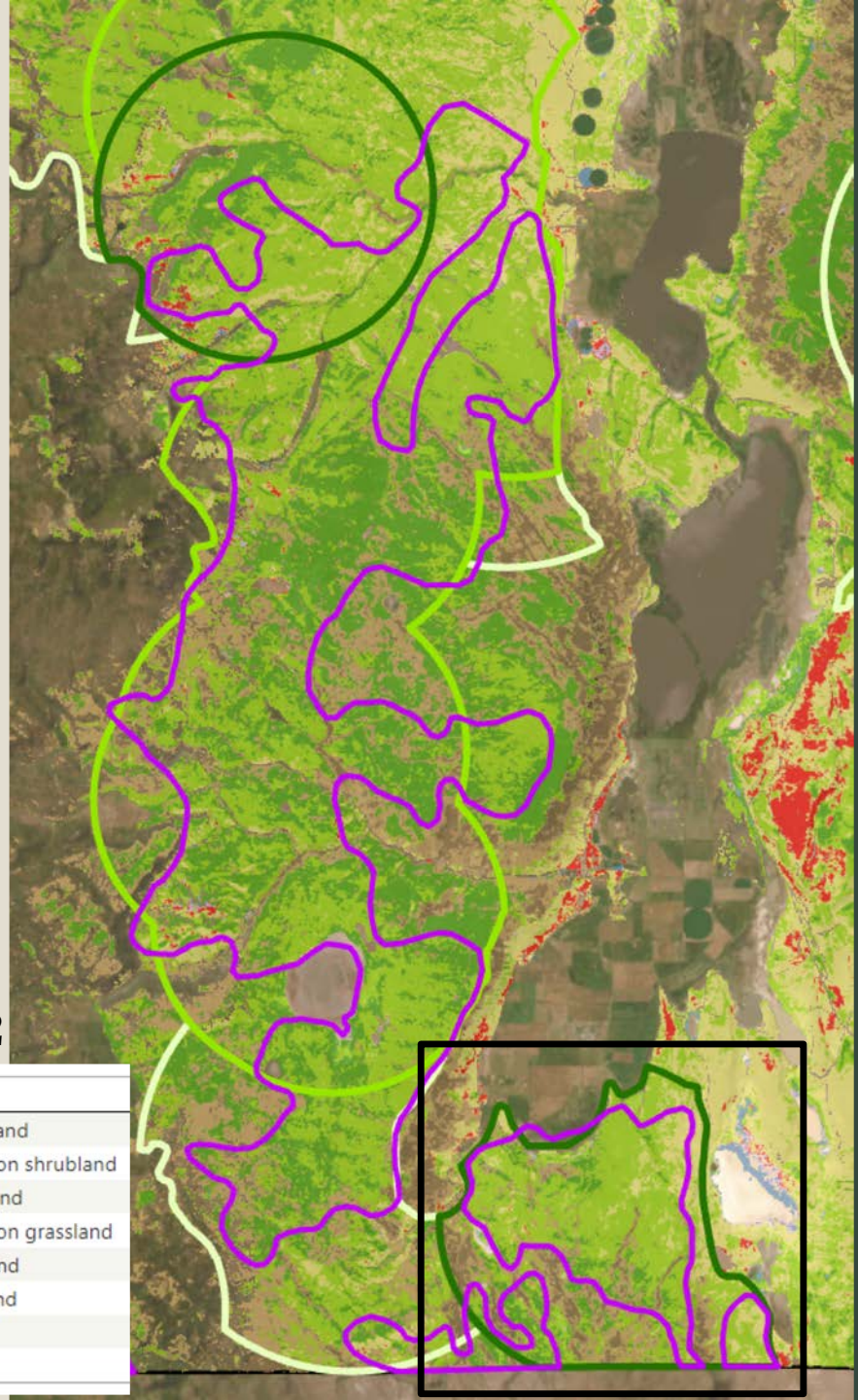
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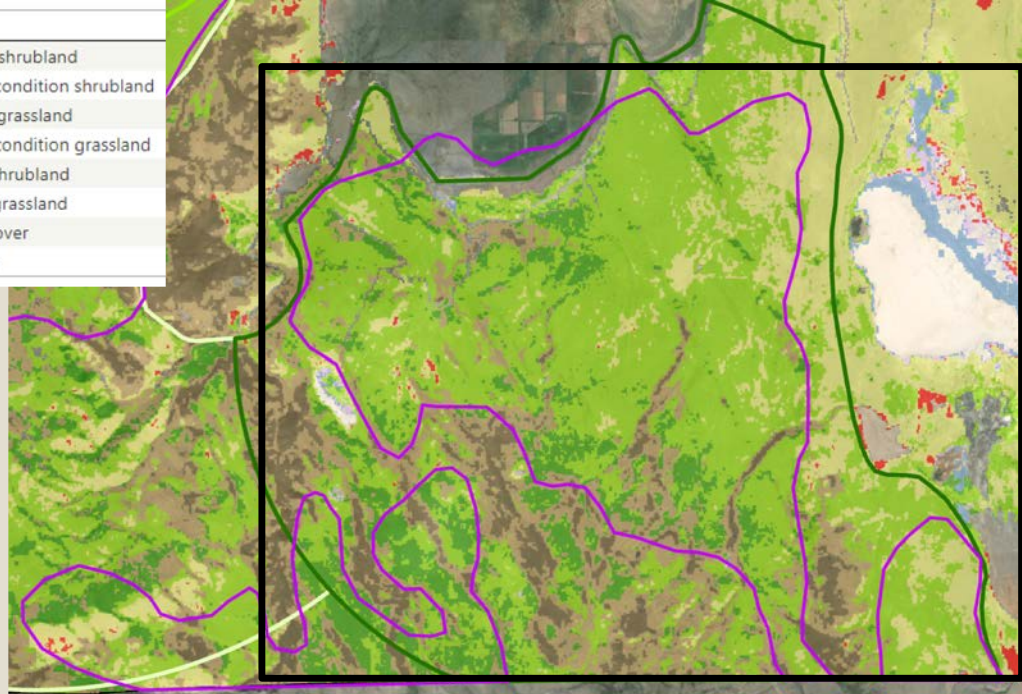
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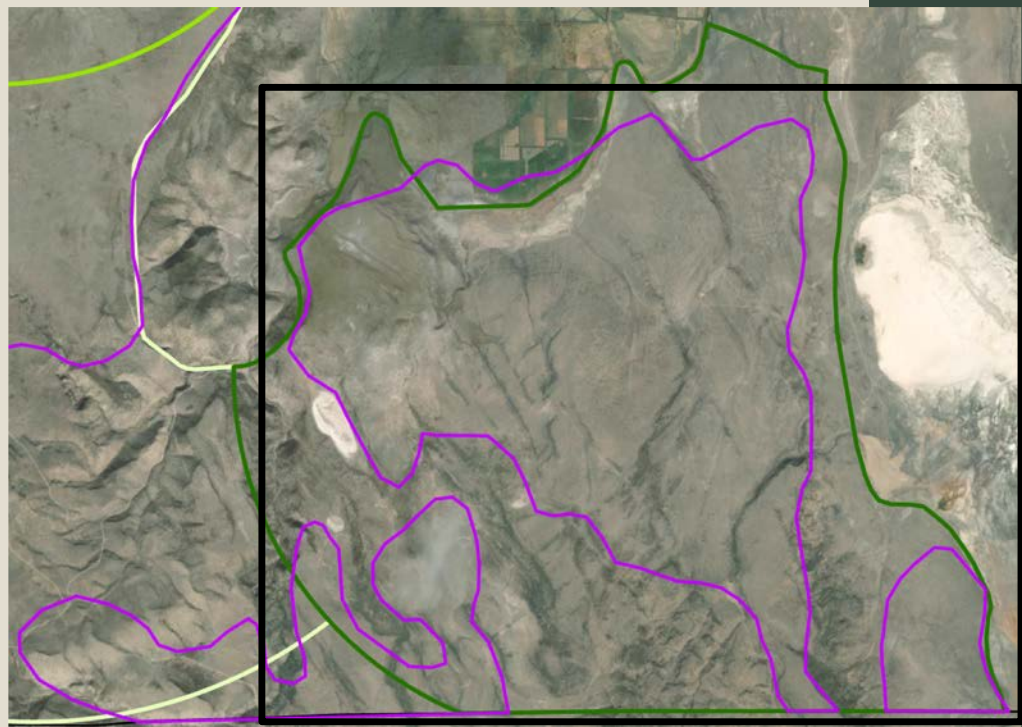
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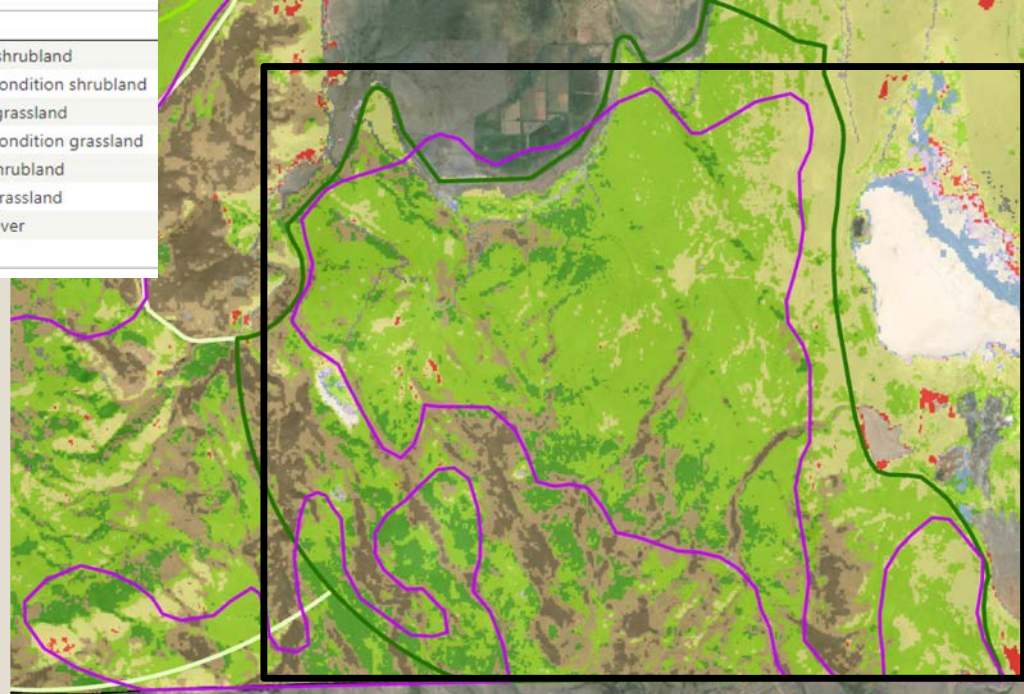
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■	Top 25% = Tier 1
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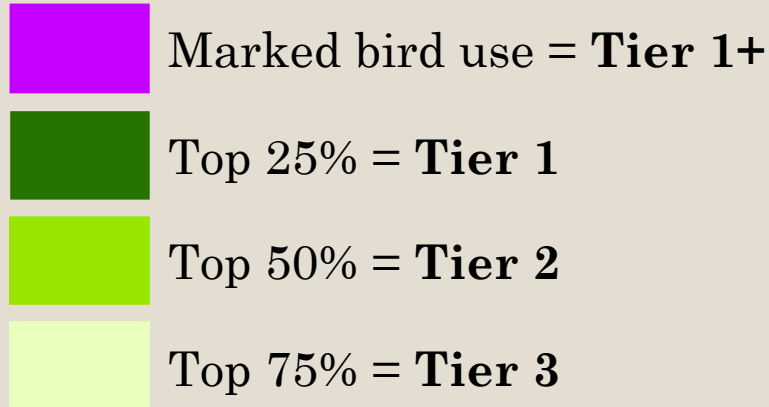


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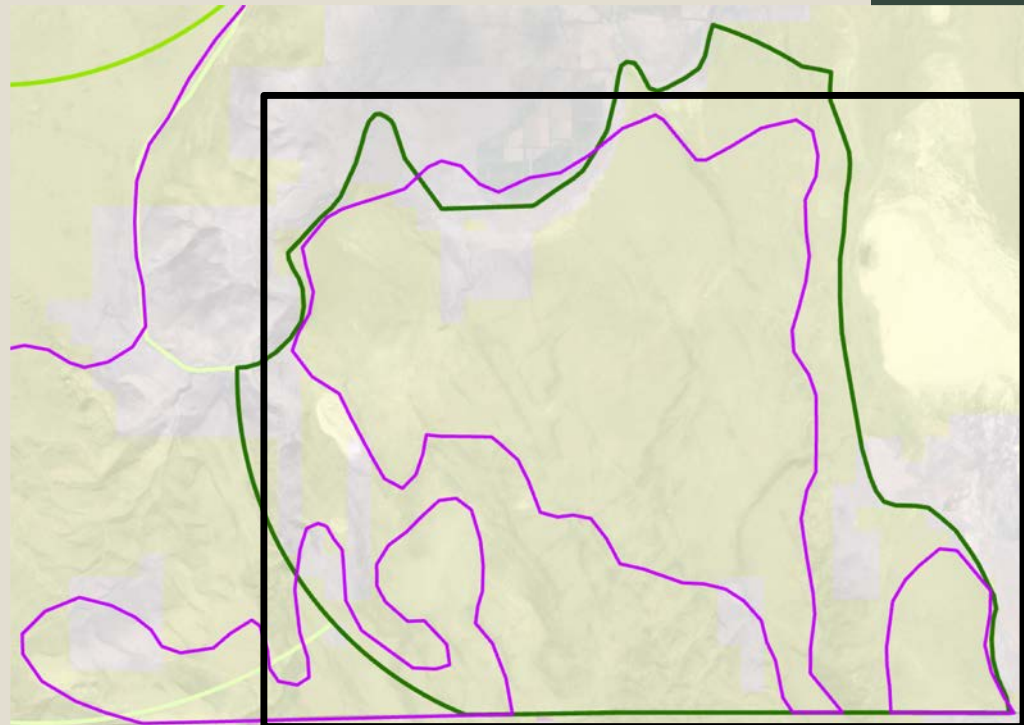
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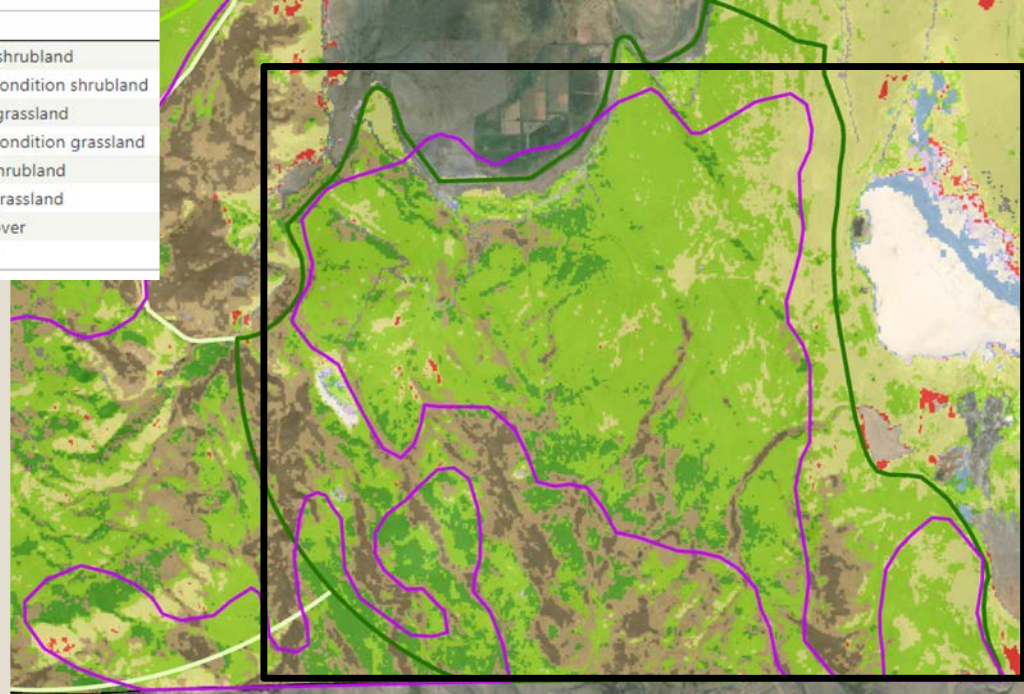


Land ownership = BLM & private



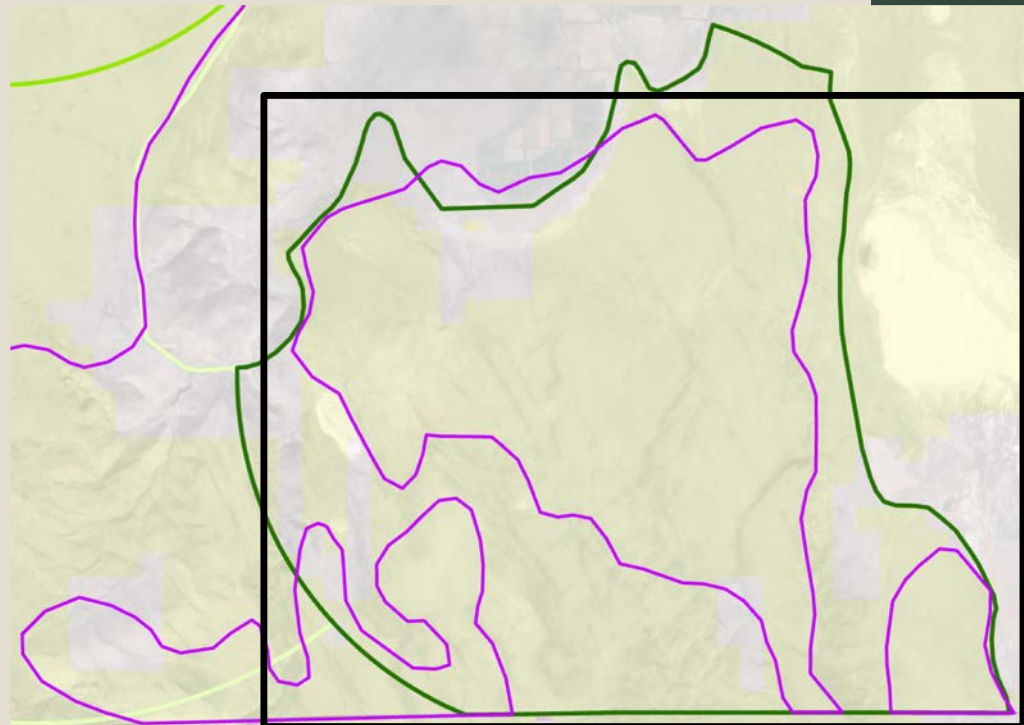
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- Could the habitat benefit from juniper removal?
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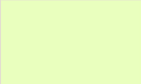
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 Marked bird use = **Tier 1+**

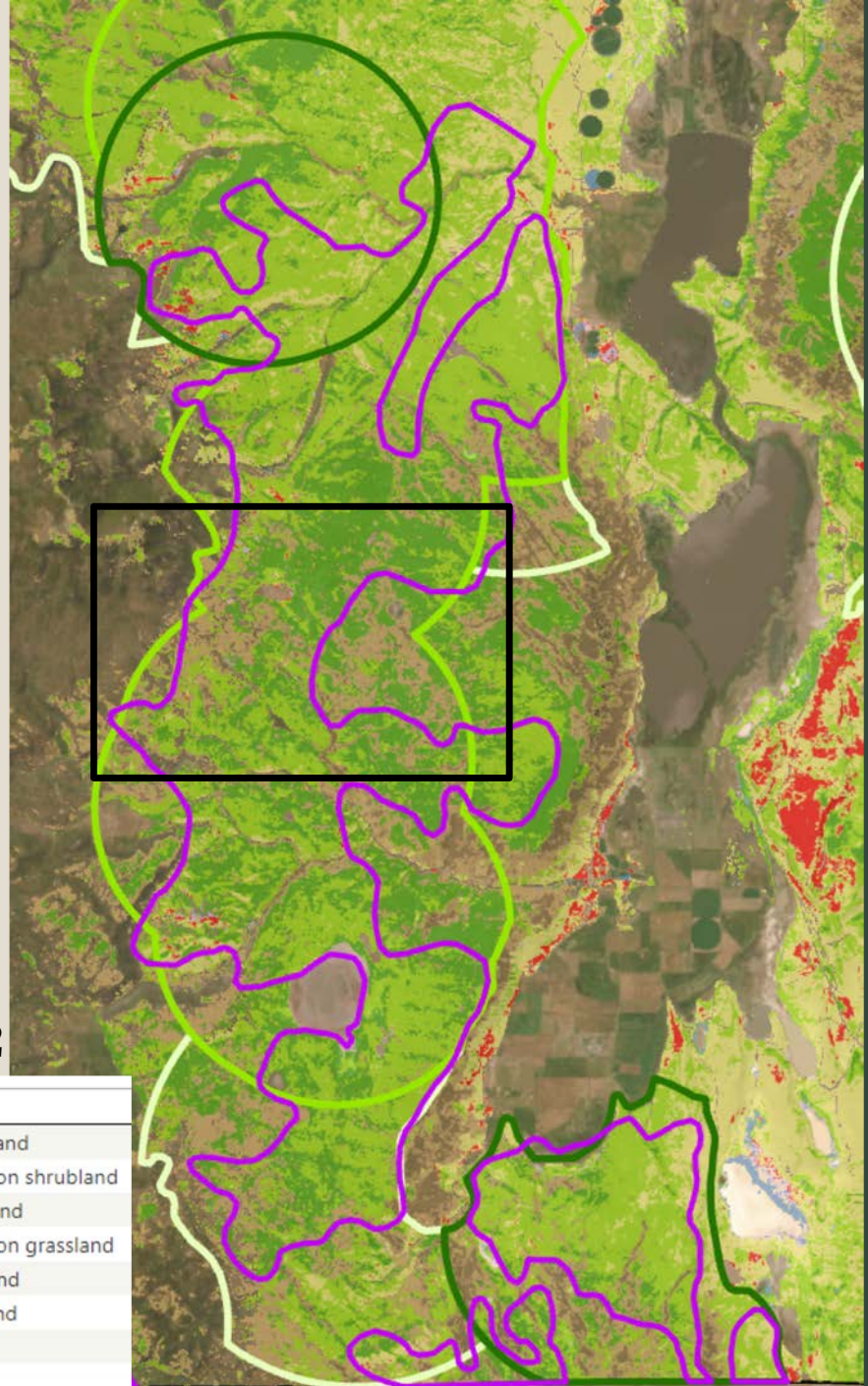
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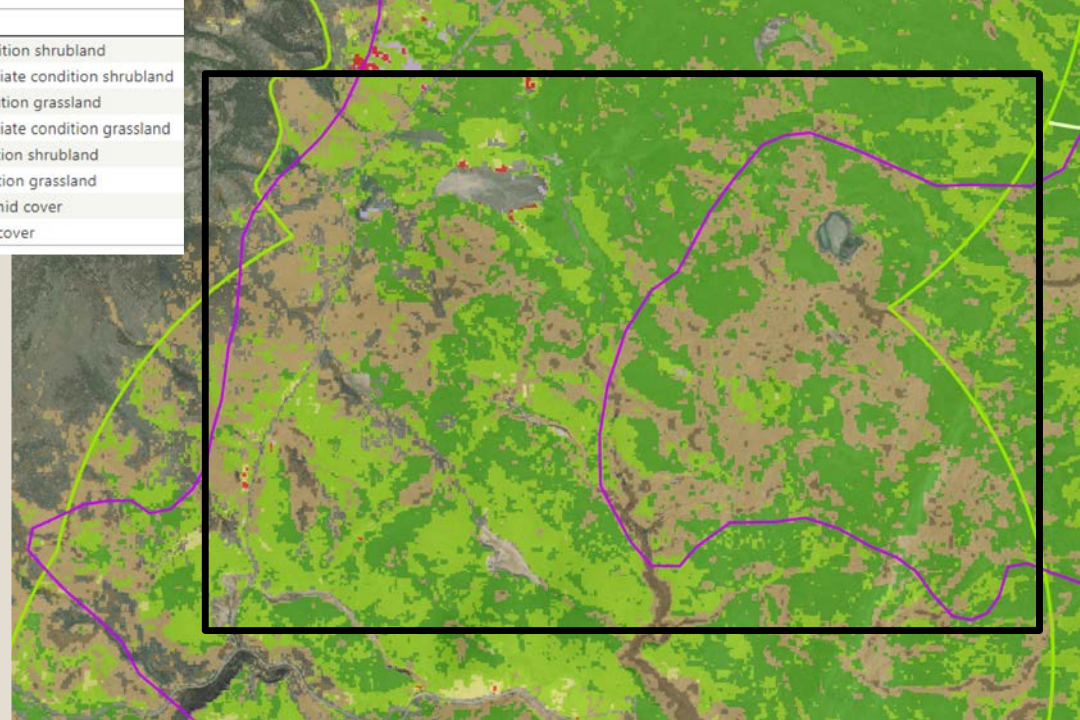
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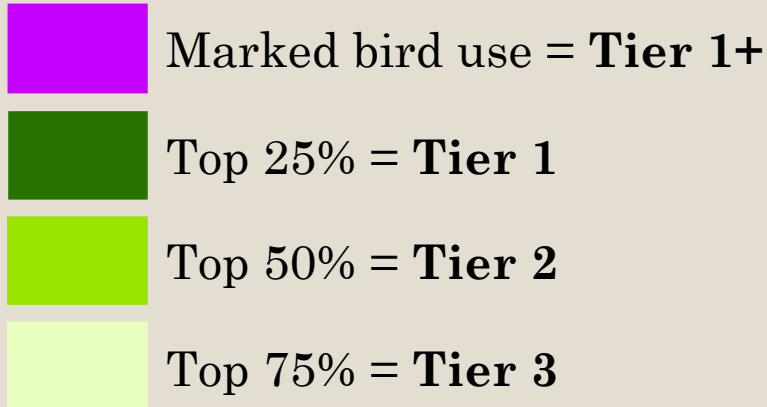


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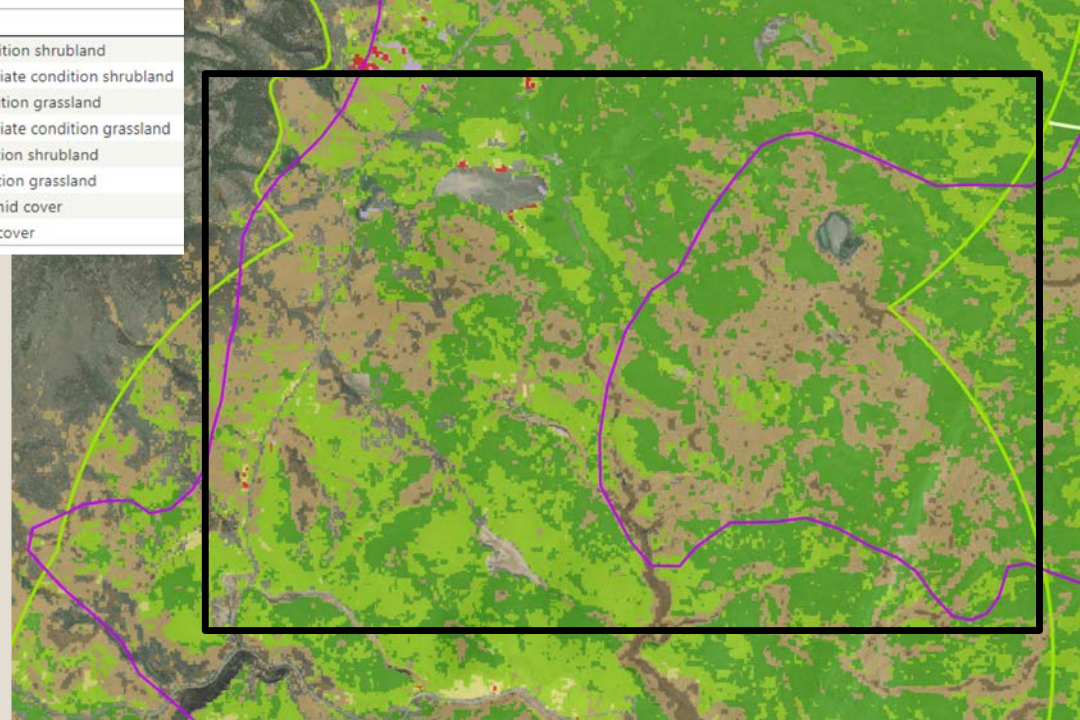


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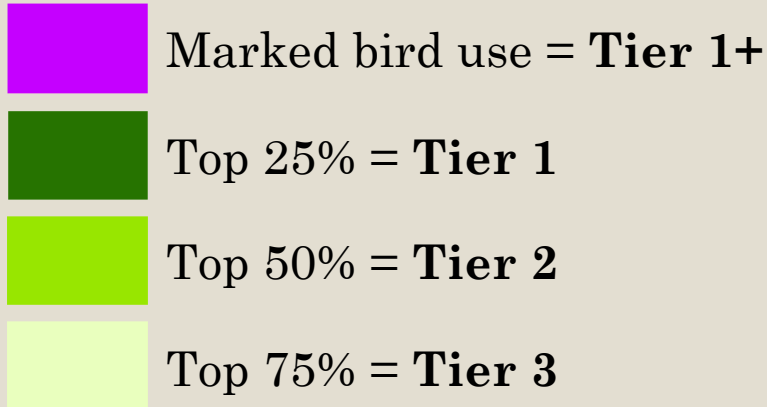


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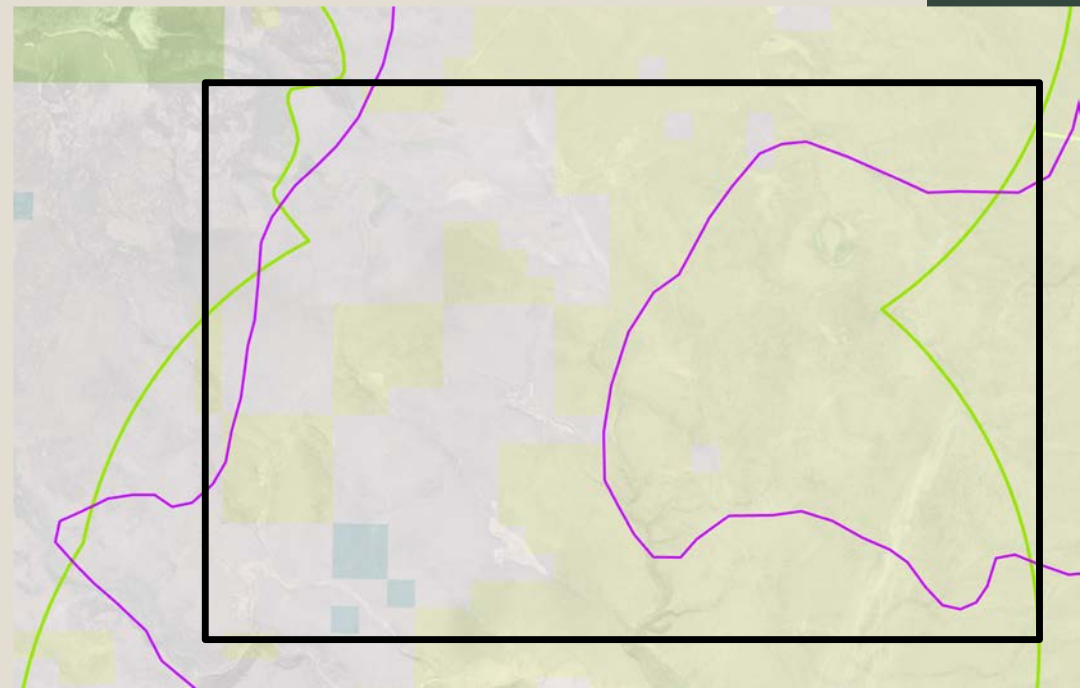
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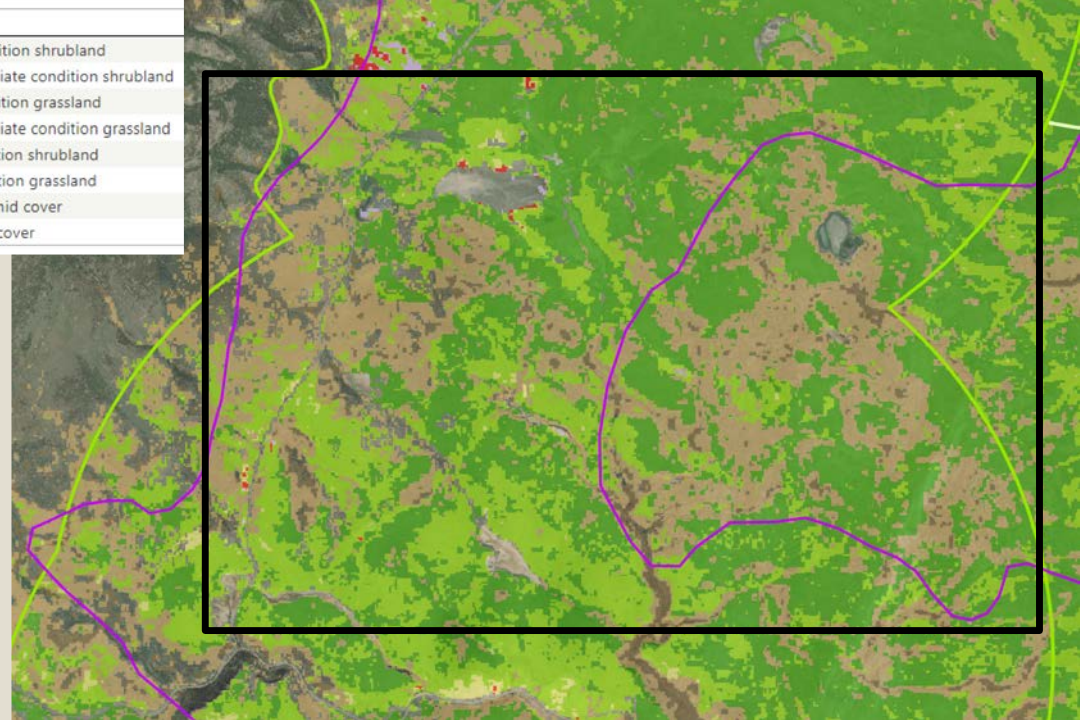


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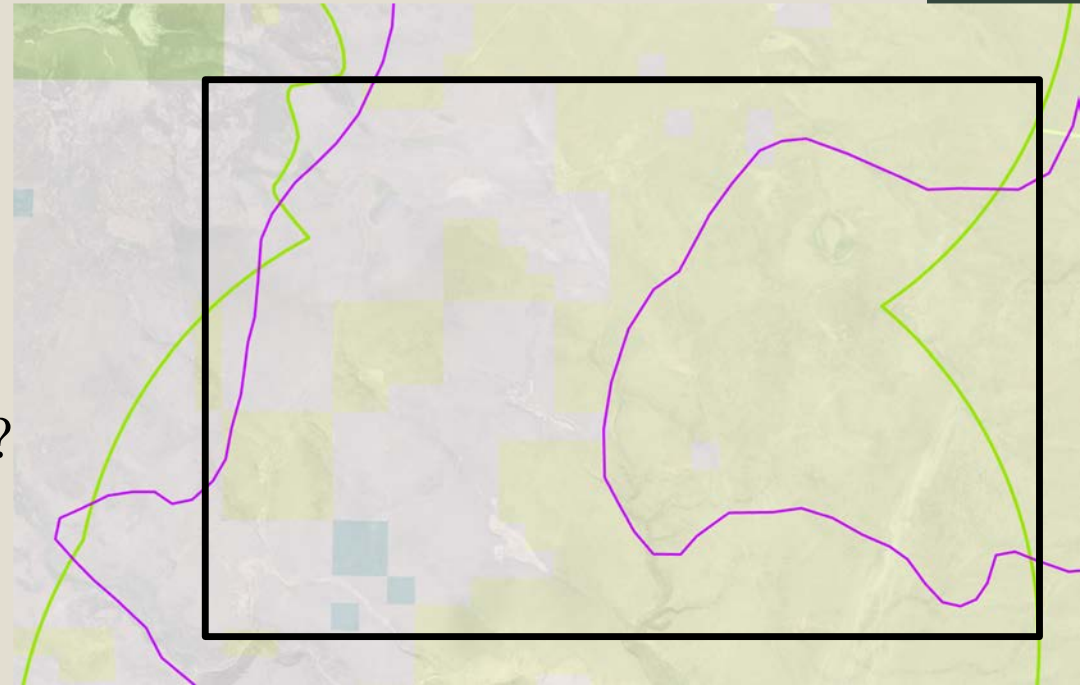
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Should we put these data to work?

- Should we pursue this approach?
 - as a state-level product defined in the CAAS?
 - or, as an LIT-level product?
- What are the benefits to this approach?
- Would this be redundant with any current approaches?
- Are there any unforeseen implications?
- How do we ensure flexibility is kept at the local level?
- Is this something we would/should update annually?
- How do we incorporate important summer and winter habitats?

Questions?



Thank you!

Skyler.T.Vold@odfw.Oregon.gov

