



Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Bank

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Conservation Banking

“A conservation bank is a parcel of land containing natural resource values that are conserved and managed in perpetuity, through a conservation easement...and used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same resource values on non-bank lands.”

Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Conservation Banks, USFWS (2003)

Conservation Banking Policy

- **Conservation banking assists both Section 7 and Section 10 of ESA**
 - **Section 7(a)(1) of ESA:**
 - All Federal agencies....in consultation and with the assistance of FWS to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of ESA by carrying out programs for the conservation of [listed species].
 - **Section 7(a)(2) of ESA:**
 - Requires each Federal agency to consult with FWS regarding affects of their actions to insure that the continued existence of listed species will not be jeopardized and that designated critical habitat will not be destroyed...
 - **Section 10(a)(1)(B) of ESA:**
 - Authorizes FWS to issue non-Federal entities a permit for the incidental take of endangered and threatened species.
 - A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) must accompany the application to ensure that the effects of the permitted action are adequately minimized and mitigated and that the action does not reduce the survival and recovery of the species.
 - Mitigation may take the form of purchasing credits from an approved conservation bank.

How a Conservation Bank fits into the mitigation process

Avoid - not taking the action or parts of the action (onsite)

Minimize - limiting degree or magnitude of the action (onsite)

Rectify - repairing, rehabilitating, restoring (onsite and/or offsite)

Reduce / eliminate – done over time by preservation and maintenance operations during life of the project (onsite and/or offsite)

Compensate - replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (offsite)

Sweetwater River Conservancy

- First landscape scale conservation bank in Wyoming
- Privately managed and funded project sited on nearly 720,000 acres (900 square miles) of pristine wild lands
- Diverse in history, cultural resources, wildlife species and habitats
- Provides groundbreaking solutions to balance environmental impacts of energy development

Three Ground Breaking ideas

- Today, these historic lands offer a platform to realize three ground-breaking ideas:
 1. Bring willing landowners and investors together to expand the protection of Wyoming's iconic wildlife.
 2. Help Wyoming capitalize on its abundant energy resources.
 3. Demonstrate how keeping intact landscape size parcels of private land is good for business and conservation.

Sweetwater River Conservancy



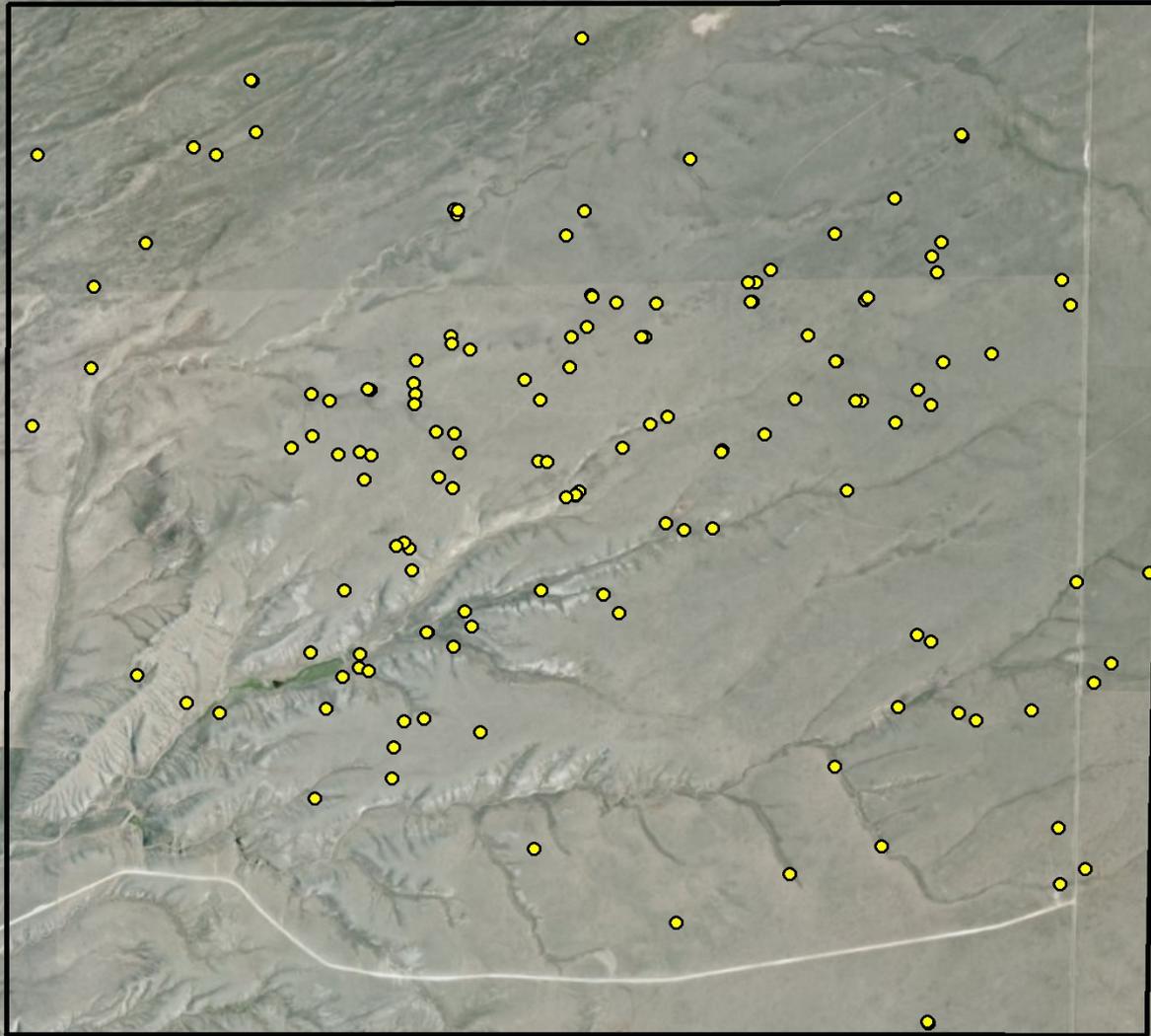
 Sweetwater River Conservancy

0 12.5 25 50 Miles


November 2013

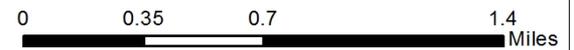
SRC's Sage-Grouse Bank

- (1) Functional Habitat Credits were calculated for all 4 seasonal sage-grouse habitats on SRC lands (lekking, nesting, brood rearing, and winter) SRC lands.
- (2) Sales of habitat credits will be reviewed and approved through regulatory review process conducted by FWS and a Conservation Bank Review Team consisting of personnel from WGFD, BLM, FWS, WSLI, NRCS, and Wyoming DEQ.
- (3) When credits are sold, SRC lands will be placed into perpetual conservation easements. The easements will be held and monitored by the Wyoming Stockgrowers Land Trust.
- (4) Funds resulting from habitat credit sales will be used to generate a \$5 million perpetual management fund.
- (5) SRC will work with state and federal land managers to manage sage grouse habitat on adjoining public lands.
- (6) Grazing will be conducted consistent with the NRCS framework used in CCAAs and stipulations outlined in federal grazing permits.



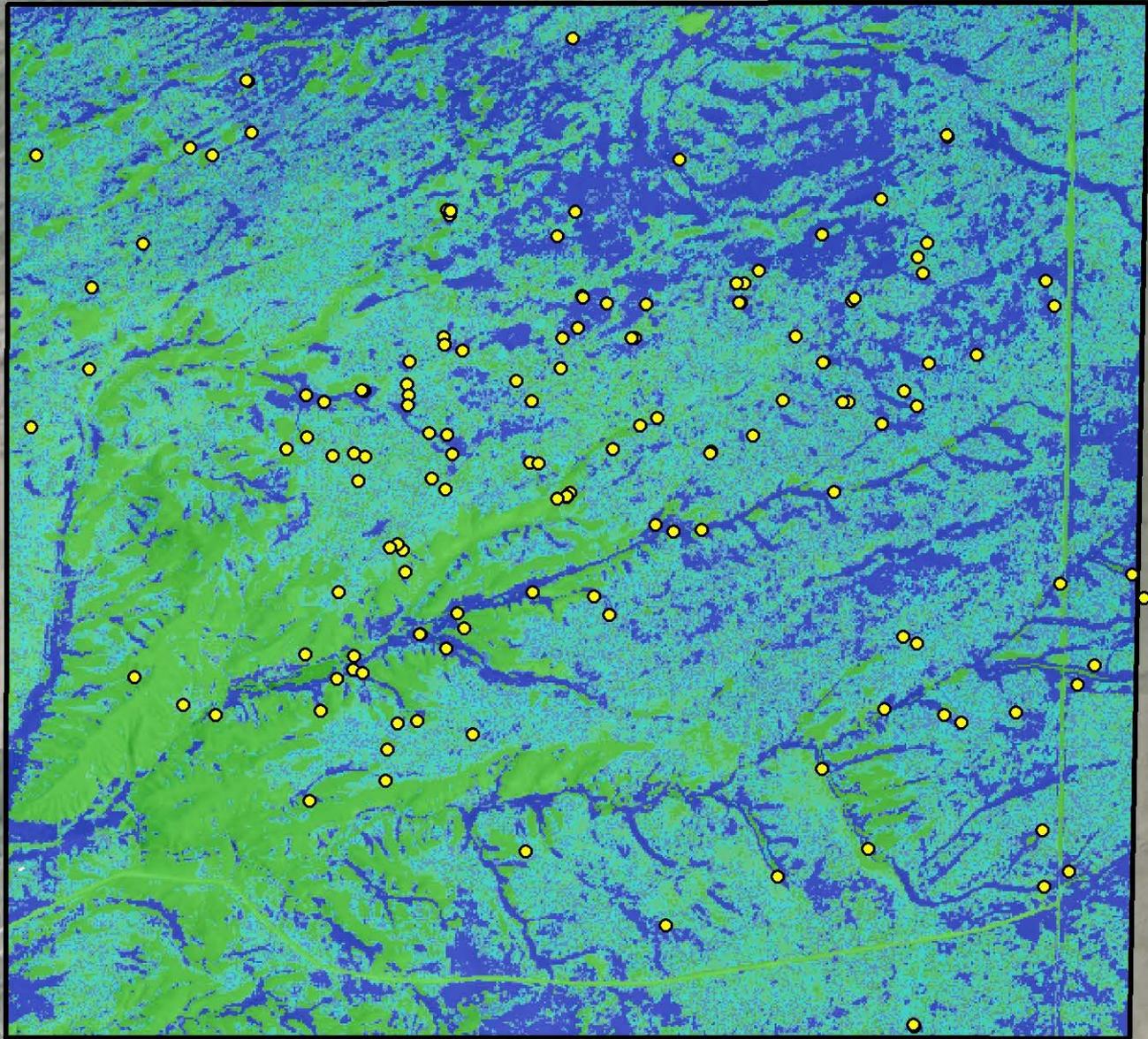
 Test Area  Subset of Sage-Grouse Locations

Sweetwater River Conservancy Habitat Conservation Bank



Data Source: USA Topo Maps
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Author: C. LeBeau Date: 08/07/2014





Habitat Conservation Credit

- Low
- Medium - Low

- Medium
- Medium - High
- High

- Test Area
- Subset of Sage-Grouse Locations

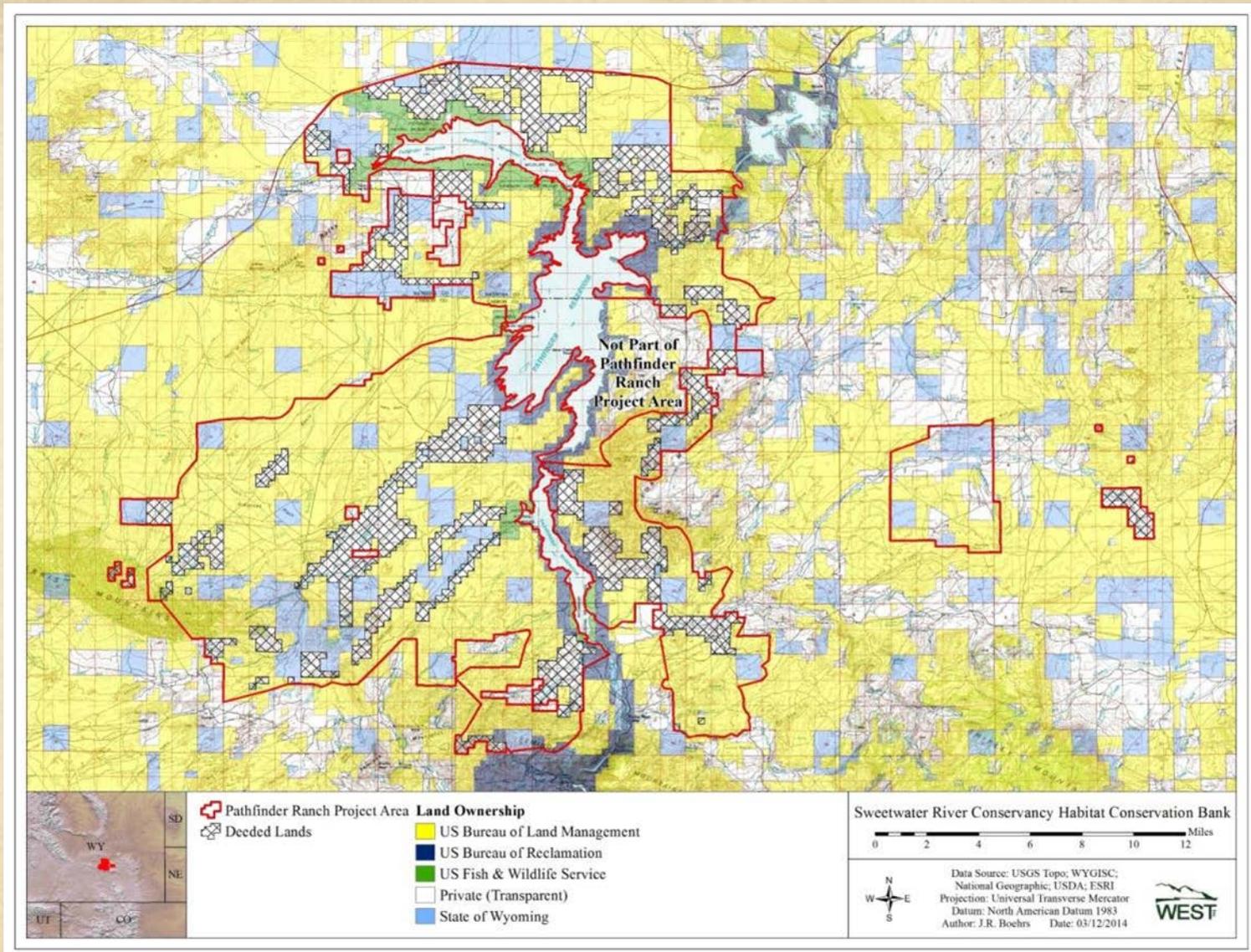
Sweetwater River Conservancy Habitat Conservation I



Data Source: USA Topo Maps
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator



Sweetwater River Conservancy



Benefits to Industry

- Expedited permitting through federal and state permitting process
- Acquisition of credits transfers environmental liability from developer to the approved Bank
- Decreased timing and seasonal restrictions on development activities
- New geographic areas may open for exploration and development of projects
- Financial and cost assurance in permitting schedules
- Strong environmental and community support

Benefits to Wyoming and Citizens

Neighboring Ranchers

- New sources of revenue through land management for both cattle production and wildlife enhancement

Sportsmen

- Continued access to Pathfinder lands with improved wildlife populations of both game and fish

Conservationists

- SRC's unique approach supports habitat conservation across large, landscape scale ecosystems, and protects land in perpetuity

Regulators

- Creates a new, credible tool enabling regulators the ability to protect species and promote multiple use of public lands

Business

- Investment in SRC does not rely on federal tax credits or appropriations to succeed.



Questions?