

Montana's Greater Sage- Grouse

2022 Grant Cycle Proposed Projects



MONTANA SAGE GROUSE
Habitat Conservation Program

Debit/Credit Balances

- Began generating credits in 2016
 - Stewardship Account Grants: \$9,715,815.00
 - 15 credit projects created 1,640,554.55 credits

- Officially started calculating debits January 2019

Prior Easements - Total Award Amounts

		Easement costs	Project Costs	Total Award Amount
First Grant Cycle	44 ranch	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500,000.00
	Raths Ranch	\$425,000.00	\$0.00	\$425,000.00
	Hansen Ranch	\$952,500.00	\$0.00	\$952,500.00
	Watson Ranch	\$262,500.00	\$0.00	\$262,500.00
				\$3,140,000.00
Second Grant Cycle	Burgess Ranch/Garfield CD	\$760,623.00	\$27,050.00	\$787,673.00
	Marc Lewis Ranch	\$496,238.00	\$0.00	\$496,238.00
	Sauerbier Ranch	\$1,013,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,013,500.00
	Willow Ranch	\$242,500.00	\$0.00	\$242,500.00
				\$2,539,911.00
Third Grant Cycle	54 Ranch	\$500,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$519,000.00
	Alexander Ranch	\$386,998.00	\$28,571.00	\$415,569.00
	Bequette Ranch	\$163,326.00	\$12,440.00	\$173,766.00
	Fauth Ranch	\$1,457,045.00	\$39,058.00	\$1,496,103.00
	Jackson Ranch	\$370,871.00	\$2,795.00	\$373,666.00
	Mussard Ranch	\$500,000.00	\$27,800.00	\$527,800.00
	Peters Ranch	\$500,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$530,000.00
			\$4,035,904.00	

2022 Stewardship Account Grants
Fourth Grant Cycle
Funding Availability and Debits

- Available funds in Stewardship Account: \$4,676,295.00
- 25% of Reserve Account Funds: \$27,590.00

\$4,703,885

- Debits needing to be offset: 830,504.5
- Nine Grant Requests
- Total Requested: \$5,127,629.00


Montana's Greater Sage- Grouse 2022 Grant Cycle Proposed Projects

- Common Ground Capital
- Bruce Johnson
- Dan and Mary Johnson
- High Ridge LLC
- Brewer
- Roen
- Schultz
- Haywire
- Nowlin


Stewardship Application's Proximity to Other Applications




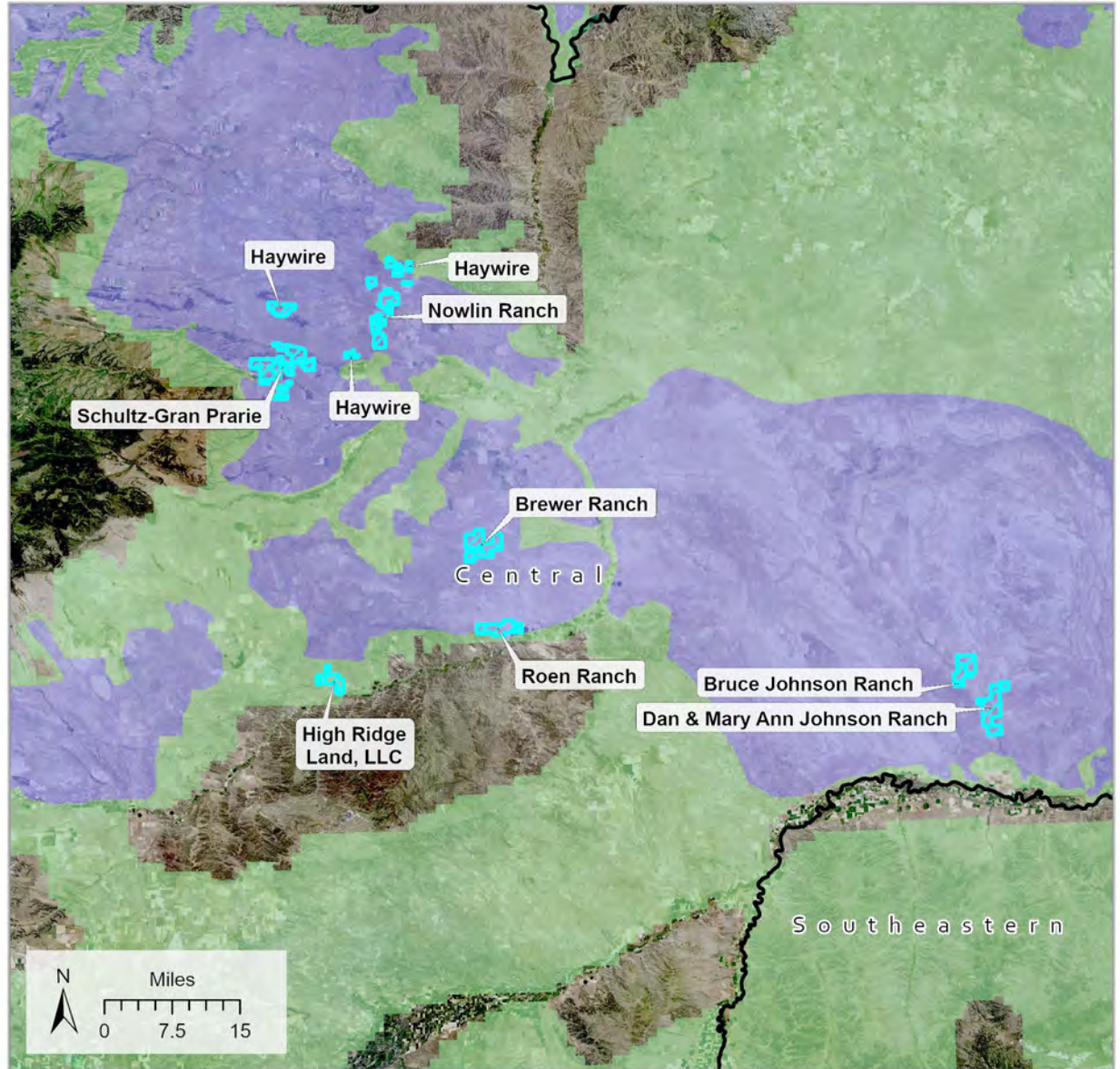
Project Information

 Stewardship Application

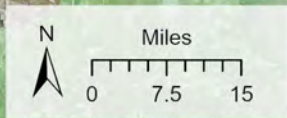
Habitat Designation

 EO-Core Area

 EO-General Habitat




Map Created: 20 September 2022
Imagery: 2021 NAIP




Stewardship Application's Proximity to Other Applications




Project Information


 Stewardship Application

Habitat Designation

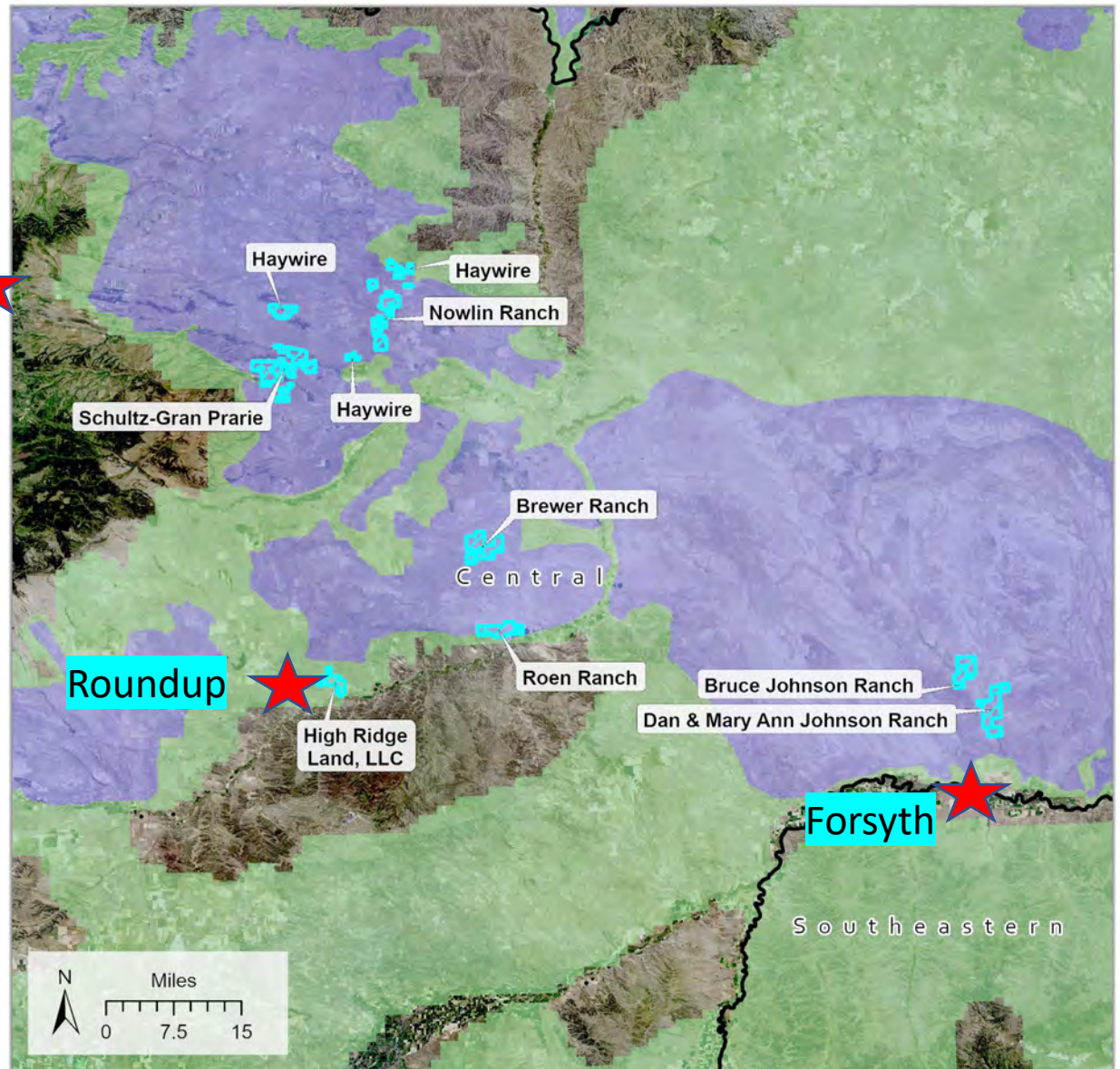
 EO-Core Area

 EO-General Habitat

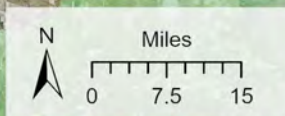
Lewistown 

Roundup 

Forsyth 



Map Created: 20 September 2022
Imagery: 2021 NAIP



Stewardship Application's Proximity to Closed Stewardship Grants



Project Information

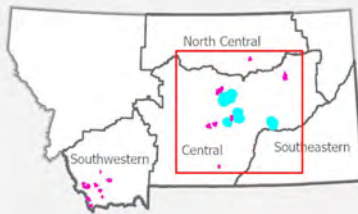
Stewardship Application

Closed Stewardship Grant

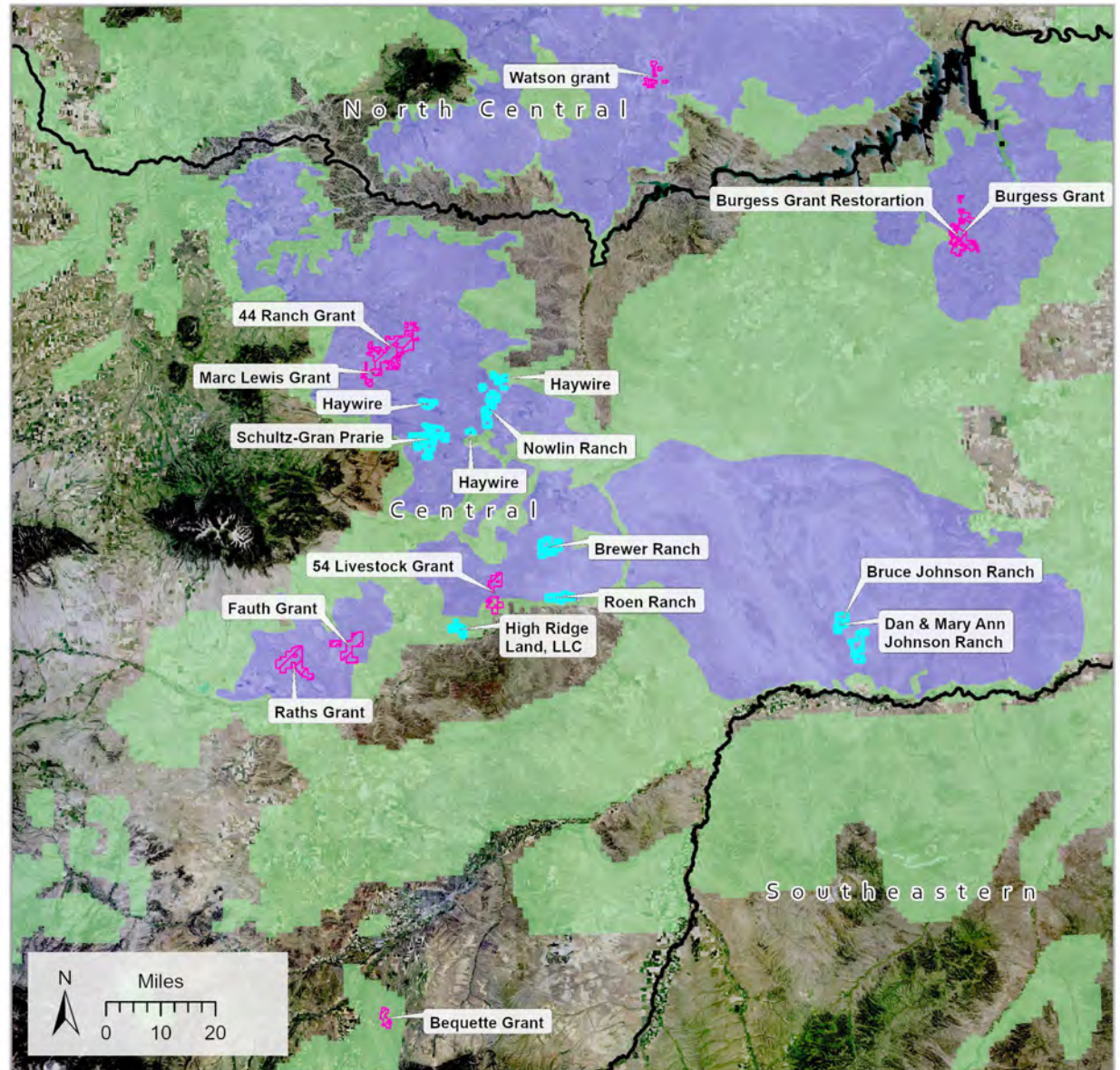
Habitat Designation

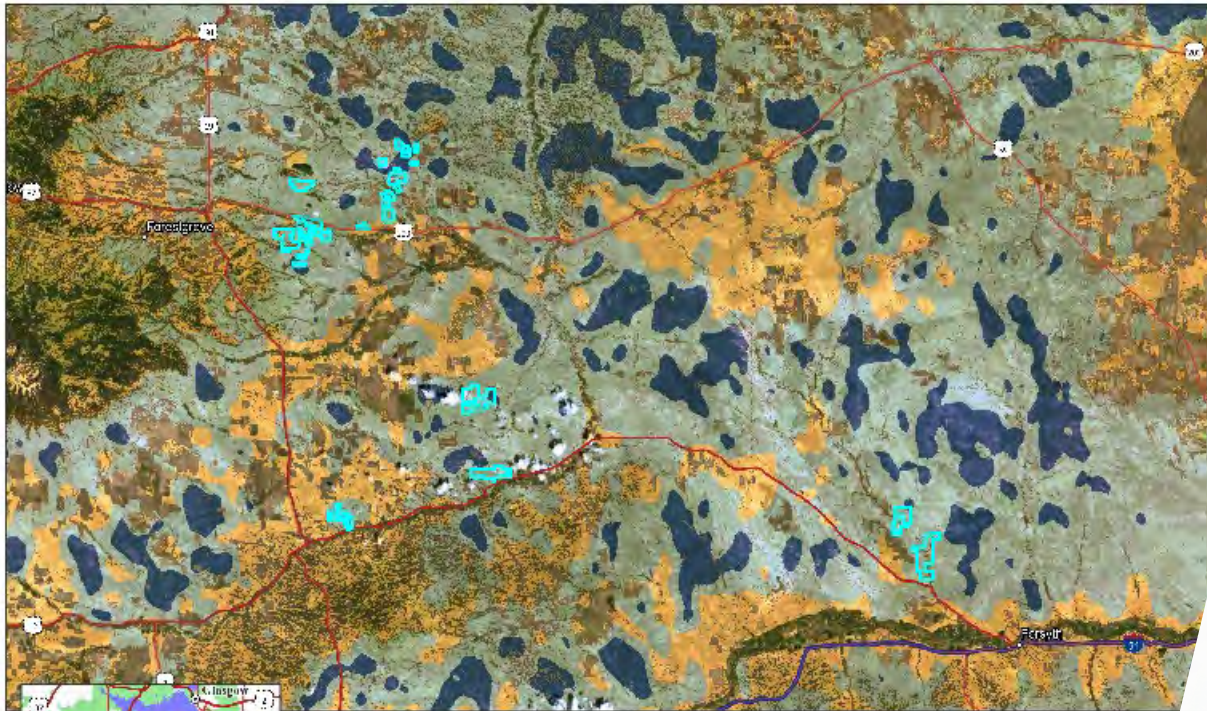
EO-Core Area

EO-General Habitat



Map Created: 20 September 2022
Imagery: 2021 NAIP





Activity Type

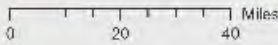
- Preservation
- Restoration

Designated Habitat

- EO-Core Area
- EO-Connectivity Area
- EO-General Habitat

Sagebrush Ecosystem Integr

- Core habitat areas
- Growth opportunity areas
- Other rangeland areas



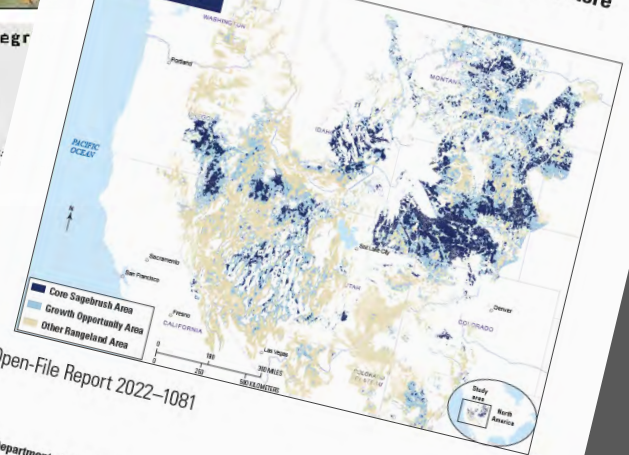
SI data; K. Conarty, M. Theobald, M. Holbrook, W. Washburn, and D. Brostrom. 2022. Where is sagebrush core habitat and growth areas estimated from a threshold-based conservation design. *Wildlife Monographs* 10: 608-627. DOI: 10.1093/wmon/10.1.608, 23 Sept. 2022.



Prepared in cooperation with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A Sagebrush Conservation Design to Proactively Restore America's Sagebrush Biome

Core Sagebrush Areas 2020



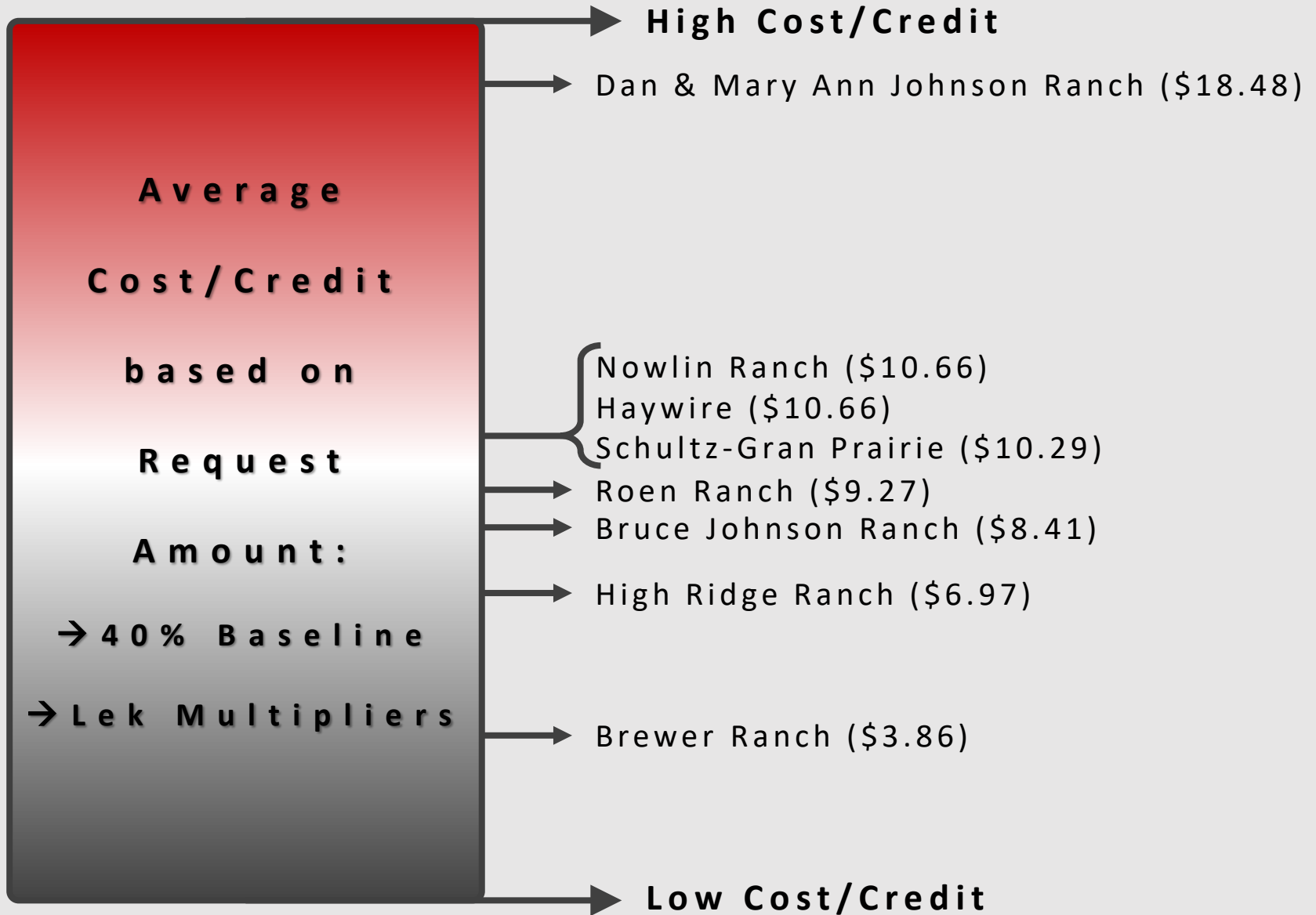
Open-File Report 2022-1081

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

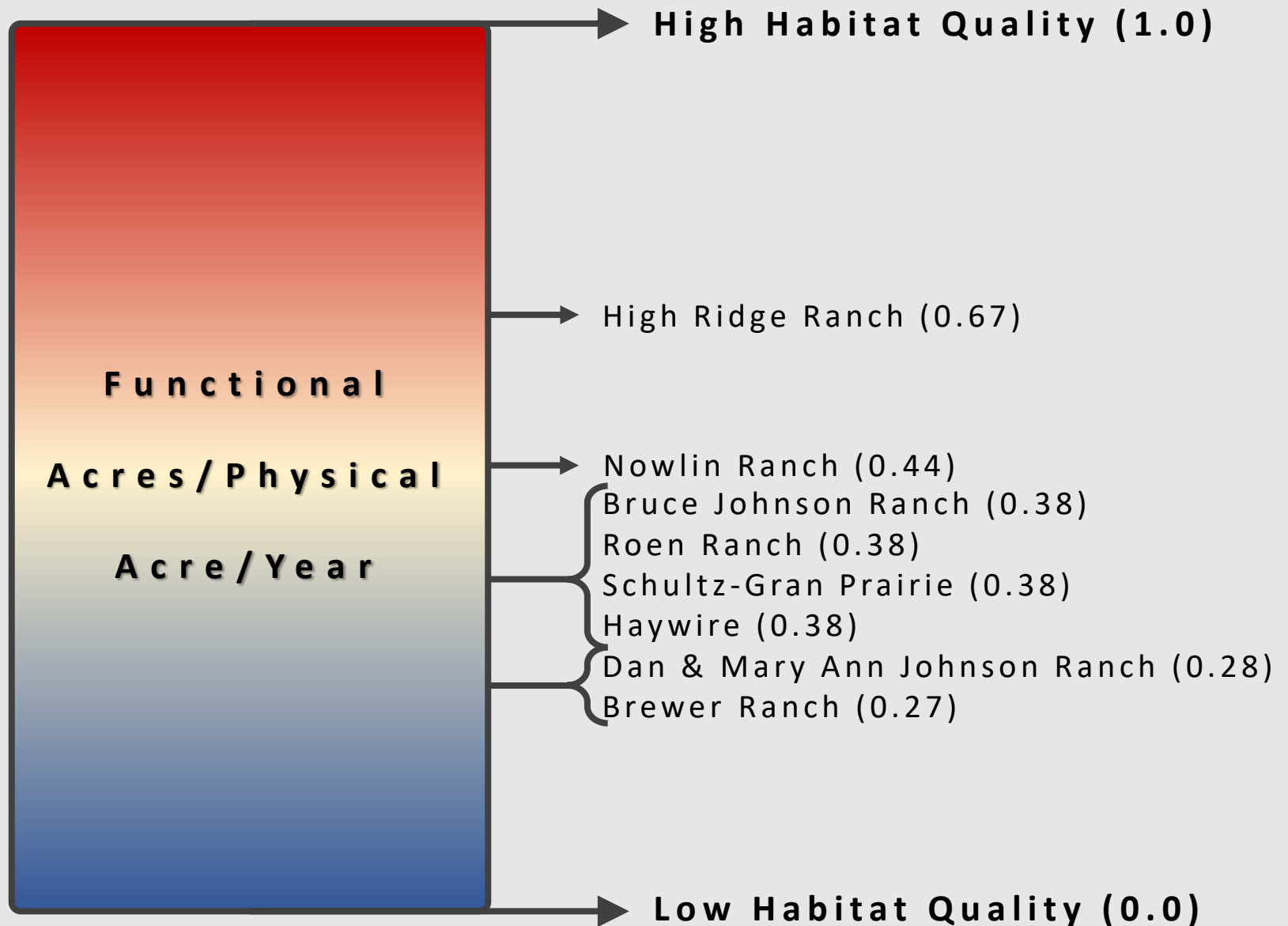
Project Ranking

- Service Area
- Restoration or Enhancement Component
- Proximity to Other Proposed Grants
- Proximity to Other Closed Grants
- Matching Funds
- Project Duration
- Public Lands Held by Lease
- Leks within 2/4 Miles
- Cost per Credit
- Functional Acres/Physical Acre/Year

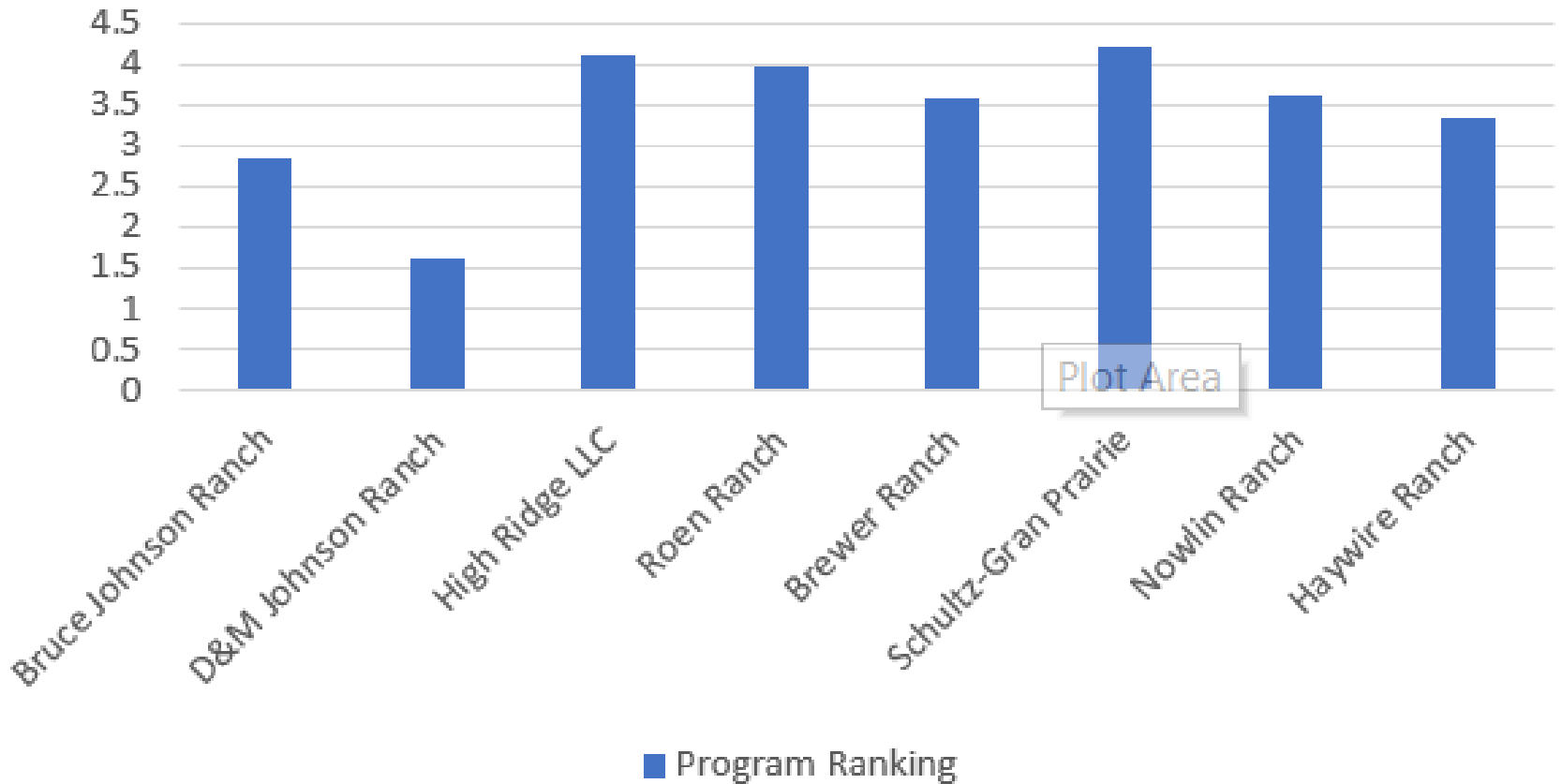
Stewardship Grant Projects - 2022



Stewardship Grant Projects - 2022



Program Ranking



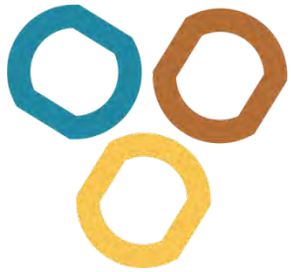
Next Steps

- Program works with Conservation Lease grant recipient - including County Conservation District to complete conservation lease agreements
 - MSGOT approval of Conservation District grant
- Conservation Easement grant recipient - complete easement appraisal, reports and documentation
- Program Prepares Draft Environmental Assessment
 - Public Comment
- Program addresses public comment and completes EA and ROD
- Execute Grant Agreements and implement easement

Sagegrouse.mt.gov



MONTANA SAGE GROUSE
Habitat Conservation Program



COMMON GROUND CAPITAL



MONTANA SAGE GROUSE
Habitat Conservation Program

Find out the cost of the credits you need.

*Proposal to Investigate Price Discovery and Business Terms
to Secure More Conservation Credits for the Montana Sage
Grouse Habitat Conservation Program*



October 27, 2022

SUMMARY

MSGOT knows where high-credit properties are and needs to understand what the cost will be to bring them into the program.

Common Ground Capital has a successful track record of approaching landowners, gauging their interest, and determining their acceptable price and business terms for participation.

MSGOT has highly-capable partners in land trusts who can secure easements.

Common Ground Capital proposes to:

- Identify the highest conservation credit properties working with conservation stakeholders.

- Determine the terms on which those landowners would enroll.

- Report on options for MSGOT, land trust partners and potentially other credit providers to secure such agreements.



DELIVERABLES

1. Identify the highest value conservation sites for Sage Grouse in the north central and southeastern service territories working with conservation stakeholders.
2. Engage 3-6 of the highest-HQT credit value landowners in each region to discover their price and agreeable terms necessary for them to seriously consider participation
3. Develop and deliver a report to MSGOT with a summary of information obtained.



COST

Not to exceed \$100,000

No funds retained by Common Ground Capital for time and effort – all donated.

Funds passed through as fees to contractors/partners for:

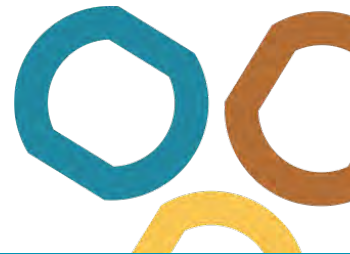
Identifying landowners to interview (gaining introductions through partners; researching courthouse property records with land people)

Legal fees associated with understanding key business terms and conditions likely needed to secure strategic landowner participation

Travel and time to interview landowners, meet with MSGOT staff and work with other conservation stakeholders

Analysis of results

Report prep, delivery, and review with MSGOT



DISCUSSION

