



February 3, 2020

Washoe County Commission
1001 E. Ninth Street
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of The Wilderness Society and our more than one million members and supporters, we write to offer our comments on the proposed Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act. We appreciate your efforts to develop this legislation.

CONSERVATION AREAS AND WILDERNESS

The Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act presents an opportunity to preserve public lands with exceptionally high wildland conservation value.

CONSERVATION AREAS

The Wilderness Society conducted a comprehensive scientific analysis of the wildland conservation value of public lands in Washoe County. Our analysis found that public lands in the county contain exceptionally high wildland conservation value, including several areas that are within the top five percent of wildlands conservation value nationally. A copy of the proposal is attached.

Based on that analysis, we recommend the establishment of three new national conservation areas, and the expansion of the existing Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Our proposals, which are attached, include:

- North Hays Range National Conservation Area - 237,000 acres
- Boulder Mountain National Conservation Area - 525,400 acres
- Smoke Creek National Conservation Area - 121,300 acres
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA addition - 229,900 acres

***Recommendation:** In order to preserve the exceptional conservation values of certain public lands in the county, include the above national conservation areas in the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.*

WILDERNESS

In September 2018, The Wilderness Society requested that Washoe County consider protections for over 1.4 million acres of eligible wilderness within the county. As described in

the attached conservation analysis, the areas proposed for wilderness also contain exceptionally high wildland conservation value. The majority of these areas are currently managed as wilderness study areas.

Since 2018, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has continued to refine and update wilderness proposals in Washoe County to address management concerns and increase local support. We support these proposals and urge their inclusion in the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.

Recommendation: *Include the wilderness proposals by Friends of Nevada Wilderness in the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.*

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

Of particular importance is the proposed wilderness within the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. In 2012, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) completed a [comprehensive conservation plan for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge](#). That plan recommended the designation of 424,360 acres of wilderness, which includes the 341,500 acres of refuge land proposed by wilderness by the USFWS in 1974, as well as additional lands found by USFWS to be eligible for wilderness during its [2010 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Review](#).

Under [USFWS policies](#), proposed refuge wilderness areas are managed the same as designated wilderness. With the majority of these lands being proposed for wilderness for 46 years, and the remainder proposed eight years ago, it is time to finally secure their Federal designation as wilderness. Further, despite the fact that the refuge straddles a county boundary, it does not make sense to split the designated wilderness by artificial county lines.

Recommendation: *Include all 424,360 acres of USFWS-proposed wilderness in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.*

LAND DISPOSAL

The draft Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act proposes to authorize the disposal of tens of thousands of acres of public lands for development purposes. Lands contained within the area proposed for disposal include the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Hungry Valley Special Recreation Management area, areas of critical environmental concern, as well as numerous other environmentally sensitive lands.

In general, The Wilderness Society supports the retention of public lands. We recommend adhering to the disposal recommendations in the [2001 Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan](#) and the [2001 Southern Washoe County Urban Interface Plan Amendment](#). Both of those land use plans undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the public lands of southern Washoe County and made determinations on which lands should be retained and made available for disposal. The uncompleted [2014 Carson City District Resource Management Plan revision](#) process made similar evaluations.

Recommendation: *Limit land disposal to those lands authorized for disposal in applicable land use plans.*

Disposal Boundary Modifications

We understand from background materials that public lands within the proposed disposal boundary with “mapped Federal constraints” are not intended to be offered for disposal. To eliminate any uncertainty or ambiguity, these lands should be removed from the proposed disposal boundary. This includes:

- The Reno Sparks Indian Colony.
- The Hungry Valley Special Recreation Management Area.
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
- Other environmentally sensitive lands, including lands with wilderness characteristics, fish and wildlife priority habitat and important bird areas, erodible soils and slopes, priority watersheds, greater and bi-state sage grouse habitat, right-of-way avoidance areas, national trails and back country byways, and other lands with important cultural, natural, recreational, and ecological values. Many of these lands were mapped as a part of the uncompleted [2014 Carson City District Resource Management Plan revision](#) process.

Recommendation: *Remove from the proposed disposal boundary the above areas and any other lands unsuited for disposal.*

Land Use and Climate Concerns

We understand the purpose of the land disposal section is to “allow local governments to propose land to be developed in support of continued growth and need for housing, business, and infrastructure development to support residents.” Without adequate safeguards and direction, the proposed land disposal is likely to lead to unchecked growth, worsen urban sprawl, and exacerbate climate change. This would undermine the goal of the legislation, as described on the project website, to “encourage infill development” and “maximize utilization of existing infrastructure.”

It is imperative that sales of Federal lands not be used to worsen sprawl and climate change and that strong growth and climate policies are in place at the local level prior to the sale of public lands for development.

Recommendation: *Authorizing the sale of Federal land should be dependent on the implementation of strong policies to address sustainable and equitable growth, and climate resilience and mitigation.*

Disposition of Proceeds

The Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act proposes to distribute proceeds from the sale of Federal lands as follows:

- 10% to local governments “to help support the region”;

- 5% to the State of Nevada for education; and
- 85% to the Federal government for use in Washoe County for “land actions, drought mitigation, wildlife prevention [sic], parks and recreation, etc.”

Because the lands to be sold are Federal lands, owned and managed by and for the American people, the revenue from the sale of those lands should be retained by the Federal government, with the exception of the State’s 5% share under its enabling act. We recommend removing the proposed allocations for local governments. If funding from the sale of public lands to facilitate growth is to be allocated to local governments, we recommend that the funding be directed to uses that will ensure environmentally sound and sustainable planning and reducing carbon emissions and protecting public lands for the benefit of the public.

Revenue should not be used to supplement the flagging budgets of Federal agencies and we do not support selling land to pay for ongoing maintenance of Federal or non-Federal land. The proposal authorizes spending the proceeds from the sale of public lands on a variety of projects that may or may not occur on, or even benefit, public land. Proceeds from the sale of public land owned by the American people should be reinvested in the acquisition of priority lands to benefit the American public.

Failing that, the proceeds should at least be reinvested for the good of the American public through projects that expand, benefit, or improve the conservation of the public’s land.

Recommendations:

- *Dedicate all Federal proceeds to (or at least a priority preference for) the acquisition of federal land (or interests in land) to priority land acquisition elsewhere in the State.*
- *Remove proposed allocations for state and local governments.*

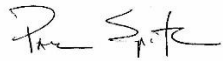
LAND CONVEYANCES

The proposal includes the conveyance of over 100 parcels of Federal land to various state, local, and non-governmental agencies for specified purposes. We have not reviewed each of these proposed conveyances in detail, but note that several appear to be for purposes which are not permissible under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. We recommend reviewing each conveyance to ensure its compatibility with that Act.

Recommendation: *Ensure that each public purpose conveyance is for a legitimate public purpose and in accordance with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.*

Again, thank you for your leadership in developing this legislation and considering our comments. We look forward to working with you to continue to shape the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Spitler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Spitler" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Spitler
Director of Wilderness Policy

cc: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Jacky Rosen
Congressman Mark Amodei

WASHOE COUNTY CONSERVATION PROPOSAL

January 2020

In September 2018, The Wilderness Society requested that Washoe County consider protections for over 1.4 million acres of eligible wilderness within the county. Since that time, we have conducted a comprehensive scientific assessment of the wildland conservation value of public lands in Washoe County. This proposal is based on that assessment. We respectfully request that this proposal be considered for inclusion in the Truckee Meadows Public Land Management Act.

SUMMARY

We propose establishing three national conservation areas (NCAs) and expanding the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Our proposals include:

- North Hays Range National Conservation Area - 237,000 acres
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA addition - 229,900 acres
- Boulder Mountain National Conservation Area - 525,400 acres
- Smoke Creek National Conservation Area - 121,300 acres

We are not proposing additional wilderness and continue to support the wilderness areas proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness. The areas above are being proposed for national conservation area designation due to their exceptionally high conservation values. All are within the top five percent of wildland conservation values nationally. Maps of the areas are included in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

This proposal is based on a scientific assessment of the wildlands conservation values of public lands within Washoe County. The assessment, which is included in Attachment B, found that much of the public land in Washoe County has higher conservation value than 99% of the public lands in the United States. We believe that lands with such exceptional values should be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people.

National conservation area designation allows many existing land uses to continue, while protecting an area's ecological, recreational, scenic, and cultural values. National conservation area designation is different than wilderness in that it allows certain activities—like motorized vehicles, mountain bikes, and habitat restoration—that are generally prohibited in wilderness. A summary of activities that are permitted and prohibited in national conservation areas is included in Attachment D.

PROPOSAL

This proposal recommends the following areas be designated as national conservation areas:

NORTH HAYS RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Located in far northwest Washoe County, this proposed national conservation area spans 237,000 acres. **Our conservation analysis shows the area in the top 4% of wildland conservation value nationally.** The area contains important cultural sites, areas of historic significance, and wilderness quality lands, as well as having significant wildlife resources.

The proposed conservation area is bounded on the north and west by the Oregon and California borders, on the south by State Highway 8A, and on the west by Washoe County Road 34. The BLM area is managed by the Applegate Field Office under the Surprise Resource Management Plan of 2008. The NCA is primarily made up of sagebrush steppe and timber and woodland vegetation communities, with salt desert shrub communities in the lower elevations in the south and east of the proposed NCA.

- **Wildlife Values**

- Almost the entire NCA overlaps with mule deer migration corridors and other crucial mule deer habitat. Both crucial summer and crucial winter ranges for mule deer are located in the proposed NCA and the area contains 163,000 acres of mule deer distribution habitat, 132,000 acres of mule deer summer habitat, and 40,000 acres of mule deer winter range.
- Wild horses are found within the Carter Reservoir Herd Management Unit in the southwest portion of the proposed NCA.
- Rocky Mountain elk have been sighted in the Crooks Lake and Twelvemile Creek areas of the proposed NCA.
- Pronghorn are prevalent in the area and the area contains 128,000 acres of pronghorn summer habitat, and 4,000 acres of pronghorn winter range.
- The area contains 65,000 acres of bighorn sheep distribution habitat.
- The area contains over 205,000 acres of sage grouse habitat including 164,000 acres of priority sage grouse habitat.
- A small segment of Twelvemile Creek is critical habitat for the Warner sucker.

- **Wilderness Quality Lands**

- Calcutta potential wilderness: BLM identified an area of 65,300 acres in the eastern portion of the proposed NCA as meeting the criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics because of its size, apparent naturalness and the outstanding opportunities for solitude present in the unit. The Calcutta potential wilderness area includes BLM lands in from Mosquito Valley in the west to Calcutta Lake and the Long Valley in the east, and from Coleman and Little Coleman canyons in the north to Washoe County Road 34 and Long Valley in the south. BLM also identified numerous supplemental values within the area including sensitive plant and animal species and cultural resources. The northern portion of the unit is home to important big game habitat, including bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn, as well as habitat for greater sage-grouse, chukar, and mountain quail.

- Crooks potential wilderness: Approximately 68,400 acres of BLM's Crooks potential wilderness area is located in the western portion of the proposed NCA between the California border and the Mosquito and Long valleys. BLM found that this area meets the criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics because of its size, apparent naturalness and the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM also identified numerous supplemental values present including sensitive animal species, as well as significant wildlife and cultural values. The area contains crucial winter and summer habitats for pronghorn and mule deer, as well as priority habitat for greater sage-grouse. Elk have been sighted within this unit on occasion.
- **Cultural Values**
 - The Surprise Valley Paiute (Gidutikadu) and other Paiute bands inhabited the area, particularly around the Surprise Valley. Other lesser documented peoples, such as the Kamodokado are said to have inhabited the area as well.
 - Significant prehistoric and historic sites are found throughout the area including obsidian and chert quarries, petroglyphs, pictographs, and habitation sites. However, just a minor portion of the region has been inventoried for cultural resources.
 - The Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council identified proposed Traditional Cultural Properties sites around Rock Creek and Barrel Springs in the northern portion of the NCA. The area contains numerous tribal species of concern including marmot, deer, pronghorn, jackrabbit, greater sage-grouse, trout, yampah, wild plum, chokecherry, and willow. Fort Bidwell tribal members continue to visit these sites for ritual, historical commemoration, education, and resource procurement purposes.
 - The area includes a portion of the North Hays Range Cultural Resource Management Area, established in 2008 to preserve outstanding cultural resources.
 - Rock Creek contains numerous petroglyph sites.
- **Modern History**
 - The John C. Fremont Expedition of 1842 passed through the area and encountered Native Americans in the Long Valley.
 - The southern boundary of the NCA overlaps with the California Historic Trail as it traverses from the Long Valley in Nevada across Forty-Nine Pass into the Surprise Valley of California.
 - The Lassen-Applegate trail, first developed by the Applegate brothers in 1846, travels up Forty-Nine Canyon and over Forty-Nine Pass on the southern boundary of the NCA; it is estimated that 7,000–9,000 people traveled the Applegate trail in 1849; remnants of their passing is still visible in places such as 49 Rock along Highway 8A in Forty-Nine Canyon.
 - The first cattle ranchers moved into the area permanently around 1863, and in 1865 Fort Bidwell was established in the Surprise Valley to the west of the NCA.
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**
 - A portion of the Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) lies in the far northern portions of the unit along the Oregon border. This ACEC was designated to protect relevant and important cultural and botanical values, including a high density and variety of cultural sites, including stone rings, rock art, lithic scatters, cairns, hunting blinds and habitation sites. The area shows a record of occupation going back at least 10,000 years and is still utilized by the Northern Paiute for plant gathering and contains sensitive plant species including squawapple and Cooper's goldflower.

- **Recreation values**

- The primary recreational resources of the proposed NCA are those associated with the prominent solitude, quiet, and wide-open scenery of the area. These activities include dispersed primitive camping, hiking, rock hounding, fossil collecting, horseback riding, and wild horse viewing.
- The Surprise Valley/Barrel Springs Back Country Byway bisects the heart of the proposed NCA. This 93-mile loop route begins in Cedarville, CA, however much of its distance is within the proposed NCA in Nevada. The byway travels across Mosquito Lake and through the rugged volcanic uplands in the northern portion of the area, passing Rock Creek and Barrel Springs. Historical and cultural sites are found along the route, including rock art at Rock Creek, and evidence of migration along the California Historic Trail.
- Nine ranked peaks are found within the proposed NCA, including Metzker Peak, which at 7205' in elevation is the highest point in the NCA.
- Rock Creek provides excellent hiking opportunities.

- **Water Resources**

- Twelvemile Creek is a proposed wild and scenic river and was found by BLM to meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. A 2.2-mile portion of Twelvemile Creek, including portions within the potential NCA, were recommended as suitable wild and scenic river by BLM.
- Numerous springs, several intermittent and perennial creeks, and several large fluctuating water bodies are found within the proposed NCA including Rock Creek, Twelvemile Creek, Coleman and Little Coleman creeks, Mosquito Lake, Calcutta Lake, and Crooks Lake.

BOULDER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

This proposal would establish the 525,400-acre Boulder Mountain National Conservation Area. Stretching from Antelope Flat through Boulder Mountain and the Hays Canyon Range, the proposed conservation area features rugged geography consisting of jagged mountain ranges cut by steep canyons. **Our conservation analysis shows the area in the top 5% of wildland conservation value nationally.**

The area contains the Wall Canyon Wilderness Study Area. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush steppe pinyon juniper woodlands and provides habitat for a broad array of wildlife including sage grouse, mule deer, pronghorn, pygmy rabbits, and the Wall Canyon sucker. Canyons and streams traverse the area including Wall Canyon, Broadwell Canyon, Jims Creek, Clover Creek, and Cottonwood Creek.

The proposed NCA would be bounded by Nevada Highway 8A in the north, Washoe County Road 34 and Leadville Canyon in the east, Washoe County Road 447 in the south, and the Upper Surprise Valley and the California border in the west.

- **Wildlife Values**

- California bighorn sheep were reintroduced to the area in the late 1980s and are currently expanding into suitable habitats. Both the Hays Canyon and Granites populations of bighorn

- sheep are found within the proposed NCA. A migration corridor for bighorn sheep can be found in the southeast portion of the NCA where the animals move from through Leadville Canyon between the Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness and Buckhorn Peak.
- Crucial winter range for mule deer is found in the Surprise Valley below Fortynine Mountain, below Ducky Benchmark above Duck Flat, and in the Granite Range around Leadville Canyon. Crucial summer range for mule deer is also found throughout the unit.
 - Greater sandhill cranes have been known to nest in wet grassy pastures at the base of 49 Mountain in the northwest portion of the proposed NCA.
 - California quail are found along the edges of the NCA, primarily on the foothills and escarpments above the surprise valley. Mountain quail are found in smaller concentrations around Fox Mountain in the far southeast of the proposed NCA, and around Fortynine Mountain in the far northwest of the proposed NCA. Chukar are common throughout the proposed NCA.
 - Pronghorn are prevalent in the proposed NCA. Crucial summer habitats exist around Boulder Mountain and in the Wall Canyon WSA, as well as along flats above the escarpment above Surprise Valley. Pronghorn may kid on the western base of 49 mountain within the potential NCA. Crucial winter range for pronghorn is located along the edges of the Surprise Valley, in the Duck Flat area around Round Mountain, and around Leadville Canyon.
 - The Wall Canyon sucker (*Catostomus murivallis*) is a BLM listed sensitive species know to inhabit the Wall Canyon creek system where brown trout, cuttbow, speckled dace and reddsides shiners also reside.
 - Almost the entirety of the proposed NCA is priority habitat for greater sage-grouse. The NCA contains some of the most productive sage-grouse leks in Washoe County.
 - The area contains 117,000 acres of bighorn sheep distribution habitat and 9,000 acres of bighorn distribution corridors.
 - The area contains 197,000 acres of mule deer summer habitat and 60,000 acres of mule deer winter range.
 - The area contains 155,000 acres of pronghorn summer habitat and 70,000 acres of pronghorn winter range.
 - The area contains 203,000 acres of chukar habitat.
 - The area contains over 500,000 acres of sage grouse habitat areas, including over 396,000 acres of priority sage grouse habitat.

- **Wilderness Quality Lands**

- Wall Canyon Wilderness Study Area: The Wall Canyon WSA is a highly scenic area of Washoe County containing numerous canyons, buttes and rims as well as wide valley floors and benches. Pinyon and juniper dominate, however the high country also hosts stands of aspen. Numerous springs, and seeps as well as intermittent and perennial creeks run through the WSA. Cultural sites are abundant, including camps, lithic scatters, and sources of obsidian and chert; several archaeological districts of potential National Register quality have been identified. Wildlife includes some of the most important and productive lekking areas for greater sage-grouse, as well as mule deer, pronghorn, raptors, and the unique Wall Canyon sucker. BLM has found the area to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- Two Hats potential wilderness: The Two Hats potential wilderness area is a 33,200-acre citizen-identified lands with wilderness characteristics unit located along the California border just east of Upper Surprise Valley. The unit is made up of portions of the Hays Canyon Range including Big Hat and Little Hat mountains, which tower 3,000' above the Surprise Valley to the west. Amazing views west into the Surprise Valley and across to the South Warner Wilderness can be found in this unit. Outstanding primitive recreational opportunities include hiking, peak-bagging, horseback riding, photography, and general sightseeing.

- Hays Canyon potential wilderness: The Hays Canyon potential wilderness area is a 40,600-acre citizen-identified lands with wilderness characteristics unit located along the California border at the south end of the Hays Canyon Range. The unit includes Hays Canyon Peak and Pegleg Canyon and offers incredible views from its high slopes out across Surprise Valley towards the South Warner Wilderness in California. Hays Canyon Peak (7,916'), rising nearly 3500' above the Surprise Valley, is the dominant feature of this area.
 - Pinto Springs potential wilderness: BLM identified an area of 18,800 acres in the northern portion of the proposed NCA as meeting the criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics because of its size, apparent naturalness and the outstanding opportunities for solitude present in the unit. The Pinto Springs potential wilderness is made up of BLM lands between Wall Creek and Antelope Pass and from CR 34 south to The Buttes. The eastern boundary of the area is an interstate transmission line. The area is home to significant greater sage-grouse habitat, as well as pygmy rabbit. Cultural resources are a supplemental value identified by BLM in this unit.
 - Hart Mountain potential wilderness: The BLM identified an area of 30,960 acres around Hart Mountain as meeting the criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics. This area contains both Hart Mountain and Pinto Peak, as well as numerous springs and drainages feeding upper Wall Canyon Creek. BLM identified the presence of sensitive species in the area including golden eagles and pygmy rabbits. Cultural resources are a significant supplemental value in the unit.
 - Antelope potential wilderness: The Antelope potential wilderness area is a 50,500-acre area identified by BLM as meeting the criteria for size, naturalness, and containing sufficient outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation to qualify as lands with wilderness characteristics. The area is largely made up of the upper reaches of the Clover and Cottonwood creek drainages. Significant historic and cultural resources were identified as a supplemental value in this area, as were sensitive animal species.
 - Lost Creek potential wilderness: The BLM identified 46,500 acres between Washoe County Road 447 and Lost Creek as meeting the criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics because of its size, naturalness and presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit includes Round Mountain and Sheep Spring Canyon above Duck Flat. Portions of the Tuledad/Duck Flat Cultural Resource Management Area overlap with this area.
- **Cultural Values**
 - The southern portion of the proposed NCA overlaps with portions of the Tuledad/Duck Flat Cultural Resource Management Area (CRMA). This CRMA was designated to minimize impacts to significant concentrations of prehistoric and historic cultural sites.
 - The Surprise Valley Paiute (Gidutikadu) and other Paiute bands inhabited the area, particularly around the Surprise Valley. Other peoples, such as the Kamodokado, are said to have inhabited the area as well.
 - Significant prehistoric and historic sites are found throughout the area including obsidian and chert quarries, petroglyphs, pictographs, and habitation sites. However, just a minor portion of the field office has been inventoried for cultural resources.
 - **Modern History**
 - A small segment of the northern boundary of the NCA overlaps with the California Historic Trail as it traverses from the Long Valley in Nevada across Forty-Nine Pass into the Surprise Valley of California.
 - The Lassen-Applegate trail, first developed by the Applegate brothers in 1846, travels up Forty-Nine Canyon and over Forty-Nine Pass on the northern boundary of the NCA; it is

estimated that 7,000–9,000 people traveled the Applegate trail in 1849; remnants of their passing is still visible in places such as 49 Rock along Highway 8A in Forty-Nine Canyon.

- **Recreation Values**

- Wild horse viewing is popular in the southeast portion of the NCA.
- Exceptional scenic viewpoints are found along the long north-south escarpment above Surprise Valley in the eastern end of the proposed NCA. Numerous easy summits can be attained in this area such as Big Hat Mountain, Hays Canyon Peak, Little Hat Mountain and Fortynine Mountain.
- Non-native brown trout and cuttbows are present in Wall Canyon Creek and provide recreational fishing opportunities.
- Outstanding hunting opportunities are found throughout the proposed NCA. Upland game species such as California quail, blue grouse, mourning dove and chukar are found in the proposed NCA, with chukar being a popular game bird within the NCA.

- **Water Resources**

- Wall Canyon Creek is the most well-known drainage in the proposed NCA. Other creeks and waterbodies of significance include Cherry Creek, Lost Creek, Bull Creek, Boulder Creek, Mountain View Creek, Table Lakes, Long Lake, and Wall Canyon Reservoir.
- Numerous springs and seeps are present in the proposed NCA that support wildlife as well as permitted livestock producers grazing the area.

SMOKE CREEK NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

This proposal would establish the 121,300-acre Smoke Creek National Conservation Area. The landscape is dominated by Dry Valley, Tule Peak and the Granite Range. **Our conservation analysis shows the area in the top 5% of wildland conservation value nationally.**

Public lands in the proposed NCA are managed by the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office and the 2008 Eagle Lake RMP. The area is bounded by the state line to the west, Smoke Creek Desert to the east, Burro Mountain to the north, and the Terraced Hills to the south.

- **Wildlife Values**

- The area contains abundant wildlife habitat supporting golden eagles, sage grouse, pronghorn, and mule deer. It includes priority wintering and year-round mule deer habitat as well as priority winter pronghorn habitat. It provides important sage grouse habitat, and includes a portion of the Buffalo-Skedaddle sage grouse population management unit. It also provides habitat for the imperiled wandering skipper butterfly.
- The entire NCA is occupied habitat for California quail and chukar.
- Crucial winter range for mule deer makes up most of the western half of the proposed NCA and the Twin Peaks/Burro Mountain movement corridor for mule deer also overlaps with this area and area contains 63,000 acres of mule deer distribution habitat.
- The majority of the unit is mapped crucial summer range for pronghorn.
- Almost the entirety of the proposed NCA is priority habitat for greater sage-grouse and the area contains 85,000 acres of sage grouse habitat, including 27,000 acres of priority sage grouse habitat.

- **Wilderness Quality Lands**

- The proposed NCA includes 72,800 acres of Wilderness Study Areas including and surrounding Black Mountain and Eagle Head between the California border and the Smoke Creek Desert. Wilderness Study Areas include Dry Valley Rim WSA and Skedaddle WSA.
- The area contains a portion of the Dry Valley Rim Wilderness Study Area, which is part of a larger complex of wilderness study areas including Buffalo Hills, Poodle Mountain, Twin Peaks, and Skedaddle, that span the state line into California.
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**
 - 9,982 acres of the North Dry Valley ACEC overlap with the proposed NCA. The North Dry Valley ACEC was designated in the Eagle Lake RMP (2008) to protect relevant and important cultural, biological, geological, and scenic values, as well as fish and wildlife resources. North Dry Valley ACEC includes numerous and varied sites associated with prehistoric lakeshore hunting and habitation areas as well as quarry sites and caves that are unique to the region. There are also historic gravesites and homestead remnants. Laird Spring is a special riparian area that is important to wildlife and significant as an archaeological site.
 - Portions of the Lower Smoke Creek ACEC overlap the northern edge of the proposed NCA in Lower Smoke Creek Canyon. This ACEC was designated to protect cultural and historic, biological and geological values, fish and wildlife resources and scenic values. BLM has found that this ACEC has “exceptional” scenic qualities as well as important riparian areas containing a diversity of aquatic and riparian wildlife—notably the Lahontan assemblage of native fish. The ACEC also contains a portion of the Nobles Emigrant National Historic Trail.
- **Cultural Values**
 - The Paiute were historically the predominant tribe in the area, however the Maidu were known to occupy the areas around Smoke Creek and the Smoke Creek Desert as well.
 - The area contains the Dry Valley Cultural Resource Management Area, established to protect important prehistoric and historic cultural resources.
 - The area contains the Smoke Creek Desert Complex Cultural Resource Management Area, established to protect important prehistoric and historic cultural resources.
- **Historic Values**
 - The Fort Churchill to Fort Bidwell Military Supply Route and Wagon Road traverses the eastern boundary of the unit on the edge of the Smoke Creek Desert.
 - The Nobles Emigrant Trail traverses through Lower Smoke Creek Canyon and Rush Creek along the northern boundary of the proposed NCA.
- **Recreation Values**
 - The South Dry Valley Special Recreation Management Area overlaps with the southern portion of the unit around Sand Pass. This area was designated in the Eagle Lake RMP (2008) to provide recreational day use and motorcycle riding opportunities.
 - Small game species such as chukar and California quail provide hunting opportunities.
- **Water Resources**
 - Red Rock Creek is a scenic area with potential fish habitat where restoration efforts have been prioritized by the BLM.
 - The area also contains portions of Smoke Creek and Rush Creek.

BLACK ROCK DESERT—HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT TRAILS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ADDITIONS

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area was established in 2000 and contains 797,100 acres in Washoe, Humboldt, and Pershing counties. The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA was designated to protect historic emigrant trails, a “broad representation of the Great Basin’s landforms and plant and animal species,” cultural, archeological, paleontological, and geographical resources, wilderness values, and recreational opportunities. The legislation establishing the conservation area is included in Attachment C.

This proposal would add 229,900 acres to the conservation area in Washoe County, including lands to the southwest, west, and northwest of the existing conservation area boundaries. **Our conservation analysis shows the area in the top 1% of wildland conservation value nationally.**

The proposed additions to the conservation area include lands with exceptional wildlands conservation values, the majority of which are in the top one percent nationally. Like other lands within the existing conservation area, the proposed additions all possess outstanding ecological, natural, scenic, and cultural values.

The area is bordered by the Surprise Valley/Barrel Springs Back Country Byway which provides outstanding opportunities for viewing wildlife and scenery. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush steppe and salt desert scrub and the area contains portions of the Vya and Massacre sage grouse population management units. The area contains portions of the Massacre Lakes and Bitner wild horse and burro herd management areas.

- **Wildlife Values**

- Red Rock Creek is a scenic area with potential fish habitat where restoration efforts have been prioritized by the BLM.
- The area also contains portions of Smoke Creek and Rush Creek.
- The area contains 42,000 acres of bighorn sheep distribution habitat.
- The area contains 36,000 acres of mule deer movement habitat, 16,000 acres of mule deer summer range, and 57,000 acres of mule deer winter range.
- The area contains 51,000 acres of pronghorn summer habitat and 88,000 acres of pronghorn winter range.
- The area contains over 200,000 acres of sage grouse habitat areas, including 151,000 acres of priority sage grouse habitat.

- **Wilderness Quality Lands**

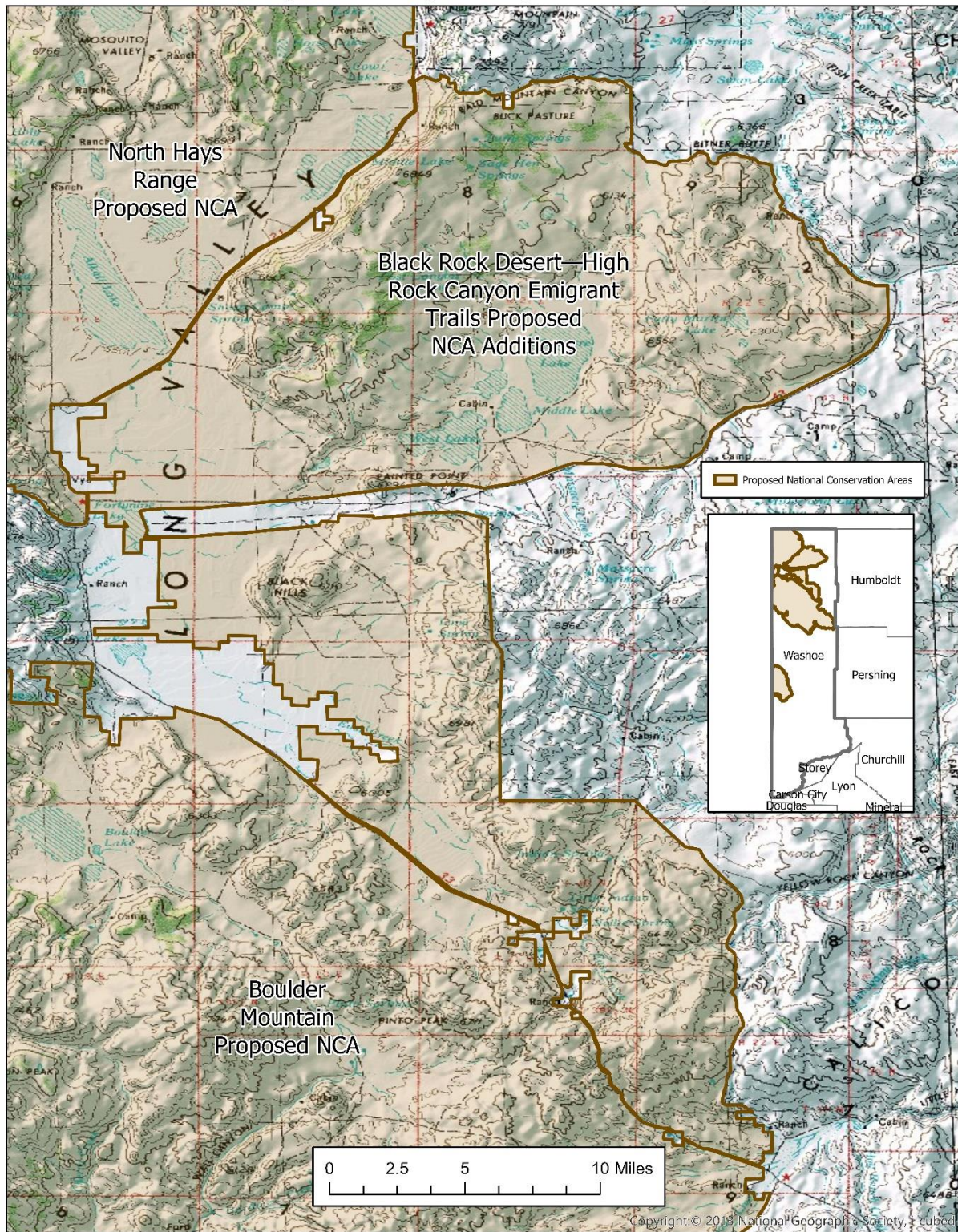
- The area contains the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area. Spanning over 101,000 acres, Massacre Rim is wild and remote country featuring jagged cliffs, mesa tops, and stunning views of up to 60 miles.
- The wilderness study area is not only one of the darkest places in Nevada but also the contiguous United States. Its sheer remoteness offers protection from human

populations and the associated light pollution. For these reasons, the area has been designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary, one of only seven in the world.

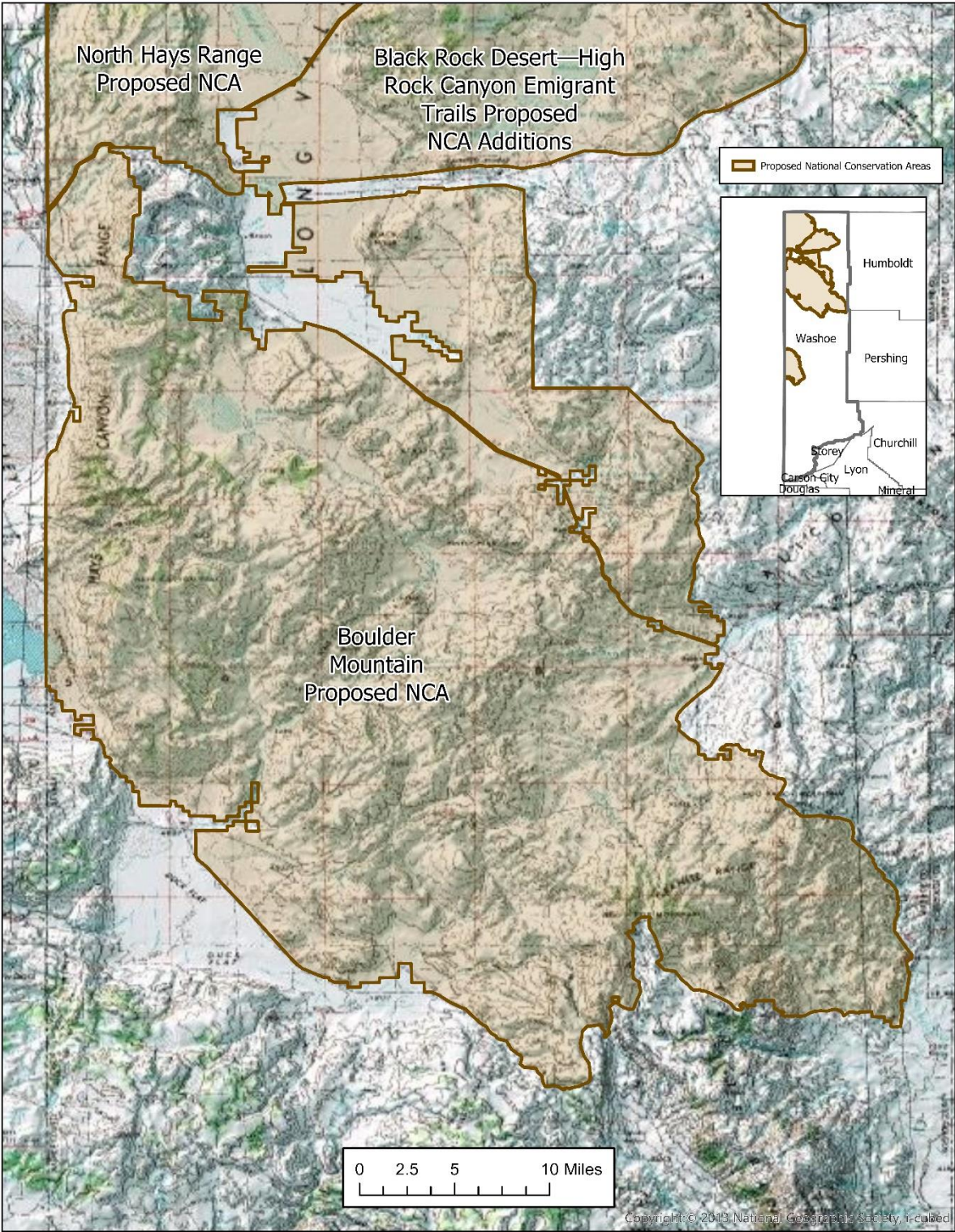
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**
 - The entire northern portion of the area is designated as an area of critical environmental concern to protect cultural and natural resources.
- **Cultural Values**
 - Cultural resources within the area reflect 10,000 years of human occupancy in the Massacre Lakes Basin, including several sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places designation.
- **Historic Values**
 - The area features historic routes, similar to those contained within the remainder of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.
- **Recreation Values**
 - The area provides opportunities for hiking, stargazing, sightseeing, motorized vehicle recreation, and camping.
- **Water Resources**
 - The area features many small tributaries that feed Massacre Lake and West Lake, including a portion of Massacre Creek.
 - The area also features many smaller lakes including New Year Lake, Alkali Lake, Middle Lake and Fatty Martin Lake.

MAPS OF PROPOSED NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS

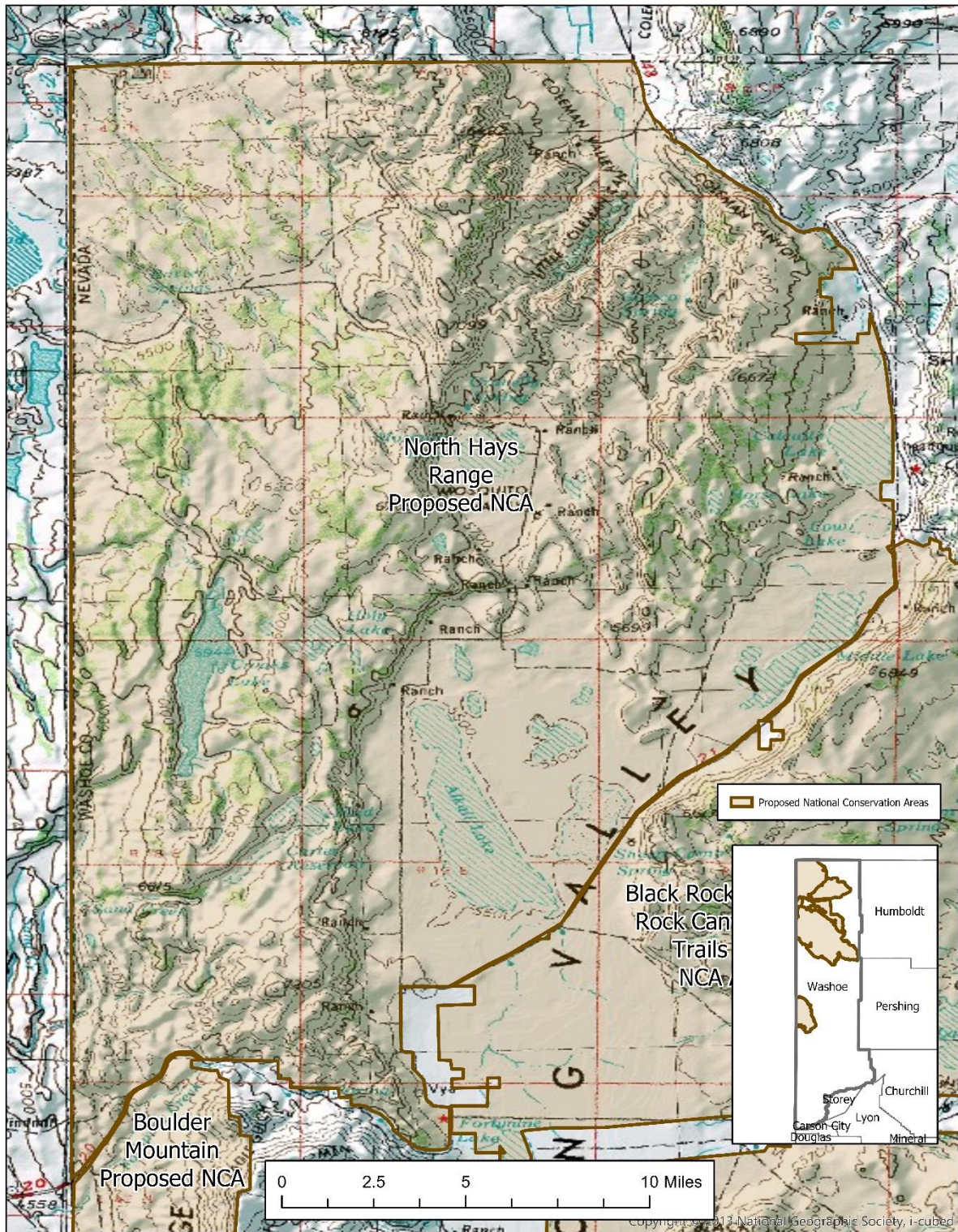
Black Rock Desert - High Rock canyon Emigrant Trails Proposed NCA Additions



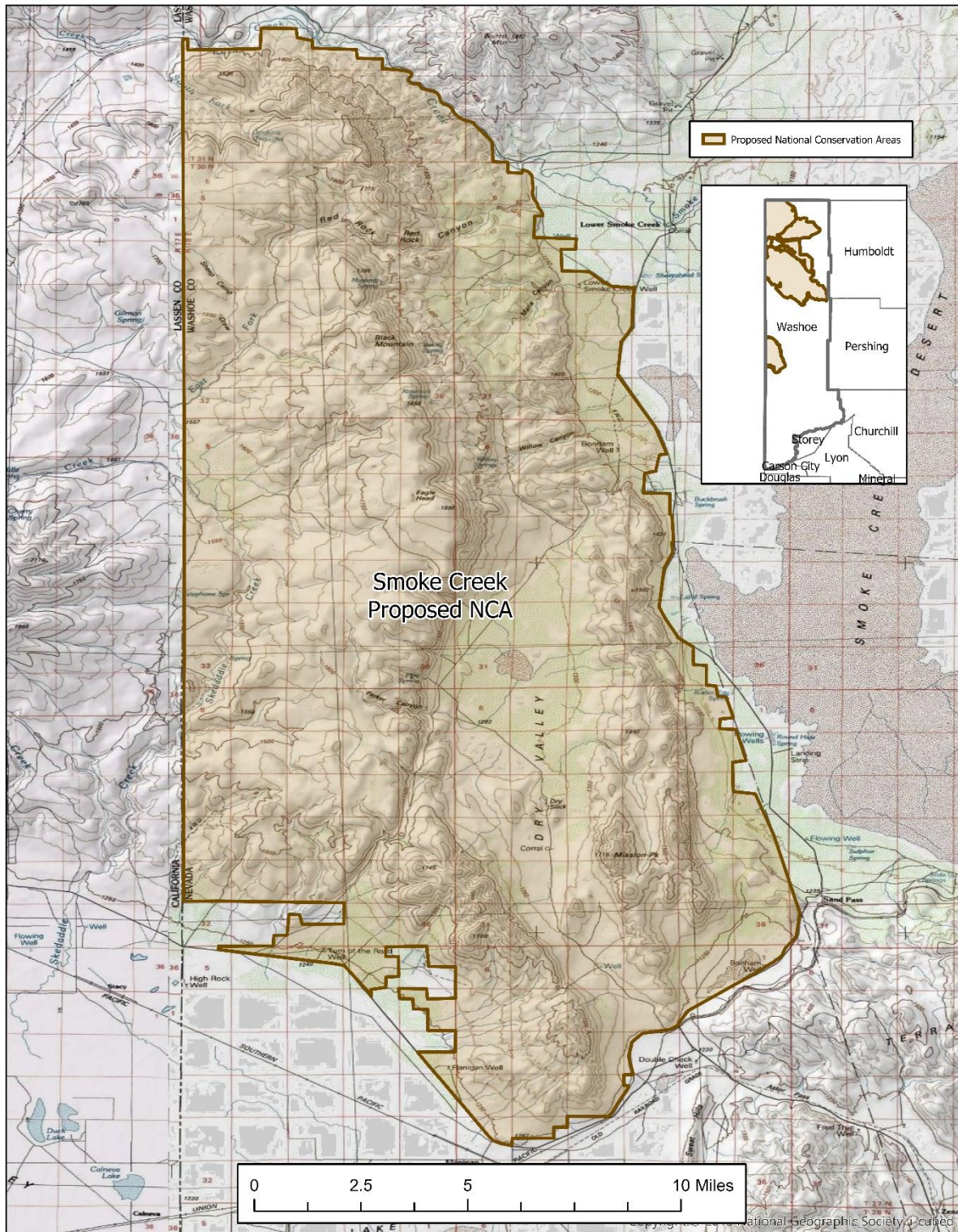
Boulder Mountain Proposed NCA



North Hays Range Proposed NCA



Smoke Creek Proposed NCA



Landscape conservation assessment for Washoe County, NV



January 8, 2020



Background

For over 100 years, conservation efforts have led to the establishment of hundreds of protected areas covering millions of hectares in the United States. These conservation reserves form the foundation of strategies to protect biological diversity and ecological processes upon which species and people depend. However, there is growing recognition that these existing conservation reserves may be insufficient in sustaining biodiversity as climate change and land use continues to impact natural ecosystems. Recent calls have been made to “complete the system” of protected areas by establishing an ecologically-connected network that is more inclusive of ecosystems and species currently under-represented in protected areas. Here, we evaluate wildland conservation value of lands within Washoe County, NV (Figure 1) using a national assessment of priorities for expanding conservation reserves. The national assessment includes spatial data on ecological integrity (or wildness), connectivity between protected areas, ecosystem and biodiversity representation priority. Each value is described below.

Ecological integrity and “wildness” (Figure 2): The relative wildness of land is based on its ecological condition and the degree of human control over ecological processes (Aplet et al., 2000; Aplet, 1999). Places that are ecologically intact and are maintained in a natural condition with minimal influence by human impacts or management are wilder than those with degraded ecological conditions and a high degree of human influence. The Wilderness Society works to protect the last remaining wild places (Figure 1a, upper left). For our national assessment, we used a high resolution dataset on the degree of human modification and ecological integrity (Theobald, 2013) to serve as a surrogate for wildness. Maps of wildness are highly correlated with Theobald’s map of ecological integrity, but is higher resolution and more updated than the wildness index.

Connectivity (Figure 3): The importance of creating a connected network of protected areas has emerged as one of the most important conservation strategies in the face of a changing climate (Rudnick et al., 2012). Our connectivity model identifies the wildest and most natural corridors linking large protected core areas across the lower 48 states (Belote et al., 2016). Maintaining the wildest and least human modified corridors between protected areas may give the most numbers of species the best opportunities to move and disperse as the climate changes and development continues to fragment other areas (Figure 1b, upper right). We are working to bring this science to bear on additional conservation protections on federal lands so that these wild corridors are maintained or improved.

Ecosystem representation (Figure 4): Effectively conserving all of nature’s biological diversity requires that protected areas be representative of all habitat types (Dietz et al., 2015). Unfortunately, our protected areas systems currently does not include full representation of all habitats, but we are working to identify those places across the country that – if protected – would diversify the protected areas system making it more representative of our entire natural heritage (Aycrigg et al., 2015). Lands in red and yellow represent ecological systems (i.e., different habitats) that are not well-protected in wilderness, national parks, or other protected areas. As we prioritize the conservation lands of the future, adding diversity to our existing wilderness and parks will ensure that all of nature’s diversity is protected.

Wildland conservation value (Figure 5): The values above were combined into an index of wildland conservation value providing a map of areas with a high degree of ecological integrity or wildness that are important for connectivity between protected areas and would better represent ecosystem and species diversity.

Methods

We calculated the average of each value described above for 19 unique management units in northern Washoe County derived from three pools: (1) proposed wilderness areas on lands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); (2) lands proposed for wilderness designation by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and (3) proposed conservation areas identified by The Wilderness Society (Figure 6). We also calculated summary statistics for the national data to compare the 19 units to the rest of the country. Specifically, we calculated the 50th (i.e., median), 75th, 90th, 95th, and 99th percentiles for each value. We then plotted the average value along with these national summary statistics to easily compare each unit's average value to national percentiles. In other words, this approach allows users to evaluate the importance of each unit to national priorities. If a unit's average value is above the 95th percentile line, then we can say that the unit has a higher value than 95% of the country (Figure 7-10).

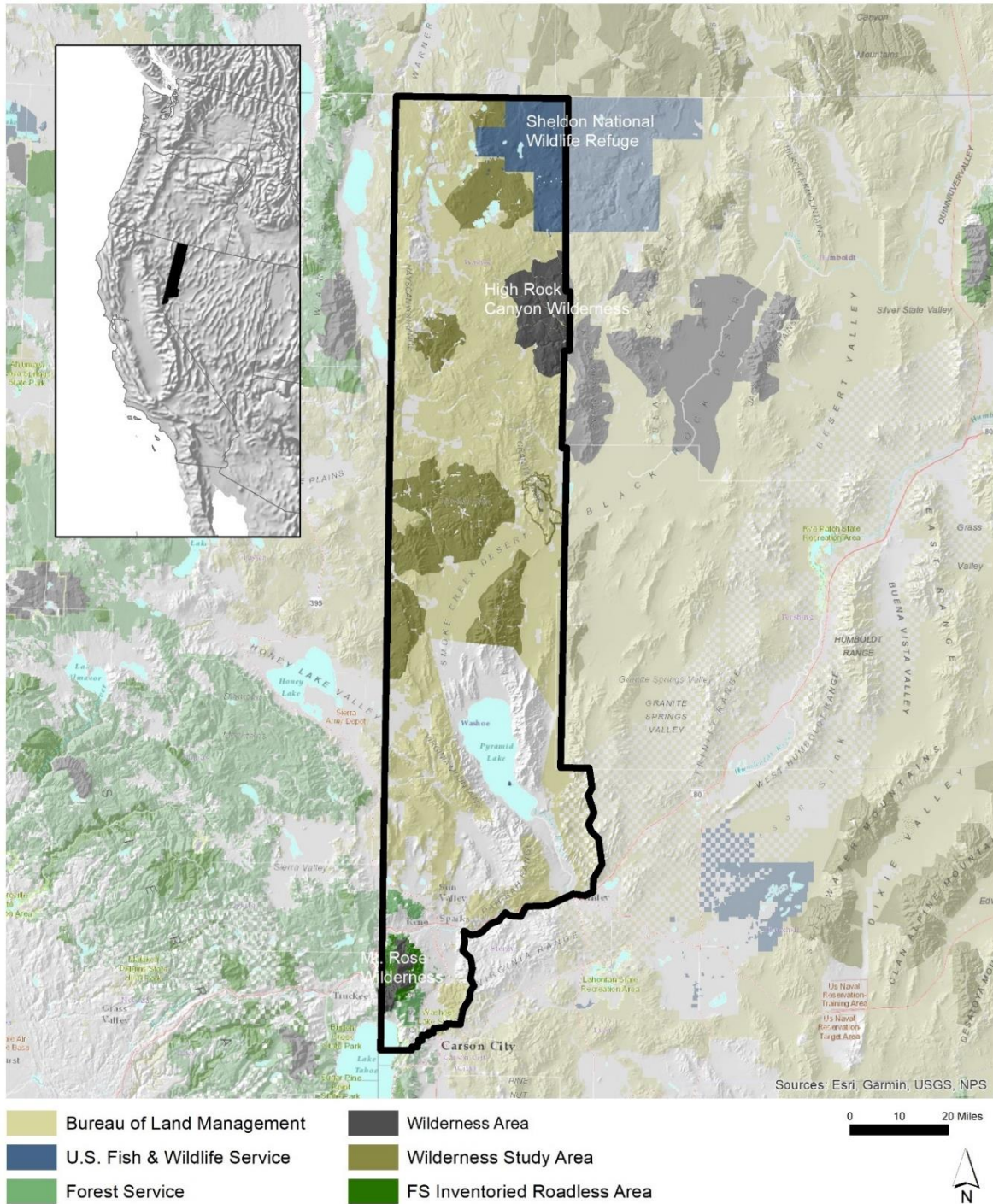


Figure 1. Land ownership and special designations in Washoe County, Nevada.

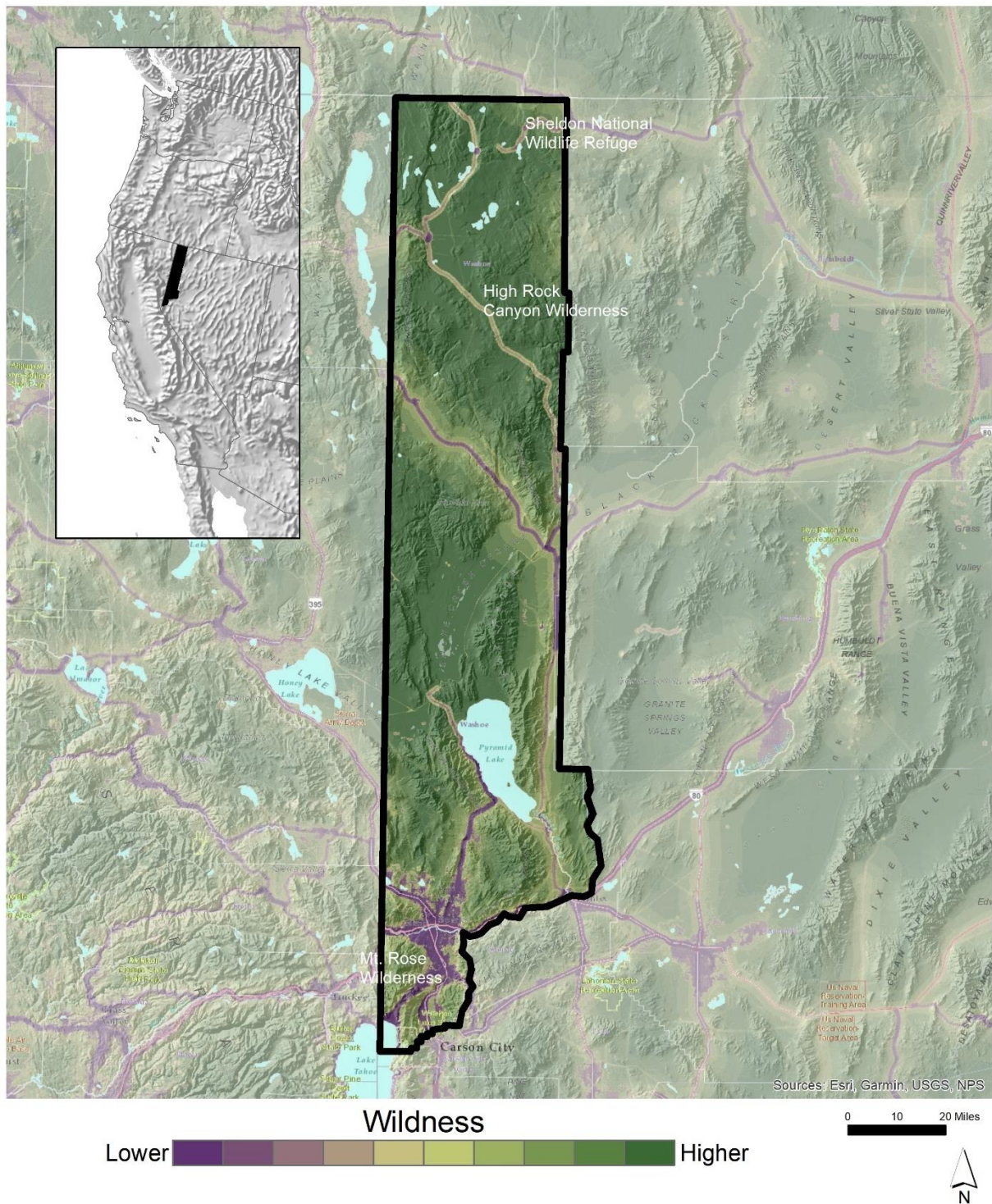


Figure 2. Ecological integrity ("wildness") in Washoe County, Nevada based on human modification data.

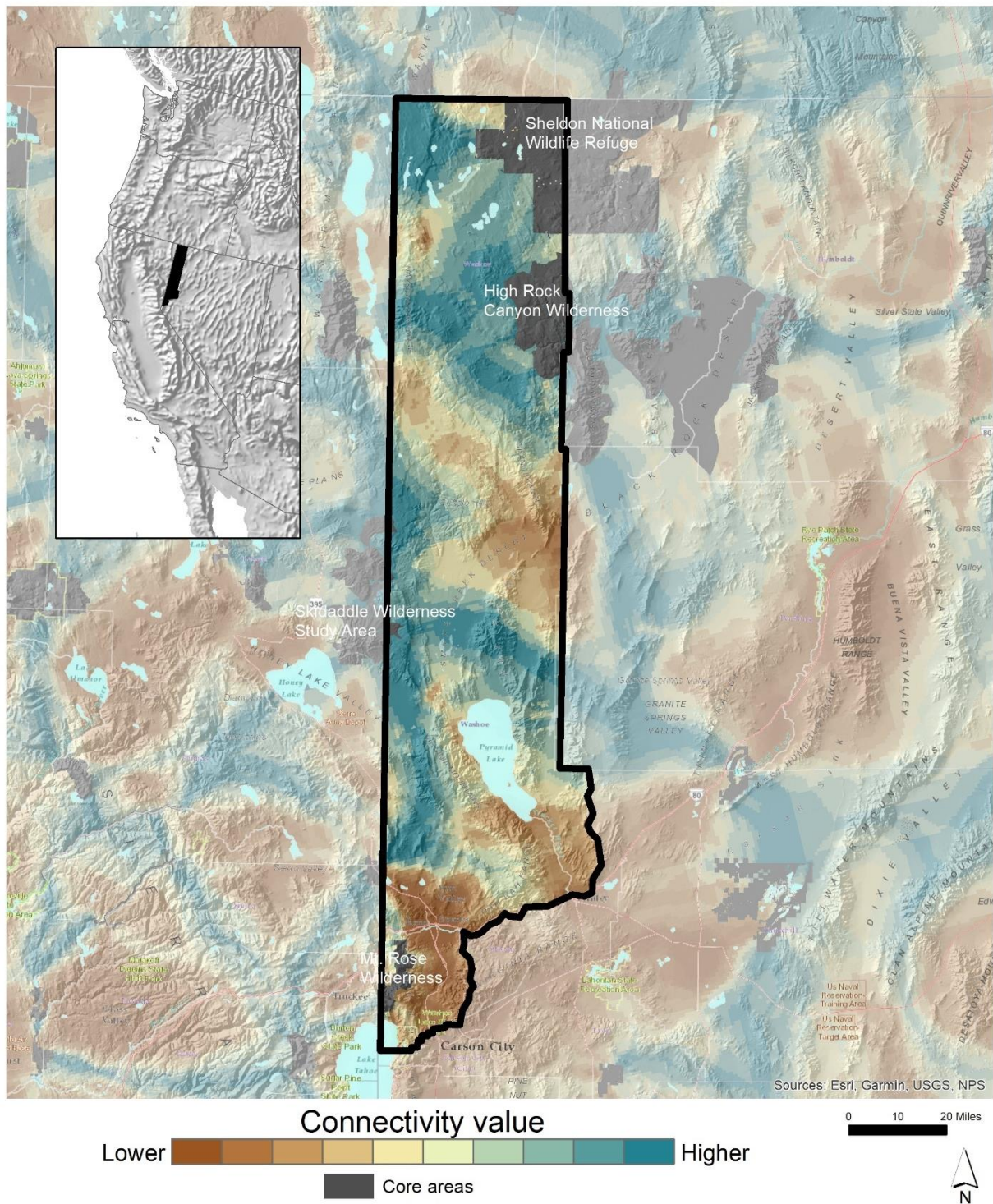


Figure 3. Connectivity value (least cost corridors between large protected areas) in Washoe County, Nevada.

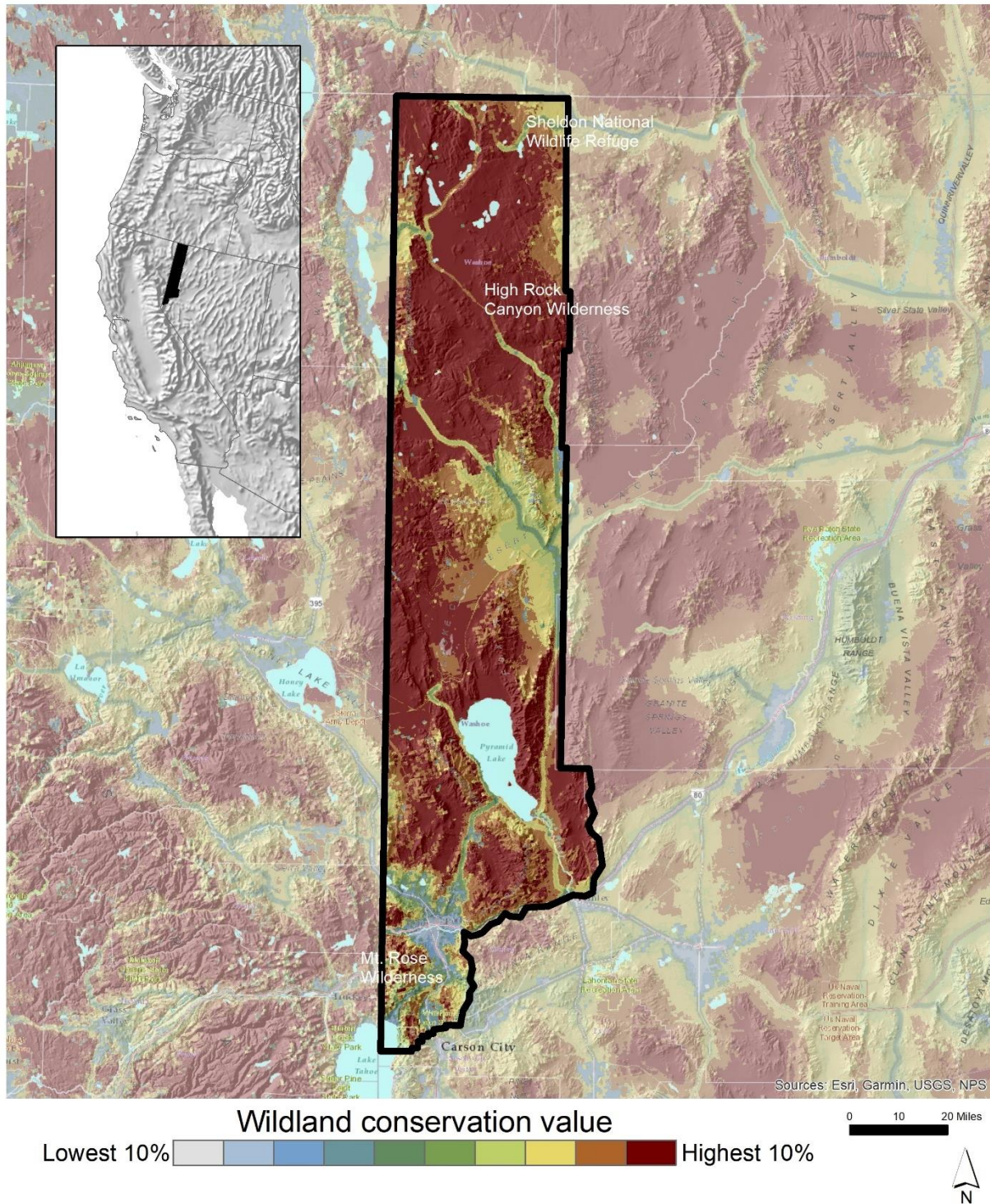


Figure 5. A composite wildland conservation value of Washoe County, Nevada. Dark red areas represent the top 10% highest priority areas for the contiguous United States.

Results and Discussion

Of the 19 unique management units evaluated, five possess wildness values that are among the top one percent of national wildness values. Only four management units have wildness values that are less than the 90th percentile of national wildness values. The remote nature of the landscape with few major roads, low human population density, and relatively natural land cover give rise to the relatively wild character of many areas in the county. These wildlands are among the wildest places in the contiguous US.

Among the 19 unique management units evaluated, nine possess connectivity values that are within the top 10 percent of national connectivity values, including all four management units within the TWS conservation proposal. The remaining five are proposed wilderness areas currently administered by the BLM. The relatively wild character of the land and existing protected areas provide a number of important linkages for establishing a national network of connected protected areas (Belote et al., 2016). Creating a connected network of protected areas remains a key conservation strategy to sustain nature now and into the future (Aycrigg et al., 2016).

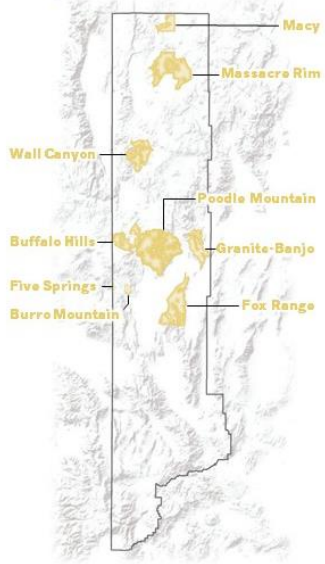
Across all management units, values of ecosystem representation priority tend to be lower relative to other variables included in the national assessment. Of the 19 unique management units, two are in the highest 25% of national ecosystem representation priority values. The ecosystems and vegetation types in Washoe County located in the mountainous areas tend to be fairly well-represented in existing protected areas, while the lower elevation sagebrush and greasewood basins are poorly represented in protected areas. Increasing the ecological diversity represented in protected areas also remains a key priority for conservation (Aycrigg et al., 2013).

Among the 19 unique management units evaluated, six possess composite wildland conservation values that are among the top five percent of the national values. Only one management unit fell outside the top 25% of national composite wildland conservation values. All four management units within the TWS conservation proposal are in the top 5% of national composite wildland conservation values.

The landscape conservation assessment within Washoe County, NV, revealed that many of the current and proposed land management units possess high levels of wildness, connectivity, and composite wildland conservation values when compared against the contiguous United States. This is particularly apparent in terms of their wildness rankings, with all but four management units ranking in the nations' top 10 percent of wildness.

In sum, the units assessed here are nationally significant with respect to conservation principles and recommendations. Put simply, our assessment revealed the national significance of this landscape. Maintaining wild and relatively intact large landscapes, creating or maintaining connectivity among protected areas, and better representing ecosystem diversity in protected areas will continue to be priorities for conservation. Decisions about land management and conservation now will have impacts on the landscape that future generations inherit.

Proposed BLM Wilderness



USFWS Proposed Wilderness



Proposed Conservation Areas

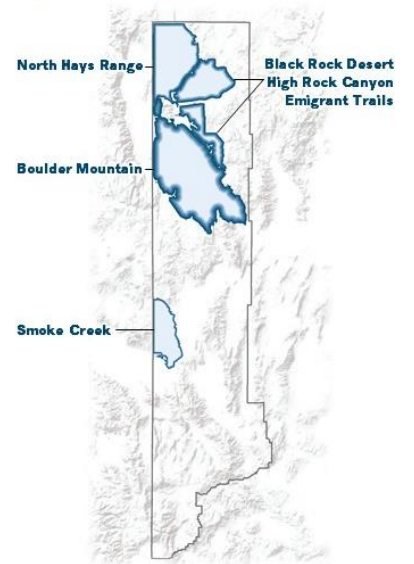


Figure 6. Distribution of conservation areas assessed.

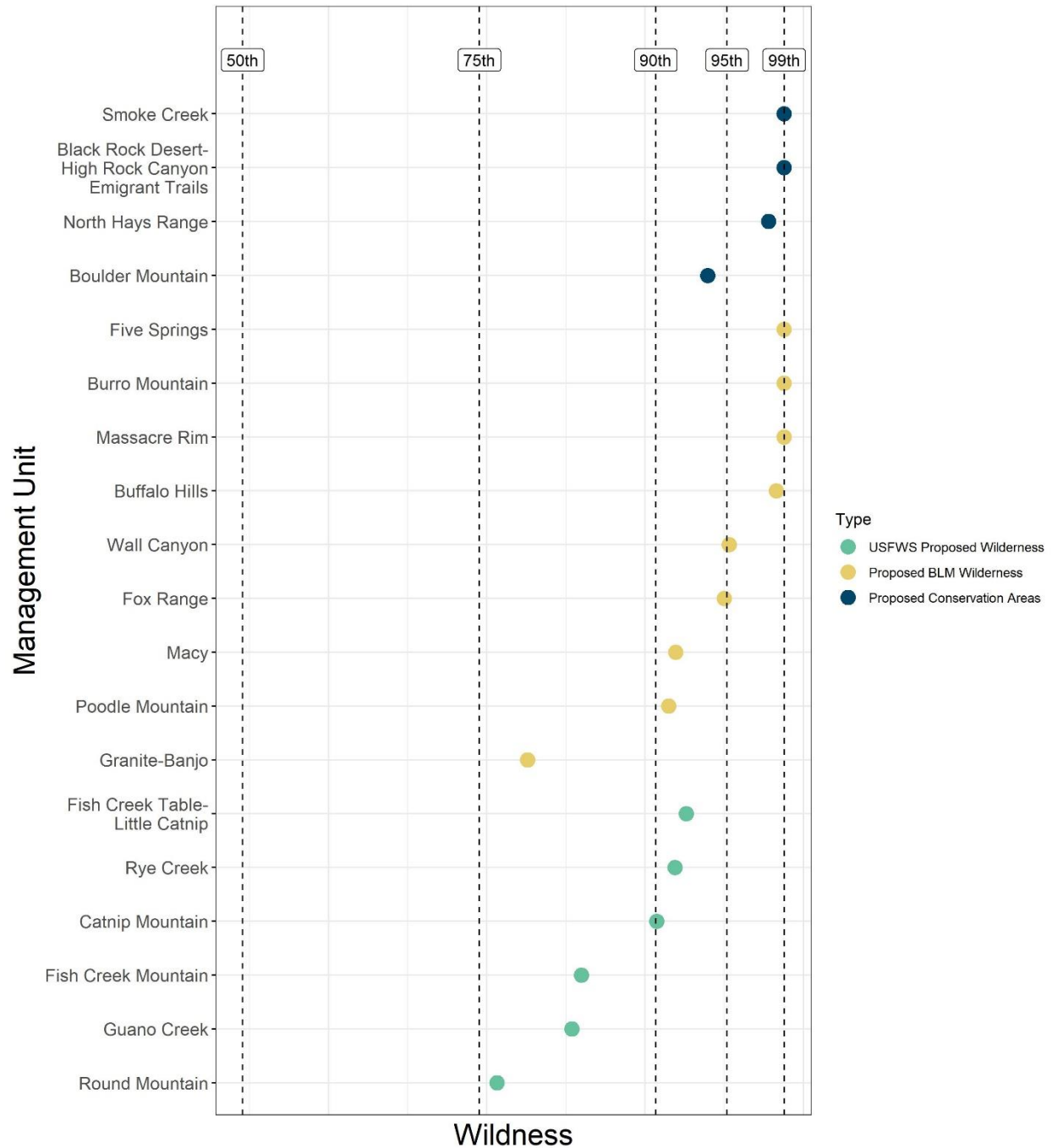


Figure 7. Rank of management units within the Washoe County landscape conservation assessment with respect to national wildness values. Vertical dashed lines reference the percentile of wildness values across the contiguous United States.

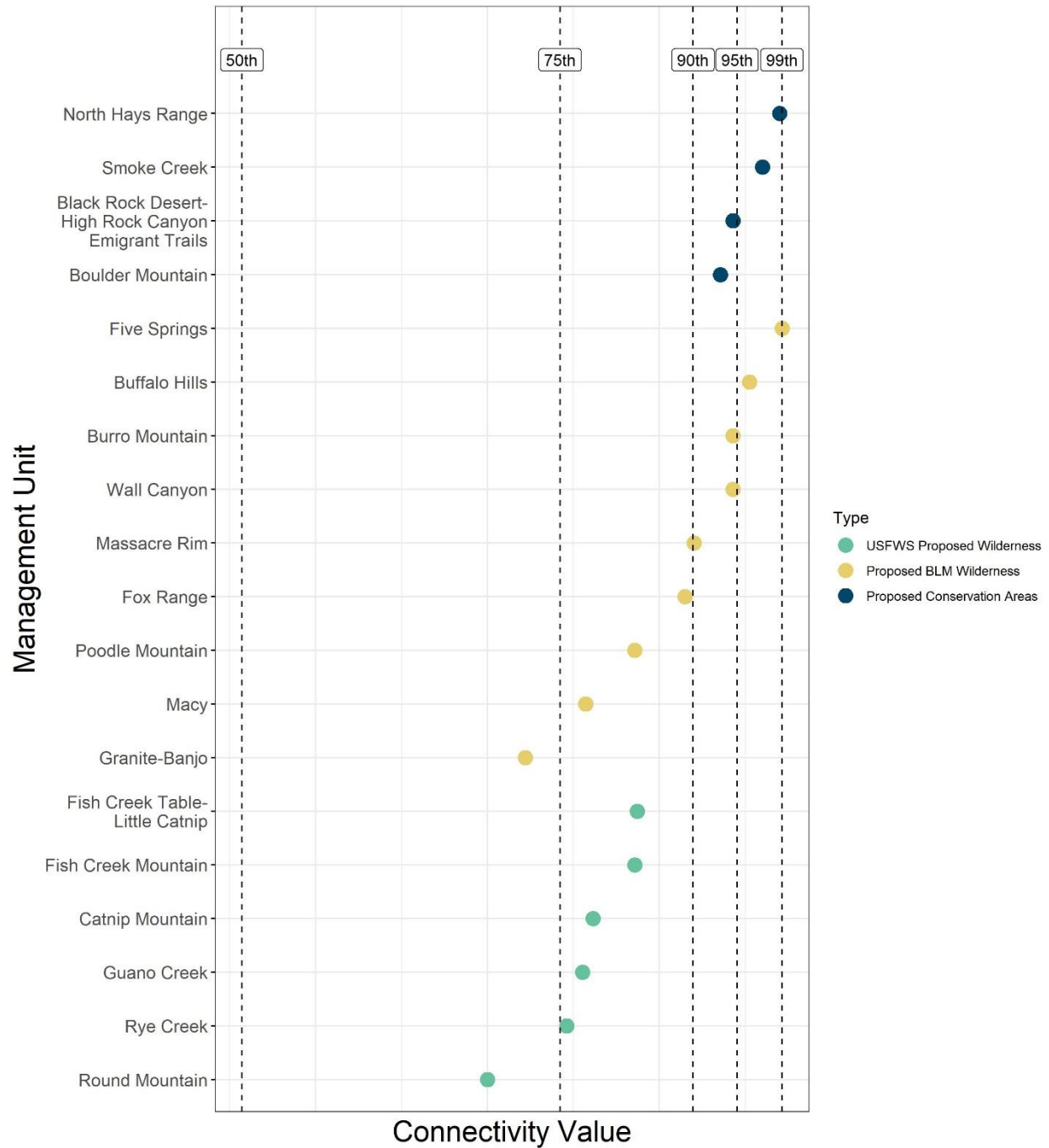


Figure 8. Rank of management units within the Washoe County landscape conservation assessment with respect to national connectivity values. Vertical dashed lines reference the percentile of connectivity values across the contiguous United States.

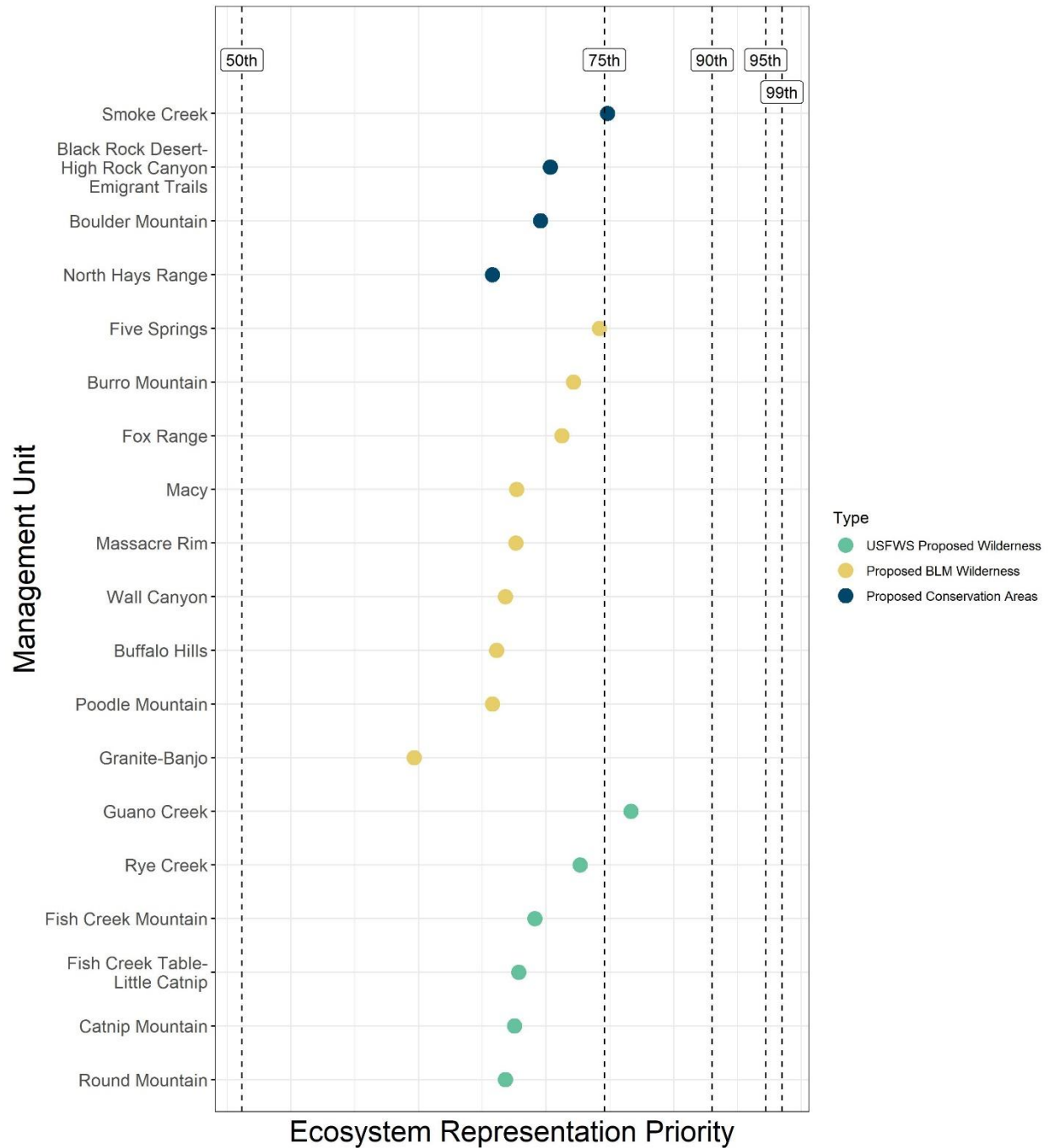


Figure 9. Rank of management units within the Washoe County landscape conservation assessment with respect to national ecosystem representation priority values. Vertical dashed lines reference the percentile of ecosystem representation priority values across the contiguous United States.

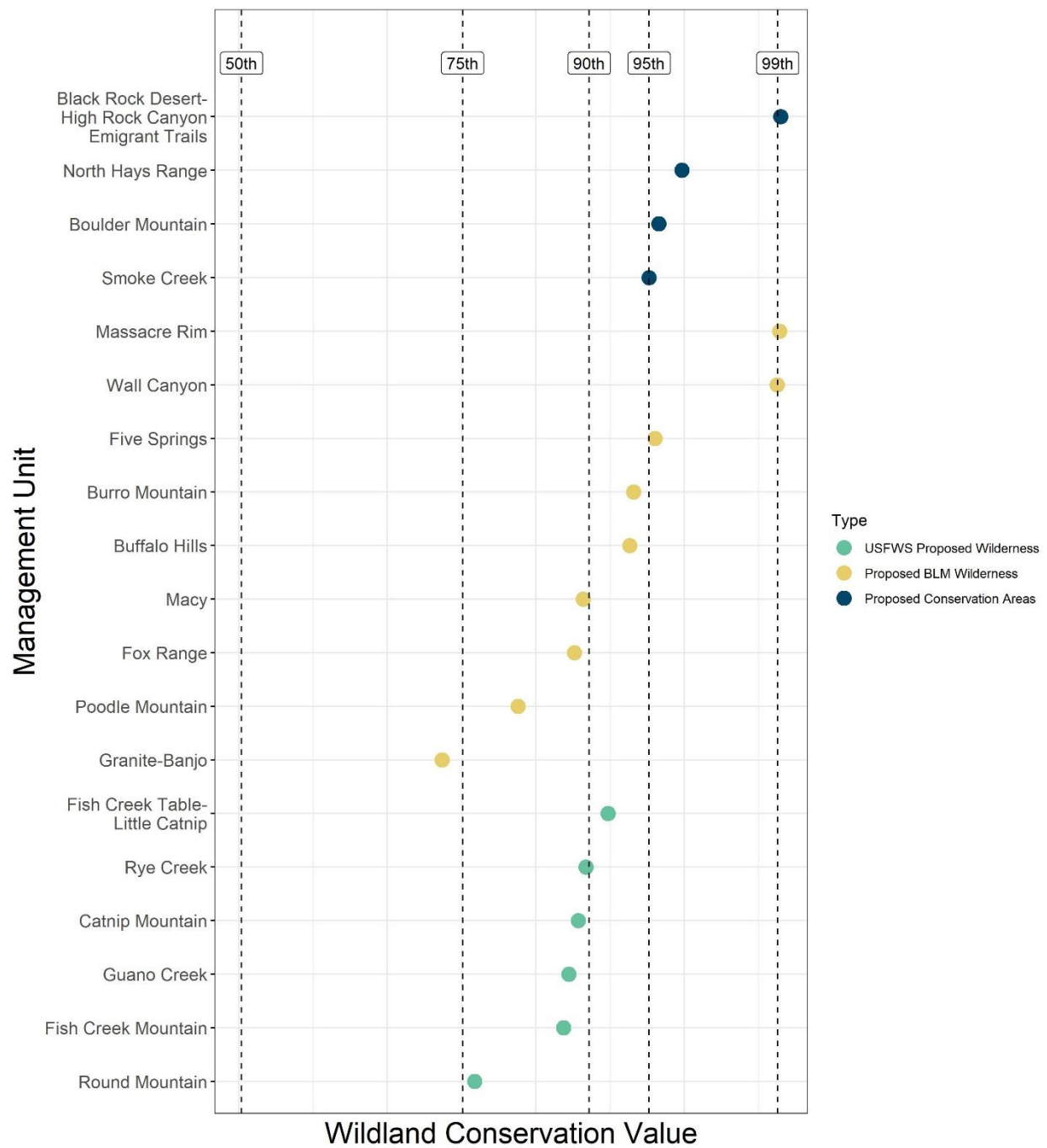


Figure 10. Rank of management units within the Washoe County landscape conservation assessment with respect to composite national wildland conservation values. Vertical dashed lines reference the percentile of wildland conservation values across the contiguous United States.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT

The following activities are allowed in national conservation areas:

- Hiking
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Camping
- Scenic driving
- Riding off-road vehicles on designated routes
- Mountain biking
- Grazing
- Firefighting
- Fuels reduction
- Accessing private property
- Developing existing mining claims
- Habitat restoration
- Mine remediation
- Tribal cultural and religious activities
- Expanding recreational opportunities
- Noxious weed eradication
- Maintaining existing powerlines

The following activities are prohibited in national conservation areas:

- New mining claims
- Oil and gas leasing
- Land disposal
- Renewable energy development
- Driving motorized vehicles off designated routes
- Development of Federal land that would harm the area's ecological, scenic, cultural, recreational, or natural values.

BLACK ROCK DESERT—HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT TRAILS
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Public Law 106-554 Appendix D-1

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) The areas of northwestern Nevada known as the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon contain and surround the last nationally significant, untouched segments of the historic California emigrant Trails, including wagon ruts, historic inscriptions, and a wilderness landscape largely unchanged since the days of the pioneers.
- (2) The relative absence of development in the Black Rock Desert and high Rock Canyon areas from emigrant times to the present day offers a unique opportunity to capture the terrain, sights, and conditions of the overland trails as they were experienced by the emigrants and to make available to both present and future generations of Americans the opportunity of experiencing emigrant conditions in an unaltered setting.
- (3) The Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon areas are unique segments of the Northern Great Basin and contain broad representation of the Great Basin’s land forms and plant and animal species, including golden eagles and other birds of prey, sage grouse, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, free roaming horses and burros, threatened fish and sensitive plants.
- (4) The Black Rock-High Rock region contains a number of cultural and natural resources that have been declared eligible for National Historic Landmark and Natural Landmark status, including a portion of the 1843–44 John Charles Fremont exploration route, the site of the death of Peter Lassen, early military facilities, and examples of early homesteading and mining.
- (5) The archeological, paleontological, and geographical resources of the Black Rock-High Rock region include numerous prehistoric and historic Native American sites, woolly mammoth sites, some of the largest natural potholes of North America, and a remnant dry Pleistocene lakebed (playa) where the curvature of the Earth may be observed.
- (6) The two large wilderness mosaics that frame the conservation area offer exceptional opportunities for solitude and serve to protect the integrity of the viewshed of the historic emigrant trails.
- (7) Public lands in the conservation area have been used for domestic livestock grazing for over a century, with resultant benefits to community stability and contributions to the local and State economies. It has not been demonstrated that continuation of this use would be incompatible with appropriate protection and sound management of the resource values of these lands; therefore, it is expected that such grazing will continue in

accordance with the management plan for the conservation area and other applicable laws and regulations.

(8) The Black Rock Desert playa is a unique natural resource that serves as the primary destination for the majority of visitors to the conservation area, including visitors associated with large-scale permitted events. It is expected that such permitted events will continue to be administered in accordance with the management plan for the conservation area and other applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term “public lands” has the meaning stated in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)).

(3) The term “conservation area” means the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area established pursuant to section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.—In order to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, cultural, paleontological, scenic, scientific, biological, educational, wildlife, riparian, wilderness, endangered species, and recreational values and resources associated with the Applegate-Lassen and Nobles Trails corridors and surrounding areas, there is hereby established the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in the State of Nevada.

(b) AREAS INCLUDED.—The conservation area shall consist of approximately 797,100 acres of public lands as generally depicted on the map entitled “Black Rock Desert Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area” and dated July 19, 2000.

(c) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a map and legal description of the conservation area. The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such map and legal description. Copies of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT.

(a) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the conservation area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances its resources and values, including those resources and values specified in subsection 4(a), in accordance with this Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable provisions of law.

(b) ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain adequate access for the reasonable use and enjoyment of the conservation area.

(2) PRIVATE LAND.—The Secretary shall provide reasonable access to privately owned land or interests in land within the boundaries of the conservation area.

(3) **EXISTING PUBLIC ROADS.**—The Secretary is authorized to maintain existing public access within the boundaries of the conservation area in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the conservation area was established.

(c) **USES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the conservation area as the Secretary finds will further the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

(2) **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE.**—Except where needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, use of motorized vehicles in the conservation area shall be permitted only on roads and trails and in other areas designated for use of motorized vehicles as part of the management plan prepared pursuant to subsection (e).

(3) **PERMITTED EVENTS.**—The Secretary may continue to permit large-scale events in defined, low impact areas of the Black Rock Desert playa in the conservation area in accordance with the management plan prepared pursuant to subsection (e).

(d) **HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING.**—Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada with respect to fish and wildlife management, including regulation of hunting and fishing, on public lands within the conservation area.

(e) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Within three years following the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive resource management plan for the long-term protection and management of the conservation area. The plan shall be developed with full public participation and shall describe the appropriate uses and management of the conservation area consistent with the provisions of this Act. The plan may incorporate appropriate decisions contained in any current management or activity plan for the area and may use information developed in previous studies of the lands within or adjacent to the conservation area.

(f) **GRAZING.**—Where the Secretary of the Interior currently permits livestock grazing in the conservation area, such grazing shall be allowed to continue subject to all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders.

(g) **VISITOR SERVICE FACILITIES.**—The Secretary is authorized to establish, in cooperation with other public or private entities as the Secretary may deem appropriate, visitor service facilities for the purpose of providing information about the historical, cultural, ecological, recreational, and other resources of the conservation area.

SEC. 6. WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the conservation area and all lands and interests therein which are hereafter acquired by the United States are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, from operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and from the minerals materials laws and all amendments thereto.

SEC. 7. NO BUFFER ZONES.

The Congress does not intend for the establishment of the conservation area to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the conservation area. The fact that there may be activities or uses on lands outside the conservation area that would not be permitted in the conservation area shall not preclude such activities or uses on such lands up to the boundary of the conservation area consistent with other applicable laws.

SEC. 8. WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State of Nevada are designated as wilderness, and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

- (1) Certain lands in the Black Rock Desert Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 315,700 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Black Rock Desert Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the Black Rock Desert Wilderness.
- (2) Certain lands in the Pahute Peak Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 57,400 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Pahute Peak Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the Pahute Peak Wilderness.
- (3) Certain lands in the North Black Rock Range Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 30,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “North Black Rock Range Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the North Black Rock Range Wilderness.
- (4) Certain lands in the East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 52,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness.
- (5) Certain lands in the High Rock Lake Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 59,300 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “High Rock Lake Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the High Rock Lake Wilderness.
- (6) Certain lands in the Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 48,700 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness.
- (7) Certain lands in the High Rock Canyon Wilderness Study Area and Yellow Rock Canyon Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 46,600 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “High Rock Canyon Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the High Rock Canyon Wilderness.
- (8) Certain lands in the Calico Mountains Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 65,400 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Calico Mountains Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the Calico Mountains Wilderness.
- (9) Certain lands in the South Jackson Mountains Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 56,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “South Jackson Mountains Wilderness—Proposed” and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the South Jackson Mountains Wilderness.
- (10) Certain lands in the North Jackson Mountains Wilderness Study Area comprised of approximately 24,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “North Jackson

Mountains Wilderness—Proposed’’ and dated July 19, 2000, and which shall be known as the North Jackson Mountains Wilderness.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.**—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) **MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a map and legal description of the wilderness areas designated under this Act. The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such map and legal description. Copies of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) **GRAZING.**—Within the wilderness areas designated under subsection (a), the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary deems necessary, as long as such regulations, policies, and practices fully conform with and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas as such intent is expressed in the Wilderness Act and section 101(f) of Public Law 101–628.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.