From:	Nathanael Brown <Nathanael_Brown@fws.gov>
To:	Nicholas Palazzotto; Kevin McAbee/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS; Renee Chi/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS; Bekee Hotze/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS
Subject:	Re: Parker Knoll UPD Mitigation
Date:	Thursday, November 24, 2011 1:49:56 PM
Attachments:	parkerknollgeneralmpa.jpg potentia mitigation.jpg

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Dear Nick-
Below is a summary of our intitial mitigation discussions for Utah prairie dogs on the parker knoll project. We look forward to working with you on this project and hope to realize some positive conservation outcomes. If there is anything else you need at this time please let us know, we could turn the following summary into an official letter if necessary.
Cheers
Nathan Brown

Parker Knoll Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (PSHP)- Potential Mitigation for Permanent Impacts to Utah Prairie Dogs
The Parker Knoll PSHP will directly impact 79.6 acres of historic Utah prairie dog habitat on the Awapa Plateau, due to the construction of the upper storage reservoir. Additionally, approximately 20 acres will be impacted by the expansion of roads and ancillary facilities. Symbiotics located historic Utah prairie dog mounds throughout the upper reservoir project area. The mounds were not occupied and were deemed historic. The construction of the upper reservoir will effectively flood this historic colony, reducing our ability to recover the species by permanently taking habitat.
In order to mitigate for this loss the United States Fish and Wildlife Service would like to provide permanent protection to occupied Utah prairie dog habitat in close proximity to the proposed impacts. Since the proposed impacts will affect historic low quality habitat (high shrub component), a 1:1 mitigation ratio was used to calculate the desired mitigation. One hundred acres should be acquired from the existing landowner (SITLA) and placed into a permanent conservation easement. This conservation easement will be managed for the long-term conservation of Utah prairie dogs. If sub-surface rights cannot be acquired, no surface occupancy restrictions for mineral and gas development would be a required condition recorded with the easement (allowing for directional drilling). There will also be impacts to the Greater sage grouse. Symbiotics is working with the Service to provide adequate mitigation for impacts to that candidate species. It is possible that some of the mitigation for impacts to Greater sage grouse may also include the permanent protection of habitat located on the top of the plateau. If at all possible the Service would like to see the purchase and development of one large combined conservation easement for both the Utah prairie dog and Greater sage grouse. Discussions to this point have identified a potential for 100-300 acres to be protected for Greater sage grouse on the Awapa plateau, yielding a total conservation easement of 200-400 acres for both species.
In preliminary discussions with SITLA, land prices on the Awapa could range between ($500-$2000) per acre depending on the exact location. An additional $750 per acre (estimate) would be required to be put into an endowment providing funds for long term management of the conservation easement (a total of $275,000 for Utah prairie dogs). The attached map identifies three general areas on the Awapa Plateau on SITLA land that contain occupied Utah prairie dog colonies and fall within Greater sage grouse brood-rearing habitat identified by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Utah Natural Heritage Program database. A portion of the eastern most polygon also includes some winter

range for Greater sage grouse. The polygons represent some general focus areas, field surveys will be condcuted by our staff during the summer 2012 to develop exact easement sites.
The Service has contacted the Nature Conservancy in regards to holding the potential Utah prairie dog conservation easement and they showed some initial interest. We will continue to work with them as we move forward. We look forward to working with Symbiotics on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (435)-865-3763.

Nathanael L. Brown M.S.
Ecologist
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Utah Field Office- Cedar City
1789 N. Wedgewood Road
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435-865-3763-phone
801-946-2600- cell

Nicholas Palazzotto <palazzotto@symbioticsenergy.com>
Sent by: palazzotto.symbio@gmail.com
11/01/2011 05:10 PM

To
Nathanael_Brown@fws.gov
cc

Subject
Re: Parker Knoll UPD Mitigation

That's great Nathan. Thanks so much!

On Tue, Nov 1, 2011 at 3:11 PM, <Nathanael_Brown@fws.gov> wrote:
Nick-

Great meeting! I will be spending most of next monday (11/7/11) putting together a little write up for you. Other tasks are at the top of the pile next week. I have spoke with the TNC, and they are interested at this point. Elaine York is my contact at their SLC office. I am going to send her the same write up that I send to you and she will be presenting it to her group on Nov. 15. I will get you some info early next week!

Cheers

Nathan Brown

Nicholas Palazzotto <palazzotto@symbioticsenergy.com>

Nicholas Palazzotto <palazzotto@symbioticsenergy.com>
Sent by: palazzotto.symbio@gmail.com
11/01/2011 03:47 PM

To

Nathanael_Brown@fws.gov

cc

Subject

Parker Knoll UPD Mitigation

Hi Nathan,

Thanks again for meeting with us last week. It was good to learn more about UPDs on the plateau and I'm looking forward to the continued development of these mitigation proposals. I've attached a summary of the meetings last week that we'd like to include in the correspondence section of the upcoming license application. When you get a chance could you review it and let me know if you have any comments to add or other revisions?

Also, a couple follow up questions regarding the proposed conservation easement/s: 1) have you had a chance to speak to anyone at TNC about their potential interest in the project?; 2) Can you remind me which TNC chapter

would be involved and who the contact person is?; 3) Have you had a chance to dig up some cost estimates per acre for acquisition, restoration, administration, etc.?

Sorry to pester you but I'm working under a bit of time crunch in the short-term. I don't need anything firm for costs, just a reasonable estimate for FERC to be able to consider as part of the overall package. Right now I'm going off $2,000/ac plus 30% for future management. Is that the number I should roll with?

Regards,
Nick

--
Nick Palazzotto
Terrestrial Biologist
Symbiotics
2950 SE Stark St., Suite 110
Portland, Oregon 97223
503.235.3424
palazzotto@symbioticsenergy.com(See attached file: Parker Knoll Mitigation Meetings Oct2011.docx)

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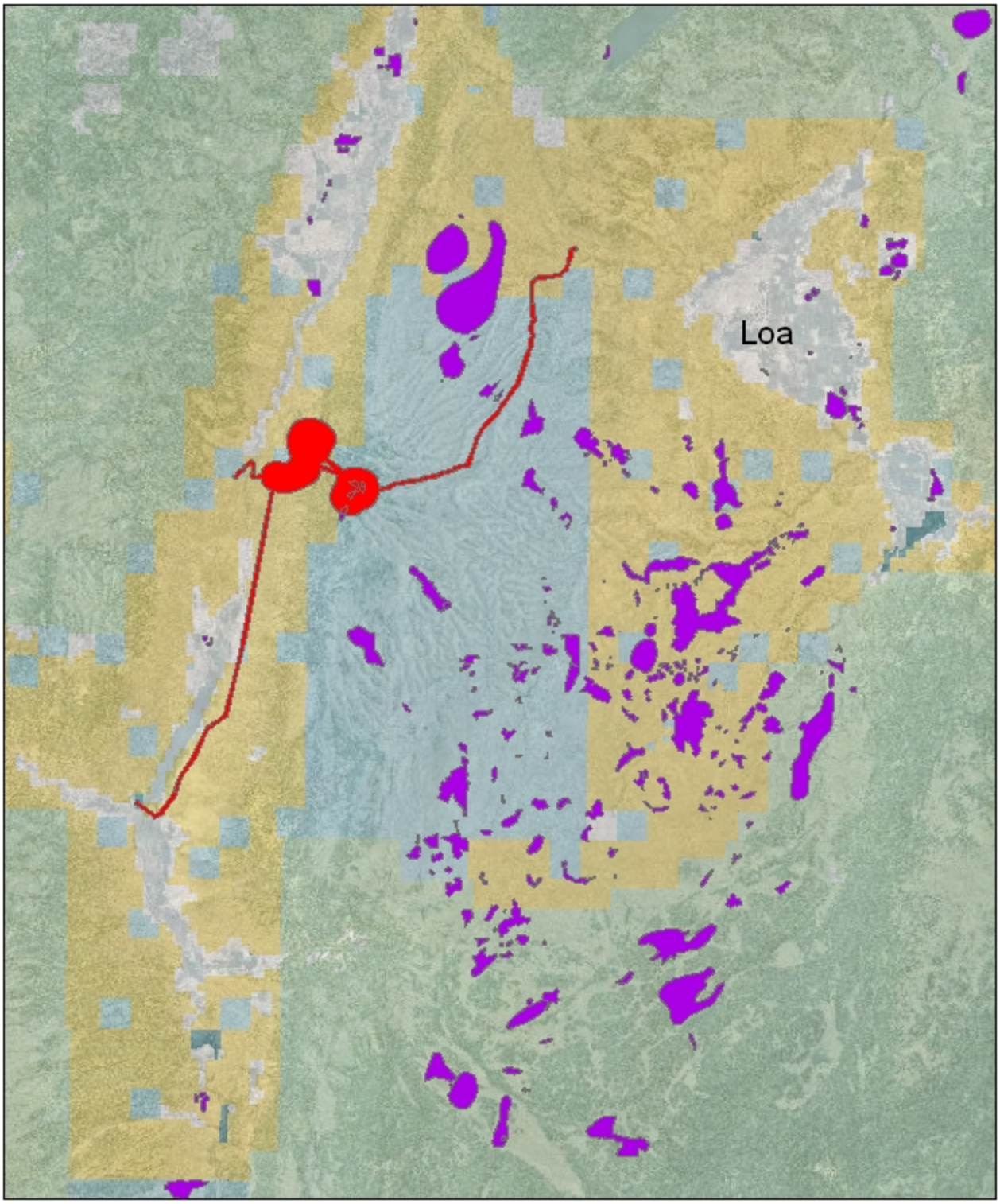
Parker Koll Hydroelectric Pumped Storage Project



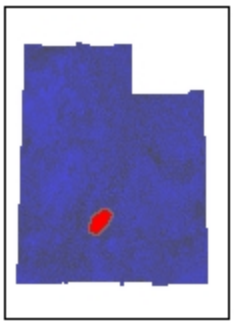
Legend

Parker Knoll Project

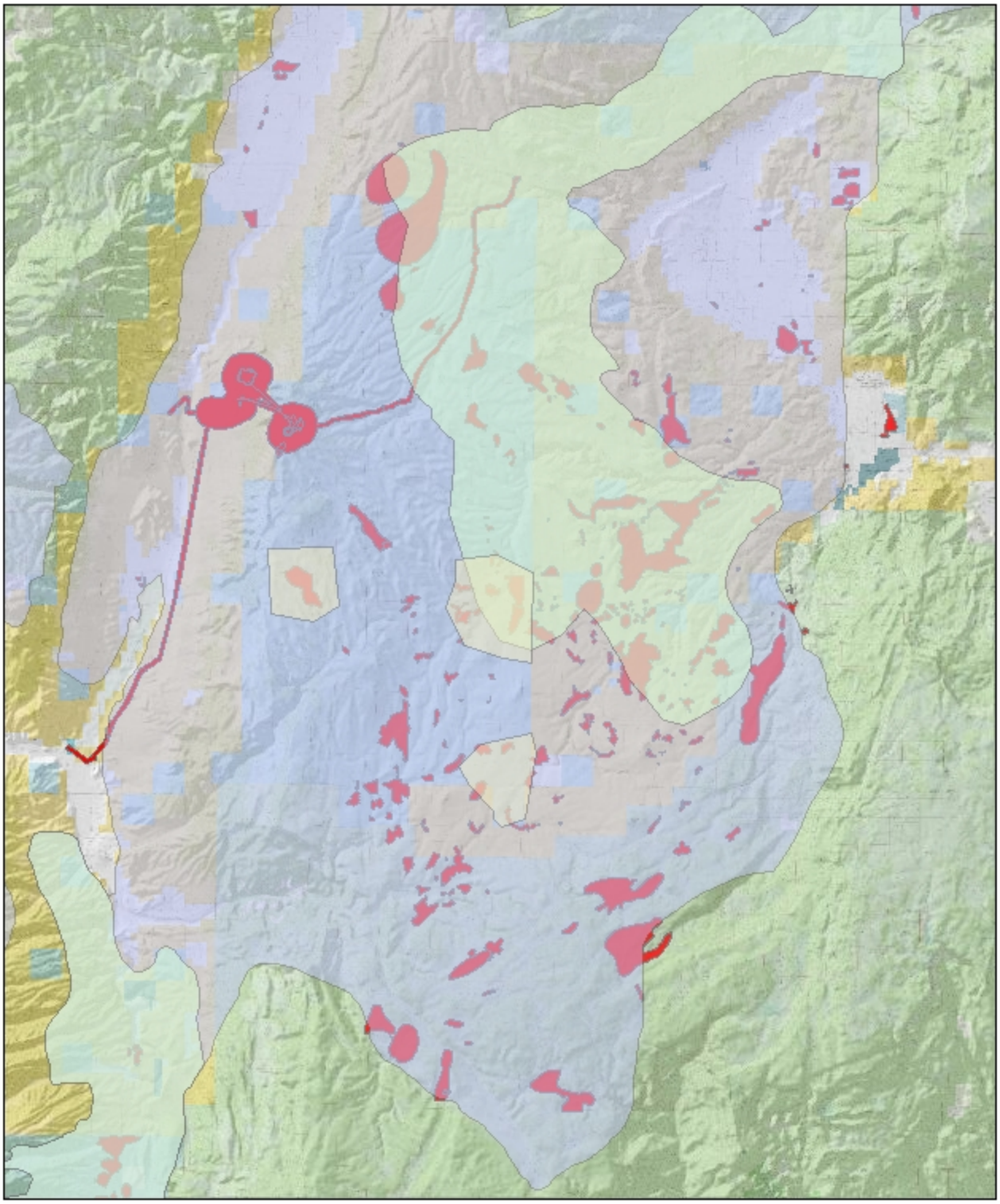
2011 upd mapped habitat

N

0 3 6 12 Miles



Potential Utah Prairie Dog Parker Knoll Mltigation Reserve



Legend

- Potential UPD and SG Reserves
- Sage Grouse Winter Range 2011
- Sage Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat 2011
- parker knoll project
- 2011 upd mapped habitat

N

0 3 6 12 Miles