

Conservation Area Modification Recommendations

Penstemon Conservation Team

September 4, 2018

As part of the Conservation Team's (Team) regular duties outlined in section 6.2 of the Penstemon Conservation Agreement, the Team will review existing conservation area boundaries and discuss any proposed modifications to these boundaries.

On November 2, 2017 and December 15, 2017, the Team met to discuss proposed modifications to conservation area boundaries. Several areas were proposed and discussed over the course of the meetings. Tables 1 and 2 identify the modifications which the Team identified as priority changes for upper management to consider. See also, figures 1, 2, and 3. Tables 3 and 4 identify the modifications that the Team discussed, but determined that more information is needed before a decision can be made on these areas and recommendations taken to management. Parcels identified in Tables 3 and 4 will be reevaluated by the Team in the future, see figures 4 and 5. All Team representatives are in agreement on the proposed modifications in Tables 1 and 2 and await final approval from decision makers from each signing agency of the Agreement.

Consideration areas identified in the tables below can be found in associated GIS shapefiles located on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Server (M:\GISData\USFWS_UTES_GIS\Endangered_Species\Plants\Graham_Beard_Tongue\Conservation Agreement\Team_CA_Review_Internal.gdb). GIS files have been shared with all Team members.

File names:

1. Potential_CA_deletions_20171215.shp
2. Priority_CA_addition_20180830.shp
3. FutureConsideration_CA_addition_parcels_20180830.shp
4. Future_CA_Removals_20180904.shp

Table 1. Priority modifications for conservation area additions.

UNIT	SPECIES	Consideration Area	Land-owner	# Plants	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale
2	White River Penstemon	6 Agency Draw	BLM	401	558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New population • High density cluster • Provides connectivity to western populations • Provides genetic representation for species
6	White River Penstemon	20 Book Cliffs	BLM	684	1,556	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New population • High density cluster • Southern most population, Provides genetic representation for species • Disjunct population
6	White River Penstemon	21 Book Cliffs	SITLA	306	225	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New population • High density cluster • Southern most population, Provides genetic representation for species • Disjunct population
TOTALS: White River Penstemon				1,391	2,339	

Table 2. Priority modifications for conservation area removal.

Unit	Species	Consideration Area	Land-owner	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale
2	Graham's Penstemon	3	SITLA	34	SITLA Interim A parcel – already developed and plants impacted.
3	White River Penstemon	4	BLM (UT)	25	Artifact from original GIS analysis that is not needed. This small isolated parcel does not provide connectivity or redundancy for species.
3	White River Penstemon	5	BLM (UT)	18	Minor boundary adjustment – Trim boundary at this location because it is a lower value area without plants. Goal is to apply trimmed acreage to higher value areas that are not within a conservation area.
3	White River Penstemon	6	BLM (UT)	18	Minor boundary adjustment – Trim boundary at this location because it is a lower value area without plants. Goal is to apply trimmed acreage to higher value areas that are not within a conservation area.
4	White River Penstemon	7	BLM (CO)	20	Artifact from original GIS analysis that is not needed. This small isolated parcel does not provide connectivity or redundancy for species
TOTAL				115	

Priority Additions to Conservation Areas

8/30/2018

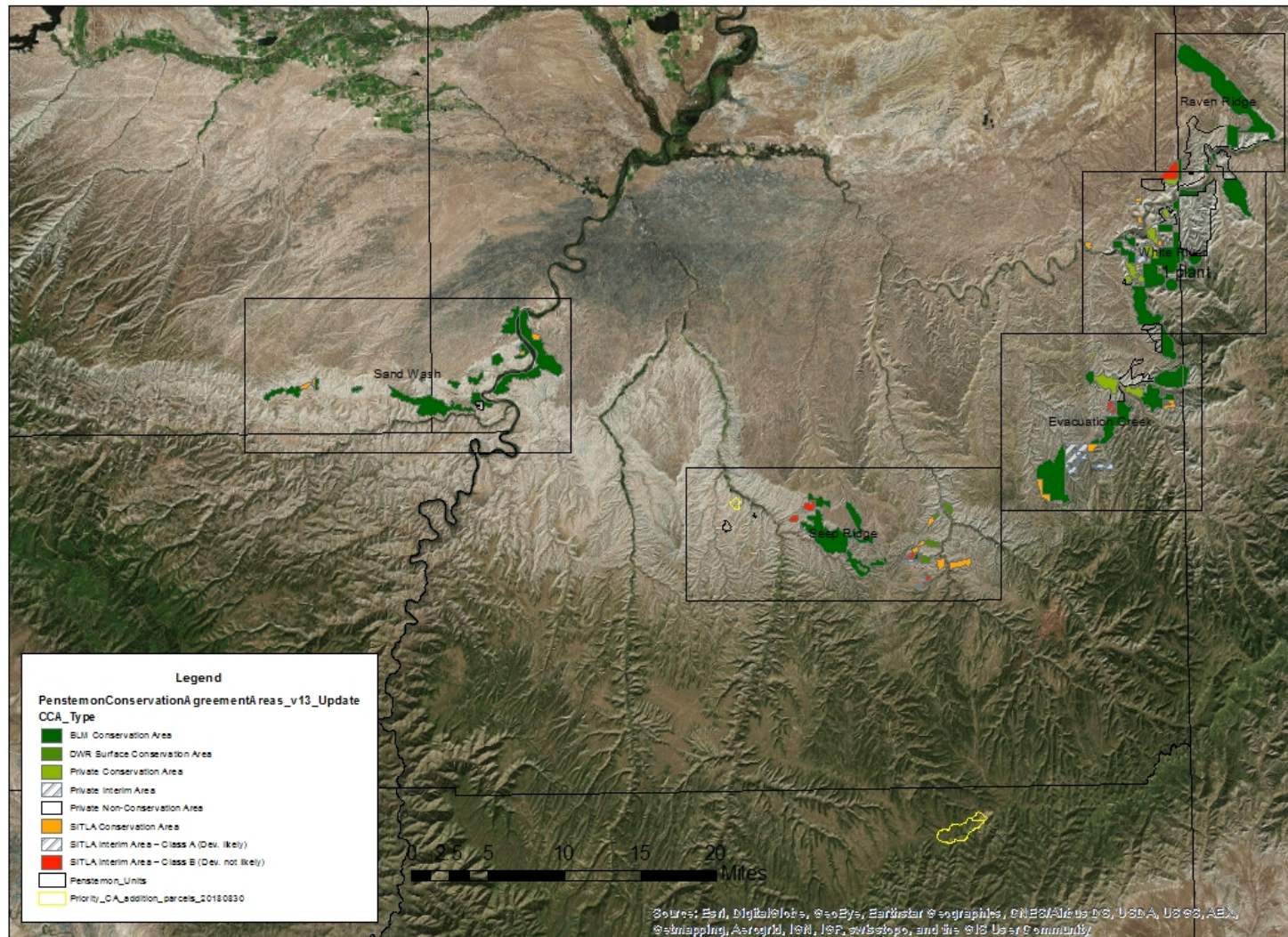


Figure 1. Overview of areas recommended for addition to the existing conservation area boundaries.

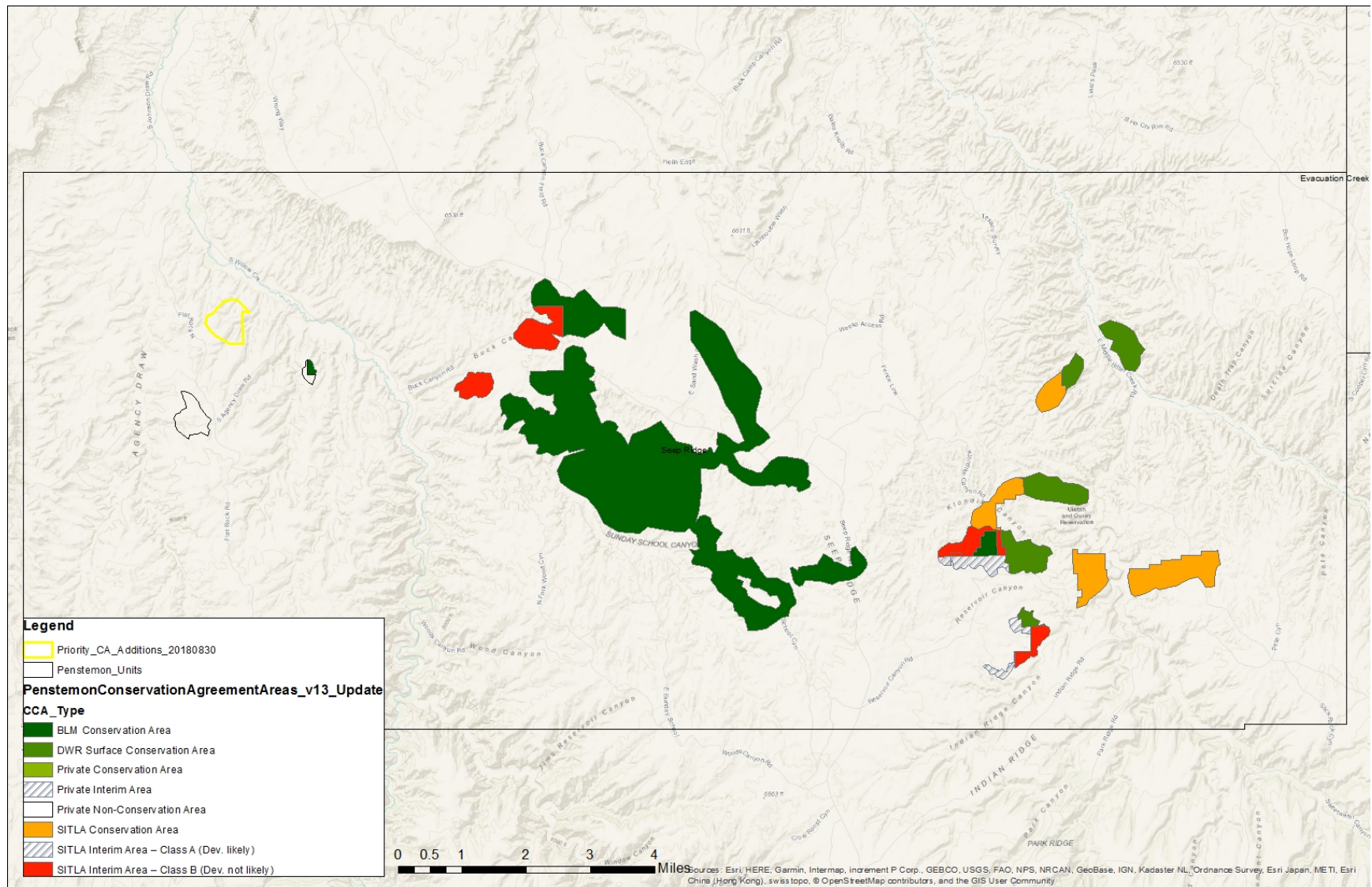


Figure 2. Agency Draw area recommended for addition to the existing conservation area boundaries.

Priority Area for Addition_Map 2

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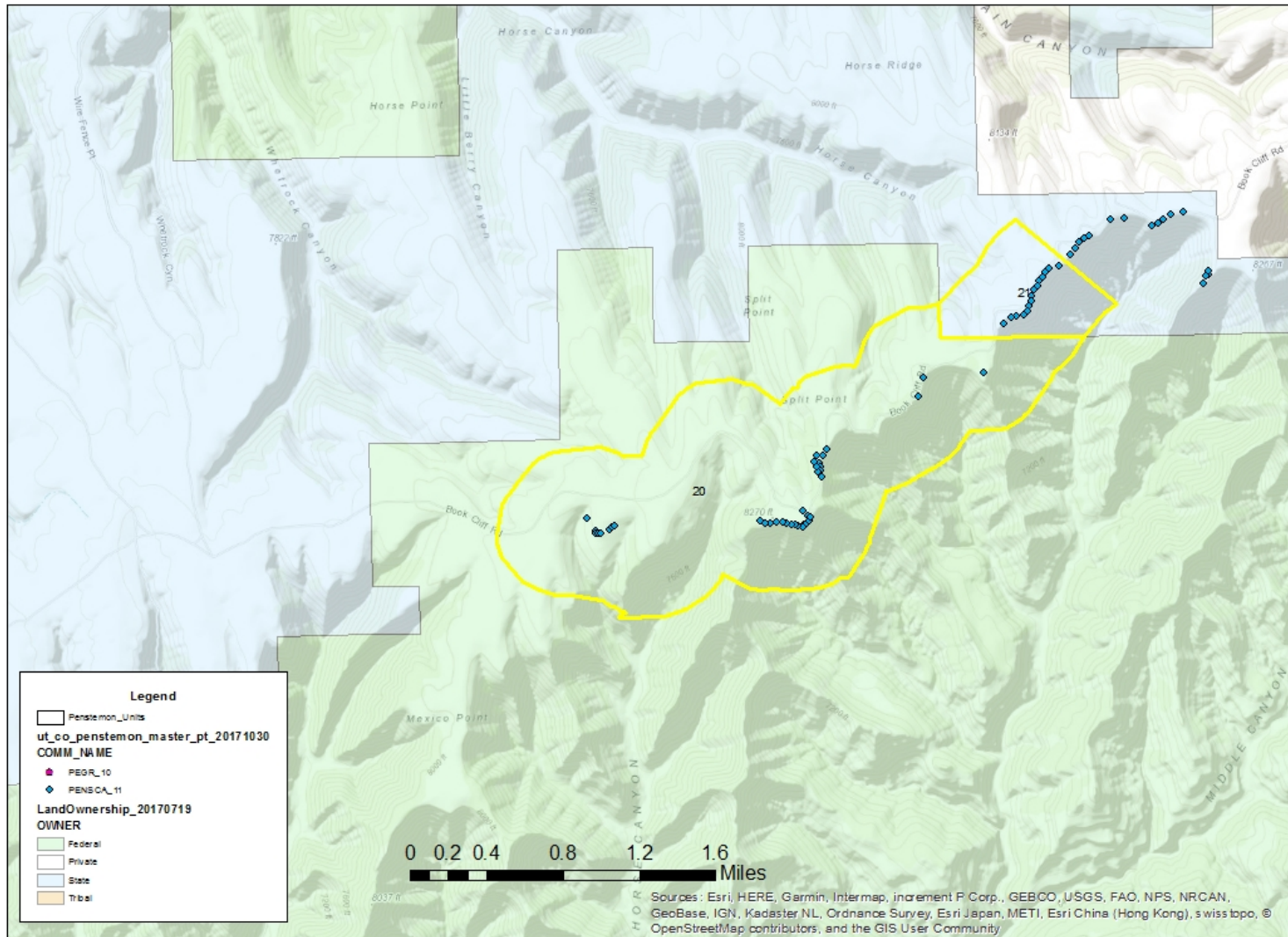


Figure 3. Book Cliffs areas recommended for addition to the existing conservation area boundaries.

PARCELS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The parcels identified in Tables 3 and 4, see also figures 4 and 5, have been identified by the Team as areas which need further information and consideration prior to making a recommendation for modifying the conservation area boundaries. The Team will consider these areas in the future.

Table 3. Potential modifications to be considered in the future for conservation area addition.

UNIT	SPECIES	Consideration Area	Land-owner	# Plants	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale	Team Decision Rationale
1	Graham's Penstemon	1	BLM	142	209	New HDC and Connectivity	Consider all modifications to Unit 1 as a whole. Need more surveys of existing conservation areas before considering additions.
		2	BLM	165	271	New HDC	Consider all modifications to Unit 1 as a whole. Need more surveys of existing conservation areas before considering additions.
		3	BLM	335	766	New HDC and Connectivity	Consider all modifications to Unit 1 as a whole. Need more surveys of existing conservation areas before considering additions.
		4	BLM	35	78	New HDC Partially in CA	Consider all modifications to Unit 1 as a whole. Need more surveys of existing conservation areas before considering additions.
UNIT 1 TOTALS: Graham's Penstemon				677	1,324		
2	White River Penstemon	5	BLM	874	1,046	New HDC, Connectivity, Representation	Area is reported to be heavily impacted by cattle and horses. Additional field assessment needed prior to considering as addition.
		7 Agency Draw	STATE	570	318	New HDC, Connectivity, Representation	High priority but under current lease. SITLA may have future opportunities with this Area to adjust boundaries and change conservation status.
		8	BLM	260	109	New HDC, Connectivity, Representation	Postponed for further connectivity discussion.
		9	BLM	0	7	Amend existing CA boundaries to include new occurrence data and HDCs.	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.

UNIT	SPECIES	Consideration Area	Land-owner	# Plants	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale	Team Decision Rationale
		10	BLM	0	3	Amend existing CA boundaries to include new occurrence data and HDCs.	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.
		11	BLM	0	4	Amend existing CA boundaries to include new occurrence data and HDCs.	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.
		12	BLM	12	121	Amend existing CA boundaries to include new occurrence data and HDCs.	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.
		13	BLM	0	5	Amend existing CA boundary to provide 300 ft buffer to occurrence data	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.
		14	BLM	561	33	New HDC Partially in CA, Representation	Minor boundary adjustment that may be able to be completed at later time under Team's authority.
		15	BLM	397	52	New HDC, Representation	Postponed for further connectivity discussion.
	Graham's Penstemon	16	BLM	665	387	New HDC and Connectivity	Postponed for further connectivity discussion.
UNIT 2 TOTALS: White River Penstemon				2,674	1,698		
UNIT 2 TOTALS: Graham's Penstemon				665	387		
3	Graham's Penstemon	17	BLM	131	123	New HDC and Connectivity	Postponed for further connectivity discussion.
		18	BLM	31	503	Connectivity	High connectivity but few plants. Need to review current survey information.
	Graham's Penstemon White River Penstemon	19 Atchee Ridge	STATE	345 1,892	145	New HDC and Connectivity	High priority, but under current lease. SITLA may have future opportunities with this Area to adjust boundaries and change conservation status.
UNIT 3 TOTALS: White River Penstemon				1,892	145		
UNIT 3 TOTALS: Graham's Penstemon				507	626		
GRAND TOTALS: White River Penstemon				4,566	1,843		

UNIT	SPECIES	Consideration Area	Land-owner	# Plants	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale	Team Decision Rationale
GRAND TOTALS: Graham's Penstemon				1,849	2,337		
SUMMARY				6,415	4,180		

Table 4. Future modifications to be considered for conservation area removal.

Unit	Species	Consideration Area	Land-owner	Approximate Acreage	Biological Rationale
2	White River Penstemon	1	BLM (UT)	16	Minor boundary adjustment – Trim boundary at this location because it is a lower value area without plants. Goal is to apply trimmed acreage to higher value areas for the species that are now partially within the same conservation area.
2	White River Penstemon	2	BLM (UT)	4	Minor boundary adjustment – Trim boundary at this location because it is a lower value area without plants. Goal is to apply trimmed acreage to higher value areas for the species that are now partially within the same conservation area.
Total				20	

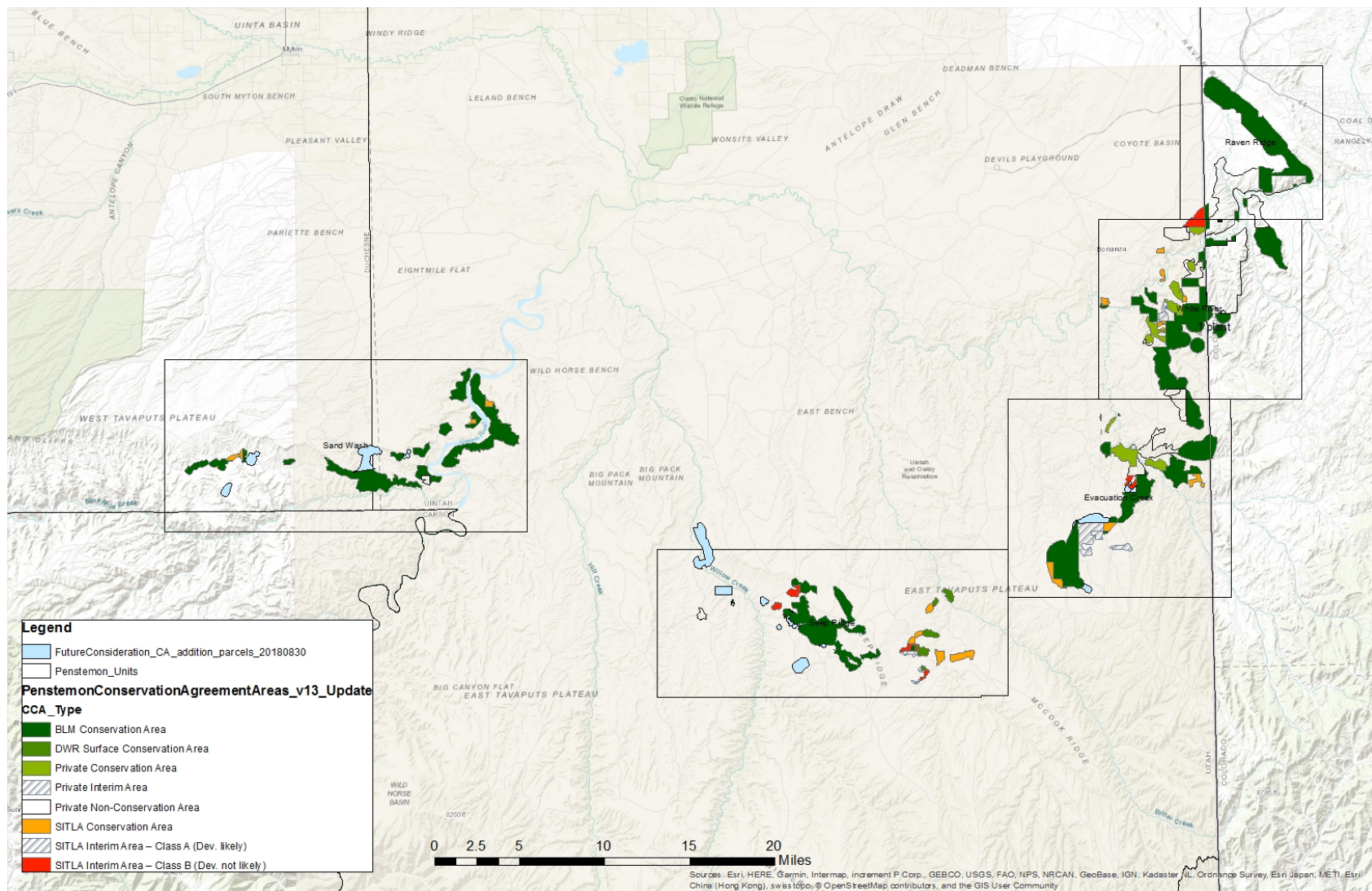


Figure 4. Areas recommended for future consideration as additions existing conservation area boundaries.

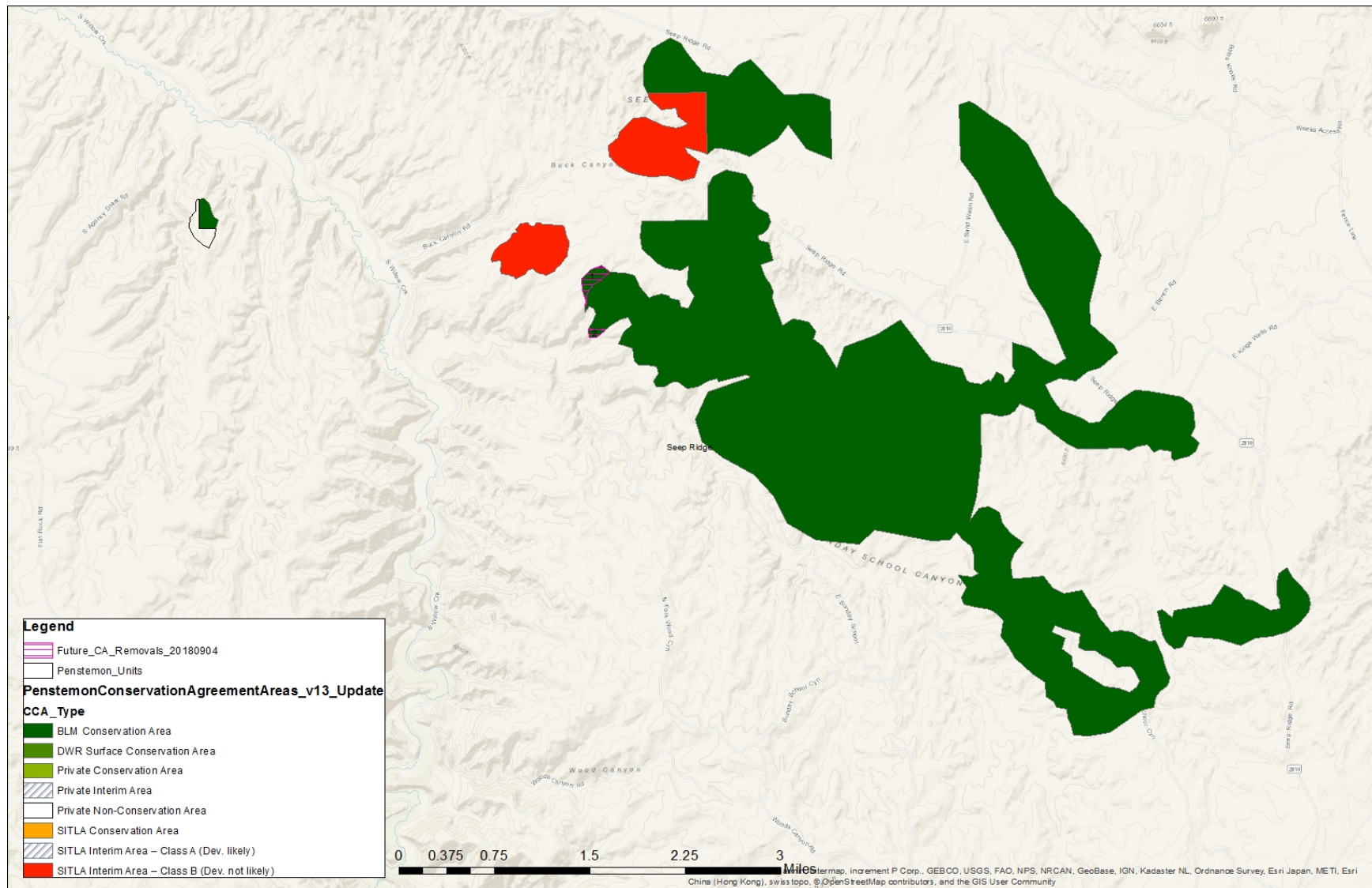


Figure 5. Areas recommended for future consideration as removals from the conservation areas.