

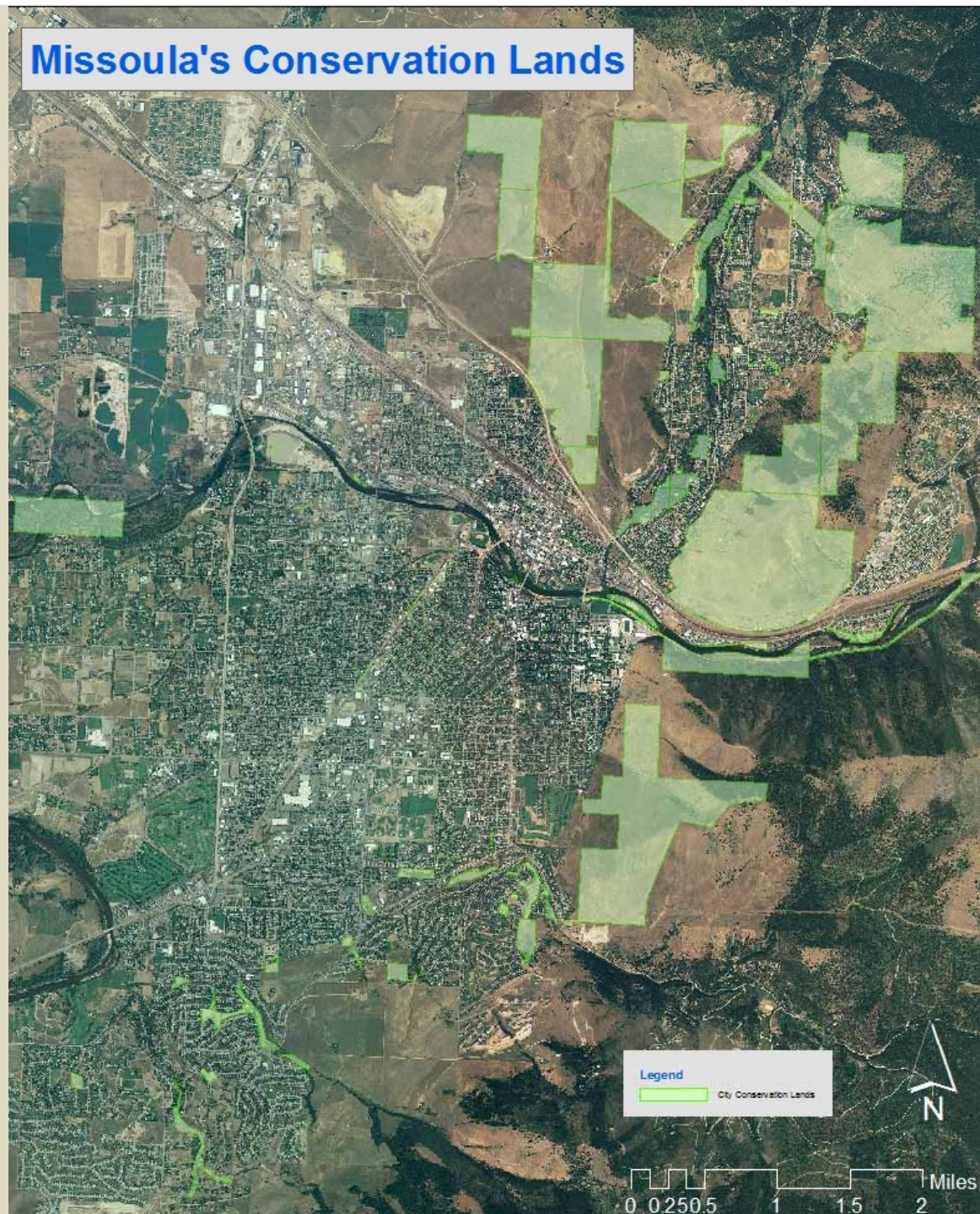


Missoula's Conservation Lands:

Citizen's working Group Overview

Morgan Valliant:
City Conservation Lands Manager
Missoula Parks and Recreation Department

Missoula's Conservation Lands



Management Challenges

- Balancing conservation with recreation
 - Adjacent to "large" urban population
 - Need for regulations but a lack of compliance and enforcement
- There is a lot to do!
 - Properties were purchased with no dollars for management
 - weeds, natives, trails, wildlife, wildfire, monitoring & education
- Getting the most BANG for the \$BUCK\$
 - Need to prioritize expenditures
 - Strategic planning

Habitat

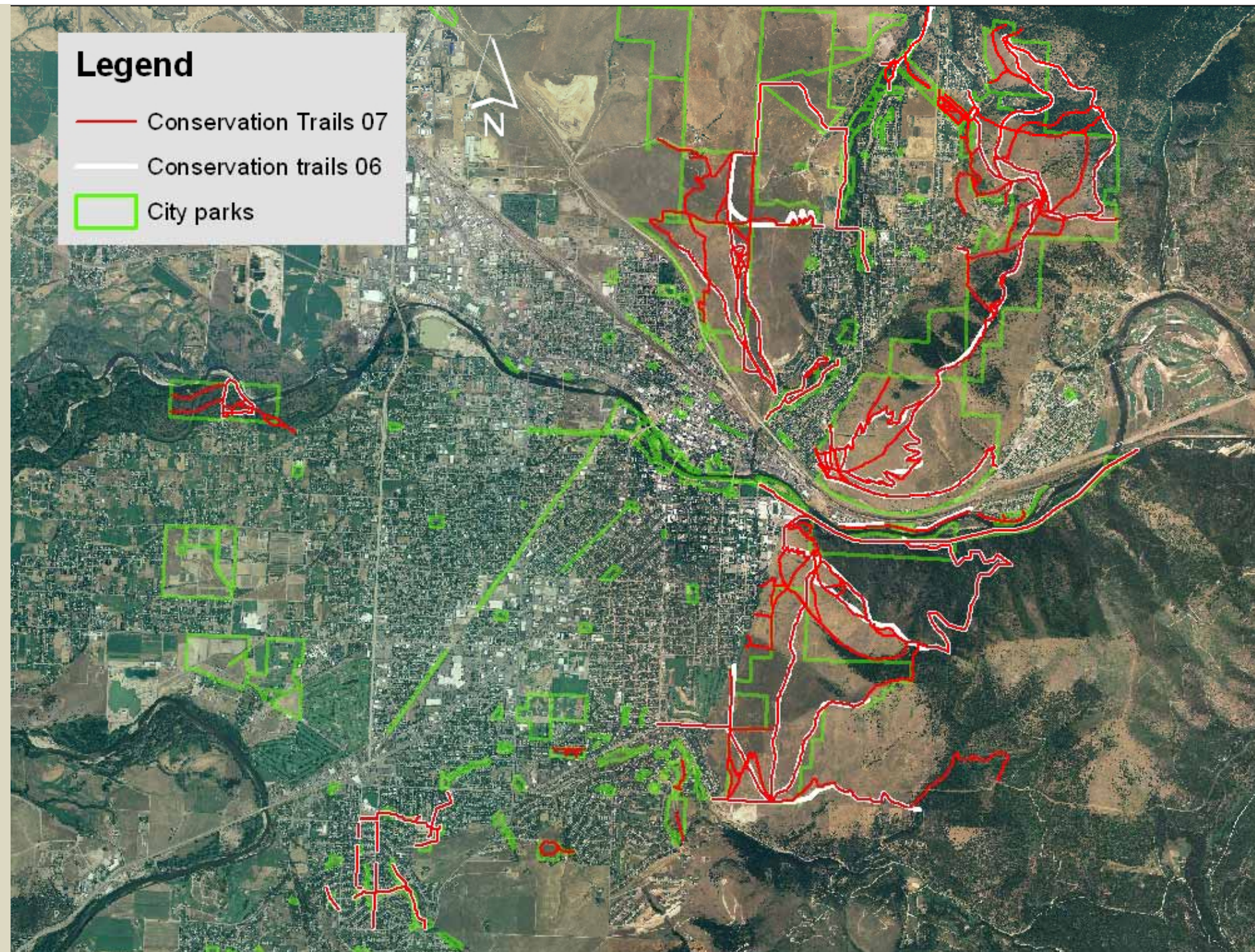


Recreation



Legend

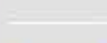
- Conservation Trails 07
- Conservation trails 06
- City parks



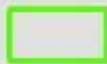
Legend



MCL trailheads



Conservation Trails 07



City parks

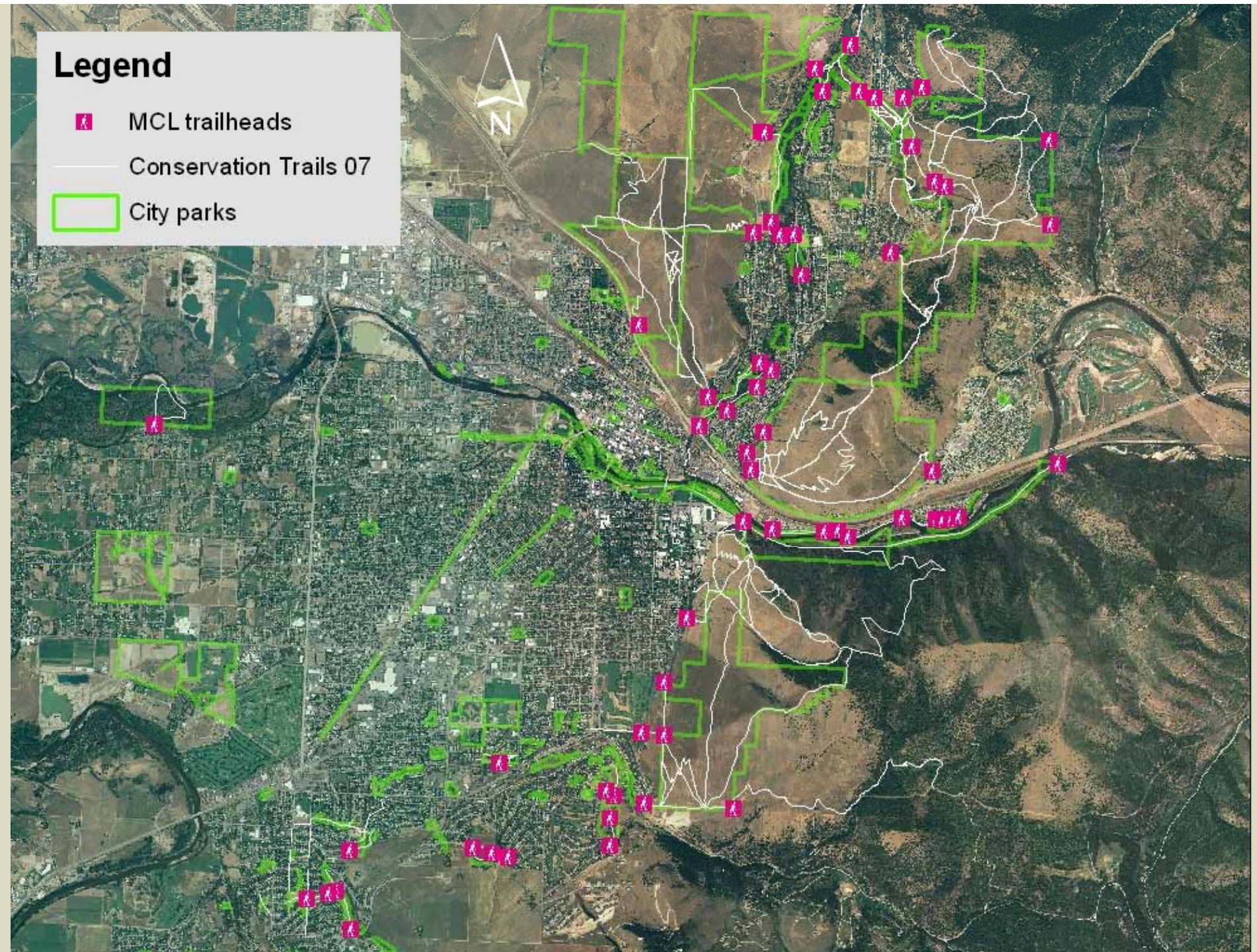
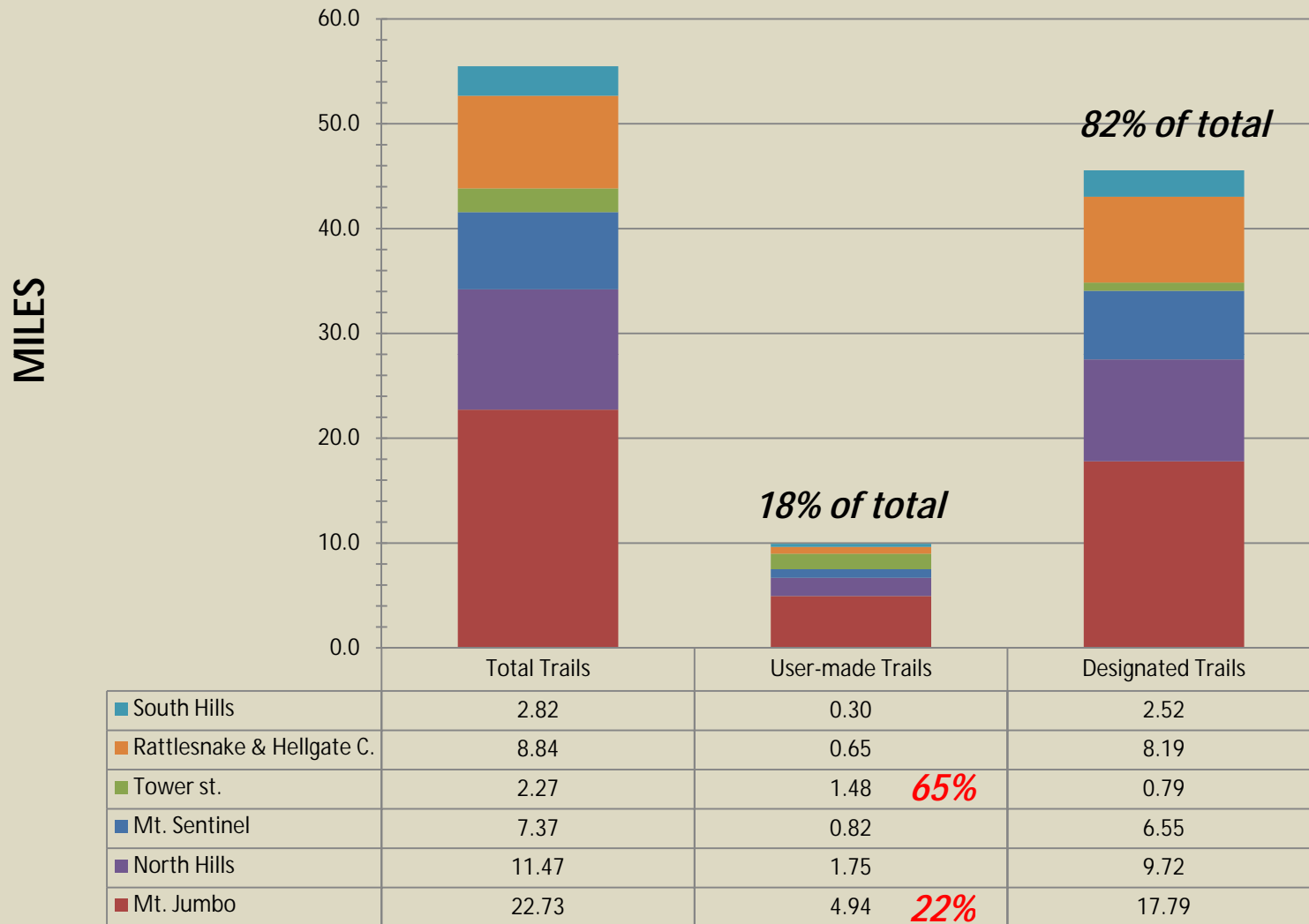


Fig:3 Distribution of Trails between Properties



Current Trail Maps

- Primary trail map used by public
- Show about 16 mi. of trails (30% of established)
- Multiple dead – ends



What Impacts do Users Cause?



Minimizing Recreational Impacts on Wildlife

MT. JUMBO WINTER CLOSURE



Areas That Are Closed:

Area North of Saddle Trail
Closed
December 1 - May 1



← Saddle Trail

Saddle Trail And Area
South Closed
December 1 - March 15



Trails Open All Year:

- ✓ Trail to the "L"
- ✓ Trail along I-90
- ✓ Road between upper Lincoln Hills and Tamarack, and land below.
- ✓ North Hills Open Space
- ✓ Mount Sentinel Open Space

Call 911 to report dogs off-leash or trespassers on closed areas

Mt. Jumbo's elk depend on YOU this winter.

What's at stake?

The loss of the Jumbo elk herd. The 50 to 100 elk that winter on Mt. Jumbo face serious danger. Their chances of survival dwindle if disturbed repeatedly by people and dogs.

Are people really the problem?

Yes. Elk view people as predators, and run from them. Racing through snow takes enormous energy at a time when elk are already stressed by the cold and effort it takes to paw through snow for food. Every time elk run, they deplete the fat reserves they need to survive the winter.

Why can't the elk just move elsewhere?

Mt. Jumbo makes up about 2/3 of the elk herd's winter range. The remaining range is too small to support the entire herd. The elk migrate from points north in the Lolo National Forest to Mt. Jumbo, their only choice for finding enough grass, shelter and solitude.

Hikers and Skiers DO have options—Elk DON'T

Under the closure, hikers may climb to Mt. Jumbo's "L" or follow the trail paralleling I-90. Be sure to leash dogs and remember that elk and deer are nearby. Additional winter recreation opportunities can be found close by on the North Hills, Mt. Sentinel, Lolo National Forest, Patten Canyon, Rattlesnake National Recreation Area, and on Blue Mountain. For a guide to Missoula's trails, call Parks and Rec. at 721-PARK or visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/parksrec.

Viewing Jumbo's Elk

Watch them from the Rattlesnake Valley or from downtown. Mornings and evenings usually are best. Look for animals moving high on the west and south-facing open slopes, not far from the shelter of trees.

Please don't violate the closure. Doing so can cost you up to \$500. Protect both your wallet and the elk and observe closure areas and dates.

Thanks for your help: Missoula Parks and Recreation, Mt. Jumbo Advisory Committee, Missoula Police Department, Lolo National Forest and Mt. Fish Wildlife and Parks.



For more information contact Missoula Parks Operations Division at 406-552-6277

Minimizing Recreational Impacts on Wildlife



Minimizing Impacts on Wildlife



Plant Communities



Riparian Areas/Cottonwood Forests



Wetlands



Coniferous forests



Cushion Plant Communities



Grasslands

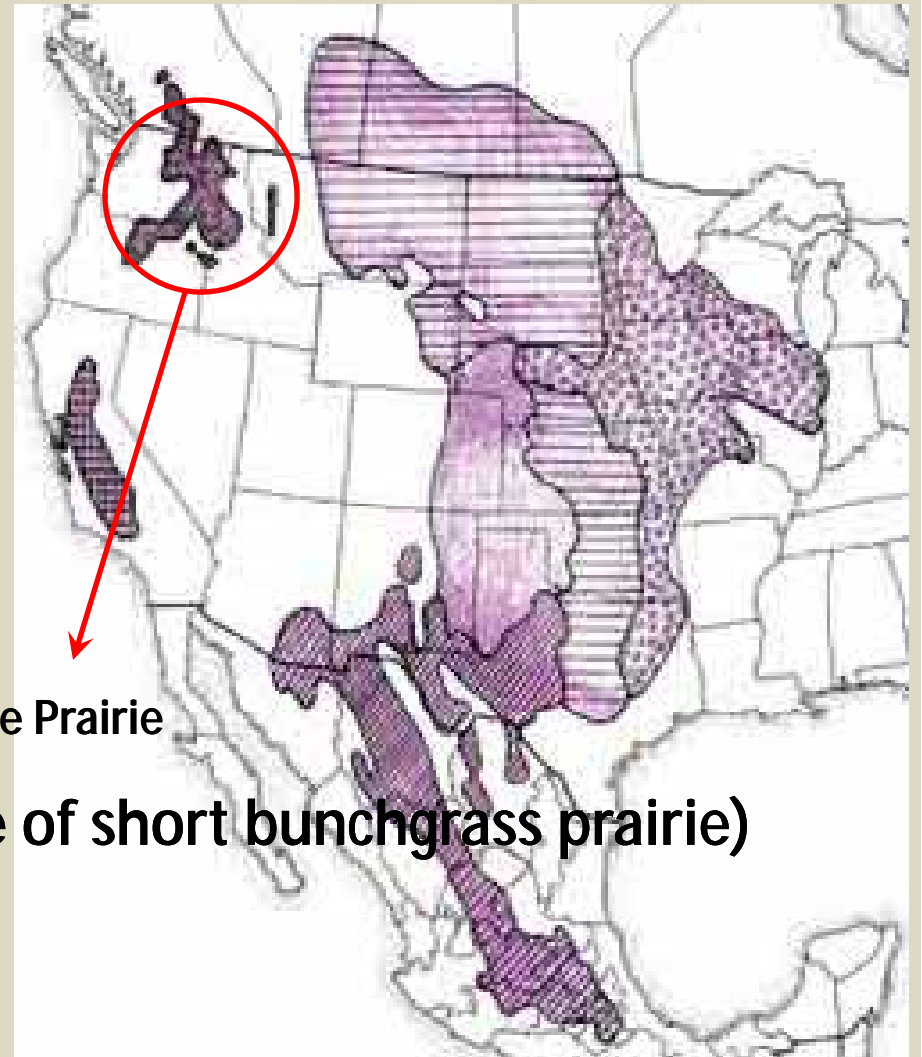


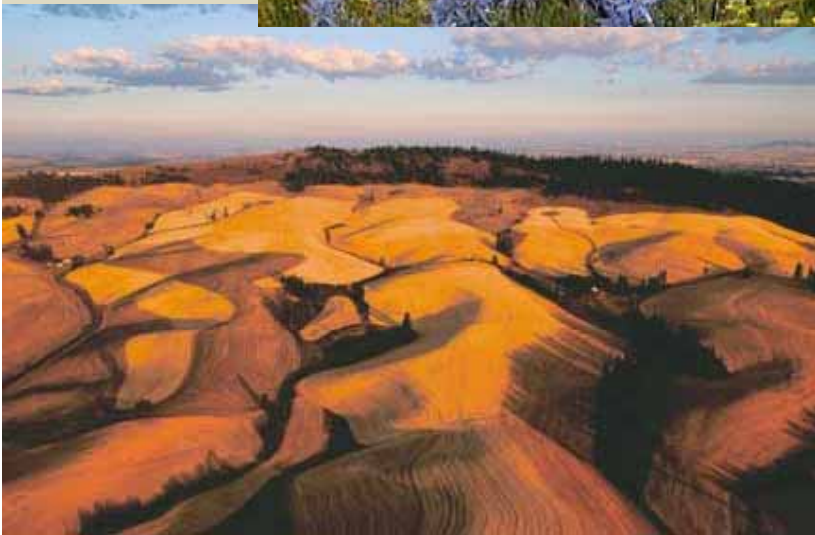
Grassland habitats of the North America



Palouse Prairie

(type of short bunchgrass prairie)









What are invasive species?



Cat with a marine iguana in its mouth.
Foto: Heidi Snell.



Kerry Britton, USDA Forest Service, www.invasive.org

UGA0002156



Sea lampreys dangling from an adult lake trout.



Most common Invaders around Missoula



Spotted
knapweed



Houndstongue



Dalmatian
toadflax



Sulfur
cinquefoil



Leafy spurge



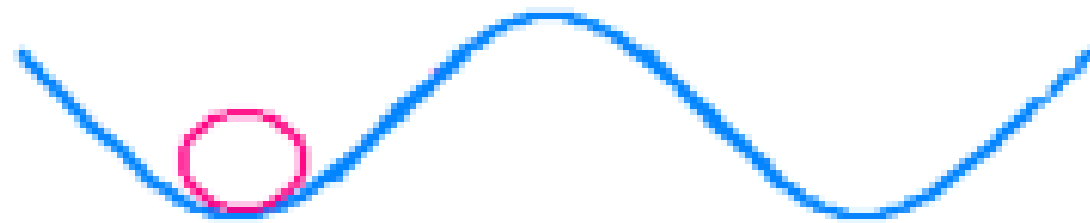
Cheatgrass

Vegetation Management

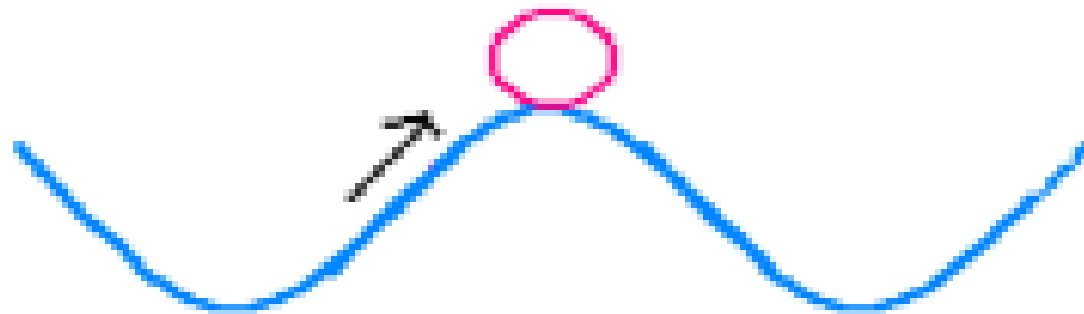


Single Species Management WILL NOT help us meet our conservation goals.

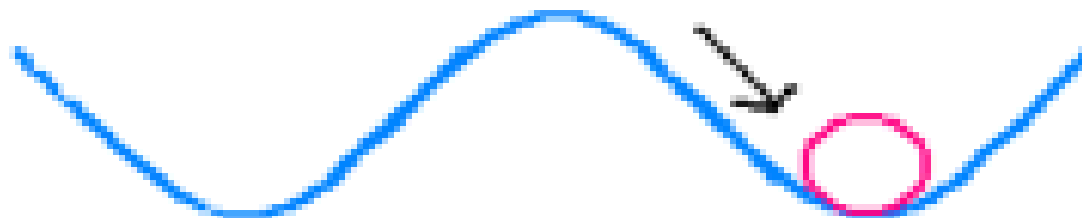




Previous State

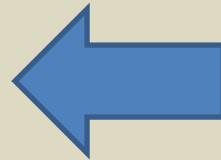
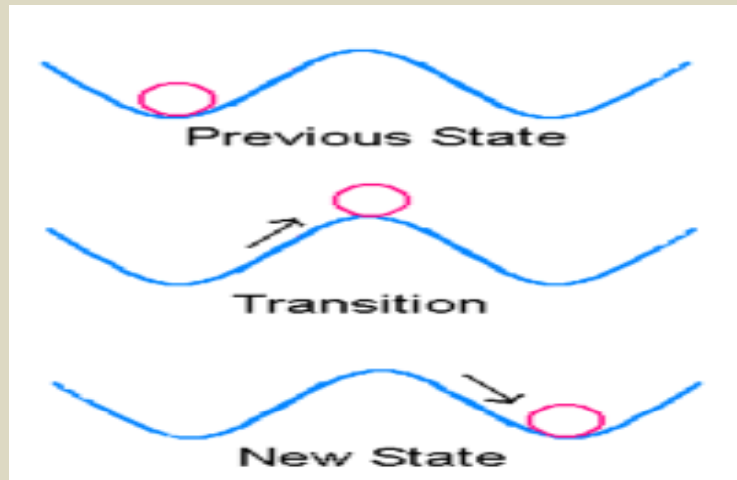


Transition



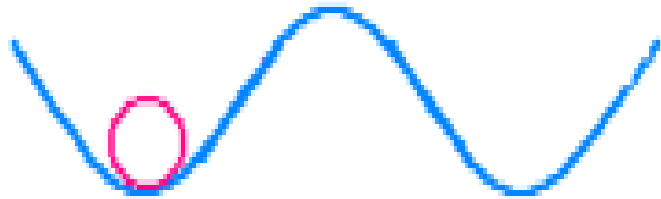
New State

Moderately Degraded
Plant Communities

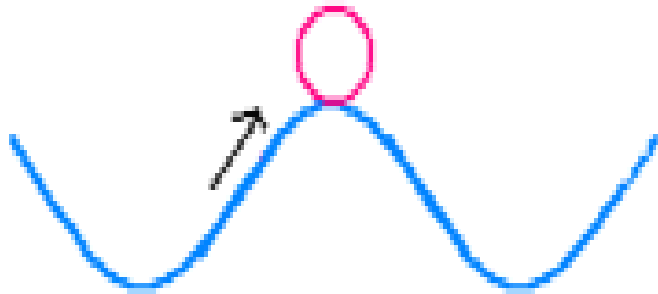


A BIG BANG
FOR YOUR
BUCK\$\$

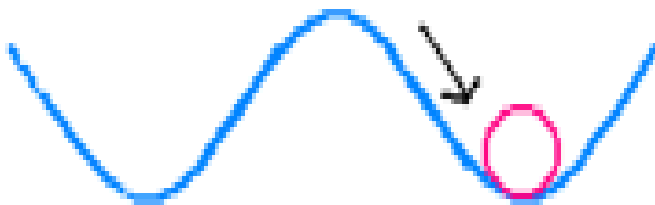
***Severely Degraded Plant
Communities***



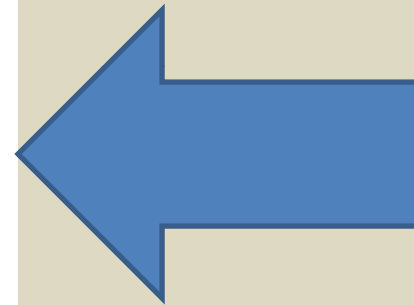
Previous State



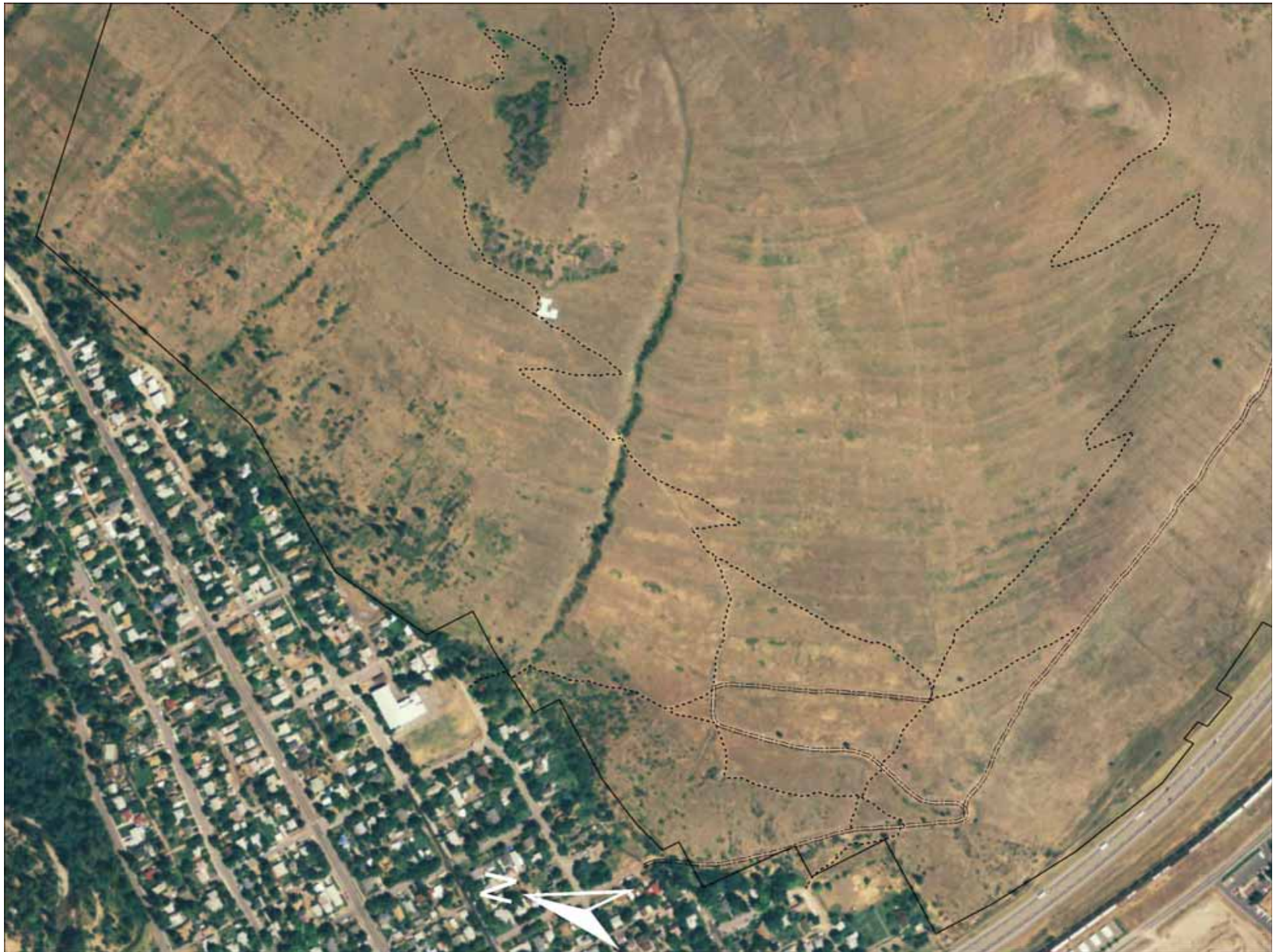
Transition

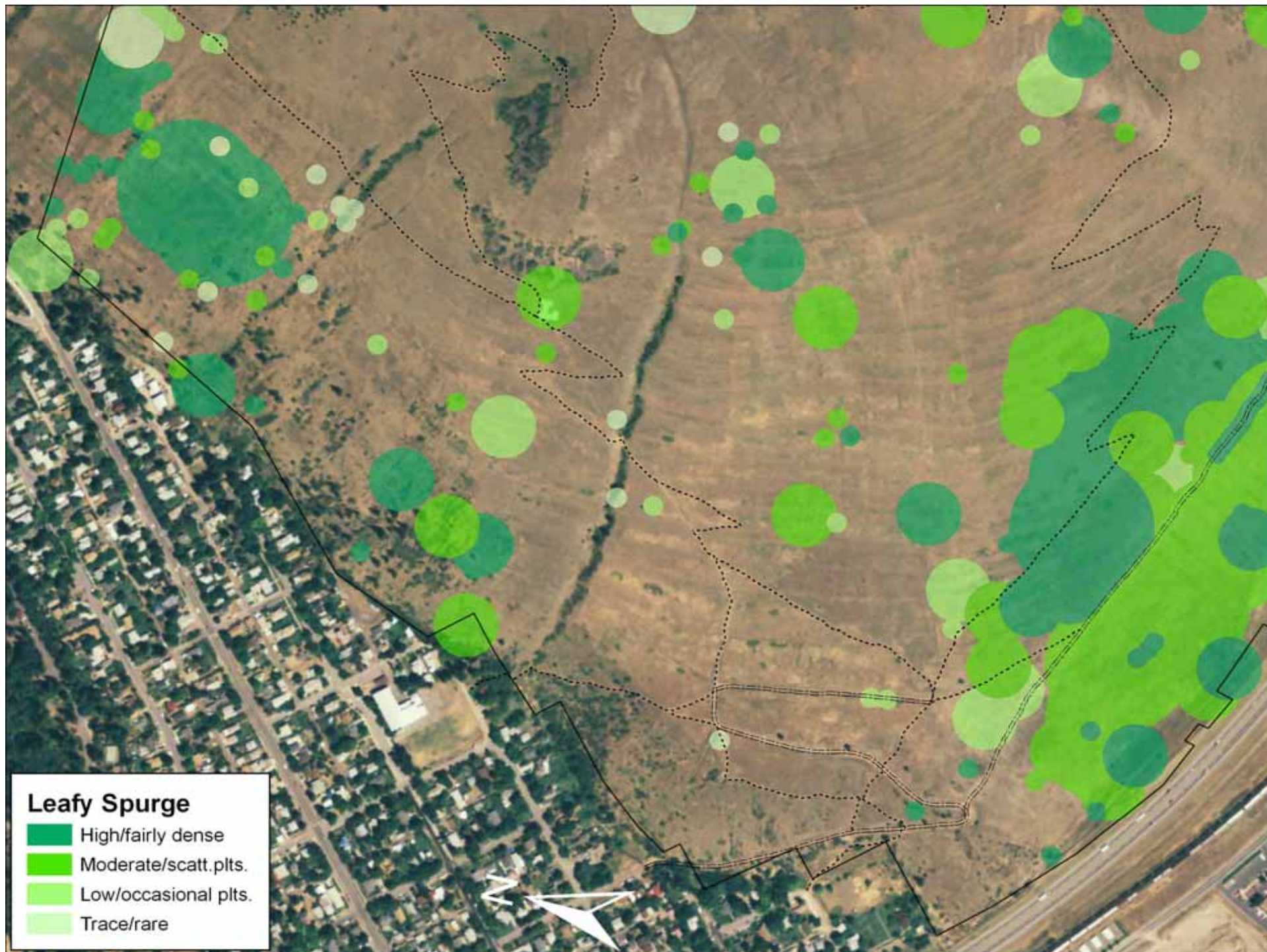


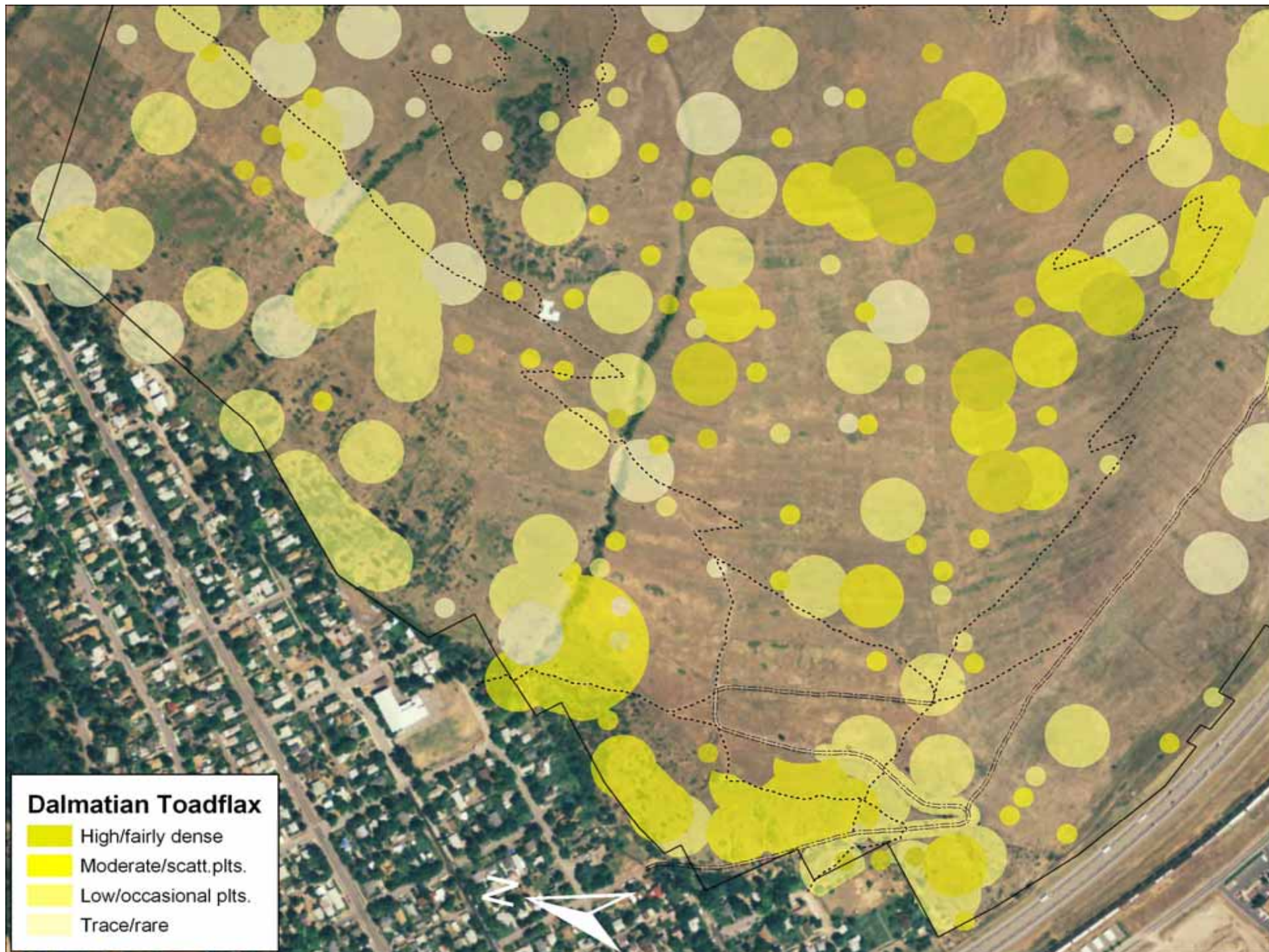
New State

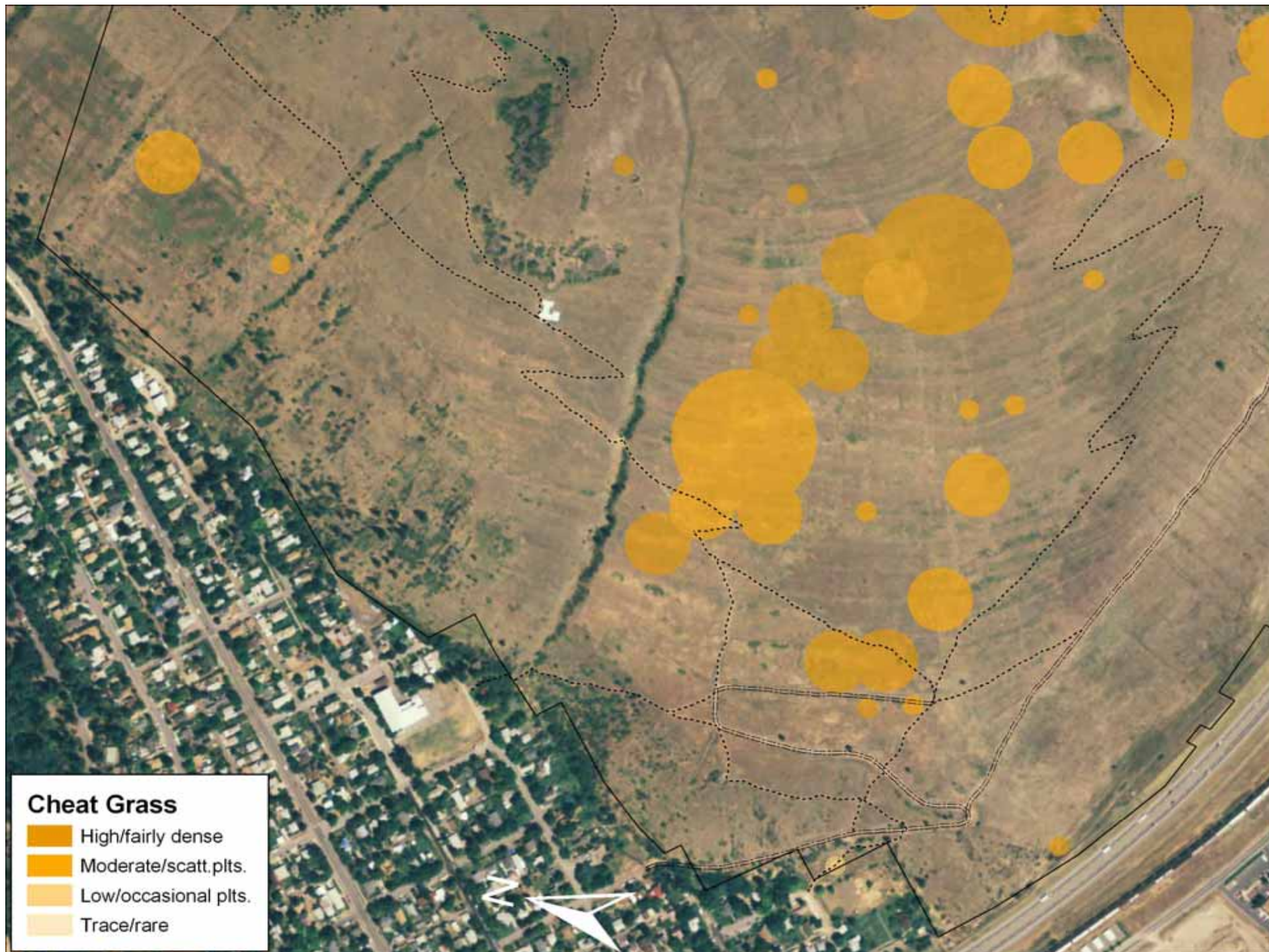


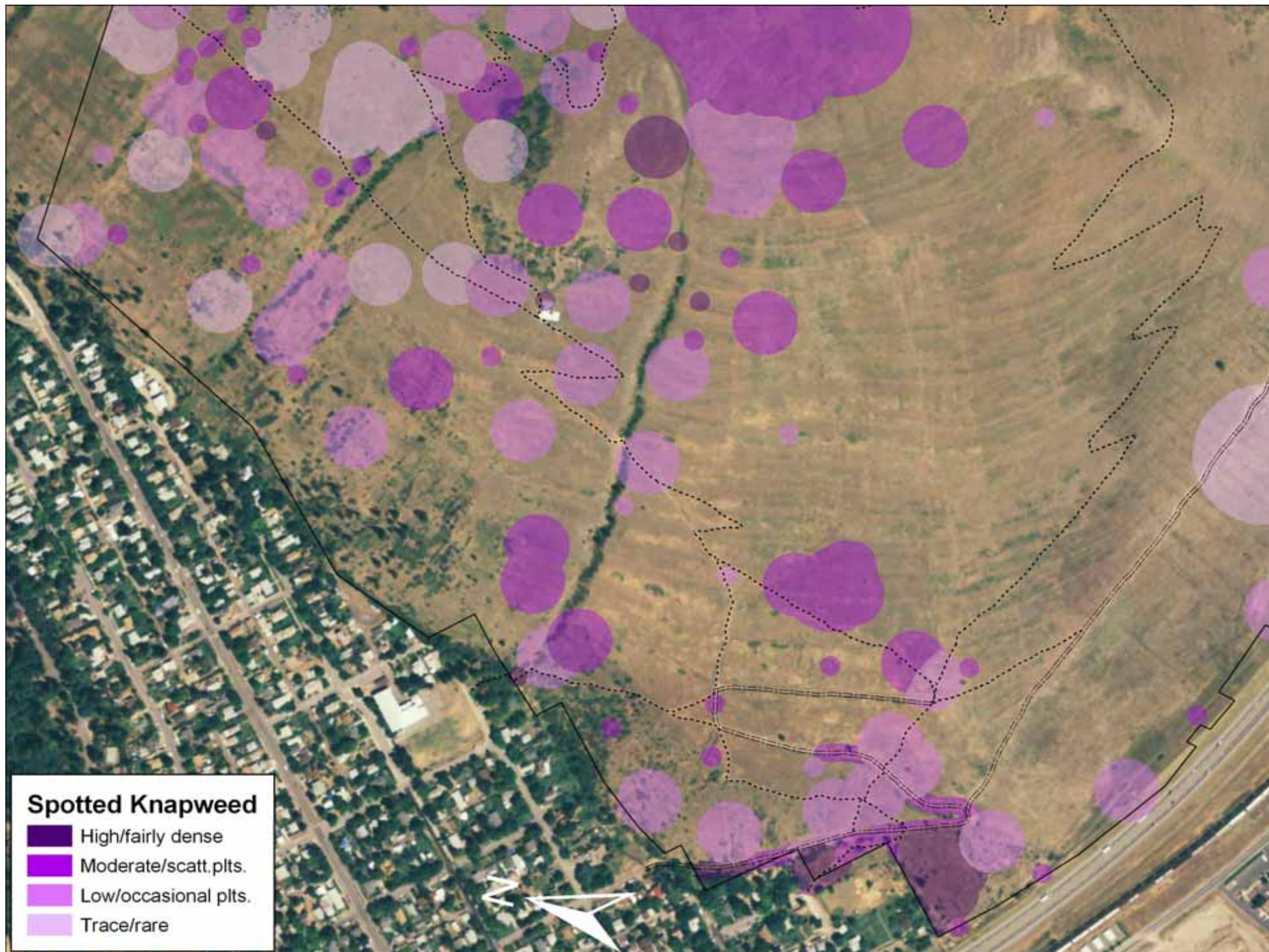
**LOTS OF
TIME &
LABOR &
SUPPLIES &
MONEY**

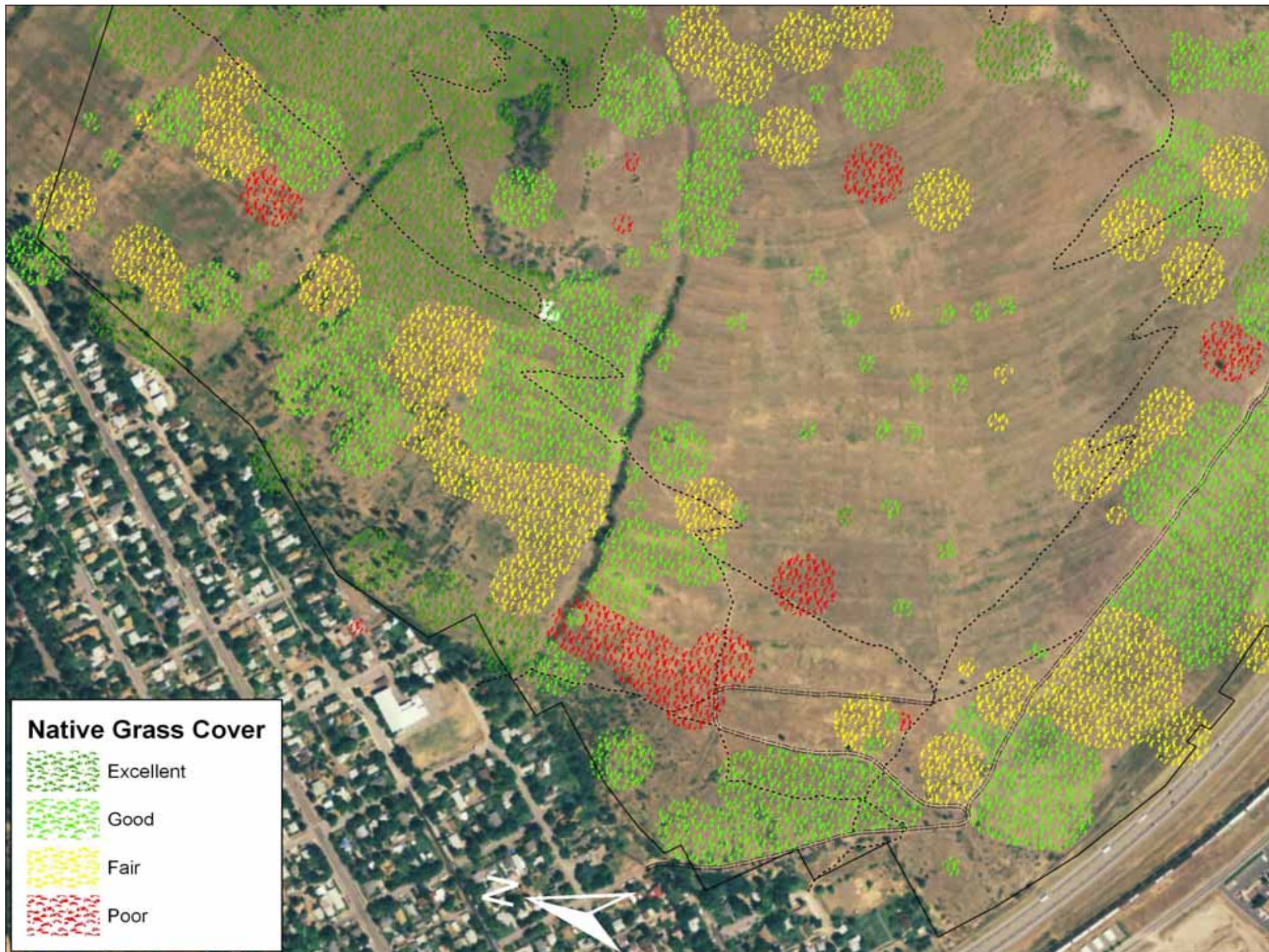




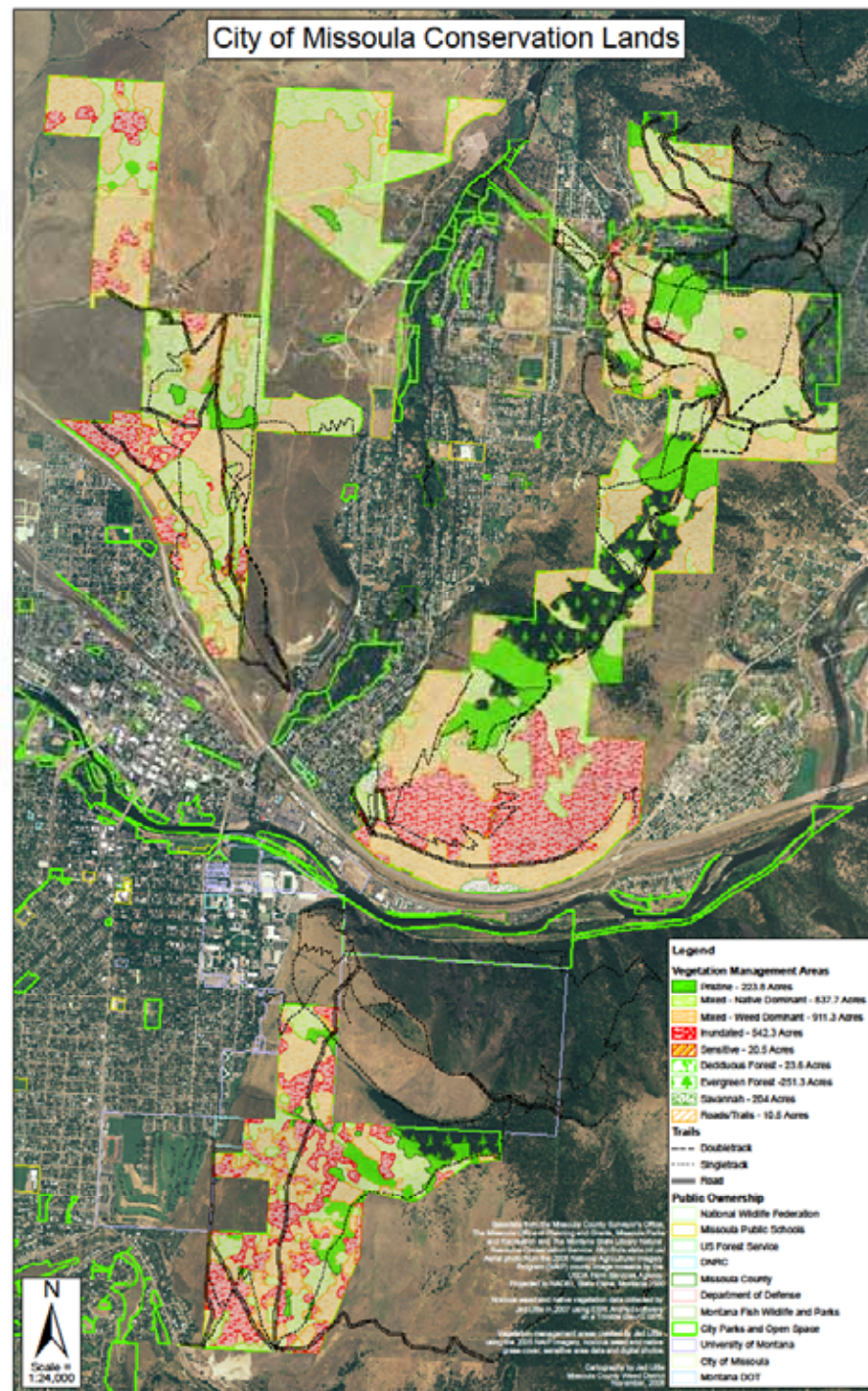












The Numbers

ZONE:

Pristine = 328 ac.

Native Dominant = 934 ac.

Weed Dominant = 970 ac.

Inundated = 594 ac.

Sensitive = 20.5 ac.

So What's the Bottom Line?

We are Excelling at:

- Vegetation Management
- Community Involvement and Education (face to face)
- General Maintenance (fences, trails and trash)

We are Deficient in:

- Site Specific Research on Restoration
- In the Field Education (interpretative signs, TRAIL MAPS, signage)
- Comprehensive Management Plan

What's on the horizon for 2009?

- Developing a Comprehensive Management Plan for all Properties.
- Expanding our Research Program
- Developing an New Trails Map.



THANK YOU!

