

Charles M. Russell NWR

Summitt Forest, Inc. (Contract)

Accomplishments

Project Total Survey Acres ¹	Project Survey Acres Infested ²	Project Acres Treated ³
1,546.28*	~	40.14*

¹ Area covered during the course of weed management activities regardless of presence or absence of target weed species as measured by perimeter in GIS.
² Area occupied by weed species within the survey area that does not contain the space between individuals or populations (i.e. net infestation size) as measured by GPS feature for monitoring and treatment combined, but areas in common not additive.
³ The area or subset of infested area that has received some form of treatment as measured by GPS feature.
*Survey area acreage estimated based on map data provided by the contractor. Acres treated were calculated and reported by the contractor.

Highlights

Coordination and Cooperation

- Mountain-Prairie Region Invasive Species Coordinator Lindy Garner coordinated with Project Leaders Nathan Hawkulak and Steve Becker from Charles M. Russell NWR (CMR) to develop a statement of work to put out to bid for contract for removal of saltcedar (*Tamarisk* sp.) on the refuge (Appendix A).
 - A \$20,000 contract was awarded to Summitt Forests, Inc. for work along a section of shoreline of Fort Peck Reservoir in the south east corner of the refuge, Big Dry Creek area.
- Treatment work was coordinated between the contractor and refuge staff. Upon completion of the work, contractors provided GPS shapefiles of location data, pesticide application records and a map showing treatment areas (Appendix B).

Prevention and Education

- Providing support through funding, partnerships and agreements helps to facilitate treatment, education and curb the spread to weeds across the landscape.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- Early detection and rapid response treatment of weeds is critical to keep large tracts of land free of invasive and noxious species that degrade wildlife habitat.

Inventory and Monitoring

- GPS data were collected by Summitt Forests, Inc. to provide information on patch size and locations of application. The map provided by the contractor showing these locations was used to digitize the approximate survey area and calculates the estimated survey area acres.
 - The spray crew surveyed approximately 1,546.28 acres during the 2013 season.

Management

- Over 1,500 acres were surveyed in this effort to spray several patches of saltcedar. All patches found regardless of their size were treated.

Herbicide Applied

- The contractor reported to have treated approximately 40.14 acres of saltcedar was treated.

Recommendations

- Agreements and partnerships should continue to play a significant role in weed management on the refuge.

Appendix A

Statement of Work

This requirement is for *Tamarix* spp. (saltcedar) inventory with GPS mapping and subsequent removal, including vegetation control and manipulation for the Charles M. Russell NWR (Big Dry Creek area) Montana, in strict adherence with attached specifications and maps. All areas will be surveyed, and targets mapped for GIS location, and subsequently treated. Cut-stump, basal bark, and foliar application of herbicides can be used during active growing season. After the first killing frost, only cut-stump and basal herbicide treatment available for use. For March through May, no cut-stump treatment. With any application method, all efforts must be taken to minimize damage to cottonwood and willow trees interspersed with the saltcedar. If cut-stump treatment is used, contractor may leave biomass on ground at this point.

Contractor shall furnish all materials, tools, labor, equipment, GPS data logger necessary to provide salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp) removal., includes vegetation control, manipulation, and inventory with GPS mapping of control efforts.

The area requiring salt cedar control as identified on the attached map will begin approximately on the southern end of the proposed treatment area (approximately where Refuge Road 493 crosses the Big Dry Creek) and continue to the north along the primary Big Dry Creek and its associated secondary drainages (named and un-named) to the Lone Tree and Gilbert Creek Bays on Ft. Peck Lake. Each drainage needs to be searched 1000m up from full pool elevation mark of 2250' and 50m on each side of drainage for presence of saltcedar for mapping and then treatment. One drainage must be inventoried and treated prior to moving to the next drainage. The types of infestations may encounter include small and/or isolated patches of salt cedar in the highlighted minor drainages. Patch size will vary from a single young plant in the drainages to moderate sized (1 - 5 acres estimated) patches with heavier density nearer the full pool level. All saltcedar must be targeted, regardless of how small or large in stature or coverage, and subsequently GPS mapped for location and treated.

Mapping stipulations:

GPS points must be taken at start of drainage (full pool level) and end point of drainage to demonstrate which drainage covered and distance covered up the drainage.

Each saltcedar infestation encountered must be recorded spatially with a GPS point feature and associated description for length and width of the infestation.

If infestation is linear in nature, and a GPS line feature is not available, then record the midpoint with a GPS point feature and again the associated length and width of the infestation.

Single plants or patches of targets separated by more than 30m must be mapped separately.

Estimated search area among all drainages on the attached map (**Government estimate only and should not be used for bid purposes**): 1500 - 1750 acres.

Estimated treated acreage (**Government estimate only and should not be used for bid purposes**): 20 – 90 acres.

It is the contractor's responsibility to visit the site prior to bid and determine resources needed.

Note: Any site visit or contract award work must be coordinated with site managers for CMR NWR at a **minimum of two weeks prior notice**. Contractor should contact each Station Manager for both the east and west side of the creek/lake for more detailed access information. ATV travel for access will be authorized **ONLY** upon approval of Station Managers and is seasonally unavailable at times. All access may be limited or **CLOSED** at certain times of the year to not conflict with other uses of the Refuge (e.g., weather, flooding).

East side of Big Dry arm: Aaron Johnson or Paula Gouse at 406/526-3464

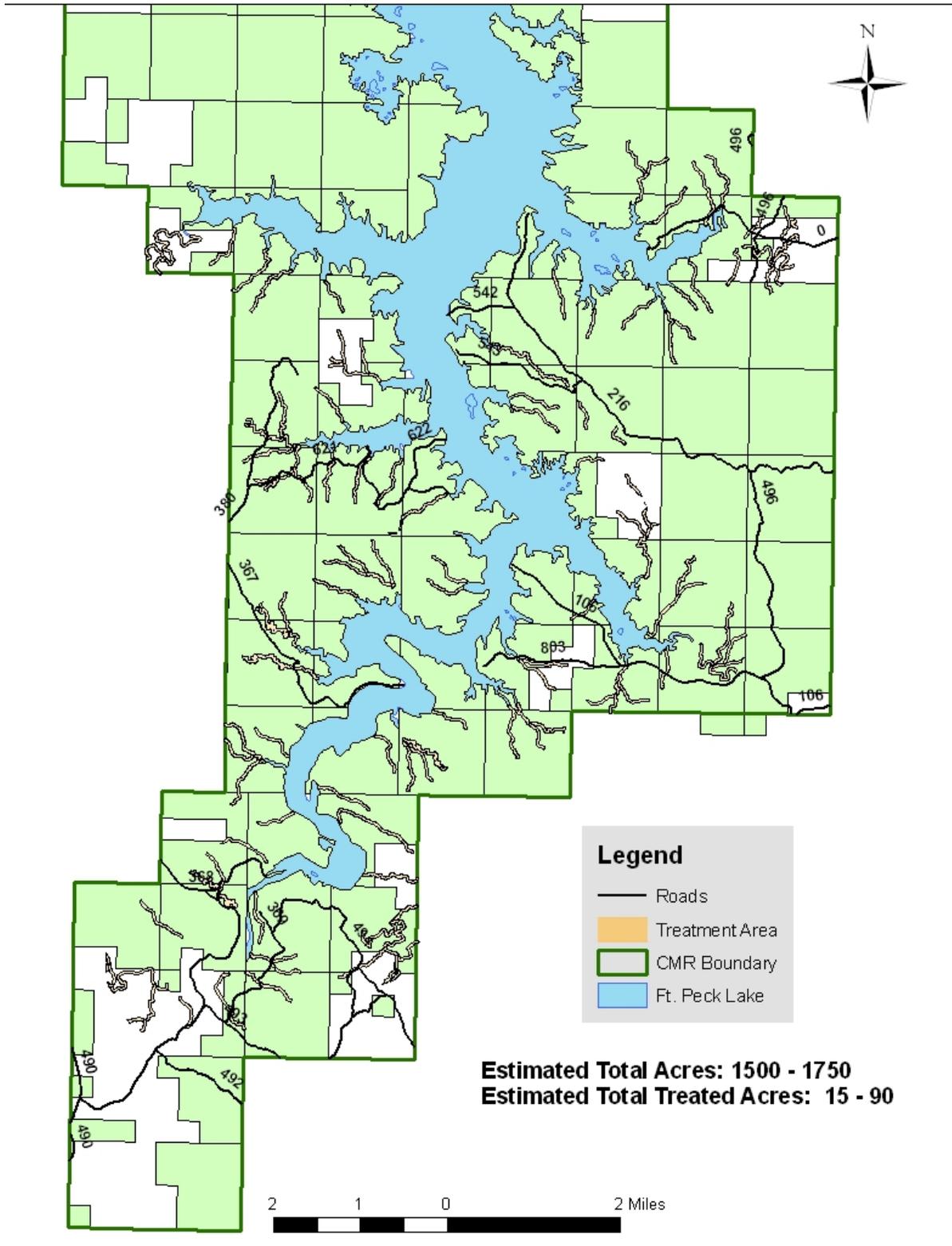
West Side of Big Dry arm: Nathan Hawkaluk or Steve Becker at 406/557-6145

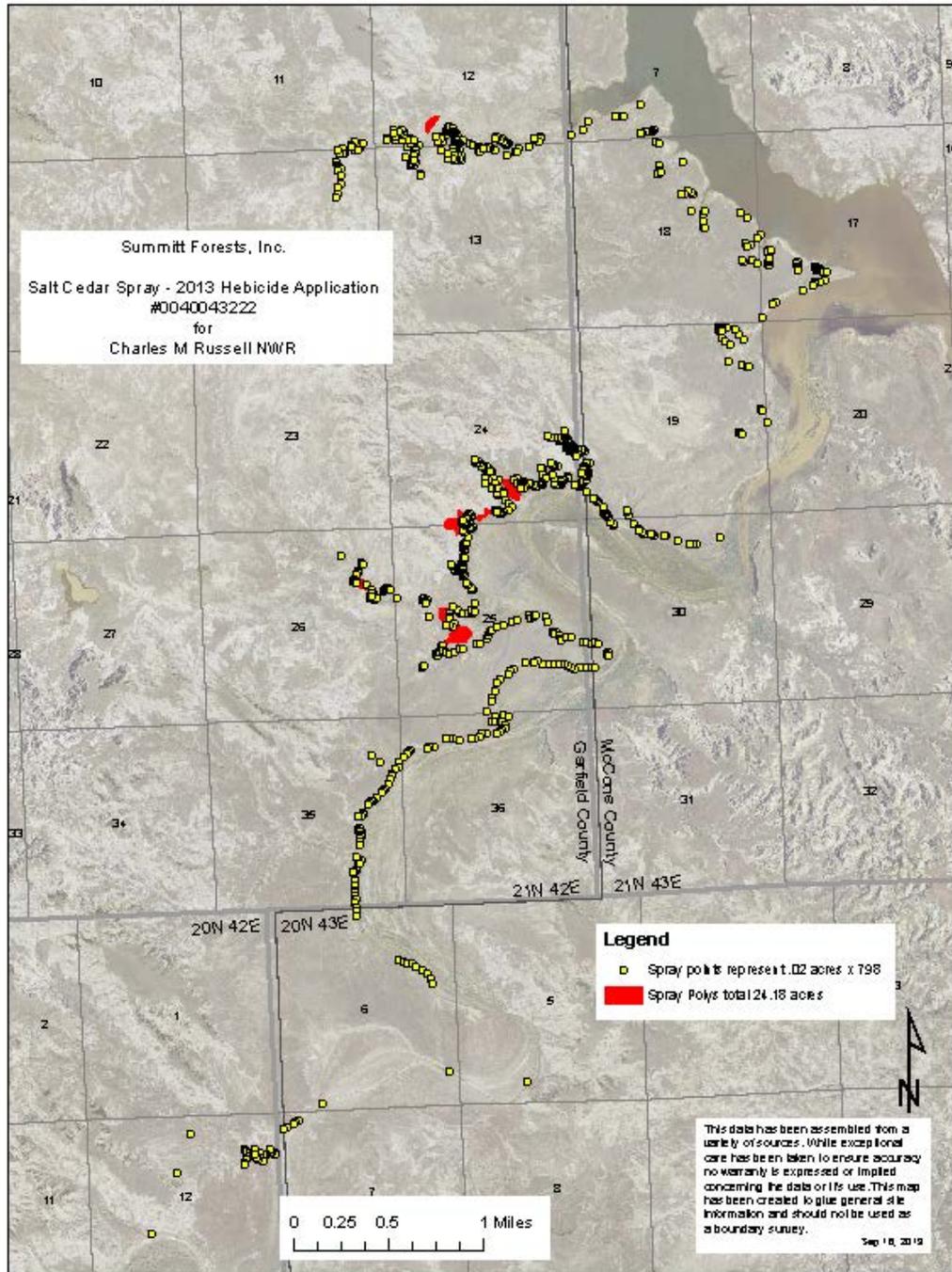
Failure to do so and subsequent delay in access is fault of contractor not the Refuge and Refuge not responsible for any resulting non-compliance or delay in contract performance or completion.

Access to these areas will be mainly from the open Refuge Roads shown on the map. Overall access to most drainages is good. From the roads system access to and up the drainages will be on foot. The terrain of the project will include intermittent stream beds and lake shore habitats. In general, some steep rocky slopes and breaks will be encountered, but mostly gentle slopes will grass and shrub vegetation can be expected.

Progress on the project shall continue until the entire outlined area has been searched and salt cedar plants treated or project funding limits continued search efforts. Performance based on all trees and saplings treated and killed for less than 90% resprouts the following year. Minimal to none non-target impacts on cottonwoods and willows.

Montana Daily Pesticide Application Records must be completed in their entirety and provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the electronic spatial files with completion of the project.



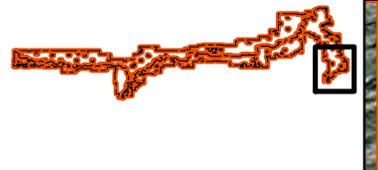
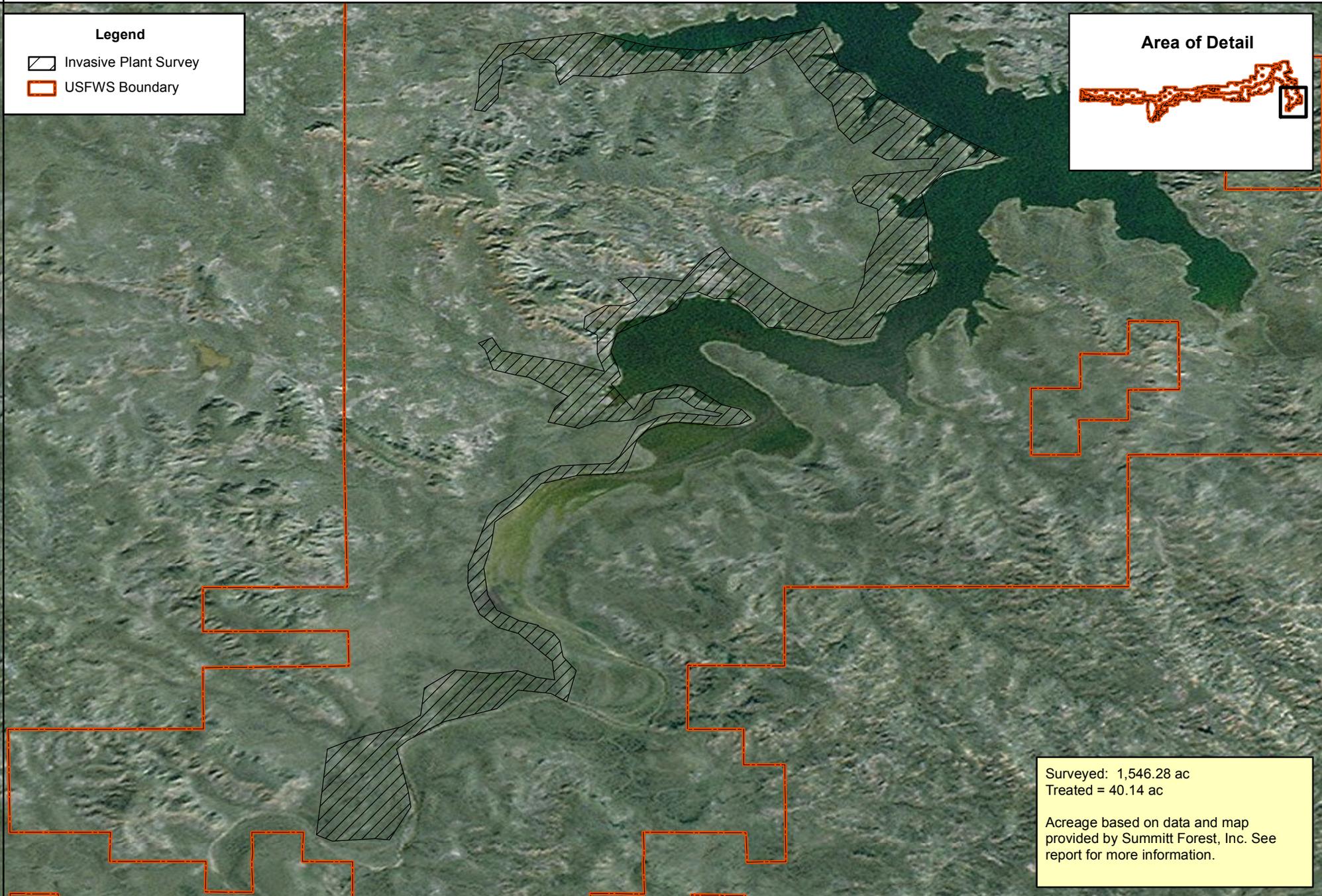




Legend

-  Invasive Plant Survey
-  USFWS Boundary

Area of Detail

Surveyed: 1,546.28 ac
 Treated = 40.14 ac

Acreage based on data and map provided by Summitt Forest, Inc. See report for more information.

