Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and White River Beardtongue (*P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis*)

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by the Penstemon Conservation Team

State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Uintah County, Utah
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

June 2019

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River Beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis): 2018 Annual Report

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1 PENSTEMON CONSERVATION TEAM ACTIVITIES

The Penstemon Conservation Team was established in 2014 and comprises the signatories of the Penstemon Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis) (Penstemon Conservation Team 2014). The conservation agreement should be cited as follows:

Penstemon Conservation Team. 2014. Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River Beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis). Prepared for the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; Uintah County, Utah; Utah Public Lands Coordination Office; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Rio Blanco County, Colorado; Bureau of Land Management; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City, Utah. July 22, 2014.

All plans and reports for the Utah Conservation Team are available electronically on the SITLA website at:

https://trustlands.utah.gov/in-your-community/conservation/penstemon-conservation-project/

Information included in this annual report summarizes Penstemon Conservation Team (PCT) activities from January 1 – December 31, 2018.

1.1 Mitigation Plan

There were no changes to the Mitigation Plan (PCT 2015a) in 2018.

1.2 Weed Management Plan

There were no changes to the Weed Management Plan (PCT 2015b) in 2018.

1.3 Livestock Grazing Management Plan

There were no changes to the Livestock Grazing Management Plan (PCT 2015c) in 2018.

1.4 Surface Disturbance Plan

There were no changes the Surface Disturbance Plan (PCT 2015d) in 2018.

1.5 Demographic Monitoring Plan

The Penstemon Range-wide Demographic Monitoring Plan (PCT 2017a), initially implemented by BLM VFO in 2017, was continued in 2018. The monitoring methods were revised in 2018, with phase one (flowering) and phase two (fruiting) combined into a single visit rather due to staffing and logistical issues. Also, pollinator observations were not completed in 2018 because

the protocol needs to be reviewed due to issues noted during the 2017 pilot monitoring season. In June 2018, BLM VFO botanists monitored 34 plots total (17 White River beardtongue and 16 Graham's beardtongue).

1.6 Seed Management Strategy

The White River Penstemon and Graham's Penstemon Seed Management Strategy (PCT 2017b) fulfills the commitment to develop a seed bank, as described in Table 4 action 16 of the Agreement (PCT 2014), and provides standardized procedures for the development and implementation of seed collection and seed storage for Graham's and White River beardtongues. There were no changes to plan in 2018.

1.7 Restoration Plan

The Restoration Plan Subcommittee developed an early draft Beardtongue Restoration Plan in late 2017. The plan will be revisited in 2019 and finalized in 2020.

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AGREEMENT IN BEARDTONGUE HABITATS

2.1 BLM Vernal Field Office (Utah)

In 2018, the Vernal BLM did not authorize any disturbance or permits within the BLM surface Conservation Units. No new mineral materials permits were granted in or near Penstemon conservation areas or habitat. A parcel of land near Watson is currently being transferred as an in-lieu selection to SITLA. This parcel does not include any known *Penstemon grahamii* or *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis¹* habitat or conservation areas but does contain Green River shale outcrops. These outcrops were surveyed by BLM botanists in 2017 and no occurrences of either species were found.

Methods for assessing livestock grazing and weed impacts in beardtongue habitats were incorporated into the BLM VFO demographic monitoring implemented in summer 2017 and continued in 2018. These methods are expected to be further revised in 2019.

2.2 BLM White River Field Office (Colorado)

The BLM White River Field Office authorized surface disturbing activities associated with oil and gas developments on approximately 11.4 acres in Conservation Areas in Rio Blanco County,

¹ Recent research on genetic diversity and relationships in the *Penstemon scariosus* complex (Rodríguez-Peña et al. 2018; Stevens unpublished data) suggests that *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* is a distinct taxon (*P. albifluvis*) due to both its isolated geographic distribution and statistically significant genetic separation from other species in the *P. scariosus* complex. However, some of these findings have not been published and are being further investigated by *Penstemon* specialists at Brigham Young and Ohio State Universities (Mikel Stevens and Andi Wolfe, respectively, and others). In order to maintain consistency with the 2014 Penstemon Conservation Agreement and associated documents, the Penstemon Conservation Team will continue to use *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* as the species name until such time as the species has been formally renamed.

Colorado. These activities included a single well pad with three wells, an access road to the well pad, and a pipeline placement within an existing CO BLM road. The BLM WRFO provided the project details to the team for review and the team approved the proposed mitigation. In addition, the WRFO noted some disturbance from dispersed hiking and hunting activities in Conservation Areas, but the amount of disturbance that occurred is unknown. Surveys for projects proposed within suitable habitat (including Conservation Area Units) for these species were completed in 2018. The Liberty pipeline project is currently proposed in occupied habitat for White River beardtongue; this project was reviewed by the Conservation Team but has not been approved by BLM VFO.

2.3 SITLA

SITLA provided funding in support of the implementation of the Penstemon Conservation Agreement totaling \$6,966.62 in 2018. No new leases were issued within Penstemon conservation Areas in 2018.

A pre-disturbance survey was conducted in a SITLA Interim A conservation area in the Holliday Block in June 2018. No beardtongue plants or potential habitats were found in the area to be disturbed, but there is approximately four acres of high-quality shale barrens habitat within the 300-foot buffer. Twenty-eight (28) Graham's beardtongue individuals were found approximately 300-350 feet from the proposed project area. Because the plants were not inside the 300-foot buffer, and because the proposed surface disturbance is minimal and will not occur in potential shale habitat, no further action was required under the Conservation Agreement.

On September 1, 2018, SITLA issued an oil and gas lease that encompasses part of an interim Class B conservation area (S32 T11S R25E).

2.4 Uintah County

Uintah County actively participated as a Team member throughout 2018. Uintah County provided funds for technical support for amendments to the Uintah County Interim Overlay Zone ordinance established as part of the 2014 agreement. The purpose of the amendments was to clarify language in the ordinance.

2.5 State of Utah/The Nature Conservancy

The State of Utah Department of Natural Resources ESMF program provided \$60,000 in FY2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) to support pollinator and reproductive success research for *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis*. This project also received \$40,000 in support from The Nature Conservancy Utah.

2.6 Summary of Financial Contributions by Partnering Agencies

The Penstemon Conservation Team met eight times in 2018, including four conference calls and four in-person meetings in Vernal, Utah. The direct funds and in-kind contributions associated with these meetings and other Agreement-related activities are summarized in Table 1.

 Table 1. 2018 Conservation Agreement Financial Contributions by Partner Agencies

Partner	Direct Funds	In-Kind (hours)
BLM - CO	\$15,000	57
BLM - UT	0	685
Utah DNR	\$60,000	42
The Nature Conservancy – Utah	\$40,000	0
PLPCO	0	19
Rio Blanco County	0	8
SITLA	\$6,967	130
Uintah County	\$757	20
USFWS - CO	0	75
USFWS - UT	0	200
TOTAL	\$122,724	1,236

A similar level of participation by the Agreement partner agencies is expected in 2019.

3 CONSERVATION AGREEMENT UPDATES

3.1 Conservation Agreement Addendum

The Agreement signatories discussed the benefits of extending the Agreement by five years in order to provide a 20-year agreement. All signatories agreed to extend the Agreement by five years in a signed Addendum to the Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and White River Beardtongue (*P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis*). Private landowner properties that are currently included in the Agreement will not be required to keep their lands as conservation areas after 2029 (15 years) but may voluntarily remain a part of the Agreement through 2034 (20 years).

A copy of the Addendum in presented as Appendix A.

3.2 Boundary Review and Adjustment

According to section 6.2 in the Agreement the Team must revisit conservation area boundaries every one to three years. In November of 2017 the Team began a general review of the existing conservation areas and boundaries while also considering new scientific information. New

scientific information included in the examination of areas includes genetic research, survey data, population density analysis, population viability analysis, and connectivity analysis. This review is nearing completion and will be finalized in early 2019. Any boundary modifications must meet the criteria established in section 6.2 of the Agreement.

3.3 Uintah County Interim Area Overlay Ordinance Amendment

In 2018, the Penstemon Conservation Team worked with Uintah County to amend the Interim Area Overlay Zone Ordinance. The ordinance language was amended to clarify permitting requirements for surface disturbance and several sections defining surface disturbing activities and mitigation were added. Details on the process for removing an interim area from the Agreement were also added. On July 20, 2018 the Uintah County Commission met in a special session to accept the amended ordinance language and to review the removal of two parcels from the Penstemon Conservation Overlay Zone with associated zoning map changes. These changes are reflected in the Penstemon Conservation Agreement Addendum (Appendix A).

4 DATA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

All reports, publications, data, and literature mentioned in this annual report are compiled in the Penstemon Conservation Team Google Drive site, hosted by SITLA, and are accessible to all conservation team members. Disturbance shapefiles are updated and managed by Uintah County.

4.1 BLM

Any Utah BLM survey data for the beardtongues is submitted to the Utah Natural Heritage Program and Utah Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Field Office. Any Colorado BLM survey data for the beardtongues is submitted to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and Colorado Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office.

4.2 Manzanita Botanical Consulting

Any data collected by Manzanita Botanical Consulting in 2018 have been submitted to the Penstemon Conservation Team for inclusion in this and future annual reports.

5 2018 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

Surveys for Graham's and White River beardtongue were conducted by multiple entities in 2018. Agency surveys focused on unsurveyed areas in and near the Book Cliffs White River beardtongue population, and on potential habitats in the Willow Creek and Sunday School Canyon areas. Survey results are summarized below.

5.1 BLM Vernal Field Office (Utah)

In 2018, BLM Botanists and interns surveyed for *P. grahamii* and *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* in several areas on BLM-administered lands. Several of these surveys were specific to proposed projects within modeled suitable habitat for one or both species. The 2018 surveys focused on Sunday School Canyon, Willow Creek, and Agency Draw. Project-specific surveys were completed for the proposed Liberty pipeline, and a building stone permit in Buck Canyon. In addition, a survey for *P. grahamii* and *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* was conducted for a lease reinstatement on the West Tavaputs Plateau, south of Nine Mile Canyon and east of Cottonwood Canyon. This area is within modeled suitable habitat for both species but is outside of their currently known ranges and had not been previously surveyed. Suitable habitat was identified during the survey, but no occurrences of either species were found in the survey area.

In total, 2,993 *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* and 919 *P. grahamii* plants were documented on BLM-administered lands in Utah during the 2018 surveys. Survey data collected in 2018 will be reported to the Utah Natural Heritage Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Utah Ecological Services Field Office.

In 2019, BLM botanists and interns will continue surveys to fill in data gaps within modeled suitable habitat for both species and will complete project-specific surveys as applicable. In addition, surveys within modeled high potential suitable habitat in areas that have not been previously surveyed will continue.

5.2 BLM White River Field Office (Colorado)

A beardtongue pre-disturbance survey for a proposed oil and gas project effort was conducted by the WRFO in 2018. The survey area comprised approximately 13.2 acres of suitable *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* habitat and contained approximately five *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* plants along an existing BLM road 12.2 meters east of the proposed disturbance. Additional surveys for both species are expected in 2019.

5.3 State of Utah

No surveys for *P. grahamii* or *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* were performed by the Utah Department of Natural Resources or Utah State University in 2018.

5.4 SITLA/Manzanita Botanical Consulting

In June 2018, Manzanita Botanical Consulting conducted a pre-disturbance survey in an Interim A conservation area for a lessee in the SITLA Holliday Block. The survey area comprised an approximately 1-acre project area plus a 300-foot buffer. The survey area buffer contained approximately four acres of high-quality shale barrens habitat, but no beardtongue plants were found within the buffer. Twenty-eight (28) Graham's beardtongue individuals were found approximately 300-350 feet from the proposed project location and are new occurrences for this portion of the Holliday Block. Because these plants were not inside the 300-foot buffer, and

because the proposed surface disturbance is minimal and will not occur in potential shale habitat, no further action was required under the Conservation Agreement.

6 2018 SEED COLLECTIONS

Seed collections were performed in 2018 as part of implementation of the 2017 Seed Management Plan (PCT 2017b).

6.1 BLM Vernal Field Office (Utah)

The BLM Vernal Field Office collected seed from three locations in 2018 (Table 2). Fruit set for *Penstemon grahamii* was poor due to the dry spring, with mature, seed-bearing fruits found on only five plants (seeds collected from 1 plant). Fruit set for *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* was higher, with seed collected from two sites. Seeds were sent to Red Butte Garden for long term storage.

Table 2. 2018 BLM Vernal Field Office Beardtongue Seed Collections

Nearest Demographic Monitoring Plot	Date	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	Number of Plants	Seeds Collected	Location Name
Penstemon scariosus var. albifluvis						
3508 (1072)	6/26/2018	666269.6	4430544.4	2	4	White River
1070	6/28/2018	666341	4426184	65	8	White River
Penstemon grahamii						
1020	6/26/2018	665458	4427673	1	5	White River

Seed collections are expected to continue in 2019.

7 ONGOING RESEARCH

Multiple research and monitoring activities have been implemented as part of the Agreement and are summarized by partner agency below.

7.1 BLM Vernal Field Office

The BLM Vernal Field Office monitored 33 demographic and habitat monitoring plots in 2018. The study plots comprise a 1-meter square quadrat centered around a randomly-selected beardtongue individual surrounded by a 100 square meter circular plot. Demographic, habitat, and disturbance data are collected within the 1-meter quadrat, with census counts of beardtongue plants within the 100-meter circular plot. Due to the timing of the monitoring (fruiting stage for both flowers), and an overall poor flowering season for both species, pollinator observation were

not completed in 2018; pollinator observation will be completed in conjunction with the 2019 demographic monitoring, if feasible.

A total of 50 demographic monitoring plots (25 for each species) were initially established in 2016 as part of this study. During the 2018 monitoring season, several of the original plots were dropped from the study due to issues with access and loss of plots from erosion and trampling. Additional plots were established to account for some of these issues, and more plots will be established in 2019 to supplement the remaining lost plots. Demographic monitoring plots will also be established in 2019 in the Book Cliffs, and within any other significant populations of the two species on BLM-administered lands in Utah that are not encompassed by the current study. Climate monitoring equipment (iButton temperature loggers) were deployed at five *P. grahamii* and four *P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis* monitoring locations in 2018. Additional iButtons will be deployed in 2019, and 2018 and 2019 iButton climate data will be compiled and reported in 2019. A report of the 2018 demographic monitoring results will be submitted to the Team in 2019. Monitoring is expected to continue in 2019. Overall trend data will be analyzed once several years of data have been collected.

7.1.1 Demographic Monitoring Results

7.1.1.1 WHITE RIVER BEARDTONGUE

Approximately 46 percent of the White River beardtongue plants in the demographic monitoring plots flowered, and approximately 31 percent of flowering plants produced seed in 2018. There was an average of 12 seeds per fruit in 2018. Browsing, grazing, or other herbivory was noted on approximately 34 percent of the White River beardtongue plants in the demographic plots; many of the flowering stalks were browsed (removed) from the plants prior to fruiting. The most common type of disturbance noted in the monitoring plots was dung or droppings, primarily attributed to native ungulates (deer and elk) and lagomorphs at an average distance of 14.9 cm from White River beardtongue plants. Animal tracks (non-livestock) were noted in approximately 6 percent of the plots, at an average distance of 11 cm from White River beardtongue plants. No damage was attributed to livestock grazing. Vehicle tracks were noted in 1 plot.

7.1.1.2 GRAHAM'S BEARDTONGUE

Approximately 27 percent of the Graham's beardtongue plants in the demographic monitoring plots flowered, and approximately 15 percent of flowering plants produced seed in 2018. There was an average of 9 seeds per fruit in 2018. Approximately 31% of Graham's beardtongue plants in the demographic plots were damaged, with 9% of damage from browsing or grazing; several of the flowering stalks were browsed (removed) from the plants prior to fruiting. Approximately 15 percent of the stems were desiccated (dried out), and may be dead; however, monitoring of these plots will continue in 2019. In addition, insect herbivory, rock movement, disease, or unknown cause of damage were noted for approximately 21 percent of the plants. The most common type of disturbance noted in the monitoring plots was dung or droppings, primarily attributed to native ungulates (deer and elk) and lagomorphs; this type of disturbance was noted in approximately 18 percent of the plots, generally within 5 cm of Graham's beardtongue plants. Animal tracks (non-livestock) were noted in approximately 9 percent of the plots, at an average

distance of 9 cm from Graham's beardtongue plants. No damage was attributed to livestock grazing.

7.1.2 Habitat Condition Monitoring Results

7.1.2.1 WHITE RIVER BEARDTONGUE

White River beardtongue plants composed approximately 2.8% of the total cover within the monitoring plots. The average shrub or tree cover was 0.5% (trace), grass cover was 0.2% (trace), total forb cover was 3.1%, and biological soil crust cover was 1.9%. Bare soil composed approximately 8.9% of the total cover. Average total rock cover (including shale, channery, building stone) in the plots was 80.8%. Litter composed approximately 1.8% of the average cover. Invasive plant species composed approximately 0.1% (trace) of the total cover. Disturbance composed approximately 1.8% of the total cover.

7.1.2.2 GRAHAM'S BEARDTONGUE

Graham's beardtongue plants composed approximately 0.6% (trace) of the total cover within the monitoring plots. The average shrub / tree cover was 7.4%, grass cover was 1%, total forb cover was 1.5%, and biological soil crust cover was 4%. Bare soil composed approximately 18.5% of the total cover. Average total rock cover (including shale, channery, building stone) in the plots was 65.2%. Litter composed approximately 8% of the average cover. Invasive plant species composed approximately 0.1% (trace) of the total cover. Disturbance composed approximately 0.4 % (trace) of the total cover.

7.1.3 Census Monitoring Results

7.1.3.1 WHITE RIVER BEARDTONGUE

Within the 100 m² census monitoring plots, a total of 856 plants were counted (average 48 plants per plot) comprising 320 reproductive and 536 non-reproductive plants. Overall, 37% of the total plants in the census plots were reproductive. There was an average of 18 reproductive plants and 30 non-reproductive plants per 100 m² plot.

7.1.3.2 GRAHAM'S BEARDTONGUE

Within the 100 m² census monitoring plots, a total of 140 plants were counted (average 9 plants per plot), comprising 16 reproductive and 124 non-reproductive plants. Overall, 11.4 % of the total plants in the census plots were reproductive. There was an average of 1 reproductive plant and 8 non-reproductive plants per 100 m² plot.

7.2 BLM White River Field Office

The second year of monitoring of the White River beardtongue (*P. scariosus* var. *albifluvis*) Raven South study site in the Raven Ridge ACEC was completed in May of 2018. Colorado BLM observed a stable to increasing trend nearing statistical significance (paired t-test; t(11) =

2.13, p = 0.06) at the site between 2017 and 2018. In order to discern important demographic and life history traits a sample of 147 individuals was permanently tagged at the site in 2018.

In an ongoing effort to expand monitoring of the species in Colorado; two additional study sites were established at distinct populations in 2018. The Sheep Trail study site is located in the southern portion of the Raven Ridge ACEC, separated from the Raven South population by over a mile. The Weaver Canyon study site is located in the White River Conservation Unit south of the river.

Insect herbivory of varying intensity was documented at the two Raven Ridge ACEC study sites. The Sheep Trail study site had the highest instance of insect herbivory with 67% of individuals affected.

The tenth year of monitoring over a fourteen-year period (2005-2018) at the Mormon Gap Graham's beardtongue (*P. grahamii*) study site in the Raven Ridge ACEC was completed in June of 2018. This is the only Graham's beardtongue monitoring site in Colorado. The site trend was stable between 2017 and 2018 with an estimated population size of 44 plants and a density of 0.08 plants per square meter. The number of total rosettes was higher in 2018 than in any of the previous four years and the percentage of reproductive individuals (14%) was slightly lower.

Overall, Colorado BLM has documented a statistically significant decrease (paired t-test; t(14) = 2.84, p < 0.01) at the site since the current monitoring study was established in 2005. The decrease is likely largely attributable to a livestock trailing event that occurred in 2013. In the five years following the livestock trailing event the population has averaged approximately half the size that it was in the five monitoring years prior.

7.3 Red Butte Garden/Utah Nature Conservancy/DNR

Researchers at the Red Butte Garden Conservation Program implemented a reproductive success study on White River beardtongue in early 2018. The project aim is to investigate links between pollinator visitation, seed set, and surface disturbance are using Rana digital camera technology time (Barlow et al. 2017; Barlow and Pavlik 2017) to quantify pollinator visitation to beardtongue flowers. These data will be used to model relationships between pollinator activity, habitat, and disturbance factors needed for effective conservation planning and implementation. The 2018 activities focused on White River beardtongue at five study sites in conservation areas in Uintah County, Utah. Individual plants were selected for pollinator monitoring and seed collection at each site. Plant community composition and floral density were also documented for each site. A total of 53 individuals were monitored over two to five days each from late May to early June, and fruits were collected for seed counts in late June, with approximately 100,000 White River beardtongue seeds curated at Red Butte Garden. Total (Rana) pollinator monitoring data across all sites comprised approximately 1,500-2,000 hours of video. Pollinator visitation rates were very high, and preliminary results indicate that the principal pollinators are Penstemon pollen specialists, the pollen wasp (Pseudomasaris vespoides) and Osmia bee species (awaiting ID at the USU bee lab). An interim report produced in October 2018 (Barlow and Pavlik 2018) is available on request.

In 2019, Red Butte Garden researchers will focus on Graham's beardtongue in conservation areas using the same methods.

7.4 SITLA/Manzanita Botanical Consulting

Transplant experiments for Graham's and White River beardtongue were carried out in 2014 and 2015 and monitoring annually through 2017 as part of ESMF and partner funding FY2014-2017. The objective of ongoing monitoring is to assess 1) transplant longevity, 2) the ability of transplanted individuals to recruit offspring and potentially function as a natural population, and 3) suitable habitat conditions and potential treatments for enhancing the survival of restored populations. Transplant success monitoring was not performed in 2018 but will be continued in May and June 2019 as part of support by the Utah Endangered Species Recovery program Endangered Species Mitigation Fund.

8 FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

The Penstemon Conservation Team has developed six management plans to date. Ongoing and expected future activities associated with these plans are summarized below.

8.1 Demographic Monitoring Plan

Demographic monitoring will continue in 2019, and additional study plots will be established in the Book Cliffs. Additional iButton climate loggers will be deployed in 2019.

8.2 Livestock Grazing Management Plan

Habitat monitoring, as part of the demographic monitoring program, will be continued to inform current and future habitat conditions in beardtongue habitats. The habitat condition monitoring results to date should be evaluated to ensure that changes in livestock-related surface disturbance, weeds, and other habitat conditions can be detected with sufficient rigor to support the objectives of the Livestock Grazing Management, Demographic Monitoring, and Weed Management Plans.

8.3 Restoration Plan

The Restoration Plan Subcommittee drafted an outline restoration plan in 2017. There was no additional work on this plan in 2018 due to other team priorities. However, a draft plan is expected in 2019 for finalization in 2020.

8.4 Other Future Activities

Ongoing conservation-related research and activities are being conducted by the Agreement partner agencies. Expected 2019 activities include the following:

8.4.1 Pollination & Reproductive Success Study

Red Butte Garden researchers will examine pollination and reproductive success of Graham's beardtongue in 2019. Analysis of the 2018 White River beardtongue pollinator activity video data is ongoing.

8.4.2 Climate Monitoring

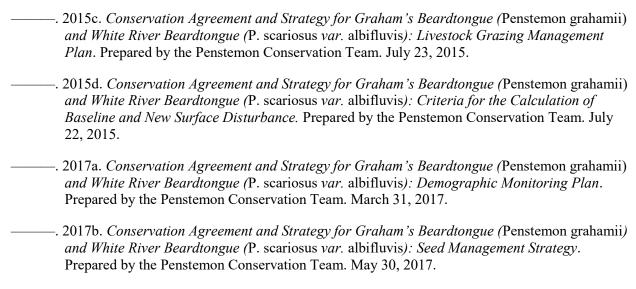
Implementation of range-wide climate monitoring was initiated in 2018, with the installation of iButtons near the monitoring plots established by BLM VFO for demographic and census monitoring of both beardtongue species. Data logged by the iButtons will be collected from the monitoring plots during the 2019 monitoring season and additional ibuttons will be deployed throughout the study area in 2019.

8.4.3 Seed Collections

Seed collections will continue in 2019 as climate-linked flowering and fruiting permits.

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Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River Beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis): 2015 Annual Report APPENDICES
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Appendix A

Conservation Agreement Addendum and Maps

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Addendum To The 2014

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for

Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii)

and

White River Beardtongue (Penstemon scariosus var. albifluvis)

November 20, 2018

PREPARED FOR:

State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

675 East 500 South, Suite 500 Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Uintah County

52 East 100 North Vernal, Utah 84078

Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

5110 State Office Building Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

1594 W. North Temple, Suite 2110 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East Vernal, Utah 84078

Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office

220 East Market Street Meeker, Colorado 81641

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Utah Ecological Services Field Office

2369 Orton Circle, Suite 50 West Valley City, Utah 84119

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Western Colorado Field Office

445 West Gunnison Avenue, Suite 240 Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

PREPARED BY:

Penstemon Conservation Team

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	Date
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Date
Mike Fowlks, Director Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date

1. BACKGROUND

Initially formalized in 2014 (Penstemon Conservation Team 2014), the Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and White River beardtongue (*Penstemon scariosus* var. *albifluvis*) (hereafter, "Agreement") is a partnership for the development and implementation of conservation measures to protect the two species and their habitat. The partnership is led by a Team comprised of the undersigned parties (hereafter, "Signatories"). The purpose of the partnership is to support the long-term persistence of Graham's beardtongue and White River beardtongue (collectively the "beardtongues") within their historic range and provide a framework for future conservation efforts.

The Signatories to the Agreement have agreed to work together on the creation and management of conservation areas, the development of range-wide monitoring, and the funding of conservation research for Graham's beardtongue and White River beardtongue in Uintah County, Utah and Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Accomplishments under the Agreement include development and implementation of a mitigation plan, disturbance mapping, disturbance management plan, livestock management plan, demographic monitoring plan, and weed management plan, which are summarized in annual reports (Penstemon Conservation Team 2015; 2016; and 2017). Over the past four years the Team has also held regular meetings, reviewed projects with potential impacts to the beardtongues, recommended appropriate conservation measures, coordinated annual seed collection, conducted annual surveys, initiated range-wide demographic monitoring, and identified research needs.

2. PURPOSE

The Signatories desire to modify the Agreement with this addendum by including a new commitment for the Conservation Team to complete a comprehensive achievement report (section 4.1, below), and a new commitment for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to complete a species status assessment (section 4.2, below). This addendum also includes five-year extension of the Agreement, until 2034, for the following signatories: The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Service, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), Utah Division of Wildlife Management (UDW), and Rio Blanco County (section 4.3). The details of each modification are described below.

3. AUTHORITY

This amendment is subject to all of the Authorities specified in section 2.4 of the Agreement. Modifications made in this amendment do not preclude commitments made by Signatories in the original Agreement and all measures in the original Agreement remain in effect.

4. AGREEMENT MODIFICATIONS

4.1 Conservation Agreement Reports

On or around December 31st, 2019 and every five years thereafter, Signatories hereby agree to complete a summary report of conservation accomplishments since the inception of the Agreement (for the avoidance of doubt, reports are to be completed in 2019, 2024, 2029). The summary reports may replace the annual report for that year. The final summary report shall be completed prior to the end of the Agreement on July 25th, 2034. Summary reports will provide a comprehensive review of conservation efforts and research performed under the Agreement, as well as the status of the beardtongues and habitat conditions within conservation areas. The summary report is intended to inform the Service's species status assessment for the beardtongues. The report will also inform the Penstemon Conservation Team of any conservation actions that would be beneficial to the species and could be implemented prior to the ending of the Conservation Agreement.

4.2 Species Status Assessment

On or around December 31, 2028, the Service hereby agrees to complete a species status assessment or similar assessment document for the beardtongues. The purpose of this assessment is to characterize the beardtongues' biological condition and viability within their respective ranges. The assessment will likely include a projection of the beardtongues' future condition based on a range of plausible scenarios and will characterize the uncertainty of stressors and scenarios.

4.3 Extension of the Agreement

All Parties hereby agree to extend the Agreement for an additional 5-year period, which will begin immediately at the end of the original time period and will end on July 25, 2034. All Parties also agree that the private parties in Utah will be released from the Conservation Agreement on July 25, 2029 when the terms original Agreement ends and the Uinta County Ordinance (No. 7-16-2018 01) expires. After July 25, 2029 private parties may voluntarily submit land to be incorporated as a conservation area under the Agreement.

5. DURATION OF AGREEMENT AND ADDENDUM

This addendum to the Agreement, as explained above, shall be effective as of the date of the last signature and shall remain in force for the period of time identified in section 4.3 of this addendum. This addendum and the Agreement is the entire understanding between the Signatories related to the subject matter contained herein. This document may be executed in multiple identical original counterparts, all of which shall constitute one document. Signatures may be delivered by facsimile copy or electronic scan. Facsimile and electronic scanned signatures shall be binding on the Parties as if they were originals. In the event of a conflict between this addendum and the Agreement, the terms of this addendum shall control.

6. LITERATURE CITED

- Penstemon Conservation Team. 2014. Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and White River Beardtongue (*P. scariosus var. albifluvis*). Prepared for the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; Uintah County, Utah; Utah Public Lands Coordination Office; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Rio Blanco County, Colorado; Bureau of Land Management; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City, Utah. July 22, 2014. Found at: https://trustlands.utah.gov/in-your-community/conservation/penstemon-conservation-project/
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J. Crist	11/28/2018
Larry Crist, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	Date
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Date
Mike Fowlks, Director Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	Date
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Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Date
Mike Fowlks, Director Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
Rose L Bankert	Nov 28,2018
Roger L. Bankert, Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Date
Mike Fowlks, Director Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date

Addendum To The 2014

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	
Thent E. Wattr	11/30/2018
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair	Date
Uintah County Commission	
Kathleen Clarke, Director	Date
Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	
Mike Fowlks, Director	Date
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date
Double of County Commissioners, Rio Bianco County	

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	Date
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
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Gary Torres, Green River District Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Hamme	11/28/18
William C. Stringer, Chair Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	Date
Mike Fowlks, Director Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	Date

White River Beardtongue (Penstemon scariosus var. albifluvis)

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	
David Ure, Director	Date
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	
William C. Stringer, Chair	Date
Uintah County Commission	
Kathleen Clarke, Director	Date
Public Lands Policy Coordination Office ACTING DIRECTOR	11/20/16
Mike Fowlks, Director	11/2/8/12 Date
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	
Lannie Massey, Chair Paord of County Commissioners, Pio Plance County	Date
Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County	

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Date

Division of Wildlife Resources

Addendum To The 2014

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and

Larry Crist, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office	
Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	Date
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	2410
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	
David Ure, Director	Date
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	
William C. Stringer, Chair	Date
Uintah County Commission	Date
Kathleen Clarke, Director	Date
Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	
Mike Fowlks, Director	Date
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	
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Lannie Massey, Chair	Date

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Gary Torres, Green River District Manager J.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
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David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
William C. Stringer, Chair Jintah County Commission	Date
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Mike Fowlks, Director Jtah Division of Wildlife Resources	Date
Lannie Massey, Chair	Date

Addendum To The 2014

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (*Penstemon grahamii*) and

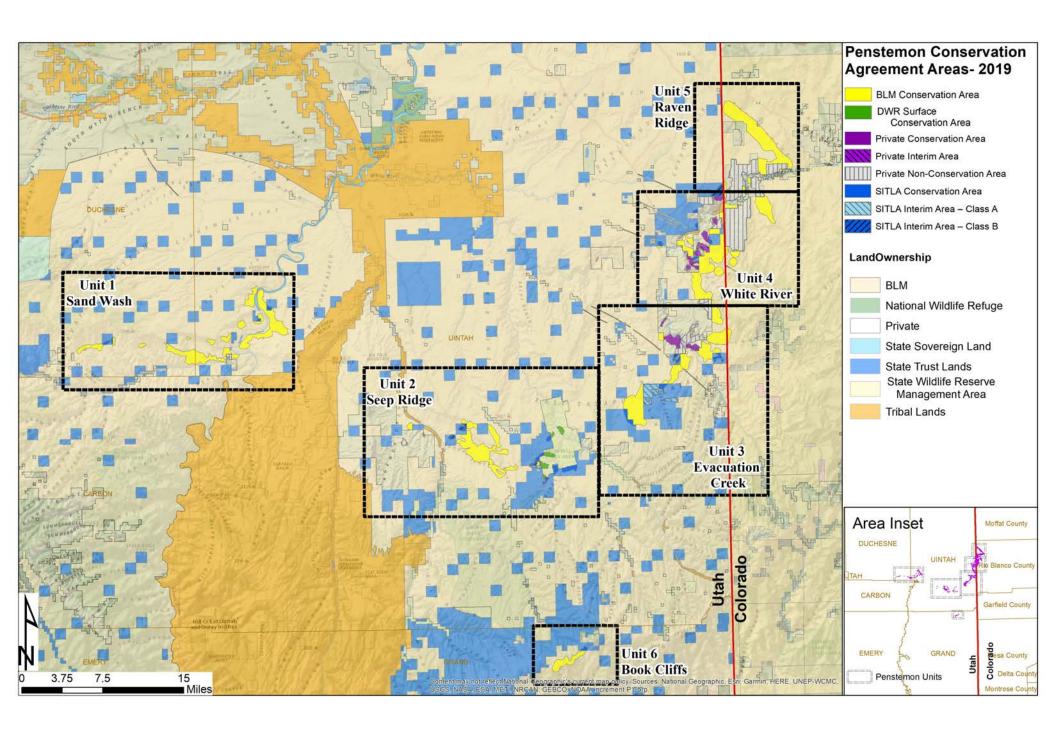
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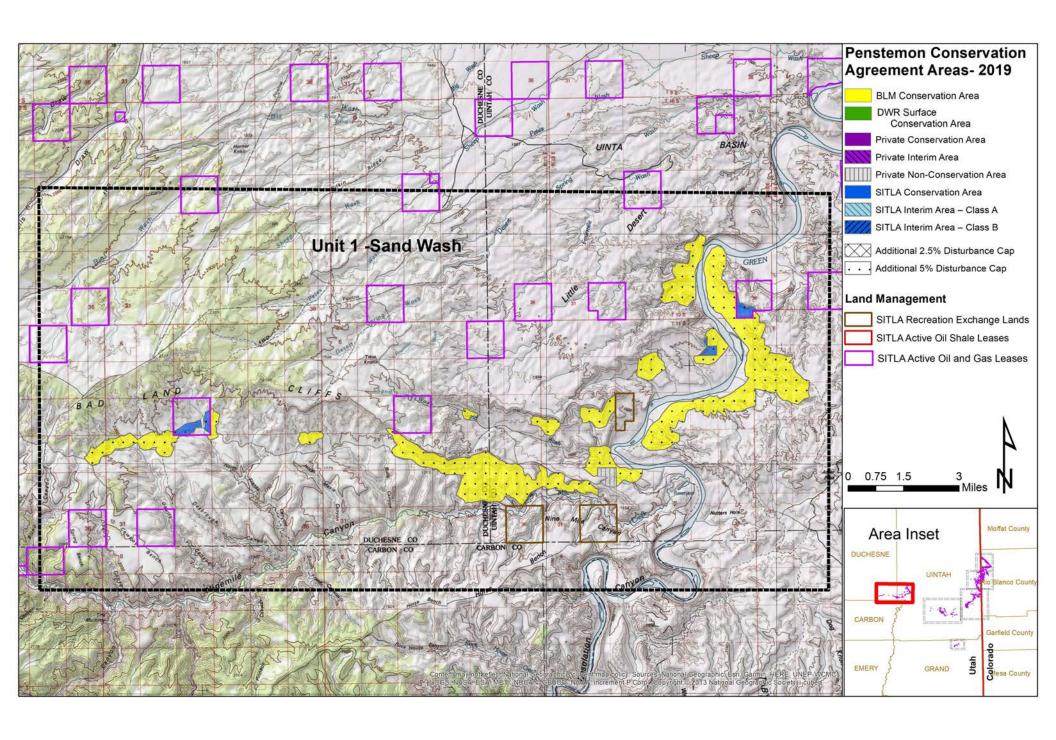
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Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor	Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office	
Gary Torres, Green River District Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal (Utah) Field Office	Date
Kent Walter, White River Field Office Manager	Date
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River (Colorado) Field Office	Date
David the	11/30/18
David Ure, Director Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	Date
Ctan School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration	
William C. Stringer, Chair	Date
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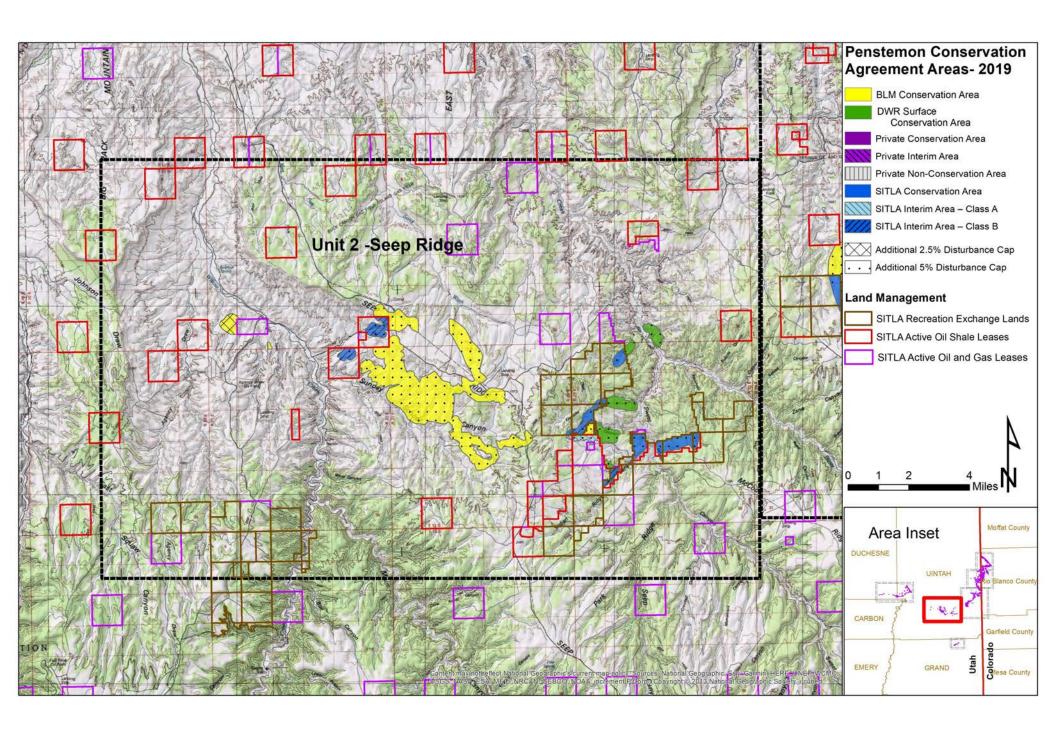
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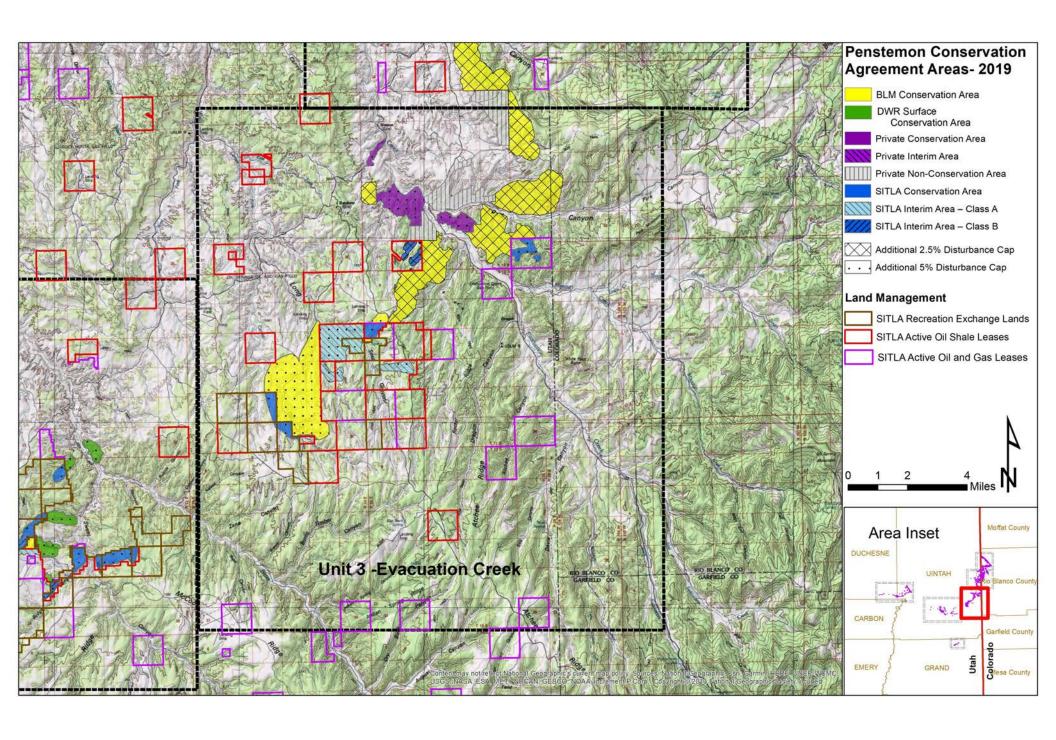
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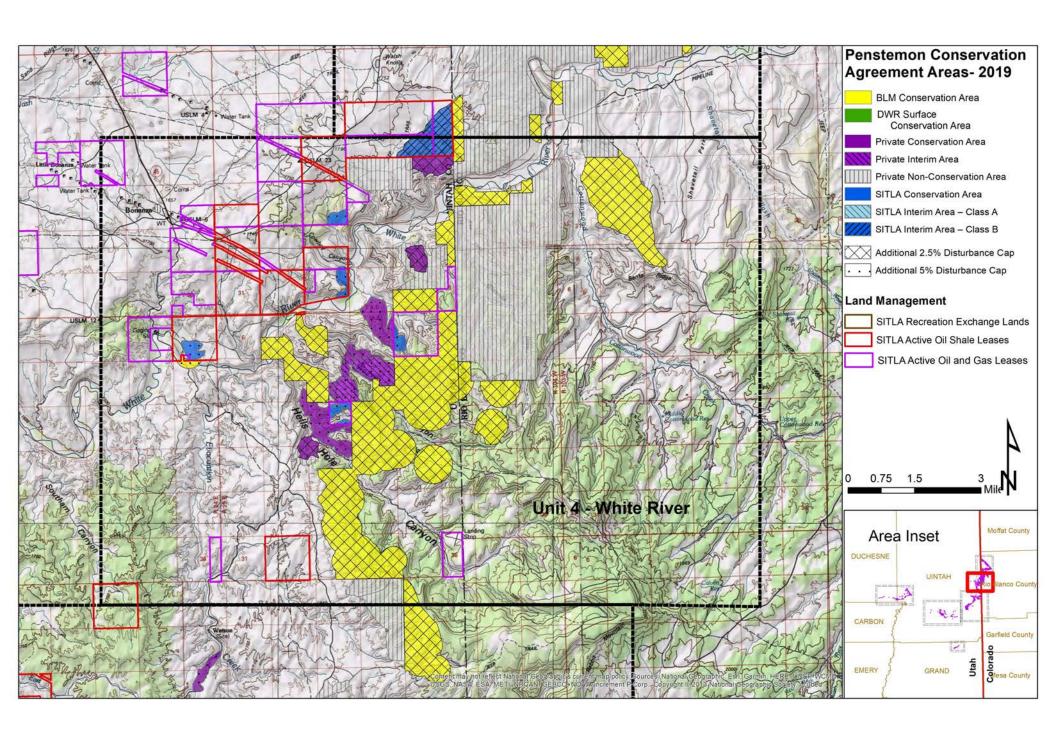
Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River Beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis): 2015 Annual Report APPENDICES
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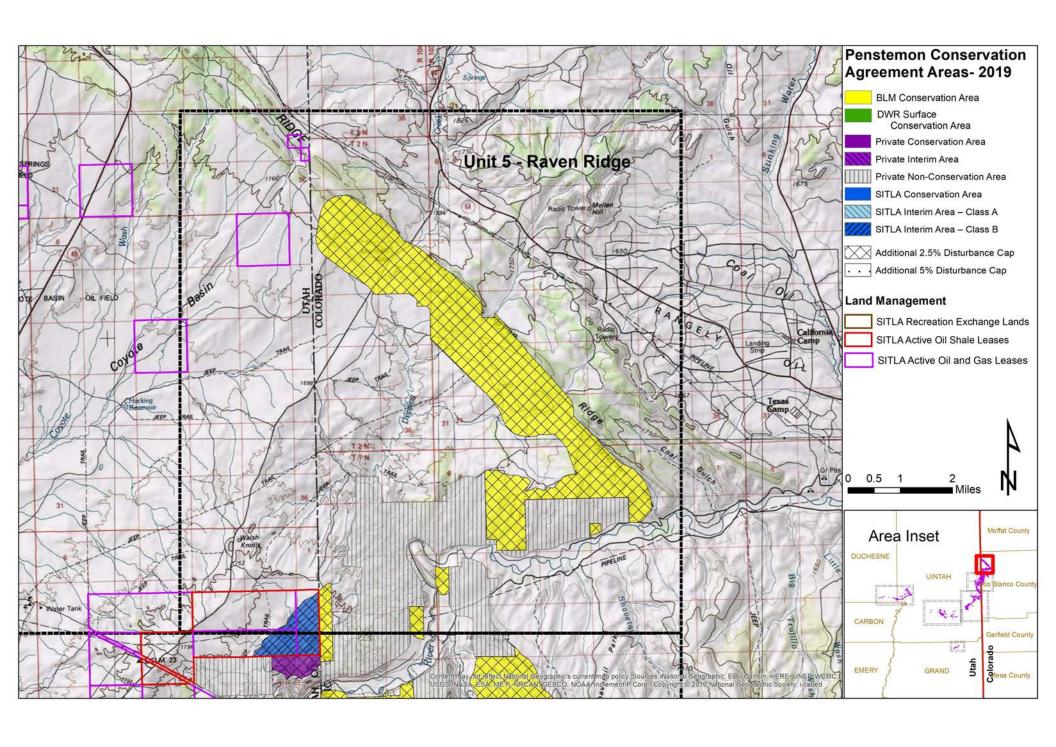


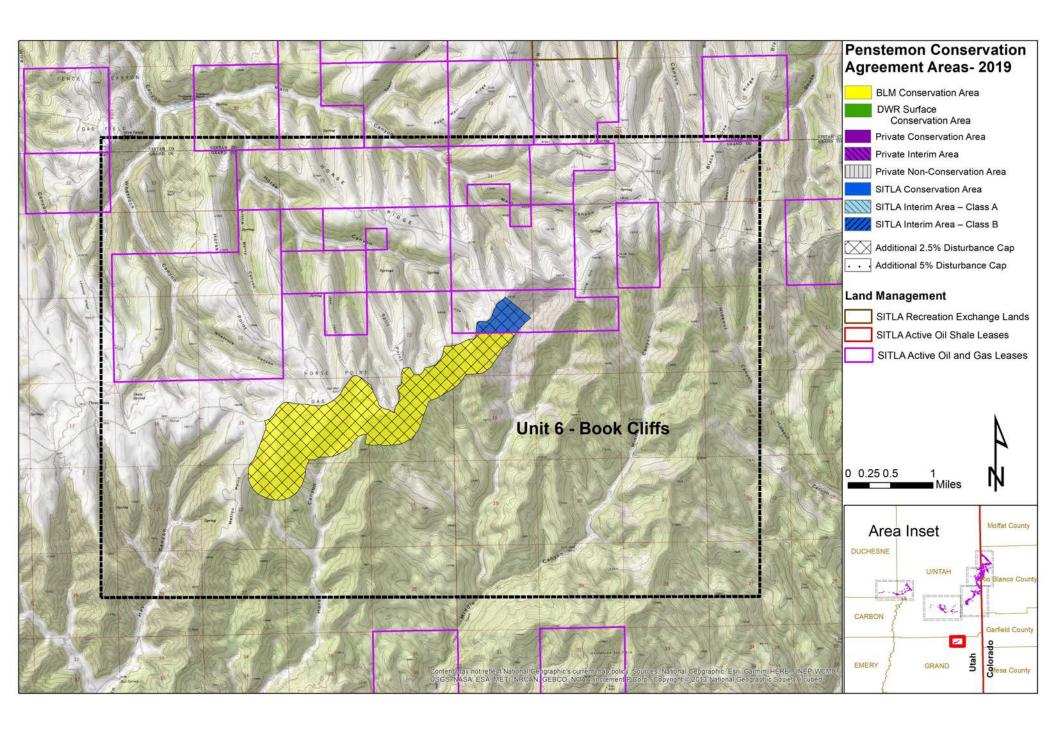












Appendix C

Conservation Agreement Addendum Conservation Area Locations

Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Graham's Beardtongue (Penstemon grahamii) and White River Beardtongue (P. scariosus var. albifluvis): 2015 Annual Report APPENDICES	
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Table C-1. Penstemon Conservation Area and Interim Conservation Area Locations by Conservation Unit

Unit #/ CA Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing		
	Unit 1: Sand Wash	<u>.</u>		
Conservation Area	598521.3987	4416882.749		
Conservation Area	597019.5298	4415152.825		
Conservation Area	583379.2339	4411586.899		
Conservation Area	574319.5257	4411731.229		
Conservation Area	575174.5807	4412046.989		
Conservation Area	592672.9982	4410142.305		
Conservation Area	579630.274	4411342.983		
Conservation Area	587350.2888	4409732.43		
Conservation Area	572004.7797	4411011.016		
Conservation Area	589926.0701	4411888.254		
Conservation Area	575438.945	4411908.34		
Conservation Area	586530.859	4412367.556		
Conservation Area	592205.2373	4412374.049		
Conservation Area	594433.6413	4414432.748		
Conservation Area	597168.9071	4415244.24		
Conservation Area	598047.7634	4414516.008		
Conservation Area	595943.3712	4418367.101		
Unit 2: Seep Ridge				
Conservation Area	642198.235	4393079.009		
Conservation Area	640321.1134	4395065.844		
Conservation Area	639562.3908	4393445.242		
Conservation Area	638647.4264	4393692.494		
Conservation Area	639657.8365	4391835.782		
Conservation Area	643349.0149	4392986.776		
Conservation Area	641205.5762	4392939.587		
Conservation Area	638870.2006	4394716.516		
Conservation Area	640237.4292	4397465.997		
Conservation Area	640770.1882	4398034.304		
Conservation Area	642063.0413	4398732.695		
Conservation Area	634708.4135	4393057.633		
Conservation Area	630463.0086	4395722.471		
Conservation Area	621660.0856	4398116.085		
Conservation Area	619572.1852	4399279.34		
Conservation Area	628417.4711	4399539.855		
Interim Area	638245.6734	4393729.874		

Table C-1. Penstemon Conservation Area and Interim Conservation Area Locations by Conservation Unit

Unit #/ CA Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing
Interim Area	638481.0315	4393235.171
Interim Area	639780.6858	4391209.783
Interim Area	625788.3386	4397684.919
Interim Area	627447.7625	4399083.301
Interim Area	637841.2104	4393453.142
Interim Area	637574.2657	4393298.249
Interim Area	639426.8515	4391654.815

Unit 3: Evacuation Creek

Conservation Area	659736.2688	4408061.302
Conservation Area	666069.9935	4409139.365
Conservation Area	652062.478	4400607.087
Conservation Area	657276.5773	4414812.487
Conservation Area	653200.7989	4402054.981
Conservation Area	659539.1007	4412926.966
Conservation Area	665360.9137	4409631.671
Conservation Area	663837.612	4410405.015
Conservation Area	656962.6328	4412630.007
Conservation Area	665474.5261	4412457.074
Conservation Area	659571.89	4412672.413
Conservation Area	656853.8816	4404697.803
Conservation Area	657171.8901	4405260.367
Conservation Area	658797.4512	4412035.952
Conservation Area	661737.8071	4411105.006
Conservation Area	667042.3829	4412873.158
Conservation Area	665219.2555	4415759.444
Conservation Area	657581.9709	4405851.934
Interim Area	658564.526	4403234.966
Interim Area	657449.8733	4403241.84
Interim Area	659203.1166	4408500.704
Interim Area	656157.7704	4404443.813
Interim Area	655202.1088	4404369.877
Interim Area	659731.1787	4409994.997
Interim Area	659079.2614	4409642.313
Interim Area	659515.63	4409155.563

Unit 4: White River

Conservation Area	667684.3849	1122725 252
Conservation Area	007084.3849	4423735.352

Table C-1. Penstemon Conservation Area and Interim Conservation Area Locations by Conservation Unit

Unit #/ CA Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing
Conservation Area	661229.9334	4426979.993
Conservation Area	656834.6412	4426502.584
Conservation Area	662276.3736	4428999.23
Conservation Area	662100.8997	4431285.755
Conservation Area	662102.4603	4424189.53
Conservation Area	663607.2846	4427547.662
Conservation Area	664325.0542	4426825.758
Conservation Area	663900.8225	4422824.298
Conservation Area	660626.1755	4425836.291
Conservation Area	664912.0658	4428294.248
Conservation Area	667523.4547	4432104.129
Conservation Area	666705.0204	4425440.042
Conservation Area	668019.7498	4424971.082
Conservation Area	665001.6968	4429835.094
Conservation Area	662376.4065	4424504.124
Conservation Area	665548.8611	4433238.264
Conservation Area	672440.6794	4431865.428
Conservation Area	666079.7159	4430589.693
Conservation Area	656682.0882	4426011.9
Conservation Area	661763.9366	4424667.649
Conservation Area	665568.4031	4422348.4
Conservation Area	661019.8134	4422940.592
Conservation Area	664714.6514	4417631.099
Conservation Area	669071.3025	4434104.318
Conservation Area	669349.6574	4434138.101
Conservation Area	666485.9447	4433783.055
Conservation Area	662928.9246	4426413.98
Conservation Area	661642.5464	4423735.764
Conservation Area	662753.3171	4424619.549
Conservation Area	662486.888	4426372.41
Interim Area	665363.5516	4433851.676
Interim Area	663514.8316	4425783.09
Interim Area	662544.1391	4425819.524
Interim Area	662385.5778	4425015.518
Interim Area	662051.1488	4425378.966
Interim Area	661863.2627	4425082.05

Table C-1. Penstemon Conservation Area and Interim Conservation Area Locations by Conservation Unit

Unit #/ CA Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing			
Unit 5: Raven Ridge					
Conservation Area	670071.4295	4435845.705			
Conservation Area	669275.9426	4434627.094			
Conservation Area	666461.9576	4434937.43			
Conservation Area	674778.8221	4437430.752			
Conservation Area	671288.7544	4439140.249			
Conservation Area	671270.0088	4442399.038			
Interim Area	665791.2152	4434667.426			
	Unit 6: Book Cliffs	,			
Conservation Area	642862.9562	4364287.156			
Conservation Area	645584.6738	4366141.712			