



Subject: Designation for Northfields

Date: January 25 , 2023

To: Utah State Technical Committee

The Utah Open Lands asked the State Conservationist and Technical Committee to consider the Northfields, as a 'unique and highly sensitive natural resource' pursuant to 440 CPM 528.33 B (3)(iii)

(iii) Grassland of special environmental significance, which is defined in 7 CFR Section 1468.3 as grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species, as designated or defined by State or Federal law; are subject to the threat of conversion to nongrassland uses or fragmentation; and the land is—

- Rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, or wet meadows on which the vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs, or is improved, naturalized pastureland, rangeland, or wet meadows.*
- And the land provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species, protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State technical committee.*

The protection of the Northfields, shown within attached maps, meets climate objectives of the IRA by preserving a carbon sink and protecting water flow to Great Salt Lake, which is at-risk in the new climate regime expected for Utah.

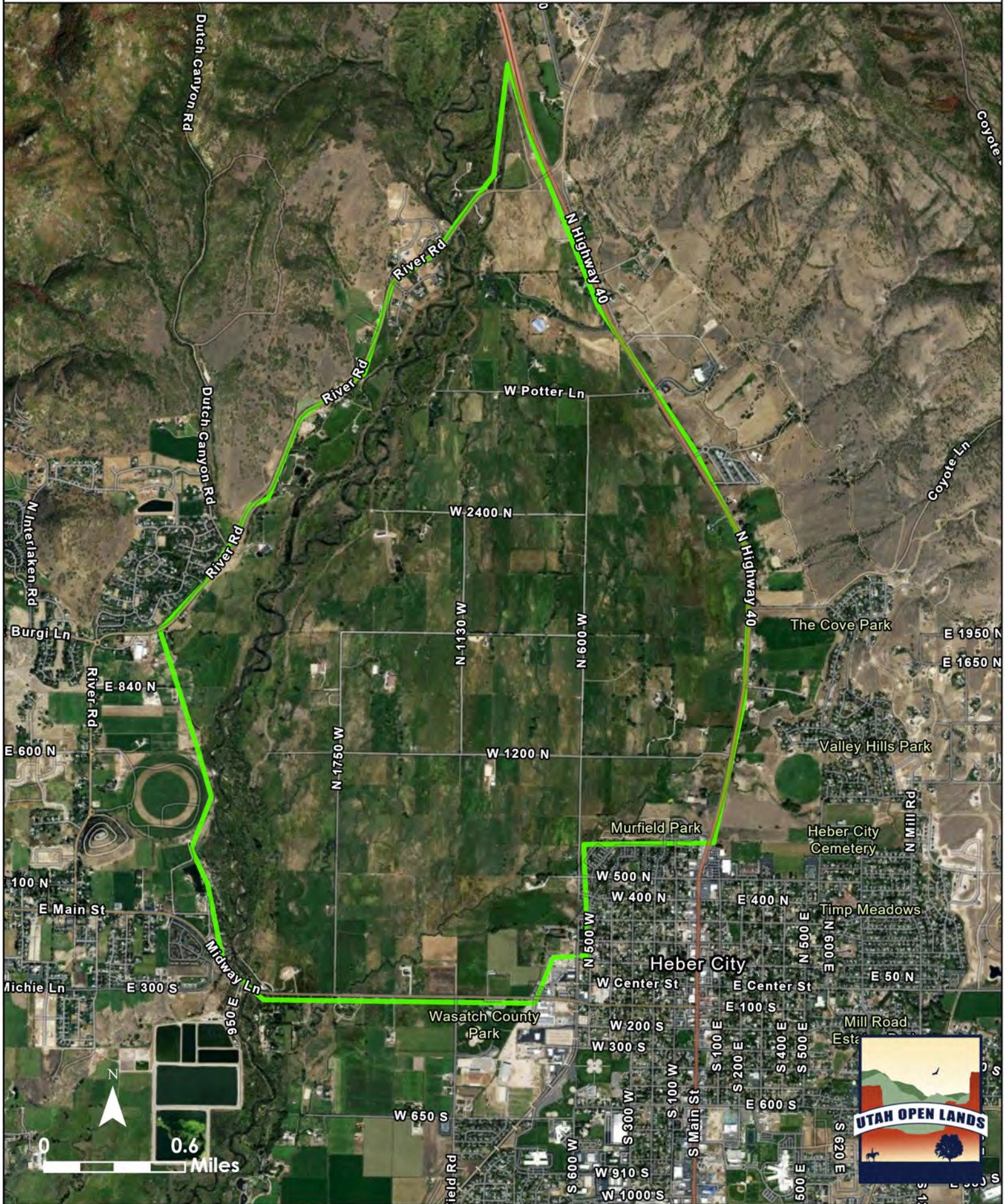
Utah Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) reviewed all submitted statements presented at the State Technical Committee meeting on November 01, 2023 and all committee responses submitted through January 05, 2024. Based on this information, State Conservationist, Emily Fife, has approved Northfields as a Grasslands of Special Significance as well as a 'unique and highly sensitive natural resource'. Utah NRCS will fund all necessary work, to continue to protect the Northfields, through the allocation of the ACEP and RCPP programs.

Please contact Keila Ortiz at keila.ortiz@usda.gov or Scott Morton at scott.morton@usda.gov for more information.

Sincerely,

EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

NORTHFIELDS Aerial View



NORTHFIELDS Locator

