



**HIGH SIERRA FORESTRY**

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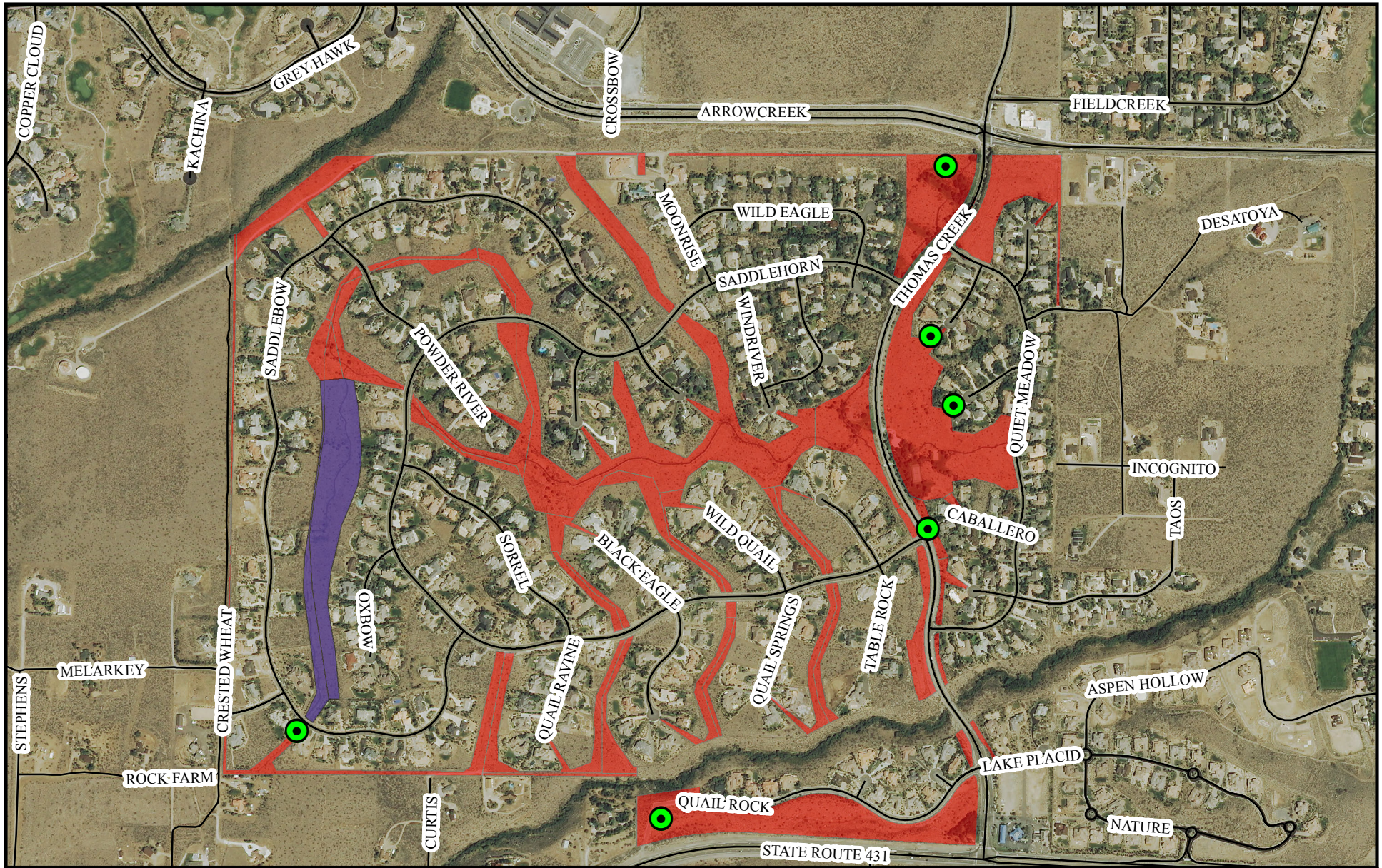
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## Saddlehorn HOA - Hazardous Fuels Evaluation February 2021

On February 21, 2021 High Sierra Forestry (HSF) completed an evaluation of the common area within the Saddlehorn HOA. Overall the condition of the fuels and environment looks very good. Since the last treatment in 2017, the native grasses have thrived, keeping cheat grass at bay overall. As we get further from the second treatment date the brush is starting to reestablish itself, but currently the species composition of the common areas is great. Throughout most of the common area, brush is widely spaced with native bunch grasses growing in the inter-spaces. This vegetation composition is very close to what would be “native” and “natural” to this area before any fire suppression efforts.

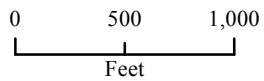
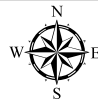
At this point all the areas could use is a good mowing. This would cut back all the native grasses that have thrived since the last treatment, lowering the overall height of the vegetation and cut back all the brush species that have sprouted. HSF would recommend using a flail mower to accomplish these goals, although due to rocky areas, mastication will be necessary in certain areas. The overall fire threat is moderate now, but over the next several years there is going to be a buildup of dead grasses and lowering the over height of these will go a long way in keeping any wildfire at a manageable level.

Attached is a map of the association with highlighted areas where mastication will need to be done. This list is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Another issue HSF noticed was the ladder fuels are still present (this was identified as a hazard in the 2017 evaluation) on trees planted within the common areas. Also, along the walking paths it appears brush has been pruned back, keeping the path clear. It is recommended that some of these bushes be removed over time, resulting in spaced vegetation, consistent with the overall common areas. These paths concentrate human activity and human are the cause of most wildfires. It is recommended these bushes are removed by hand to make sure no damage is done and limit the disturbance to the pathway,



**Legend**

- HOA Property that could use treatment - 93 acres
- HOA Property that needs NO treatment - 9 acres
- Areas that will need mastication



## Saddlehorn HOA 2021 Fuels Evaluation