



Nevada Credit System HQT Developments & Other Design Elements

SEC Meeting - October 1, 2014

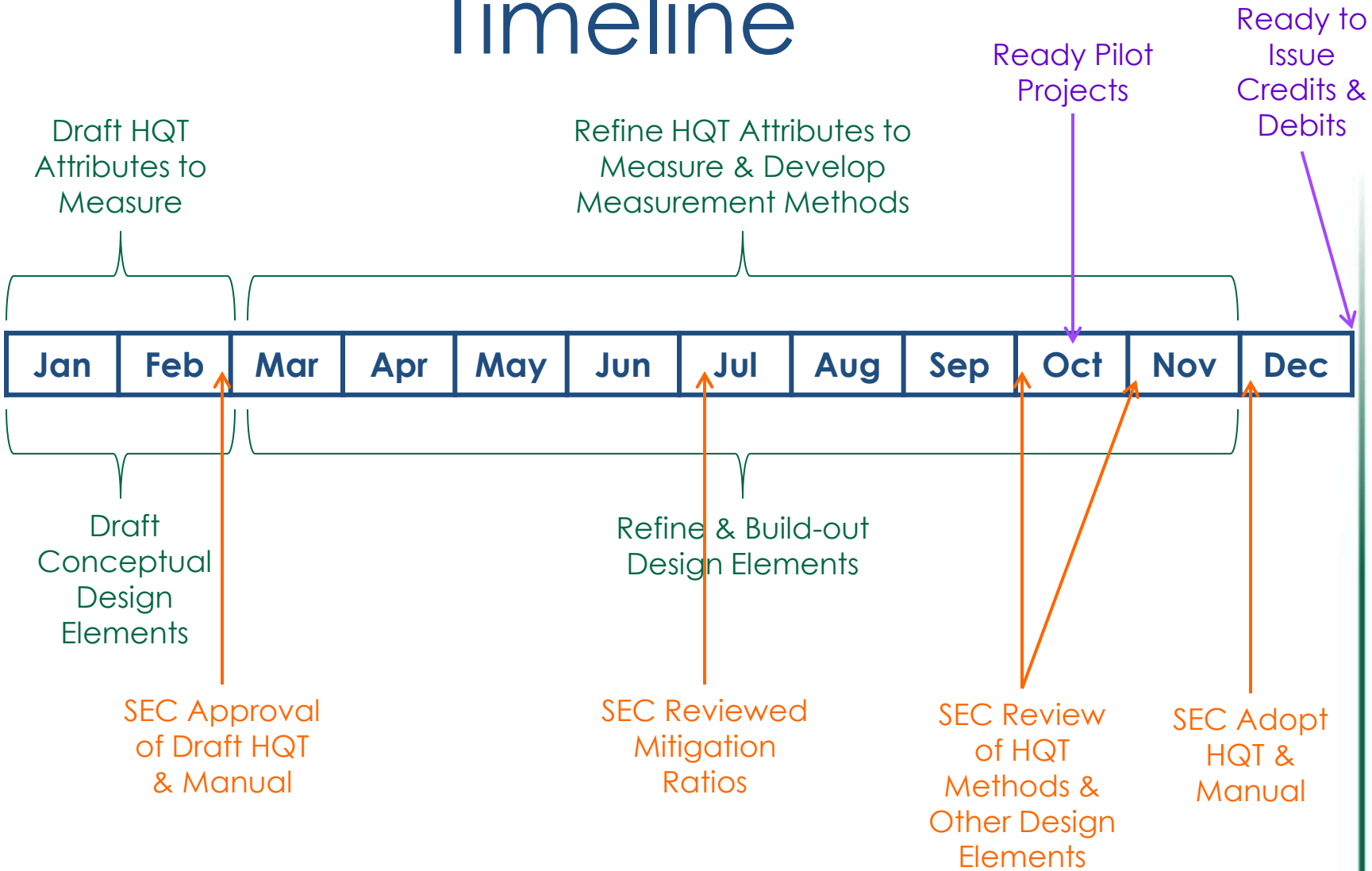
Objectives

- 1) Gain understanding and input of Credit System timeline
- 2) Gain understanding of HQT scoring approach with proposed measurement methods
- 3) Confirm understanding of “what counts as mitigation”
- 4) Obtain conceptual approval of field data collection timing proposal

PROJECT UPDATE

Timeline

Habitat Quantification
Policy & Operations



Future Expected Needs:

- FWS and BLM agreements
- HQT, policy and operational adjustments based on pilot projects
- Tools usable by project proponents



PROPOSED HABITAT QUANTIFICATION TOOL (HQT) SCORING APPROACH

Functional-Acre = Quantity x Quality

1st
Order

×

2nd
Order

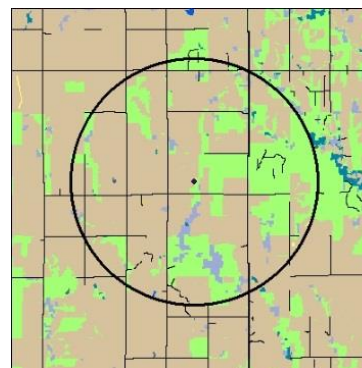
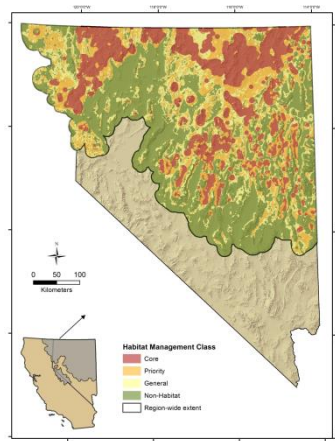
×

3rd
Order

×

4th
Order

Framework



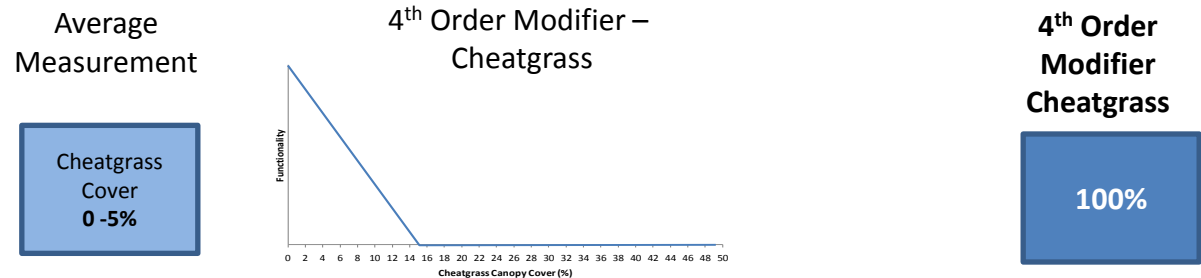
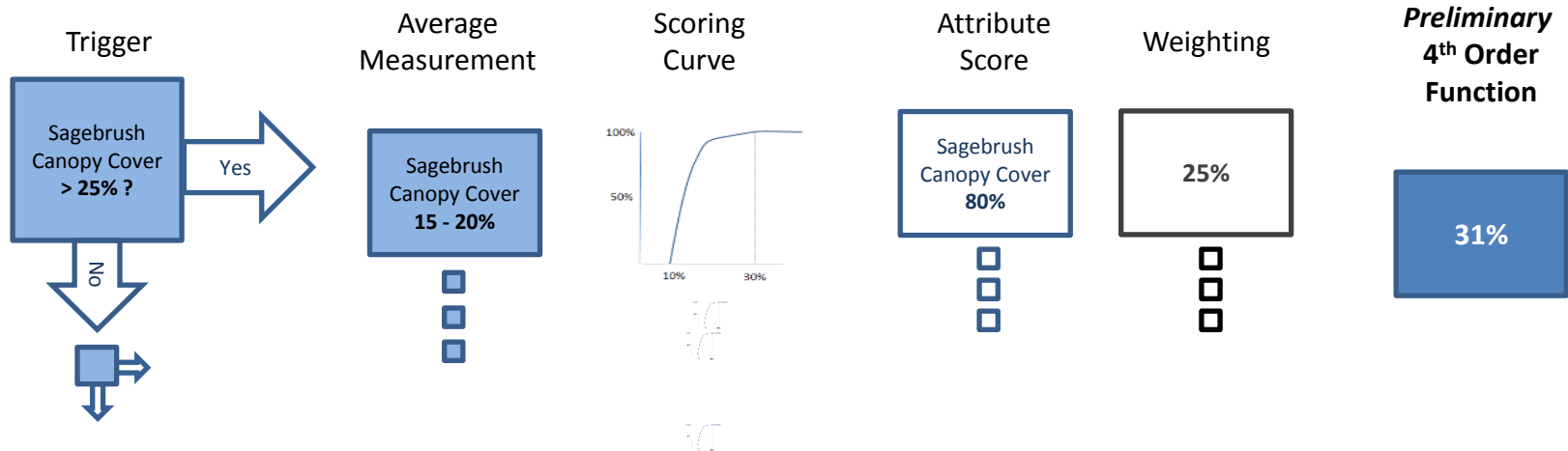
Parameter

- GrSG Habitat
 - Habitat Importance
 - Limiting Seasonal Habitat
 - Proximity (debits)
- Sagebrush cover
- Conifer cover
- Anthropogenic Impact
- Vegetation attributes

Method

- Nevada GrSG Management Area Map
 - Nevada GrSG Management Category Map
 - **Limiting Habitat Approach (draft)**
 - PMU/WAFWA zones
- **Habitat Suitability Index**
- Distance-decay curves
- Field data collection
- Scoring Curves and Tables

4th Order Calculation – Nesting ONLY



4 th Order		3 rd Order		2 nd Order			Functional Acres	
Preliminary 4 th Order Function	4 th Order Modifier Cheatgrass	HSI	Anthropogenic Impact	Limiting Habitat Function	Habitat Importance Factor	Proximity Factor (Debits)	Map Unit Acres	Map Unit F-Acres
31%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	72.1	#

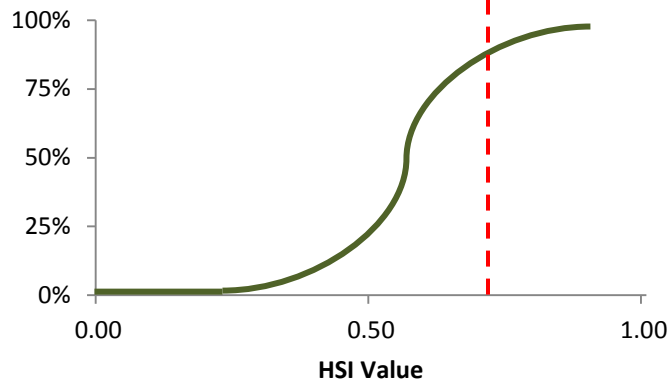
3rd Order Calculation

Average Measurement

Average HSI Value

0.75

Scoring Curve

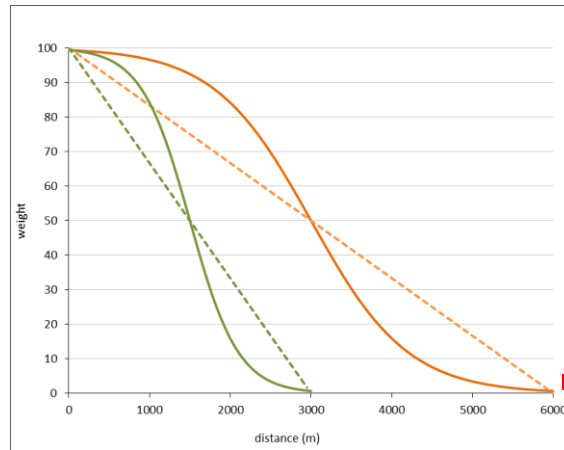


3rd Order Modifiers

HSI Score
85%

Distance to Disturbance

> 6 km



100%
Function

4th Order

3rd Order

2nd Order

Functional Acres

Preliminary 4th Order Function

31%

4th Order Modifier Cheatgrass

100%

HSI

85%

Anthropogenic Impact

100%

Limiting Habitat Function

%

Habitat Importance Factor

%

Proximity Factor (Debits)

%

Map Unit Acres

72.1

Map Unit F-Acres

#

2nd Order Calculation

Scoring Table

Seasonal Habitat Scarcity			
Proportion of area <i>nesting/winter</i>	Percent function	Proportion of area <i>late brood rearing</i>	Percent function
>40%	100%	>10%	100%
35 – 40%	75%	8 – 10%	75%
30 – 35%	50%	5 – 8%	50%
25 – 30%	25%	2 – 5%	25%
<25%	0%	<2%	0%

*Select lowest of two values for complementary types

Proportion Late Brood-Rearing
9%

Proportion Winter
65%

Attribute Score

Limiting Habitat Function
75%

2nd Order Modifier

75%

Scoring Table

Management Importance Factor	
Debit Site Factor	
CORE	2.0
PRIORITY	1.5
GENERAL	1.0
Credit Site Factor	
CORE	0.8
PRIORITY	0.6
GENERAL	0.0

Management Importance Category
Core

Attribute Score

Management Importance Factor
0.8

2nd Order Modifier

80%

4th Order

3rd Order

2nd Order

Functional Acres

Preliminary 4th Order Function

31%

4th Order Modifier Cheatgrass

100%

HSI
85%

85%

Anthropogenic Impact

100%

Limiting Habitat Function

75%

Habitat Importance Factor

80%

Proximity Factor (Debits)

n/a

Map Unit Acres

72.1

Map Unit F-Acres

11.39

“WHAT COUNTS AS MITIGATION?”

What is a Credit?

Credit = Functional-Acre =
Habitat Quantity (Acres)
X Habitat Quality (%) Above Baseline

Performance assurances

- Contract to maintain habitat quality
- Customized management plan to fulfill required actions specific to the project
- Financial assurances to ensure durability

How are different actions *currently* related to Credit Projects?

Action	Directly Influences HQT Score	Required BMP – No Influence on HQT Score	Not Required – No Influence on HQT Score
Preservation	X		
PJ Removal	X		
Road/Disturbance Removal	X		
Meadow Restoration	X		
Fence Flagging		X	
Grazing			X ¹
Fire Prevention		X	
Pre-suppression			X ²
Research			X

¹Grazing practices are not directed by the Credit System, however expected practices appropriate to maintaining habitat function are documented in the CMP

²Potential approaches to incentivize pre-suppression actions such as a reduced reserve account contribution are being evaluated.

FIELD DATA COLLECTION TIMING

Objectives

- 1) Quantify habitat function accurately
- 2) Facilitate expedient credit and debit project approval

Key Considerations

- Forb and grass cover and richness are critical for quantifying habitat function
- Growing season for forbs and grasses is limited
- GrSG use seasonal habitat types during specific times of the year

Proposal

- Project proponents must collect field data within permissible windows to issue credits/debits based on functional acre scores
 - Nesting: April through June 15th
 - Late brood-rearing: July through September 15th
 - Winter: anytime
- Project proponents may request written verification from Administrator that field work is scheduled within permissible windows
- Project proponents may collect data outside of permissible windows and request review from the Administrator for *strictly* planning purposes