

*Development of the Nevada
Alternative Withdrawal Area
boundaries for the BLM Mineral
Withdrawal EIS*

**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
MEETING**

April 7, 2016

**by: Sheila Anderson, Natural Resource
Policy Analyst, Governor's Office**

Richard Perry, Administrator, NDOM

Tony Wasley, Director, NDOW

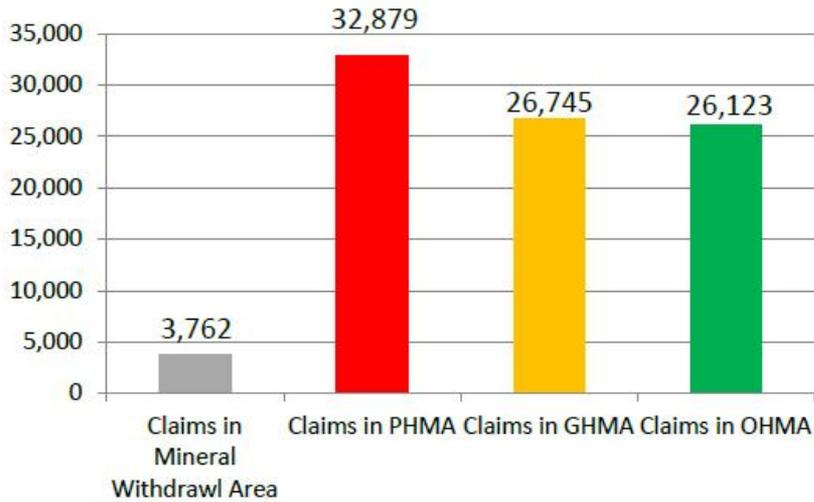




OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- **Claims in mineral withdrawal area and lands in plans of operations in Nevada**
- **NDOM development of “High Mineral Potential” areas within Mineral Withdrawal.**
- **NDOW lek density maps in proposed mineral withdrawal areas**
- **Proposed new boundaries**
- **Synopsis of Governor’s comment letter**

**Assessment Year 2016 Active Mining Claims
As of 10/16/2015**



**Total Active Mining Claims for
Assessment Year 2016
As of 10/16/2015 163,542**
**Approximate # of claims impacted
by Plan: 89,509 (55%)**

**Approximate # of claims
not directly impacted by
Plan: 74,033 (45%)**

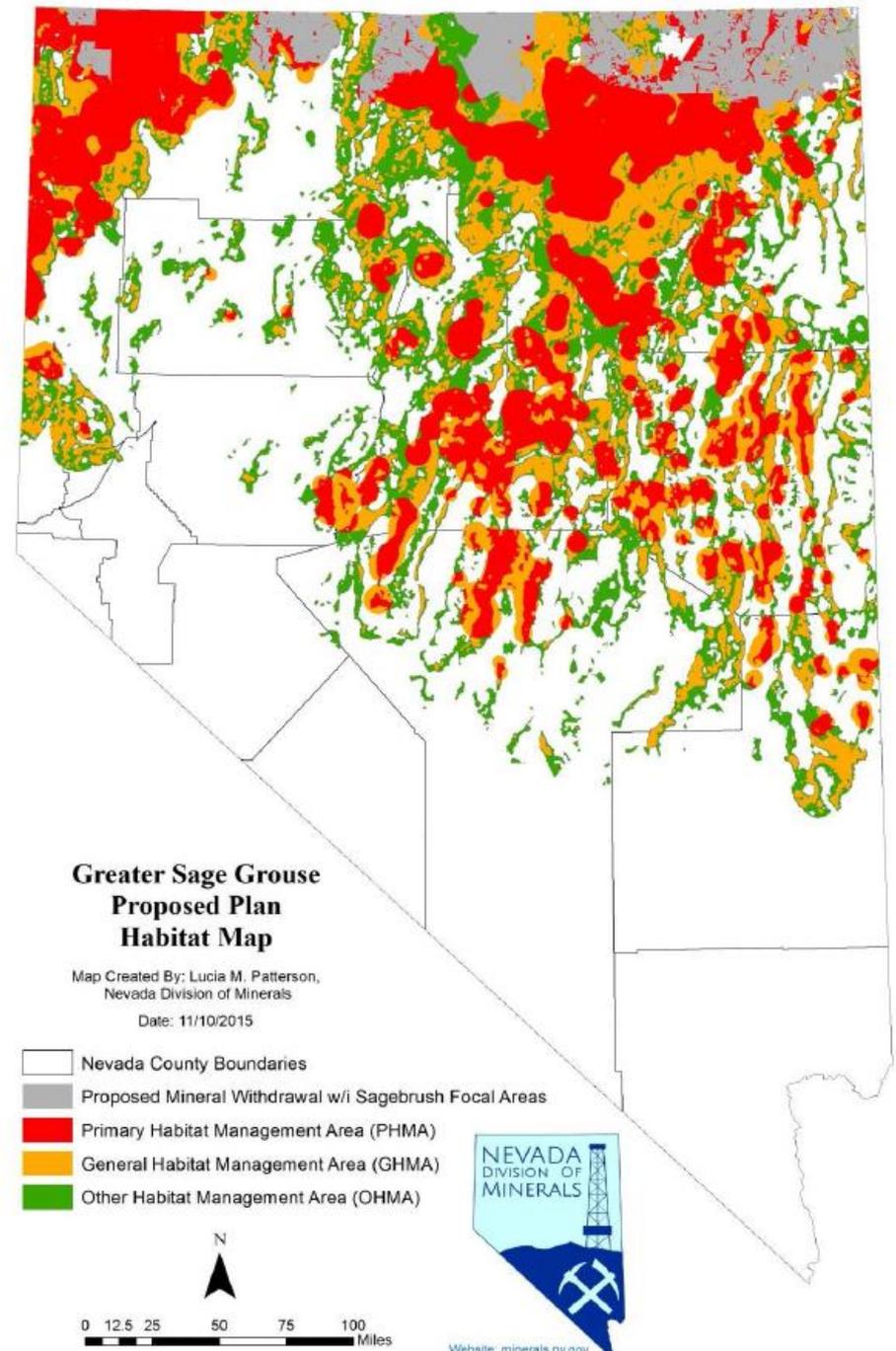
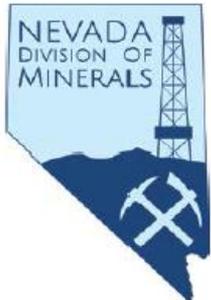


TABLE OF CUMULATIVE MINING PERMITS (P.O.O's) AND ACRES DISTURBED WITHIN PERMITS FOR ENTIRE STATE OF NEVADA

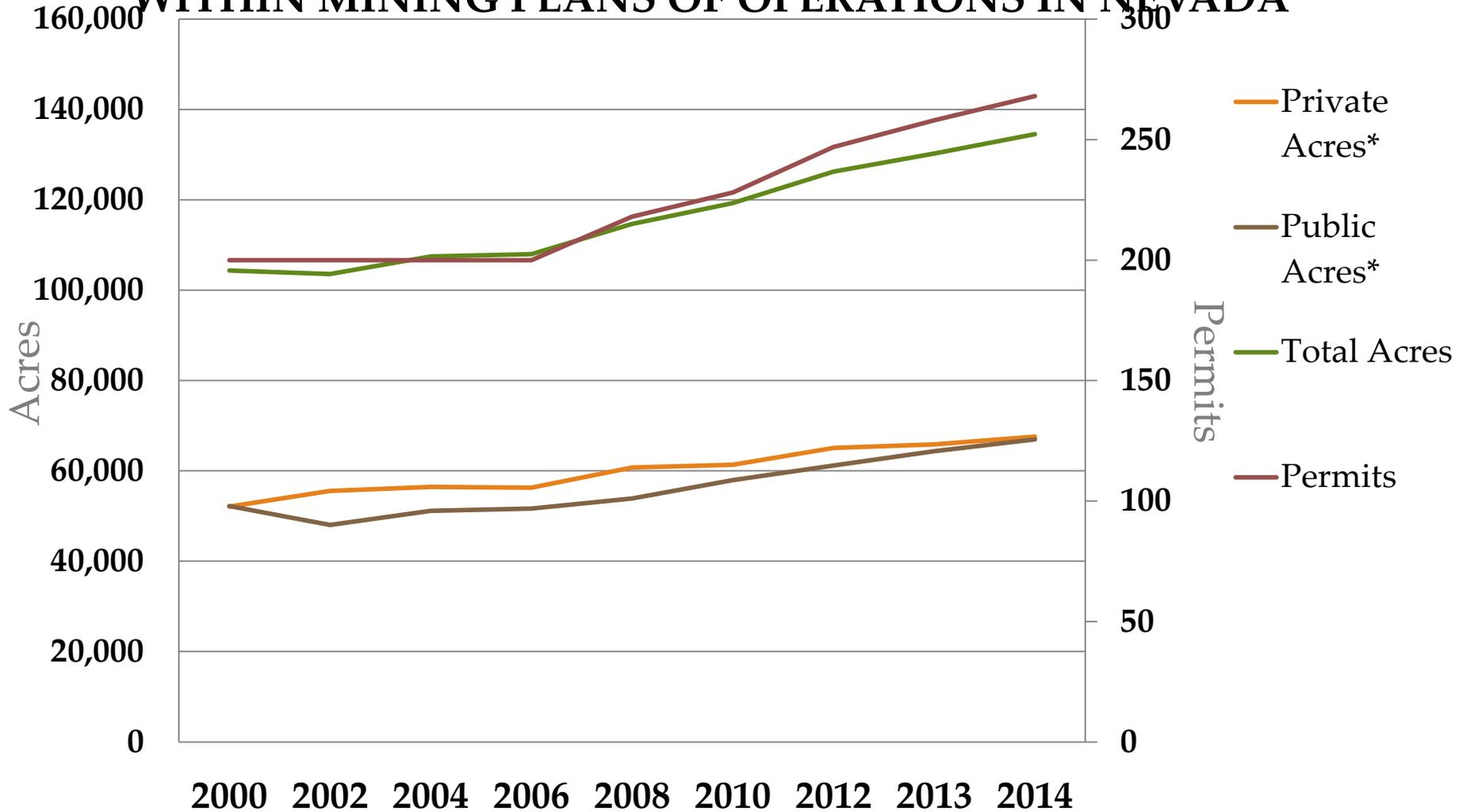
Year	Cumulative Permits	Private Acres* in P.O.O.	Public Acres* in P.O.O.	Total Acres Disturbed	% Federal land disturbed	% Total of State disturbed
2006	200	56,302	51,664	107,961	0.09%	0.15%
2008	218	60,719	53,917	114,637	0.09%	0.16%
2010	228	61,330	57,945	119,276	0.10%	0.17%
2012	247	65,060	61,213	126,273	0.11%	0.18%
2013	258	65,875	64,358	130,233	0.11%	0.19%
2014	268	67,577	66,987	134,565	0.12%	0.19%

* Information on land disturbed in Nevada by Mining from:

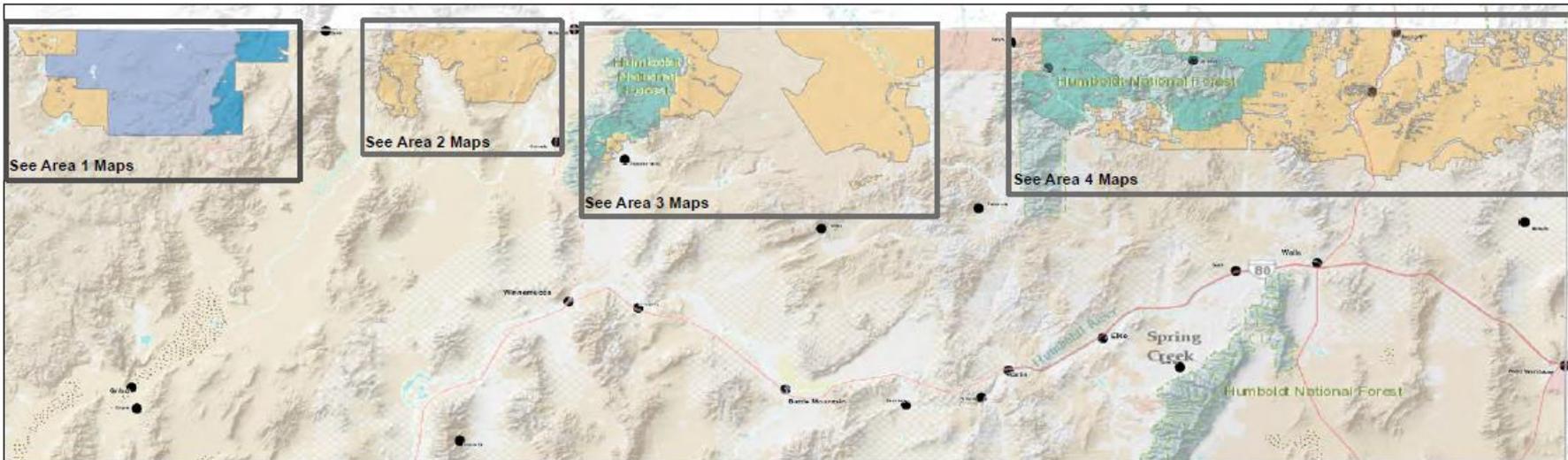
2012-2014: Interstate Mining Compact Commission annual submittals from NDEP

2000-2010: Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation (BMRR-NDEP) database

CUMULATIVE MINING PERMITS AND ACREAGE WITHIN MINING PLANS OF OPERATIONS IN NEVADA



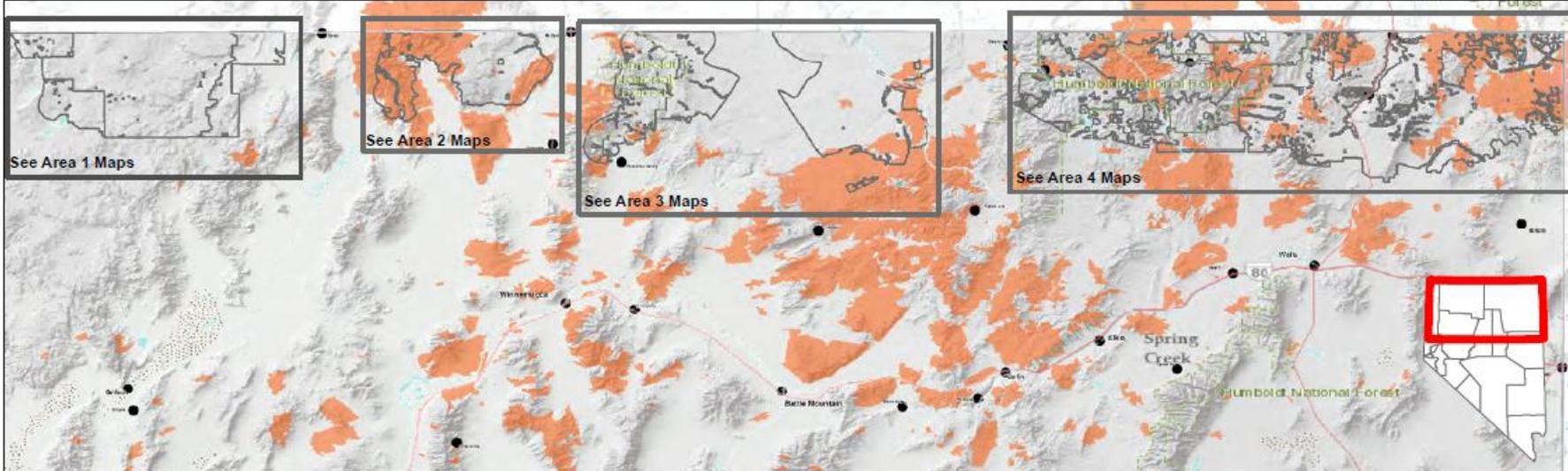
* Information on land disturbed in Nevada by Mining from:
 2012-2014: Interstate Mining Compact Commission annual submittals from NDEP
 2000-2010: Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation (BMRR-NDEP) database



Location of Sagebrush Focal Areas

Showing current land status within sagebrush focal areas

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Bureau of Land Management |  | Private Lands |
|  | Fish and Wildlife Service |  | Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge |
|  | Forest Service |  | State Lands |



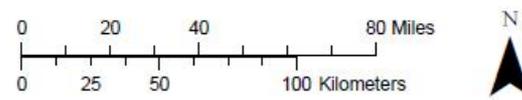
Distribution of Wildfires in Nevada

Showing wildfires from 2000 to 2013 in Northern Nevada

- | | |
|--|---|
|  | Wildfires (2000 - 2013): Acres burned in map area = 4,107,121 |
| | Acres burned statewide = 6,158,462 |
| | % acres burned within proposed withdrawal areas = 20.99% |

Wildfire data obtained from:
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>

Prepared by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
 June 2015





DEVELOPMENT METHOD FOR AREAS OF HIGH MINERAL POTENTIAL IN PROPOSED MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

- **The process used to evaluate the area for high mineral potential (HMP) was a collaborative effort by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) a unit of the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Nevada Division of Minerals, a State Agency**
- **Development of final HMP maps a collaborative effort with NDOW directed by Governor's office**



DEVELOPMENT METHOD FOR AREAS OF HIGH MINERAL POTENTIAL

- **Historic occurrences of metals and industrial minerals from NBMG archives. From historic NBMG and USGS reports and maps.**
- **Plans of Operations (POO's) and Notices of Intent (NOI's) for exploration and mining projects from BLM LR 2000 database**
- **Townships with drill projects from 2004 -2014, from annual NBMG MI reports**



DEVELOPMENT METHOD FOR AREAS OF HIGH MINERAL POTENTIAL (CONT.)

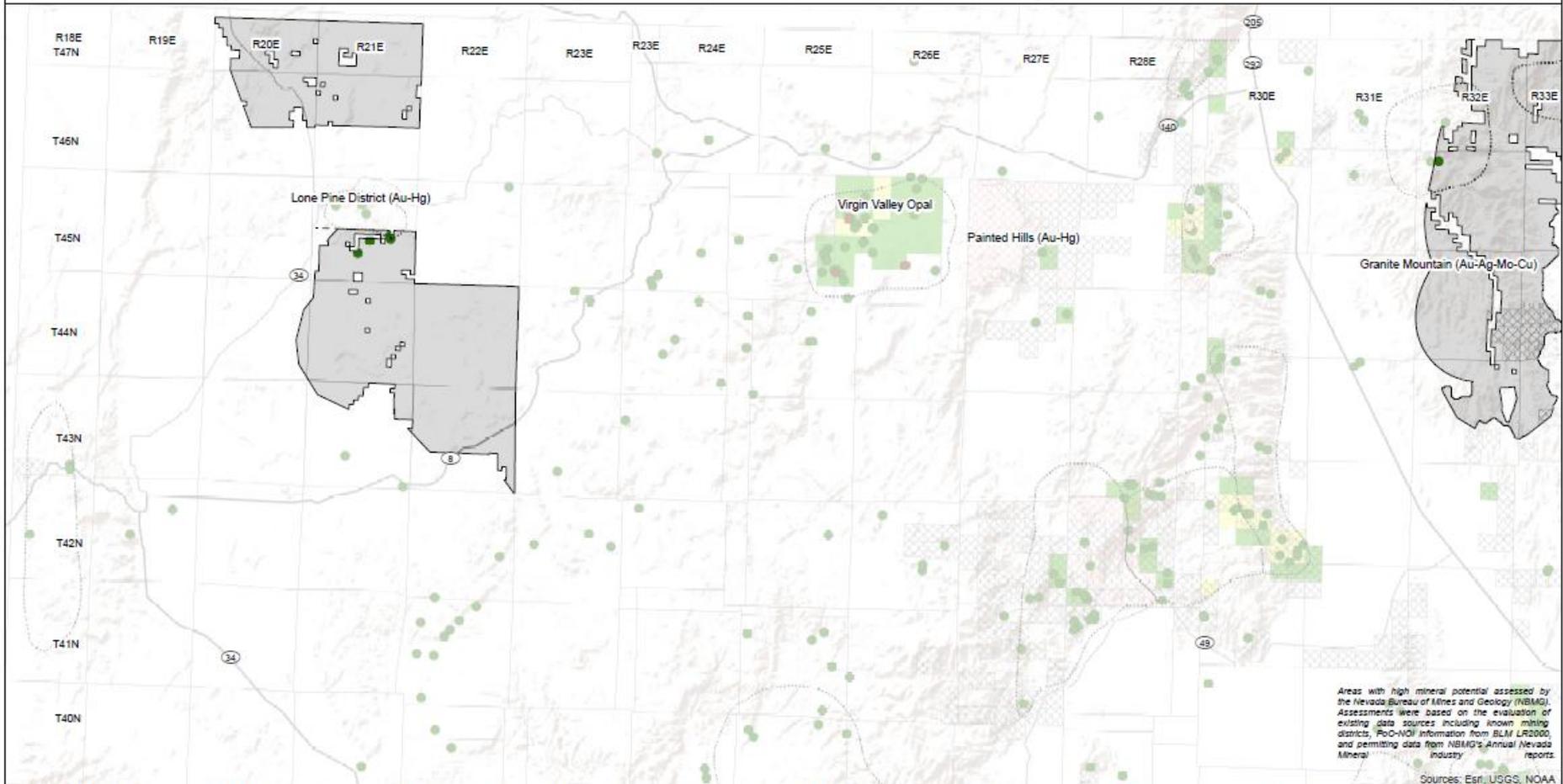
- **Active unpatented mining claims, from BLM LR 2000 database, 2016 assessment year.**
- **Discussions with active exploration and mining companies with holdings within areas.**
- **Comparison of high mineral potential maps, at township scale, with NDOW active Sage Grouse lek maps. Boundaries of high mineral potential area buffer adjusted to minimize impact on leks**



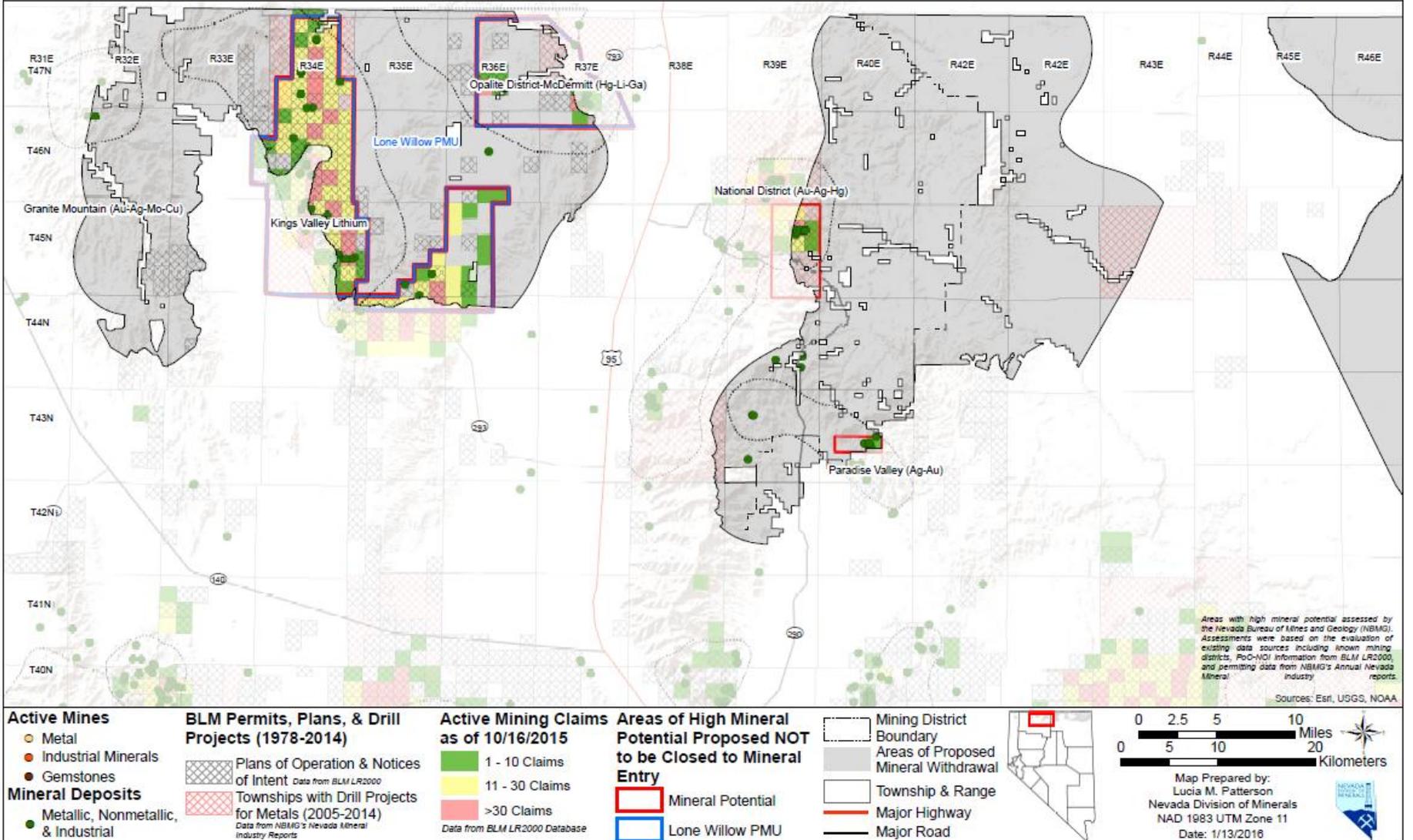
DEVELOPMENT METHOD FOR AREAS OF HIGH MINERAL POTENTIAL

- **Twelve areas were identified and proposed to be removed from the BLM mineral withdrawal boundaries in Governor Sandoval's letter to BLM of 1-15-2016.**

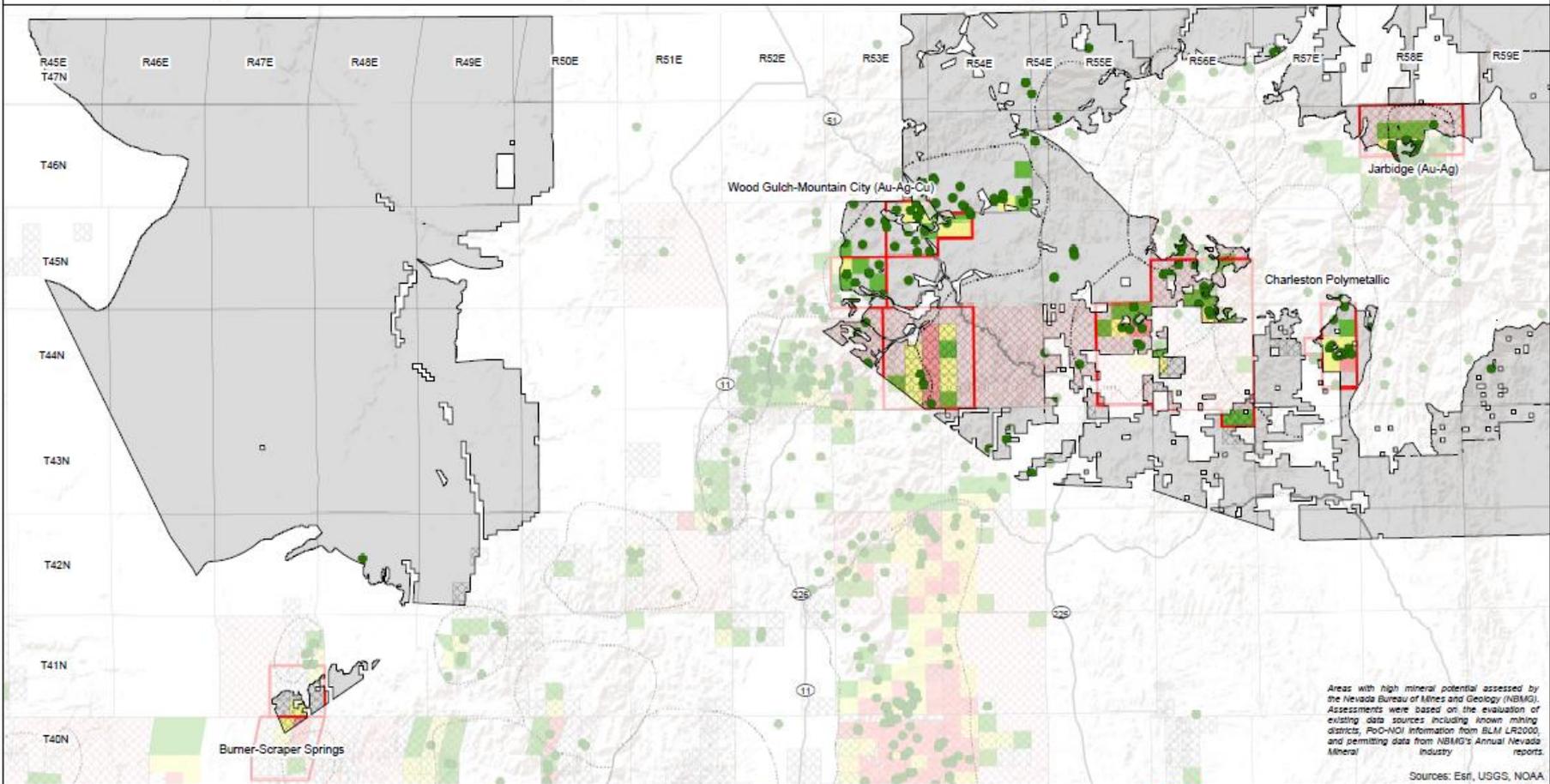
Area 1: Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Outlined Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry



Area 2: Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Outlined Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry



Area 3: Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Outlined Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry

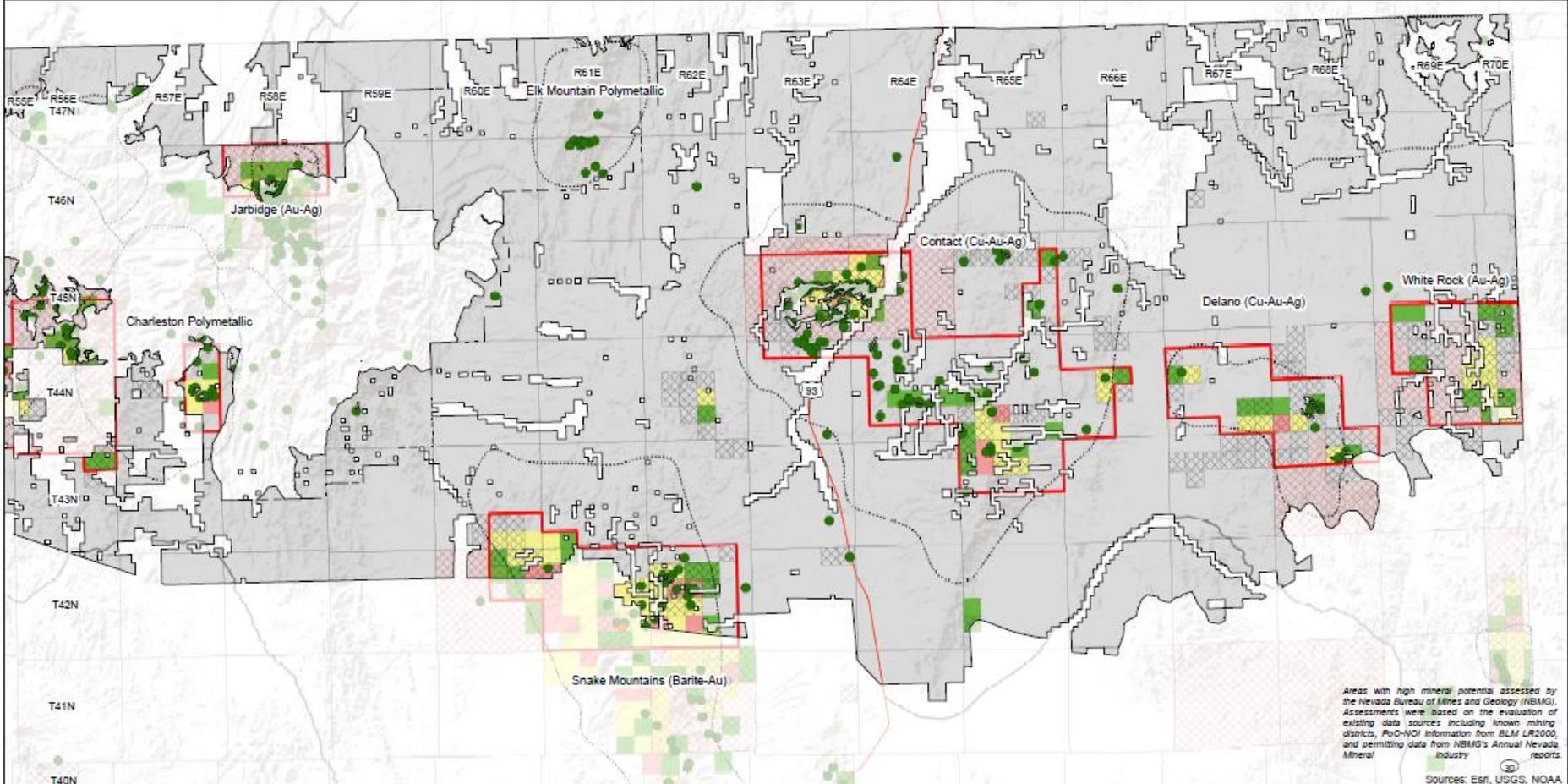


Areas with high mineral potential assessed by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). Assessments were based on the evaluation of existing data sources including known mining districts; PoC-NDI information from BLM LR2000; and permitting data from NBMG's Annual Nevada Mineral Industry Reports.

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

<p>Active Mines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metal ● Industrial Minerals ● Gemstones <p>Mineral Deposits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metallic, Nonmetallic, & Industrial 	<p>BLM Permits, Plans, & Drill Projects (1978-2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▨ Plans of Operation & Notices of Intent <small>Data from BLM LR2000</small> ▨ Townships with Drill Projects for Metals (2005-2014) <small>Data from NBMG's Nevada Mineral Industry Reports</small> 	<p>Active Mining Claims as of 10/16/2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 - 10 Claims ■ 11 - 30 Claims ■ >30 Claims <p><small>Data from BLM LR2000 Database</small></p>	<p>Areas of High Mineral Potential Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Mineral Potential ▭ Lone Willow PMU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Mining District Boundary ▭ Areas of Proposed Mineral Withdrawal ▭ Township & Range ▬ Major Highway ▬ Major Road 		<p>0 2.5 5 10 Miles</p> <p>0 5 10 20 Kilometers</p> <p>Map Prepared by: Lucia M. Patterson Nevada Division of Minerals NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11 Date: 1/13/2016</p>
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Area 4: Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Outlined Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry

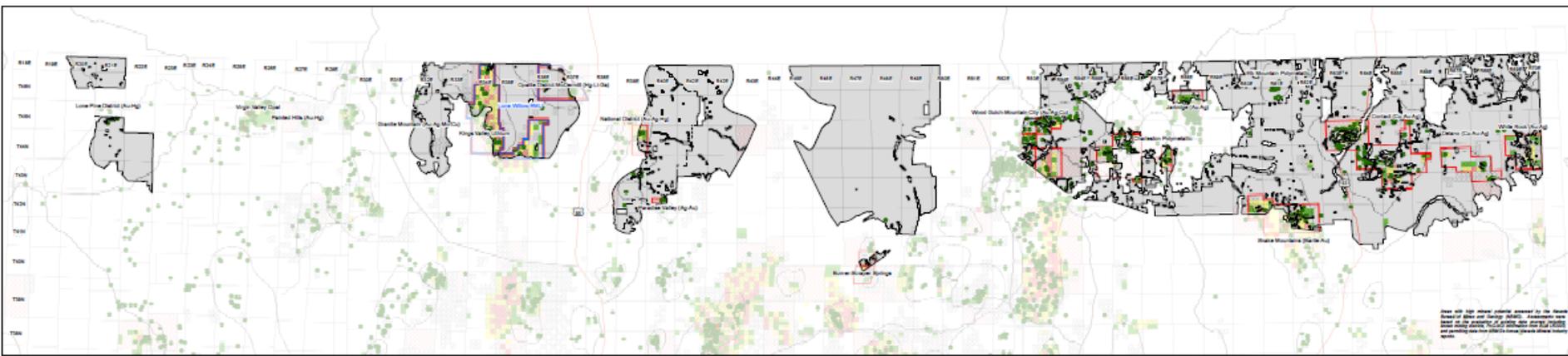


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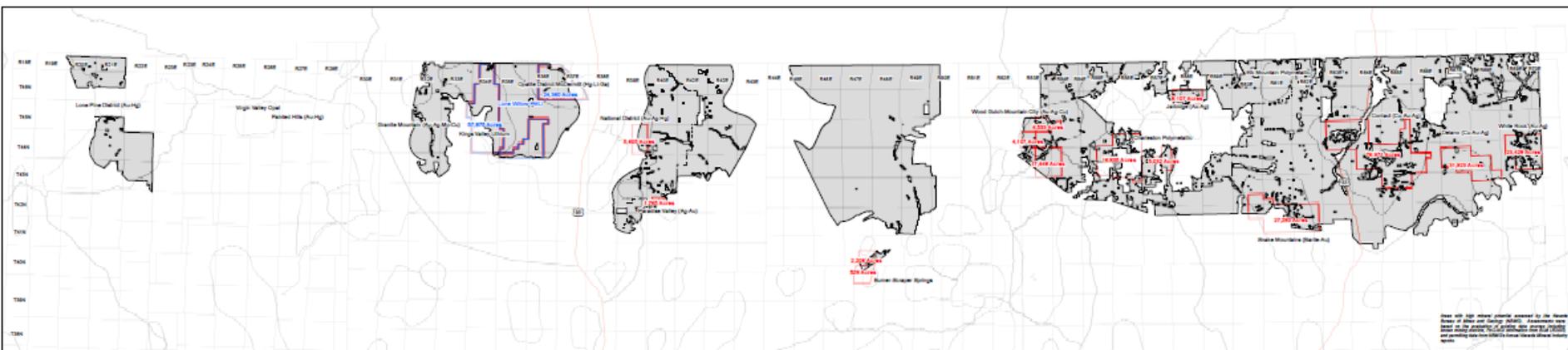
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

<p>Active Mines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metal ● Industrial Minerals ● Gemstones <p>Mineral Deposits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metallic, Nonmetallic, & Industrial 	<p>BLM Permits, Plans, & Drill Projects (1978-2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans of Operation & Notices of Intent <small>Data from BLM LR2000</small> Townships with Drill Projects for Metals (2005-2014) <small>Data from NBMG's Nevada Mineral Industry Reports</small> 	<p>Active Mining Claims as of 10/16/2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - 10 Claims 11 - 30 Claims >30 Claims <p><small>Data from BLM LR2000 Database</small></p>	<p>Areas of High Mineral Potential Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral Potential Lone Willow PMU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining District Boundary Areas of Proposed Mineral Withdrawal Township & Range Major Highway Major Road 		<p>0 2.5 5 10 Miles</p> <p>0 5 10 20 Kilometers</p> <p>Map Prepared by: Lucia M. Patterson Nevada Division of Minerals NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11 Date: 1/13/2016</p>
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Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Outlined Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry



Areas of High Mineral Potential in Nevada's Sage Brush Focal Areas with Acreage of Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry



Active Mines

- Metal
- Industrial Minerals
- Gemstones

Mineral Deposits

- Metallic, Nonmetallic, & Industrial

BLM Permits, Plans, & Drill Projects (1978-2014)

- Plans of Operation & Notices of Intent Data from BLM LR2000
- Townships with Drill Projects for Metals (2005-2014)

Data from NBMG's Nevada Mineral Industry Reports

Active Mining Claims as of 10/16/2015

- 1 - 10 Claims
- 11 - 30 Claims
- >30 Claims

Data from BLM LR2000 Database

Areas with High Mineral Potential Proposed NOT to be closed to Mineral Entry

- Mineral Potential
- Lone Willow PMU Pilot Project Area

Mining District Boundary

Areas of Proposed Mineral Withdrawal

Township & Range

Major Highway

Major Road

0 5 10 20 Miles

0 10 20 40 Kilometers

Map Prepared by:
Lucia M. Patterson
Nevada Division of Minerals
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11
Date: 1/13/2016

Sum of Acreage in Areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry

All Areas Encompassing Lone Willow PMU

- 2,734 Acres Burner-Scraper Springs
- 23,423 Acres White Rock
- 31,923 Acres Delano
- 78,571 Acres Contact
- 27,283 Acres Snake Mountains
- 8,107 Acres Jarbidge
- 21,867 Acres Charleston
- 28,088 Acres Wood Gulch-Mountain City
- 5,524 Acres National
- 1,765 Acres Paradise Valley

227,788 Acres

Lone Willow PMU Pilot Project Area

- 24,362 Acres Opalite District-McDemmitt
- 27,573 Acres Kings Valley Lithium

82,935 Acres

Total Acreage for All Areas= 310,003 Acres

Calculated Acres in Mineral Withdrawal Area:

2,730,045 Acres

Percent of Mineral Withdrawal Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry:

11.3%

Total Claims within Mineral Withdrawal Area:

3,376

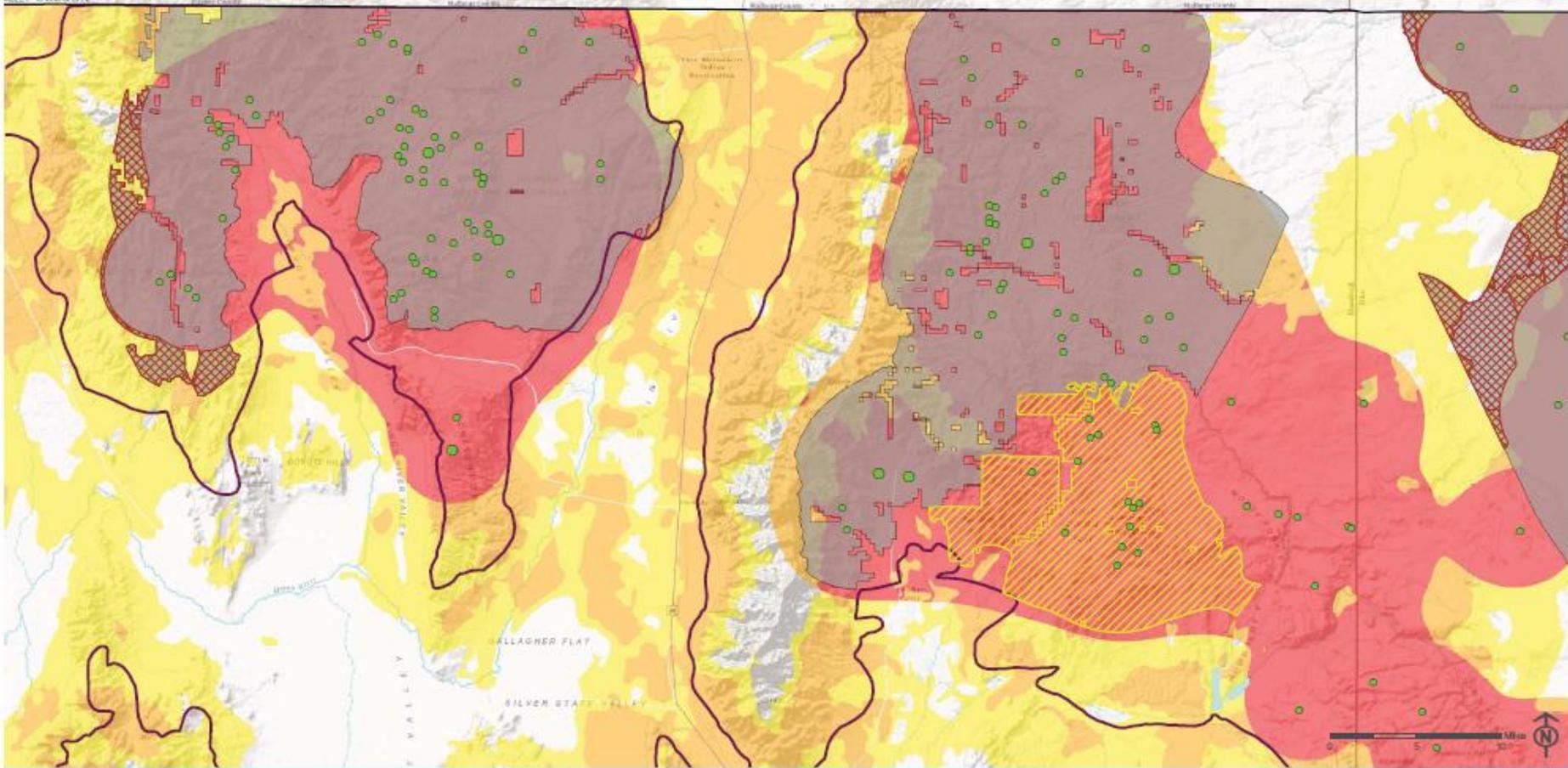
Total Claims within Mineral Withdrawal in ALL areas Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry:

3,726 (99%)

Claims Contained Only in the Lone Willow PMU (Opalite/Kings Valley) Area Proposed NOT to be Closed to Mineral Entry:

1,829 (43%)

Area 2: Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Mineral Withdrawal Areas



- Sage-Grouse Focal Areas (Sept. 2015)
- Biologically Significant Units
- Mineral Withdrawal Revisions (Jan. 2016)**
 - Addition (Core Habitat)
 - Removal (Limited Habitat)
- Management Areas (Dec. 2015)**
 - Priority
 - General
 - Other
- Active Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Sites**
Peak males at last count
 - <35
 - 35 - 100
 - 100 - 200

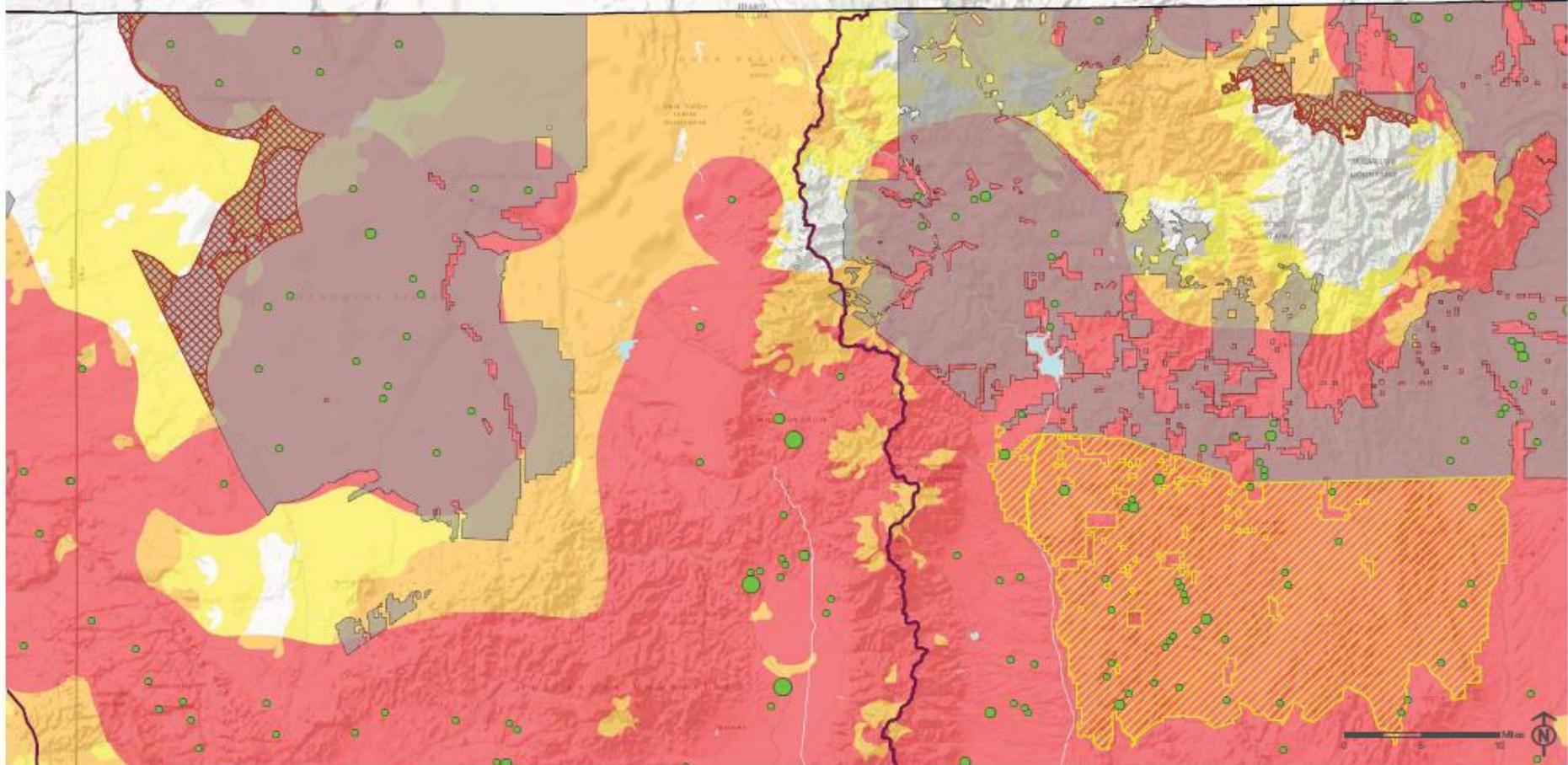
Focal Area Revisions:
 Core Habitat Additions (49 active leks)
 393,812 acres in Priority Management Area
 270 acres in Non-Habitat
 394,082 acres total

Limited Habitat Removal (5 active leks)
 49,750 acres in Priority Management Area
 86,688 acres in General Management Area
 116,571 acres in Other Management Area
 63,041 acres in Non-Habitat
 316,050 acres total



Notwarranty is made by the State of Nevada as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Area 3: Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Mineral Withdrawal Areas



- Sage-Grouse Focal Areas (Sept. 2015)
- Biologically Significant Units
- Mineral Withdrawal Revisions (Jan. 2016)**
- Addition (Core Habitat)
- Removal (Limited Habitat)

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- General
- Other

- Active Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Sites**
- Peak males at last count*
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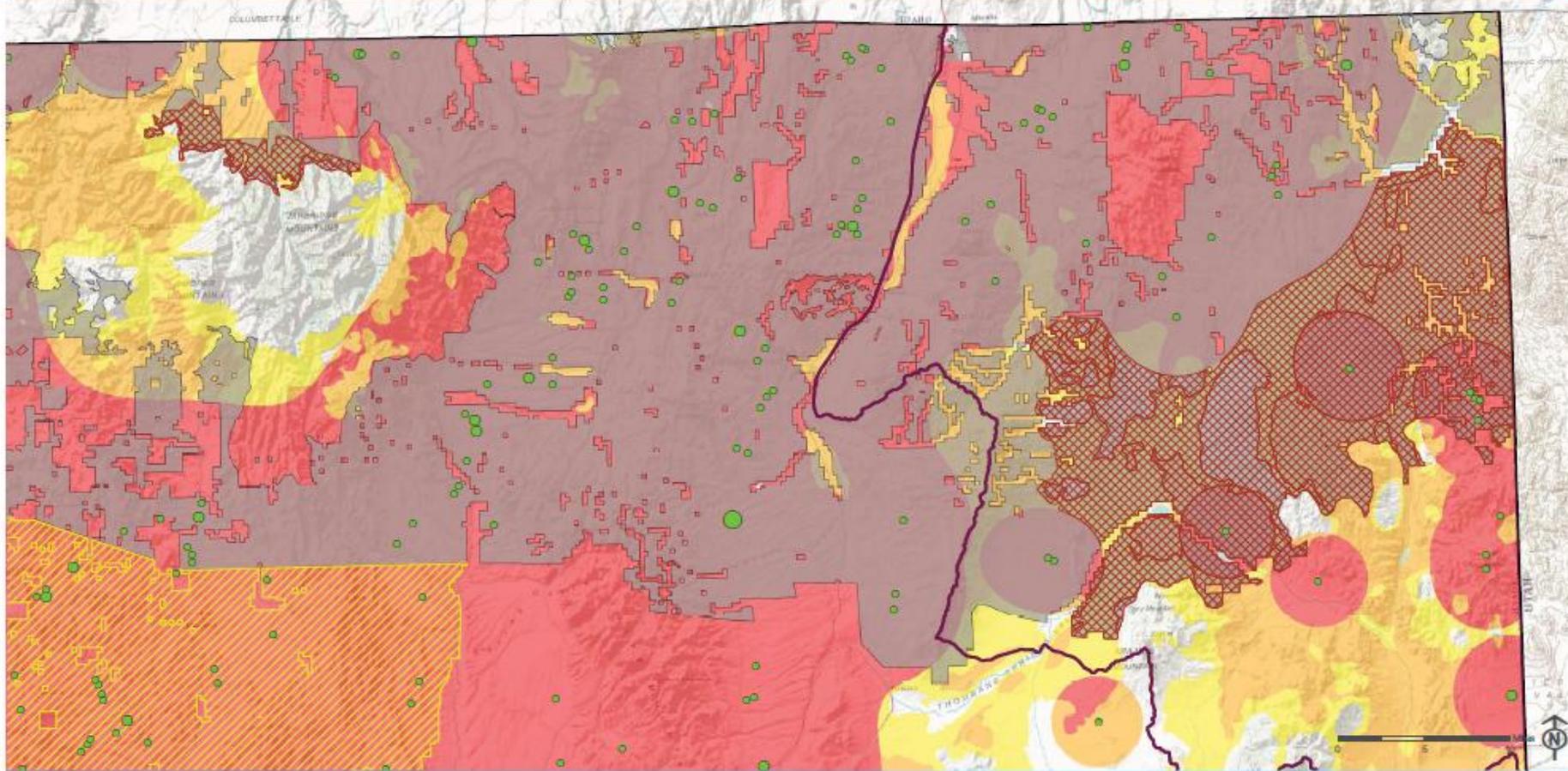
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Area 4: Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Mineral Withdrawal Areas



- Sage-Grouse Focal Areas (Sept. 2015)
- Biologically Significant Units
- Mineral Withdrawal Revisions (Jan. 2016)**
 - Addition (Core Habitat)
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- Management Areas (Dec. 2015)**
 - Priority
 - General
 - Other

- Active Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Sites**
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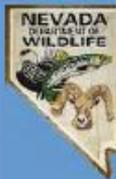
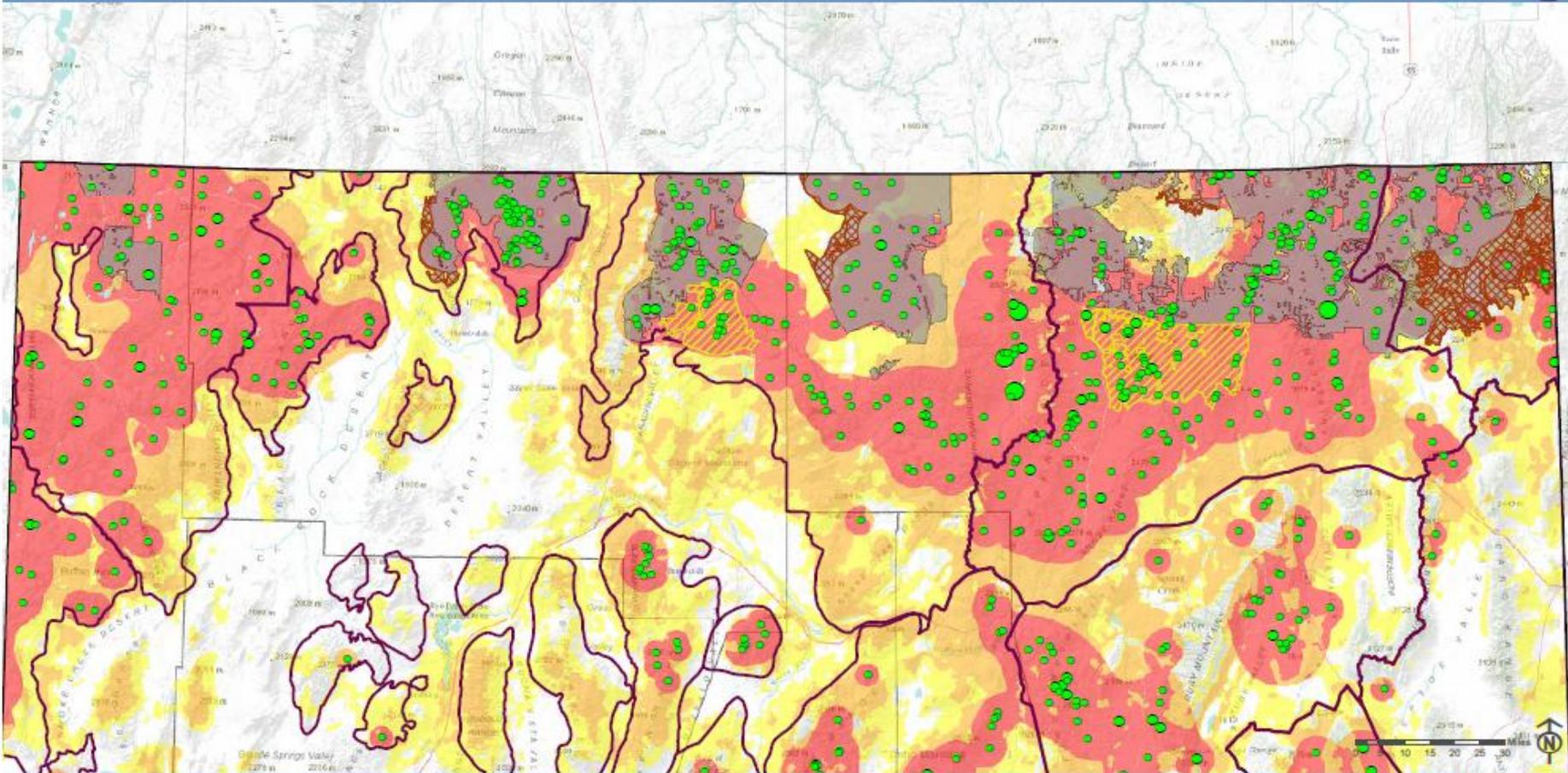
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Area 1: Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Mineral Withdrawal Areas



- Sage-Grouse Focal Areas (Sept. 2015)
- Biologically Significant Units
- Mineral Withdrawal Revisions (Jan. 2016)**
- Addition (Core Habitat)
- Removal (Limited Habitat)

- Management Areas (Dec. 2015)**
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 316,050 acres total



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Table 1. A comparison of the effects of the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area and the Alternative Withdrawal Area in Nevada.

Area proposed for exclusion from the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area based on limited quality habitat for GRSG	245,389 acres (approximately 9% of 2,730,045 acre BLM Withdrawal Area)
Area proposed for exclusion from the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area based on conflicts with existing mining claims	310,003 acres (approximately 10% of 2,730,045 acre BLM Withdrawal Area)
Area proposed in exchange for mineral potential exclusion to the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area based on high quality habitat, high population importance, and avoidance of conflict with mineral claims	394,082 acres (393,812 acres of which is priority habitat)
Net change in area between the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area and the Alternative Mineral Withdrawal Area	-161,310 acres
Number of claims in the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area excluded from conflict with GRSG	3,726 claims (99 percent of the 3,778 total claims in the BLM Mineral Withdrawal Area)
Number of leks excluded in the Alternative Mineral Withdrawal Area for habitat quality and mining claim criteria	5 active leks
Number of leks added in the Alternative Mineral Withdrawal Area	49 active leks
Net change in number of leks included in the Alternative Mineral Withdrawal Area	44 active leks

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FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

January 15, 2016

Neil Kornze, Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW (WO-200)
Washington, D.C. 20240

Submitted electronically to:
sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov

Re: Federal Register Notice September 24, 2015: BLM and U.S. Forest Service Proposed Withdrawal and Segregation of 2.7 million acres within Sagebrush Focal Areas acres in Nevada from location and entry under the 1872 Mining Law

Dear Director Kornze:

This letter formally transmits the State of Nevada's scoping comments for the proposed mineral withdrawal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published in the Federal Register on September 24, 2015.

Let me start by saying excluding any lands from mining and exploration, or from any other authorized multiple use, is inconsistent with the Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (Plan) and the Conservation Credit System (CCS), which I believe is the best conservation



Governor's comment letter synopsis

- ***Nevada proposes a no action alternative and prefers our state Plan and CCS as the proper management and conservation plan***
- ***We disagree with the urgency of the mineral withdrawal when there are other threats that have not been adequately addressed***
- ***If the withdrawal application is approved, Nevada has developed maps that propose boundaries that protect more sage grouse and areas of high mineral potential***



Governor's comment letter synopsis

- ***There is much confusion about protecting valid and existing rights in the SFA***
- ***There is a world-class lithium deposit within the SFA mineral withdrawal area that the State proposes as a pilot project area to utilize the State Plan and CCS***
- ***We propose a comprehensive socio-economic analysis at the local and State scales of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts from the mineral withdrawal area. We do not believe they were adequately analyzed in the LUPA.***
- ***The LUPA will have far-reaching consequences to local and state economies***



Proposed boundaries are a win-win

- **More sage grouse are protected. Habitat management area protections still in place.**
- **Areas of high mineral potential are preserved for Nevada and U.S. economy**
- **BLM and USFS are saved the effort and cost of ~3726 mineral validity exams**