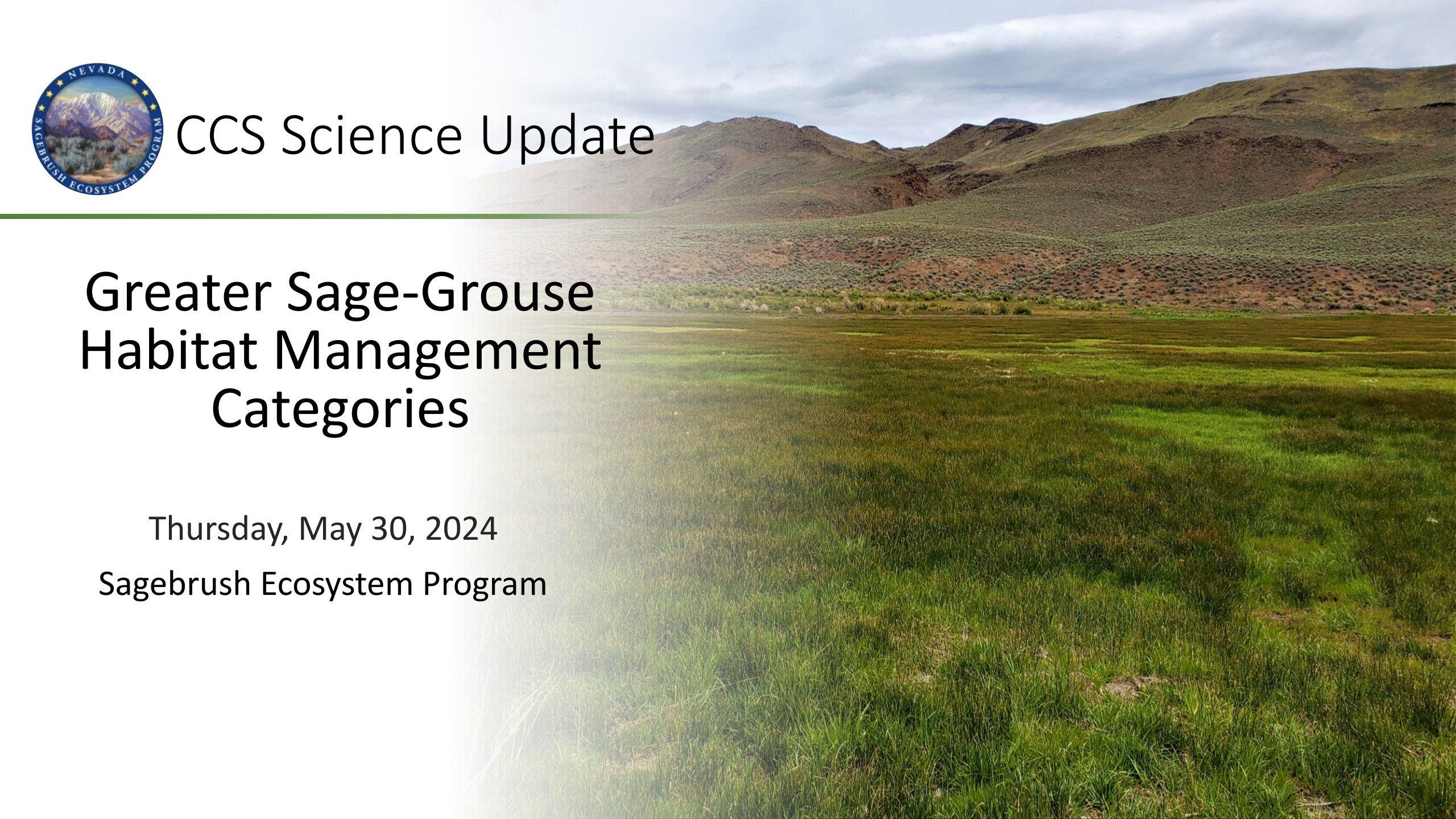


CCS Science Update

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Categories

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

CCS Science Update -

- **From the NV State Plan**
  - "The methods and rubric outlined in Coates et al. (2016) are the methods for the updating process moving forward unless the coordination team (SETT, NDOW, BLM, FS, FWS) agrees to changes in the methods. The methods used are anticipated to be fairly consistent; modifications to methods should consider best available science. Modifications to methods should generally occur on the 3-5 year update schedule, but only made when Team identifies new analytical tools and determine the current model no longer represents best available science." – pg 40, Management Categories
  - "The SEC oversees CCS operations and approves changes to the program. The Administrator manages the CCS's day-to-day operations, ongoing program improvements, facilitates transactions, and reports programmatic results. CCS operations are also informed by Resource Managers (e.g. BLM, NDOW, USFS, USFWS) and by a Science Committee to ensure it functions according to current laws, policies, and regulations and is consistent with the best available science." – pg 86, Roles and Responsibilities

- **From the CCS Manual**
  - "Administrator synthesizes relevant research, monitoring and operational findings to inform CCS improvements. Synthesizing findings into information that is directly related to the operations of the CCS is essential to inform management decisions. Incorporating the best available science and other new information into the program and HQT ensures the calculation of credits and debits is accurate, improves project selection and design decisions, and improves accountability." – pg 10, Managing the CCS
  - "Gains input from the Administrator and Science Committee on new scientific information to be incorporated into the CCS's tools and processes as necessary and at least annually." – pg 16, Oversight Committee Key Responsibilities

Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)
Science Update

Updated 2024 HMAs to replace the old 2015 HMA maps

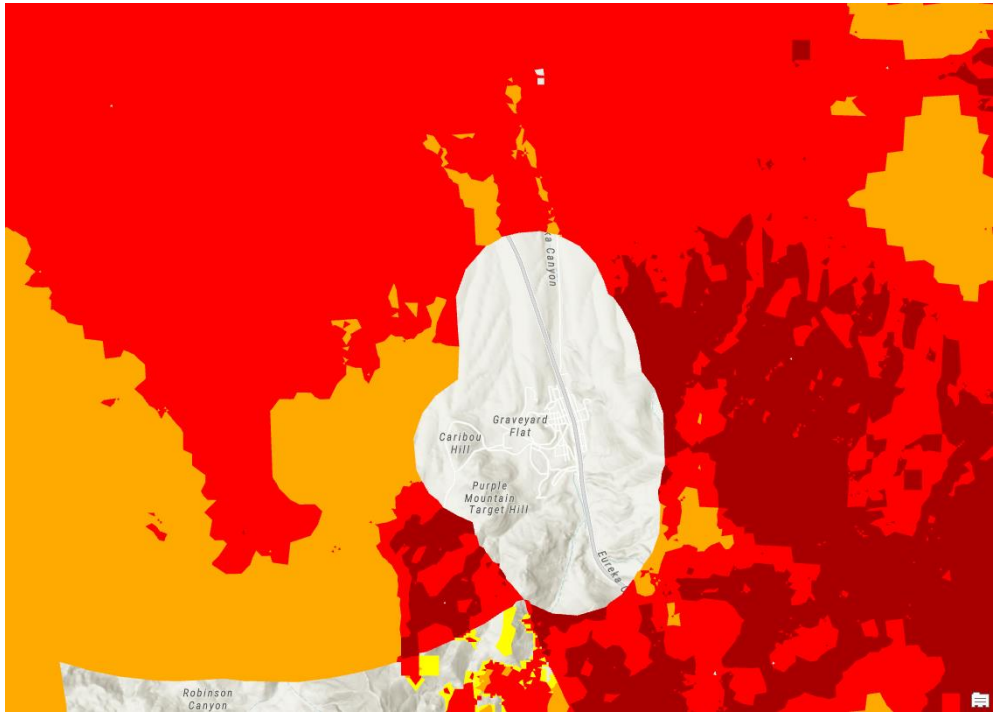
- Model that classifies habitat based on suitability and probability of occupancy
  - Not going to ever be perfect
  - Uses the best available science and modeling techniques and is vetted by various interest groups
- Incorporates
  - Habitat selection
  - Latest sage-grouse location
  - Brood-rearing areas that are rare and important
  - Habitat survival (not included in 2015 maps)
- Additionally considers
  - Corridors
  - Pre-wildfire habitat conditions within recently burned areas
  - Removal of certain permanent anthropogenic disturbances from habitat

Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)
Definitions

Direct 1-to-1 update, no changing multipliers or categories

- PHMA+
  - New
  - High Selection and High Survival with High Abundance and Space Use
  - Not a new mitigation category, but used to prioritize mitigation/conservation placement
- PHMA
  - High, Moderate, or Low Habitat Suitability with High Abundance and Space Use
  - High Selection and High Survival with Low Abundance and Space Use
  - All areas within 5km of a lek
- GHMA
  - High Habitat Suitability with Low Abundance and Space Use
  - Non-Habitat with High Abundance and Space Use (Corridors)
- OHMA
  - Moderate Habitat Suitability with Low Abundance and Space Use

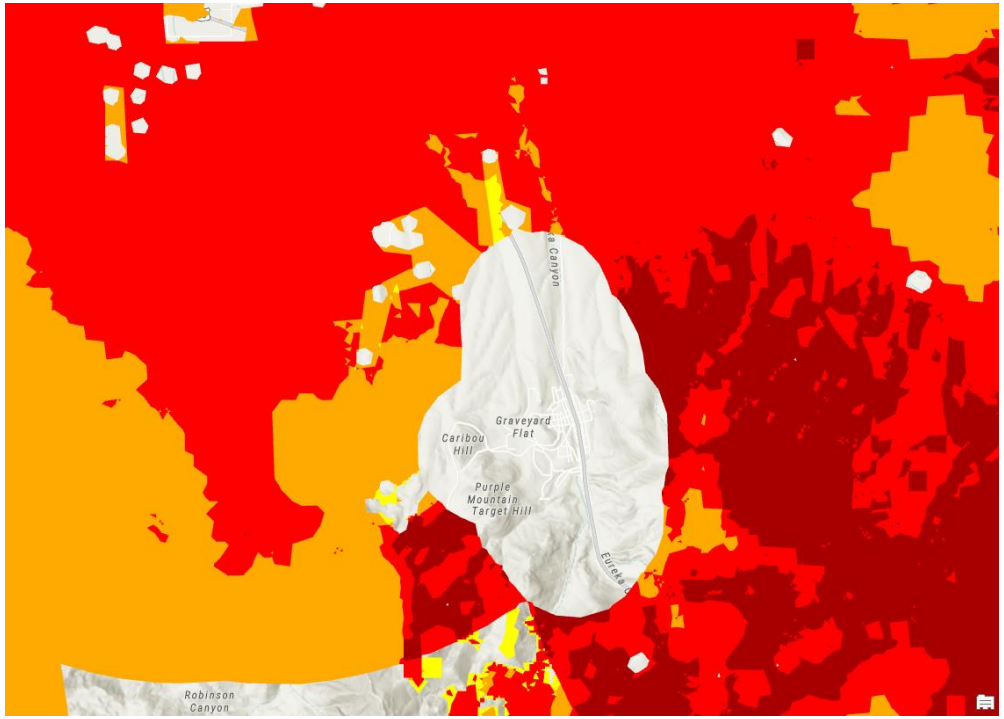
Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)
Changes



- Created a 10km buffer around the towns
- Reduced that habitat by one level to account for urbanization

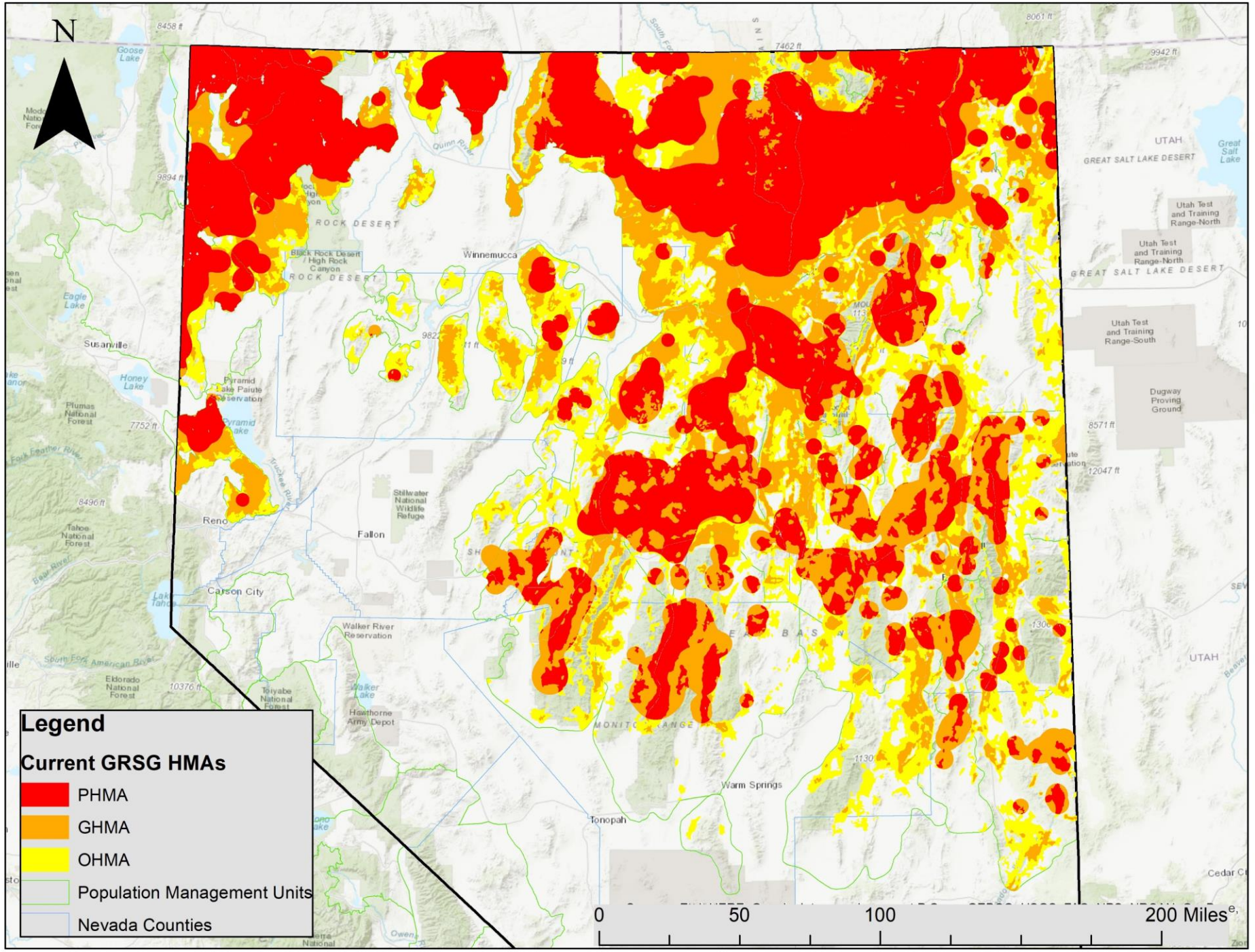
Changes since last time:

- Masked all buildings out of habitat, buffered by 100m

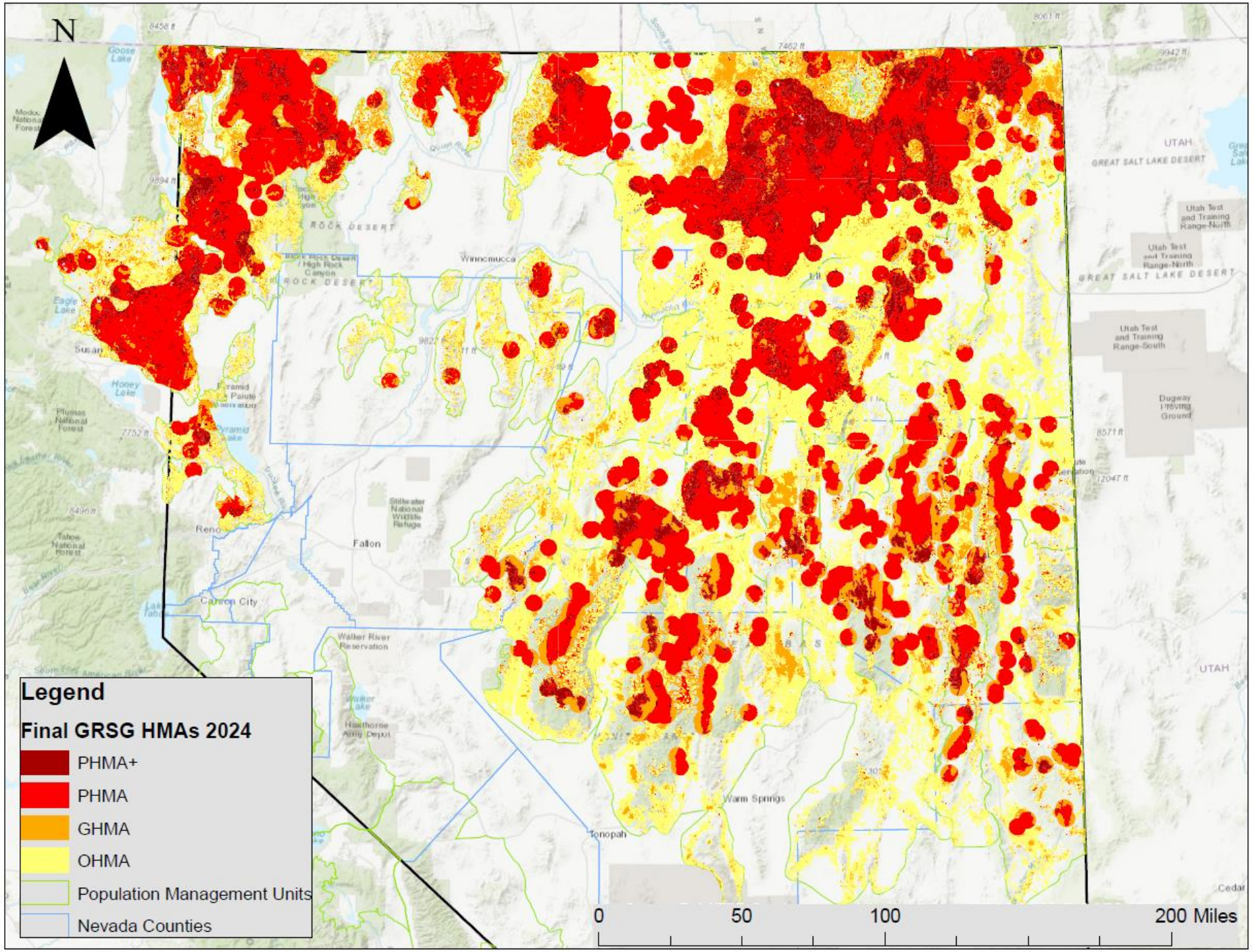


Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)

Old Map

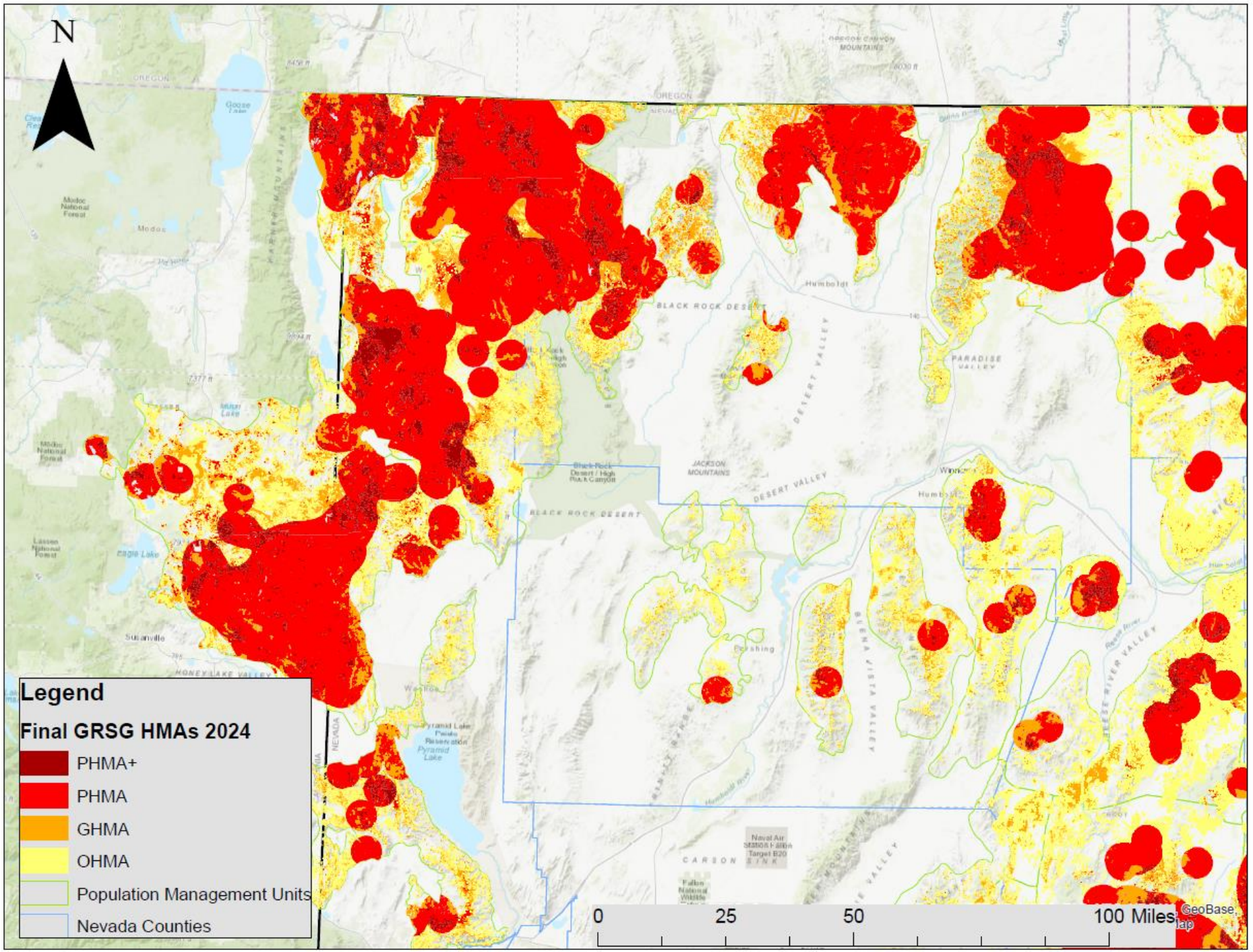


Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) **Maps - Overview**



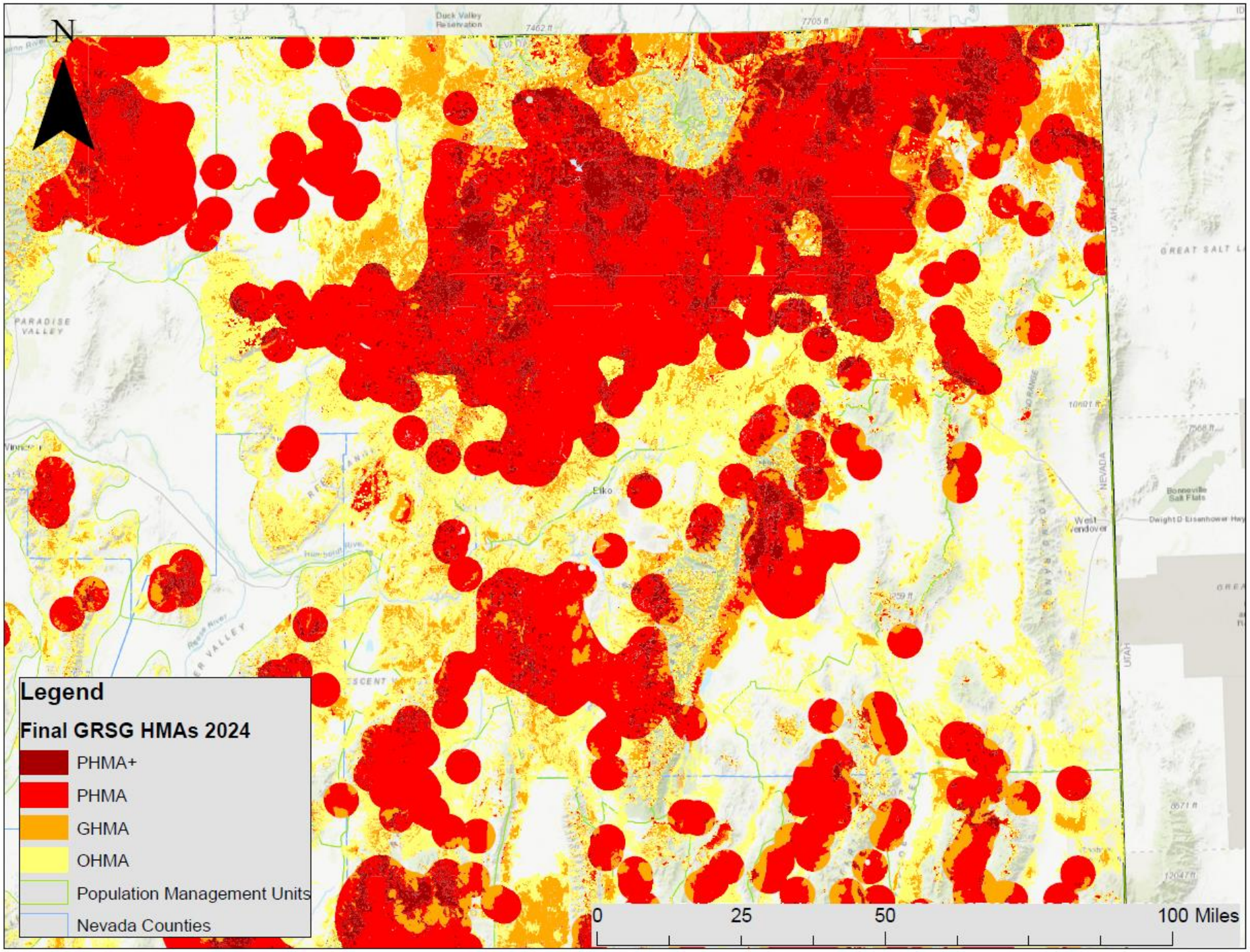
Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)

Maps – NW

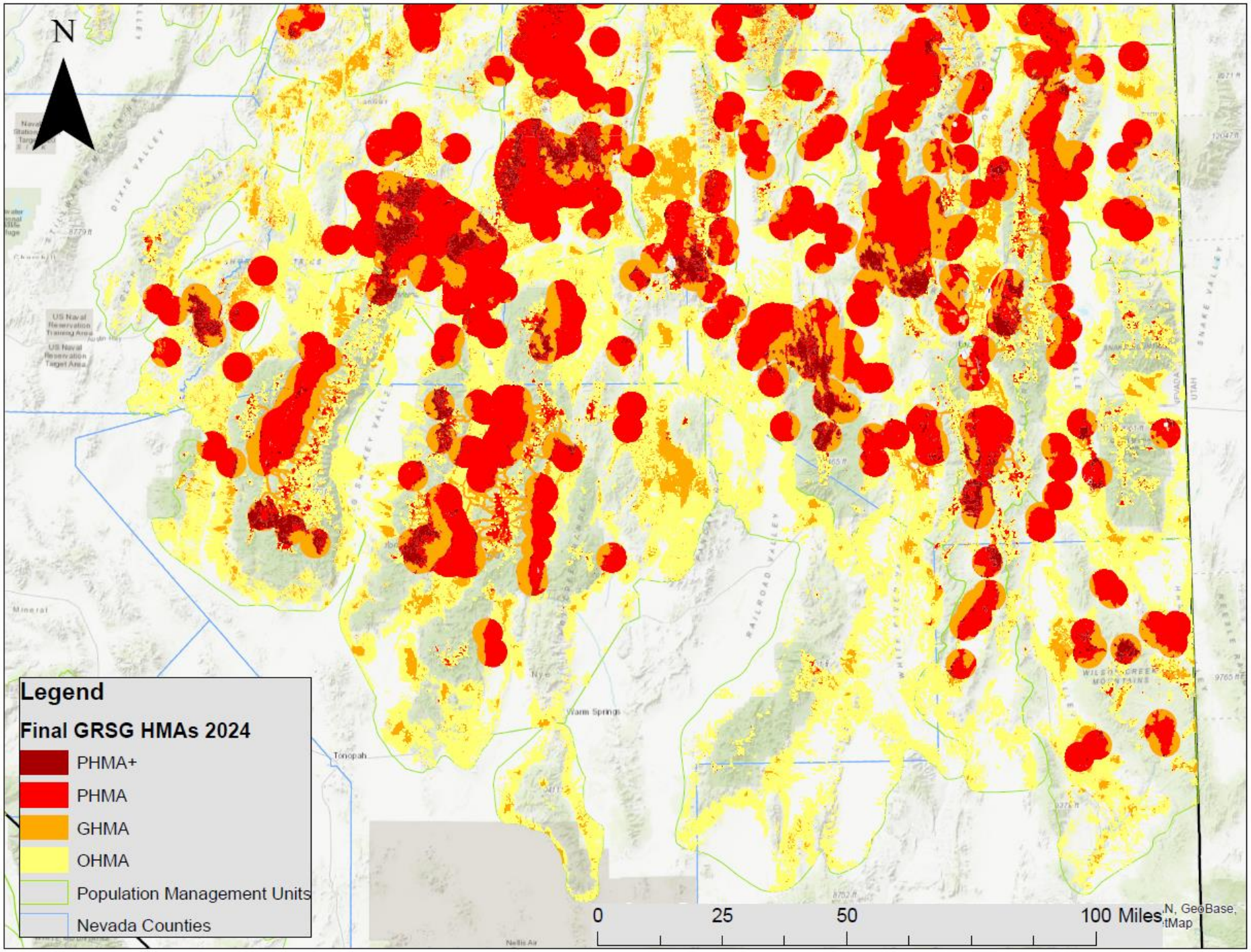


Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)

Maps – NE



Coates' Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) **Maps – SE**



Questions?