

# The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Strategic Action Plan

2025 Update Overview for the  
Sagebrush Ecosystem Council

**August 4, 2025**

Presented by  
**Cheyenne Acevedo**



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PROGRAM**



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**CONSERVATION &  
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# Framing Today's Discussion

- Purpose: Share the updated Strategic Action Plan (SAP)
- Clarify what the SAP is—and what it is not
- Review key updates and rationale for changes
- Emphasize commitment to local coordination and knowledge
- Gather Council feedback for further refinement

# The SETT's Role in the SAP

- The SAP is a guidance document developed for the SETT.
- Supports the SETT's coordination role—not new policy or regulatory direction.
- Aligns partners around shared priorities and available resources.
- Emphasizes local knowledge and collaboration in all planning and implementation.

# Status of the SAP

- Draft SAP was shared ahead of this meeting.
- Feedback received to date has been incorporated.
  - Changes can be seen in track changes
- Additional feedback will be gathered before finalizing.
- SAP remains a working draft throughout this collaborative process.
- Timeline for completing final draft after SEC approval

# What is the SAP for?

The SAP provides a framework for:

- **Planning and goal setting**
- **Prioritizing** rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation efforts
- **Guiding best management practices**
- **Supporting Greater Sage-Grouse populations** and broader sagebrush ecosystem conservation

# Background and Purpose of the SAP

- The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was last updated in 2016 to implement the 2014 State Plan.
- The current update supports implementation of the **2019 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan**.
- Developed **for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT)** to guide its coordination efforts.
- Provides a framework for:
  - **Coordinating** with state and federal agencies, NGOs, landowners, and local working groups
  - **Aligning conservation priorities and resources**
  - **Implementing** the State Plan's goals and objectives
- Emphasizes **local area knowledge** to ensure strategies are tailored to Nevada's diverse landscapes.
- Complements—but does not replace—the State Plan's policy direction.
- Updated approximately every five years to reflect evolving science, landscape conditions, and feedback.

# Why Update the SAP Title?

- The 2016 title was:
  - “Nevada Strategic Action Plan 2016 - For Implementation of the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.”
- New title clarifies **purpose and audience**:
  - “Sagebrush Ecosystem Program Strategic Action Plan - For Implementation of the Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.”
- Emphasizes that the SAP:
  - Is **for the SETT** to guide its coordination role.
  - Supports **implementation of the State Plan**, not new policy.
  - Enhances **transparency and clarity** about the SAP’s role.

# Intended Audience and Use

- Written **for the SETT** and **partners**
- Designed as a shared resource to support coordinated, science-based planning
- Guides the SETT's role in:
  - Cross-agency coordination
  - Partner engagement
  - Technical support
- Helps align priorities across programs and funding sources



# Agency Responsibility for Implementation

- SAP does **not dictate** other agency's actions
- Each agency retains **decision-making authority**
- SETT's role is to:
  - Facilitate **coordination** across agencies and partners
  - Support planning by providing shared resources and data
  - Ensure local perspectives **inform priorities**

# SETT's Role in Coordination and Local Implementation

- Coordinates across state and federal agencies, NGOs, landowners, and working groups.
- Uses the SAP as a shared framework to:
  - Identify common priorities.
  - Align funding and projects.
  - Share data and best practices.
- Emphasizes the use of local area knowledge during strategy implementation:
  - Engages local partners and working groups.
  - Adapts strategies to local needs.
  - Builds collaborative, site-specific solutions.

# Key Updates Since 2016

**New SETT Vision:** *"The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team envisions resilient, healthy, and intact sagebrush ecosystems that thrive alongside industry and resource management practices important to Nevada's economy."*

**New SETT Mission:** *"The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team's mission is to sustain and enhance Nevada's sagebrush ecosystems and the species that depend on them while supporting the State's economy through responsible land stewardship and resource management."*

- Overarching Goal:
  - Keep it short, focused, and actionable
  - Focus on achievable short-term objectives
  - Revisit and update every 5 years

# SAP Organization

- The SAP is organized into five main sections:
  1. **Threats** – Identifies key stressors to sagebrush and GRSG (according to current peer-reviewed literature)
  2. **Goals and Objectives** – Strategic actions and measurable targets
  3. **Areas of Conservation Importance Map** – Identifies high-priority landscapes based on best available science and partner input
  4. **Resources** – Tools, funding sources, policies, and guidance
  5. **References** – Scientific literature and data sources listed in the SAP

# Strategic Goals of the SAP

- The 2025 SAP supports four long-term strategic goals:
- Restore sagebrush ecosystems by addressing threats to Nevada's landscapes and Greater Sage-grouse populations.
- Enhance the Nevada Conservation Credit System to mitigate impacts and ensure a net conservation gain for Greater Sage-grouse habitat.
- Strengthen collaboration and outreach to address ecosystem threats and engage stakeholders in conservation efforts.
- Advance scientific knowledge of sagebrush ecosystems to reduce management uncertainty and improve conservation outcomes.

# Threats Section: Purpose and Role

- Reflects evolving science, partner feedback, and current conditions.
- Updates from the 2019 State Plan threats to include:
  - Invasive annual grasses
  - Increased fire frequency
  - Growing raven populations
  - Drought and climate stress
- Not prescriptive or regulatory.
- Builds shared awareness of challenges in the Great Basin and Nevada.
- Provides consistent language and resources to support agency planning.
- Helps agencies and partners set their own priorities within this SAP update.

# Language Clarifications and Updates

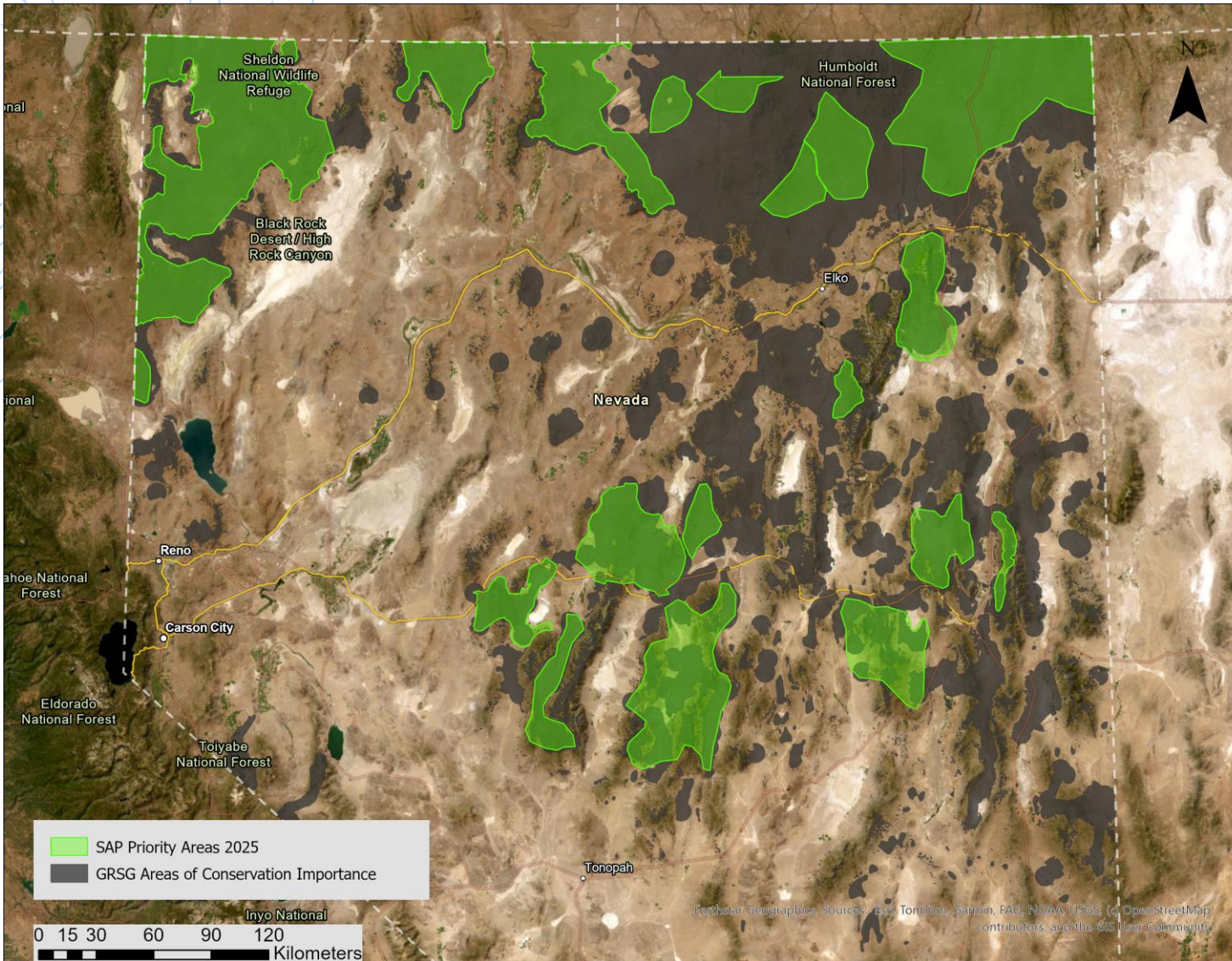
- Further emphasized that the SAP serves as the guiding document for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT).
- Further clarified that the SETT will always coordinate with local area knowledge and expertise when implementing actions.
- Further reaffirmed that the SAP complements the State Plan, supporting consistent, coordinated conservation efforts.

# SAP Maps – Purpose and Limitations

- Intended as **planning tools**, not regulatory boundaries.
  - Developed to support planning and prioritization of conservation efforts within the CCS.
  - Illustrate broad conservation focus areas to help prioritize conservation within the CCS and across agencies
- Draft status—open for feedback during this meeting
- Designed to be refined with local knowledge
  - Intended as living resource to be refined with local input and updated as needed.
    - Restoration Projects will only be implemented where deemed appropriate by the local partners



# Draft Map Example (for Discussion)



## Areas of Conservation Importance:

- Highlight areas across the state that are **currently** most important to GRSG
  - Core Sagebrush Areas (CSA)
  - Lek Connectivity
  - Priority+ and Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA+/PHMA):

## SAP Priority Areas:

- Highlight areas across the state that **currently** have the greatest potential for a net conservation gain through the CCS
  - Important to GRSG populations
  - High probability of success
    - Restoration outcomes
    - Credit generation
  - Demonstrated past success from conservation efforts and potential to expand these efforts
  - Ongoing or recent declines in GRSG habitat quality
  - Absence of threats outside of the SETT's control



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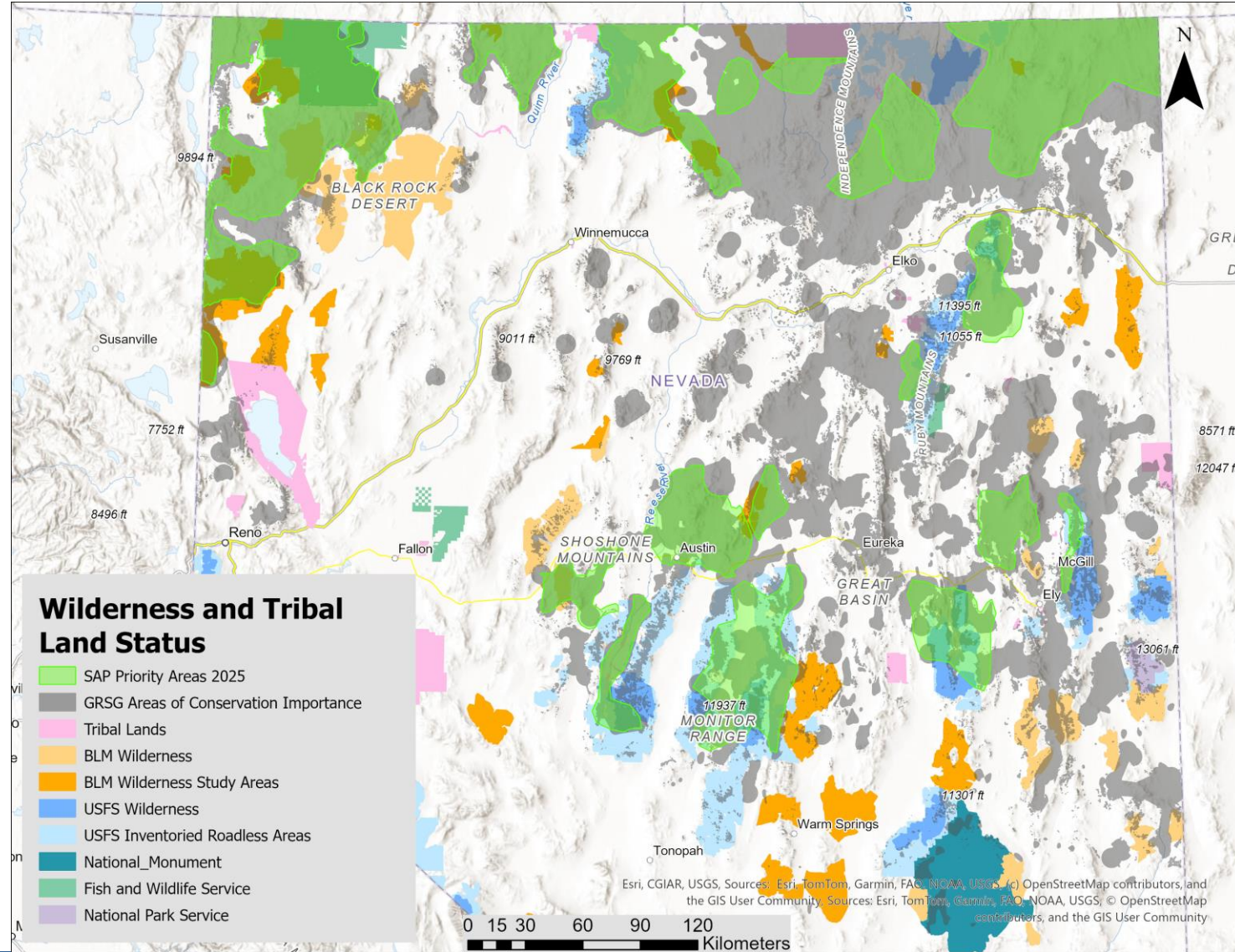


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# Draft Map Example (for Discussion)



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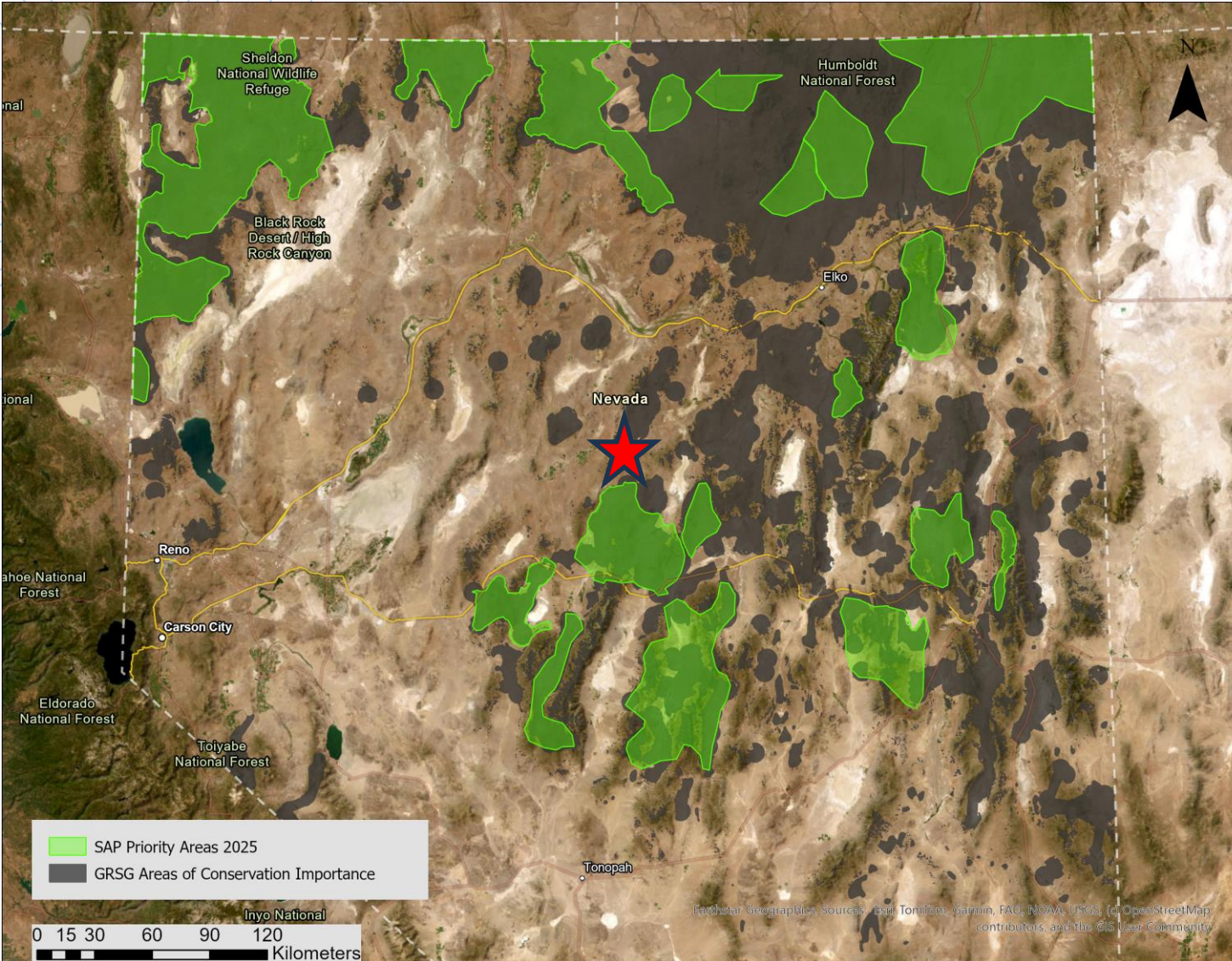
# Example Process

## CCS Considerations:

- Type of Project
- Private Credit Project
- Public Lands Credit Project

## Potential Debit Project Location ★

- Example: Public Lands Credit offset for debit obligation
  - First 1/3 offset through Private Credits
  - Looking for best location to implement public lands credit project for remaining obligation



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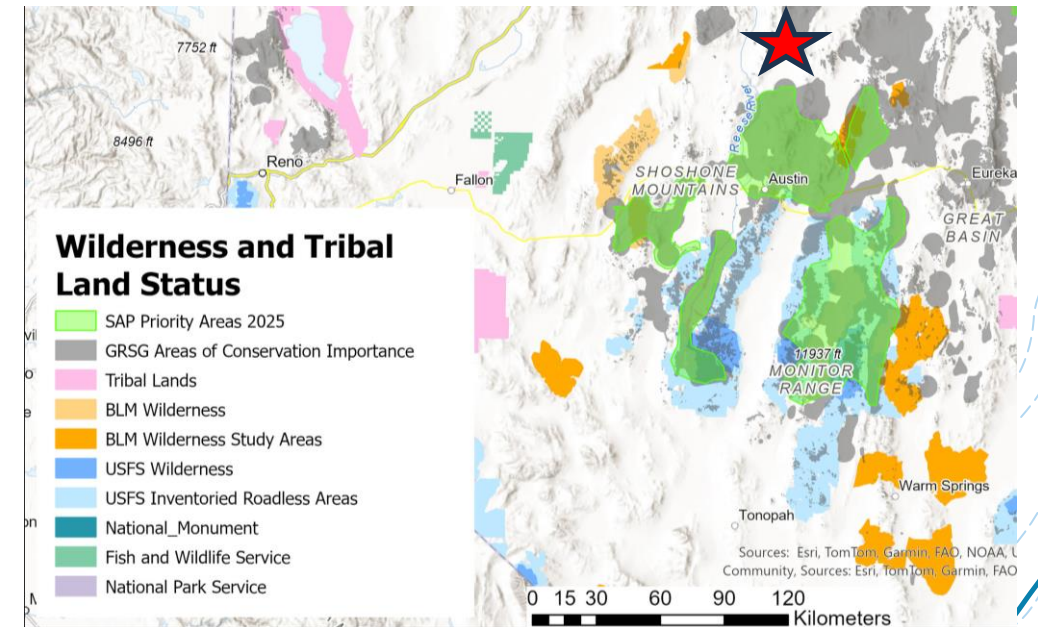
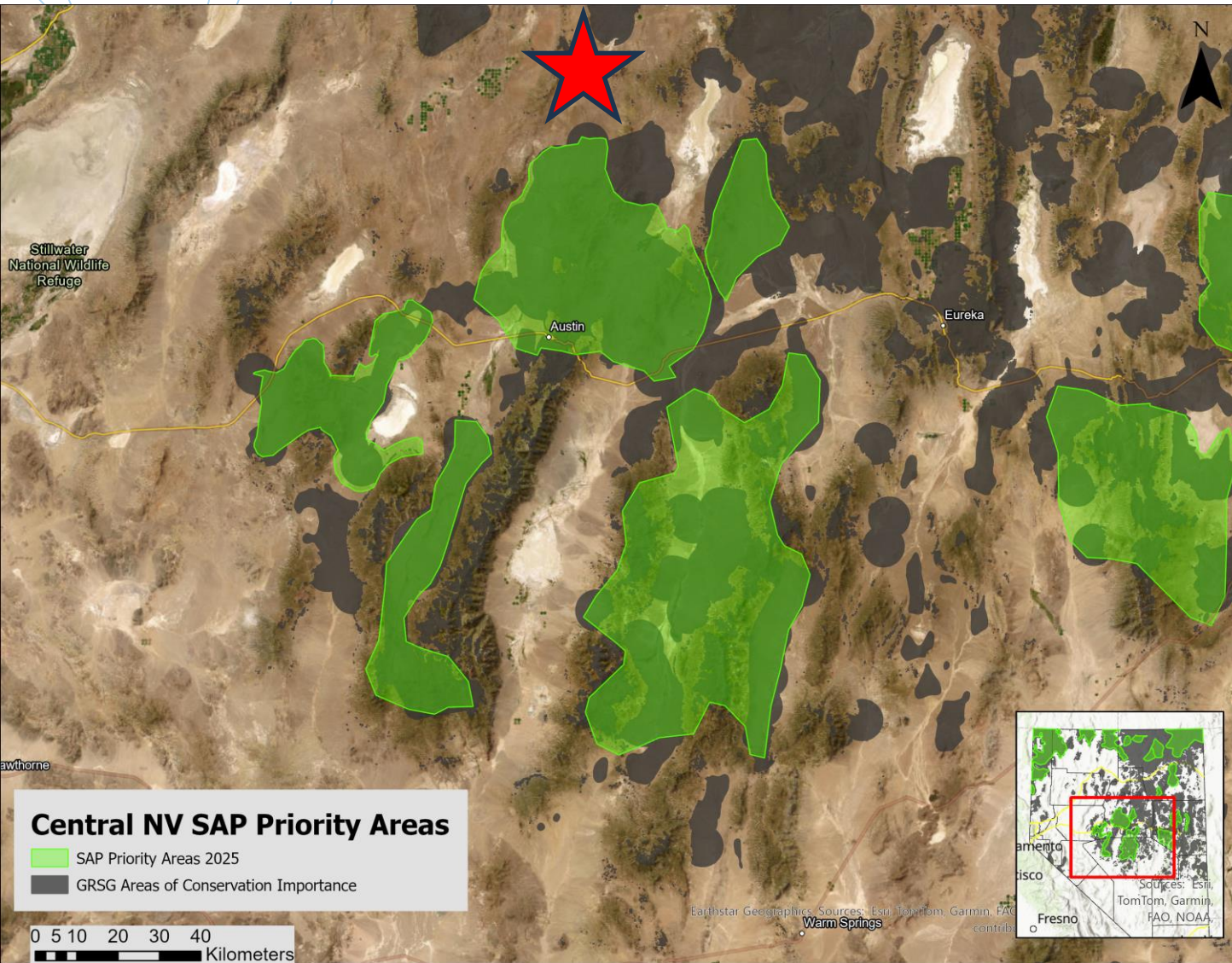
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# Example Process



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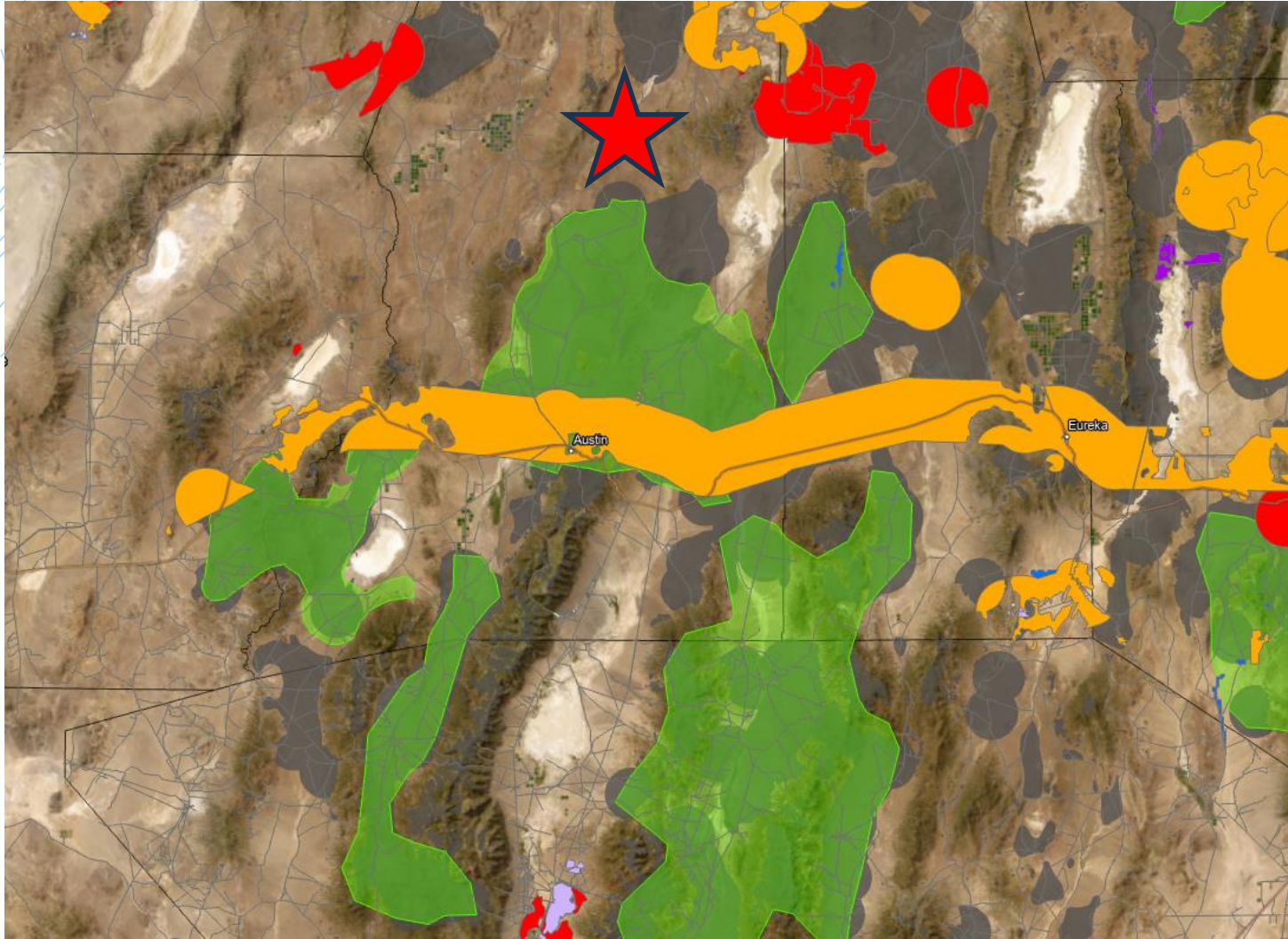
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# Example Process



## Anthropogenic Disturbances

- Look at where existing anthropogenic features occur on the landscape
- Refine potential project area based on where credit generation will be least impacted



# Example Process

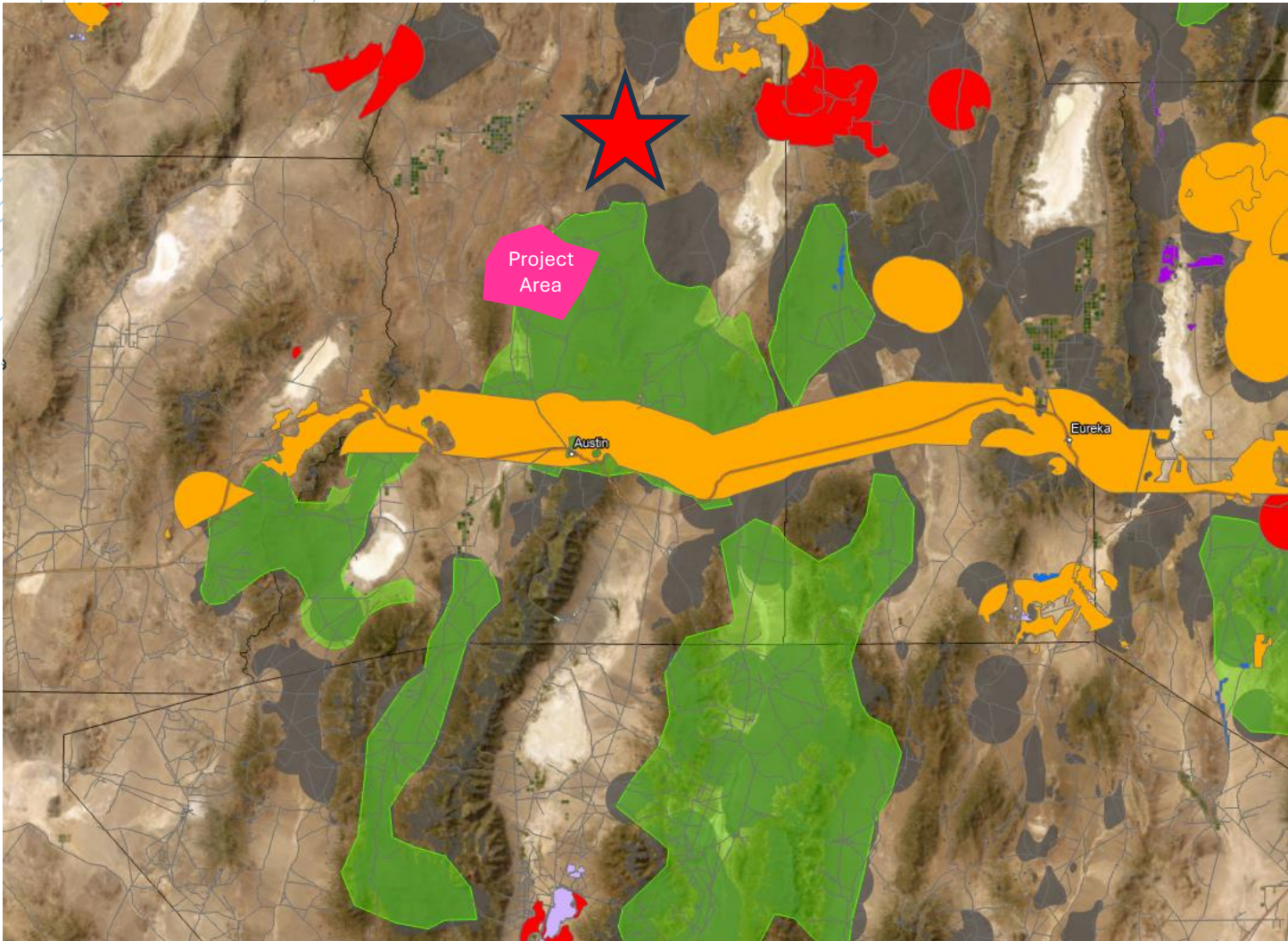
Narrowed down potential project areas based on credit generation potential (CCS)

Coordinate with stakeholders as appropriate:

- This could include:
  - Agencies (State and federal)
  - Local area biologists
  - Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
  - Conservation Districts (CDs)
  - Local area working groups (LAWGs)
  - Permittees
  - Adaptive Management Response Teams (AMRTs)
  - etc.

Choose a project area that works for all parties and has sufficient credit generation potential

Implement project



# Process for Incorporating Feedback

- SAP remains a working draft throughout this process.
- All Council and partner feedback will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate.
- Final draft will reflect collaborative input.
- Goal: Deliver a plan that is actionable, locally informed, and widely supported.

# Key Take aways

- The SAP assists implementation of the State Plan—does not replace it.
- Serves as a guiding framework for the SETT's coordination role.
- Emphasizes local knowledge and consultation in all planning and implementation.
- Maps and tools are guidance, not regulatory boundaries.
- Updated to reflect current science, partner feedback, and evolving conditions.



# Next Steps

- Discuss and refine based on Council input
- Incorporate additional edits
- SEC approval process
  - Option 1: Approve with edits discussed today
  - Option 2: Review for Finalization next SEC meeting
- Commitment to continued partner collaboration during final edits.

# Thank You

Thank you for your time and input!

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