

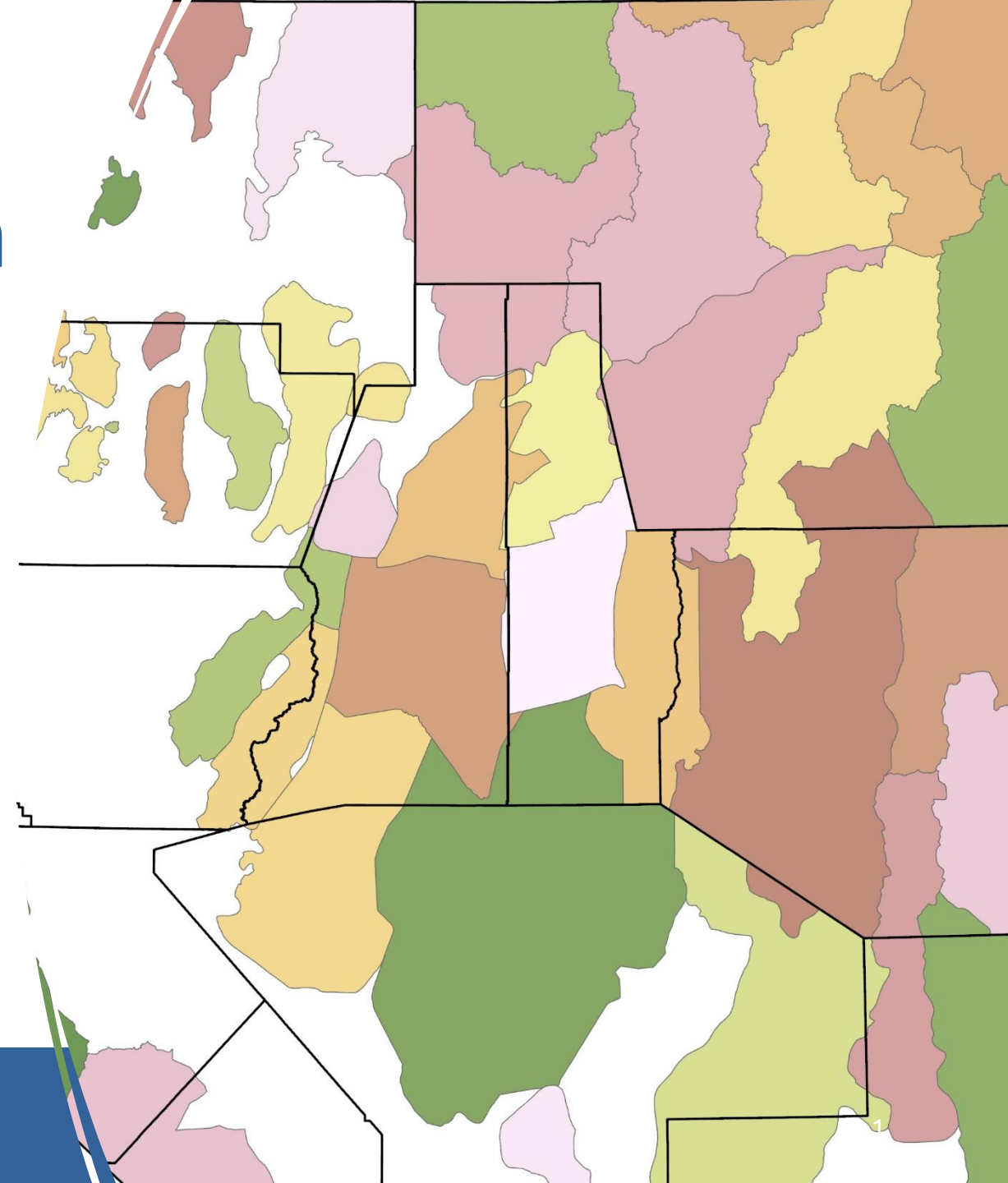
Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Greater Sage-grouse Service Area Changes for Version 2.2 to Better Align with the Bureau of Land Management and US Geological Survey's Habitat Management Categories

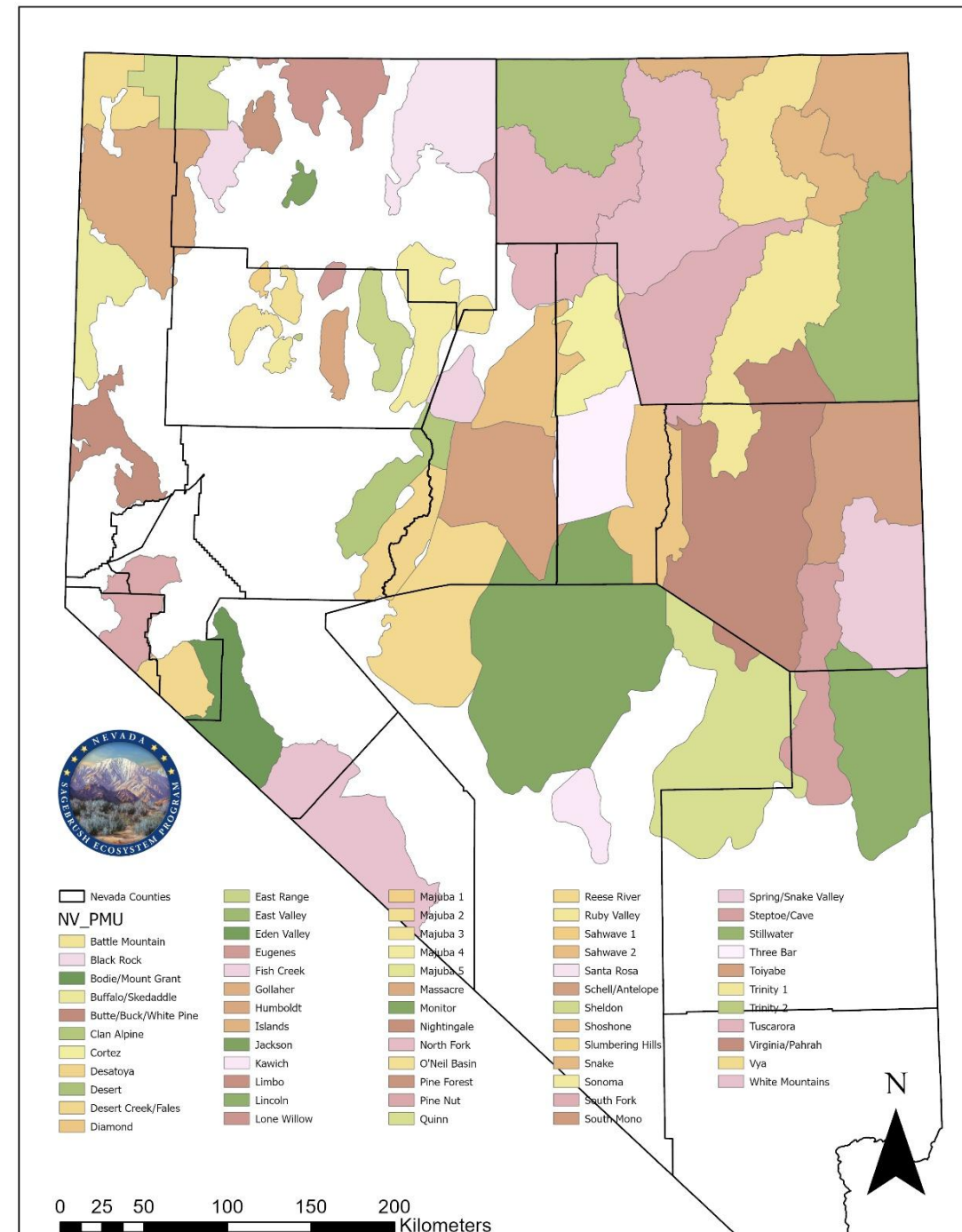
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Presented by
Kathleen Steele, Program Manager

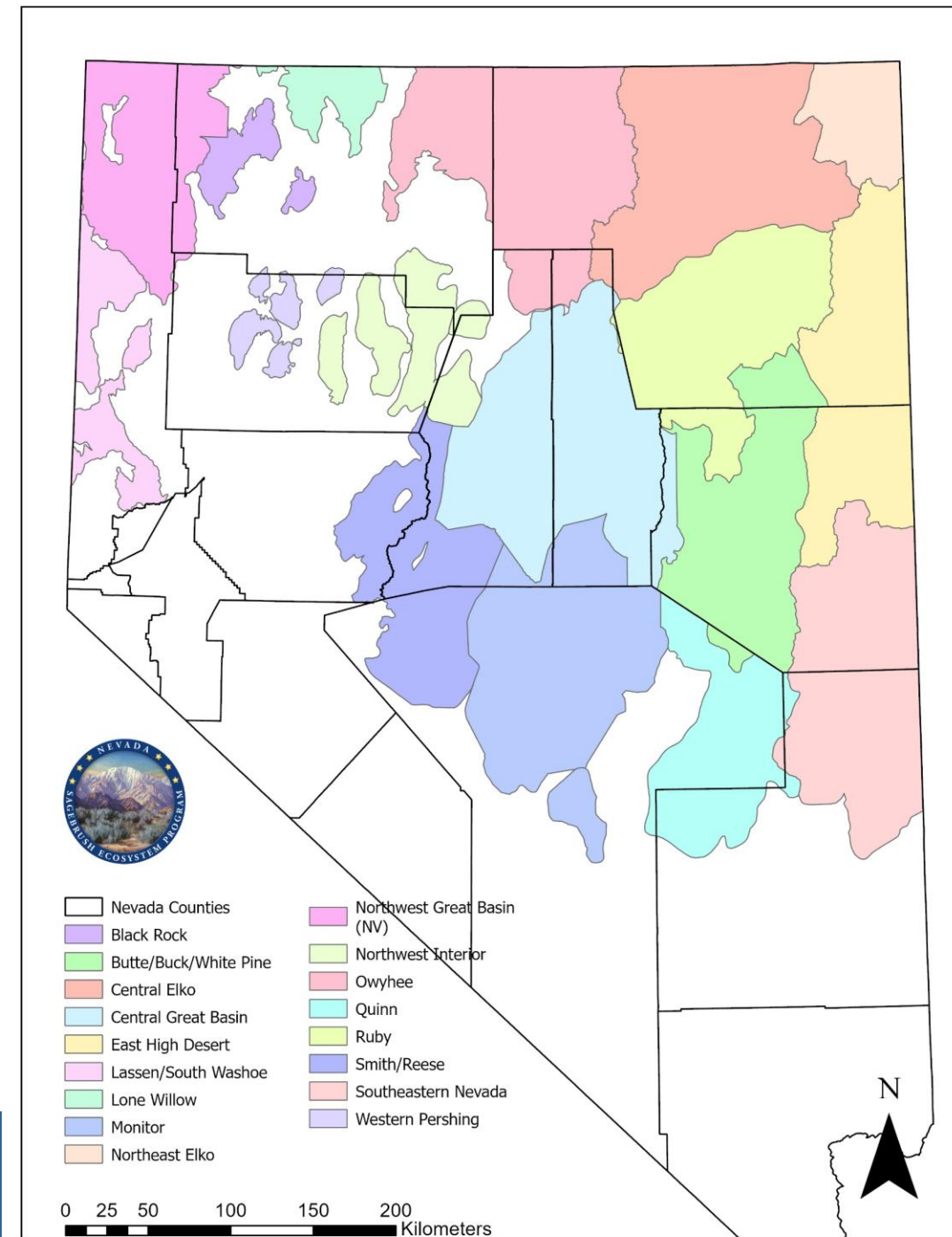


- Population Management Units (PMUs)

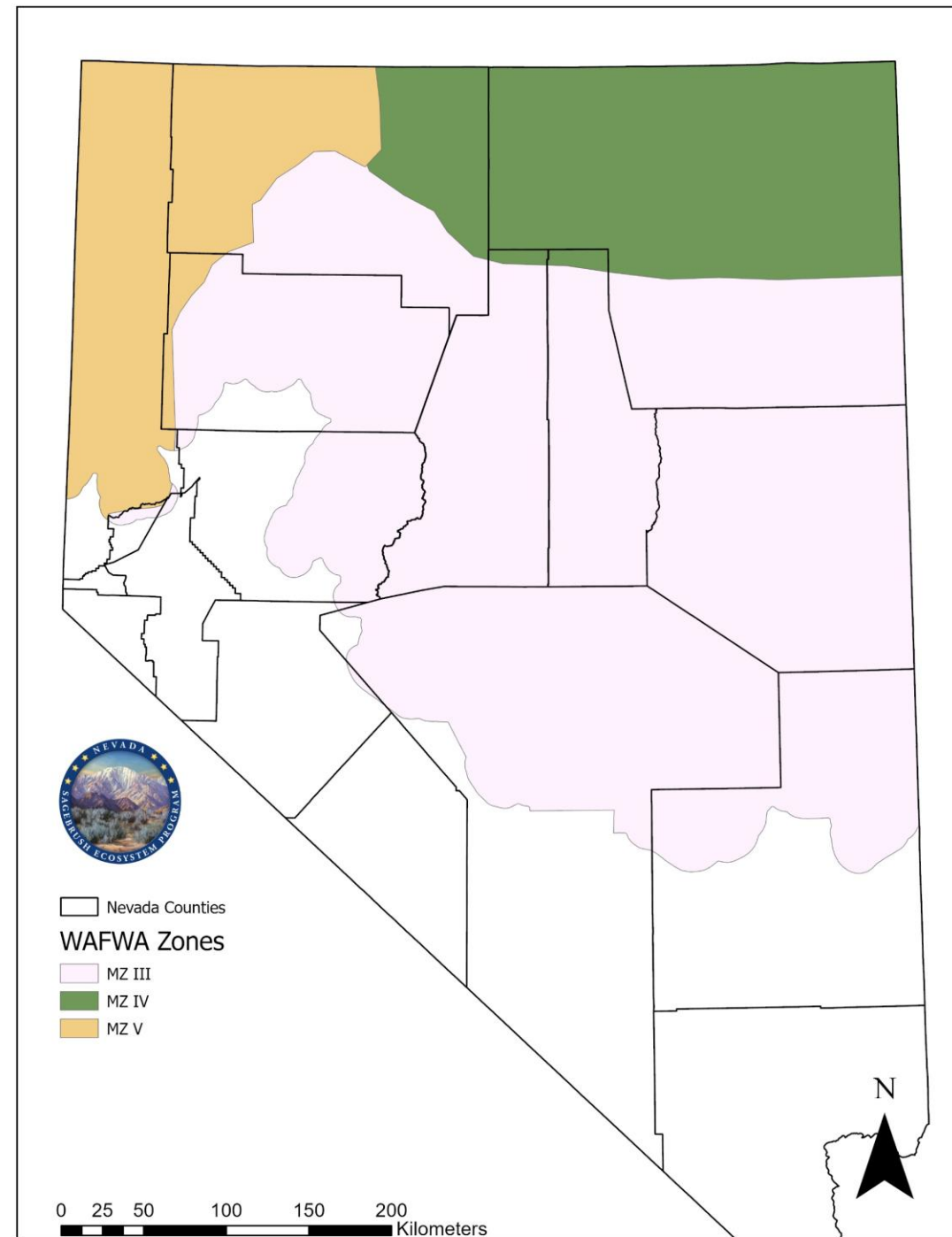
- General delineations of sage-grouse populations for management in Nevada
- PMUs are based on aggregations of leks, understanding of habitats, and potential boundaries to populations (such as mountains and valleys)
- Developed by NDOW for the 2001 State plan and refined in the 2004 State Plan
- Slight boundary adjustments made more recently, need to update PMU layer



- **Biologically Significant Units (PMUs)**
 - General delineations of sage-grouse populations for management in Nevada
 - BSUs are geographical areas containing relevant and important habitats used as a basis for comparative calculations to monitor habitat status
 - Developed by NDOW in 2015
 - Boundaries may be slightly updated by NDOW



- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Zones (WAFWA Zones)
 - These were developed to guide sage-grouse conservation goals and range-wide management.
 - Range-wide sage-grouse management delineations based on populations within floristic provinces.
 - Developed by WAFWA for the 2006 Greater Sage-grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy.
 - No plans to update the WAFWA Zones



- Biologically Significant Units (BSUs) are the Service area
 - Mentioned in the State Plan as well

2.3.1 CREDIT SERVICE AREA

The CCS service area is the mapped geographic region where credits can be generated and will be tracked and reported. The service area designation has important implications for the viability of the CCS transactions and for the ability of the CCS to generate a net benefit for GRSG habitat from the impacts from anthropogenic disturbances.

The current mapped Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) is the CCS service area and is provided in Figure 1. The boundaries of this area are based on the range of the species and are developed by NDOW.

While the Service Area broadly defines the domain of the CCS, mitigation ratios establish incentives to offset debits using credits generated in close proximity to debit sites. [*Section 2.2.2 Mitigation, Proximity Ratios, and Credit Phasing*](#) describes how the WAFWA Management Zones, Nevada BSUs and NDOW PMUs depicted in Figure 11. WAFWA Management Zones, Nevada Biological Significant Units and NDOW Population Management Units are incorporated into the proximity ratio. In addition, three Management Categories are also incorporated into the mitigation ratios to encourage the generation of credits and discourage debits in PHMA and GHMA Management Category Areas, which are estimated to have high space-use by GRSG. Credits and debits will be tracked in the CCS Registry and reported by the Administrator by WAFWA Zones, BSUs and PMUs.

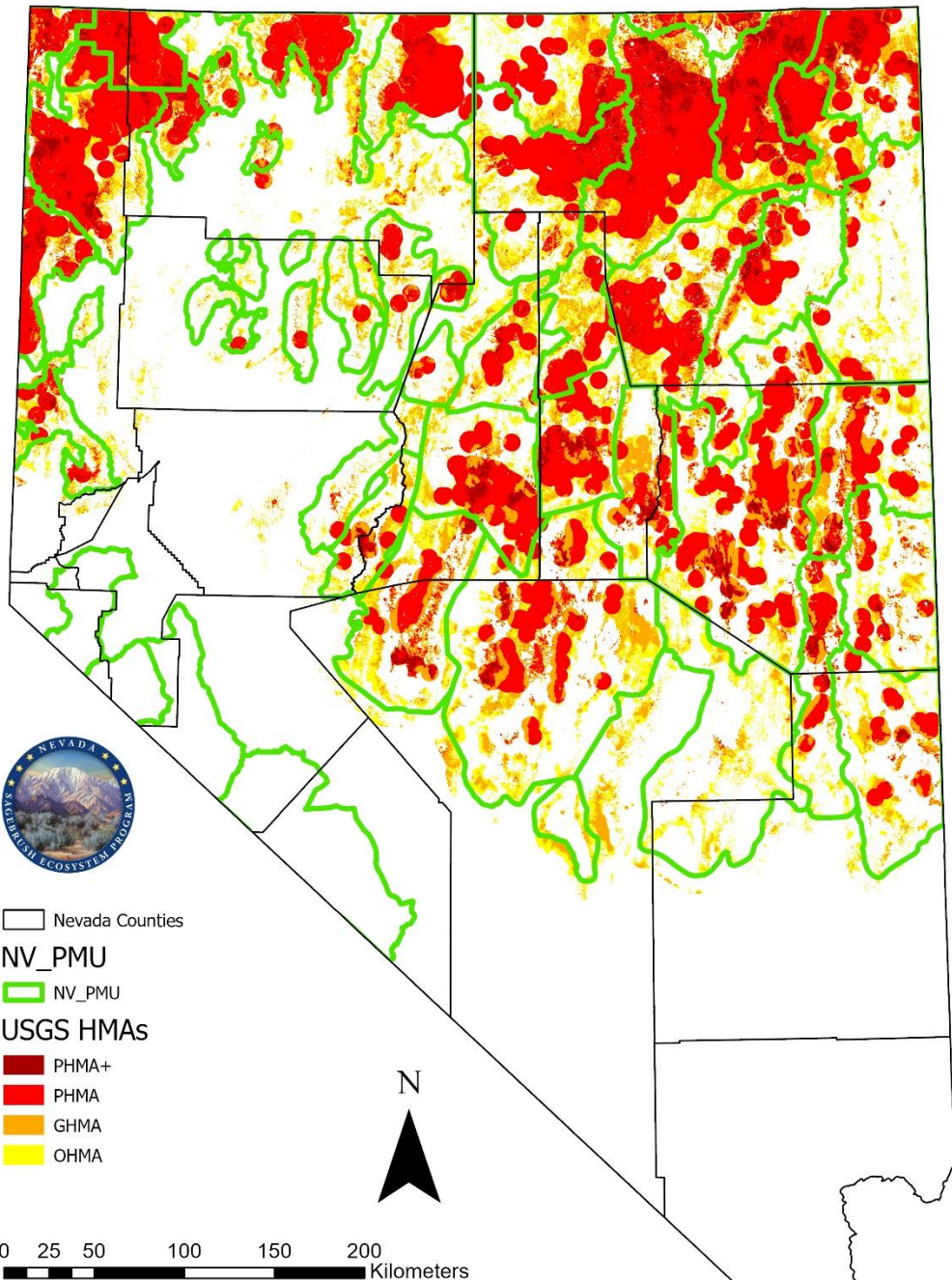
- All these categories are used in the CCS for Proximity Factors

- If a debit project purchases outside of the PMU that it is impacting, the debit amount required to be purchased goes up

Table 10. Proximity ratio values

Category	Factor Value
No population connection between credit and debit sites (different WAFWA Management Zone)	1.15
Credit and debit sites connected through population dispersal (same WAFWA Management Zone)	1.10
Credit and debit sites located within a regional population (same BSU, even if in different WAFWA Management Zones)	1.05
Credit and debit sites located within a single population (same PMU, even if in different WAFWA Management Zones)	1.00

Nevada Conservation Credit System Manual
v2.1



- USGS Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)
 - Identified areas outside of the Service Area that area categorized as habitat
 - The Program has always restricted the HMAs to the PMUs
 - Proximity Factor
 - BLM map does not limit habitat to the PMUs
 - In some locations, BLM has more restrictions than the CCS

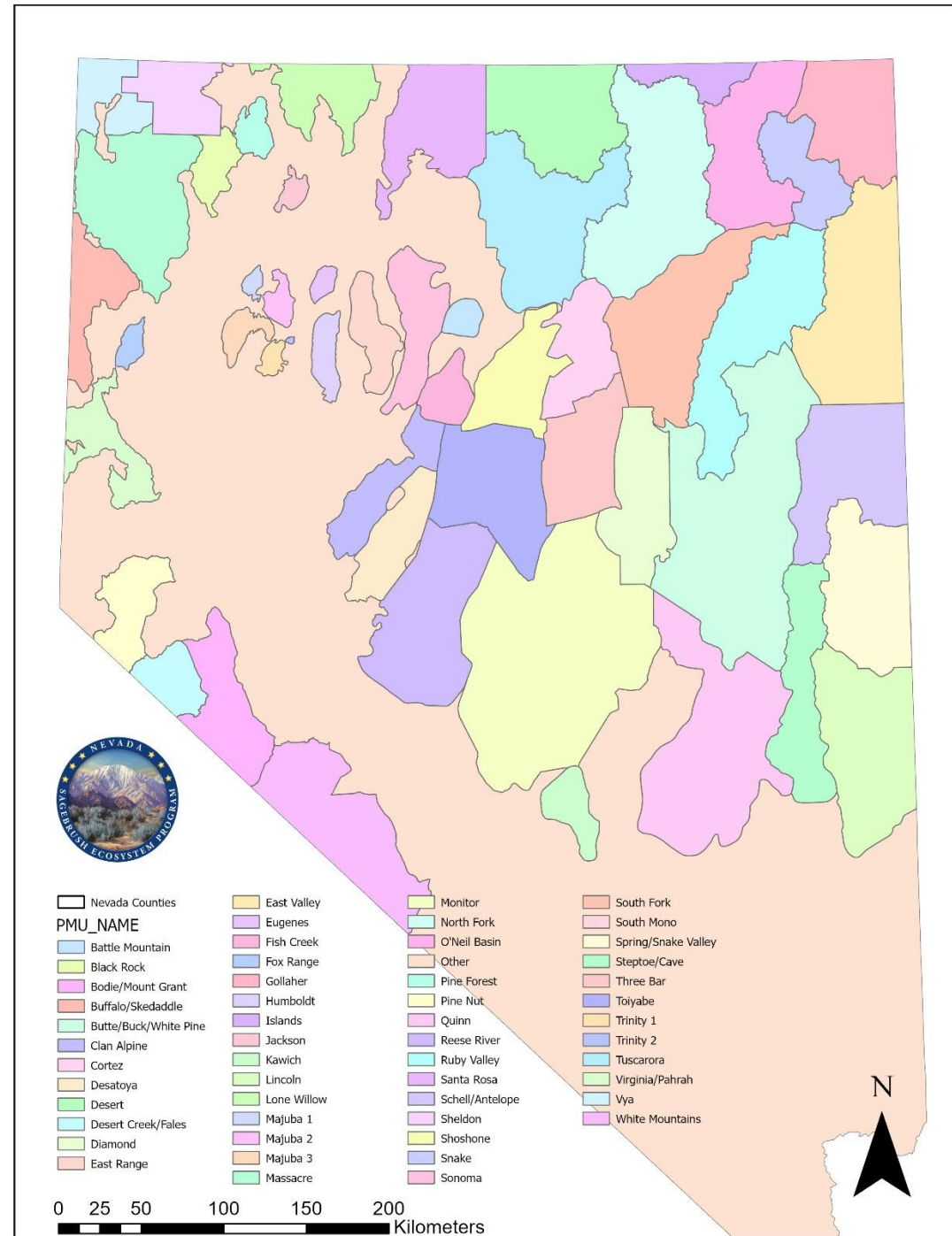


Considerations

1. Should the CCS be managing ALL Areas of HMAs or limit to the PMUs?
2. Should the Service Area be updated?

Proposal

- Add in an extra “Other” PMU/BSU/WAFWA to account for the extra habitat outside of the HMAs
 - Allows for consideration of all HMAs, while still accounting for the Proximity Factor
 - Same rules would apply with the Factor
 - Projects requiring the CCS would still be limited by the HMAs, not the PMUs
- Service area updated to the HMAs
- Update PMUs and BSUs to latest



Thank You

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