

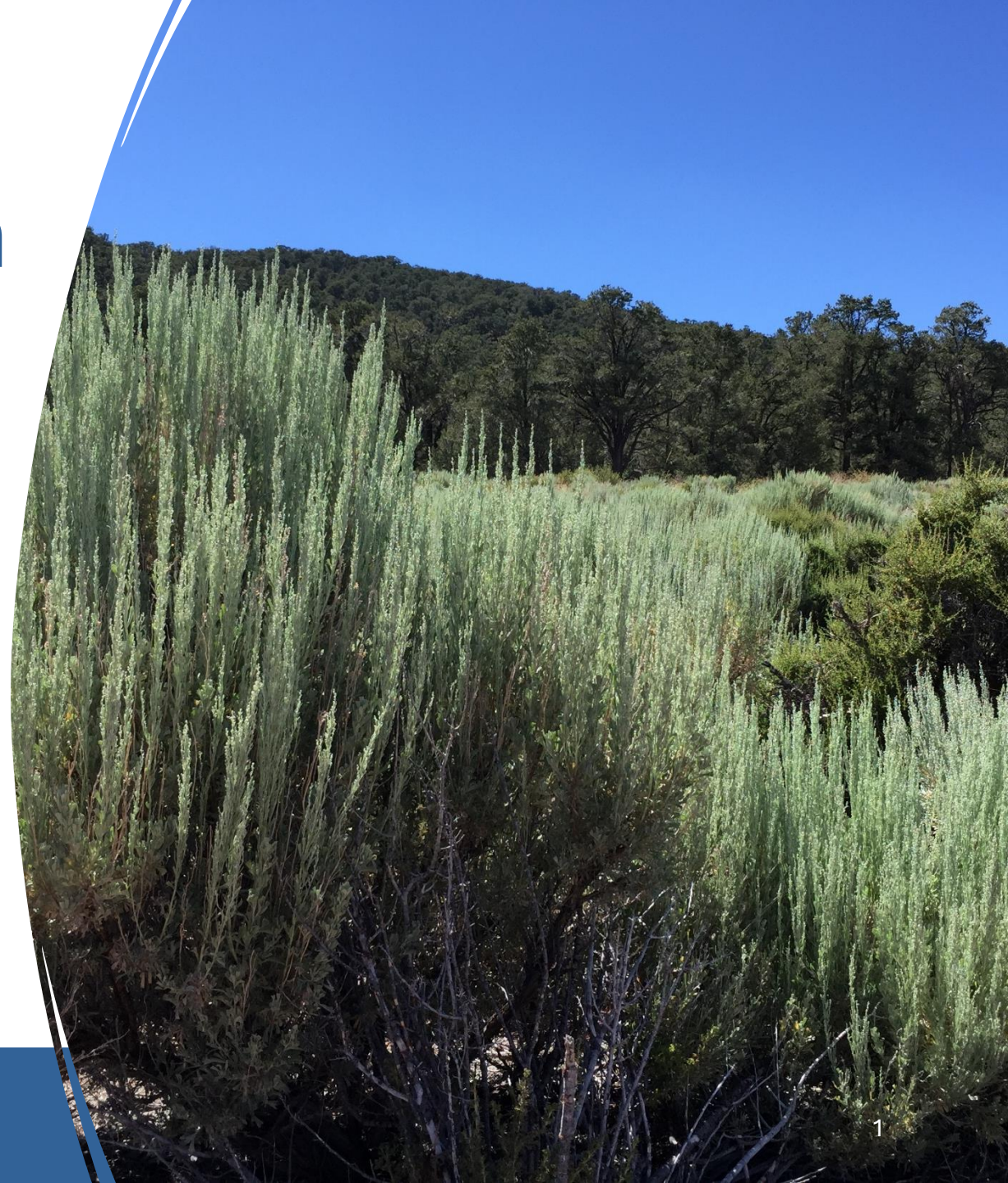
Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Greater Sage-grouse Service
Area Changes Update

August 26, 2026

Presented by
Kathleen Steele



NEVADA
**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM**



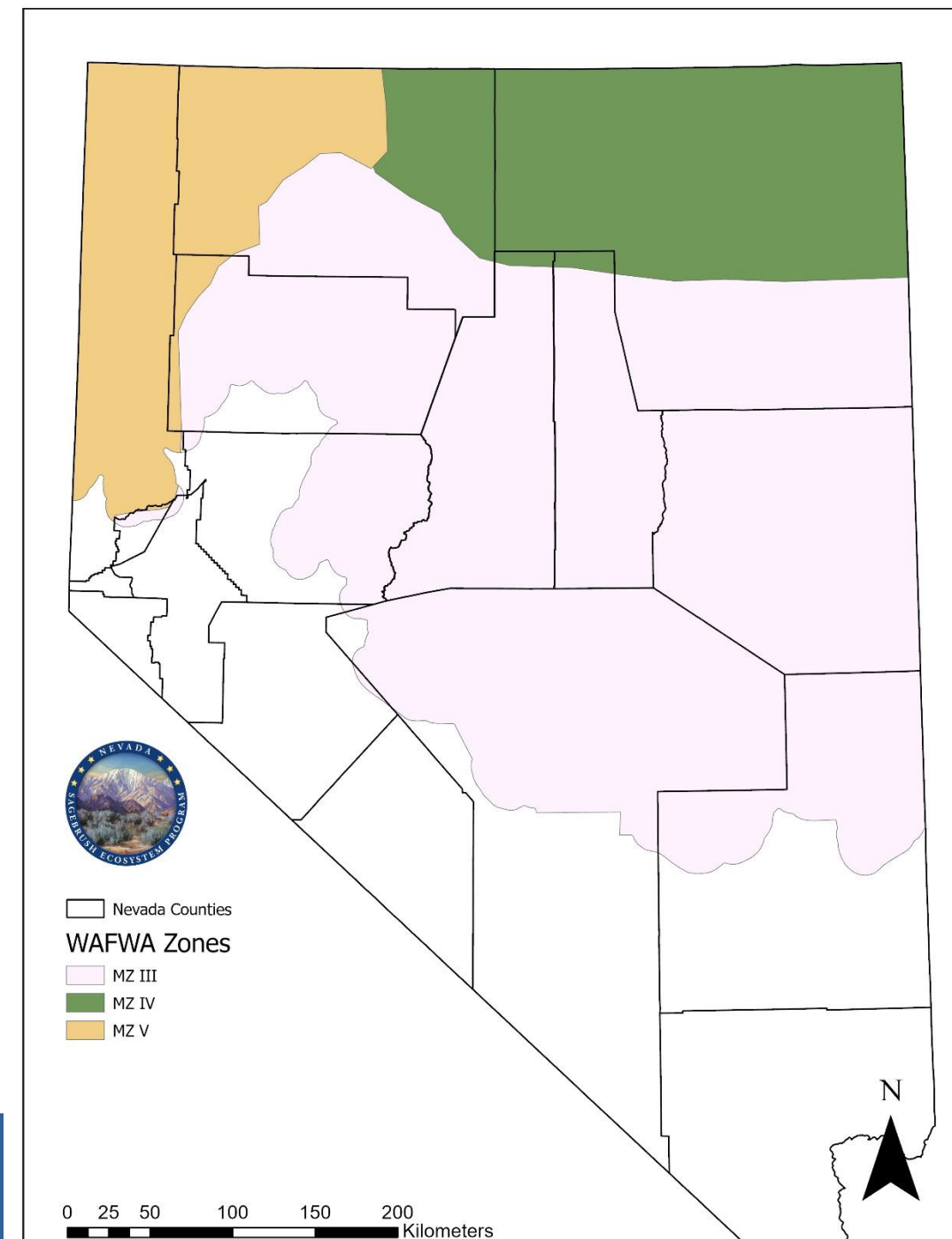
Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**



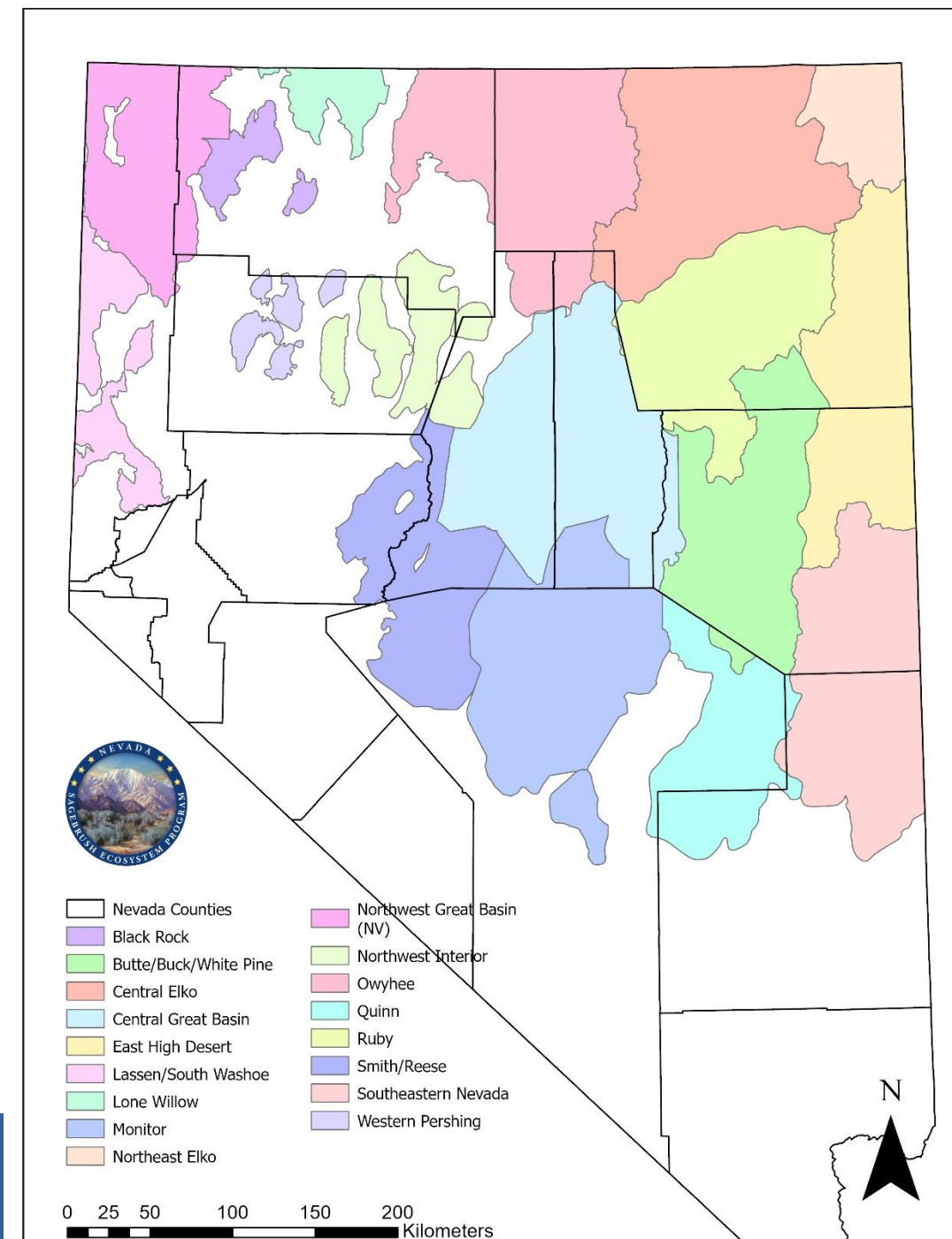
Nevada
Department
of Agriculture



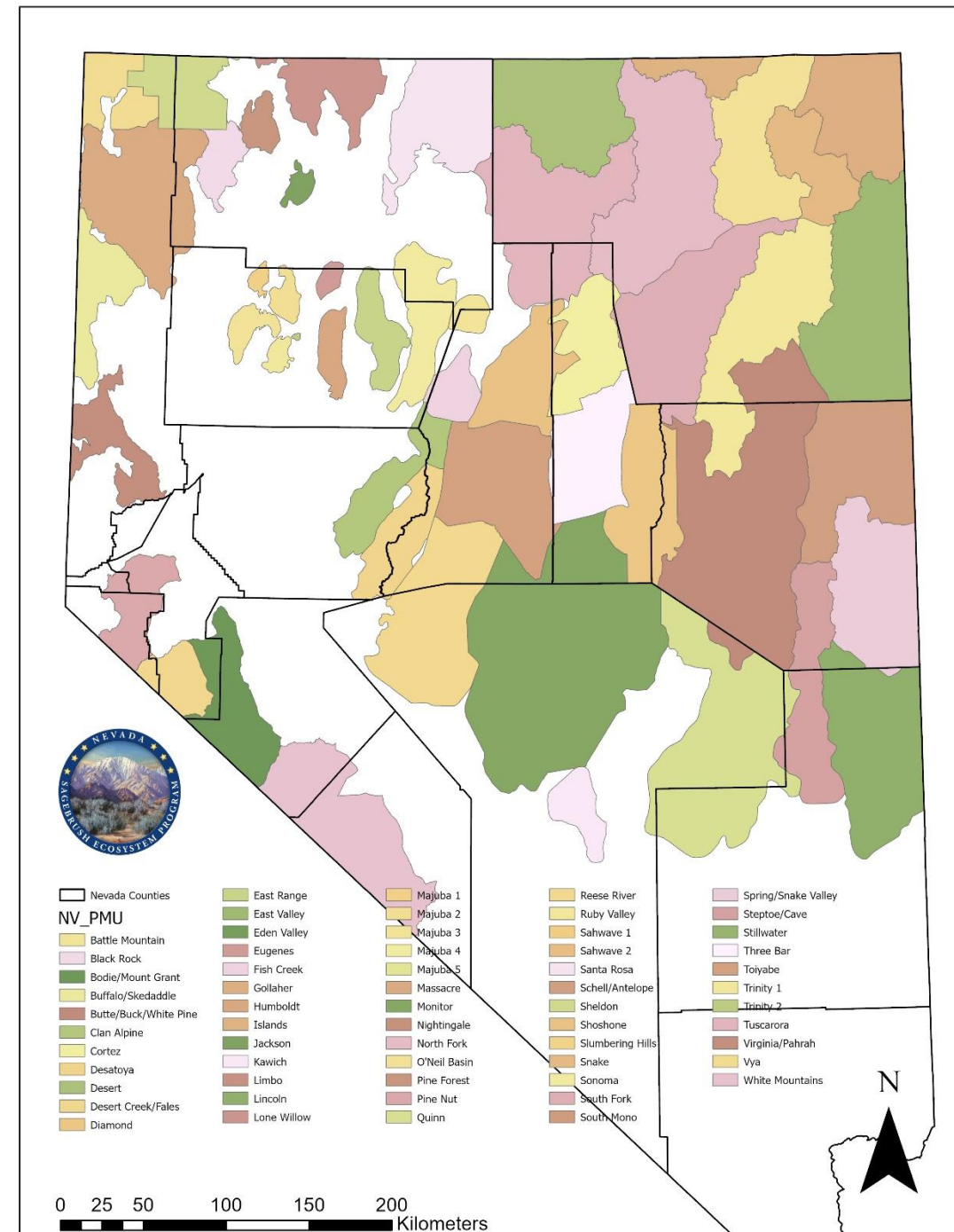
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Zones (WAFWA Zones)
 - These were developed to guide sage-grouse conservation goals and range-wide management
 - Range-wide sage-grouse management delineations based on populations within floristic provinces
 - Developed by WAFWA for the 2006 Greater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



- **Biologically Significant Units (BSUs)**
 - 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 GRSG habitat status
 - Developed by NDOW in 2015
 - Defined as the CCS Service Area



- Population Management Units (PMUs)
 - PMUs are the BSUs further refined and divided into small geographic areas
 - 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



NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM



Nevada
Department of
Agriculture



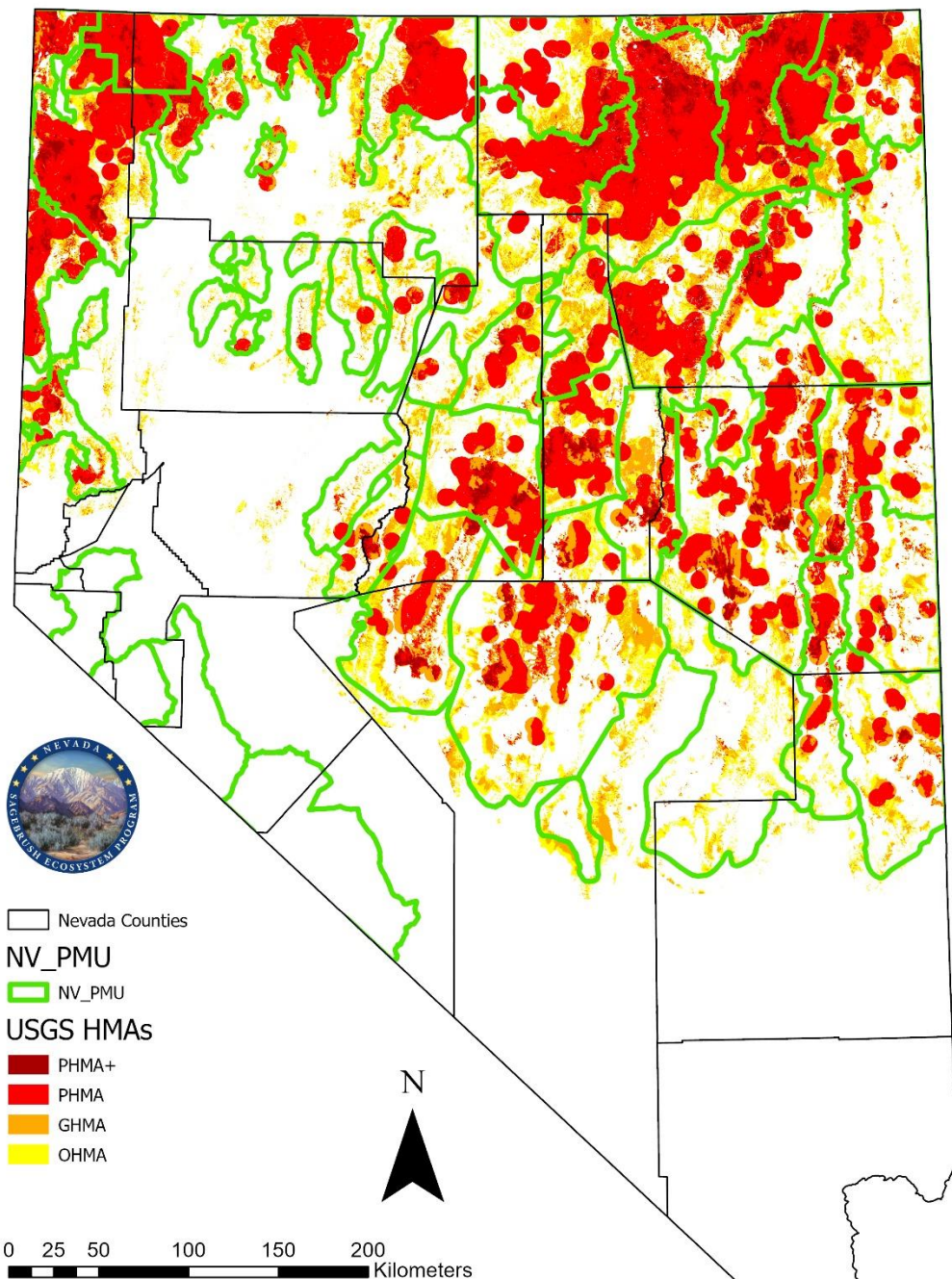
- In the CCS these categories are used in:
 - Project Service Area
 - The mapped geographic region where credits or debits can be generated
 - Proximity Factors
 - If a debit project purchases outside of the PMU, BSU, or WAFWA that it is impacting, the debit amount required to be purchased goes up
 - Baselines for Credit Projects
 - Credit projects need to be above a certain baseline in order to earn credits.
 - Below baseline triggers restoration potential

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

	Site-Scale Regional Standard Baseline		
	Spring	Summer	Winter
MZ III	30%	20%	65%
MZ IV	30%	30%	60%
MZ V	20%	20%	60%



- The USGS-identified GRSG Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) are currently clipped to the BSUs/PMUs (green outline) to create the Project Service Area
- However, portions of HMAs fall outside of the BSUs/PMUs
- Meaning a debit/credit project may fall within GRSG habitat, yet not be within the Project Service Area, thus not qualify for the CCS



Considerations

1. Should the CCS Service Area be updated to manage ALL Habitat Management Areas or be limited to these boundaries?

- Leave it as is



NEVADA
**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM**



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

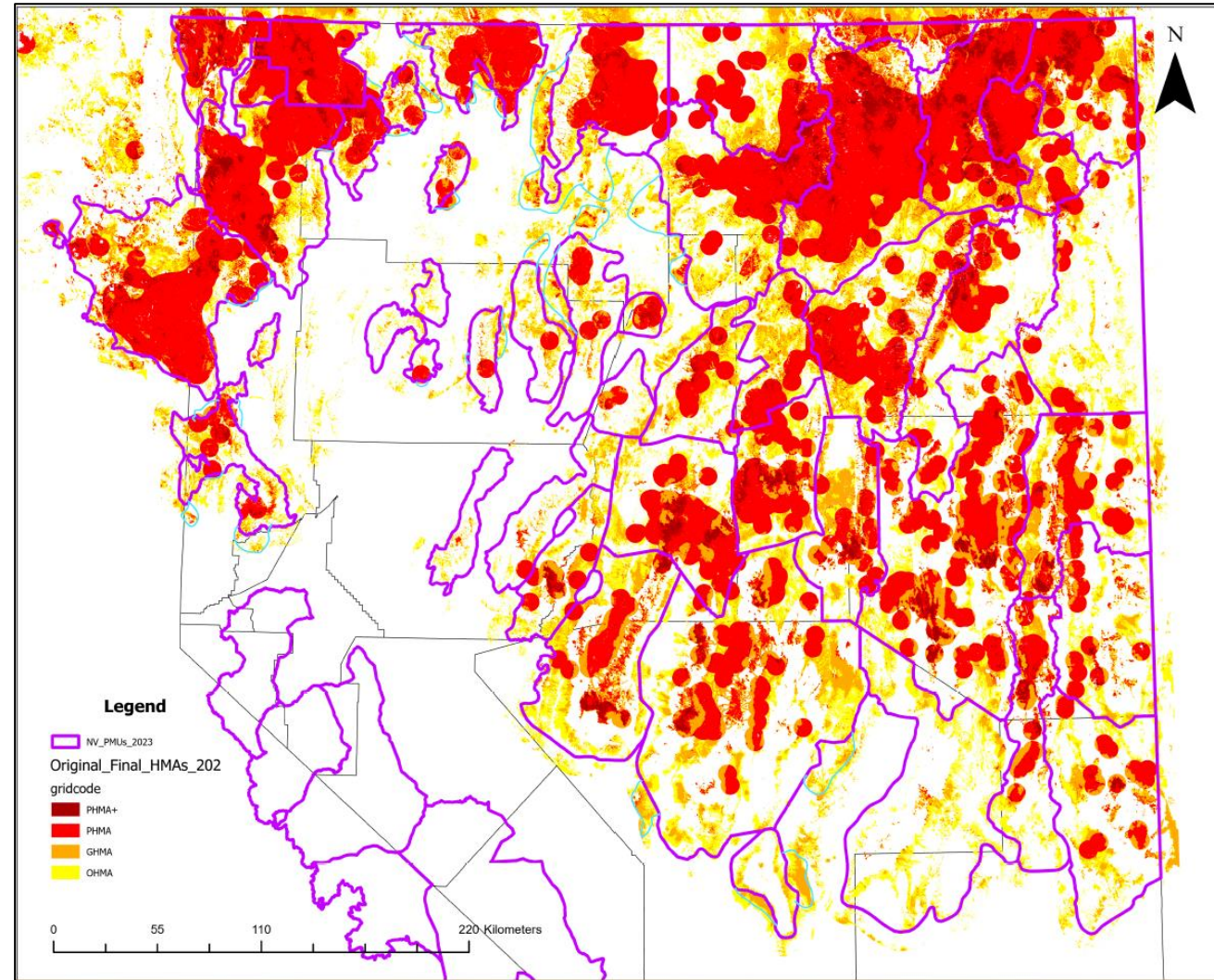


Nevada
Department
of Agriculture



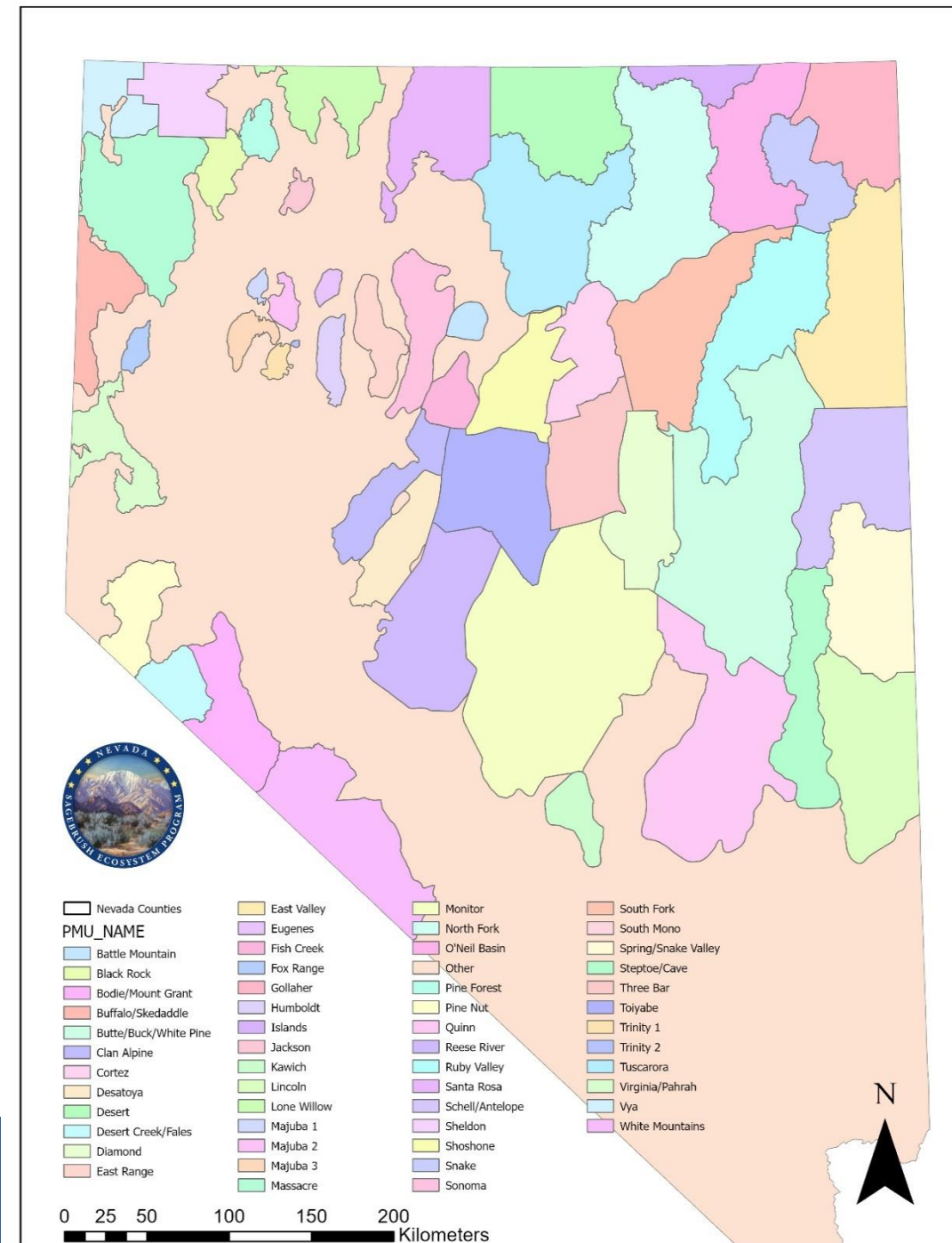
Option 2

- Adjust at NDOW's discretion
 - PMUs/BSUs are the outdated way of identifying populations. Now with more science, these are mainly used by NDOW for referencing locations only
 - Updating the PMUs and BSUs would be an internal NDOW process based on science and telemetry, not public input
 - Not a current priority for NDOW



Option 3

- Categorize all GRSG habitat that falls outside of an existing PMU/BSU as “Other”
 - Expanding the CCS Service Area, allowing for credit and debit projects in all GRSG habitat, not just a PMU/BSU
 - Proximity factors would be applied in the standard manner
 - Develop a solution for a transaction occurring between two geographically distant projects, but that both occur within the “Other” category
 - Would need to apply changes to the State Plan



NEVADA
SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM

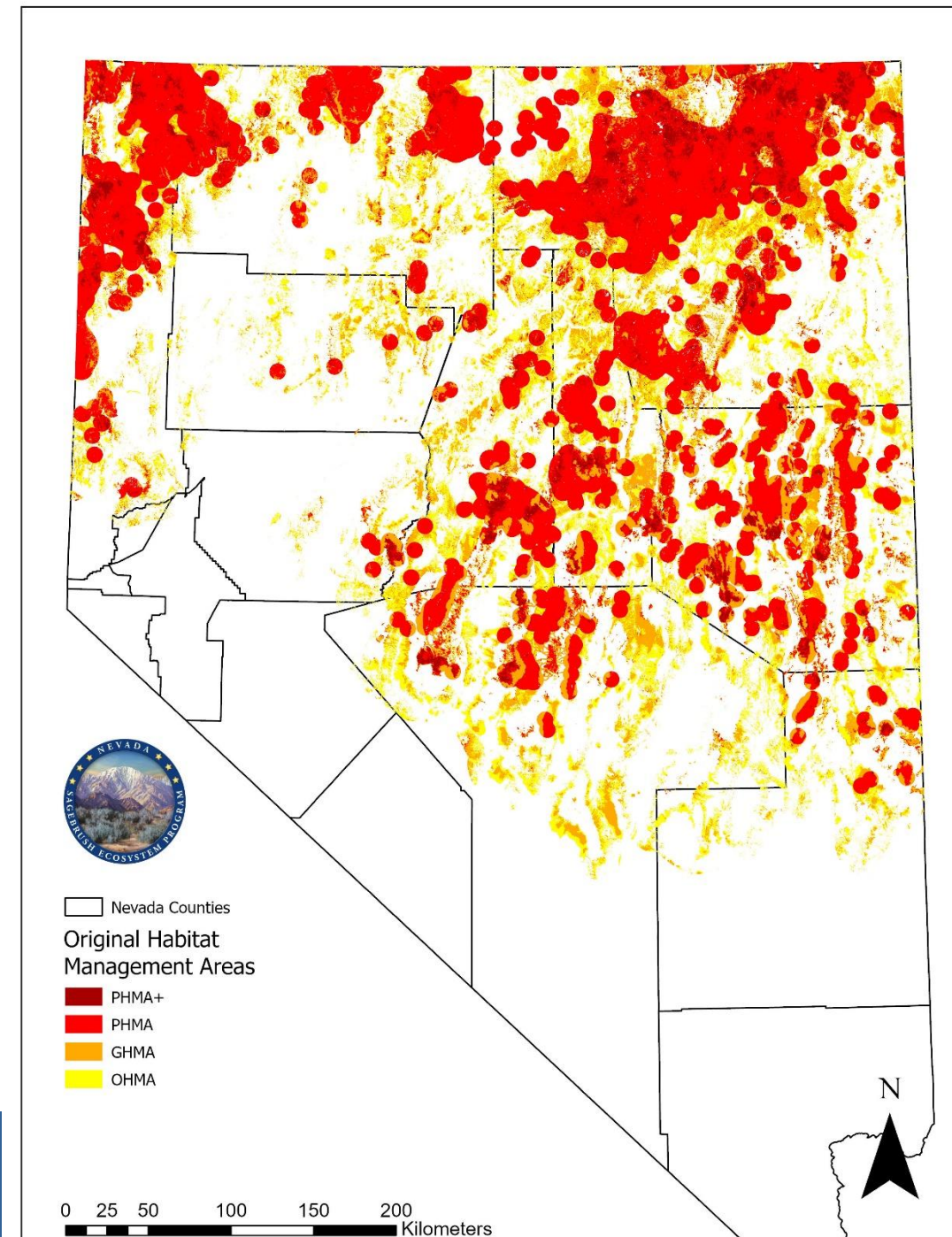


NDA
Nevada
Department
of Agriculture



Option 4

- Remove PMUs/BSUs from the CCS
 - Currently only used in determining Service Area and Proximity Factors
 - Update Service Area to the HMAs
 - Would need to update the State Plan
 - PMUs would still be used for reference in the Adaptive Management Process
 - Propose a buffer distance for Proximity Factors based on telemetry and space use data (e.g., GRSG movement distances)
 - Will apply to all future transactions



Thank You

Kathleen Steele, Program Manager
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Phone: 775-687-2005

Email: ksteele@sagebrushco.nv.gov

