

# Appendix #3

## Protocol used to create “R” value habitat layers

### for both the

### Massacre and Vya Population Management Units (PMU’s)

**RO mapping layer:** Used Ecological Site Descriptions (NRCS 2001) and California GAP data (for Vya PMU) to define sagebrush sites. All low sage and sagebrush habitat in California GAP WHR1 and WHR2 layers used for Vya.

*R1, R2, and R4 polygons that were due to fires and/or seedings, were taken from various local fire and seeding GIS layers. Designations decided by office personnel via office exercise:*

#### **R2 mapping layer:**

For Nevada, the “R2” layer was derived from the North Washoe and Homecamp soil surveys and accomplished in two phases. We queried sagebrush ecological sites for all sites 5% or less slope and 6,000 ft or less to give us this approximation. These would roughly be equivalent to early spring use areas on the Surprise Resource Area. When attempting this model using 5,500 feet or less, we missed sites we knew to be R2 sites.

For the California side, used information from California’s GAP (CA GAP) GIS layer sagebrush sites. This data layer was then “cleaned up” by removing areas greater than 6,000 feet in elevation and more than 5% slope. This was done to better match the layer with the soil and ecological data used for Nevada.

#### **R3 mapping layer:**

Juniper encroached areas in Nevada and California used Digital Elevation Model (DEM) wooded areas from 7.5-minute topographic “quad maps”. These were then buffered to remove very small polygons, which made analysis extremely difficult. This layer does include some aspen and mahogany in it but most aspen and mahogany polygons should be less than the 250-acre polygon maximum size referred to in the original Idaho protocols. Due to the buffering process, maps show solid juniper.

All layers were then “erased” with respect to each other to give the final acreages used in the document. Edge mapping was accomplished between offices both via office and field exercises. These maps (and acreages) will be updated as newer and better data become available, or if errors are found.