

Subcommittee Members: Bill Hicks, Jake Tibbitts,
Jayme Halpin, Trent Gordon, Anthony Miller

Staff to the Subcommittee: Josh Kirk
Madi Ellingwood

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee
Mule Deer Enhancement Program Subcommittee
Eureka County; Management Area 14
Eureka County Administrative Building (Annex)
701 S. Main Street
Eureka, Nevada**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 / 6:00 p.m.

Meeting in person and via [www.Zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us)

DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order – Department Representative

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jake Tibbitts, Subcommittee Member
Trent Gordon, Subcommittee Member
Jayme Halpin, Subcommittee Member
Josh Kirk, Department Representative
Madi Ellingwood, Department Representative
Tom Donham, Department Representative
Jim Rackley, Oversight Committee Member
Charlie Clements, Oversight Committee Member

2. Approval of Agenda – For Possible Action

Subcommittee Member Halpin motioned to approve the agenda.

Subcommittee Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (August 23, 2022) – Department Representative – For Possible Action

Subcommittee Member Halpin motioned to approve the August 23, 2022, Minutes.

Subcommittee Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

4. *Member Announcements and Correspondence – Informational

No announcements were reported.

5. *Area 14 Mule Deer Herd Status – Department Representative – Informational

The Subcommittee discussed the status of the Area 14 mule deer herd. Department Representative Kirk presented an overview of the Management Area 14 herd. Data from aerial surveys, population modeling, and quota recommendations were summarized, as well as an in-depth look at space use and movement data from recent radio collared deer. Historic and present-day habitat and climatic trends were summarized,

specifically throughout Eureka County. The team also discussed the Limiting Factors that were identified throughout Area 14.

6. ***Area 14 Project Proposals – – Department Representative – Informational**

The Subcommittee discussed the Limiting Factor Ranking Sheet and the Needs Assessment Worksheet that was submitted last year. The Subcommittee agreed there is no change to the worksheets from last year. The 2022 Area 14 project proposals were discussed, and updates were given regarding their status. The Subcommittee discussed different avenues to get projects approved by the Oversight Committee as well as some potential project proposals and field trip locations.

The Subcommittee focused on high-use deer areas where NEPA and various clearances were already approved, with the aim to expand (increasing benefit and/or spatially) on current and upcoming projects by the Bureau of Land Management as means to mitigate mining activity in the region. Examples include riparian work, PJ removal, and fencing in the Roberts Creek Range (Three Bar), seeding and herbicide in the Cortez Range with the recent horse gather (Gold Rush), and fire restoration (herbicide treatment and seeding) on the Diamond Fire in the southeast Diamond Range. The Subcommittee expressed interest in visiting the Sulfur Springs Range (above Sadler Ranch), the Dry Hills, the Diamond Hills, as well as some high use riparian areas in disrepair on the field trip to discuss potential projects.

7. **Public Comment**

No public comment was received.

8. **Future Subcommittee Meetings – For possible Action**

The next Subcommittee Meeting was scheduled for June 13, 2023. For this meeting, the Subcommittee will take a field trip visiting previous project and potential project locations. The Subcommittee will discuss the habitat conditions, important mule deer use of these locations, and potential project ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Mule Deer Enhancement Program

MA14

Introductions

- NDOW:

Josh Kirk – Game Biologist

Madi Ellingwood – Habitat Biologist

Tom Donham – Eastern Region Supervising Game Biologist

Caleb McAdoo - Eastern Region Supervising Habitat Biologist

- Team Members:

Trent Gordon – Eureka County

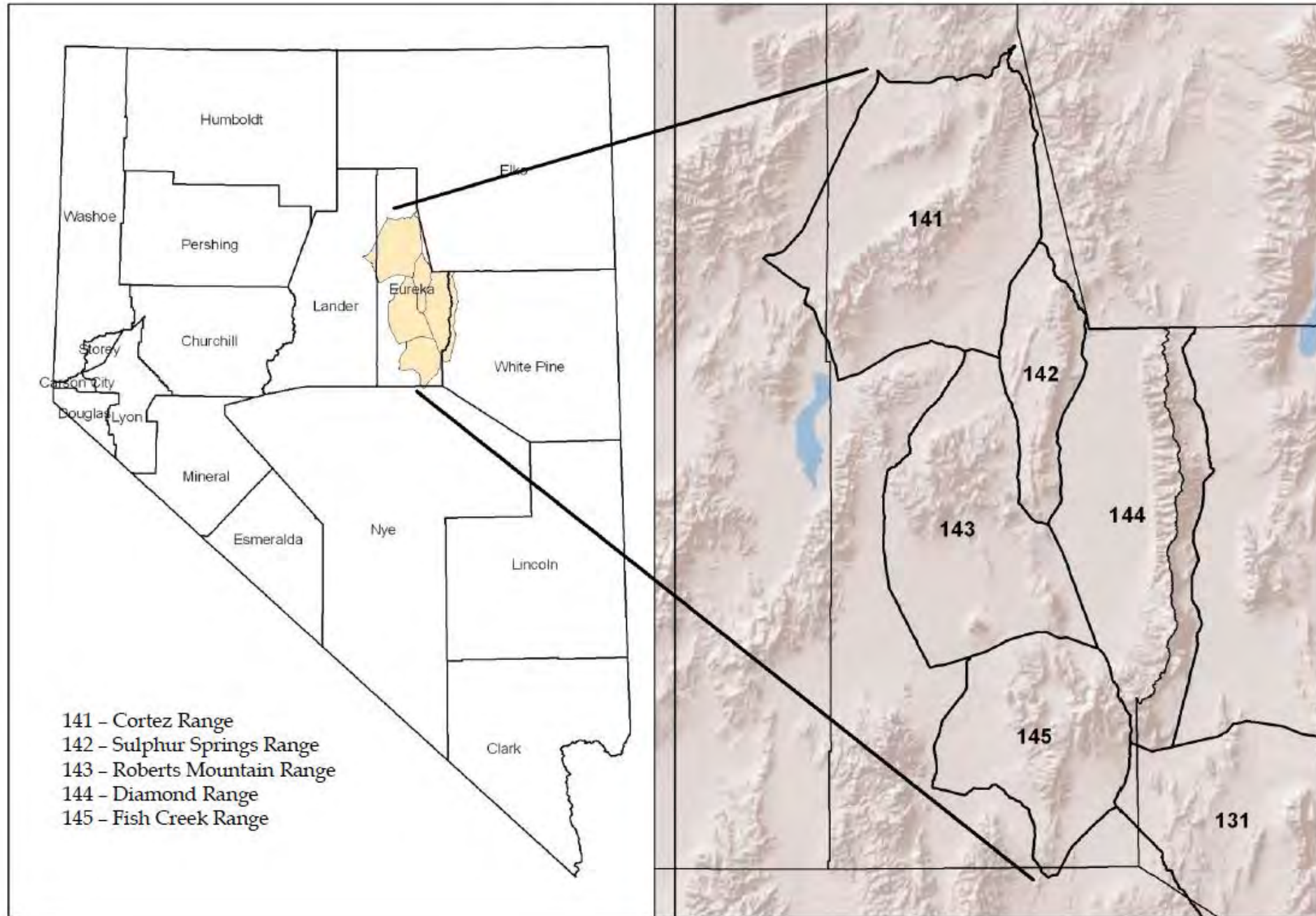
Bill Hicks – Eureka County

Jayme Halpin – Eureka County

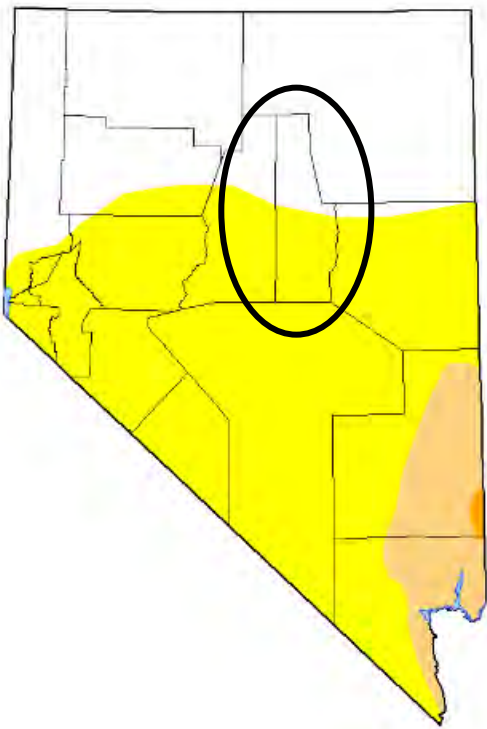
Anthony Miller– Eureka County

Jake Tibbitts – Eureka County

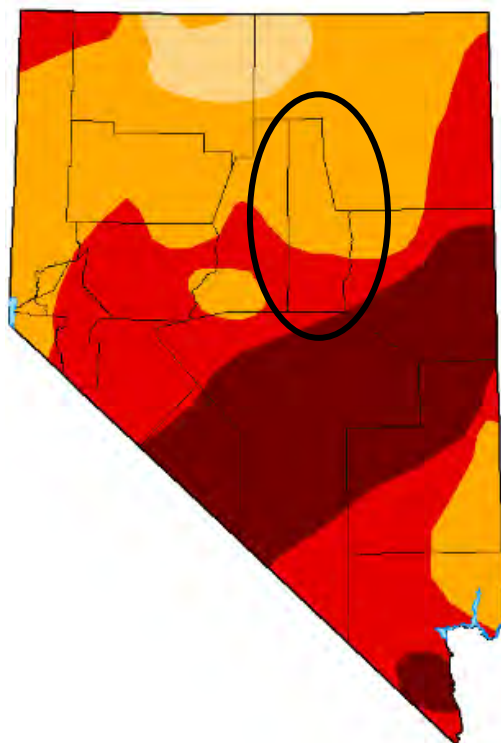
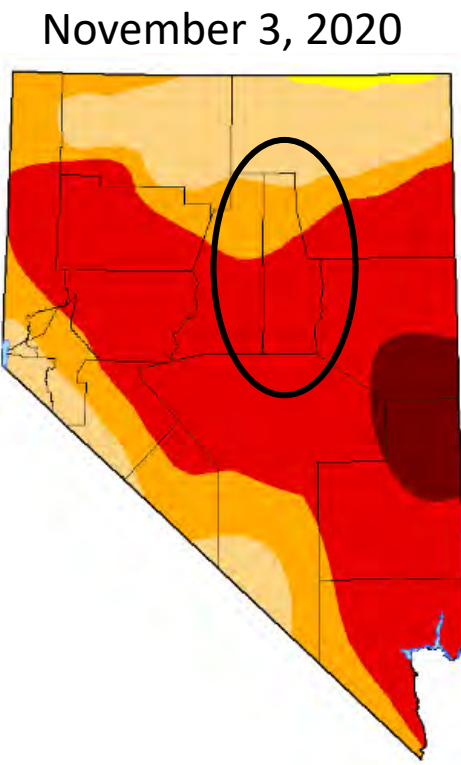
Area 14 Geographical Overview



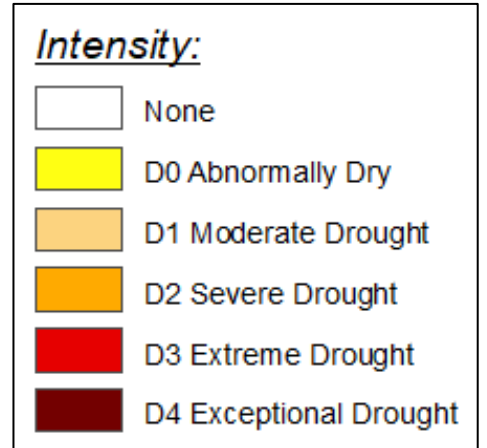
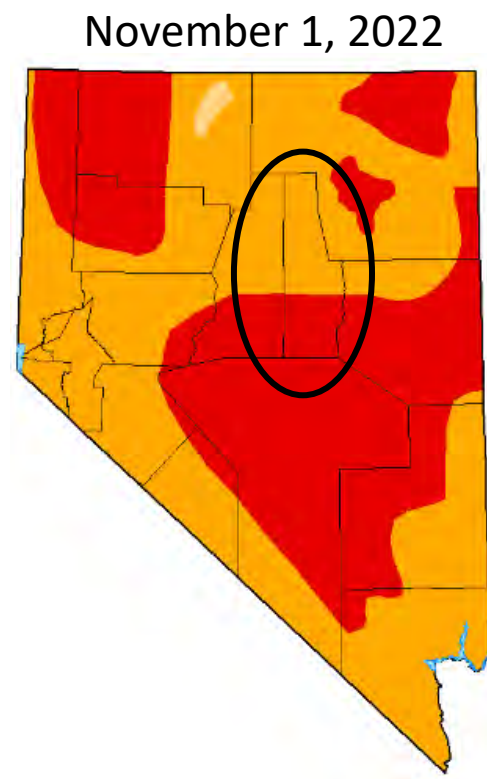
Climate



November 5, 2019

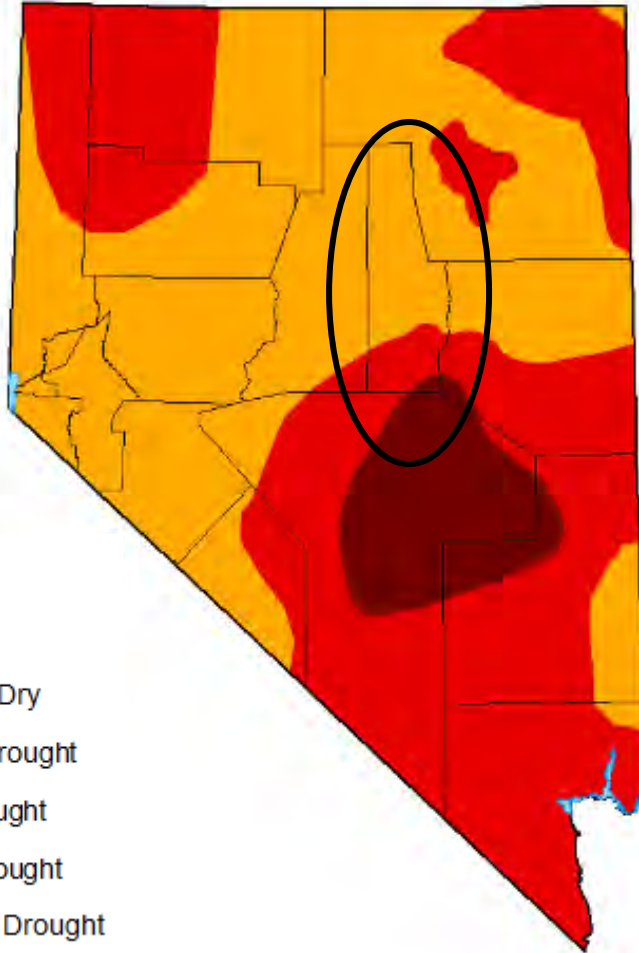
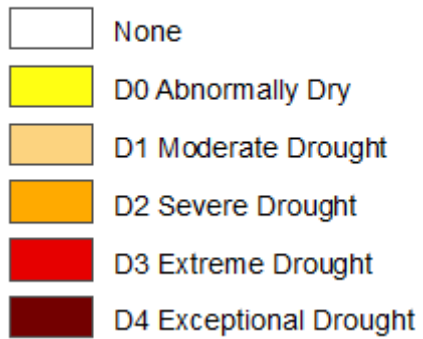


November 2, 2021

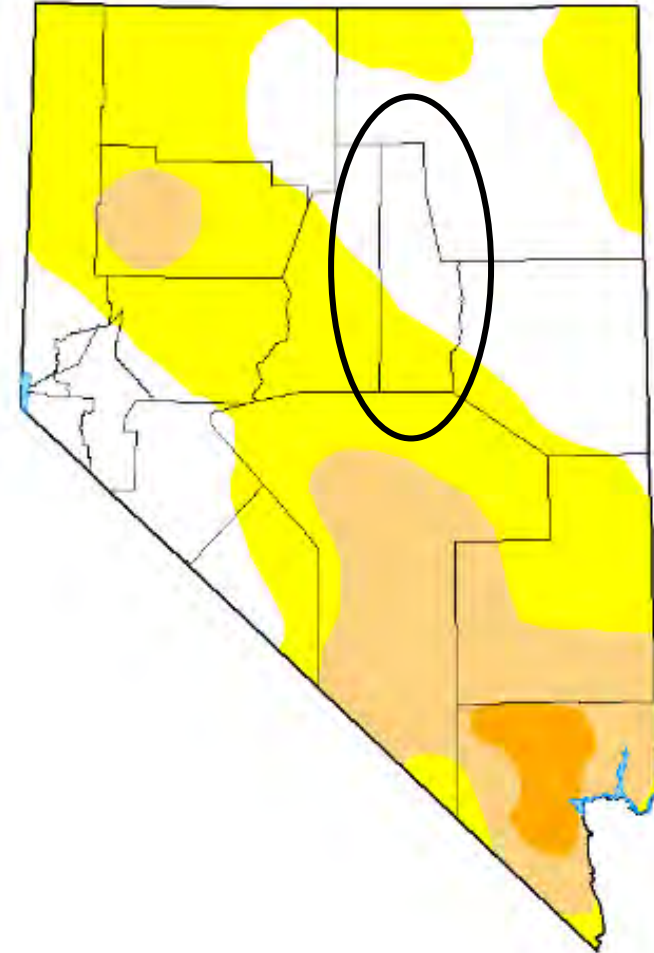


Climate

Intensity:

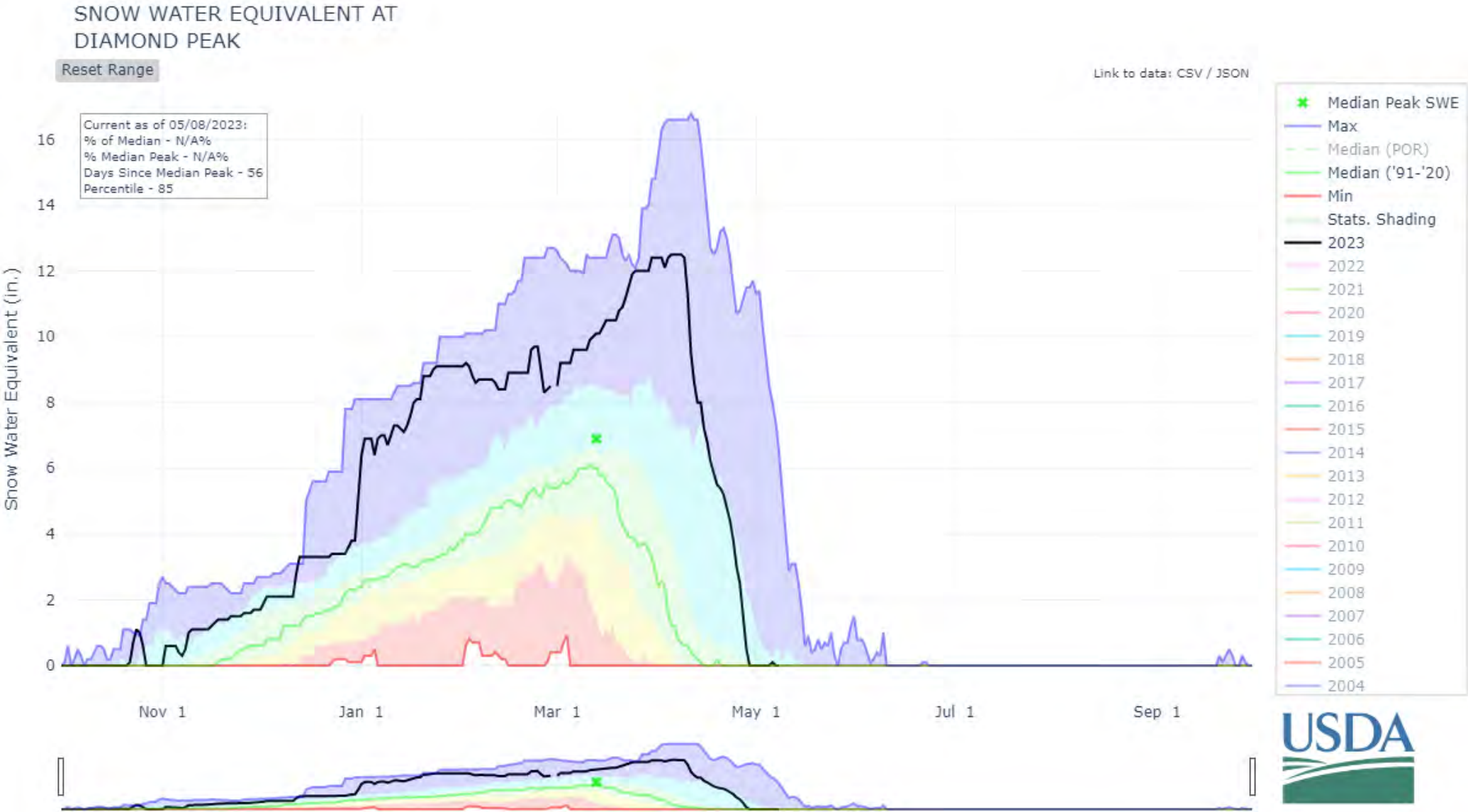


May 3, 2022

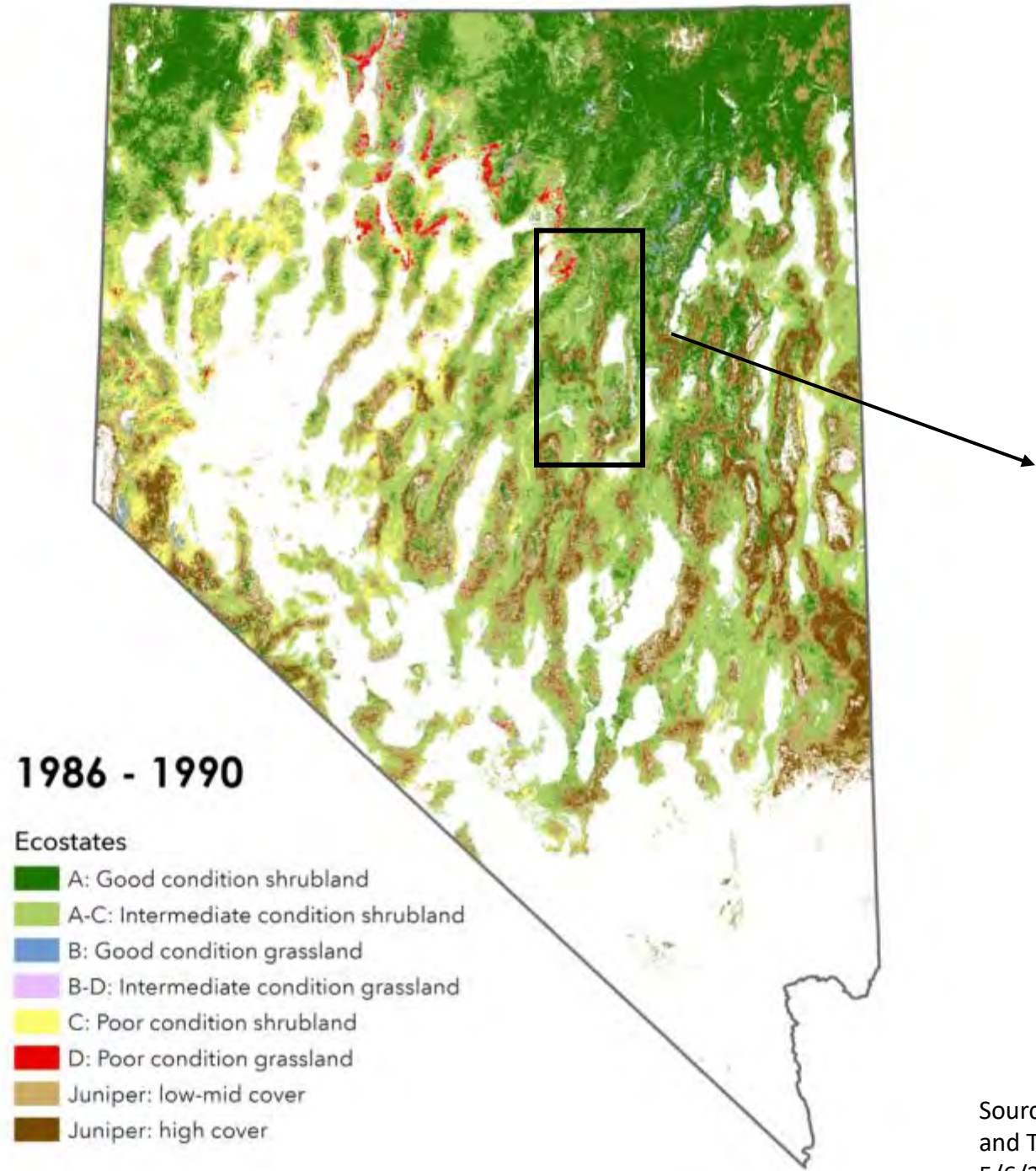


May 2, 2023

Climate

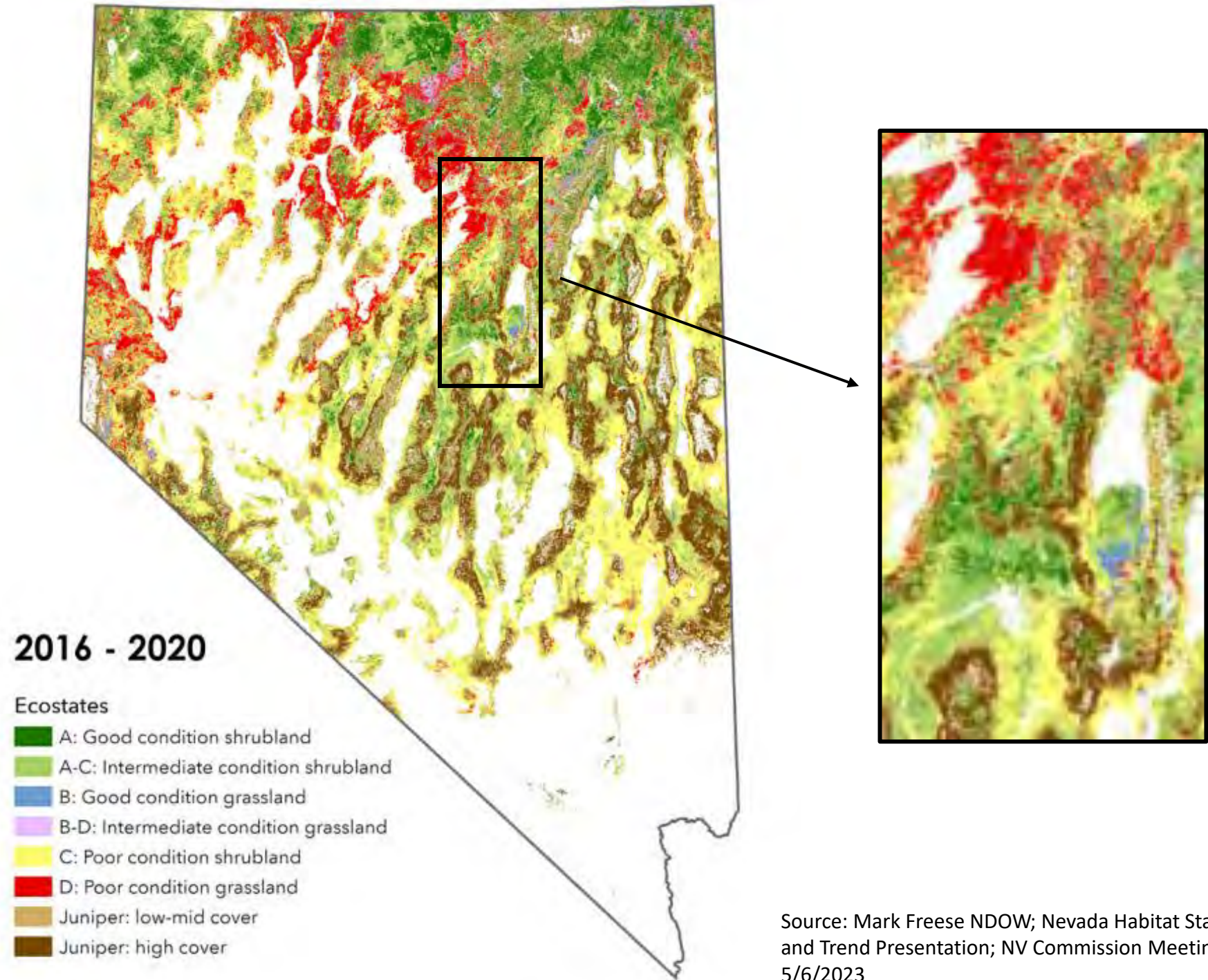


Habitat



Source: Mark Freese NDOW; Nevada Habitat Status and Trend Presentation; NV Commission Meeting 5/6/2023

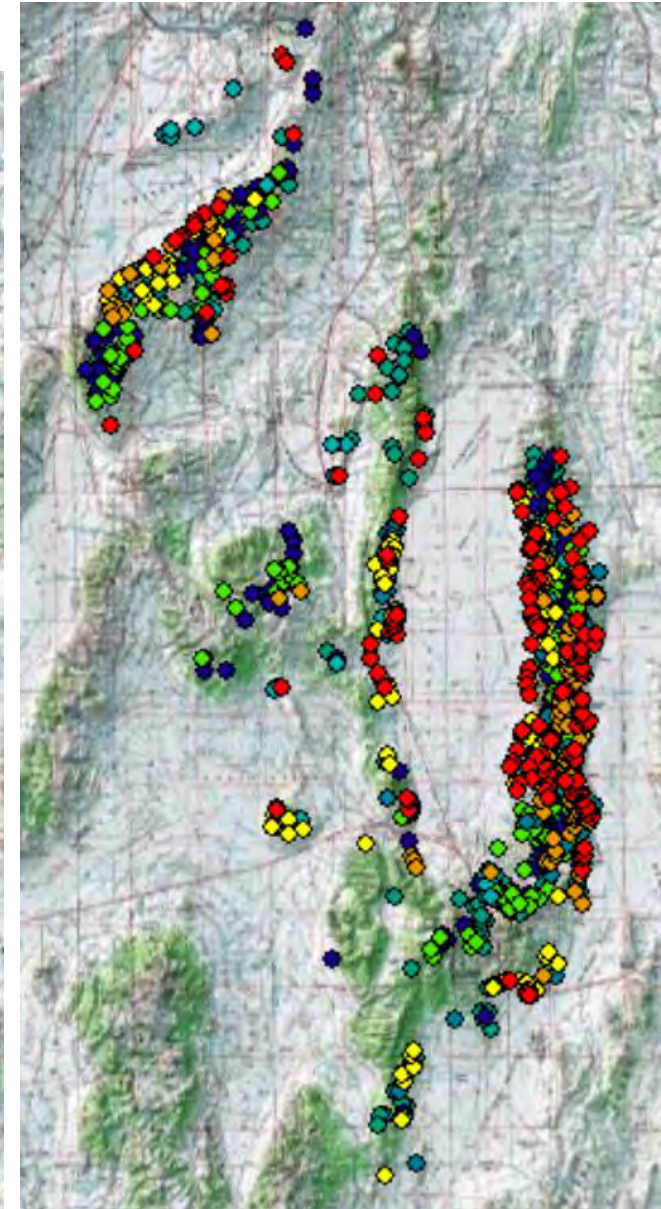
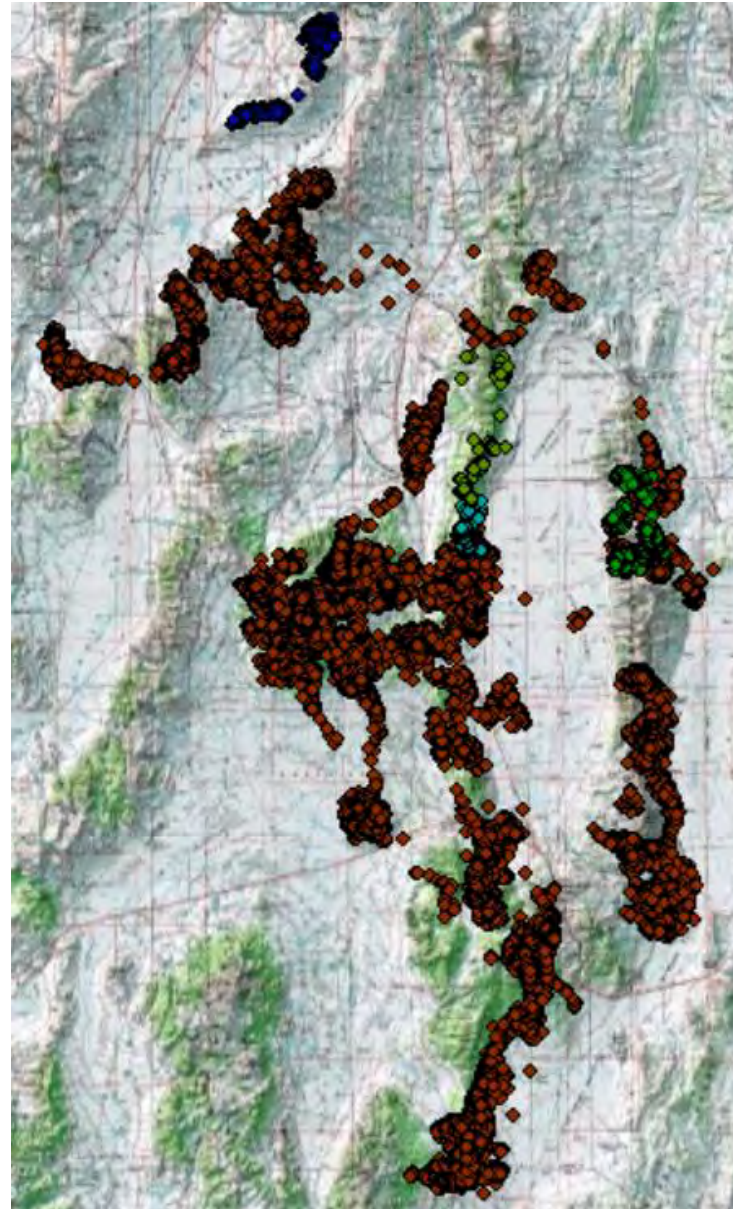
Habitat



Source: Mark Freese NDOW; Nevada Habitat Status and Trend Presentation; NV Commission Meeting 5/6/2023

Radio Collared Deer in MA14

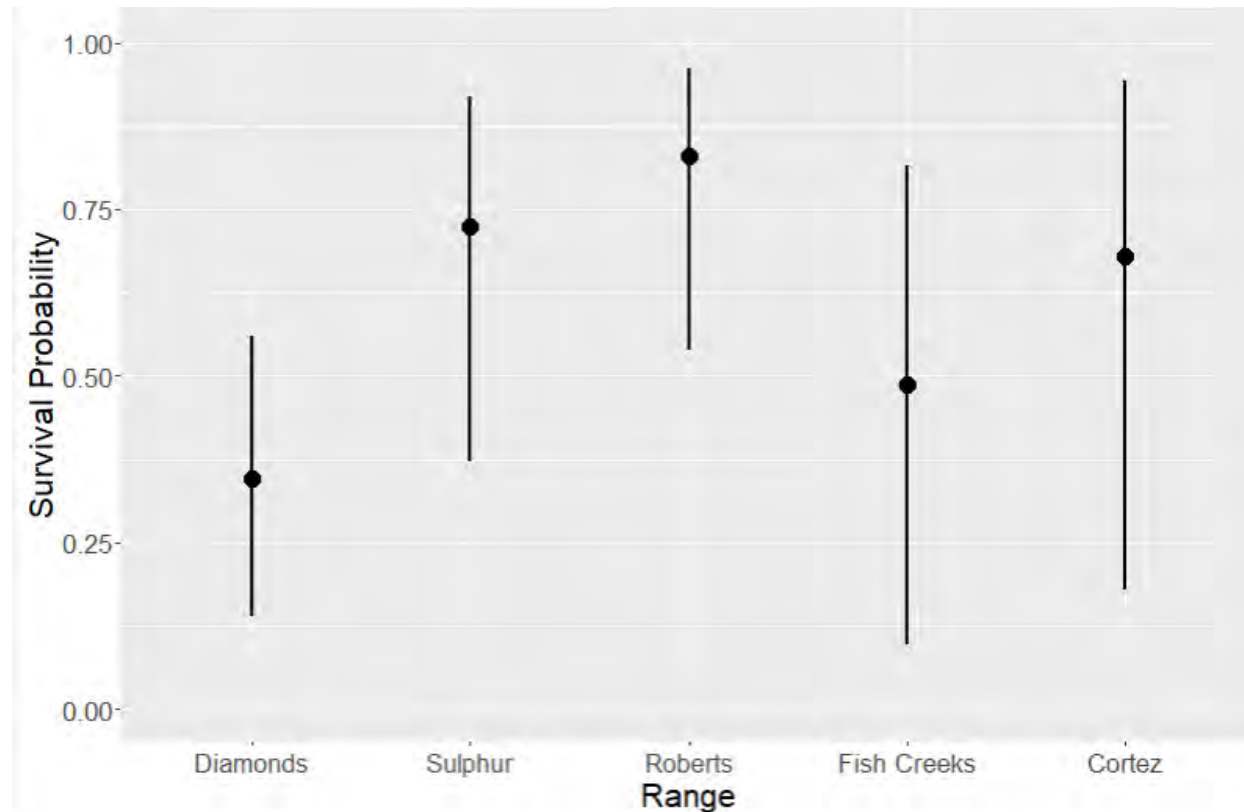
- 52 collars deployed from 2017-2020
 - 4 collars remain on the landscape today
- Average of 2480 pts/ind (107-4029) and 597 days of data/ind (57-979)
 - 10 collared deer from 065 that came over to winter in MA 14 this year
 - Wintered in the Dry Hills, Sulfur Springs, and NE Diamonds.
 - Significant overlap in MA 14 and 065 deer winter ranges**
- **Clear migration corridor and stop over locations for focus in respect to potential projects.**



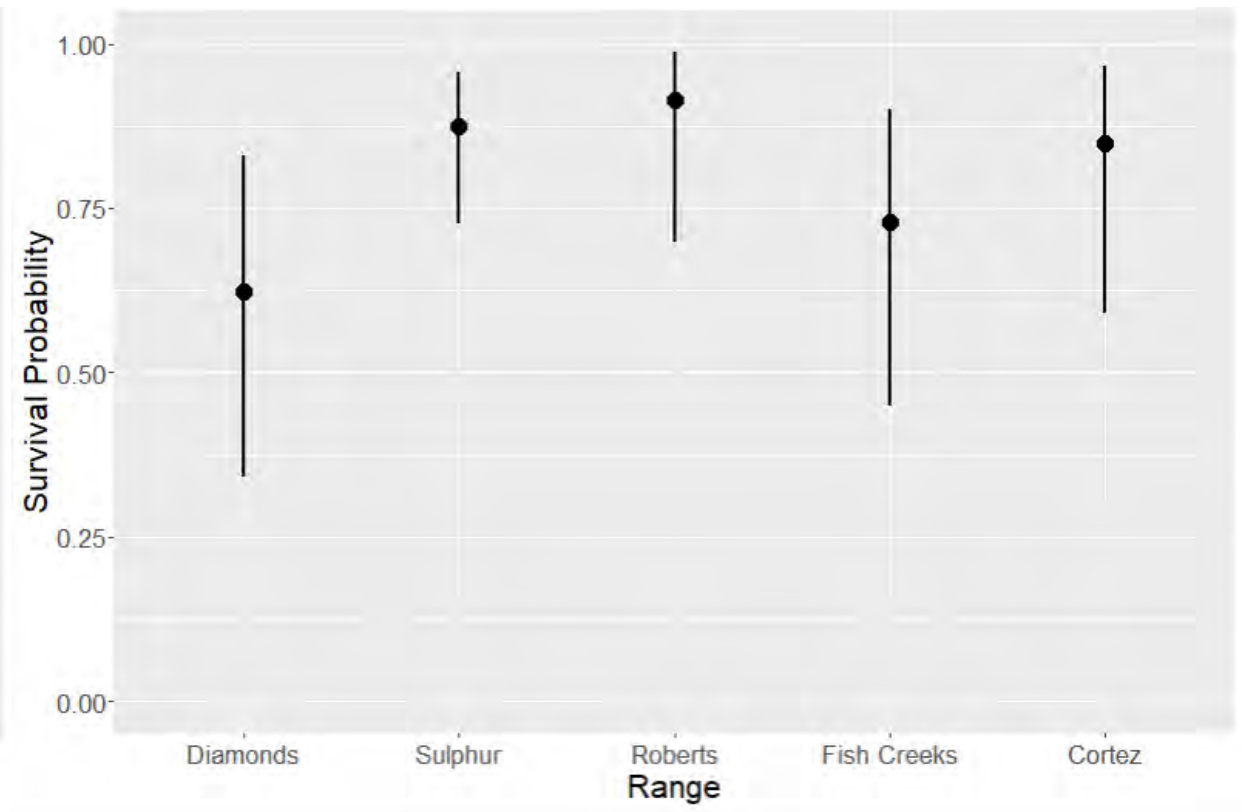
Survival of MA14 Deer: 35 – 91%

Top model: \sim Range + Season

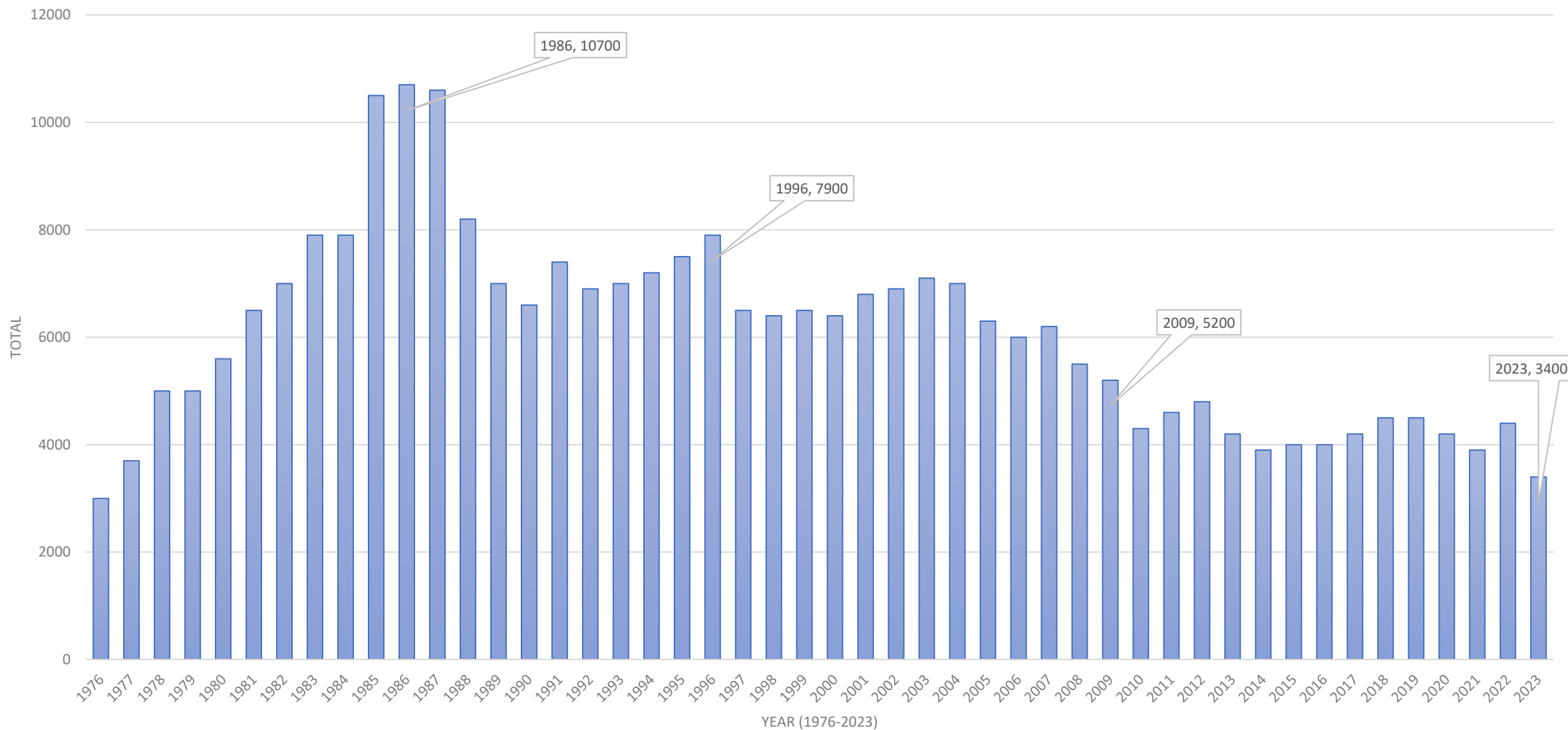
- Summer



- Winter



Management Area 14 Population Estimates Mule Deer



Population Metrics

- In November, a post season survey was conducted, however there was serious question regarding the accuracy of the data.
- A post season survey will be prioritized this fall.
- Record spring sample size of 2,400 deer (highly concentrated on winter range)
- A model adjustment was made to more accurately reflect recent sex and age ratios observed on survey.
- Reduction in quotas to address impacts of the above average winter and to target the post-season management objective of 30 bucks:100 does.
- Eureka CAB and the Commission approved of these quota recommendations.

Unit Group: 141,142,143,144,145 Date Prepared: 3/29/2023

Herd Results

Year	Fall Survey			Total	Spring Survey		Total	Postseason Ratios (observed)			Spring Ratio (obs)	Modeled Buck Ratio		Pop Est (Sept)
	Buck	Doer	Fawn		Adult	Fawn		Buck	Fawn	F:Ad	F:Ad	Postseas	Preseas	
2020-2021				0	1,357	377	1,734	--	--	--	28	30	41	3,900
2021-2022	212	681	352	1,245	770	173	943	31	52	39	22	32	43	4,400
2022-2023				0	1,800	562	2,362	--	--	--	31	27	39	3,400

Harvest Results

Year	Archery Success (%)		Muzzleloader Success (%)	Any-Legal-Weapon Success (%)			Avg. Age	4-Pt or Greater (%)	Total Antlerless Harvest	NR Guided Success (%)	Junior Success (%)	Comp Tag Success (%)
	E	L		E	M	L						
2020-2021	21%	0%	60%	44%	0%	54%		30%	25	58%	67%	64%
2021-2022	18%	0%	26%	47%	0%	43%		34%	33	80%	66%	46%
2022-2023	20%	0%	56%	45%	0%	50%		31%	22	44%	70%	89%

Approved (Previous Year) and Recommended (Current Year) Tag Quota

Year	Archery Hunt		Muzzleloader Hunt		Early ALW Hunt		Mid ALW Hunt		Late ALW Hunt		Antlerless Hunt	Junior Hunt	NR Guided Hunt	Comp Tags
	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	RES		
2021-2022	200	25	20	2	230	15	0	0	25	2	0	190	11,1	14
2022-2023	220	23	20	2	270	23	0	0	35	3	0	190	10,1	10
2023-2024	140	15	15	1	200	9	0	0	20	1	0	70	12,2	16
Tag Trend	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	=	=	DEC	DEC	=	DEC	INC	INC

Limiting Factors

- Based on the team's 2022 Limiting Factor sheet:
 1. Pinyon-Juniper (Conifer) Invasion
 2. Improper Grazing – Wild horses
 3. Climate/Weather
 4. Limited Water Distribution

2022 Project Proposal Updates

- Vinini Creek and Henderson Creek Pinyon-Juniper Removal
- Roberts Creek Corridor Pinyon-Juniper Removal
- East Whistler Mtn. Pinyon-Juniper Removal

Questions and Discussion

- Discussion Points:
 - Limiting Factor Ranking Sheet/Needs Assessment Worksheet (Next Meeting)
 - Field trip location and date
 - Potential project proposal ideas
 - Any BLM, FS, Eureka County, Mining, etc. project updates and/or potential projects/plans
 - NGM Gold Rush BEA habitat enhancement project in Cortez Range

Mule Deer Enhancement Program

MA13

Introductions

- NDOW:

- Josh Kirk – Game Biologist

- Madi Ellingwood – Habitat Biologist

- Tom Donham – Eastern Region Supervising Game Biologist

- Caleb McAdoo - Eastern Region Supervising Habitat Biologist

- Team Members:

- Steve Marquez – White Pine County

- Jake Rosevear – White Pine County

- Trent Gordon – Eureka County

- Gracian Uhalde, Jr. – White Pine/Nye County

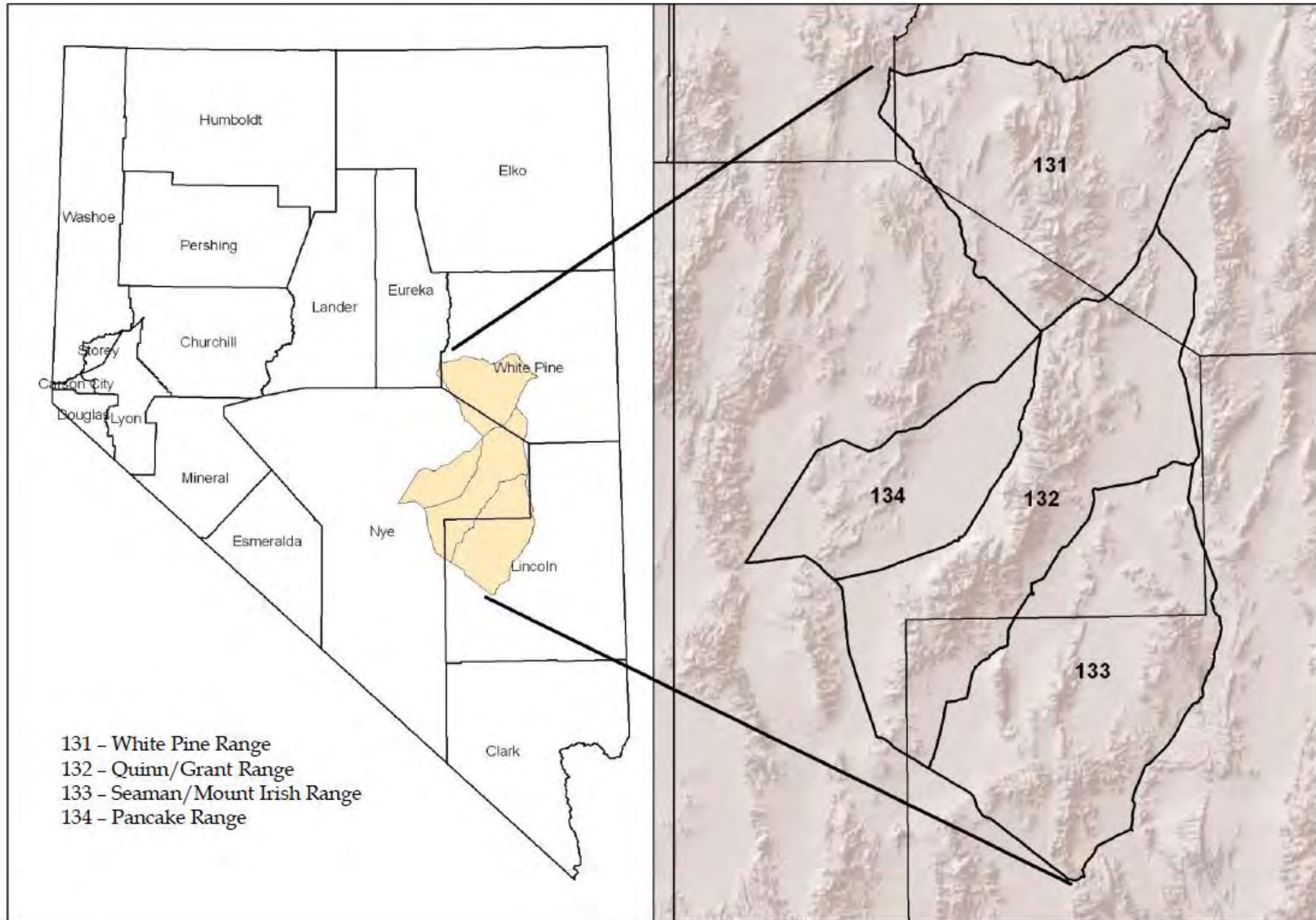
- Shane Boren – White Pine County

- Justin Rozich – Forest Service

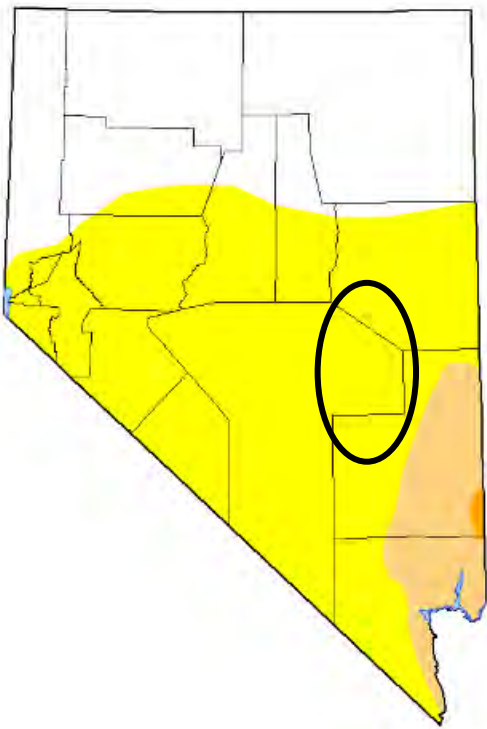
- Cody Coombs – BLM

- Matt Rajala - BLM

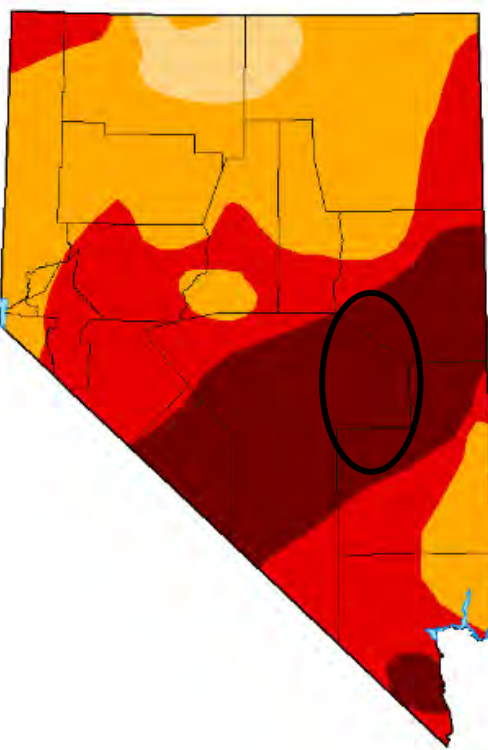
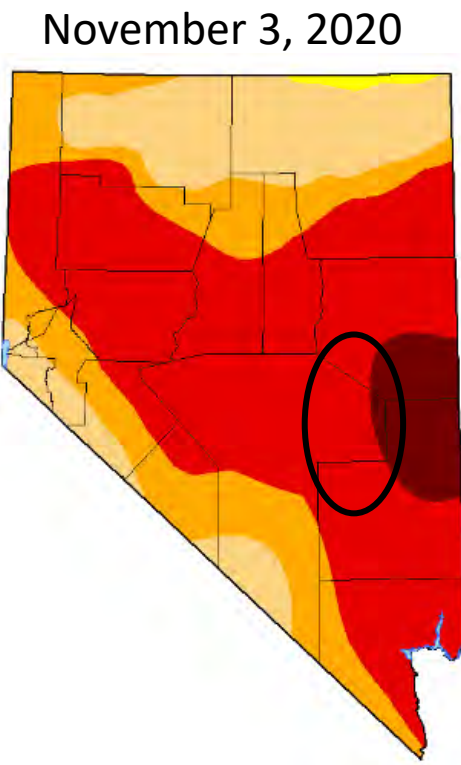
Area 13 Geographical Overview



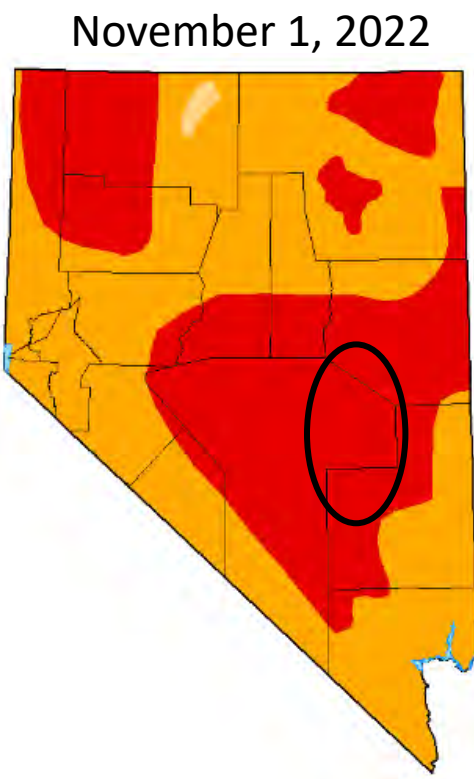
Climate



November 5, 2019









November 2, 2021

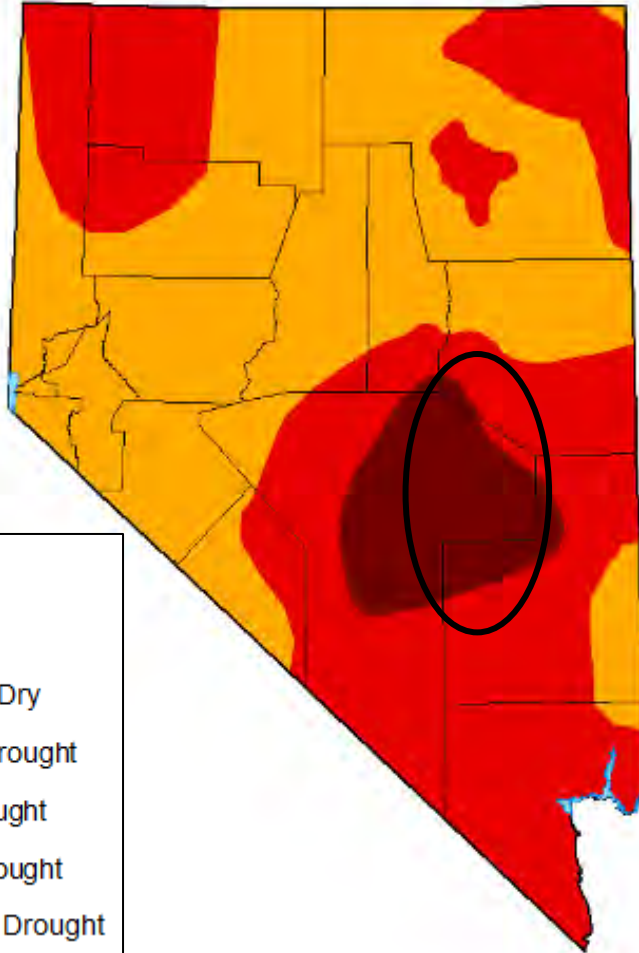
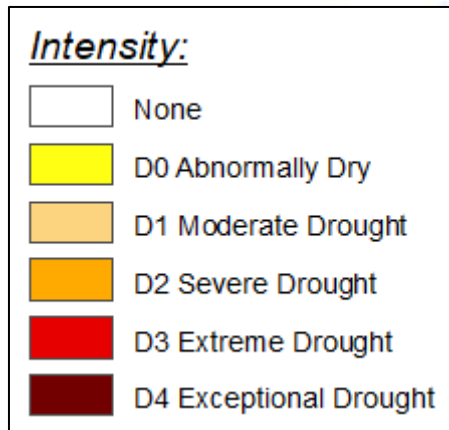


Source: NV Drought Monitor

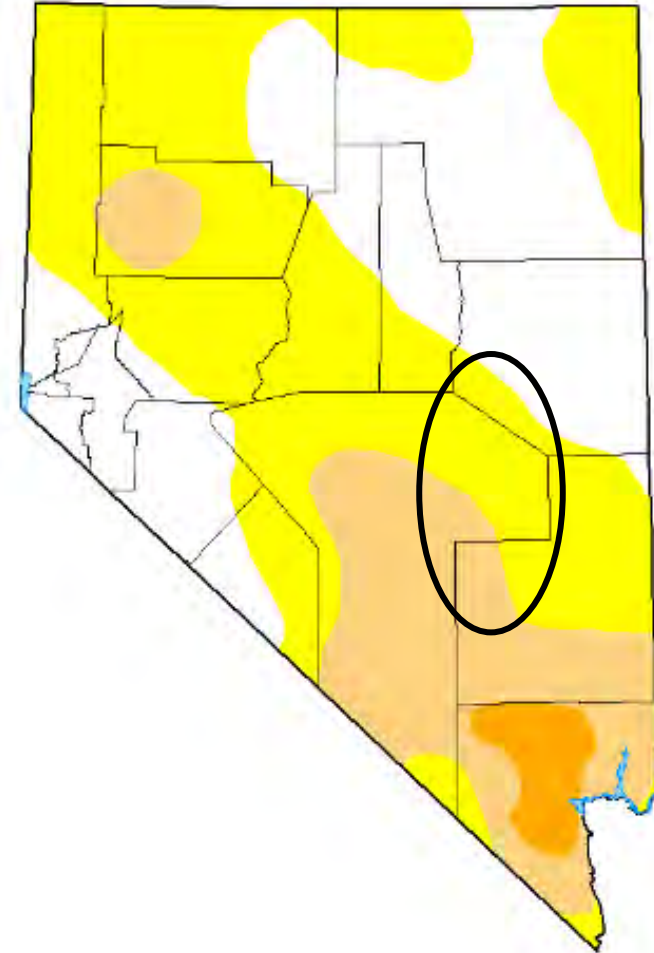
Intensity:

	None
	D0 Abnormally Dry
	D1 Moderate Drought
	D2 Severe Drought
	D3 Extreme Drought
	D4 Exceptional Drought

Climate

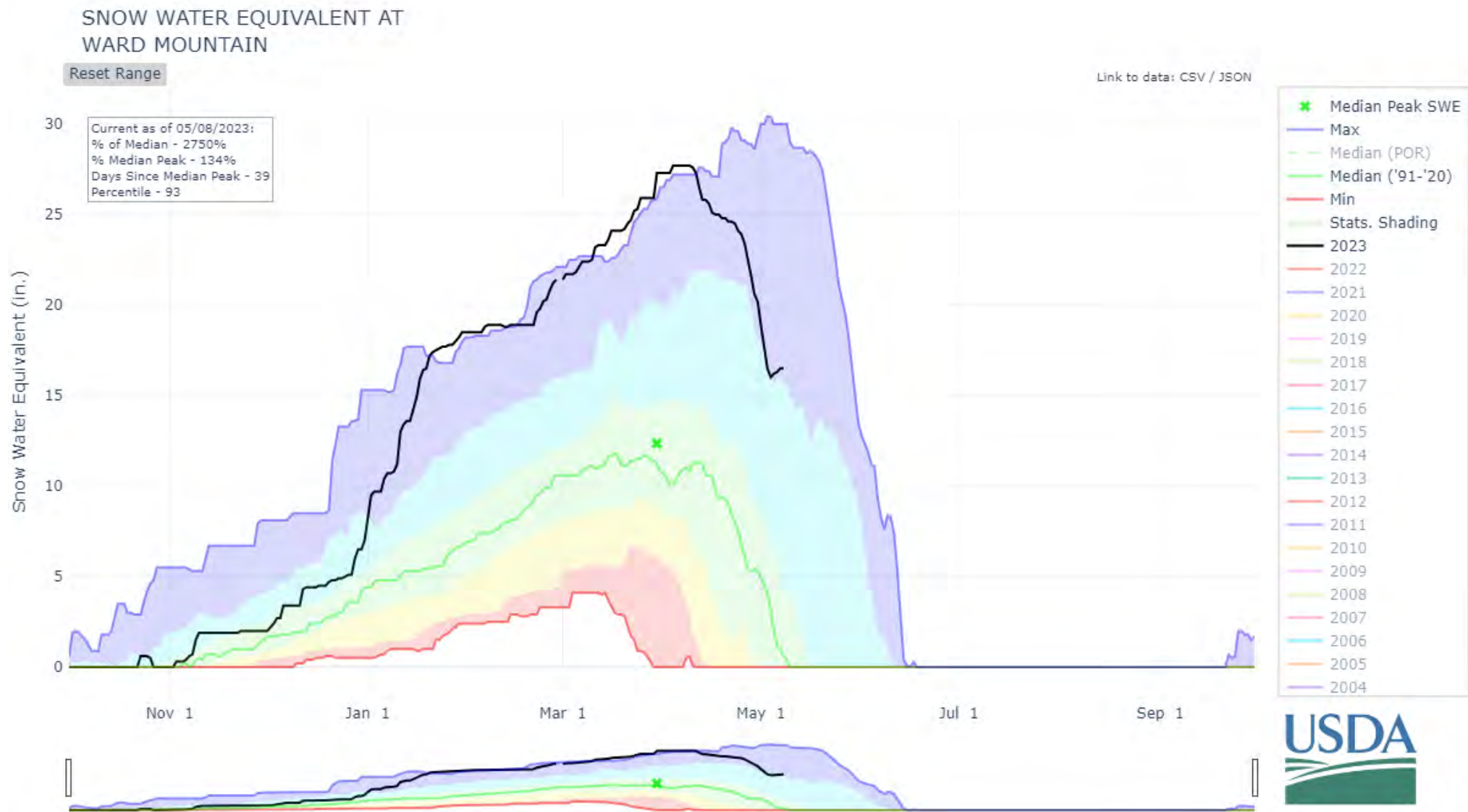


May 3, 2022

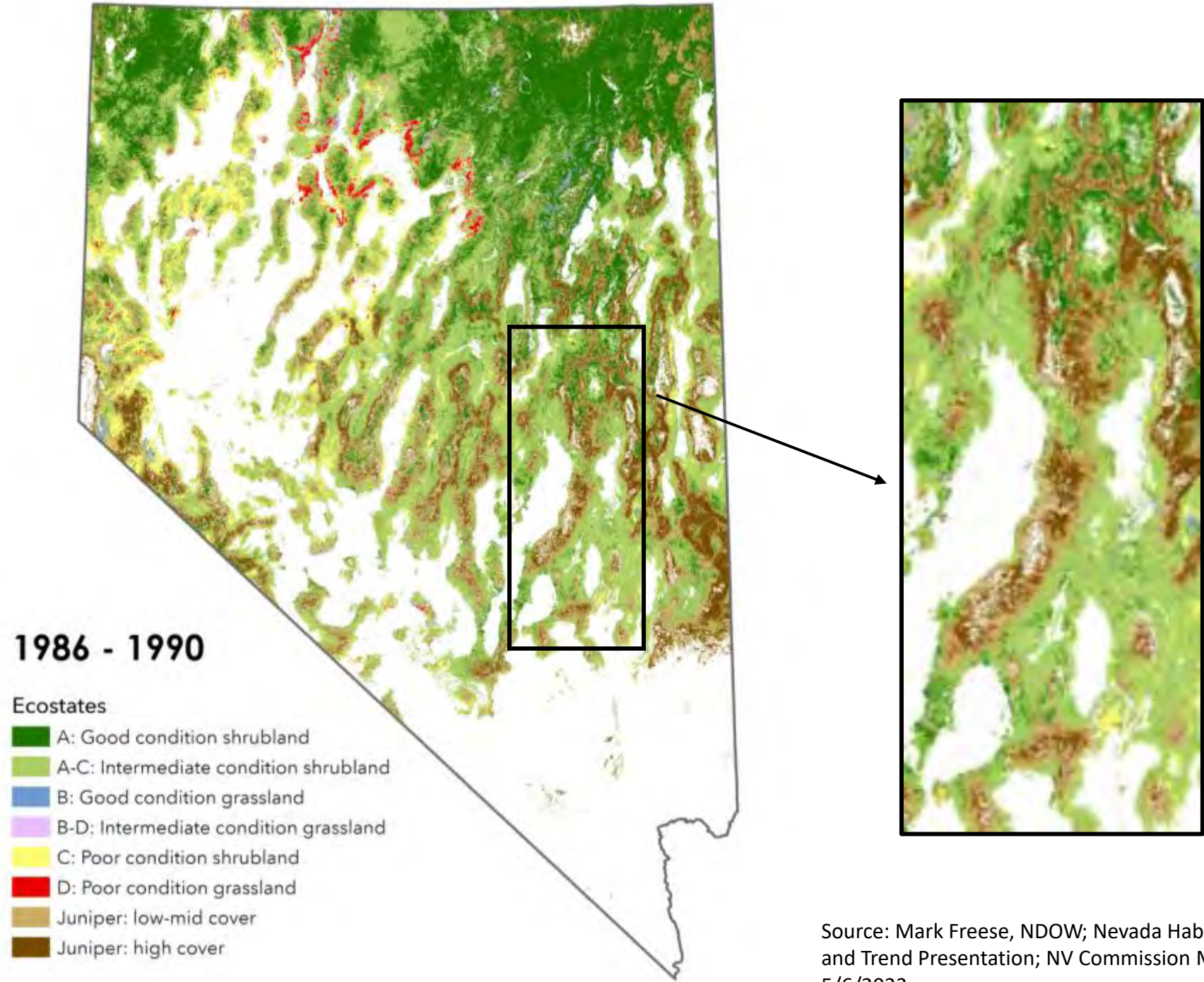


May 2, 2023

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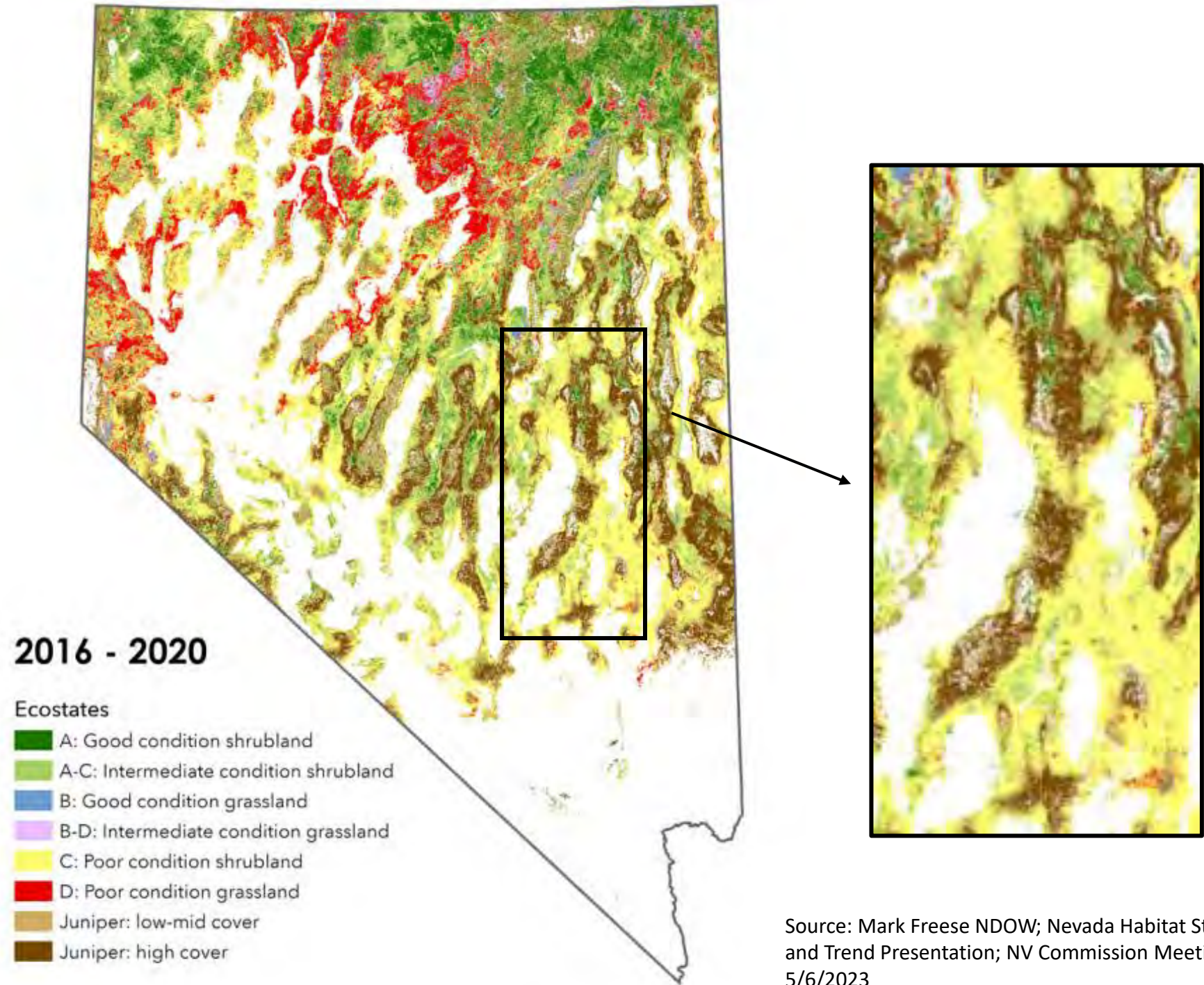


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Source: Mark Freese, NDOW; Nevada Habitat Status and Trend Presentation; NV Commission Meeting 5/6/2023

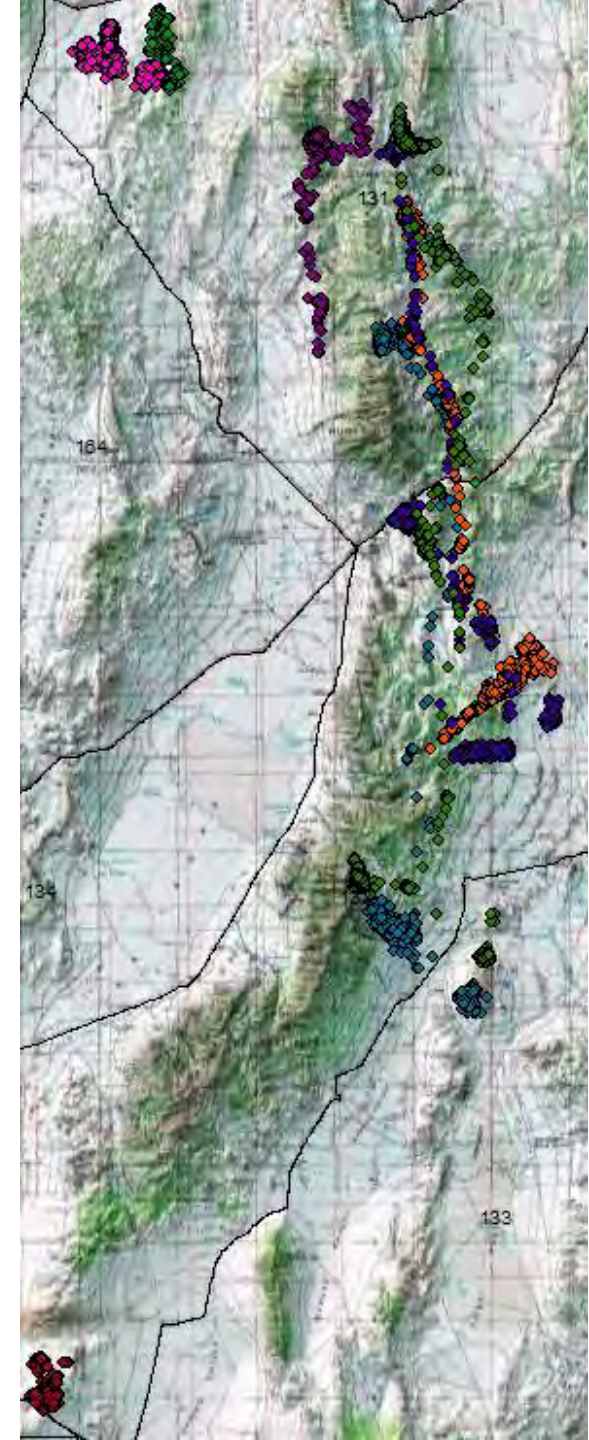
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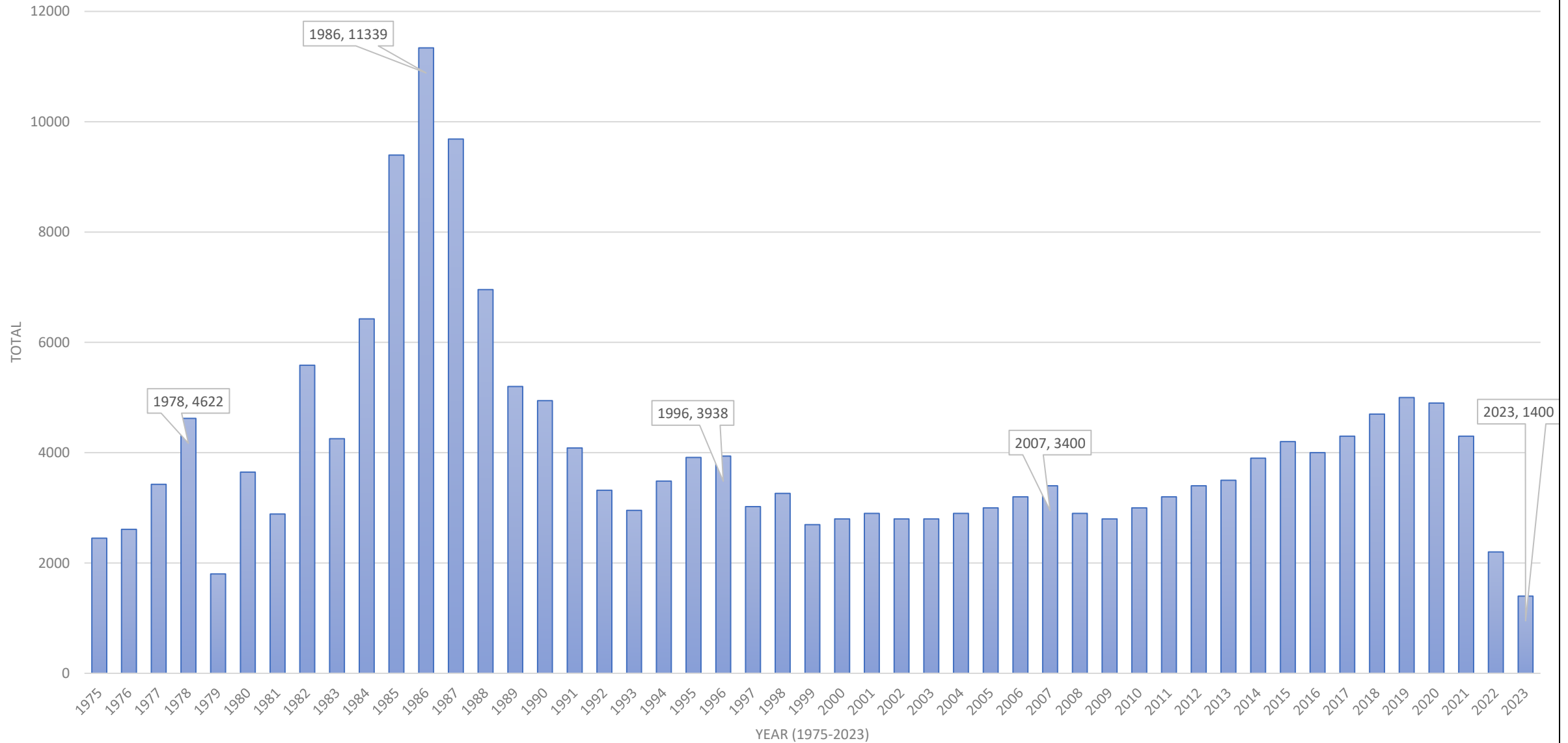
Source: Mark Freese NDOW; Nevada Habitat Status and Trend Presentation; NV Commission Meeting 5/6/2023

Radio Collared Deer in MA13

- 10 collared does 2017-2020 (low sample size)
 - **Clear migration corridor and stop over locations for focus in respect to potential projects**
 - Currant Hills, Ellison Knobs, Douglas Hills, E. Horse Range (Upper and Lower Cove, Perish Springs), Scofield Bench, N. Golden Gate Range
 - Using similar areas as observed on aerial surveys
 - Sample size not large enough to properly evaluate space use and resource selection
 - The upcoming collaring project will provide more up to date movement and seasonal use data



Management Area 13 Population Estimates Mule Deer



Population Metrics

- In November, a post season survey was conducted, however there was serious question regarding the accuracy of the data.
- A post season survey will be prioritized this fall.
- A model adjustment was made to more accurately reflect recent sex and age ratios observed on survey.
- Reduction in quotas to address impacts of the above average winter and to target the post-season management objective of 35 bucks:100 does.
- White Pine CAB and the Commission approved of these quota recommendations.

Unit Group: 131-134							Date Prepared: 3/29/2023							
Herd Results														
Year	Fall Survey			Total	Spring Survey		Total	Postseason Ratios (observed)			Spring Ratio (obs)	Modeled Buck Ratio		Pop Est (Sept)
	Buck	Doe	Fawn		Adult	Fawn		Buck	Fawn	F:Ad	F:Ad	Postseas	Preseas	
2020-2021				0	482	121	603	--	--	--	25	40	48	4,300
2021-2022	31	157	59	247	373	96	469	20	38	31	26	21	32	2,200
2022-2023				0	394	122	516	--	--	--	31	26	37	1,400
Harvest Results														
Year	Archery Success (%)		Muzzleloader Success (%)	Any-Legal-Weapon Success (%)			Avg. Age	4-Pt or Greater (%)	Total Antlerless Harvest	NR Guided Success (%)	Junior Success (%)	Comp Tag Success (%)		
	E	L		E	M	L								
2020-2021	52%	0%	51%	32%	0%	38%		32%	20	57%	60%	64%		
2021-2022	27%	0%	30%	29%	0%	31%		27%	32	60%	58%	30%		
2022-2023	50%	0%	20%	56%	0%	25%		43%	2	55%	56%	0%		
Approved (Previous Year) and Recommended (Current Year) Tag Quota														
Year	Archery Hunt		Muzzleloader Hunt		Early ALW Hunt		Mid ALW Hunt		Late ALW Hunt		Antlerless Hunt	Junior Hunt	NR Guided Hunt	Comp Tags
	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	NR	RES	RES		
2021-2022	60	6	35	4	300	20	0	0	30	2	0	170	14,2	8
2022-2023	6	2	5	2	45	2	0	0	4	2	0	20	13,2	4
2023-2024	4	1	3	1	25	2	0	0	3	1	0	8	6,2	5
Tag Trend	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	=	=	=	DEC	DEC	=	DEC	INC	INC

Limiting Factors

- Based on the team's 2022 Limiting Factor sheet:
 1. Improper Grazing – Wild horses
 2. Climate/Weather
 3. Pinyon-Juniper (Conifer) Invasion
 4. Limited Water Distribution
 5. Wild Horse and Burro Act

2022 Project Proposal Updates

- Mgt. Area 13 Mule Deer Collaring
 - A Heritage proposal was submitted in early March asking for \$60,000 to support the deployment of 20 collars
 - An additional 10 collars will be funded through a federal grant (total of 30 collars).
 - Heritage Meeting was 5/4/2023
 - The collaring project was approved by the Heritage Committee and approved by the Commission on 5/5/2023.
 - Collaring will occur this winter and updates will be given to the group regarding potential volunteer opportunities.
- Northern Golden Gate Guzzlers Range Guzzler Series
 - NEPA process in progress.
- Currant to Upper Perish Habitat Enhancement
 - NEPA Process?
 - Justin – update?

Questions and Discussion

- Discussion Points:
 - Limiting Factor Ranking Sheet/Needs Assessment Worksheet (Next Meeting)
 - Field trip location and date
 - Potential project proposal ideas
 - Any BLM, FS, White Pine County, Mining, etc. project updates and/or potential projects/plans