Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

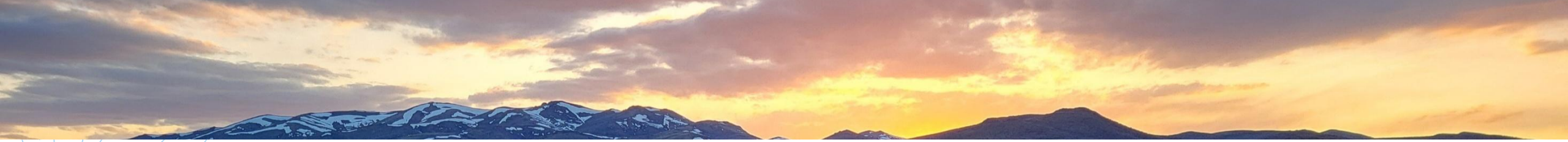
Nevada Conservation Credit System

November 6, 2026

Presented by

Kathleen Steele, Program Manager

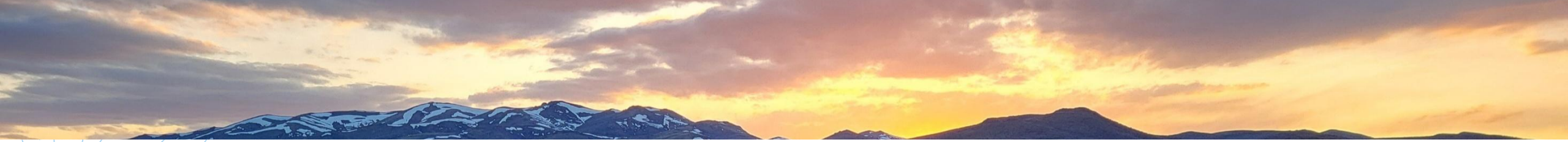




Federal Actions – Nevada Response

- **March 2010 – FWS determined Greater Sage-grouse were "warranted but precluded" from ESA listing**

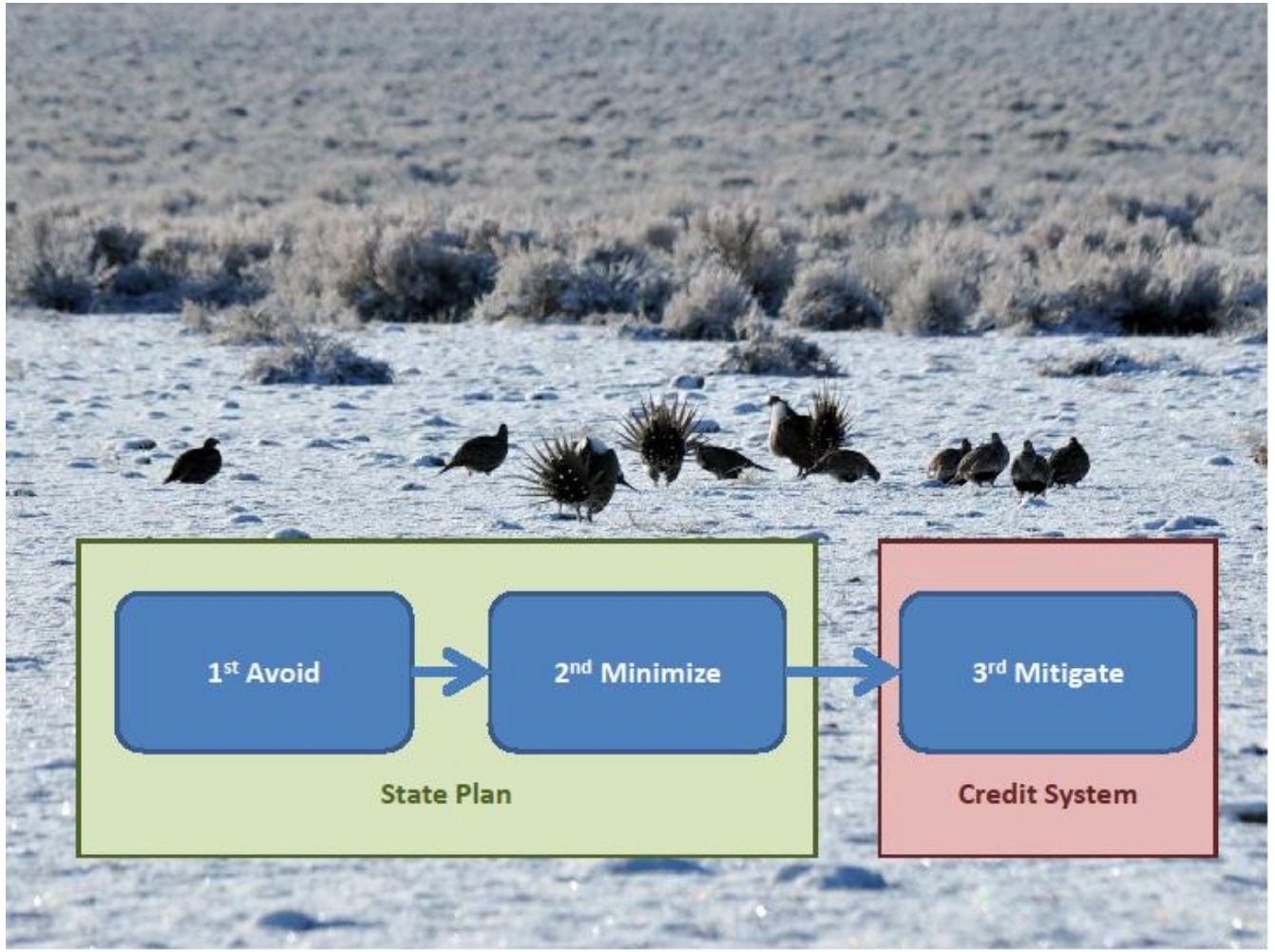
- BLM and USFS began to revise existing Land Use Plans (LUP) in late 2011
- March 2012 – Governor created the Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (EO 2012-09)
- July 2012 – Recommendations to the Governor for sage-grouse conservation in Nevada approved
- November 2012 – Governor established Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (EO 2012-19)
- June 2013 – AB 461 became law (NRS 232.162)



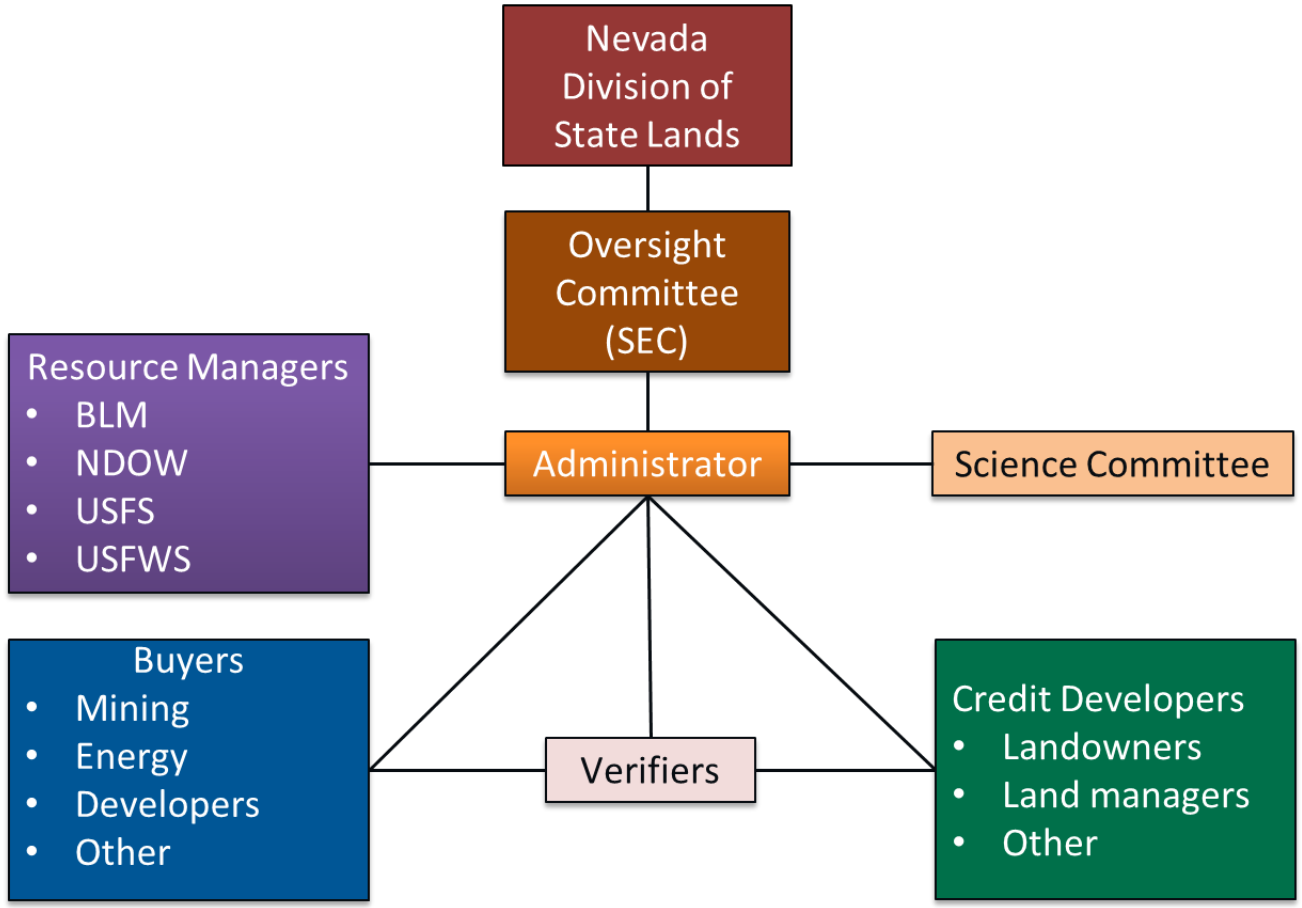
Federal Actions – Nevada Response

- **December 2014 – Sagebrush Ecosystem Council adopts the State Plan & Conservation Credit System**
- September 22, 2015 – FWS determined that Greater Sage-grouse were not warranted for listing
- FWS are currently conducting a status review
- December 2018 – IM 2019-018 is issued restricting compensatory mitigation by the BLM
- December 2018 – Nevada requires compensatory mitigation using the CCS (EO 2018-32)
- **October 2019 – Permanent mitigation regulation approved**

Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate



Organizational Structure



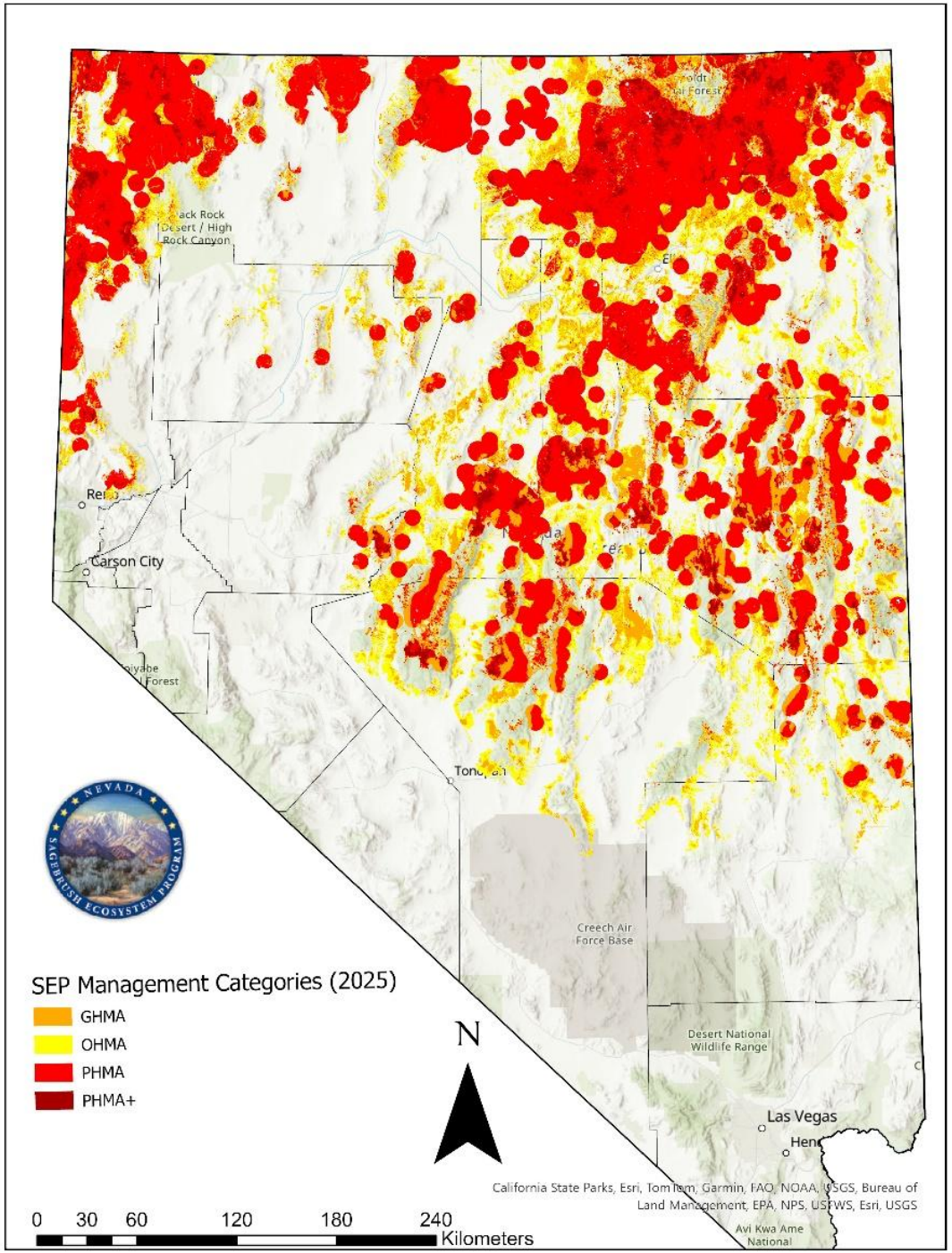


Conservation Credit System (CCS) Goal

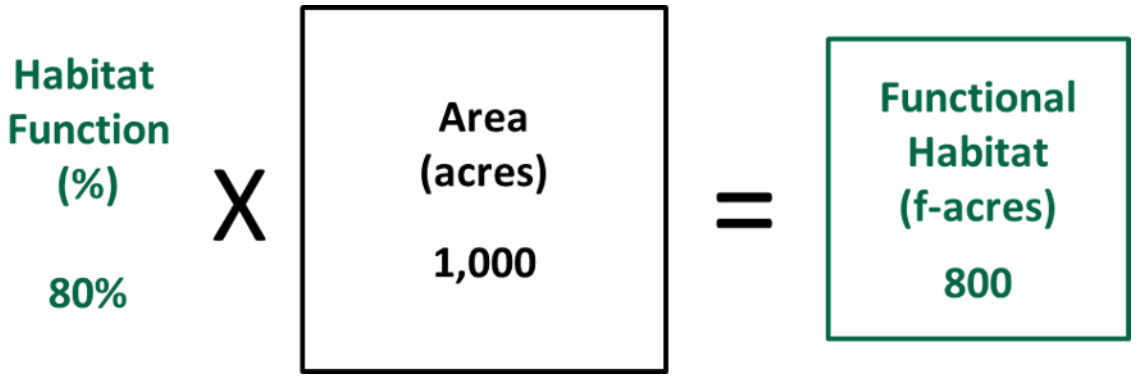
To offset impacts from certain man-made disturbances through enhancement and protection that results in conservation for greater sage-grouse habitats in the state of Nevada

Compensatory Mitigation

- **Conservation Credit System**
  - First of its kind
  - Calculates the loss of habitat function (debits)
    - Direct and indirect impacts
    - EIS, EA, CE, DNA, etc.
    - Projects can affect GRSG habitat up to 6km away
  - Replaces the debits with habitat gain (credits)
    - Preserving intact land for a period
    - Restoring and maintaining degraded land



Nevada CCS Overview



- Measures habitat value in units of functional acres (quality and quantity)
- **Credits** are the currency of the CCS
- **Credits** are used to offset **debits**. The same methods are used to determine both
- Credit Developers sell credits directly to Credit Buyers or Credit Buyers can create their own credits
  - The price of credits is determined by free market forces
  - Public land restoration projects encouraged
    - Meet early

Anthropogenic Disturbances

Table 2. Anthropogenic features considered by the Credit System with assigned weights and distances

DISTURBANCE TYPE	SUBTYPE*	WEIGHT (%)	DISTANCE (Miles (Kilometers))
Towers	Communications	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Meteorological	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Power Lines[1]	Nest Facilitating	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Non-Nest Facilitating	25%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Mines	Active – Large (≥ 60 acres)	100%	3.73 miles (6km)
	Active – Small (< 60 acres)	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Inactive – Large (≥ 60 acres)	50%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Inactive – Small (< 60 acres)	10%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Ancillary – Large	50%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Ancillary – Small	50%	0.93 miles (1.5 km)
Oil & Gas Wells	Producing	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Non-producing	0%	0 miles (0 km)
Urban, Suburban & Ex-urban Development[2]	Med-High	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Low	75%	1.86 miles (3 km)
Roads	Interstate/4-lane	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	2-lane Paved & High-use Improved; Commercial	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Low-use Improved; Local	25%	0.62 miles (1 km)
Railways	Railway	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
Renewable	Geothermal	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Ancillary – Geothermal	50%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Solar	25%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Wind	25%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Linear Rights of Way	LROW High	50%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	LROW Low	25%	0.31 miles (0.5 km)
Mineral Exploration[3]	Exploration	100%	0 miles (0 km)

Debit Project Duration

- **Temporary disturbances** must mitigate until the disturbance ceases + 10 years (reclamation), in increments of 5. Each mitigation transaction will have a term. The minimum term available is 30 years. Debit terms must match credit terms.
- **Exploration only requires** a minimum 10-year term; Limited to direct disturbance
- **Permanent disturbances** can be offset by permanent credits or credits with 30-year commitments may be used with a 4x multiplier.
- At least 1/3 of the debits must be satisfied prior to breaking ground
  - The remainder must be satisfied within 10 years (3 for exploration)
- Letter is provided to prove each phase (or the whole obligation) is fulfilled to allow the project to move forward

Credit Projects - Preservation

Lock away intact high-quality private land landscapes

- Minimum of 30 years
- Prevents development
- Ensures correct management
- Monitoring is required annually and reverification every 15 years



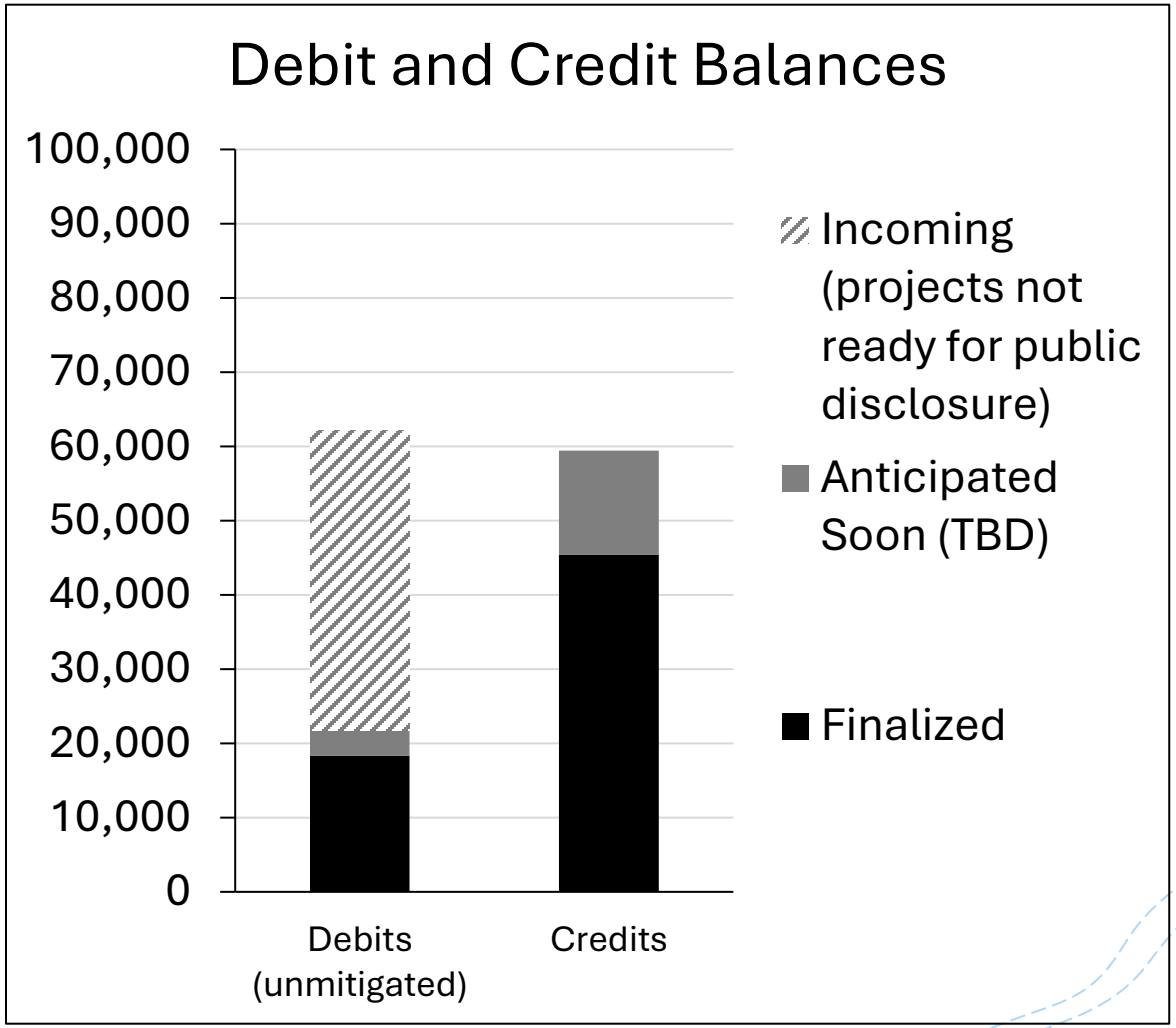


Credit Projects - Restoration

- Improve lost or degraded habitat
  - PJ removal
  - Meadow enhancements
  - Post-fire restoration
  - Annual Invasive Weeds Treatments
  - Minimum of 30 years
  - Monitoring is required annually and reverification every 15 years

Statistics

- 35 **Credit Projects** – preservation/restoration
  - >147,000 acres managed for GRSG
- 3 **Restoration Projects** on public lands
  - In planning stages
- 23 **Debit Projects** – working on mitigation
  - >18,000 debits estimated
- >100 **Mitigation Transactions**
  - >82,000 acres conserved



Thank You

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Find more at
https://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/

