

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fire and Invasives State Work Group Participants

FROM: INR Staff

**SUBJECT: July Fire and
Invasives State Working Group**

DATE: July 26, 2013

This memo follows up on the July 25th meeting of the Fire and Invasives State Working Group. The memo includes the following: (1) identified action items and (2) brief meeting summary

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Location	Potential Agenda Items
Fire and Invasives State Working Group	September 19, 2013	Prineville, OR	Updated Work Plan

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Who	Date
Review and send comments and edits for work plans, add in column with key questions for work group.	All participants	Prior to September Meeting
Share Local Implementation Team Action Areas	ODFW	September Meeting
Report findings of ODFW fire response study	ODFW	September Meeting
Collect GIS data to populate the work groups' fire and invasives layers for future discussion and analysis	*Brian Pew and Joan Suther can provide quality/quantity data for private fire-fighting equipment	Ongoing

Provide links to other state conservation plans, great basin and WAFWA efforts	Eric Rickerson and Ken Mayer	Ongoing
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BRIEF MEETING SUMMARY

Ken Mayer, Fire and Invasive Work Group technical lead

Ken Mayer has been in wildlife management since 1980 and worked in a variety of fields and geographies in the West. He started as a wildlife range ecologist in the forests of California during the spotted owl tensions, worked in deer management and spent many years in Wyoming in sagebrush habitat then moved to oil and spill prevention after Exxon Valdez. Currently Ken is Chairman of the AFWA Executive Sage Grouse Committee which oversaw the development of the National Technical Team and Conservation Opportunity and Threats Reports. Ken is also on contract to coordinate rangewide great basin wildfire and invasives work which is broader than the discussion at this work group but related in terms of the evolving science and framework. Ken was called to Oregon to help facilitate this working group and develop the state plan component related to fire and invasives to ensure consistency with regional and national efforts.

Ken's presentation of WAFWA Wildfire Work Group Progress

- Not recreating goals, bringing collective wisdom of group and initiating collaborative assessment of management options. How great basin should be managed to control wildfire and spread of invasives.
- Not just sage grouse 20+ sagebrush obligates including pygmy rabbit
- Assess existing management actions and identify critical information gaps; 45 day rapid gap assessment, seeing more issues with disconnect between national policy and local implementation needs because of lack of flexibility.
- Developing conceptual ecological model to move forward in great basin as fire actions not always connected to ecological conditions. High need to better understand wildfire issues and science.
- 95-97% of fires being put out in Oregon, there's some conditions we can't control/stop fires from burning.

Ken encouraged participants to contact him with any follow up questions or information from these discussions, see contact info below:

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Reno, NV 89507
(775) 741-9942
K. E. Mayer, LLC

Discussion: Draft Work Plan, Jamie Damon OSN Sage Grouse Project Manager

First discussion about what the work plan should be,

1. In your opinion, what are the primary objectives of the Work Group?
2. What are the key questions the Work Group needs to answer?
3. What is your role in the work group to address these questions and meet these objectives?
 - Overall, if we develop a draft plan by the end of 2013, we can coordinate with the BLM in January-March 2014 EIS process for consistency with the Final EIS due Fall 2014. By syncing processes, the state will be on track with the September 2015 review by USFWS. Remember that FWS has already determined the listing status was warranted, important to show what has changed between 2010-2015.
 - Need to refine work plan to connect directly to COT Report since the service will use that report to link threats to PAC's. Overlay Local Implementation Team action areas to address variation across the landscape and establish funding priorities and list of responsible organizations/agencies and private landowners.
 - Starting point should be ODFW Conservation Strategy as many folks in this room worked on that document together, the next step there is to provide teeth to it for implementation to reduce threats in and around core habitat. Highlight what has changed to help Oregon maintain control of species to demonstrate success stories. Need to get specific about how many acres have been/will be treated. Monitoring should be in the plan as well to show FWS formal and informal mechanisms for adjusting actions.
 - Identify best practices that are preventative as well as reactive (when necessary). To accelerate fire and invasives prevention on private and public lands, need education beyond the experts to communicate issues and document success for FWS.
 - How many acres, rate of treatment to maintain status quo and what are the priority geographies?
 - Relate fire work to mitigation to be explicit about the logic on how treatments will benefit sage grouse. Utilize best science for policy frameworks.
 - The threat of invasives is a real crisis and advancing at an alarming rate. Deep frustration with lack of federal action on invasives as permittees are limited in their management options especially because of the controls on herbicide and public agencies are not addressing the problem at a meaningful scale if at all.
 - Work with private landowners to provide resources on the ground to move plant communities towards natives to break fire cycle.
 - Emphasize cost effectiveness of prevention to save money in the long run.
 - Strong interest in enhancing capacity and support for RFLPA.
 - Set up reporting mechanisms to report all implementation with effectiveness rating to share across agencies.

- Opportunity for collaborative discussion to tee up priorities beyond state plan if we find common ground that will take longer, we should capture those ideas to build ongoing partnerships based on shared goals. Not just way to report to FWS but also framework for open communication around conservation and resource issues also longer term opportunities to communicate with funders and share success stories.

Attendance

Angela Sitz, USFWS

Bob Hooton, ODFW

Bob Skinner, OCA

Brian Pew, ODF

Bruce Taylor, Defenders of Wildlife

Cathy MacDonald, TNC

Chad Boyd, USDA

Chad Karges, USFWS

Dawn Davis, ODFW

Eric Rickerson, ODFW

Garth Fuller, TNC

Jamie Damon, Governor's Office

Jay Kerby, TNC

Jeremy Maestas, NRCS

Joan Suther, BLM

John O'Keefe, OCA

Ken Mayer, WAFWA

Lanny Quackenbush, DSL

Marty Goold, Harney SWCD

Meta Looftsgaarden, OWEB

Richard Whitman, Governor's Office

Sara Obrien, Defenders of Wildlife

Satcy Davies, OCA

Theresa Burcsu, Institute for Natural Resources

Toby White, BLM

Tony Svejcar, ARS

Turner Odell, Oregon Consensus

Zola Ryan, NRCS

On the Phone :

Chip Dale, ODFW

Chris Hanson ONDA

Evyann Jarvis, Idaho Power

Jimmy Kagan, INR

Kris Babbs, ODF

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge