From: Kenneth E Mayer
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: how does this strike you...
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013 9:25:50 PM
Attachments: Walsh Draft Invasive annual grass.docx

Noreen--attached please find a few edits.

KM

Ken Mayer
P.O. Box 9891
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 741-9942
K. E. Mayer, LLC

On Thu, Sep 12, 2013 at 6:56 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

> Can you offer what?
>
> If you mean can you edit it – please do!
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ken [mailto:ken.e.mayer@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2013 7:54 PM
> **To:** Noreen Walsh
> **Subject:** Re: how does this strike you...
>
> I liked it! Can I offer a get ideas?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Sep 12, 2013, at 6:33 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:
>
> > Yes
> >
> > I'm looking for a layperson type explanation…….compelling but not technical, grabs ya but doesn't over-exaggerate, etc – you get the idea
> >
> > **From:** Kenneth E Mayer [mailto:ken.e.mayer@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2013 7:31 PM

To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: FW: how does this strike you…

Yes--did you write it?

KM

Ken Mayer
P.O. Box 9891
Reno, NV 89507
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On Thu, Sep 12, 2013 at 6:27 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

Is this what you deleted?

I keep doing that on my i-phone…….one stray finger and whoooooop, it's in the trashcan!

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 6:04 PM
To: Ken Mayer (Ken.e.mayer@gmail.com)
Subject: how does this strike you…

….as something a lay person could understand?

Invasive grass/Increased Fire Frequency

The sage-steppe ecosystem in the Great Basin is an ecosystem in decline, some would say trending towards collapse. The primary threat is the encroachment of invasive annual grasses (cheatgrass) which leads to an increased frequency of wildfire compared to historical averages.

Not all fire is bad, and some wildfire has always occurred. The problem arises when it is being fueled by these fine annual grasses at a much more frequent pace, and therefore sagebrush and native perennial grasses cannot restore themselves.

The threat posed by this cycle of invasive annuals and increased wildfire is well recognized and there is much activity. We have known of this problem for a while: From a 1999 symposium on sage-steppe restoration: *"… noxious weeds are in the forefront of our management today because of their potential to degrade or dominate disturbed sagebrush steppe rangelands. …a healthy, intact sagebrush landscape is more resistant to the invasion of at least some noxious weeds."*

Activity and interest has ramped up again with the sage-grouse listing determination. However, even today the activity is not yet cohesive, coordinated , or integrated – which will be necessary to prevent the collapse of the Great Basin ecosystem into a state dominated by exotic invasive grasses. This will not be good for any of the native species.

We likely cannot completely eradicate the problem. It's like a disease we can treat and manage and live with, if we can bring all the players together to:

- Stop the spread of cheatgrass
- Prevent and suppress wildfire in the most important places for sage-grouse
- Become more skilled at restoration of sagebrush communities post-burn

This will require a coordinated, cohesive, multi-agency, integrated approach.

Invasive annual grass/Increased Fire Frequency

The sage-steppe ecosystem found in the Great Basin is an ecosystem in decline, some would say trending towards collapse. Recently, the sage-steppe was recognized as one of the most imperiled ecosystems in America. The primary threat to this rich and diverse ecosystem is the encroachment of invasive annual grasses (primarily cheatgrass) that~~which~~ leads to an increased frequency of wildfire as compared to historical averages.

Not all fire is bad. In fact it is a natural part of the ecosystem~~, and some wildfire has always occurred~~. ~~—~~The problem is this naturally occurring event~~arises when it~~ is being exaggerated ~~fueled~~ by the~~se~~ fine fuels the invasive annual grasses create. Therefore, fire is much more frequent and intense than under natural conditions. These~~at a much more~~ frequent fires destroy the ~~pace, and therefore~~ sagebrush and native perennial grasses beyond a point where they can~~not~~ restore themselves.

The threat posed by this cycle of invasive annuals and increased wildfire is well recognized and there is much activity directed to address the problem. We have been aware ~~known~~ of this problem for a while: From a 1999 symposium on sage-steppe restoration: *"… noxious weeds are in the forefront of our management today because of their potential to degrade or dominate disturbed sagebrush steppe rangelands. …a healthy, intact sagebrush landscape is more resistant to the invasion of at least some noxious weeds."*

Activity and interest in combating these invasive annual grasses has ramped up again with the sage-grouse listing determination. However, even today these activities~~y~~ are~~is not~~ yet to be cohesive, coordinated , or integrated – which will be necessary to prevent the collapse of the Great Basin ecosystems where ~~into a state dominated by~~ exotic invasive annual grasses dominate. This will not be good for any of the native wildlife species that depend on the sagebrush-steppe habitats.

We likely cannot completely eradicate the problem. It's much like a disease~~—~~we can't cure it so we have to ~~can~~ treat, ~~and~~ manage and learn how live with it. Thus, we must~~, if we can~~ bring all the players together to:

- Manage ~~Stop~~ the spread of cheatgrass.

- Prevent and suppress wildfire in the most important places for sage-grouse.
- Become more skilled at restoration of sagebrush communities post-burn
  - Become willing and able to adapt programs, as we learn how to effectively manage and control invasive annuals.

To be successful, t~~T~~his will require a coordinated, cohesive, multi-agency, integrated approach.

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