From: Ken
To: Noreen Walsh
Subject: Re: how does this strike you...
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013 8:01:13 PM

BTW you shocked me on Tuesday when you said you thought I called you a regulator I would never do that! I have way to much respect for you.

Cheers!

Sent from my iPhone

On 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
> > (775) 741-9942
> > K. E. Mayer, LLC
> >
> > 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.