From:	Bogard, Lauren
To:	Sarri, Kristen (Kris)
Cc:	Bean, Michael; Gavin Shire; Blake Androff; Kimberly Thorsen; James Douglas; Janice Schneider; Ronald Dunton; Press_Review; James Lyons; Sarah Greenberger; Dan Ashe; Betsy Hildebrandt; Gary Frazer; Theodore Stein; Neil Kornze; Linda Lance; Steven Ellis; James Anderson; Celia Boddington; Craig Leff; Jeff Krauss; Noreen Walsh; dailybriefingbinder OS; Jennifer Gimbel; Lori Caramanian; Kevin Washburn; Lawrence Roberts; Jacquelynn Hanley; Nedra Darling; Sarah Harris; Craig Dorsett; Israporn Pananon
Subject:	Re: For Review: Rangeland Fire Secretarial Order Press Release
Date:	Sunday, January 04, 2015 1:36:17 PM
Attachments:	Revised rangeland fire SO Rollout Plan - 1.4.15.doc 2015-01-06_Secretarial Order on Rangeland Fire - DRAFT v3 GS Bean edits kjs jms edits+mlc edits.docx

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Hi everyone,

Per Kris's suggestion, here is a copy of the rollout plan. If you have any edits, suggestions or questions, please send them my way before 12pm tomorrow.

Thanks,

Lauren Bogard
Advisor
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

On Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 2:32 PM, Sarri, Kristen (Kris) <kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> With minor edits to Michael's edits.
>
> Lauren, can you send around the final rollout plan for us to all take one last look at since we will begin notifications on Monday. Thanks!
>
> Happy New Year!
>
>
>
> On Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 1:09 PM, Bean, Michael <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
>> In the attached I have added one edit to those provided by Gary and Gavin, to explain that "priority habitat" and "general habitat" refer to habitat for the greater sage-grouse.
>
>
>
>
>
>> On Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 12:31 PM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>>> A few suggestions from me. Note Greater is not capitalized in the bird's name.
>
>
>
>
>
>>> Gary, in recent outreach we have said we are working "to determine whether the bird *continues to warrant* listing under the ESA" rather than "whether it warrants listing," since we determined warranted listing before when we put it on the Candidate List. OK?

G

Gavin G. Shire

Chief of Public Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Tel: 703-358-2649

Cell: 703-346-9123

gavin_shire@fws.gov

From: Androff, Blake [mailto:blake_androff@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2015 10:26 AM
To: Bogard, Lauren; Kimberly Thorsen; James Douglas; Janice Schneider; Ronald Dunton; Kristen (Kris) Sarri; Press_Review; James Lyons; Sarah Greenberger; Michael Bean; Dan Ashe; Betsy Hildebrandt; Gary Frazer; Gavin Shire; Theodore Stein; Neil Kornze; Linda Lance; Steven Ellis; Jamey Anderson; Celia Boddington; Craig Leff; Jeff Krauss; Noreen Walsh; dailybriefingbinder OS; Jennifer Gimbel; Lori Caramanian; Kevin Washburn; Lawrence Roberts; Jacquelynn Hanley; Nedra Darling; Sarah Harris; Craig Dorsett; Israporn Pananon
Subject: For Review: Rangeland Fire Secretarial Order Press Release

We are currently slated to announce the rangeland fire Secretarial Order on Tuesday, January 6.

Attached and copied below is an updated draft press release. **Please send me your suggested edits no later than 1:00 PM EST on Monday, January 5, if possible.**

Thanks!

Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Date: January 6, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell Launches Comprehensive Strategy to Protect and Restore Sagebrush Lands Threatened by Rangeland Fire

Builds on work with federal, state, tribal and non-government partners to protect economic activity and wildlife habitat vital to maintaining Western way of life

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today issued a Secretarial Order [AB1] calling for a comprehensive set of enhanced strategies, policies and practices for preventing and suppressing rangeland fire and restoring Western sagebrush landscapes damaged by fire, particularly in the Great Basin region, that will begin to be implemented during the 2015 fire season.

"These targeted actions are urgently needed for conserving habitat for the Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife as well as for maintaining economic activity such as ranching and recreation that depend on sagebrush-steppe landscapes in the Great Basin," said Secretary Jewell. "The Secretarial Order further demonstrates our strong commitment to our federal, state, tribal and community partners to work with them proactively and collaboratively to reduce the likelihood and severity of rangeland fire, stem the spread of invasive species and restore the health and resilience of sagebrush ecosystems."

The Secretarial Order establishes a top-level Rangeland Fire Task Force, chaired by Interior's Deputy Secretary and including five assistant secretaries, which will provide a detailed implementation plan by February 1, 2015.

The Task Force will work at all levels with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local entities and non-governmental groups on fire management and habitat restoration activities. This includes enhancing the capability and capacity of all the partners' fire management organizations through improved and expanded education and training. The Task Force also will improve coordination among all partners involved in rangeland fire management to further improve safety and effectiveness.

The Order builds on wildland fire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts to date, including the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which provides a roadmap for achieving "All Hands—All Lands" cooperation across federal, tribal, state and local governments and with non-government partners. Meanwhile, the President's wildland fire funding budget proposal to treat wildfires as the disaster events that they are would provide greater certainty in addressing growing fire suppression needs while better safeguarding prevention and other non-suppression programs.

The accelerated invasion of non-native grasses and the spread of pinyon-juniper across the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, along with drought and the effects of climate change, have increased the threat of rangeland fires to the sagebrush landscape and the more than 350 species of plants and animals, such as mule deer and pronghorn antelope, that rely on this critically important ecosystem. The increasing frequency and intensity of rangeland fire also poses a significant threat to ranchers, livestock managers, sportsmen and outdoor recreation enthusiasts who use the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, and puts at risk their economic contributions across this landscape that support and maintain the American way of life in the West.

The magnitude of this threat and efforts to conserve and protect sagebrush habitat have become significant factors in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's court-ordered 2015 decision regarding a potential listing of the Greater sage-grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The Secretarial Order calls for a strategy that uses risk-based, landscape-scale approaches to identify and spur investments in fuels treatments, fire suppression capabilities, and post-fire stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration in the Great Basin. It will work to reduce the likelihood, size and severity of rangeland fires, addressing the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive species, and committing wildland fire management resources and assets to prepare for and respond to rangeland fires.

Secretary Jewell has worked with Western governors to improve wildland fire-fighting capacity at all levels, highlighting the proactive voluntary partnership with ranchers, farmers and other landowners to conserve the sagebrush landscape on private and public lands. Interior's November 5-7, 2014, conference in Idaho, *The Next Steppe: Sage-grouse and Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin*, brought together fire experts and land managers at the federal, state and local levels who underscored the need for a comprehensive strategy and a landscape-scale approach to rangeland fire suppression and prevention.

At the December 6, 2014, Western Governors' Association winter meeting, Jewell directed her Department's leadership to develop a comprehensive strategy to fight rangeland fire with an eye toward protecting rural communities, sagebrush landscapes and habitats essential to the conservation of the sage grouse and other wildlife. The Secretarial Order being released today lays out the goals and timeline for that West-wide strategy.

"These efforts go hand in hand with Governors, state and local fire authorities and those landowners on the ground to make sure they have the information, training, and tools to more effectively fight the threat of rangeland fires, especially in the Great Basin where these fires have increased in size and intensity in recent years," said Jewell. "To protect these landscapes for economic activity and wildlife like the Greater sage-grouse, we need a three-pronged approach that includes strong federal plans, strong state plans, and an effective plan to address the threat of rangeland fire."

Because about 64 percent of the Greater sage-grouse's 165 million acres of occupied range is on federally managed lands, Interior's Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service are currently analyzing amendments to existing land use plans to incorporate appropriate conservation measures to conserve, enhance, and restore Greater sage-grouse habitat by reducing, eliminating or minimizing threats to the habitat.

State and private lands make up about a third of the priority habitat and more than half of the general habitat. Private lands are critical for the species, often including limited and vitally important riparian and wet-meadow habitat. As part of her efforts with Western governors, Secretary Jewell has encouraged, assisted and highlighted the proactive, voluntary state and federal partnership with ranchers, farmers and other landowners to conserve the sagebrush landscape on private and public lands.

Greater sage-grouse once occupied more than 290 million acres of sagebrush in the

West, but the bird, known for its flamboyant mating ritual, has lost more than half of its habitat since then. Settlers reported that millions of birds once took to the skies; current estimates place population numbers at between 200,000 and 500,000 birds. The species now occurs in 11 states and two Canadian provinces. More information on the Greater sage-grouse and the ongoing, collaborative work to conserve the sagebrush landscape is available at: http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/

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[AB1]Add link to SO PDF

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Michael J. Bean

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Room 7257, Department of the Interior

Washington, DC 20240

202-208-4416

202-208-4684 (fax)

michael_bean@ios.doi.gov

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
U.S. Department of the Interior

www.doi.gov
News Release

Date: January 6, 2015
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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"These targeted actions are ~~urgently needed~~ necessary for conserving habitat for the ~~G~~greater sage-grouse and other wildlife as well as for maintaining economic activity such as ranching and recreation that depend on sagebrush-steppe landscapes in the Great Basin," said Secretary Jewell. "The Secretarial Order further demonstrates our strong commitment to our federal, state, tribal and community partners to work with them proactively and collaboratively to reduce the likelihood and severity of rangeland fire, stem the spread of invasive species and restore the health and resilience of sagebrush ecosystems."

The Secretarial Order establishes a top-level Rangeland Fire Task Force, chaired by Interior's Deputy Secretary Mike Connor, and including five assistant secretaries, which will provide a detailed implementation plan ~~by February 1, 2015~~in February 2015.

The Task Force will work ~~at all levels~~ with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local entities and non-governmental groups on fire management and habitat restoration activities. This includes enhancing the capability and capacity of ~~all the~~our partners' fire management organizations through improved and expanded education and training. The Task Force also will improve coordination among all partners involved in rangeland fire management to further improve safety and effectiveness.

The Order builds on wildland fire prevention, suppression and restoration efforts to date, including the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, a collaborative effort by

Comment [AB1]: Add link to SO PDF

Comment [GGS2]: Perhaps say "…in the Great Basin region of California, Oregon, Nevada and Utah." for those who don't know

Comment [GGS3]: Suggest a period here and a second sentence to follow. Bit of a mouthful otherwise.

Comment [SKJ4]: My concern here is that restoration is a long-term effort so I am a bit concern with "urgent" but I will defer to experts.

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federal, state, local and tribal governments, non-governmental partners and public stakeholders ~~which~~ that provides a roadmap for achieving "~~A~~all ~~H~~hands—~~A~~all ~~L~~lands" cooperation~~ over the next century~~~~across federal, tribal, state and local governments and with non-government partners~~. ~~Meanwhile~~And, the President's wildland fire ~~funding~~ budget proposal to treat wildfires as the disaster events that they are would provide greater certainty in addressing growing fire suppression needs while better safeguarding prevention and other non-suppression programs.

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"These efforts go hand in hand with those of Governors, state, tribal and local fire authorities and th~~os~~e landowners on the ground – including rangeland fire protection associations and rural volunteer fire departments - to make sure they have the information, training~~,~~ and tools to more effectively fight the threat of rangeland fires, especially in the Great Basin where these fires have

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DRAFT Communications and Outreach Plan
Secretary's Order on Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration

Day(s) before – Monday, January 5th:

- Phone calls (*Schedule in advance?)
  - *Governors **[Secretary Jewell/Mike Connor - ?]**
  - WGA Chairs & key staff **[John Blair + Janice Schneider & Jim Lyons]**
  - USDA/USFS: Robert Bonnie (+Jim Hubbard, Tom Harbour) **[Kris Sarri/Jim Lyons]**
  - NRCS: Chief Jason Weller (+Julianna Grogan-Brown) **[?]**
  - WFLC **[Kris Sarri]**

- Share embargoed copy of the SO and press release to encourage supportive statements:
  - The Nature Conservancy: Christy Plumer **[Lauren Bogard]**
  - National Association of State Foresters **[?]**
  - Intertribal Timber Council **[?]**
  - International Association of Firefighters **[Jim Douglas]**
  - National Association of Counties **[Ext.Affairs/Intergovernmental]**

- Share embargoed copy of the SO with select reporters:
  - Boise AP reporter, Keith Ridler **(+phone call with Janice]**
  - Rocky Barker **[Is this confirmed?]**

- Share embargoed copy with senior policy and operations panels from "Next Steppe" conference **[Janice Schneider]**

Day-of – Tuesday, January 6th:

9am EDT:

- Send 2-hr embargoed copy of press release, final SO and fact sheet to: **[OCL/OCO/EA&IG]**
  - WGA
  - Individual Governors & key staff (Otter, Herbert, Sandoval, Kitzhaber)
  - Members of Congress & staff (same outreach list as Stephenne's notification email for the Next Steppe conference)
  - Stakeholder groups
  - FIAT leads?

11am EDT

- Issue Interior press release, final SO and fact sheet **[DOI OCO]**
- Internal notifications: OWF, BLM, NPS, BIA, FWS + USGS (DC and regional/state-level notifications) ***Jim Douglas and Ron, are you coordinating these notifications?**
- Share with all "Next Steppe" conference participants **[Ron Dunton?]**

Contacts:

WGA

- Governor Sandoval (+Michon Martens, Leo Drozdoff)
- Governor Kitzhaber (+Brett Brownsecombe)
- Governor Herbert (+Kathleen Clarke, Allen Clark)
- Governor Otter (+Virgil Moore, Cally Younger)
- Jim Ogsbury
- Sage-grouse Task Force?

Hill **[Stephenne/Janou]**

- Members from Great Basin states (ID, NV, OR + UT)
- SENR/HNR
- House and Senate leadership
- House & Senate Interior appropriations (?)

Stakeholders

Fire Districts & Fire Managers **[Jim Douglas and Ron Dunton]**

- Rural Fire Departments
- Rangeland Fire Protection Associations
- Western Fire Leadership Coalition

Environment/Public Lands/Outdoor recreation Groups **[EA&IG]**

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Public Lands Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Agriculture groups: **[EA&IG]**

- Public Lands Council
- *Ranchers & livestock association(s)…?

Press **[OCO]**

- Reporters with fire/sage-grouse portfolio
- Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Oregon media outlets