From: Boyd, Chad
To: Ielmini, Michael -FS; mpellant@blm.gov; Todd Hopkins; Amarina Wuenschel; cmccarth01@gmail.com; Pyke, David; Douglas W Havlina; Chambers, Jeanne -FS; Maestas, Jeremy - NRCS, Redmond, OR; lou_ballard@fws.gov; Melvin Tague; sharphay@att.net; Steve Knick; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Tom Rinkes; Mike Gregg; Mark, Chuck -FS; Theisen, Chris -FS; David Repass; Donald J Major; Stein, Glen -FS; Jesse DElia; Ken Collum; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Kurth, Laurie -FS; Peggy Olwell; Tate Fischer; Ted Koch
Subject: RE: Finally- Full Draft FIAT Document
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 2:29:42 PM
Attachments: image001.png

My bias would be to weave them in under the auspices of fuels management…which may already be covered sufficiently in the FIAT document? The problem becomes one of background research to add defensibility. There is some work looking at, for example, grazing as a tool for modifying fuel amount/structure, but the papers are few and far between. Maybe this becomes more of an issue for the WAFWA group in pointing to the need for more concrete research-based guidance on this issue?

Chad

From: Ielmini, Michael -FS [mailto:mielmini@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 2:23 PM
To: Boyd, Chad; mpellant@blm.gov; Todd Hopkins; Amarina Wuenschel; cmccarth01@gmail.com; Pyke, David; Douglas W Havlina; Chambers, Jeanne -FS; Maestas, Jeremy - NRCS, Redmond, OR; lou_ballard@fws.gov; Melvin Tague; sharphay@att.net; Steve Knick; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Tom Rinkes; Mike Gregg; Mark, Chuck -FS; Theisen, Chris -FS; David Repass; Donald J Major; Stein, Glen -FS; Jesse DElia; Ken Collum; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Kurth, Laurie -FS; Peggy Olwell; Tate Fischer; Ted Koch
Subject: RE: Finally- Full Draft FIAT Document

Chad, very well said. I strongly believe in the notion of prevention (preemptive management) as part of the best long-term strategy. As bad as conditions are today, we can still make a difference for those areas still somewhat intact. Sometimes I sense it is easier to be reactive (racing to put out the fire and restore the areas after), than to defend the need for funding to prevent the threat altogether. How best can we incorporate these notions into the FIAT document, and complement the direction it is currently flowing? Is it possible to weave these ideas in?

Mike

From: Boyd, Chad [mailto:chad.boyd@oregonstate.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 5:16 PM
To: Ielmini, Michael -FS; mpellant@blm.gov; Todd Hopkins; Amarina Wuenschel; cmccarth01@gmail.com; david_a_pyke@usgs.gov; Douglas W Havlina; Chambers, Jeanne -FS; Maestas, Jeremy - NRCS, Redmond, OR; lou_ballard@fws.gov; Melvin Tague; sharphay@att.net; Steve Knick; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Tom Rinkes; Mike Gregg; Mark, Chuck -FS; Theisen, Chris -FS; David Repass; Donald J Major; Stein, Glen -FS; Jesse DElia; Ken Collum; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Kurth, Laurie -FS; Peggy Olwell; Tate Fischer; Ted Koch
Subject: RE: Finally- Full Draft FIAT Document

I agree Mike. If we wait until there's a problem (e.g., annual grasses) then we know that the odds fixing said problem are low and the cost is high. This is an area where we haven't put enough

resources or done adequate research. We have some ongoing research looking at "preemptive restoration" practices involving modifying fuel composition/structure to reduce perennial grass mortality during fire and preliminary results are encouraging. Elevating the status of pre-emptively dealing with restoration challenges by including them in the invasives document would be a step in the right direction and would help give credence to this issue.

Chad

From: Ielmini, Michael -FS [mailto:mielmini@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 2:03 PM
To: mpellant@blm.gov; Todd Hopkins; Amarina Wuenschel; Boyd, Chad; cmccarth01@gmail.com; Pyke, David; Douglas W Havlina; Chambers, Jeanne -FS; Maestas, Jeremy - NRCS, Redmond, OR; lou_ballard@fws.gov; Melvin Tague; sharphay@att.net; Steve Knick; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Tom Rinkes; Mike Gregg; Mark, Chuck -FS; Theisen, Chris -FS; David Repass; Donald J Major; Stein, Glen -FS; Jesse DElia; Ken Collum; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Kurth, Laurie -FS; Peggy Olwell; Tate Fischer; Ted Koch
Subject: RE: Finally- Full Draft FIAT Document

Mike,
Just a thought to add about the concept of proactive management approaches…….where would we include invasion prevention and related proactive treatments (other than what is described as 'restoration' and 'recovery'). I'm thinking about the value of interdiction and reducing the spread of invasive species via a proactive focus on invasion pathways and vectors. Equipment, materials, vehicles, etc. etc….We need to stop (or significantly slow) the bleeding. It will be hard to claim restoration success for very long if we don't plug the invasion pipelines. I suggest we need to emphasize this kind of proactive management in this section – as it will probably be a major factor in future work across the distribution of a the bird if it becomes listed.
Thoughts?

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From: Pellant, Michael [mailto:mpellant@blm.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 10:31 AM
To: Todd Hopkins; Amarina Wuenschel; Chad Boyd; cmccarth01@gmail.com; david_a_pyke@usgs.gov; Douglas W Havlina; Chambers, Jeanne -FS; Maestas, Jeremy - NRCS, Redmond, OR; lou_ballard@fws.gov; Melvin Tague; sharphay@att.net; Steve Knick; Metzger, Timothy J -FS; Tom Rinkes; Mike Gregg; Mark, Chuck -FS; Theisen, Chris -FS; David Repass; Donald J Major; Stein, Glen -FS; Jesse DElia; Ken Collum; Krista Gollnick; Lauren Mermejo; Kurth, Laurie -FS; Ielmini, Michael -FS; Peggy Olwell; Tate Fischer; Ted Koch
Subject: Re: Finally- Full Draft FIAT Document

Thanks to all of you that provided (or still are) providing comments on the FIAT process. We (Tom Rinkes and I) are working through the comments now to produce the final draft of the FIAT protocol. I will be sending you short sections of the revised draft for your input. These sections reflect a "significant" revision from the original draft based on one or more of your comments. Below is the first suggested revision from the introduction on Page 2 for your review and input:

Management strategies are types of actions or treatments that managers typically implement and can be divided into “proactive approaches” (fuels management and habitat recovery/restoration) and “reactive approaches” (fire operations and post-fire rehabilitation). Proactive management strategies can: 1) favorably modify wildfire behavior, or 2) restore or improve desirable habitat with greater resistance to invasive annual grasses and/or resiliency after a disturbance such as wildfires. Reactive management strategies are employed to: 1) reduce the loss of sage-grouse habitat from wildfires or, 2) stabilize soils and reduce impacts of invasive species in sage-grouse habitat after wildfires. Proactive management strategies will result in long-term sage-grouse habitat improvement and stability while reactive management strategies are essential to reduce the current impacts of wildfires on sage-grouse habitat. Management strategies include:

1. **Fuels Management** includes projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify fire behavior characteristics for the purpose of aiding in fire suppression and reducing fire extent.

2. **Habitat Restoration/Recovery**
   a. Recovery, referred to as passive restoration (Pyke 2011), is focused on changes in land use (for example, improved livestock grazing practices) to achieve a desired outcome where the plant community has not crossed a biotic or physical threshold.
   b. Restoration, as used here is equivalent to active restoration (Pyke 2011) and is needed when desired species or structural groups are poorly represented in the community and reseeding, often preceded by removal of undesirable species, is required. Note: The Fuels Management program supports recovery/restoration projects as one of its objectives is to 'restore and maintain resilient landscapes.'

3. **Fire Operations** (includes preparedness, prevention and suppression activities). When discussing specific components of fire operations, the terms fire preparedness, fire prevention and fire suppression are used).

4. **Post-Fire Rehabilitation** (includes the BLM’s Emergency Stabilization and

Rehabilitation [ES&R] Program and the FS's Burned Area Emergency Response [BAER] Program). Policy limits application of funds to three years, thus treatments to restore or enhance habitat after this period of time are considered habitat recovery/restoration.

Rationale for change: Better describe and differentiate the differences between pre-disturbance and post disturbance wildfire and invasive annual grass

On Mon, Apr 14, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Pellant, Michael <mpellant@blm.gov> wrote:
All:

Thanks for your patience as this document was developed. The draft FIAT protocol and the latest draft of the Chamber et al WAFWA Resistance and Resilience paper have been posted (in the FIAT Assessment folder) on Dropbox (https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g9mwtmblpmn3n68/_EbR5meE4L)and on Google Drive (https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5ViupYywFhzaXFaNmZRUkNEVEE&usp=sharing) .

You will also see another folder, Large Maps, that have higher resolution maps of some the figures in the assessment paper.

I ask that this document to be reviewed internally by the FIAT Review and Development Team members only at this time. My concern is that if this draft gets a wide distribution before the team members have a chance to provide input, it will be difficult to ensure that the final draft is distributed to anyone outside our teams receiving an earlier draft. Also, since this is the first complete draft of the assessment process, I feel it is important that you all provide the first level of input before wider distribution.

Considerations when reviewing plan:

- This is a draft and will undergo a through editing after your review and input.
- Focus on content and especially if the steps in the process are appropriate and understandable by the end users.
- The selection of priority PACs and associated focal habitat areas is possibly the most important part of the assessment process....does it make sense and does it work?
- Feel free to add content where appropriate. Step 2 could use some good input!
- Still need to finish the Literature Cited section, convert metric to English measurements, etc.

If you have any difficulty accessing these documents please let me know. I am

asking for your input no later than COB Thursday (April 17). Thanks again for your input and contributions to this effort.

--
Mike Pellant
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208-373-3823, mpellant@blm.gov
http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/environmental_education/science-research/gbri.html

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