From:	Davis, Dawn
To:	Prentice, Karen
Cc:	Shannon Smith; Hall, Galon - NRCS, Washington, DC; Linda Cardenas; Paul Steblein; Sloan, Jenna; Sue Phillips; Todd Hopkins
Subject:	Re: Current draft for SO3336 7b(vi)
Date:	Monday, March 16, 2015 10:26:04 AM
Attachments:	WAFWA Strategic REcommendations for Imrovement.docx

Hi all,

Attached are 10 strategic recommendations for improvement of the management of invasives that were taken from the draft WAFWA Invasives Report - as we continue to work through the multi-year investments subsection I wonder if there is a way to cross-walk some of the recommendations listed here in our action items?

On Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 1:00 PM, Prentice, Karen <kprentic@blm.gov> wrote:

> Here is the draft that we worked on today and a link to Google Docs. DOI employees should be able to edit here.
>
> https://drive.google.com/a/doi.gov/file/d/0B9XfQXNitoBdLXlYYXBrakFBN0E/view?usp=sharing
>
> Everyone, DOI and nonDOI is welcome to send comments/revisions to me for consolidation.
>
> Thanks for your efforts on this.
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> _____
> Karen L. Prentice
> National Healthy Landscapes Coordinator
>
> w) 202-912-7223

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INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1. The ISAC should establish a standing committee dedicated to the science and practice of invasive species surveys, inventories, monitoring , and data format and sharing. Emphasis should be dedicated to developing scientific standards, protocols and methods for invasive species assessments. These standards need to be supported through a directive of the NISC departments and agencies, and supported at the state level. We recommend that this effort initially focus on invasive annual grass prevention and control, linked with how assessments are useful for spatially focusing prevention efforts. The work should also help determine how we can consistently re-establish desired perennials and allow us to actually gain ground on the invasive annual grass problem.

Recommendation 2. The many existing climate programs (e.g., DOI Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the USDA Climate Hubs, NOAA Climate Centers and Regionally Integrated Science Assessments) should work collaboratively to provide scenarios of fine enough scale to provide realistic adaptation strategies for prevention and management of invasive plants which can be implemented through applicable federal agency land and resource management plans (guided by the National Environmental Policy Act – NEPA).

LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND COMMUNICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 3. Convene a summit of federal Departments (i.e., DOI, DOA, DOC, etc.) and agencies to review existing invasive species mandates (e.g., 1999 Presidential Executive Order 13112), overarching policies, and agency budgets. The goal of the summit would be to develop a plan for consistent and appropriate implementation of the existing mandates, fill gaps in law and policy, and recommendations for securing adequate program funding at local, state and federal levels. In particular, develop departmental direction for accelerating invasive plant management activities to meet the needs for GRSG conservation across the western U.S.

Recommendation 4. Re-engage NISC at the Department level to establish a high-level multi-federal agency working group and charge them with drafting a National Invasive Species Strategy in the U.S. Develop a template for the establishment of regional invasive plant management strategies that consist of assigned responsibilities, funding, invasive plant assessments and action plans. Link regional strategies to GRSG (and other imperiled wildlife) conservation priorities.

POLICY AND REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 5. Establish a subcommittee within ISAC to review the current legislative and regulatory framework (federal and state) on invasive species, including coordination with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. From this review, the subcommittee should provide a status report with recommendations for consolidation, elimination, and/or establishment of new laws, policies, and regulations that would facilitate the assessment, control and management of invasive species.

Recommendation 6. Establish a working group to review federal, state, and provincial rules, procedure's, work contract and permit clauses, and best management practices (BMPs) designed to prevent the spread of invasive plants. The work group should make recommendations to establish a set of standards that are ubiquitous across the North America, to better manage and prevent the spread of invasive plants across the range of the GRSG and other regions.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 7. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation, including potential restructuring, of the funding and personnel model for invasive species management programs at all levels across federal, state, and county agencies and governments. Programs should consider instituting a holistic, site-based management approach to protect and restore critical areas from invasive plant invasions, and restore native plant communities in those areas to accomplish GRSG conservation goals. Rather than limiting activities to only a few targeted high risk invasive plants, design programs to build stronger capacity to address all invasive plant threats in priority areas to achieve long-term restoration success within GRSG habitats. Emphasis on the risk and threat to economies, human health, and the environment should be incorporated within program justifications for increasing operational capacity. Examine opportunities and examples within other invasive species management arenas (i.e., New Zealand, Australia, aquatic invasive species) for site-based approaches to help accelerate and emphasize invasive plant management capacity at local, regional, state, and national levels. Lead NISC Departments should consider assigning this task to ISAC for developing a first-cut draft, thereby leveraging the technical expertise provided by the ISAC membership.

Recommendation 8. Develop a nationally-consistent public awareness/education program for the prevention and management of invasive species, similar to the successful national fire prevention program campaign, coordinated across public and private sectors.

Recommendation 9. A new approach needs to be developed and funded to provide for EDRRand restoration of areas to prevent invasive plant species from becoming established or spreading. A national system for invasive species EDRR should include consistent funding and a formal incident command structure (ICS) that can address invasive species threats at all levels and across all landownerships, particularly within the range of GRSG, in a timely and efficient manner.

Recommendation 10. As stated in the WAFWA Gap Report (Mayer et al. 2013) coordination between the public and private landowners to manage invasive plants across landscapes is essential and is occurring through the creation of CWMAs. Thus, the support and implementation of these CWMA's needs to be implemented across the range of GRSG. An assessment of the status and functional effectiveness of each CWMA should be conducted across the range of the GRSG. Using the assessment information, expand mechanisms to increase capacity building and support for CWMA operations to address GRSG conservation needs.