From: Herren, Vicki
To: Davis, Dawn
Cc: Gina Ramos
Subject: Re: Citations from Paragraph(s) Describing Location and Extent of Invasives on BLM-administered Lands
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 3:58:25 AM

Thank you Dawn for taking the time to respond. As we agreed to yesterday, we will notify you as soon as the Draft Veg EIS is available. If you need more information than what is in the EIS or have further questions please contact us. We look forward to reviewing a draft summary of location and extent of invasives on BLM lands.
Vicki

On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:30 PM, Davis, Dawn <dawn_davis@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Vicki,
>
> Per our discussion today, here is a list of the citations that were referenced in the paragraph(s) re: total acreage of weed infestations reported on BLM lands and vegetation treatments conducted by BLM:
>
> - Pellant, M., and C. Hall. 1994. Distribution of two exotic grasses on public lands in the Great Basin: status in 1992. Pp. 109-112 in S. B. Monsen and S. G. Kitchen (compilers). Ecology and management of annual rangelands. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report INT-GTR-313. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
> - Bureau of Land Management. 1996. Partners against weeds: an action plan for the Bureau of Land Management. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 7 pp.
> - Bureau of Land Management. 2007a. Final programmatic environmental impact statement, BLM vegetation treatments using herbicides. Final Version, June 2007. FES 07-21. Chapter 3, 78 pp
> - Zouhar, K. 2003. Bromus tectorum. In Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/. Accessed March 25, 2015.
> - Email exchange. Jay K. Carlson, Roseburg District Manager/Project Manager, Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy, Bureau of Land Management, in Roseburg, OR. (August 29, 2008b).
>
> I've attached a pdf of Zouhar 2003. Please let me know if you need any additional information - thank you!
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> On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 8:51 AM, Herren, Vicki <vherren@blm.gov> wrote:
>
>> Thanks for the reminder Dawn. I had a series of emails with Gina Ramos (Invasive Species Coordinator here in Washington) right after you first contacted me. I'll try to touch base with her today for an update.
>> Sorry for the delay,
>> Vicki

On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 11:39 AM, Davis, Dawn <dawn_davis@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Vicki,

I just wanted to follow-up to see if you were able to track down this information or will the BLM provide the most complete and up-to-date summary when it responds to the FWS data call for the CED?

Thanks,

On Wed, Feb 18, 2015 at 5:29 AM, Herren, Vicki <vherren@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi Dawn
I was out yesterday on a snow day so I will start on this today to track down the most recent information for the FWS.
Vicki

On Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 3:12 PM, Davis, Dawn <dawn_davis@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Vicki,

I am in the process of drafting the invasive plants chapter as part of the Service's greater sage-grouse species report. I am hoping to update the information cited in the 2010 finding, specifically the total acreage of weed infestations reported on BLM-administered lands and vegetation treatments conducted by the BLM in annual grassland monocultures.

Currently, I have the following information for location and extent of invasives:

"BLM (1996, p. 6) estimated invasives (which may or may not have included *Bromus tectorum* in their estimate) covered at least 3.2 million ha (8 million ac) of BLM-administered lands as of 1994, and predicted 7.7 million ha (19 million ac) would be infested by 2000. However, a qualitative 1991 BLM survey covering 40 million ha (98.8 million ac) of all BLM-administered land in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah (MZs III, IV, V, and VI) reported that introduced annual grasses were a dominant or significant presence on 7 million ha (17.2 million ac) of public lands within these five states (Pellant and Hall 1994, p. 110). An additional 25.1 million ha (62 million ac) had less than 10 percent *B. tectorum* in the understory, but were considered to be at risk of *B. tectorum* invasion (Zouhar 2003, p. 3, in reference to the same survey). More recently, BLM reported that as of 2000, noxious weeds and annual grasses occupied 11.9 million ha (29.4 million ac) of BLM lands in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah (BLM 2007a, p. 3–28). However, when considering all States within the current range of sage-grouse, this number increases to 14.8 million ha (36.5 million ac)."

Does the information accurately reflect the most up-to-date information for the BLM? I have seen a reference to an updated bureau-wide inventory that was to be conducted in 2010 but I have not been able to find a copy of that report.

In addition to information re: the location and extent of invasives, I have the following information for vegetation treatments:

"Areas with established annual grasses that receive less than 22.9 cm (9 in.) of annual precipitation are less likely to benefit from restoration (Connelly et al. 2004, p. 7–17, Carlson 2008b, pers. comm.). Consequently, BLM focuses most (98

percent) of their restoration efforts in areas receiving more than 22.9 cm (9 in.) of annual precipitation where there is greater chance of success. Of the BLM treatments in annual grasslands, only 10 percent of acres treated in areas receiving less than 22.9 cm (9 in.) of annual precipitation were considered to be effectively treated. In areas receiving between 22.9 cm (9 in.) and 30.5 cm (12 in.) of annual precipitation, 33.6 percent of the acres were treated effectively, and 3.3 percent of the acres were treated effectively in areas receiving greater than 30.5 cm (12 in.) of annual precipitation (Carlson 2008b, pers. comm.). Since the BLM treatments in annual grassland monocultures included both the re-establishment of native shrub and grass species and green-stripping efforts to reduce the frequency of fires in annual grassland monocultures, it is unclear how many of these successfully treated acres are attributed to restoration versus prevention."

and

" If noxious weeds are spreading at a rate of 931 ha (2,300 ac) per day on BLM-administered lands (BLM 1996, p. 1), this amounts to 339,815 ha (839,500 ac) per year, which includes both suitable and nonsuitable habitat for sage-grouse. It is unclear whether this estimate is limited to noxious weeds or if it includes other invasives (e.g., *Bromus tectorum*). Still, we can compare this estimate to the area of all invasives (excluding conifers) treated by the BLM between October 2005 and September 2007, which totaled 259,897 ha (642,216 ac), i.e., approximately 86,632 ha (214,072 ac) treated annually.

The number of acres treated annually (86,632 ha; 214,072 ac) is not keeping pace with the rate of spread (339,815 ha; 839,500 ac) especially when considering the inability to treat the problem. We acknowledge that the rate of spread on BLM-administered lands also includes areas that are not sage-grouse habitat. However, the rate of spread may not have included *B. tectorum* and only part of the invasive treatments completed by BLM (23.6 percent of treatments in annual grassland monocultures and 7.5 percent of treatments in sagebrush with annual grassland understories) were considered to be effective by the BLM (Carlson 2008b, pers. comm.). "

Again, any additional information you could provide to ensure that we are reporting the most current data would be appreciated.

Thank you,

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