From:	Smith, Hilary
To:	Carol Schuler
Cc:	Melvin (Joe) Tague; Dawn Davis; Gina Ramos
Subject:	Re: FW: Next version of Section 7bviii
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2015 8:00:00 AM

Hi Carol and Dawn,

Thanks for touching base. You raise a really important point. Here is an excerpt of actions that the work group for large-scale cheatgrass control put together, which I think covers your recommendation, though it may not call out as directly funding and policy needs for sustained monitoring/mapping.

> **Identify problematic species (e.g., yellow star thistle) that could potentially become abundant following annual grass control; include monitoring as part of a treatment.**
>
> **Conduct surveys to assess extent of cheatgrass and other invasive grass infestations and evaluate existing data layers to identify the current coverage that exists.**
>
> **Solicit experimental designs and obtain rigorous peer-review for projects involving landscape-scale control of invasive grasses and subsequent restoration.**
>
> **Develop a standardized monitoring protocol for evaluating the success of invasive annual grass control and subsequent restoration, possibly by building on an existing protocol such as the Core Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocols currently used by the BLM and NRCS.**

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On Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:09 PM, Carol Schuler <cschuler@usgs.gov> wrote:

> I was sent this write-up by Dawn Davis (FWS) who is on my team for Section 7bviii. I think it fits better with Section 7bvii so thought I'd share it with you. It could come up as a priority science need, particularly relative to designing a monitoring strategy or analyzing long-term monitoring data, but the inventory, treat, and monitor invasive plants seems like it would be a long-term action under your section.
>
> Carol

Carol Schuler, Senior Science Advisor

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From: Davis, Dawn [mailto:dawn_davis@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Carol Schuler
Cc: Tomosy, Monica S -FS; Jeremy Maestas; Karen Prentice; Robin Wills; Todd Hopkins; Tomer Hasson; Heidi Hadley; Sue Phillips; Hall, Galon - NRCS, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Next version of Section 7bviii

All,

In my discussions with Ted Koch (FWS NV State Supervisor) and others involved in the Southern Great Basin FIAT step-down assessment the need for non-native inventory and treatment continues to be a concern. In 7(b)viii we address the need to monitor long-term effectiveness as a longer term action but is there a need to include direction for policies and funding to ensure inventory and treatment occurs? Some of what I propose will presumably be covered in land use plans, falling under the management of invasive species and weeds but I've been told that the inclusion of verbiage dealing with monitoring invasive species falls beyond the scope of FIAT and some have recommended that it instead be incorporated into the Order (and in this section in particular).

Adapting some of the language that was proposed for inclusion in the FIAT assessments it would look something like this and would occur under Actions Beyond 2016:

***Inventory, treat, and monitor nonnative, invasive species* – Currently, spatial data are not available that portray the distribution of non-native, invasive, and/or noxious plant species across the range of greater sage-**

grouse. Policies and funding are needed to ensure that non-native, invasive, and/or noxious plant species are inventoried and monitored in in order to prioritize treatments of these species within the Great Basin. Management actions needed include: locating infestations, decreasing propagule pressure (especially along roadside areas), treating satellite infestations, and preventing future infestations.

Let me know your thoughts. I wonder if this need could be cross-walked with other sections or if it would be more appropriately incorporated into other sections.

On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 4:43 PM, Carol Schuler <cschuler@usgs.gov> wrote:

Thanks everyone for providing the additional edits. I've incorporated many of these, along with adding more clarification in several sections and changing some of the target dates. I need to do a complete read through but wanted to get this latest out to you.

I think we're close to being ready to send this in, but wanted to give all of you one more chance to read it if you want. No pressure to do so, but if you do and see anything else send your comments back to me on Thursday, tomorrow. I'm hoping to take Friday off so would like to send a final draft in by COB Thursday.

Carol

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