

From: [Matt Kales](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#)
Subject: FW: Prescribed Fire Drop-in Language
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 3:10:25 PM

From: Carman, Stephanie [mailto:scarman@blm.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 3:06 PM
To: Pat Deibert; Matt Kales
Cc: Glen Stein
Subject: Prescribed Fire Drop-in Language

We are proposing the below addition to the prescribed fire drop-in language, which was inadvertently left off of the guidance. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please let us know if this addresses it adequately.

*"If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat **with less than 12" of annual precipitation**, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address:*

- *why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options;*
- *how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use;*
- *how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met;*
- *a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized.*

a) Allow prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Wyoming big sagebrush sites or other xeric sagebrush species sites, or in areas with a potential for post-fire exotic annual dominance only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).

b) Allow prescribed fire in known winter range only after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality."

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