

Conservation Actions

Brainstorm of Relative Value of Various Conservation Actions

This list of conservation actions was created through a brainstorm session by management and with the aid of the list of metrics being reported in the Conservation Efforts Database. Actions were assigned one of three values based on the group discussion; this list is not the best science, but merely a tool for discussion. This list will be revised based on input from Service sage-grouse biologists.

High Value

- Adequate regulatory mechanisms on Federal and Non-Federal Lands
 - Keep all development out of PACs on non-Federal lands
 - Adequate mitigation for disturbance of loss that occurs
- Conservation of meadow on private lands
- Reducing likelihood of catastrophic wildfires
- Develop an effective method to control the spread of cheatgrass
- Control of Pinyon juniper
- Conservation Agreements (including but not limited to: CCAs, CCAAs, Farm Bill and other Incentive-based programs).
- Conservation Easement
- Land Purchases / Swaps
- Fuels Management
- Area Closure (Area and/or Seasonal)
- Seeding (native only)
- Fuels Management
- Wild Equid Population Control
- Wild Equid Gather

Comment [DP1]: This may have very high value in some areas of the range but not others. Can we designate this as a local item? I don't want to imply that we would rank this above reducing catastrophic wildfires on a range-wide scale.

Comment [KNorman2]: Cross-walk these to the CED list; what's different or phrased differently.

Comment [DP3]: Comment not on gathers, but rather suggest adding one more – conversion of sagebrush for any purpose. In addition to agriculture we often seen sagebrush removal to increase grasses for forage (both wild and domestic ungulates).

Comment [KNorman4]: From RDs

Comment [DP5]: I don't have any problem including this here, but the value isn't necessarily uncertain. Rather its temporal (only during periods of active control) and does not address the underlying ultimate cause of habitat fragmentation and anthropogenic subsidies.

Comment [DP6]: Not so sure the value is uncertain vs. the efficacy. Time lag is also a concern.

Comment [DP7]: Research reported at the Elko meeting suggests this as ineffective – as in the land never goes back to sagebrush without significant effort and resources.

Uncertain Value

- Raven/predator control
- Restoration
- Vegetation Management / Habitat Enhancement
- Fire Breaks(UNCERTAIN – DO THEY DO ANY GOOD AT LOCAL LEVEL; CAN YOU DO ENOUGH TO CREATE A SPECIES LEVEL BENEFIT)
- Seeding (non-native)
- Seeding (native/non-native mix)
- Mine reclamation
- Conifer Removal (MAY BE AREAS OF HIGH VALUE; UNCERTAINTY – WILL BIRDS USE IT; UNCERTAINTY – COULD BE HIGH VALUE IF TARGETTED TO AREAS WITH MANY BIRDS)
- Post-fire restoration: seeding (native only)
- Post-fire restoration: seeding (non-native)
- Post-fire restoration: seeding (native/non-native mix)