

Stop 1 – Balanced Rock & Overview of Fires

Ken Crane – Bureau of Land Management

Clover Fire 2005

- July 15, 2005 lightning ignited 193,000 acres
- 300 head of wild horses gathered to another facility for over wintering
- Burned areas closed to grazing for minimum of 2 years
- 49,900 acres re-burned in the Murphy Complex Fires of 2007. These portions rolled into rehabilitation plan for Murphy and monitoring sites continued
- 72,000 acres drill seeded, 89,000 acres sagebrush/grass/forb aerial seeded
- Hand planted 200 willows, 2,000 Bitterbrush, 65,000 Wyoming big sage-brush seedlings, 350 cottonwoods
- 4.5 miles wind erosion fencing

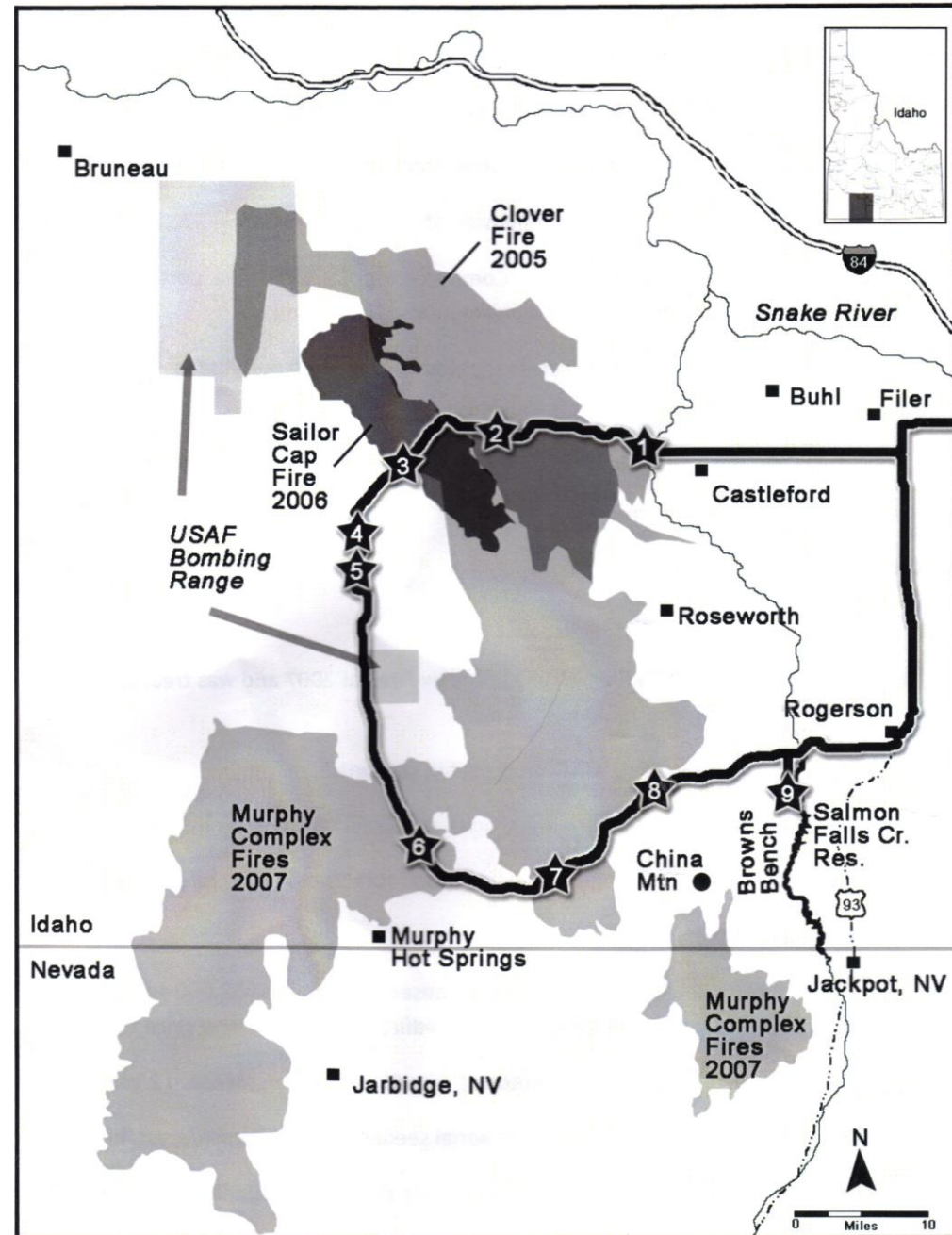
Sailor Cap Fire 2006

- August 23, 2006 fire burned 62,000 acres
- 21,400 acres re-burned in the Murphy Complex Fires of 2007 and was treated and monitored under Murphy Complex Fire plan
- 18,700 acres aerially seeded with Wyoming big sagebrush
- 3,500 acres drill seeded, of which 2,400 acres re-burned in the Murphy fires
- Burned areas closed to grazing for 2 years, no soil stabilization structures

Murphy Complex Fires 2007

- July 16-17, 2007 combination of 6 lightning-caused fires ignited 653,000 acres (483,000 acres in Idaho, 170,000 acres in Nevada) – largest wildfire complex in Idaho since the 1910 fires
- Resumption of grazing based on monitoring criteria rather than standard 2 year rest
- 82,000 acres drill seeded, 259,000 acres aerial seeded with sagebrush/grass/forb
- Hand planted 1,600 willows, 80,000 Wyoming big sage-brush, 20,000 bitterbrush seedlings
- 48 erosion control structures

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Stop 4 – Wildlife Monitoring on the Murphy Complex Fire

Ann Moser, Brad Lowe, Megan Schwender – Idaho Dept. Fish & Game Carl Rudeen – US Air Force

- 71 sage-grouse leks burned
- Pre-fire data collected by BLM provided plant species occurrence
- Wildlife and vegetation monitoring began during 2nd growing season after fire

Sage-grouse

- Lek counts (Fig 1.) have continued to decline since the peak in 2006, 1 year prior to fire
- Almost 180,000 acres of the burn have been aerially surveyed for leks during 2009 and 2010

Year	Grouse	Leks	New Leks
2009	323	15	10
2010	210	20	2

- New leks verified on ground by BLM

- 2009: 21 male, 1 female radios
- 2010: 19 male, 10 female radios

- 42% of pre-burn grouse locations (2002-2003, n =64 locations) were within 2007 burn area
- 16% of post-burn grouse locations (2009, n = 43 locations) were within 2007 burn area

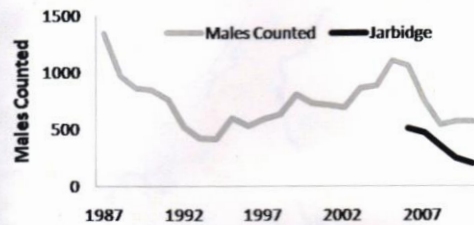


Figure 1. Male lek attendance in the Magic Valley Region, 1987-2010.

Other Wildlife Species and Vegetation

- Stratified random sampling is being conducted within smaller study area for non-grouse species and vegetation (Fig. 2)
- 45 1-km² sampling blocks in proportion to availability of 2 dominant ecological sites – Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass and Wyoming big sagebrush/Thurber's needlegrass
- 3 treatments included in sampling - areas seeded, unseeded (natural recovery), and unburned shrub islands or adjacent shrub stands

Methods

- Conducting point counts for breeding birds
- Live trapping for small mammals
- Measuring vegetation composition and structure

