



Western Invasive Weed Summit Follow up Questions

Invasive Plant Management in the West A Scientific Assessment – Dr. Roger Sheley

1. “Prevention depends heavily on detection of small isolated hard-to-find weed populations. Where are we with methods to help us do that efficiently, especially in large landscapes like the Great Basin?”- Unknown
2. “Do You Think the Great-brown Grezins plan can be incorporated, using p model or supported by grazing leases on BLM?”
3. “Dr. Sheley talked about the 5% success rate for restoration of degraded habitat. Are there ongoing developments in seed research technology that can increase the success rate here?”
4. “Can you speak to appropriate timing of restoration using seral stage appropriated material?”
5. Opening- Around the year 2000, Wisclove et al, published several documents out of the Interior Columbia Ecosystem Management Project that called for the identification and protection of excellent sage-grouse habitat. 15 years later how well has this strategy – their #1 recommendation – been implemented. If not well, why not?
6. Opening – a few years ago, I heard a botanist argue that we should be seeding early successional forbs, many of them annuals, rather than climate species likes sage and blue bunch – why don’t we hear more about this strategy?

Landscape Perspective on Invasive Plants and Sage Grouse: Understanding Impacts and Managing Risks – Jeremy Maestas

1. “Has the susceptibility of sage grouse to predation from predators such as ravens and coyotes change due to landscape disturbance?”
2. “If perennial bunch grasses are the key to resistance, hasn't over a century of cattle grazing permanently damaged these ecosystems? (Cows Eat Grass)”
3. “Sage Grouse numbers have shown significant fluctuations throughout the past 100 years. Has there been any research, or discussion into what the historical triggers were that had a positive or negative influence on population trends?”

Overview of WAFWA Report

1. How are you incorporating comments and input provided? Will there be a revision of this report incorporating input from professionals?

Panel

1. We frequently hear about ‘moderate grazing’ and ‘appropriate grazing’ being compatible with GRSG habitat conservation and restoration. How would you define ‘appropriate grazing’ being compatible with GRSG habitat conservation and restoration? How would you define appropriate grazing?
2. “Language is important” - why do we refer to non-native grasses as desirable, at best they are acceptable and it is native perennial grasses, forbs and sagebrush that are desirable.”

3. For Alan Clark - How do you ensure the local approaches use the best science in the decision making?
4. For Chad Boyd – Focused on bunchgrasses are key component for competing with invasive annual grasses in fairly flat areas; however, there are place for forb and shrubs in revegetation plans on steeper terrain for erosion control (both wind and precipitation) competing with broadleaf invasives and for fixing nitrogen into depleted soils.

General Questions

1. We need to advocate for integrated pest management approach across vast landscapes and access to best tools- streamline fed process for agencies to use new herbicides- Test promising herbicides- and break log jam in approving new classical biological control agents- (eg. eriophyid mites for cheatgrass)
2. How do we best Address fire Paradox? fire management creates a difficult paradox- whereas we need to protect & conserve large, intact sagebrush dominated ecosystems(from fire and other landscapes alterations) out activities might make it worse (eg. weeds in green lines), and fire is an important ecosystem process which can help maintain native perennials and systems productivity.
3. Many of the speakers talked about site/ecological potential but didn't specifically mention ESDs. Do the speakers feel they are valuable tools for our work?
4. Speaker made reference to the importance of scale with respect to both the needs of the Grouse as well as the need to increase our scale of weed treatments and restoration. Please expand upon the issue of Scale in this issue.
5. Annual Grasses are the big bully. Don't lose sight of the other invasives identified in the WAFWA report these invasive species were identified by on the ground manger as problems.
6. Among all the “ologists” that are being engaged (range, science, fire science, ecology) are we engaging social scientist to help us engage landowners in collaborating on protecting and restoring sagebrush habitat? While there are challenges in the biological sciences, perhaps the greatest challenge is to engage people on the landscape.
7. Phasing in lower stocking levels and changing season of use helps success rates in rehab and restoration- How can we accomplish this within the rigid grazing regulations?
8. How will the various components of collaborative, public private, sagebrush conservation (life management, invasive species management, sagebrush restoration) come together and be managed going forward? Who's ready to lead the effort?
9. We have consistently seen barriers and goals discussed this week as being similar to those addressed in senate file 2240 and H.R. 1485 Will WAFWA make an effort to review the legislation and potentially support the effort based on the summit results?
10. FIAT - What sorts of NEPA Options are you looking at? Are there cross boundary options in the works- FS, BLM, States.
11. FIAT - implementation areas cross jurisdictional boundaries. Will the NEPA cover multiple ownerships? Including clearance (ie. Archeology, ESA, ETC.)?

