

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: Field Managers, Nevada
From: Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Land & Planning
Subject: Resource Concerns for Wildfire Resource Advisors to Consider

As we move into the heart of the fire season, the Division of Resources, Lands & Planning want to share a few resources concerns which should be given prime consideration when dealing with wildfires and associated plans for attacking these fires.

Wilderness/WSAs

Please refer to IB NV-2000-137

Riparian Areas

Resource advisors should know where riparian areas occur, especially those that require woody vegetation to provide functioning condition. Herbaceous riparian areas are generally less prone to burn because they are “wetter”; they also tend to come back more easily if burned.

Consideration should be given, where possible, to avoid routing fire traffic through or along riparian areas.

Special Status Species

Resource advisors should be familiar with the extent of the occupied ranges of all listed, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species. County species lists and some location information is available on the Nevada Natural Heritage Program Web page (www.state.nv.us/nvnhp)

In the case of Lahontan cutthroat trout, **potential** recovery habitat should also be considered as high priority areas to protect, once those areas have been identified.

Wildlife

Ensure that Fire Management Plans incorporate current sage grouse and sagebrush information in setting wildfire suppression priorities.

Give special consideration to suppression of fires burning in or having the potential to enter known sage grouse habitat. Highest consideration should be given to existing stands of Wyoming big sagebrush.

Use direct attack tactics when it is safe and effective at reducing amount of burned habitat.

Retain unburned areas (including interior islands and patches between roads and the fire perimeter) unless there are compelling safety, resource protection, or control objectives at risk.

When modifying water sources for the temporary purpose of fire suppression, do so at least 1 km (0.6 mi.) away from known/occupied sage grouse habitats.

The habitat character of the lek and surrounding sagebrush cover within 300 meters (985 ft.), as well as identified winter range, should be given top priority in fire suppression.

Ground disturbing fire suppression actions, such as the use of heavy equipment and excessive brush removal, should be judiciously applied to protect sage grouse habitat.

Range

Ensure that suppression caused damage to structures and facilities is repaired before the fire is demobilized.

Firelines should be waterbarred as needed before heavy equipment is released. Reseeding of suppression caused disturbances may be completed prior to demobilization or postponed until fall if needed to ensure that seed is not wasted on powdery soils.

Weeds

Avoid setting up base camps, etc. in areas where noxious weeds are present.

To the extent practical, keep equipment and firefighters out of areas with noxious weeds. Where is not practical, try to thoroughly wash equipment before it is moved out of areas with noxious weeds.

These are by no means the only concerns that the Wildfire Resource Advisor will be faced with. If you have additional concerns which you feel apply to large areas of the state, feel free to forward them to the respective program lead here at NV-930 and they will be considered for future updates of this Information Bulletin.

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