

**Multi-Species Conservation
& Prairie Grassland Conservation
On BLM Managed Lands
*DRAFT 1/2001***

Overall Strategy:

- *Identify issues related to multi-species conservation in prairie grassland ecosystems*
- *Collect information related to issues;*
- *Identify and prioritize Technical Transfer/training needs;*
- *Develop communication/ outreach strategy*
- *Develop policy guidance*

Assessment - Current Status

Resource Information

A. Geographical Data

Land Cover - what do we have?

Land Ownership

Number of BLM land use plans

Number of BLM administrative offices

No. Grazing Allotments

Riparian Acres/ Miles

Acres of Wetlands

No. Miles of streams/ Acres of Lakes

Major vegetation types (acres);

Species Information

Current Conservation Activities

Major conservation strategies/ initiatives within the region and BLM's involvement or lack there of;

Conservation Assessments (no. And for what species)

Conservation Plans/ Agreements in place (number and for which species)

Recovery Plans (species, geographic coverage)

Needed Conservation Activities

II. Issue Identification

Affected States identify resource issues and recommended actions at State and Regional level;

III. Internal BLM Coordination

SO's need to identify key contact and coordinator for each State and FO
Establish regional steering committee
Determine if there is a need for additional work groups/ teams;
Determine if a regional or national workshop is needed.

IV. Coordination

Existing MOU's - list cooperators that your office is working with that promotes conservation;
Needed MOU's
List of Partners
Ongoing Efforts: Identify and find out what BLM's role is and if it should be greater.

V. Interim Guidance

Issue WO guidance for field offices to develop interim guidance on issues such as permit renewal, prescribed fire management and standards and guides implementation.

Develop a request for information to go out to BLM field offices to help meet the needs identified in 4) and 5), and perhaps

Develop guidelines for management of prairie grassland communities.

determine acres planned for a prescribed burning.

Gather existing policy from each BLM State Office regarding coordination on land treatments with State Wildlife agencies.

Compile species of concern lists (include State sensitive).

Compile a list of all of the mapping projects in Prairie grassland ecoregion

Identify and distribute to BLM field offices, existing technical information on ecology and management of prairie grassland ecosystems and existing conservation strategies (ie. Black-tailed prairie dog, Swift fox, etc.)

Develop a map of the west showing the historical and current distribution of prairie grasslands.

Develop guidance on conducting mid-level cumulative effects analysis.

Assess research opportunities for wildlife-related research

Develop a condition assessment of short and mid-grass prairie habitat for BLM lands and recommended strategies for ensuring long-term health- Biological Analog.

Communications/ Education

Develop outreach information on prairie grasslands that addresses multiple species conservation;

Coordination

Assistant Director (200)

overview briefing

- *NGO's*
- *State Wildlife Agencies*
- *Other Federal agencies*
- *New Administration*

Range Program

Develop land treatment plan review process with the State Wildlife Agencies.

Review range treatment priorities (are there any?)

Develop sagebrush-steppe ecosystem restoration priorities for BLM rangelands.

Need budget, research, native seed sources and increased awareness of management concerns.

Prescribed fire program review

Weeds: prevention, treatments, restoration,

Fire rehabilitation program

Fire Program

National Interagency Fire Center follow up:

- *Participate in National Interdisciplinary Fire Team (NIFT).*
Get wildlife involvement in upcoming fire meetings (December 98 meeting , March 99 meeting);
- *Contact State program leaders to find out what guidance has been issued in their States by the SD or Fire Program regarding land treatments, and specifically anything tied to the prescribed fire initiative.*
- *Participate in fire and fuels management evaluation teams;*
- *Participate in implementation of fuels management program;*

Oil & Gas

- *Work with Oil and Gas program in identification of potential conflicts with species at risk;*

Planning

- *Assist WO 210 in development of guidance and funding for LUP's in Prairie*

Grasslands with species at risk;

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Other Agencies

Fish and Wildlife Service

Forest Service - particularly Regions 2 & 3

USGS-BRD - reseach coordination/ needs

Sponsor expanded briefing at North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference - March 2001 for NGO's and other partners and out years as needed;.

External Organizations (NGO's, etc.)

- *Periodically brief NGO's regarding progress;*
- *Consider holding regional meetings/ workshops with NGO's to solicit input;*
Native Plant Conservation Initiative
- *TWS 2002 Conference - Bismark, ND - sponsor grasslands symposium*

Policy

- ***Develop and issue guidance on black-tailed prairie dog conservation on BLM lands;***
- ***Develop supplemental guidance for conservation of species at risk for LUP's***

Prepared for: Westem Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Winter Meeting, January 2000