

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:
9011 (NV-930) P
March 10, 2006

EMS TRANSMISSION March 10, 2006
Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2006-035
Expires: 9/30/2007

To: Field Managers, Nevada
Deputy State Directors and Staff Chiefs, NSO

From: Deputy State Director, Resources, Lands and Planning DD: 3/20/06

Subject: Request for Comment on Draft Agreement for Use of Insecticides within Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada for Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Suppression

Nevada has experienced significant increases in Mormon Crickets over the last five years. By Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) USDA is the lead agency for control of Mormon crickets and grasshoppers on public lands. APHIS directs any aerial control operations and, through an MOU with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA), NDOA directs the ground control operations. The Nevada State Director authorizes the application of pesticides to control invasive insects and plants through a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) which is submitted by the Field Offices. A section in the PUPs specifies sensitive aspects or precautions which must be incorporated in the treatment action in order to minimize or eliminate adverse impacts to non-target organisms.

In the case of Mormon cricket control, each Field Office except Las Vegas has developed PUPs which permit the use of Dimilin, Carbaryl and Malathion. The precautions identified in the PUPs relating to buffer zones around sage grouse habitats vary from Field Office to Field Office. This inconsistency has resulted in a significant level of consternation on the part of NDOA and APHIS as they attempt to apply insecticides within the different Field Offices. Further, both of these agencies have questioned whether or not the buffer zones are overly restrictive and beyond what is needed to protect Sage Grouse and their habitat.

Over past three months a working group composed of representatives from BLM - Nevada State Office, Nevada Department of Wildlife – Reno Office, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Reno Field Station, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service and Nevada Department of Agriculture – Reno/Winnemucca Offices has worked on a standard protocol on the use of

insecticides within sage grouse habitats for Mormon cricket and grasshopper suppression. Included with the protocol is a monitoring plan and instructions on performing lek counts.

This protocol is now ready for review and comment by Field Offices. Attached is a copy of the subject protocol, monitoring plan and instructions for lek counts. Once this protocol is finalized, current PUPs for Mormon cricket control will be amended with the standard language. Please provide comments by telephone or email to Elroy Masters, State Wildlife, Fish, Threatened/Endangered Species Lead, by March 20, 2006. He can be reached at elroy_masters@nv.blm.gov or (775) 861-6626.

Signed By:
Meg Jensen
DSD, Resources, Lands and Planning

Authenticated By:
Ellyn Darrah
Staff Assistant

Attachment (10 pages)