

Attachment 2

Causal Factor Analysis Process and Results

Interdisciplinary teams with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) representation conducted the analyses. The ODFW re-convened Local Implementation Teams composed of ODFW, Soil and Water Conservation District(s), local government, and private landowners. The BLM invited tribal governments to participate in hard trigger analyses and in most soft trigger analyses. Additional outreach occurred to livestock permittees. Public meetings were held for the Baker and Brothers-Wagontire PACs.

Common and wide-spread causes identified below include fire, invasive annual grasses, degraded native understory vegetation, and fence collision risk. Factors with a possibly significant role are human infrastructure (mostly roads and power lines), improper livestock grazing (based on the last Land Health Evaluation), and re-occurring drought. While the amount of infrastructure within a PAC may not have changed appreciably in the years leading up to the decline, predator populations may have expanded due to subsidies associated with power lines and roads. The degree to which the West Nile virus has caused a population to decline or prevent an increase during favorable environmental conditions is unclear. Finally, the Baker PAC is physically isolated from other priority habitat in Oregon and Idaho. The extent of genetic isolation is unknown, but telemetry studies suggest very little movement in or out of this PAC.

Possible Causes or Factors	Baker	Crowley	CowLakes	Trout Creeks	Dry Valley-Jack Mtn (draft)	Warners (draft)	Picture Rock	Brothers- N. Wagontire
Isolated/small size	X						X	
Agriculture Conversion	X							
Conifer encroachment						X	X	
Energy Development								
Infrastructure	Unclear	Unclear	Localized					Unclear
Wild horses		X						
Urbanization								
Sagebrush Elimination			X					
Fire	Localized	X	X	X	X			
Invasive plants	X	X	X	X	X			
Mining								Localized
Livestock grazing	Unclear		Unclear	Unclear				Unclear
Recreation	Localized							Unclear
Predator populations	X	X	Unclear			Localized		Unclear
Native understory condition	X	Unclear	X	X				
Drought	X	X			X	X	X	
West Nile Virus	Unclear	Unclear	Localized					Unclear
Habitat fragmentation	X	X	X					
Fence collisions	X	X	Localized			X	X	
Hunting								X
Crested wheatgrass seedings	X		X					Unclear
Sage-grouse translocations						X		
Research						X		