



BLM Nevada Fire Summary
Resource Advisory Councils Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, NV
1-26-2012

Rule Number 1

Firefighter and public safety is our top priority.

Weather and Fuels Predictions

- According to Western Great Basin Coordination Center Predictive Services, **Nevada will have an above normal 2012 summer fire season.**
- The average number of acres burned annually over the last 20 years is 381,000.
- Nevada's drought conditions are expected to worsen into spring despite recent heavy winter rains. Long-range indicators lead us to believe that this could be the first of a series of drought years the WGB will experience.
- A dry 2011-2012 winter and a lower-than-normal snowpack will likely lead to low summertime fuel moistures and soil moistures. Heavy fuels are at historically low moisture levels, which means 2012 fires could involve higher elevation timber instead of being almost exclusively grass fires as we have had for the past couple of years.
- The previous three winters had very good precipitation totals, leaving us with an abundant and mostly continuous fuel bed. Carryover fuels will enhance the chance of large fires in 2012.
- Cheat grass and red brome are expanding into areas once dominated by sagebrush, desert shrubs and perennial grasses. These fast-burning grasses are causing a dramatic increase in fire intensity and total acres burned compared to what Nevada experienced just a couple of decades ago.
- Precipitation over the spring will strongly influence the annual grass crop and can significantly change the seasonal outlook depending on the amount of new growth. And even with abundant fuels, large fire starts in the Western Great Basin depend largely on lightning strikes, which vary widely from year to year.

Protecting Sage Grouse Habitat

- BLM Nevada will aggressively attack every fire start to prevent the loss of sage grouse habitat. Sagebrush habitats are critical to support sage grouse and provide forage for livestock grazing, wildlife and wild horses.
- We are placing an emphasis on protecting sagebrush habitat. This preparation can include repositioning of initial attack forces, including Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) and Hotshot crews. We have created maps for Resource Advisors and fire suppression crews identifying the areas of important sage grouse habitat and lists of resource advisors' contact information.

- Some of the best remaining sage grouse habitat is on BLM-managed public lands, particularly across the northern part of the state. The Great Basin will have a higher priority nationwide for fire suppression resources because of the need to protect sage grouse habitat.
- Incident Management Teams and fighters will coordinate with resource specialists to know the location of critical and healthy sage grouse habitat before the fire season starts. Resource advisors will be available during fire planning, initial attack and extended attack for fires in sage grouse habitat.

Equipment, Fire Fighting Resources and Jurisdictions

The Bureau of Land Management Nevada is planning to staff during the 2012 fire season:

- 4 Single Engine Air Tankers
- 3 helicopters, positioned in Las Vegas, Ely and Elko
- 3 air attack aircraft for aerial detection and fire air traffic control
- 2 Hotshot Crews: Silver State Hot Shots (Carson City)
Ruby Mountain Hot Shots (Elko)
- 47 fire engines
- 4 Water Tenders
- 1 Dozer



2001-2011 Fire Statistics for Nevada

	BLM Fires	Private Fires	Total Fires*	BLM Acres	Private Acres	Total Acres*
2001	673	166	1,128	466,416	21,824	559,822
2002	457	93	728	41,398	891	84,760
2003	457	122	776	11,537	1,982	16,890
2004	634	107	949	23,138	7,884	40,486
2005	503	111	787	883,272	93,133	1,032,114
2006	829	214	1,274	1,009,249	266,305	1,348,871
2007	498	197	877	541,924	224,704	890,152
2008	262	85	452	21,839	4,585	71,930
2009	402	102	676	29,477	956	33,348
2010	242	79	427	19,336	3,164	23,858
2011	466	127	803	312,737	131,001	510,542
Total	5,423	1,403	8,877	3,360,323	756,429	4,603,616

*Total Fires and Acres include all fires.

**2005 - 2011 Nevada BLM
Hazardous Fuels Accomplishments**

2012 Targets and Accomplishments

FY2012 Target Total	32,815 acres	Non-WUI 12,455	WUI 21,029
1-23-2012 Completed	25,934 acres	Non-WUI 10,406	WUI 15,528

2011 Summary

FY2011 Target Total	32,815 acres	Non-WUI 12,455	WUI 21,029
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Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Non-WUI)

Total Acres 2005-2011 89,239 Acres

	Mechanical	Prescribed Fire	Other methods
FY 2005	8,187	5,036	14
FY 2006	9,467	2,130	0
FY 2007	6,530	2,241	2,882
FY 2008	15,425	1,700	900
FY 2009	6,166	5,187	1,596
FY 2010	6,960	411	1,952
FY 2011	6,197	35	6,223
Total	58,932	16,740	13,567

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Total Acres 2005-2011 95,642 Acres

	Mechanical	Prescribed Fire	Other methods
FY 2005	8,051	5,355	1,371
FY 2006	5,077	221	2,920
FY 2007	6,313	1,302	10,385
FY 2008	6,968	687	1,339
FY 2009	10,729	1,203	1,360
FY 2010	7,500	1,237	2,813
FY 2011	17,152	676	2,983
Total	61,790	10,681	23,171

Contracted Projects/Treatments

FY 2005	54%	FY 2009	65%
FY 2006	35%	FY 2010	50%
FY 2007	55%	FY 2011	50%
FY 2008	51%		

Hazardous Fuels Projects

- Nevada communities will benefit from BLM's efforts to assist with projects that will better prepare and defend communities from wildland fires.

- Projects include: preparing defensible space, fuel reduction, community assistance in terms of risk assessment implementation and planning, maintenance, seeding and thinning areas.
- 6nd annual Wildland Urban Interface Summit: Fall 2012, UNR
 - Brings representatives from communities rated at high fire risk together to discuss the fire hazards in their communities, locate funding resources and better prepare their homes and property against wildland fire
 - Agencies and private companies will be on-hand to provide information
- Projects in the non WUI areas include protecting sage grouse habitat, improvement of wildlife habitat and other projects to enhance BLM lands.
- Historically 90% of the funding has been focused in the WUI areas, FY12 funding will be distributed by highest priority projects, both WUI and non-WUI.
- BLM Nevada is in the planning stages of a 20 person fuels crew hosted in Southern Nevada comprised of returning veterans.

Budget and Efficiencies

- BLM Nevada's annual fire suppression budget is \$14 million to have resources available for firefighting.
- Fire suppression costs are allocated by Congress each year to a special account that is used as needed by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.
- BLM and the Forest Service are working collaboratively to cut costs by blending staffs to reducing overhead. For example, personnel from each agency may be rolling on the same truck.
- BLM and the Forest Service have a "Service First" agreement in the Elko and Winnemucca area. Some overhead costs for staffing are being reduced. For example, there will be one fire management officer for the area instead of one fire management office for each agency in the area.
- Currently studying the efficiencies of combination of local dispatch centers and geographic coordination centers.