



Great Basin Environmental Program Update January 15, 2013

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GBEP Organized by the Five Land Grant Universities in the Great Basin

Land Grants

State Agencies

NGOs

Federal Agencies

Private Sector

Initial Focus of GBEP

- Wildfires
- Water Conservation and Use
- Land Use and Health
- Urban, Rural and Wildlands Mosaic
- Sustainable Cultures and Communities
- Biodiversity

Events Since Last Year


- **Brochure: “Assessing Landscape Scale Cheatgrass Fuel Load Reduction for Protection of Great Basin Ecosystems and Wildland-Urban Interface Using Late Season Grazing”**
- **Focus on Late Season Grazing of Cheatgrass as a Tool for Reducing Fuel Loads and Fire Risk**
- **Major Proposal Developed for Research on Cheatgrass Management**
- **Presentations by UNR and ARS at Public Lands Council Meeting**
- **Met in Reno with BLM leadership on Agency-University Opportunities**
- **Two Demonstration Projects in Oregon on Cheatgrass Late Season Grazing**
- **Projects on Late Season Grazing in Nevada and Other States Planned for 2013**
- **On-going Conversations with Congressional Delegations**

Brochure and Circulation to Congressional Delegations and Funding

- **Strong Interest from Senator Reid and Other
Congressmembers**
- **Follow-up Contacts Indicate Federal Funding will
Come through BLM**
- **Substantial Funding Involved**
- **Still a Work-in-Progress**

2012 Demonstrations in Oregon

- **Roaring Springs Ranch (near Steens Mt), Several Hundred Acres on Private Land, Initiated in fall 2012**
- **Wilber Ranches, Near Drewsey, BLM Burns District Land, Several Hundred Acres, Initiated in fall 2012**
- **Received Partial Funding from Oregon Cattlemen's Assn., Oregon Beef Council, Harney County Commissioners**



Planned 2013 Demonstrations/Research Projects in Nevada, Idaho and Utah

- Nevada: Private Land and Ranches Owned by Mines**
- Idaho: Early Planning Stages**
- Utah: with the Partners for Conservation Development (UtahPCD)**
- Dependent on Funding**

Stringham Multi-State Proposal

- **Title:** “Utilizing State-and-Transition Models at the Disturbance Response Group Level for Post-fire Grazing Decisions”
- **Goal:** Landscape-scale project to increase knowledge of post-fire grazing on annual-dominated or annual invaded rangelands
- **Objectives:**
 - Determine plant (community, fuels, production) and soil response to different combinations of post-burn clipping/mowing and grazing treatments
 - Evaluate data for state-and-transition model threshold values

Stringham Multi-State Proposal

- **Small Plot Treatments:**
 - 1 year rest post-fire followed by 3 years of dormant season clipping
 - 1 year rest post-fire followed by 3 years of growing season clipping
 - 3 years of rest post-fire
- **Landscape Treatments:**
 - Pasture or allotment will mimic one of the prior treatments
- **Plant Community Measurements:** cover, invasives, composition, gap, height, density, census, standing crop
- **Other Measurements:** Soil aggregate stability, infiltration

BLM, GBEP, Federal Agency and Others Meeting at UNR

- BLM Range Chief and Key Staff, Local Federal Agency Scientists and University Scientists Attended Two Day Meeting in Reno
- Meeting Sparked by Presentations at Public Lands Council September Meeting in Winnemucca
- Other Washington Office BLM Leaders Participated by Teleconference
- Discussed Several Issues:
 - Rehab and Restoration in Great Basin after Fire
 - Tools for Successful Rehab and Restoration Work
 - Training Needs for BLM and other Agency Employees
 - Late Season Cheatgrass Grazing Research and Demonstration Project

Plans for Next Year

- Develop Additional Demonstration Projects
- Engage in Research and Demonstration Projects Addressing Late Season Grazing
- Continue to Work with BLM on Issues Raised in the UNR Meeting
- Work with Congressional Delegations to Obtain Funding
- Work with Other Federal Agencies to Identify Cooperators and New Funding

Additional Information on the GBEP

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