

Secretarial Order 3336: An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy

BLM Targeted Grazing Workshop

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SECRETARIAL Order 3336



SIGNED BY SECRETARY JEWELL ON JANUARY 5, 2015 CALLED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, SCIENCE-BASED STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING AND SUPPRESSING RANGELAND FIRE AND RESTORING SAGEBRUSH LANDSCAPES ACROSS THE WEST. GOALS INCLUDE REDUCING THE SIZE, SEVERITY AND COST OF RANGELAND FIRES, ADDRESSING THE SPREAD OF CHEATGRASS AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES AND CONSERVING HABITAT FOR THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE. THE INCREASING FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF RANGELAND FIRE ALSO POSES A THREAT TO ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS ACROSS THIS LANDSCAPE THAT SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE IN THE WEST

Integration of Efforts: Timeline

- **March 2010: USFWS “Warranted but Precluded” Determination for Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG)**
 - Populations well distributed but at risk
 - Wildfire is a substantial contributor to habitat loss in GB
 - Increase in fire frequency driven by invasives
- **December 2011: BLM and USFS Notice of Intent for Planning**
- **November 2014: *The Next Steppe: Sage-Grouse and Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin* (how to address the escalating threat)**
- **January 2015: Secretarial Order 3336**
- **May 2015: An Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy**
- **September 2015: BLM and USFS Records of Decision**
- **October 2015: USFWS “Not Warranted” Determination**

THE 2015 NOT WARRANTED DECISION: SELECT QUOTES

- **SO 3336 & other related efforts represent a marked shift toward a more holistic approach to identifying, prioritizing, and managing impacts from wildfire.**
- **We expect that the Secretarial Order and associated actions, both short and long term, will be implemented and will be effective in reducing the effects to sage-grouse and its habitat ... sufficient enough to be considered in making our determination.**

- **The conservation efforts by Federal, State, and private partners have greatly changed the likely trajectory of the species from our 2010 projections.**

Key Areas of Emphasis Identified in the Integrated Rangeland Fire Strategy



- Cross Cut
- Integrated Response Plans (7bi)
- Prioritization & Allocation of Resources (7bii)
- Fuels (7biii)
- Integrate Science into Project Design & Implementation (7biv)
- Post Fire Restoration (7bv)
- Multi-year Investments in Restoration (7bvi)
- Large Scale Activities to Remove Invasive Grasses (7bvii)
- Science & Research (7bviii)
- National Seed Strategy (7bix)

The Integrated Rangeland Fire Strategy and Targeted Grazing



- 7biii, #6: Explore opportunities to provide support to livestock grazing permittees and private landowners to implement fuel treatment actions as part of strategic, landscape efforts to protect, conserve, and restore sagebrush-steppe habitats.
- 7biii, #7: Explore incentives for livestock producers to implement targeted fuel and vegetation treatments.
- 7bvi, #4: Develop a community of practice for restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem.
- 7bvii, #2: Conduct large-scale research and demonstration projects for control of cheatgrass and invasive annual grasses to identify and advance effective strategies for preventing the spread of invasive species and support large-scale rangeland restoration.
- 7bvii, #5; Develop scalable and adaptive grazing management plans for reducing invasive annual grass and other fine fuels through targeted grazing methods ...

The Spirit of the SO: Successes

- **More resources to respond to fire**
- **Cross Boundary Partnerships: All Hands, All Lands in practice!**
- **National Seed Strategy finalized in August 2105**
- **Development of a Conservation and Restoration Strategy**
- **Release of National Framework for Early Detection/Rapid Response**
<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/National%20EDRR%20Framework.pdf>
- **Delivering an Actionable Science Plan to fill science gaps**
- **NRCS: \$211 million committed to SGI 2.0 through 2018**

Implementation of Secretarial Order 3336

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAtdZwaBTXc> (Brenda Burns)

"The Worst Hard Time" Timothy Egan
Questions?

