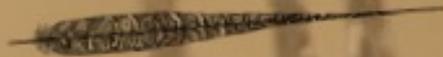


Invasive Plant Management and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation:

A Review and Status Report with Strategic Recommendations for Improvement
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies • Wildfire and Invasive Species Initiative – Working Group



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Montana Invasive Species Summit

April 2016
Helena, MT

Presented by

Mr. Mike Ielmini



U.S. Forest Service
National Forest System
Invasive Species Program Manager

Washington, D.C.

Western Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Invasive Species and Wildfire Working Group

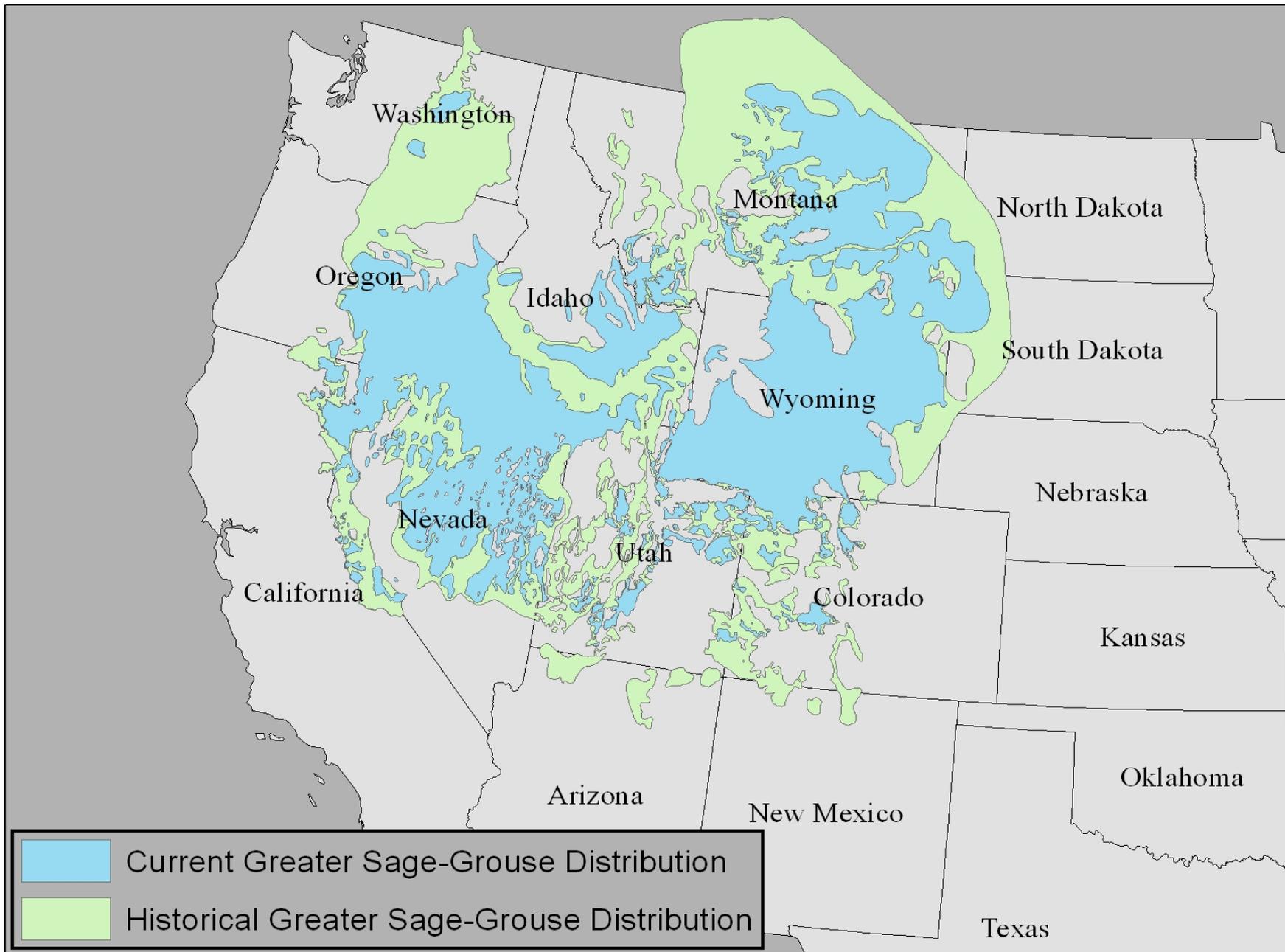


Objective

(one of several workgroup objectives)

- ❖ Identify what is going on across the range of the Greater Sage-grouse to manage or affect the wildfire/invasive plant threat (who, what, when, where and why?)





Greater sage-grouse Conservation Major Threats (Fire and Invasives)



Fire Management
and Restoration

Invasive Weed
Management

Regulatory Framework:
BLM and USFS ROD's and
State Regulations

Invasive Species and Wildfire Working Group

A 16 Member Working Group Representing Expertise in:

- ✓ **Fire Ecology and Fire Suppression:** (Pete Anderson-NV State Forester; Laurie Kurth-USFS; Ted Milesneck-BLM)
- ✓ **Restoration Ecology, Range Management:** Invasive Species (Chad Boyd-OSU/USDA-ARS; Jeanne Chambers-USFS; Mike Ielmini-USFS; Brian Meador-UoWY; Mike Pellant-BLM; David Pyke-USGS Research; Jason Vernon-UTDW)
- ✓ **Wildlife Management and Sage-grouse Ecology:** (Tom Christiansen-WYGF; Dawn Davis-ODFW; Shawn Espinosa-NDOW; Don Kemner-IDFG; Jeremy Maestas-NRCS)
- ✓ **Federal Land Management and Planning:** (Joe Tauge-BLM)

WAFWA Working Group

Products To Date

- **Great Basin Wildfire/Invasive Species Gaps Analysis Report -** (Wildfire and invasive species in the west: Challenges that hinder current and future management and protection of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem.
- **A Conceptual Landscape Approach to Assessing the Wildfire/Invasive Threat** (Managing invasive annual grasses and altered fire regimes using resilience concepts – An integrated approach.
- **Fire and Fuels Management Contributions to Sage-Grouse Conservation** – (Havlina, D., et. al, 2014)
- **Initiation of the Greater Sage-Grouse Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grasses, and Conifer Expansion Assessments (FIAT Assessments)**

WAFWA Working Group Products To Date

- **Invasive Plant Management and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation: A Review and Status Report with Strategic Recommendations for Improvement – (Ielmini, M.R, et. al, 2015)**
- **Using Resistance and Resilience Concepts to Reduce Impacts of Invasive Annual Grasses and Altered Fire Regimes on the Sagebrush Ecosystem and Greater Sage-Grouse: A Strategic Multi-Scale Approach– WAFWA Team Next Steps.**
- **Collaborating Participant - Western Invasive Weed Summit.**
- **Collaboration with the Western Weed Coordinating Committee on the development of a Western Invasive Weed Strategic Action Plan**

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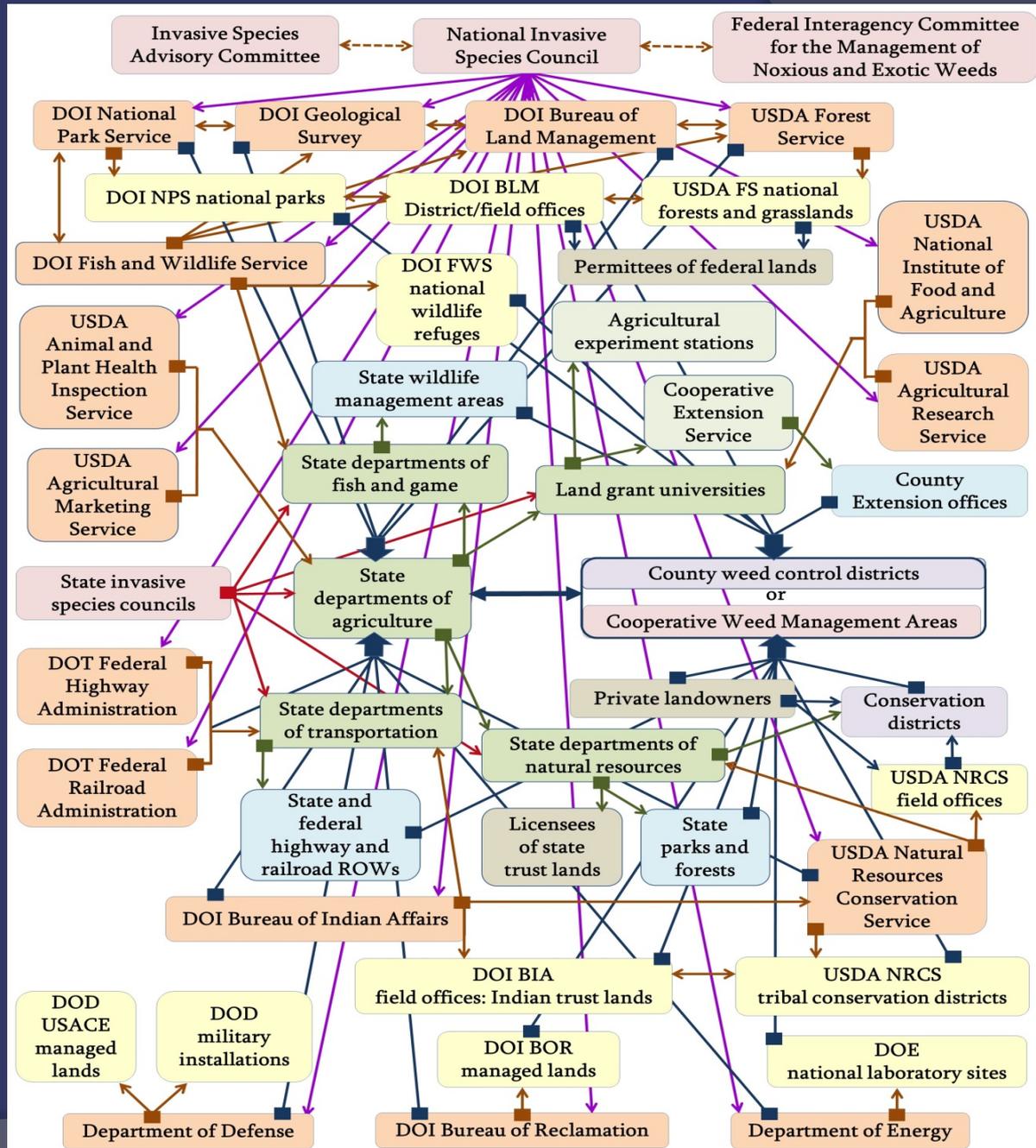
WAFWA Invasive Species Report Development Team

- Nevada
- Utah
- Oregon
- Idaho
- Wyoming
- Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GBLCC)
- U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey (USGS)
- Bureau of Land Management (DOI-BLM)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (DOI-USFWS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- **Center for Invasive Species Management (Montana State Univ.)**
- **AFWA Invasive Species Committee**

Major Components in the Report

- Why Invasive Plants Matter
- Challenges and Barriers to Success
- Recommendations for Improvement

Current Invasive Plant Management Network Structure

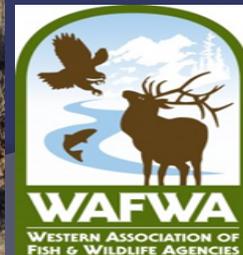


Additional Information Gathered

- ❖ Federal, State, and County Weed Managers, and other Professionals
- ❖ Western Weed Coordinating Committee
- ❖ North American Invasive Species Network
- ❖ North American Exotic Pest Plant Council
- ❖ Missouri River Watershed Coalition
- ❖ North American Invasive Species Management Association
- ❖ Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
- ❖ Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- ❖ Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
- ❖ Tamarisk Coalition
- ❖ The National Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC)
- ❖ The National Invasive Species Council (NISC)
- ❖ The Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- ❖ Congressional Reports and Hearings
- ❖ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- ❖ University Research Programs and Professional Societies

Western Invasive Weed Summit

Boise, Idaho
November 17-19, 2015



Coordinating Group for the Strategic Action Plan Development

- California
- Oregon
- Montana
- Utah
- Idaho
- Nevada
- Wyoming
- Colorado
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- WAFWA Working Group
- Other stakeholders

Keys to Effectiveness

- ✓ **Highly Skilled Professionals and Experts**
 - **Linked to the purpose and intent of the mission**
- ✓ **Diversity of Disciplines and Perspectives**
 - **But take off the “bowling shirts” and leave egos at the door.**
- ✓ **Common Goals Defined Early**
 - **Keep it simple, don't bite off more than you can chew**
- ✓ **Share Information and Ideas With Everyone**
- ✓ **Think Strategically and “Out of the Box”**
- ✓ **Good Leadership to Facilitate Productivity**
- ✓ **FOOD, DRINK, and SOCIALIZING!**