

Symposium Title: A Strategic, Multi-scale Approach for Managing Threats to Sagebrush Ecosystems Based on Resilience and Resistance Concepts

Date: Thursday, Feb. 1st – 8:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. PST

Organizer:

Jeanne C. Chambers, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Reno, Nevada

Karen L. Prentice, USDOl Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

Jeffrey L. Beck, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming



Session Description:

A paradigm shift is underway in how we collectively manage sagebrush habitat. Threats to sagebrush ecosystems and its dependent species, potential listings under the Endangered Species Act, and limited financial resources result in an urgent need for coordinated and strategic investments in conservation and restoration.

This symposium will highlight the new “Science Framework for Conservation and Restoration of the Sagebrush Biome,” which was developed in response to the Department of the Interior’s Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy. The Framework provides a multi-scale approach for prioritizing areas for investment and determining effective management strategies within the sagebrush biome by linking the following concepts:

- 1) Resilience to disturbance, such as, wildfire;
- 2) Resistance to invasive annual grasses; and,
- 3) Species habitat information to prioritize areas for conservation and restoration actions.

The symposium will highlight various aspects of this new Framework, including: why such an approach is needed, the scientific basis in resilience and resistance concepts, and management tools and applications for implementing this new approach. At the end of the session, a panel of regional managers will share perspectives on applying the Framework.

List of Presentations/Presenters:

Morning Session; 20 min/presentation on Pacific Standard Time

8:00 -8:20 *Symposium Introduction: Addressing the Management Need for Coordinated and Collaborative Strategic Conservation and Restoration Investments in the Sagebrush Biome (Karen Prentice, Bureau of Land Management; Ken Mayer, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)*

- 8:20-8:40 Using Resilience and Resistance Concepts to Develop a Common Science Framework for Managing Threats to Sagebrush Ecosystems and Sagebrush Dependent Species (*Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS)
- 8:40-9:00 The Need for a Multi-Scale, Science-Based Approach to Manage Threats to Sagebrush Ecosystems and Sagebrush Dependent Species (*Dave Pyke*, US Geological Survey)
- 9:00-9:20 Management Tools to Help Guide Implementation of the Science Framework for Conservation and Restoration of the Sagebrush Biome (*Peter Coates*, US Geological Survey; *Kevin Doherty*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Mark Ricca*, US Geological Survey; *Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS)
- 9:20-9:40 Tapping Soil Survey Information to Assess Resilience and Resistance of Sagebrush Ecosystems (*Jeremy Maestas* and *Steve Campbell*, Natural Resources Conservation Service; *Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS; *Mike Pellant*, Bureau of Land Management; *Rick Miller*, Oregon State University, emeritus)
- 9:40-10:00 Implementing Adaptive Management and Monitoring (*Lief Weichman*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Dave Pyke*, US Geological Survey)

10:00-10:20 *Break*

- 10:20-10:40 Understanding Climate Adaptation Strategies (*Louisa Evers*, Bureau of Land Management; *Linda Joyce* and *Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS)
- 10:40-11:00 Implementing Wildfire and Vegetation Management Strategies (*Michele Crist*, Bureau of Land Management; *Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS)
- 11:00-11:20 Managing Nonnative Invasive Plant Species (*Lindy Garner*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Jeanne Chambers*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS; *Ken Mayer*, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; *Michele Crist*, Bureau of Land Management; *Mike Ielmini*, USDA Forest Service)
- 11:20-11:40 Applying National Seed Strategy Concepts (*Sarah Kulpa*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Fred Edwards*, Bureau of Land Management; *Francis Kilkenny*, USDA Forest Service, RMRS)
- 11:40-12:00 Visualization and Decision Support Tools (*Zach Bowen*, US Geological Survey)

Afternoon Session

- 1:00-1:20 Managing Livestock Grazing (*Jeff Beck*, University of Wyoming; *Sherm Karl*, Bureau of Land Management)
- 1:20-1:40 Wild Horse and Burro Considerations (*Paul Griffin*, *Jared Bybee*, Bureau of Land Management; *Hope Woodward*, USDA Forest Service; *Gail Collins*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Jake Hennig*, University of Wyoming)
- 1:40-2:40 *Panel Discussion: Perspectives on Implementing the Science Framework from Regional Managers with Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service*

Moderator: Karen Prentice, Bureau of Land Management

Panel members are: Raul Morales, Bill Dunkelberger, Thad Heater, San Stiver,
Carolyn Swed