

“During the Fire – Strategies and Tactics”

The Next Steppe Conference

Thursday, November 6, 1:15 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

Moderator:

Julia Sullens, Idaho Dept. of Lands

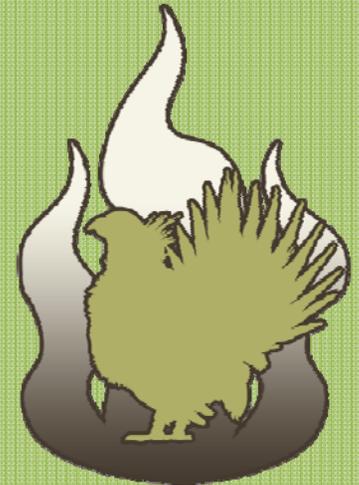
Panelists:

Jill Leguineche, USFS

Lindsey Neiwert, BLM

Rich Harvey, Nevada Dept. of Forestry

Darcy Helmick, Saylor Creek RFPA



DURING THE FIRE ~ STRATEGY AND TACTICS



Rangeland
Fire
Protection
Associations

HOW DOES THE PRESENCE OF SAGEBRUSH STEPPE HABITAT AFFECT FIRE PRIORITIES?

- Rangelands first priority
- Not trained as structure fire fighters
- Rapid Response Goal



WHAT PRESSURES AND CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE DURING A WILDFIRE THAT CONFLICT WITH CONSERVING SAGEBRUSH STEPPE HABITAT?

- Excessive Fuel Loading
- Wilderness
- Wilderness Study Areas
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Endangered Species Act, Threatened, and Special Status Species
 - Slickspot peppergrass
 - Bull Trout



WHAT KINDS OF PLANNING AND FUEL TREATMENTS ARE USEFUL FROM A TACTICAL VIEWPOINT? WHAT COULD BE MORE USEFUL/COULD BE EXPLOITED IN FIRE RESPONSE?

- Fuel Breaks
 - Disked/bladed
 - Vegetation
- Strategically placed suppression resources (water storage facility example)
- Grazing Levels/TNR
- Coordinated Grazing
- Coordination with RFPA for implementation

WHAT ROLE HAS COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PLAYED? WHAT HAS WORKED, WHAT HAS NOT?

- Grazing Permittes
- Adjacent Property Owners
- Idaho Dept of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Rural Fire Departments

“Neighbor is a verb” ~ T. Murphy



WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, TO FEDERAL POLICY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES WOULD FACILITATE EFFECTIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION IN SAGEBRUSH STEPPE HABITAT?

- Temporary Non Renewable Use in high production years
- Fuels Environmental Assessments
 - Allow permittees and ranchers to help assist in implementation and maintenance of fuel breaks
 - Prescribed Fire
- Funding Availability
 - Bring Back the RFA grants