

## **International Sage-grouse Forum (ISGF)**

[www.sage-grouseforum.org](http://www.sage-grouseforum.org)

*Conservation Through Science, Management and Community Involvement*

**Purpose:** To enhance sage-grouse conservation through science, management and community involvement. At no time in the recorded annals of wildlife management, have so many devoted so much to the management and conservation of a single species – the Greater Sage-grouse. The species is indicative of the health of the sagebrush ecosystem on which many depend. The ISGF will highlight the magnitude and resolve of on-going range wide partnerships, and identify opportunities to further advance species conservation through science, management, and local community involvement.

**When:** November 13-14, 2014. The Forum will begin at 8:00 am, Thursday, November 13 and conclude at 4:00pm, Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Where:** Radisson Inn Downtown, 215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT. 84101, US  
A block of rooms has been reserved under Sage-grouse Forum.

**Who:** Landowners, local sage-grouse working group members, federal, state, and private sage-grouse conservation partners, industry, elected officials, county and community planners.

**Registration:** to register for the ISGF go to [www.sage-grouseforum.org](http://www.sage-grouseforum.org)  
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### **Workshop Session G. Fire, Invasive Weed Management, and Sage-grouse Landscapes: Science Guiding Management**

**Purpose:** To uncover the science and transfer new knowledge regarding fire and invasive weed management in sagebrush ecosystems to benefit sage-grouse at the landscape level. This session will highlight aspects of the fire ecology and invasive weed management research completed and on-going as part regional research efforts in the Great Basin and Wyoming Basin. Sagebrush communities have been identified as one of the most threatened land types in North America, and as much as half of this land type has already been lost in the Great Basin. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is coordinating range wide efforts to engage scientists who are studying land management and policy options in developing better information to make restoration and management decisions to reduce risk and uncertainty for greater sage-grouse.

#### **Date and Time:**

**November 13, 2014**

**3:45 pm      Concurrent Workshops**

- (G) Fire and Invasive Weed Management - (*Ken Mayer, Jeanne Chambers. David Pyke, Jim Lyons, Stephanie Graham*)

**November 14, 2014**

**1:30 pm      Concurrent Workshops**

- (Repeat, G) Fire and Invasive Weed Management

**Format:** Short presentations followed by facilitated discussion

**Facilitator:** Dr. S. Nicole Frey, Utah State University

**Speakers:**

1. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Wildfire and Invasive Initiative – Mr. Ken Mayer is the WAFWA Wildfire and Invasive Initiative Coordinator. WAFWA is uniquely positioned to organize and lead a scientifically based assessment engaging all interested stakeholders and agencies (public and private) to prioritize and integrate actions that land managers and policy makers can take to effectively preclude the dominance of invasive species and reduce their influence on the fire cycle in sagebrush ecosystems. The Initiative is a collaborative assessment of management options for the conservation of sagebrush ecosystems that transcend multiple jurisdictions. Ken will update workshops participants on the scope and breath of the Initiative and its conservation implications for sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.

Contact Information: Ken Mayer, WAFWA Wildfire and Invasive Species Coordinator  
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[ken.e.mayer@gmail.com](mailto:ken.e.mayer@gmail.com)

2. Achieving a Better Understanding of Fire Ecology in the Great Basin – Dr. Jeanne Chambers is a Research Ecologist employed by the U.S. Forest Service. Her current research focuses on developing an understanding of the factors that determine ecological resistance to invasive species, especially cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and that affect ecological resilience to fires and other disturbances. Her research provides new insights and information to develop effective management and restoration approaches for sagebrush ecosystems.

Contact information: Dr. Jeanne Chambers, Research Ecologist, 920 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512, Phone: (775) 784-5329, e-mail; [jchambers@fs.fed.us](mailto:jchambers@fs.fed.us).

3. Sage-grouse response to fire in sagebrush steppe – Dr. Jeffrey L. Beck is an Associate Professor, in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. His research interests lie in wildlife habitat ecology and restoration ecology with a focus on restoring the functionality and structure of wildlife habitats in disturbed rangeland systems, particularly sagebrush habitats. Specifically his research enhances the understanding of the direct and indirect impacts of anthropogenic disturbance on vertebrate species (greater sage-grouse and ungulates as model taxa)

inhabiting sagebrush habitats, and the evaluation of the efficacy of mitigation techniques and conservation practices intended to enhance habitat conditions or mitigate effects of anthropogenic development in sagebrush habitats.

Contact Information: Dr. Jeff Beck, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management University of Wyoming, Agriculture Building 2005, Department #3354, 1000 E. University Ave. Laramie, WY 82071, Phone: (307) 766-6683, email: [jlbeck@uwyo.edu](mailto:jlbeck@uwyo.edu).

4. Fire Rehabilitation and Triage – Reality vs Perception – If something burns, can it be rehabilitated? – Dr Dave Pyke is a Supervisory Research Ecologist employed by USGS. His research focus on the restoration and monitoring of the plants and soils of the Intermountain West. Research topics include fire rehabilitation effects and effectiveness, indicators of rangeland health, invasive species ecology, and restoration of shrub steppe ecosystems.

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5. Sage-grouse response to firebreaks in the Great Basin– Stephanie Graham is an Ecologist, employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Service Office, Salt Lake City, Utah. She completed her MS degree at Utah State University where she studied sage-grouse response to green stripping as a firebreak. Greenstrips are firebreaks that have been planted with fire-retardant vegetation, such as forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*), to mitigate threats of wildfire to the landscape. She will summarize research conducted in Utah describing sage-grouse use of forage kochia greenstrips as cover and forage.

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6. Translating Science into Policy and Management – Mr. Jim Lyons is a Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior for Land and Minerals Management. Jim will discuss the role of science in implementing sagebrush ecosystem wildfire protection and rehabilitation polices in the west to conserve sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligates.

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