

# Sage STEP Land Manager Workshop

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## A Need for Sage Steppe Science

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# Science Policy Related to Wildland Fire Management

## □ 2001 Review and Update of 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy:

- “Fire management plans and programs will be based on a foundation of sound science”

## □ 2001 Comprehensive Strategy:

- Goal 3: Restore Fire Adapted Ecosystems; Using Science and Information – Promote the development and use of the best available science...
  - Promote research and effective use of restoration and rehabilitation treatments
  - Research interactions between fire, land management activities, other disturbances and apply lessons learned to future fire management activities

# Policy contd.

## □ 2006 Cohesive Fuels Treatment Strategy

- Scientific understanding and the widespread availability of relevant information play a central role in the strategy.
- Looks to more effectively and efficiently place fuels reduction treatments across the landscape... supported by an increased scientific understanding.

□ The new Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy will continue to emphasize science as a core foundational goal

# Beyond Policy

- Land Managers have a continued need to know that what we are doing is the right thing for the environment and our public lands
  - Sagebrush-steppe is an endangered ecosystem.
    - Supports millions of acres of multiple-use values
    - Involves lands managed by the Federal, Tribal, State, Local Governments and private land owners.

# Need

1. Are RX fire and mechanical treatments in areas of PJ expansion into Sage brush effective?
2. Greater understanding of the short and long term impacts that treatments have on range ecosystems
3. Prospect of Sage Grouse listing requires a greater understanding of treatment impacts
4. Fuels treatment effectiveness information to help prioritize fuels treatments and HFR funding to Bureaus

# Benefits of SageSTEP

1. Enhanced understanding of the effects of treatments in woodland and cheat grass invaded sage steppe.
2. Help Resource and Fuels Managers understand
  1. Short term (and eventually long term) treatment effectiveness and,
  2. How long treatments remain effective
3. Provide more information for analysis during the NEPA process
4. Enhance landscape level strategic planning (Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans etc...)

- The Fuels Management Committee has been providing support and funding to the SageSTEP Treatment Evaluation Project
- The SageSTEP program represents a mechanism to accomplish short and long term monitoring of fuels treatments in the Sage Brush ecosystem.
- Results of SageSTEP will help the interagency land management community design a more science based land management strategy within the Great Basin and the entire western United States