



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657



APR 21 2016

In Reply Refer To:
1742 (910)

Dr. Eric Yensen
3407 Fair Oaks Circle
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Dear Dr. Yensen:

Thank you for taking the opportunity to provide valuable information for the Idaho Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to consider as we move forward with emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) efforts, including those for the Soda Fire burn area.

The development of the Soda Fire ESR Plan was a concentrated effort by a robust interdisciplinary team comprised of Owyhee Field Office resource specialists as well as specialists from the Boise and Vale Districts, the Idaho State Office, and the Oregon State Office. Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were part of the planning team, as we reached out to specialists from the Soda Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team and state and local agencies in Idaho and Oregon. As you stated in your letter, the burned area is very complex. Idaho BLM and Oregon BLM and state, private, and public groups continue to work together to evaluate treatment methods and objectives to measure the success of sagebrush-steppe rehabilitation.

I appreciate your interest in the recovery of the sagebrush-steppe within the Soda Fire burn area. Your suggestions and comments have been reviewed and shared between Idaho BLM and Oregon BLM. We will continue to consider your suggestions through the implementation of future treatments, as well as in adaptive management in the Soda Fire burned area. Research is an important aspect of the Soda Fire ESR Plan, and will continue to be as we move forward in our efforts across the landscape.

A similar letter is being sent to your colleagues: Dr. Donald Mansfield, Dr. Roger Rosentreter, and Dr. John Connelly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Boise District Manager Lara Douglas, at 208-384-3391.

Thank you again for your continued interest in this important issue. We look forward to working with you on the stewardship of BLM managed public lands in Idaho.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Murphy
State Director

cc:

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