

NWCOS Wildlife and Livestock Work Group
Updated Schedule
02/27/06

Goals:

1. Define landscape vision across the resource area for vegetative communities with the greatest impact on wildlife and livestock, including establishment of measurable vegetative conditions present at the end of the RMP period. Assemble baseline vegetation information.
 - Sagebrush
 - Salt Desert/Cold Desert Shrub
 - Pinyon-Juniper
2. Establish wildlife species vision for key species consistent with vegetative vision, including measurable wildlife occurrence and health conditions (including species occurrence, relative population levels and spatial distribution) present at the end of the RMP period. Assemble baseline wildlife information.
3. Define habitat needs (quantity, structural characteristics and spatial distribution) to achieve desired conditions for wildlife species dependent on these vegetative communities with particular focus on:
 - Greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligates
 - Big game species (elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope)
 - White-tailed prairie dog
4. Identify prescriptive fallback/trigger points for each wildlife and vegetative condition.
5. Develop acceptable Adaptive Management framework to operate within to reach or maintain desired wildlife and vegetative conditions.
6. Work out coordination between users of vegetation to ensure that livestock and other uses remain viable.

The Wildlife and Livestock Work Group will develop desired conditions for vegetation and wildlife habitats and feed those to the Oil and Gas Work Group who will develop strategies to achieve or maintain them during energy development.

Process:

1. Start with the sagebrush system and run it all the way through the above goals.
 - Define landscape vision for sagebrush system beginning in March, complete by mid-April.
 - Establish wildlife species vision for sage grouse and sagebrush obligates in March, complete by end of April.
 - Establish wildlife species vision for big game in March, complete by end of April.

- Define habitat needs for sage grouse and sagebrush obligates beginning in April, complete by mid-May.
 - Define habitat needs for big game beginning in April, complete by mid-May.
 - Identify prescriptive fallback/trigger points for sagebrush vegetation and dependent wildlife beginning in May and complete by end of May.
 - Develop acceptable AM framework for sagebrush vegetation and dependent wildlife beginning in May and complete by end of May.
2. Repeat process for salt desert/cold desert and pinyon-juniper vegetative types, as well as white tailed prairie dogs in June and July.