

Forest-wide Direction (Components): Revision Collaborative Input: Non-Forested Vegetation/ Invasive Weeds

Plan Components

Grassland and Shrubland Vegetation

Desired Condition:

Grassland plant communities are dominated by native bunchgrasses, and conifers are absent or occur as scattered individuals. Non-forested breakland vegetation is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, prairie junegrass, and Sandburg's bluegrass, along with a variety of native forbs including arrowleaf balsamroot, lupine, cinquefoil, geranium, lomatium, phlox, and yarrow. Non-native invasive weeds comprise a minor component (<5%) of the plant species composition. Lower elevation grasslands also include sand dropseed, red three-awn, and needle-and-thread grass.

Plant Ppopulations of species of conservation concern are ~~proliferating-thriving~~ due to conservation of their habitats.

The threatened species, Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) is found infrequently on the Forest and occurs in certain grassland habitats dominated by Idaho fescue and prairie june-grass. The threatened species, MacFarlane's four o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) occurs in low elevation, dry canyon grasslands dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass, sand dropseed and red-threeawn. The unique habitat features for MacFarlane's four o'clock ~~Mirabilis~~ is very limited on the Forest and no occurrences have been found; however, populations do occur in very close proximity to the Forest boundary. Habitat for these threatened species continues to be protected and/or conserved enabling individual plants to reproduce and populations of the plant to potentially expand.

Mid to high elevation grassland and dry meadow communities are dominated by native species including Idaho fescue, mountain brome, blue wildrye and western needlegrass, ~~and~~ assorted sedges and forbs. Conifers do not encroach on riparian meadows, upland meadows, grasslands or climax shrub communities. Subalpine grasslands are dominated by native grasses, sedges, and forbs.

Shrubland plant communities on cool moist and north exposure sites are dominated by ninebark, ocean spray, alder, maple, snowberry, menziesia and huckleberry, as well as native grasses, sedges, and forbs. On warm dry sites, mountain mahogany (~~primarily a non-sprouting species~~), hackberry, and smooth sumac comprise the dominant shrub vegetation; while the understory is comprised of a variety of native grasses, sedges, and forbs. Cold subalpine shrublands support a variety of native shrubs including heather and grouse whortleberry, as well as native grasses, sedges, and forbs.

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Riparian meadows on all settings are dominated by native species such as water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) and other riparian grasses, sedges, forbs and shrubs. They are primarily maintained in an open condition by seasonally high water table, and by fire or mechanical treatment of encroaching trees.

No new invasive weed species become established in any of the plant communities on the Forest.

Objectives:

To maintain existing meadows and grasslands, reduce conifer encroachment into meadows and grasslands (xxx acres/year)

Implement an annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy for the management of invasive weeds. The IPM strategy would include prevention, inventory, treatment, monitoring, and restoration. Treatment includes the use of approved herbicides, hand pulling, and biological control. Early detection and rapid response to new invader species is a priority.

Annually participate in Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). Recommendations submitted by the CWMAs to aid the Forest in determining weed management priorities, projects, budgets, and annual programs. The Forest should ~~e~~Annually cooperate with the CWMAs to promote public weed awareness through brochures, displays, and forums.

Forest managers meet annually with county, state and/or university personnel to identify and discuss new invasive weed species in the state of Idaho, or adjacent states, which may pose potential threat to the Forest and CWMA.

Five years after plan approval, invasive species are treated in or adjacent to all known populations of Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*).

Forest managers meet annually with state, tribal, university and/or other agency personnel to share information on the distribution, management, status and conservation of species of conservation concern.

Within ten years after plan approval, survey potential habitat within the Salmon River grasslands for the presence of threatened plant species on ~~FS lands~~ the Forest.

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Standards

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Guidelines

- Upland forage utilization should not exceed 45% to allow forage plants to maintain vigor, root development and soil cover. Specific utilization guidelines should be developed during grazing allotment environmental analysis and allotment management plan development which consider variables such as ecological condition of the vegetation, timing and duration of use, and other resource values in the area.
- ~~The Forest should allow only certified "weed free" hay, feed, straw, and mulch to be brought on to national forest lands to prevent the introduction of invasive weed seed.~~
- ~~The Forest should apply only certified "weed free" seed for restoration projects to prevent the introduction of invasive weed seed.~~
- Livestock salting should be excluded from riparian areas, meadows, designated sensitive plant habitat, seedling conifer regeneration areas, and prescribed restoration areas to reduce localized impacts resulting from concentrated livestock use and associated trampling.

Suitability

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NOTE: MISSING ORO 2 FLIP CHARTS

02/09/2013 Component Input		Commonality	FS Response
Desired Future Condition: Commonality			
1	DFC.Common.a No Change to DFC as written	✓ X 2	
Objectives: Commonality			
Standards: Commonality			
	STD.Common.a		
Guidelines: Commonality			
2	GDL.Common.a Guidelines 2, 3 and 4: Move to Standards	✓ X 2	a. <u>Delete guideline 2 and 3. Requirement for weed free hay on the Forest is a CFR, requirement for weed free seed is FS manual direction. 4 –Retain as guideline.</u> There may be situations where - alternative management options are considered, such as -attracting livestock to a restoration area for seedbed preparation

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02/09/2013 Component Input		FS Response	
Suitability: Commonality			
Desired Future Condition		Working Group	
3	DFC.Oro1.a Title: "Condition": Don't limit invasives etc just to grassland and shrublands. Invasives are more than just this habitat	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite (see attached document) 1a. <u>Will add statement to forest veg and riparian</u> 1b. – vectors of weed spread are part of implementation to achieve a DC, they are not a DC themselves. 1c. – Given the current information a DC condition of zero is not a realistic DC. 1d. <u>– Covered by existing statement in para 1</u>	
4	DFC.Oro1.b Title: "condition" How about addressing vectors of weed spread as opposed to just dealing with them once they're already established?		
5	DFC.Oro1.c Para 1: "Non-native weeds comprise a minor component (<5%) of the plant species composition"..Do we really want to say 5% as opposed to zero---if DFCs are consider_ ed a perfect world (Marty: zero is probably never achievable but 5% maybe)		
6	DFC.Oro1.d Para 7: "No new invasive weed species become established" ADD and existing populations of invasive weed species are minimized/eliminated "in any...		
	DFC.Oro2.a		Orofino 2
	DFC.Gvil1.a Please use common as well as Latin names DFC.Gvil1.b This is well written and descriptive. Good Job. Paints a picture. DFC.Gvil1.c 1 Concern that listing of species gives impression of excluding other or others don't exist DFC.Gvil1.d Add "conservation" to Para 2 species of concern DFC.Gvil1.e Concern about integration. When we map all these, rare and special places (wildlife, non-forest veg, T&E, etc) what's left?		Grangeville 1

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	02/09/2013 Component Input		FS Response
			<p><u>way</u> 1d. <u>OK</u> 1e. <u>Non-forest veg is not rare/special place. Potential habitat for plant species of conservation concern could be mapped as necessary to respond to management issues associated with projects or activities.</u></p>
	DFC.Gvil2.a Okay as written	Grangeville 2	
	DFC.PMLL.a 3 rd Para Typo: red-three-awn	Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	<u>OK, red threeawn or red three-awn</u>
	DFC.KKL.a Para 2: ...habitats. (Hard to measure) DFC.KKL.b Para 3: ...found; however,Third sentence is more of an assessment DFC.KKL.c Para 4: ...and forbs. (Do we need to add acreage or size of meadow?) DFC.KKL.d Para 5:.... And forbs. (Add an objective and a DFC that addresses pre settlement conditions in upland and sub alpine LP types concerning meadows an openings	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	<p>a. <u>Yes, habitats can be difficult to measure</u> b. <u>Statements regarding existing T&E plant habitat lead to concluding last sentence.</u> c. <u>Yes on forbs, No need to quantify meadow size.</u> d. A neither a DC nor an object should speak to past or pre-settlement conditions</p>

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Objectives		
<p>OBJ.Oro1.a Para 4: The Forest should.....brochures, displays and forums (Make this its own objective. Maybe this will help id vectors of weed spread. Education should be in additional to just CWMAs...Add education w/re to vectors</p> <p>OBJ.Oro1.b Para 5: at the end...threat to Forest (should we add tribal here? Why two different objectives---can we combine para 4 and 6?)</p>	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	<p>1a. <u>This would be unnecessary duplication. This is ideal for CWMA</u></p> <p>1b. <u>Add "Forest and CWMA"</u> <u>Both objectives are important and very different. May or may not be done at the same time.</u></p>
OBJ.Oro2.a	Orofino 2	
<p>OBJ.Gvil1.a 2. Need what, where etc or move to guidelines. Does IPM have these stats?</p> <p>OBJ.Gvil1.b 3. This is standard (cross out thru standard). No metric other than yes/no</p> <p>OBJ.Gvil1.c 4. This is standard (cross out thru standard). No metric other than yes/no</p> <p>OBJ.Gvil1.d 5. How much is this "ALL"</p> <p>OBJ.Gvil1.e 6. See 3 and 4</p>	Grangeville 1	<p>1a. An objective does not have the what, where, etc in them. They are to state what you want to achieve.</p> <p>1b. Changed wording to make it an objective.</p> <p>1c. This is an objective, it does not meet the definition of a standard as it is not project specific.</p> <p>1d. <u>All known populations.</u></p> <p>1e. These meet the</p>

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	02/09/2013 Component Input		FS Response
			definition of objectives, they are not appropriate standards.
	OBJ.Gvil2.a #3 Meet more frequently with other agencies/cooperators—at least bi-annually OBJ.Gvil2.b ADD: Annually raise awareness among FS employees about BMPs. Enforce existing rules	Grangeville 2	2a. <u>CWMA develop their own schedule, some years 2 or 3 general meetings, or sub-committee meetings. 1 meeting per year is minimum.</u> 2b. Raising awareness of FS employees is not an appropriate objective.
	OBJ.PMLL.a Para 2: Add “new invaders” should be prioritized: OBJ.PMLL.b Para 5: Add, “within first two years...” delete five	Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	<u>a. Added statement. It is currently top priority on the Forest and existing CWMAs.</u>
	OBJ.KKL.a	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	Standards		
		Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	
		Orofino 2	
		Grangeville 1	
		Grangeville 2	
		Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	

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	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
Guidelines		
<p>GDL.Oro1.a Guidelines (Do we need to address AUMs in this section?)</p> <p>GDL.Oro1.b Para 1: ...area. (Make sure that this same guideline is carried into riparian resource)</p> <p>GDL.Oro1.c Para 3:....seed. (Isn't there already a state law and /or EO related to this? If so, why repeat here? Applies to bullet 1 and 2 on this page)</p> <p>GDL.Oro1.d Para 4:...trampling. (Will this guideline show up in various resource areas? Why isn't this a standard instead of a guideline. No consensus—minority opinion to set this as a standard.)</p>	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	<p>1a. AUM are the result of allotment management planning. Do not know what or how we would address as a guideline.</p> <p>1b. <u>OK</u></p> <p><u>1c. Delete guideline 2 and 3. Requirement for weed free hay on the Forest is a CFR, requirement for weed free seed is FS manual direction.</u></p> <p><u>d.—Retain as guideline. There may be situations where alternative management options are considered, such as attracting livestock to a restoration area for seedbed preparation. Will carry forward into Riparian</u></p>

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		Orofino 2	
GDL.Gvil1.a	Assure definition of weed free is measurable and attainable... feed vs seed	Grangeville 1	<u>1a. Protocols exist for certified weed free feed and also for weed free seed</u>
GDL.Gvil1.b	...ran out of time.....		
GDL.Gvil2.a	Discussed changing 2, 3, 4 to standards rather than guidelines	Grangeville 2	<u>a. 1 & 4 are better suited as a Guideline. Delete 2 & 3.</u>
GDL.PMLL.a	OK	Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	<u>OK</u>
		Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	Suitability		
		Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	
		Orofino 2	
		Grangeville 1	
		Grangeville 2	
		Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	
		Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	