

**Bureau of Land Management  
Multi-Species Conservation Strategy  
Prairie Grasslands Questionnaire**

Introduction: The following questionnaire has been developed in order to quantify information about grassland resources on a broad scale across BLM-managed land in a seven state region. We have tried to be as clear as possible about the information being requested. **All of your answers should be in terms of the native grassland<sup>1</sup> dominated communities only. Do not include information that does not pertain to these communities.** Refer to the footnotes for additional explanations. Keep in mind that this is the first phase of the overall development of a BLM conservation strategy to address multiple species conservation issues. If you need more rows than what is available, select the ATable@function and insert rows following the instructions. You will be given additional opportunities to refine or adjust the information you provide in this questionnaire. If you have questions or problems, please contact Chris Gordon@ 202-452-7754.

Field Office Contact: Contact Phone #: Email:	State:	Office Name:	Office Code:		
<b>I. The Resource</b>					
Federal Surface Acres of FO:	Federal Subsurface Acres: Private/State Surface/Subsurface: Total Acres:				
Estimate % of FO area that is dominated by native grasslands <sup>2</sup> : Fed Surface: Federal Subsurface: Total:	Comment:				
# of Grazing Allotments:	Estimated # of Permittees:				
# of Stream Miles: Federal Surface: Federal Subsurface: Total:	Acres of Lakes/Reservoirs: Federal Surface: Federal Subsurface: Total:				
Acres of Wetlands: Federal Surface: Federal Subsurface: Total:	Acres and/or miles of Riparian: Federal Surface: Federal Subsurface: Total:				
<b>II. Special Status Species</b> (species that primarily occur in grassland ecosystems or habitats associated with grasslands).					
Name (Common or Latin):	Status (FT, FE, FC, ST, SE, BLM Sensitive) <sup>3</sup>	Estimated Current BLM Habitat (ac/mi) <sup>4</sup>	Estimated Historic Habitat (ac/mi) <sup>4</sup>	Management Plan or Agreement Completed (Yes/No) <sup>5</sup>	Percent of Management Plan Completed <sup>6</sup>
<u>Example</u> : Black-tailed prairie dog	FC	1,500 ac	2,500 ac	No	50%

<p><b>III. Special Management Areas (i.e. ACEC, RNA).</b> List by name areas of BLM-administered land within native grassland communities within your administrative unit that have been recognized as having important scientific value for fish, wildlife, and rare plants.</p>					
Name of Area		Estimated Acres	Key Resource Values:		Comments:
<u>Example:</u> Alkali Lakes Wetlands ACEC		2,000	Waterfowl, shorebird nesting, rare plants, wildlife viewing, ecological diversity		ACEC Plan completed in 1993.
<p><b>IV. Land Cover.</b> Briefly describe what land cover information you currently have for your Field Office. If you have more than one type of coverage for different areas, please list separately. Please comment on its current utility for project or land use planning.</p>					
Area or Planning Unit		Date	Scale		Comments:
<p><b>V. Planning</b> (Please provide a brief summary of Land Use Plans for your field office that include prairie grassland habitats)</p>					
Name of Land Use Plan		Date	Acres Affected		Comments:
<u>Example:</u> Muddy Water MFP		1/79	750,000 acres		The plan is 21 years old and contains several species of plants and animals that are now listed. Other resource issues have developed that need to be addressed in an updated plan.
<p><b>VI. Activity Plans (AMP, HMP-s, others)</b></p>					
Plan Name		Date	Acres Affected	Percent Complete	Comments:

		Affected	d		
<p><b>VII. Resource Issues:</b> Please describe significant resource management issues affecting habitat conditions on native grasslands within your field office. Feel free to suggest possible solutions/conservation strategies in section VIII. Be as specific as possible.</p>					
<p><b>Example:</b> Fragmented land ownership in resource area contributes to habitat fragmentation and an inability to provide suitable management over a large enough area to achieve recovery goals for the mountain plover.</p>					
<p>(Federal Surface)(Private Surface, Federal Minerals)</p>					
<p><b>VIII. Conservation Strategies:</b> Please provide suggestions/ideas that address resolution or moving towards a solution of each of the issues you identified.</p>					
<p><b>Example:</b> Increased emphasis on blocking up key areas into manageable units needed to meet recovery needs for the mountain plover. In addition, we see increased opportunity for the use of conservation easements as a viable toll for meeting recovery objectives.</p>					
<p><b>IX. Other Comments or Suggestions</b></p>					
<p><b>THANK YOU!!!</b></p>					

<sup>1</sup> Native grasslands, for the purposes of this questionnaire, include areas dominated by native grass species typical of the short, mixed grass prairie and desert grassland ecosystems and associated inclusions that are typically found within these areas.

<sup>2</sup> Areas dominated by trees or shrub habitats larger than 1,000 acres should not be included in the total. Estimates are fine.

<sup>3</sup> BLM defined sensitive species are those that are federally listed as threatened or endangered, federally proposed for listing, designated as candidates for federal listing, proposed for listing or listed by a State, or designated by a State Director.

<sup>4</sup> Estimated acres of current and historic. These are estimates only! If you do not know, please use UK (unknown).

<sup>5</sup> Management Plans/Agreements refers to any specific plan or agreement that your field office uses to guide protection, conservation, and restoration of this species. Examples include conservation plans, agreements

with the Fish and Wildlife Service, approved recovery plans, habitat management plans, interagency agreements, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Estimate the percent of the BLM planned actions which have been completed.

In Reply Refer To:

6500 (930)

July 17, 2000

Memorandum

To: Director (230), Room 204, LS

From: State Director, Wyoming

Subject: Multi-Species Conservation Strategy for Prairie Grasslands

In response to Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2000-14, we originally sent this IM to our Field Offices for direct response to your requested information. Subsequent followup with them resulted in only one response. A significant reason for limited information is that our Field Offices are under a heavy workload at this time of year with grazing permit renewals, standards and guidelines reviews, APD approvals, and an unusually high fire season.

At this time, we are providing the Landtype Delineation reports for Wyoming, developed in partnership with the University of Wyoming, the State of Wyoming, and other Federal agencies. Also attached are portions of the Affected Environment chapters from four Resource Management Plans that addressed prairie grasslands. If you would like to see additional or more detailed information, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Daniels at (307) 775-6105.

s/Alan R. Pierson

6 Attachments:

1 - Delineations of Landtype Associations within the Great Plains Physiographic Province of Wyoming, 1 March 1995 (65 pp.)

2 - Delineations of Landtype Associations for Northwest Wyoming and The Buffalo Resource Area, 31 December 1999 (123 pp.)

3 - Chapter 3, Medicine Bow - Divide (Great Divide) RMP EIS, Rawlins Field Office (pages 99 - 212)

4 - Chapter 3, Newcastle RMP EIS, Newcastle Field Office (pages 59 - 119)

5 - Chapter 3, Buffalo RMP EIS, Buffalo Field Office (pages 63 - 133)

6 - Chapter 3, Platte River RMP EIS, Casper Field Office (pages 57 - 140)

BDANIELS:clh:07/14/00

GRASS.BDH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

May 2, 2000

In Reply Refer To:  
1120/6500 (230) P

EMS TRANSMISSION 05/02/2000  
Instruction Memorandum No. 2000-114  
Expires: 09/30/2001

To: State Directors (AZ, CO, MT, NM, and WY)  
From: Assistant Director, Planning and Renewable Resources  
Subject: Multi-species Conservation Strategy for Prairie Grasslands DD: 05/31/2000

In May 1999, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Executive Leadership Team (ELT) approved the development of two national strategies designed to address declining species and habitats on BLM-administered land. One strategy is focusing on the sagebrush ecosystem and associated species, while the second strategy is focusing on prairie grasslands. Both strategies are being led cooperatively by the Washington Office's Fish, Wildlife and Forests Group (WO-230) and a State Office sponsor. The Oregon State Office is sponsoring the sagebrush ecosystem project, while the Montana State Office is sponsoring the Prairie Grasslands conservation strategy.

The purpose of this memo is to obtain input from those States that contain native prairie grasslands, regarding the extent of the grasslands and related species resources, issues, and suggestions for conservation actions that the BLM should be addressing. We recognize that prairie grasslands extend over a seven state region, from Canada to Mexico, which translates into substantial diversity and variation. We also recognize that while there are some issues that cut across the entire region, many issues are limited to a specific geographic area such as the northern short-grass prairie in Montana and the Dakotas. It is important that we capture these issues as best we can and start the process of stratifying and organizing information on a regional and state-level. The attached questionnaire should be completed by each field office with native grasslands within the affected states. Questionnaires should be completed by May 31, 2000 and submitted electronically through each State Office to Chris Gordon ([chris\\_gordon@blm.gov](mailto:chris_gordon@blm.gov)) in WO-230 with a copy to Cal McCluskey ([cal\\_mcclusk@blm.gov](mailto:cal_mcclusk@blm.gov)).

Each State Office should designate a State-level coordinator for this project and provide the name to Cal McCluskey. Each field office should also designate a similar contact on the survey form for follow-up. If you have questions regarding the questionnaire, please contact

Cal McCluskey @ (208) 373-4042 or John Moorhouse @ (406) 896-5068.

Signed by:

Mel D. Berg

Acting Assistant Director

Renewable Resources and Protection

Authenticated by:

Robert M. Williams

Directives, Records

& Internet Group, WO540

1 Attachment

1-BLM Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Prairie Grasslands Questionnaire (3 pp)

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