

Nevada BLM Fire Program Update

December 5, 2019

2019 Wildland Fire Season Summary

- Statewide all agencies fire/acres: 577 fires for 83,638 acres, 224 lightning fires for 68,151 acres, 277 human caused fire for 12,020 acres, 76 fire remain under investigation for 3,467 acres
- BLM fire/acres: 363 fires for 77,472 acres, 170 human caused for 14,104 acres & 193 lightning for 63,368 acres
- 40,404 acres of GRSG statewide, 17,538 acres of BLM GRSG
- Consistent Activity in July across Nevada
- Rolled out Nevada Fire Information Web Site, Map and Dashboard Over 70,000 views in a month with over 2,000 views per day.

<https://www.nevadafireinfo.org/>

<https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/c205f43ea5df4f98b6d0f709d15e2f>

An Interagency Fire Prevention Team traveled across Nevada from May 8 to May 24. The Team's purpose was to promote a coordinated state-wide approach for fire prevention messaging, including responsible shooting, recreating responsibly, and awareness of high fire danger conditions.

2019 BLM ESR Summary

Total of 13 ES&R Plans:

- **Elko (2)**
 - Goose, Shafter
- **Winnemucca (2)**
 - Rebel, Sheep
- **Carson City (3)**
 - Cottonwood, Canyon, Long Valley
- **Ely (2)**
 - Gregerson, White Cloud
- **Southern Nevada (1)**
 - Bonelli Peak
- **Battle Mountain (3)**
 - Buffalo, Horse, Summit

FY20 Targets/Acres

District	Emergency Stabilization Acres	Burned Area Rehabilitation Acres
Battle Mountain	25,392	31,147
Carson City	7,823	3,755
Elko	30,520	18,424
Ely	3,755	35,901
Las Vegas	6,466	171
Winnemucca	5,128	57,325
Nevada Totals	79,084	146,723

FY19 Recap

LF22/ES: 301,517 acres - \$10.9M

LF32/BR: 176,486 acres - \$3.89M

NV ES&R Totals: 478,003 acres - \$14.79M

MARTIN - EAST (ELKO) ESR TREATMENT UPDATE

FY 2019 Accomplishments

- Aerial imazapic treatments were completed in October 2018 on approximately 9,800 acres of the Martin (East) Fire. Treatments were completed by NDOW due to BLM not receiving funding until November.
- Completed Emergency Wild Horse Gather of 164 horses of the Martin (East) portion of the fire.
- Drill Seeding Contracts were issued by both the BLM and NDOW for a total of 16,750 acres; however due to delayed funding and contractors over extending their capacity, combined with an early winter no drill seeding was completed.

- Aerial Upland Seeding Treatments were completed on over 72,000 acres with a mixture of Wyoming big sagebrush and western yarrow. Seed was purchased by the BLM and application was completed by NDOW due to the Government Shutdown.
- Aerial Watershed Seeding Treatments were completed on approximately 6,250 acres with a mixture of Basin big sagebrush and native grasses totaling approximately. Again, seed was purchased by the BLM and application was completed by NDOW due to Government Shutdown.
- Thanks to our partnership with NDOW there were no impacts from the government shutdown last winter. NDOW was able to pick up the costs and labor to ensure that over 90,000 lbs of seed was aerially applied on the Martin Fire as well as several other large fires in Elko District.

FY 20 Accomplishments

- NDOW and BLM evaluated treatments early this spring and identified several areas that needed further treatment. There are some areas within the fire that are recovering well after the fire and also areas that have severe erosion occurring and were in need of immediate attention.
- Funding was secured through IPOW for herbicide treatments to prevent cheatgrass germination, drill seeding, and fuel breaks to protect Martin Fire ESR investments.
- Approximately 10,000 acres across the Martin Fire were aerially applied with imazapic to prevent cheatgrass germination. This was completed during the first week of October.
- Approximately 22,000 acres of drill seeding is to be completed by November 30th. To date contractors are 90% completed with the work
- Forage kochia will be aerially seeded this winter across 10,000 acres of identified fuel breaks along the perimeter and interior of the Martin Fire.
- Ordered 200,000 sagebrush seedlings from USFS Nursery to be planted in the spring of 2020 throughout the Martin Fire.
- Fence Repair contract for over 50 miles of fence will be issued next spring to repair fence damaged by the burn.
- NDOW and the BLM will once again evaluate the Martin Fire in the Spring/Summer of 2020 to determine the effectiveness of past treatments, and recommend any future treatments that may be necessary.

MARTIN - WEST (WINNEMUCCA) ESR TREATMENT UPDATE

FY 2019 Accomplishments

- Aerial herbicide treatments (imazapic) were completed on approximately 31,000 acres of the Martin (West) Fire to combat annual invasive grasses. NDOW treated 6,000 acres and BLM treated 25,000 acres.
- Completed Emergency Wild Horse Gather of 854 horses was completed on the Martin (West) portion of the fire.
- Drill seeding was completed on approximately 10,000 acres using BLM and NDOW issued contracts.
- Upland broadcast seeding was completed on approximately 141,000 acres through a combination of BLM personnel, BLM contracts, and NDOW contracts. Of the total 141,000 seeded acres, 105,000 acres was completed using a native species mix with 15,000 of those acres occurring within the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River WSA. The remaining acres were treated with a combination of native and non-native species.

- Watershed broadcast seeding was completed on approximately 1,550 acres within the Martin Creek and North Fork of the Humboldt River drainages using BLM Contracts.
- Protective greenstrip seeding was completed on 2,000 acres using a fuel break mix to compete with invasive annual grasses and aid in future firefighting efforts.
- Aerial mulching was completed on approximately 160 acres at the mouth of the Martin Creek drainage to aid in erosion and debris flow control. This area was identified by the National Weather Service as having the highest probability for debris flows which could affect private landowners close to the fire.
- 60,000 sagebrush seedlings were hand planted on 2,000 acres of the Martin (West) Fire using BLM contracts and the Nevada Department of Forestry Conservation Camp.
- With the help from our partners (NDOW and NDF) a total of 183,000 acres of the Martin (West) fire were treated in FY2019

FY 2020 Accomplishments

- With both BLM and NDOW contracts, approximately 10,450 acres of herbicide (imazapic) was completed in the month of October. BLM contracted 5,770 acres and NDOW contracted 4,680 acres.
- Drill Seeding has been contracted on 10,000 acres and is approximately 40% completed.
- 31,000 acres of upland aerial seeding is contracted to treat areas that were chemically treated in FY19 for annual invasive grasses. This contract is on-going and should be completed by mid-December. NDOW has also contracted an additional 5,950 acres of seeding in priority wildlife habitat and will begin mid-december.
- 300,000 sagebrush seedlings were hand planted in the Martin (West) portion of the fire in October and November of FY2020.
- An additional 2,500 acres of protective greenstrips have been contracted using a fuel break mix to compete with invasive annual grasses and aid in future firefighting efforts.
- Fence repair is being evaluated and completed as needed with BLM personnel and permittee cooperation. Outstanding fence repair will be contracted once fencing evaluations are completed.
- A contract is out for bid to aerially seed strips of Wyoming big sagebrush across 90,000 acres. This equates to a total coverage of 18,000 acres seeded every 5th swath to establish a seed source on the landscape.
- An additional 5,000 acres has been identified for herbicide treatment in the fall of FY2020

Challenges/Opportunities

- Continuing Resolutions and Government Shutdown/Furlough were the primary issues related to BLM opportunities and completing work timely.
- Other funding sources helped to cover ESR funding shortfalls.
- NDOW partnership was critical to completing priority projects during fall/winter of 18/19.
- Contracts came in lower than estimated for aerial seeding and herbicide.

2019 BLM Fuels Management Summary

FY19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS-WOW!!!!

FY19 Accomplished Fuels Treatment Acres							
	RX nonWUI	Mech nonwui	Other nonwui	Mech WUI	Other WUI	RX WUI	
State	JM0000	JQ0000	JR0000	JT0000	JU0000	JW0000	Grand Total
AK	110,375	45		1,116		24,150	135,686
AZ	15,856	4,469	10	2,757	764	1,480	25,336
CA	163	5,118	5,279	7,285	5,810	1,800	25,455
CO	3,801	4,564	3,218	7,279	3,097	13,121	35,080
ES	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
ID	10	16,319	33,407	98,953	44,506	15,183	208,378
MT	2,138	4,297	2,613	9,414	1,600	7,915	27,977
NM	9,883	3,916	6,308	3,045	11,018	3,492	37,662
NV	215	68,886	46,545	9,169	9,254	141	134,210
OR	4,405	62,229	12,391	20,966	15,582	5,715	121,288
UT	2,664	24,146	1,932	82,978	8,885	547	121,152
WY	782	3,917	7,232	6,266	60,111	2,858	81,166
Grand Total	150,292	197,906	118,935	249,233	160,627	76,402	953,395

Community Assistance, Planning and Monitoring/Inventory Accomplishments

- 318 Community Assistance Actions were accomplished, in addition to almost 500,000 acres of WUI acres
- 443 planning actions were accomplished - WUI (316) & nonWUI (127)
- Almost 2 million acres of inventory and monitoring (50% WUI and 50% nonWUI)

FY19 NEVADA ACCOMPLISHMENTS-ALL TIME HIGH

	WUI				non-WUI				Grand Total
	Fire	Mech	Other	Total	Fire	Mech	Other	Total	
Battle Mountain	40	1,590	3,496	5,126	0	6,903	0	6,903	12,109
Carson City	1	627	1,080	1,708	0	3,594	2,032	5,586	7,294
Elko	0	806	1,178	2,018	0	29,787	33,413	63,200	65,218
Ely	50	1,287	0	1,337	215	20,962	0	21,177	22,514
Las Vegas	60	315	800	1,165	0	0	180	180	1,345
Winnemucca	0	4,612	2,700	7,312	0	8,900	31,900	39,800	47,112
Nevada Region Total	141	9,169	9,254	18,564	215	68,886	46,548	115,646	134,210

Community Assistance, Planning and Monitoring/Inventory Accomplishments

- xx Community Assistance Actions were accomplished, in addition to 216,637 acres monitored
- 10 Nepa documents completed and 24 consultations associated.
- 65,150 of 134,210 acres were accomplished utilizing wildlife funding
- FY20 All fund sources included in PTA, first time non fuels funds have been allocated prior to AWP.

Interagency Fuels Meeting held in Elko in early October to coordinate prioritization of projects

- Effective collaboration of high priority projects in Nevada
- Inclusion of partners in planning and project development
- Current tools, projects and priorities
- Need to develop a prioritization system for Program of Work
- Agreement Development

One outcome from this meeting is that GIS working group met in Carson to share data layers to help facilitate an interagency approach to prioritization. Future meeting to be scheduled in the near future as the next step.

To the question of what opportunities were missed due to lack of funding.

- Each year we submit request for funding based on capacity, we have never received the requested amount. We requested 16 million in project dollars and we received almost 8 million in directed project dollars in FY19. Each year projects are prioritized at the district and state levels. We are constantly adjusting priorities based on, budget (continuing resolutions), timing restriction, weather, contract and agreement process. In the end it is difficult to say what opportunities were missed.
- Each year we adjust projects as new funding sources are available, usually each year we get additional funding mid-year that is incorporated into program of work.

Are there any changes to plans moving forward including how the accumulation of fine fuels will be dealt with.

- Currently we conduct sampling across the state to help determine fine fuel loadings. This helps district prioritize where we treat with the limited budget we have.
- Predictive services is also working on a fine fuel loading model, this last season was the first year and we are still validating and improving the model.
- Half of each district base funding is required to be spent on projects and districts have discretion over how they spend it. This gives fuels managers and FMO's the flexibility to react to a need based on current conditions.