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Chemicals for Wildland Fire Management (§)

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#### **Submitter Info**

**Comment:** 

We do not need more endanger species designation but the opposite is needed and new programs to update species act to realistic time lines, remove listings of species, for every new species better science, remove 2 for the list, and bring the common since forest planning back to the agencies, and remove the nonworking or bad science ideas of environmental activists. Pre cutting of old growth and bushes before a wildfires will maintain habitats by removing understory fuels and promoting the regrowth of willows and other riparian vegetation. wildfire influences these habitats by changing their structure and composition. Wildfire may promote the invasion of nonnative plants. Additionally, where wildfires destroy vegetation and change soil properties, they alter hydrology and sediment transport processes, which increase erosion and the deposition of sediment. Because these factors affecting species during or following a catastrophic wildfire should be considered to be a high-priority issue. As wildfires burn, the intense heat, combustion gases, and consumption of organic material kills or displaces animals and may dramatically alter the structure and composition of habitats. Small mammals die during wildfires from burns, asphyxiation, heat stress, overexertion, stampedes, and predation. Wildfires may also interrupt the breeding cycles and movements of surviving animals, while affecting the quality and quantity of food, the availability of nest sites, the pressures of predation and competition, and the incidence of disease and parasites. In the tallgrass prairies of Illinois, meadow jumping mouse populations displayed a positive response when the habitat is cleared of old brush. In Colorado the Hayman Fire of 2002, trapping and telemetry data indicated that many wildlfe did not enter burned habitats for at least 3 years after the Hayman Fire. Wildfires, especially those with high-severity burns, may render habitats unsuitable to the species for many years. If left untreated, nonnative, invasive plants may alter the post-fire dynamics of riparian areas 50 to 100 years after a wildfire. Wildfires have burned wildlife habitats throughout the subspecies' range. Colorado's High Park Fire of 2012 burned wildlife habitats. Similarly, the majority of PMJM habitats burned by Colorado's Hewlett Fire of 2012 and Crystal Fire of 2011 experienced burns, with loss of herbaceous vegetation. Comparatively, the Fourmile Canyon Fire in Colorado during the summer of 2010 burned approximately 37 percent of potential wildfire habitats within the fire perimeter. Severe, high-intensity burns also occurred in wildlife habitats during 2002. During the early summer of 2002, the Hayman and Schoonover fires in Colorado burned over 3,000 ha (7,500 ac) of potential habitat, or approximately 20 percent of the potential habitat within the boundaries of the Pike National Forest . Additionally, the Hayman Fire severely burned approximately 342 ha (844 ac) of proposed critical habitat for many wildlfe, which prompted the removal of several proposed areas from the final 2003 critical habitat designation. Superimposing critical habitat and occupied habitats with perimeters of wildfires provides estimates of habitats potentially burned by wildfires over the last 12

years. Burn area perimeter analyses for wildfires collected since 2000 calculate that wildfires potentially burned approximately 2,376 ha (5,873 ac), or 17 percent, of designated wildlife critical habitat in Colorado. Perimeter datasets also estimate that Colorado wildfires potentially burned approximately 4,150 ha (10,254 ac), or approximately 10 percent of trapped habitats identified as occupied. In Wyoming, burn area perimeter datasets collected since 2000 identify three wildfires that potentially burned habitats. cut and sell more timber, training for loggers, build dams, stop past 8 years of activist nonsense.

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