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**Subject:** "Platinum" Shrub Steppe

I got a call from the Oregonian about the fire (as chair of the Council). Earlier this morning, I told the Joint Information Center manager that we would appreciate a little focus on the resource loss, environmental damage, shrub steppe loss, etc.

If you haven't done so already, you might consider giving your media spokesperson some background about the value of the shrub steppe, the biota it supports, etc. We need to build awareness of and support for protection of the few remaining bits of shrub steppe. The reporter will also contact Curt Soper (Nature Conservancy) for their perspective.

This reporter had been told that USFWS would not allow heavy equipment for fire fighting in the shrub steppe. This is a rumor that DOE followed up on and determined that no one gave such an order. In fact, FWIS gave the go-ahead to get the job done. So you can help squealch that rumor if you hear it.

If you field any media calls, please share the info and angle with us.

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