

East Box Elder County Adaptive Resources Management (EBARM) Local Working Group

The East Box Elder County Adaptive Resources Management (EBARM) Local Working Group (LWG) was formed in November 2015. The LWG group consists of private landowners, state and federal agency personnel, and conservation district members. The group elected C. J. Roberts and Brett Selman as their co-chairs for the group. The first objectives of the group are to learn more about the sage-grouse population in their area, which consists of nearly all private land. This included lek searches, recording wintering grouse, and communicating with landowners for their knowledge. This group is facilitated by Dave Dahlgren.

Description of Area and General Population Information

The East Box Elder area is the Sage-Grouse Management Area that lies west of I-15 and north of I-84. There are only 2 or 3 active known leks in the area with relatively few birds at each lek. Most of the lower elevations had been converted to dry farming at European settlement. Most of the sagebrush habitat is in the higher elevation rangelands. Much of the sagebrush habitat has been fragmented over the years and fire continues to be one of the most significant threats to the sagebrush communities. Cheatgrass invasion following fire is also an extensive issue in the area. The landownership is predominantly private and there is only a small section of Bureau of Land Management property in the northwest portion. The area is unique in that private landowners are numerous and landownership is not generally in large blocks. This creates its own challenges and opportunities.

Recent Activities and Accomplishments

In 2019 the EBARM group did not meet and activities have been limited. This group has not been active for several years now. There has been up to two GPS radio-marked sage-grouse in the resource area, and data has been collected by USU Extension and shared with the group (Figure 6).

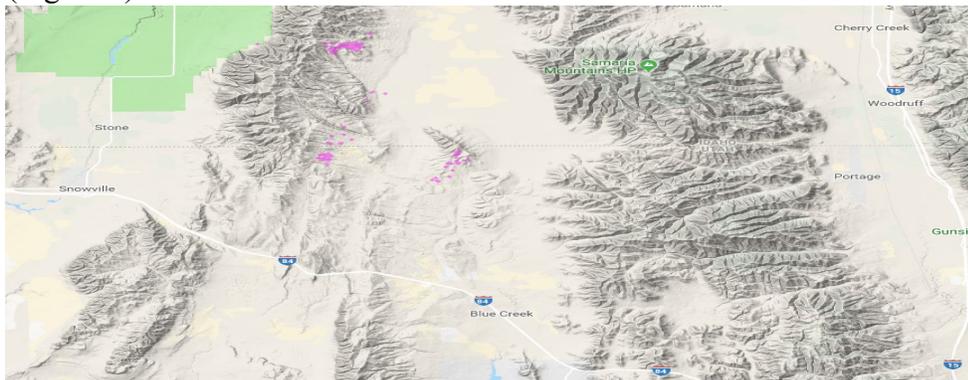


Figure 6. Pink squares represent greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) global position satellite radio-telemetry locations, 2016-2018, East Box Elder Adaptive Resources Management Local Working Group Area. No data has been collected since 2018.

Upcoming Year Work Plan

No attempts were made to reach out to the co-chairs of the group in 2019. We have had internal discussions about having Lorien Belton become the assigned facilitator and make an attempt to reactivate this group.