

# Color Country Adaptive Resource Management

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## Participants

Norm McKee, Joe Helfrich - DOGM, Kirk Nicholes - Alton Coal Development, Todd Miller- DOGM

Kevin Heaton - USU Extension Garfield and Kane County, Lisa Church -Kanab Field Office, Cameron McQuivey -GSENM, Stan Gurley - NRCS/DWR, Nicki Frey -USU Extension

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## 1. Alton Mine Updates

1. Record of decision has been released
  2. Lisa provided copies of the news release. There are links provided to get to the site that has all the documents
  3. The next step is the lease sale; once the lease is sold then the permitting process will begin with Division of Oil Gas and Mining.
  4. Kirk provided a map of the lease proposal that they will submit during the lease sale.
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## 2. Heaton's Research Projects

Put GPS collars on bulls and do a DNA study to determine which bulls sired the offspring. Use GPS to determine if the ratio of bulls to cows that is used on the range is accurate.

Puts GPS collars on cows to see their movements on the GSENM to see how far they forage from water, find available forage, etc. Next spring, Kevin can provide an update on both or one of these projects.

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## 3. BLM Updates

Lisa provided updates on the Utah BLM's sage grouse plan amendment EIS

This is the amendment to the 2015 amendment that many western states had problems with

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540 unique comments, working on providing the comments.

The draft new Resource Managements Plans for GSENM (which is now 3 units). Escalante Canyon, Kaiparowits, and Grand Staircase and the is still open to comments. Looking to have that finalized in January.

**A public meeting October 15 in Escalante 4-7pm at the high school; October 16 in Kanab at elementary school, 4-7pm. Hope to have this out in January.**

Scoping letter sent out for Skutumpah Terrace restoration project a couple of years ago. They made changes based on comments. Sagebrush-Steppe Enhancement Project now. 33000 acre proposal. A draft EA came back last Friday. They will release it after the October RMP meetings.

The mule deer and sage grouse act was passed through the senate unanimously. Makes restoration projects (with certain details) a CatEx.

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#### 4. Project updates

##### 1. BLM

1. Sunset Cliffs (south canyon) bullhog finished, waiting for the seeds. Last piece of South Canyon project
2. Upper Kanab Creek lop and scatter map was handed out. Hit some thick pieces around Black Knoll along Glendale Bench road
3. On water projects, been working on laying pipe, etc. They have putting in a LOT of pipe. In South Canyon project areas. The goal is to make it accessible for most wildlife species. There will be wildlife ramps, etc.
  1. The livestock use agreements are being worked on for every permittee that will use these water developments. The goal is to make the water available even when the cattle are not there.
  2. Group discussed ideas to spread out and use water. What types would be the most beneficial, etc. Discussed policy and procedures to allow methods that we need.
  3. Is there a maintenance strategy? WRI provides money for maintenance and these projects will be submitted as needed

2. NRCS. Seed flights are prepping and should be happening in the next couple of weeks.

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1. In October all NRCS projects will be treated for seed, where applicable
2. Freemont to Bear Valley project will be starting soon. Lop and scatter and bull hog project.
3. In the next year, planning on doing some work in the Mud Springs area with Jack Schoppe (USFS)

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## 5. Nicki's Research

- Have about 8 grouse in Buckskin-Bear-Dog Valley; birds do move out into Panguitch and Bear valleys in summer but use Buckskin and Dog in winter.
- Alton female finally sloughed her transmitter. We were able to get 3 more transmitters to put out. They should be available in end of September for trapping in October.
  - Still see predation by eagles — there is flesh pit near Glendale (Spencer's property) that keeps sometimes up to 30 in the area in the winter. UDOT has a pit a Mt. Carmel. Can we come up with some ideas on how to mitigate the conflict? When they pull deer off the highway, where do they take them?
- Had a 23% increase in Greater Sage-grouse male lek attendance in the PHMA last year.

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## 6. Future Ideas

- December : for future WRI. Objectives, outcomes and impacts to grouse for all WRI projects. usually have this as the WRI project presentations; need to have more time for discussion of each project and how it will possibly impact grouse; slow it down and give time to talk about each project.

we can maintain a spreadsheet of the projects that we ranked, and periodically will ask for updates and progress reports.

5-10 minutes to say outcomes, objectives, assurances.

**Sending notice end of November to all groups to say we need to know who and how many will be coming to the December; encourage all partners to attend, including grazing partners, permittees, landowner partnerships.**

**Consider a late afternoon meeting for that one.**

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- Research Outreach in the Spring :Russian olive removal re Kevin Heaton's
  - showcase the grouse, cattle, mountain lion, elk and turkey work we've been doing in the area

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Next Meeting December 12th. May Make this an Afternoon Meeting so all Partners that want to attend can make it.

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