

CCARM Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

Attendance: See Attached

Introductions

WRI Project Presentations

Cameron McQuivey : **Skutumpah Terrace/Chalk Ridge**. About 1700 acres of bullhog and chain-harrow. First phase of the treatment, follows upper Kanab Creek treatments. Ties into past treatments. We met with UDWR/BLM/EXT to explain purpose of the project, to discuss any possible negative impacts that may occur in the area. Trying to get something other than crested wheatgrass to persist. Clint has had some success in blanket flower. Will be trying to fill in old washes.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: habitat connectivity, removing trees in an area with high winter raptor density.

John Reese: **Spencer Bench Chaining:** ties into Broad Hollow treatments. Adjacent to sink valley work. Would appreciate a forb species mix recommendation. Trying to make sure there are forbs there that grouse will use (already has an amazing diversity of forb in the mix, includes alfalfa and forage kochia). 1746 acres. Adjacent to recent treatments, just west of the SGMA boundary. Mark Spencer is working with NRCS to put in a pipeline and increase water resources in that area.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: increasing connectivity and habitat mosaic, removing trees in an area with high winter raptor density

Sean Petersen: **South Canyon Panguitch Creek Bullhog**. Similar process to the past South Canyon projects. 2979 acres to tie in the treatments to the south of 143 and 5-mile. Can we design pockets of cover away from the road, so the deer's thermal cover isn't next to the road? Yes, there will be strings of habitat. Adjacent to Dickinson Hill (treated 2005) and Graveyard (2014).

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: create habitat mosaics, increased connectivity, create brood rearing habitat.

Norm – concerned by the lack of water there. John – we need something we can keep cattle out of it so we can move cattle with the water.

Kevin – keep trees around the shooting range if possible.

Jack Shoppe: **Mud Springs II** . Lop and Scatter and bull hog. Removing tree density to create available habitat and reduce trees around the 3 leks. There are grouse in the area. Focused on the low hanging fruit that can benefit grouse.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: removing trees in proximity to leks, create habitat connectivity, removing trees in areas with high winter raptor density.

Jack Schoppe: **Blue Fly Rabbitbrush Control** . Getting 85 acres of rabbitbrush out of the riparian areas and bottoms. To benefit UPD and grouse. See hens walking through there in the summer, so this could increase their late brood-rearing habitat.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: should provide late brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse.

Clint Wirick: **Greater Fremont Phase III** : multiple private, state, and federal partners. Create some aspen regeneration. Lop and scatter to clean up some areas that were missed. Bullhog on BLM land. Grouse are using the areas that were treated in 2019. Erosion control at some of the head cuts. Fence building on private lands.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: create habitat mosaic, including summer habitat, connectivity between Buckskin and Dog Valley.

Rhett Boswell: Beaver Translocation -- beaver translocations in the area will create wet meadows and increase late summer brood rearing habitat.

Benefits/Detriments to Grouse: increase summer brood-rearing habitat.

2. Jared Reese, BLM Planning Update – received an injunction on the recent plan. Going back to the 2015 plan. In the meantime, we are going to draft a SEIS, addressing the issues in the litigation. Looking to have the SEIS available for comment in mid-February.

Removal of GHMA: those weren't in undisturbed areas, only supported 5% of the Utah population.

Compensatory Mitigation – do not want it to be voluntary, voluntary does not come with assurances that are necessary to warrant calling it mitigation

Lack of Alternatives Identified in 2019 plan

Cumulative Effects Analysis: drawbacks of looking at it state by state rather than rangewide.

Disturbance caps are the same, but have to meet net conservation gain.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday April 15, 2020. Garfield County Offices

Agenda Items: HAF, adaptive management updates (triggers), success reports from 2018 projects