

## CCARM Meeting Minutes

3/12/12

In attendance: Kevin Heaton, USU EXT; Joe Helfrich, DOGM; Kirk Nicholes, Alton Coal; Nile Sorenson, NRCS/UDWR; Norm McKee; Rhett Boswell, UDWR; Nicki Frey, USU EXT; Lisa Church, BLM; Dustin Schaible, UDWR; Clint Wirick, USFWS

1. Nicki : Please review the threats table that I sent to you and update it. If there are no changes, please email me to let me know you approve of the current table.
2. BLM: lease comments closed. 10000 unique comments. Meeting next Monday to go forward with these comments.

IM policy during the process of land use plan: even current ones will be updated with these new guidances. BLM has until 2014 to finish amendments to existing Land Use Plans.

Procedural Intent: project or permit that might potentially impact grouse, it gets bumped up to high priority to the state office UDWR, the USFWS and the state director.

Kanab Field office Land Use Plan may change a little bit based on new guidance

USU EXT: discussion of the Glendale Spike Treatment/Skutumpah in winter range. This type of treatment has worked in the summer. Lisa is meeting with a researcher in Nevada to see when and how his projects have worked. The intention was never to treat the whole proposed areas, but needed to propose the whole area for clearance. Will just treat a % of the proposed area. The proposed area is an old seeding.

We need to do something to the site because the site is not functioning well as a winter habitat.

Carson has seen birds in the south canyon in an area that would be treated to remove PJ.

Concern is that it is being used now. J. Robinson feels strongly that we should not be doing anything to that winter range

UDWR: Lek counts started 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. E. Panguitch seems to be up from past years. 4 flights scheduled with cooperation from Alton Coal. Will look in Skutumpah through Sink Valley, Sage Hen through Hoyts. DNA Analysis study is a go. Studies will be collecting feathers as they collar their birds.

UPCD Projects: Submitted projects to UPCD –Hatch Bench, West Bench Panguitch Chaining. These projects ranked well, and will probably get funded.

Kirk Nicholes: looking at additional mitigation ideas. Looking at a 5yr contract with UDWR. Did not radio track grouse in the past year, but plan to do some passive surveys in the upcoming years. Still working up the details of these passive surveys, such as spotlight surveys, pellet counts, etc. Created a map of the sightings recorded by his crew. Birds are crossing over the top of the mine, they are still hanging out in the area that was previously considered winter and spring habitat. Sighting birds on back-filled areas in February 2012.

Decibel disturbance level? Measuring ~40 at active lek. In statewide management plan, anything considered above normal human conversation level is too loud.

DOGM: still working on the draft mitigation strategy. Need to dial in on ground survey methods. Plan to have environmental awareness trainings each year. Predator control for ravens is still happening this year.

NRCS/UDWR: John's Valley project approved through NRCS. There was a Piute County resident that signed up as well, but there are some complications still.

USFWS: Clint still has money for private lands. Any projects that benefit T&E, conservation status, migratory birds would qualify. Riparian areas would be a high priority. Excludes SITLA as a private landowner.

NORM: getting politicians on board to be conscious of opportunities to work with important lands when considering land trades. How can we find the direction to tell our local offices about these important pieces of land? Made phone calls and wrote a couple of articles to get some attention. Will continue these efforts.

Next Meeting: April 18<sup>th</sup>. 1200 @ Triple C in Panguitch, UT