

Color Country Meeting

12/16/09

In attendance:

Wally Dodds, Upper Sevier Watershed

Kevin Williams, Color Country RC&D

John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau Federation

Erica Whiteman, Panoramaland Country RC&D

Nicki Frey, USU Extension

Lisa Church, BLM

Nile Sorenson, NRCS/UDWR

Gary Bezzant, UDWR

Dustin Shaible, UDWR

1. Project Reports

Sage grouse report.

Lisa – state permit has been approved on the coal mine. It has been appealed by Sierra Club, SUWA and local Panguitch residents. There will be a state hearing on the appeals process. The process will be held in Alton probably.

Impair scenic highway; Acid rain in Panguitch that will impact the historic bricks

UDOGM website has the project, appeals, and all that information up there.

BLM won't work on their draft document until that issue is resolved.

Vicki /Kevin – Upper Kanab Creek watershed. Vegetation treatments in 50,000 acre ranges; over 15-20 years. The EA has been approved. It is open to comments until Monday. Vicki would like to have us comment if we have time. Would need to request copies to view it.

Nile Sorenson – John Brammel, just south of Alton and part of the Upper Kanab Creek watershed, to put together a project of 300 acres of treatment. Bullhog on BLM. Removing oak with a Cat. This would probably be an NRCS equip/whip proposal. He also wants to put in a well, to make water available in dry seasons. There is a lake there, but it goes dry periodically. Working with Vicki and Dustin.

Lisa – on the Upper Kanab Creek area, proposing to go in and retreat old seedings. 3 areas that are state, private and BLM. “Sink Valley”, “Black rock”, “Mill Creek”.

South Canyon Arch. Clearance finished. Will put in a fuels proposal to do some bullhog work.

Circleville Cove – did some chaining in 900 acres in a mosaic and seeded it. There was very old sagebrush with no understory. Trying to rejuvenate the area.

Erica Whiteman – met with Salvados about moving forward with their safe harbor agreement. Planning on talking to Nathan Brown to schedule a new count. Will take a 5 year average count. Don’t want them to let UPD move out of the 5 acre area; outside that is some irrigated land that is drawing them, so that might be a problem.

2. Identify Goals and Objectives : What we plan to do in the next year. The numbers refer to the CCARM management plan’s actions and strategies list.

1. 4. Continue this; maybe ramp this up.

1.5 continue this

1.2 need to focus on this for the Garkane project coming in. We can go in a public comment on the FS website.

2.1 We are doing this, but need to keep up on this.

3. Improve water availability

3.4 Coordinate with private landowners to protect current water availability that benefits ...

3.3 Consider new water developments

Mud Springs. Pipeline that takes Panguitch bench water and pulls it down into Five Mile area where there has been several projects to improve habitat. This would fix guzzlers and other water availability in the area. This is city water. Pipeline would go on FS and BLM land.

Pond on SITLA land that is used by cattle and big game, around Wide Hollow area. Not usable by grouse. Needs a little work to make it available to other wildlife such as grouse.

4. Increase participation

4.4 host open houses and field tours

USU EXT and RC&D should coordinate to get it going with the RC&D.

4.5 distribute annual reports

5. Continue all actions

6. 6.2 need to keep on Dustin about changing the boundary of the Parker Mtn hunt. This boundary currently runs into John's Valley.

7. We do this as appropriate. This will tie back into Strategy four. But not an actual focus this year.

7.4 Will focus on this.

8. Reduce impacts of concentrated use. Continue to do this.

9.2.2 continue with dedicated hunters to work on removing saplings

9.1 Continue our efforts with this.

3. Sign update: invoice Kevin Heaton's address and get John Keeler's invoice address. The signs have been completed and Nicki/Dustin will bring them to the next meeting.

4. Meetings dates:

- a. February 17th 10 am
- b. April 21st
- c. June 16th Field tour
- d. August 18th
- e. October 20th Open House, evening meeting
- f. December 15th