

Color County Local Working Group
February 13, 2013 beginning at 10 AM

FS/NRCS Office, Panguitch Utah

Attending: Kevin Heaton, Clint Wirick, Rhett Boxwell, Joe Helfrich, Steve Peterson, Bryant Shakespear, Kirt Nicholes, Lisa Church, John Keeler, Nile Sorenson, Byard Kershaw, Norm McKee, Brian Bremmer, Dusting Scheible, Kevin Heaton, and Nicki Frey.

UDWR/NRCS updates:

Nile Sorenson gave updates on news from NRCS and DWR.

Lisa Church gave updates from BLM. BLM has been talking with BRCA about air quality concerns. There are some long-term parameter measurements that BLM will need funding to get climate stations. They cost \$12,000 to \$24,000 depending on the sophistication. Mitigation plans are about two weeks out so the group needs to stay tuned. She also discussed proposed projects for the year. South Canyon is looking great. Several members mentioned positive results for the program.

Question: How do we give regulators the message these projects are working for greater sage-grouse habitat?

Lisa now has to report every action that occurs within greater sage-grouse occupied habitat.

Clint is not in the regulatory division, but he is the "voice" for these LWG and actions at a local level.

Governor's plan has been incorporated as an alternative and BLM draft is moving forward.

Quincy Birr noted that 14 field offices of the BLM will have to amend their RMP and six FS will have to amend theirs. Want to provide long-term consistency across the board by 2014. Plan for an open house once this is done.

Nicki will resend threat matrix to group for completion for next meeting.

Rhett went over the UPCD projects.

Joe Helfrich went over mitigation plan for the mine. Steve's been monitoring with vegetation surveys and bird use surveys, Kirt is monitoring, Wildlife Services is doing predator control. Rough draft of findings presented to the state, but they'll present to the group today.

Since July – a monthly survey has been done to find sign, birds, etc. just south of the mine is their favorite spot. During July through September there were 12-15 birds; October there were 59 birds; and Jan. 22-25 they flushed 59 birds.

Wildlife Services trapping results: 1270 eggs placed predicting that this will remove 318 ravens; 17 coyotes removed, 12 coyotes trapped and 2 dens removed. Dustin would like to increase this area to include Ford Pasture.

There is a 4:1 ratio of disturbance mitigation.