

CCARM meeting minutes

Joel Helfrich, Division of Oil Gas and Mining - Alton Bond Release Inspection

- Hosted a Phase 2 Bond release in beginning of September
- Bond liability period is 10 years after reclamation for Alton Coal Mine
 - Phase 1 backfilling and grading
 - Phase 2 establishment of vegetation and ensuring site stability
- The majority of phase 2 is a vegetation study
- Joe presented the seed mixes, summaries of vegetation study, and photos of the reclaimed site.
- Vegetation monitoring conducted by Mt. Nero Scientific, Inc. (Patrick Collins)
- Most study sites were close to or above the success standard.
- UDOGM will recommend that ACD be released on their phase 1 and phase 2 sites that were reviewed.

Vicki Tyler, Quincy Bahr, Jared Reese - BLM - SO3353 GRSGR Conservation and Cooperation with Western States

- Issued June 7, 2017 to improve conservation coordination between state and federal plans
- conducted from officials from US Dept of Interior: BLM, USFWS, USGS, USFS and representatives from 11 states that have sage grouse habitat
 - Key point of contact was Western Gov Assoc., Sage Grouse Task Force
- SGTF raised some important concerns:
 - Support local economies
 - Need to remain 'not warranted' in ESA
 - Avoid rewrite of all the plans
 - Strengthen communications

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

- Some issues will require state-specific management
- The report went out in August 4, 2017, regarding possible plan and policy changes
- Short term things that can be addressed
 - Clarify existing flexibilities in the plan
 - Opportunities to prepare and revise existing policies
 - Plan allows for agreements with states
 - Provide staff training
- Long Term recommendations that would require plan amendments were also suggested
 - Some states want amendments to land use plan, while other states are not
- Report identified opportunities to improve coordination on fire, fuels, and invasive species management, increase data sharing, initiate new research, and incorporate new information
- The long and short recommendations have already been initiated
- Secretary of Interior directed the BLM to continue to collaborate with SGTF
 - how to incorporate updated habitat boundaries
 - Clarify mechanisms to modify waivers, exceptions, and modifications
 - Policy for fluid mineral leasing and development includes prioritization
 - How does HAF dovetail into the plans
- Other enactments
 - How do you turn off a trigger
 - Clarify use of compensatory mitigation
 - Set appropriate population objectives
- the DOI and the SGTF have affirmed that everything doesn't apply to every state, not every item received consensus from every state, not a one size fits all approach for 11 states
- Asking partners to review the report to help them

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- Did the report capture your concerns?
- Are there additional local issues that are not captured by the report?
- What are the potential priorities to assist in arranging the work effort?
- Are the priorities listed correctly for our state?
- Please send these comments to bennadolski@utah.gov

WRI Water Development Projects (that new money source that we talked about last meeting)

- Several projects were identified and entered in the database
- V. Tyler reminds folks that those projects submitted in the future need to be review by her.
 - * just that special source of money that came out recently, with a short turnaround, not all WRI projects.

For December Rhett and Nicki Frey will report on the Resource Selection Function and the social survey

For Brian Head Fire — UDWR, NRCS, and USFS collaborating to identify private lands that need to be destabilized right away. Already started putting out seed and mulch. Putting out sterile Trilicale (hybrid of wheat and rye) to stabilize soil. The seeding will be a mix of grass and forbs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be a meeting for WRI in November

Upper Sevier Watershed Tour sometime this fall, Kevin Heaton will let us know.

Our next meeting will be at 10:30, December 6th

NRCS EQIP applications are due November 17th, contact Stan Gurley