

CCARM Meeting Feb 16th, 2011 10am

1. Attendees:

Cameron McQuivey, GSENM BLM
Lisa Church, BLM
Steve Petersen, BYU/Alton Coal
Kevin Williams, Color Country RC&D
Kevin Heaton, USU Extension
Nile Sorensen, UDWR/NRCS
John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau
Nicki Frey, USU Extension
Clint Wirick, US FWS
Dustin Schaible, UDWR
Joe Helfrich, UT Division of OGM

3) Agency updates

- Larry Johnson and Kirk Nicholes . Talked about research proposal and UPCD projects. But projects were presented at UPCD last Wednesday too. Met with Kevin Dustin; ready to go with predator control.
 - Could the next meeting be the tour? That would be the 21st?
 - Nicki research update; hiring tech to write report

- BLM project –Upper Sevier project. Taking GSNM out and rerunning.
 - 2 active projects; South Canyon up by Panguitch Lake. Alton Sage Grouse. By Bramal's
 - Completed NEPA for more acres on South Canyon. For 5 years projected. Hatch to Sage Hen on west side of highway.
 - Also finished last unit on 5 Mile

- What were results of the WS control?
- UPCD presented UDWR project. Will be starting March first. Dustin Schaible put out 32 elk collars. ½ are GPS collars and ½ are VHS. Seeing where they are on the Dutton. Prospect Creek to Deer Creek. Some have moved 6 miles in a few days.
- NRCS – Nile met with landowner who has lease on some Hatch property. About 6000 acres. Initially a 1200 acres chaining on SITLA. Nile meeting to get them signed up on sage grouse initiative project.
 - 1 million dollars for EQIP and WHIP. Sign up deadline is March 1st. NRCS will be sending out post cards to particular landowners that would have potential

projects to benefit sage grouse. There is a threat checklist that you go through with landowner. Addresses things like fence obstructions, marking fences on winter range, pinyon juniper encroachment, prescribed grazing (deferring until after May), noxious weed removal. Ranking takes into account how many of those threats are addressed in the plan. Maximum \$10,000 a year for 3 years (payment for prescribed grazing/upland wildlife management).

- Not liable if bird becomes listed later.
 - NICKI ATTACH OUTREACH PROCEDURE
- Proposal for Steve Petersen
 - Steve wants to put out the 8 collars that we have left.
 - Nicki stated she couldn't unless there was funding in her account to monitor the birds by the time we would be going out to trap them
 - COR would be expiring, IACUC would still be in place.
 - UDWR: starting lek surveys 1st week of March.
 - Cameron
 - Biomass field trip June 3-4th. Show how the shredding etc. works. Cameron will send the flyer and we can attach the flyer to the meeting minutes.
 - Kevin Heaton – could Nicki please resend the Alton report to the group. Also would like to see the CBCP website. Steve and Kevin are co-authors and would be willing to help write the discussion.

4) please review strategies and actions and get that to Nicki by April

Send them the rating document and threats matrix so that they can rate it.

Get copies of Coates paper to the group

6) Next meeting date April 21st with field tour at the mine?

5) Discussion item: what to do with the trees that the mine piled up? Usually they just put it back in the pit when they fill it in. Would we want to mulch those trees and put them on top? The group says yes, lets' use the trees and shrubs on site and put that down, rather than straw. They would just need a wood chipper or shredder

7) What about removing the trees along the road? Can we get rid of them?

Yes we can get rid of them. They are becoming raptor perches.

What about the misc. BLM pieces? Are there things we can do to that? Lisa mentioned that we can do something, but we would need to do some NEPA. It is 120 acres. It's in the middle of private land. It is a grouse flyover area. But it would be good to get that stuff out there.