

Color Country Local Working Group Meeting  
April 22, 2015. 10 -12. Garfield County Courthouse Offices

**In attendance:**

Clint Wirick, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Chris Perkins Wildlife Services  
Norm McKee, retired  
Nicki Frey, USU Extension  
Randy Marshall, Grazing Improvement Program  
Zack Orton Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Curtis Roundy NRCS/Farm Bill  
Rachel Williams Utah Division of Oil Gas Mining GIS  
Joe Helfrich DOGM  
Brian Bremner Garfield County  
Josh Pollack Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
John Keeler Utah Farm Bureau Federation  
Byard Kershaw, Kane County NR Consultant  
Kirk Nicholes, Alton Coal Development  
Lisa Reinhart, UDOGM  
Kevin Heaton USU Extension

**Items of Business**

1. Lek updates. Josh Pollack - Sagegrouse Update  
Alton - 12  
Hoyts - 21  
Big Hollow -  
Hatch Airport/Riverside - 6  
John's Valley - 7, 37 (Rock Creek), 39 Tom Best, 8 Tom Best west, swell lek 5;  
Sage Hen 107  
Dog Valley 109

2. Jeanne Chambers presentation from International Sage-grouse Forum.  
Register. Then use your registered email as your username and the password is ISGF\_2014  
put in username and password and link for ISGF  
USGS publication = [www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46329](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46329)

For next meeting: Pete Coates, Ravens and Sage grouse

3. Norm McKee

Water rights issues. How do we make more water available if we want to put in ponds or guzzlers?

UDWR had difficulty getting a guzzler in Sage Hen Hollow, had to get the water rights to get that installed.

Frey - They may occasionally use it, but there isn't evidence that they are drawn to the water itself, but the habitat a water source might create. No evidence that using guzzlers will increase their fitness by increasing their survival or recruitment. Then one must consider the fact that guzzlers might increase predator use of an area, perhaps attracted to other wildlife, and thus indirectly increase sage-grouse predation. For example, ravens are drawn to human developments.

4. Keeler - Appropriations from the legislature.  
Utah got \$1 million for grouse  
GIP got \$1 million  
UDWR prairie dog program \$500

5. Chris Perkins, Wildlife Services -- working to be more visible for Greater sage-grouse management. Come to him with any questions regarding predator management. For raven control, trying to focus on areas where we've seen direct raven harassment, or a livestock producer asks for it. Most effective time for egg baits February - March.

For next meeting, Chris will bring an annual state report of where WS has done some work.

We can come up with a list of priority areas, and possibly get that lined up for next spring.

6. Norm McKee -- Grand Staircase NM. Working to get some projects going on monument lands that have stalled in the past.

7. Nicki – USU Extension. Finished putting the transmitters on last week. As I get interim analyses that I can share with the group as I set up the GIS, I'll share that with you.

8. NRCS - doing contracting right now on EQIP and SGI funding. For SGI in the ranking stage now. One definite project for Elbow Springs allotment. Also considering some rabbitbrush removal south of the sink valley ranch.

9. USFWS - Working with Curtis, call him if you have any applications

10. Joe and Kirk- application for strip mine on Heaton Brothers LLC, and other property owners. Straddles the wildlife fence. 230 Acres of planned disturbance. Kirk will bring a map to the next meeting. Sounds like the Lease EIS will be released next month.

Next Meeting Dates:

All meetings are 10 –noon unless otherwise posted. All meetings at the Garfield County Courthouse offices. Exact office announced prior to meeting.

June 10  
August 19  
October 14  
December 9