

Notes from Kick Off CRMP Meeting- September 13, 2011 @ Park Valley School

Welcome and Introduction by Ken Spackman Co-chair of the West Box Elder CRMP

Bill Hopkin's Power point presentation reviewed the process the Rich County CRMP went through and highlighted points of importance as they pertained to putting a successful CRMP together. He said that local landowner and county involvement is key.

Representative Ronda Menlove said that the state legislature is interested in land being managed at the most local level. She also expressed concern that the state legislature is losing rural representation.

Senator Peter Knudson offered his support of the CRMP effort and expressed his interest in representing western Box Elder constituents in the priorities they set in the CRM plan.

Co-Chair and Commissioner LuAnn Adams reviewed her involvement in the CRMP to present and the excitement and optimism she has for seeing it be successful.

NRCS Jeff Schick took questions and answered them. Brought folks up to speed about what the West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management project had accomplished so far.

The assembly broke into six different areas of concern for the project with a facilitator in each area. Concerns and some priorities were established.

Properly Functioning Range lands

- *Juniper encroachment*
- *Riparian Condition*
- *Livestock Production Sustainability*
- *Fire(not enough control) Bring back prescribed burns*
- *Better pasture rotation systems*
- *Lack of stock water to implement*
- *Weeds /poisonous*
- *Flexibility- between permittees and Federal/State agencies (adaptive management)*
- *Permit Renewals- Appeals*
- *Restore grasses, forbs into areas where Juniper or Sage has taken them out.*
- *Research into what grasses work best here*
- *Interseeding- Forage and Kochia into cheat grass areas*
- *Firebreaks*
- *Timber management- beetle kill and dead fall makes it hard to manage grazing in forest areas.*
- *Economics of grazing/ make ranch sustainable for generations*

- *Recreationalists and graze land management need to become more compatible. Teach how livestock can be used as a tool to keep the range land functioning properly.*
- *Managing Grazing with wildlife. CWMU's to capitalize on wildfire that is there/ loss of hunters 400,000-100,000.*
- *Ease of getting projects out of red tape and completed to meet management goals*
- *Congressional help to change regulations that don't work.*
- *To protect rangeland and be good stewards*

Noxious weeds

- *Identify weeds that are specific to our area.*
- *Build a database and correlate it with county and other agencies on GIS map.*
- *Create a website for ranchers, landowners and other agencies to identify where the targeted weeds are located early as possible.*
- *Identify abused areas- treat problem not just symptom. Use an ecologically based weed management.*
- *Distribute an updated weed identification booklet to increase awareness so landowners can recognize how weeds look at early, mid and late stages.*
- *Motivated landowners to all spray, for the success in treatment. Work together with the county weed department.*
- *Learn and implement biological weed control methods.*
- *Coordinate spray dates with the county.*
- *Develop management methods that enhance "Natural Competition".*
- *Develop education programs for residence in the area.*

Socio-Economic

Economic development would be successful if:

- *Recreation: Positives (good for the economy unless land is abused) bring outside people in to support local businesses. Negatives: Abuse the land, trash, use of water resources, no job creation, don't want to designate or publish trails.*
- *Paved roads and signage would help with more travel through the area*
- *Jobs with good wages*
- *Services and products*
- *Local education*
- *Increase or sustain population*
- *Export products*

*3 legs of economic development
Recruitment of businesses
Retention of people
Create jobs*

*Internet is an asset to allow local business
This plan will be a success if we create products and services that are exported
outside of this region.*

Export Goods and Services- Not Kids

Forestry

- *Aspen loss*
- *Conifer Encroachment*
- *Large burns*
- *Burns that include private lands*
- *Pest survey every year to tell if a problem is starting.*

Water Resources

Priorities

- *How much water is available?*
- *Best way to conserve*
- *Utilization*
- *Recreation possibilities*
- *Storage*
- *Pipelines(irrigation and rangeland)*
- *Stock wells (additional water rights)*
- *Increase acreage available for the water*
- *Ownership or right to use water on federal land*
- *Find out what help is available.*

Notes: Washakie reservoir project being worked on. Concern over Cache County individuals who want to use West Box Elder Water.

Division of Water Resources showed data of stream flows, water related land use, reservoirs, and dams. Water Resources has maps of lands currently being irrigated and maps of land use in 2005, USGS stream gaging stations and actual / potential reservoirs.

There was a discussion on how the local water users need to work with the Division of Water Rights to obtain water rights on acreage being irrigated (as new systems have been installed- increased acres irrigated).

Would like to have the right to use water on BLM and Forest Service land.

Need to utilize help from NRCS and other agencies that can provide help.

Wild Life

Sage Grouse

- *Funding availability*
- *High priority because of listing risk*
- *Merge with BARM*

Sustain Current Populations of threatened species

Predators

- *Wolves, lions, coyotes*
- *Misc. on Sage grouse*
- *Corvids, raptors, badgers, coyotes*

Sage grouse

- *Need to document what Risks/threat/true needs are.*
- *Forest Service policies managed in Idaho, are they similar to policies and management in Utah?*
- *Habitat improvements*

Species introduction/ should we?

- *Pronghorn Antelope*
- *California Bighorn*

ATV/ Snowmobile conflict

- *Habitat impacts*

On habitat improvements, consider amount of sage brush removed.

Goals from here are that we:

- *Prioritize items in each area of concern.*
- *Evaluate the extent and adequacy of government furnished materials.*
- *Collect and analyze as much as possible.*
- *Develop a request for proposals for potential contractors for help with work not able to be fulfilled by the committee or participating agencies.*