

Meeting Notes for West Box Elder CRM

Tuesday September 19th 2017

Attending: Clayton white, Jacke Greene, Dustin Ford, Brien Maxfield, John Maxfield, Bracken Henderson, Jeff Schick, Michel Kohl, Mark Anderson Justin Small, Calee Lott, Eric Thacker, Dave Dahlgren, Scott Shahverdian, Commissioner Hadfield, Jared Reese, Loren Poppert, Eric Spencer, Beth Burritt, **Ken Spackman, Tom Kunzler, Jay Tanner, Bryan Morris**, Attending at another area, Alan Smith, Dylan Tucker, Cassie Mellon, Karl Fleming, and Clint Hill.

Commissioner Hadfield welcomed the group

Eric Thacker introduced Calee Lott the new Sagebrush Ecosystem Alliance Coordinator for our area. The goal of her position is helping preserve the Ecology, History and Economic viability of Northwestern Utah using a shared vision with local coordinated resource management. (CRM)

Jack Greene Naturalist, educator, USU staff also a member of the Bridgerland Audubon Society board and former Director of the Ogden Nature Center has agreed to help us with a bird tour the second weekend of May. Jack is looking for more birders that will help with the tour. Please put that on your calendar.

Scott Shahverdian gave a presentation-which is viewable on <http://utahcbcp.org/localworkinggroups/WestBoxElder-WBECRM/westboxelder>

Restoration efforts began in the upper Grouse Creek watershed in 2016, funded by the Watershed Restoration Initiative. A small-scale pilot restoration treatment was designed in September 2016 in order to inform a larger restoration treatment in 2017. Fifteen beaver dam analogs (BDAs) were built in Pine Creek, Kimball Creek and Cotton Creek in October 2016 by Utah State University personnel with help from the Utah Conservation Corps. The goal of the pilot treatment was to test how different types of BDAs work in a variety of stream settings, as well as to learn about the logistic challenges of building BDAs along the different streams.

In spring 2017, a complete restoration proposal and restoration design was completed by Utah State University and Anabran Solutions LLC, based on observations of the pilot treatment. In June 2017, 114 BDAs were built along Pine Creek, Kimball Creek, and Cotton Creek. All BDAs were designed and built to achieve specific restoration objectives that reflect the restoration goals for each stream, including channel incision recovery, increased channel-floodplain connectivity, and providing immediate habitat for beaver translocation. An important aspect of the Grouse Creek restoration is the translocation of beaver. While BDAs may produce short term benefits for stream and riparian health, continued benefits of restoration require maintenance of BDAs that is

best achieved by translocating beaver. In early September 2017 the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources revised the Utah Beaver Management Plan, allowing UDWR personnel to live trap and translocate beaver into the Grouse Creek Watershed. Currently, UDWR and USU are working together to live trap and translocate beaver into the Pine Creek and Kimball Creek where BDAs were built in order to provide deep water habitat for beaver translocation.

Loren Poppert, US Forest Service said that some of the regulations of transferring beaver into different drainages has lessened. Loren reported that the last project the Forest service did in the CRM area of 2 thousand acres was successful with little soil disturbance. They've completed their goal of juniper trees and now are concentrating on helping restore quaking aspen stands. The Regional Forester and part of her staff are doing a Sawtooth General Management Review Oct 2nd and as part of that review they are interested in spending a little time in the field with some of our partners/cooperators. Loren invited the CRM to join the tour.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of taking out some Pinyon pine in the Lynn Bench area. Loren said that the Native American treaty rights won't allow the Pinyon removal.

Clint Hill the Chairman of the Rangeland Subcommittee met with his sub-committee 3 weeks prior but wasn't able to get the input of the BLM folks because of all the fires they were tied up with. They will tighten up the plan before the next CRM meeting in November. Included would be 4-5 thousand acres south of Dry Basin, and about 8 thousand acres to be culturally cleared in the G.C. and Etna areas (Dairy Valley, Kilgore and Red Butte allotments). This Fall Nate Long is working on Cultural Clearances for the Keg Springs area and planning on a water study to see pre- and post-tree removal effects.

Clint said that there needed to be a vote by the CRM to support these projects and any others purposed in the CRM area. Bracken brought up a list of the voting members of the CRM. Some of the voting board members have changed jobs and moved on. There are some landowners also that though voting members, haven't attended for a substantial time. It was decided that some changes need to be made to the voting committee before a vote should take place. The vote will take place on the next CRM meeting on November 21st.

Alan Smith, the Wildlife co-chairman said that Adam Brewerton would like to do a workshop on sensitive species for folks. Alan also wanted to have some kind of training for ORV users to tread lightly with their off-road vehicles. It is a real concern with degrading of roads. Commissioner Hadfield said that there are efforts happening now with designated road and off limit areas that the county is now working on.

Mark Anderson, County weed Manager said that it's been a banner year for weeds. Recently they focused on Goose Creek for Spurge and found that they have made good headway with the spurge, however they worked on other weeds in the area. The county wanted the landowners to be vigilantly spraying the weeds on their lands. Mark

told that the county was encouraging use in bio control. They will evaluate the success in the next 3-5 years. Mark said there will be four more spray days. They will target scotch thistle on Dean's pass, the reservoir and Dry Basin.

Jared Reese of the BLM gave a presentation About Secretarial 3353. The aim is to improve greater Sage Grouse mitigation in cooperation with Western State and not it impede local economic opportunities. There is a 60-day review by BLM. Secretary Zinke met in June to conserve for long term and not take jobs away. He advised not to take away assurances. His goal was to strengthen communications and training.

Bill Gilson is meeting with folks in the county to get their input on roads. Use this website for individuals to give input.

<http://gis.boxeldercounty.org/roads>

Michel Kohl talked about the state-wide assessment framework. His presentation will be on the first CRM link at the top of the notes.