

September 17th, 2019 CRM Meeting Minutes

Rangeland Committee (Clint Hill)- Some members of the subcommittee (BLM,FS, Extension, and Landowners) went out and looked over the fire rehab that was seeded last fall, to see what has thrived and what had not. They are hoping that with these tours they can determine types of seed mixes that will thrive in west Box Elder County and they can be used during reseeding efforts. They had a good turnout of people show up for the tour. This tour showed that the areas where the seed was drilled thrived, but the areas that was flown on by plane that was more of a mixed response, some survived and some did not. The Forage Koshia is doing well. Upcoming information, trying for a Winter/Early Spring meeting that could be driven by the WRI projects that are presented.

USFS (Jessica French)- She gave an update of the FS WRI funded projects, like the Raft River Riparian project. She is working on getting archeology going this week. Some of the work has already been contracted out.

Fire Rehab & Reseeding (Rayce Bryan)- He is Eric Thacker's new grad student. This past summer they sampled a third year in Dry Basin & Badger Flat fuel breaks. The results seemed to be the same as last year, there is a possibility for a formal report to be coming out on that, and will be sent to the group if/when it comes out. As of now, they are not planning on any future monitoring in these areas. They are currently analyzing the Goose Creek Fire areas, analyzing areas of past treatment. They are really working on gathering information from these areas. They are going to be analyzing 8 areas, which have been broke into two BPS areas: intermountain mixed sage & great basin mixed sage.

Sage Grouse (Justin Small)- This was a good year for sage grouse, most of the monitoring was done in the Dry Basin Area. They were able to monitor 35 birds with GPS collars these are the results they found.

-Nest initiation- 82% -Nest Success- 65% -Nest Predation- 35%

Nine Broods were marked

-Brood Success- 40% -Averaged 3 chicks/hen -Predation- 39%

They noticed the raven numbers were down this year compared to years past. They also monitored that the birds are using the treatment areas more.

Justin will have a human dimension chapter in his final grad thesis. He will be interviewing ranchers, State, and government agencies to see how the CRM has helped them and what can be done to make the CRM better.

BLM Update (Abbie Jossie)- The sage grouse numbers in Utah are down from previous years. The DWR is researching possible reasons of why this is happening. Jordan Rosel is the new Range Con for this area.

BLM Update (Matt Preston)- The range improvement EA will be signed off in a few weeks. They are hoping to create a platform to help improve the RIPS EA process. In this platform they will include the permit renewal and new sage grouse mana plan. They are hoping to have both of these cleaned up before the end of the calendar year. They are working on clearing out old projects to help them gain some capacity to take on new projects.

Brad Jessop- They will be awarding the warm springs project to contractors in the next month for clean-up and mastication of trees. Etna is still on hold due to cultural resource clearance issues. They are

studying main wildlife corridors and will be looking in the future to replace fences to help better accommodate these wildlife corridors. They are working on mapping fences on public lands. Guzzler inventory is done and they plan to continue to monitor them. There was a talk had about the Nevada border fence line, and BLM will follow up to get it fixed before Nevada cows are turned out next spring. The fire suppression this year has been well, they are writing 3-4 fire rehab plans for this year, but that is much less than years past. Old treatments have helped with fire suppression. This year, the communication across the state line was better.

Weed Dept. (Wyatt Freeze)- They had a successful spray day and are planning another one at Dean's pass just don't have a for sure date set yet. They are also going to do another spray day in Park Valley for knapweed, and another one at the gravel pit coming into park valley. Deans Pass- Grass stand is good and the thistle is down. They seen squarouse knapweed in big canyon that they are watching closely. Black Hembane weed is starting to show up and they are keeping an eye on that. In Etna there is still a lot of thistle but they are going to have another spray day there.

Wildlife (Alan Smith)- They will have 3 more projects for WRI this year. All guzzlers are on the west side of the shelter pass burn area. There are big game guzzlers on hog-up, they are waiting on a state trades to take place before more information/projects on Newfoundland will be announced. Guzzlers are also going on the BLM lands. There was a discussion had about an issue that came up about some elk causing problems on a private land and the steps that are being taken to resolve that issue. The DWR has a variety of mitigations to offer landowners for issues they have with the elk.

Box Elder Biologist (Jim)- Grouse creek elk numbers are down; the objective numbers are 175 for grouse creek and 100 for Yost. They are working on possible changes for West Box Elder elk management coming in 2021. They have gotten GPS collars for deer and should be put on in mid-December. They are working on multi-species treatment areas, should help them gather good information for wildlife corridor. They are planning on flying in January/February to do a moose count. The state of Utah is forming a committee to determine action with the big-horn sheep on the raft river range.

CRM Revitalization (Calee Garn)- She is wanting to form a subcommittee that includes government, state, and private landowners. The committee will look at the priorities again and help to raise awareness of how the CRM is helping them. They will determine if they should move the CRM into 501-C3 or what should happen with that. She would like to stay involved with the West Box Elder Conservation District. The group brought up ideas to involve younger people & women, also involve grouse creek through IVC. Jay made the motion to establish a revitalization subcommittee, and to reach out to the landowners. It was seconded by Josh Dallin. The motion was amended to add Calee as the person to head up the subcommittee. This was seconded by Tom Kunzler. A discussion was had of who should be involved in the committee.

Motion was made by Jay Tanner to approve the WRI projects via email through the voting members. Bryan David seconded the motion.

8:00 p.m. Tom Kunzler made the motion to close the meeting and Josh Dallin seconded the motion.