

Castle Country Adaptive Resources Management (CaCoARM) Sage-grouse Local Working Group

The Castle Country Adaptive Resource Management Plan (CaCoARM) Sage-grouse LWG was organized in 2004 by Terry Messmer. Lorien Belton is the group facilitator.

Description of Area and General Population Information

The CaCoARM conservation area encompasses occupied sage-grouse habitats primarily in Carbon County, with portions of Utah and Sanpete County. Sage-grouse habitat in this area is naturally fragmented by both geology and topography. Although the sage-grouse habitat locally is in the Carbon SGMA boundary, the Tavaputs Plateau is outside the SGMA, the LWG continues to work with landowners in the Tavaputs area and watch the population dynamics there in addition to the primary focus on the birds within the SGMA.

CaCoARM Meetings and Field Tours

| Type | Date | Location | # attending | Comments |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Landowner appreciation dinner | April 6, 2016 | Price | 30 | Presentations and entertainment |
| Field Tour | July 20, 2016 | Emma Park | 14 | Tour focused on erosion of soil and restoration efforts in wet areas of sage-grouse habitats |
| Meeting | November 16, 2016 | Price | 7 | Updates on BLM instructional memoranda |

Project and Research Highlights

The Carbon group has had a large amount of staff turnover within partner organizations and agencies in recent years, including 2016. In addition, because the group has not been dealing with any urgent, pressing issues related to sage-grouse, attendance among landowners has decreased. There is growing interest, however, in expanding juniper treatment projects to private lands, having more discussion about how to protect wet areas that both sage-grouse and livestock depend on, and bringing weed issues more into the conversations.