

East Box Elder County Adaptive Resources Management (EBARM) Sage-Grouse Local Working Group

The East Box Elder LWG was formed in November 2015. The LWG group consists of private landowners, state and federal agency personnel, and conservation district members. The group elected C. J. Roberts and Brett Selman as their co-chairs for the group. The first objectives of the group are to learn more about the sage-grouse population in their area, which consists of nearly all private land. This included lek searches, recording wintering grouse, and communicating with landowners for their knowledge. This group is facilitated by Dave Dahlgren.

Description of Area and General Population Information

The East Box Elder area is the Sage-Grouse Management Area that lies west of I-15 and north of I-84. There are only 2 or 3 active known leks in the area with relatively few birds at each lek. Most of the lower elevations have been converted to dry farming at European settlement. Most of the sagebrush habitat is in the higher elevation rangelands. Much of the sagebrush habitat has been fragmented over the years and fire continues to be one of the most significant threats to the sagebrush communities. Cheatgrass invasion following fire is also an extensive issue in the area. The landownership is predominantly private and there is only a small section of BLM in the northwest portion. The area is unique in that private landowners are numerous and landownership is not generally in large blocks. This creates its own challenges and opportunities.

East Box Elder LWG meetings.

Type	Date	Location	# attending	Comments
Meeting	7 Jan 2016	Tremonton	23	Discussed objective and future goals
Community Gathering	18 Feb 2016	Tremonton	46	Presentations on sage-grouse biology and management were made to a community audience
Field tour	28 Oct 2016	Pocatello Valley	22	Visited the recent burn, some lek sites, and talked about sage-grouse habitat needs

Project and Research Highlights:

The LWG donated funds to purchase a GPS unit to be put out on a sage-grouse within the area. Efforts were made during the spring of 2016 to locate and trap a sage-grouse for this purpose, but the attempts were unsuccessful. We will try again during the spring of 2017 to deploy the GPS radio on a sage-grouse within the boundaries of the LWG.