

## **Parker Mountain Field Tour Notes**

Date: 8-8-2013

Attendees : 21 (Organizations Represented: USFS, UDWR, BLM, USFWS, Grazing Association, Wayne County Commission, SITLA, GIP, USU Extension)

Topics: We discussed sage-grouse use of livestock areas for lekking habitat. Parker Mountain has a long history of sage-grouse males selecting areas where livestock have bedded, watered, or in combination for their leks. We visited a recently renovated pond where a new sage-grouse lek began in 2013. We also discussed Utah Prairie Dog issues, and why the USFWS cannot count dogs on SITLA towards recovery goals. We visited Forshea Draw which was treated with Spike Fall 2012. We discussed treatment and kill rates on sagebrush. Some felt the effect was just right, others felt like the overall kill on sagebrush was a little too much. All agreed that in the long run it probably wouldn't hurt the sage-grouse population overall, and that mountain big sagebrush communities on Parker Mountain tend to recovery rather quickly (< 10 years) and continued sagebrush treatment in mountain sagebrush communities at the higher elevations should be part of future conservation efforts both for sage-grouse and livestock.