

**MSARM  
LOCAL  
WORKING  
GROUP**

**Date:** August 14, 2019

**Place:** Exit 191 Interstate 80

**Members Present:** Travis Murphy and Cade Murphey (landowners), Catherine James (Morgan CD), Scott Walker (DWR), Pam Kramer (DWR), Brett Denney (Summit Land Conservancy), Dave Dahlgren (USU Extension), Jared Reese (BLM), Nathan Long (DWR), Lorien Belton (USU Extension; MSARM facilitator)

**Field Tour Summary**

Travis Murphy hosted a field tour to visit two sites on property he owns or manages in Summit County near Interstate 80. The tour focused on sagebrush habitat management for sage-grouse.

Dave Dahlgren from USU Extension presented information on research and tools for assessing potential sagebrush treatments in sage-grouse habitat areas. He discussed

Stop 1 was at an area where sagebrush had been thoroughly removed many decades before. The Murpheys showed the group areas where seeding treatments were beginning to recover a better grass and forb component, compared to untreated areas, which they have plans to improve in future years. Although there is not much sagebrush in the immediate project area, nearby sagebrush supports grouse, and the area is now much improved for a wide variety of wildlife needs as well as livestock forage.

Stop 2 was in a sagebrush area with future sagebrush treatments being planned. The group discussed many factors that might play into how sage-grouse respond to treatment of sagebrush, including distance from edge of treatment, precipitation in the years following treatment, tools used to implement the treatment, and many other topics. We also discussed how treatment polygon patterns on the landscape might influence snow collection and moisture retention on the hillsides.