

**MSARM
LOCAL
WORKING
GROUP**

Date: June 12, 2012

Place: Woodruff, Utah (park pavillion)

Members Present: exact attendance not taken due to combined groups and field tour. Participants included: Desiree Van Dyke (UACD), Mike Welch (QRM), Scott McFarlane (UDWR), Pam Kramer (UDWR), Patti Barney, (NRCS), , Tammy Koydyke NCRS/SGI), Dennis Fox (enXco), Lorien Belton (USU Extension; MSARM facilitator), Todd Black (USU Extension, Rich CRM facilitator), plus numerous other DWR and NRCS employees, plus multiple private landowners.

Highlights

The meeting started earlier than previously announced due to changes in the field tour schedule, and took place over lunch.

The main focus of the meeting was to review and discuss proposed map boundaries and stipulations for the Rich-Morgan-Summit sage-grouse management area proposed by the Governor's sage-grouse task force. The task force has developed draft map boundaries for sage-grouse management areas around the state, and combined the areas currently considered separately by the Rich and MSARM working groups.

Todd Black encouraged the group to not alter the boundaries much, as they must reflect realistic sage-grouse use areas in order to be approved by the USFWS. The group wondered why the leks in the Kamas area were not currently included in the boundaries, and suggested that the map boundaries be expanded to include the appropriate sage-grouse use areas in that location, around Brown's Park. Dave Rich, who was not able to attend this meeting, will be consulted as he has the best information.

The group was also given copies of the draft development stipulations from the Governor's task Force that would apply in the management area. The primary suggestion was to make sure that "disturbance" is very carefully defined, so that key management actions such as pinyon-juniper removal and other vegetation treatments that can benefit sage-grouse are still allowed. The group also suggested that it be made clear that grazing did not fall under the category of "disturbance."

It was noted that the outside boundaries of the management areas are understood to contain some non-habitat for sage-grouse. That non-habitat within the boundaries will not be subject to the same restrictions as habitat, but right now the process is still in development so it is not entirely clear how the restrictions will be written. Lorien will keep the group up to date as new information about any of the relevant state or federal planning processes becomes available.

The next meeting date was not set yet as it is not clear when the next opportunity for feedback may be.

Follow-up Needed

- Lorien will email maps and stipulations to the group for any follow-up comments, which will be provided to the state.
- Lorien will contact Dave Rich to make sure his comments and boundary suggestions for the Browns Park area are transmitted to the state as comments.
- Lorien will continue to keep the group updated about opportunities to provide comments on BLM, USFS, and state planning processes.

Next Meeting

TBD, depending on state and federal planning processes.