

**MSARM
LOCAL
WORKING
GROUP**

Date: April 23, 2019

Place: Summit County Courthouse, Coalville

Members Present: Jordan Hulsey (NRCS), Dusty Morgan (USU Extension), Julie Edwards (Summit Land Conservancy), Lorien Belton (USU Extension; MSARM facilitator)

Discussion and Updates

Partner/Personnel updates

- NRCS is now staffing the Coalville office, with several people rotating through on different days. Brian Christensen, the planner partner; Jennie Jo (who is the main easement contact) and Jordan Hulsey are all there at various times. Andy Pappas, with UDAF, is also in Coalville Mondays, Wednesdays, and every other Friday.
- Julie Edwards is now working in the conservation section of Summit Land Conservancy.
- Dusty Morgan will be leaving her USU Extension position at the end of June. She will stay engaged in the group as a private landowner.

New State sage-grouse plan

Lorien review the main features (some new, some old) of the new 5-year state sage-grouse plan that was signed January 1.

Much has remained the same:

- Same SGMA boundaries
- 75,000 acres/year is still the habitat goal

New plan elements include:

- Opportunity areas are still used conceptually, but not mapped
- Mesic areas are included in habitat improvement goals
- The previous plan used the word “other” for some habitat that wasn’t seasonally specific; now that is called “transitional” habitat, and mostly refers to migration corridors. This may be of particular importance to MSARM.
- Compensatory mitigation is included in this plan now that the program has been developed
- New interim maps are available; final resource selection maps will be available ideally in early September.
- Appendices and maps are on the website, and may be updated if new science or mapping is done.
- The disturbance cap will be re-evaluated as a joint conversation between federal and state partners, so that is not yet complete.

Ideas for local plan implementation

- The focus on partnership and specifically calling out invasive weed concerns is a good opportunity locally. Morgan County, in particular, might value additional support with weed management.
- Local landowners might be interested in mitigation, but the word can be threatening. Explaining opportunities might be helpful. Dusty suggested providing fact sheets at the Aspen Regeneration Workshop that will be held June 19-20. Lorien will send fact sheet copies via Paul Rogers or to USU Extension directly so they can be shared on a table.
- SGI applications locally are very limited. Expanding opportunities as noted in the state plan to wet meadow restoration might help expand the pool of projects and interested landowners.
- Information on the mitigation program, particularly easements, would be interesting to SLC. Lorien will do a little more research and let both NRCS and SLC know about the opportunities.
- NRCS is supposed to be using the state plan for implementation, but has not had training on it. A basic fact sheet about the state plan, relevant to NRCS and landowner projects and maps would be useful. Could be distributed at NRCS and at the Grill-Your-Districts events.

Follow-up Needed

- Lorien will finish the mitigation fact sheet and send it with Paul to the Aspen Workshop, to Jennie Jo, and to the Summit Land Conservancy.
- Lorien will provide a basic fact sheet to NRCS on the state plan.
- Lorien will resend the state plan basics to all the LWG lists

Next Meeting

The field tour date was not set; Dusty recommended we reach out to Cody Zeigler, the new Weber/Morgan county agent, to coordinate on something that would be of interest to local landowners on resource management issues.