

**MSARM
LOCAL
WORKING
GROUP**

Date: November 25, 2019

Place: Summit County Courthouse, Coalville

Present: Anthony Gray (USFS), Scott Walker (UDWR), Pam Kramer (UDWR), Arlin Judd (landowner), Adam Turkula (NRCS), Adam Wickline (Summit Land Conservancy), Lorien Belton (USU Extension; MSARM facilitator)

Discussion and Updates

Partner/Personnel updates

- Adam Turkula is now full-time resource conservationist in the NRCS Coalville office, hired recently.
- Adam Wickline is an easement specialist, with Summit Land Conservancy
- NRCS still does not have deadlines for when EQIP or SGI projects will be due this year, but it will likely be in December or January.
- Heather Talley has replaced Jason Robinson in the state office, as well as taking over some of Ben Nadolski's sage-grouse policy work.

Federal plan updates

Lorien provided an overview of the BLM and USFS planning status. BLM finalized its plan amendment changes in March, and Forest Service was set to finalize theirs, after a process to address objections, this fall or winter. However, in October, a court injunction based on challenges from environmental groups put a stay on implementation of the BLM's 2019 plans. They will be operating on the 2015 plans, as they were prior to march, until the issue is resolved. BLM is taking steps, including a supplemental EIS and plan maintenance documents, to address the substantive issues raised as well as continue other improvements and clarifications and updates that the 2019 plans put in place. Because of the uncertainty with BLM, and the number of issues of similar concern in their plans, USFS will likely wait until the BLM process is resolved to finalize their documents. As they had not formally changed away from their 2015 plan amendments, this is not a change internally.

State habitat maps status

Lorien explained that the current habitat maps online associated with the state sage-grouse plan are going to be revised, but not on the timeline originally planned. Because the pixel size is too large for local project planning, among other challenges, efforts to improve the utility of the maps and incorporate the GPS collar data are going to take longer than anticipated. Lorien will let the group know when the new maps go online.

Minutes

Other updates and discussion:

- No sage-grouse-related project updates were available; the Forest has some projects in the MSARM area but not focused on grouse.
- The state mitigation program is up and running. There were several questions about how it will work for the state to mitigate disturbance on private land. Who will manage that? How are disturbances catalogued? Lorien will follow up with Tyler Thompson and Heather Talley to learn more.
- Scott noted that it may be possible to use corridor funding for easements; check with him for details if anyone is interested in learning more.
- There are no new updates on developments proposed in the Golden Hills/Yaryca/East Canyon area.

Follow-up Needed

- Lorien will get both Adams on the WRI lists for northern region, and send them links to the database online.
- Lorien will make sure both Adams are on the MSARM listserv.
- Lorien will let the group know when the new habitat maps go online.
- Lorien will ask Tyler and Heather how the process for the state mitigating for private lands disturbances will work, and who manages it.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be set over Doodle; probably aiming for late February or March.