

## SWARM meeting

August 18, 2009 – Summer Field Trip

Mark Nelson, Nile Sorenson, John Keeler, Jason Nicholes, Kevin Williams, Vicki Tyler, Christine Pontarolo, Michelle Downey, Jordan Hennefer, Dan Fletcher, Paul Briggs, Chad Reid, Jim Bowns, Nelson Stauffer

- I. Nicki: Not present to help me take notes, so these will undoubtedly be incomplete and/or inaccurate.
- II. The tour began at Bald Hills turn-off and the Minersville Highway, and we made the following stops:
  - A. Horseshoe Pond area
    - i. Jason discussed sage grouse lek counts this past spring, and the change in numbers since the Greenville Bench fire.
    - ii. Some discussion range issues related to the fire, etc .
  - B. North of Chalk Hollow Pond near cattle guard at the edge of Greenville burn
    - i. Discussion about trespass issues
    - ii. Discussion concerning problems with people cutting fences
    - iii. BLM discussed proposal to create a project proposal for funding research in the Bald Hills/Parowan Gap area using funding that needed to be utilized within the next year, as part of some stimulus funds.
    - iv. BLM also stated they were proposing to re-treat the areas that were seeded but not chained in 2007-2008, due to weather. These seedings will be completed in conjunction with seedings done on the upcoming Greenville Bench prescribed burn.
    - v. Christine reported on studies concerning fence mortality on sage grouse and the intention to continue to make fences visible with reflectors and white-top T-posts .
  - C. Old Poorman lek site
    - i. Lunch
    - ii. Plant identification and informal discussions
  - D. The head of Camel Hollow
    - i. We looked at and discussed the difference in response between chained and un-chained areas. Chained areas looked much better.
    - ii. Looked at vigor and plant identification on a variety of seeded species at the stop.
    - iii. Discussed connectivity between sage grouse sites and the need to do more proactive treatment. Dan suggested we really look at Hamlin Valley area and get going on that.
  - E. Little Valleys
    - i. Again we looked at the great response in the chained area of Little Valleys.
    - ii. Confirmed with Chad that we had a room for the next meeting on October 13.

iii. Paul announced that the BLM would attempt to burn the remainder of the prescribed fire area on Greenville Bench.

III. Adjourned