

## Meeting Notes for the WBECRM on November 17, 2015

### 6:00 in Park Valley

Attendees: Jim Christensen, Clint Hill, Bracken Henderson, Brian David, Kourtney Stonehouse, Bryan Morris, Boyd White, Chris Brian, Diane Tanner, Zach Maughan, Justin Small, Renee Chi, Scott Walker, Charlie Sandford, Troy Forrest, Mark Anderson, Beth Burritt, Brad Jessop, Ken Spackman, Chris Perkins

6:00 Zach Maughan reported for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and & State Lands. Zach explained that the division has been working with landowners, NRCS, and West Box Elder for fuel mitigation. They have 1.5 million dollars to use state wide to help. Some of those funds have been used in the CRM area with bull hogging, fuel breaks and reseeding.

Chris Bryan of the BLM said that they have mapped priority areas for conservation work. Through the process of cooperating entities, they have been working together using environmental assessments for this area. There are over 90,000 acres which they've included. 6,200 acres have been bull hogged and lopped and scattered. In other areas, cultural clearances have been done which takes a long time. 14,000 acres have been cleared. They have been working with Dave Dahlgren to design a corridor for the grouse to migrate that's not necessarily a tunnel through Kimball Creek allotment. It will need maintenance as trees start to grow back in the corridors.

Charlie Sandford reported that the Sheep Rock area is doing poorly for sage grouse and the population is down. USU would like to take 15 female birds from Parker Mountain and another 15 from West Box Elder to collar and translocate in Sheep Rock. They will also take 10 males between the two areas. Boyd White said they'd like to get volunteers to help catch the birds all in one day. Funds are needed to get the GPS collars for these birds. They asked if the district, landowners, or other entities would donate to purchase collars.

Bracken Henderson explained that the Conservation District was successful in obtaining the IWJV capacity grant. He said that it included finding at least two landowners who will be willing to transplant beaver on their property and to find three areas in which the CRM can work on to develop a freshwater riparian area for migrating fowl. He encouraged the CRM attendees to look at the grant and help find areas to strengthen the grant objectives.

Chris Perkins of Utah State UFDA said that the efforts to work on the raven problems in the state will be about the same as they have been for the past two years. They are only allowed to put out 1100 eggs and will begin early in the year though the raven population keeps rising. Chris asked for ranchers to let them know as soon as they see the ravens so we can get an early start.

Scott Walker from the DWR reported for Nate Long. The DWR is doing lots of P/J treatments and seeing that meadows are wetter. Nate Long met with Alan Smith at Beatty Springs and 2-3 areas will be treated with bull hogging. The goal is to help determine the scale at which juniper removal must be done to affect spring flow. Clint asked if the DWR had local cooperation with the fencing in the Beatty Spring area. The DWR is also working on putting troughs in for Big Horn Sheep.

Jed Heaton reported that using prescribed juniper burn on his place had been very successful at increasing water availability.

Mark Anderson proposed work for 2016 Weed Sub-committee

- West Box Elder County Spray Days – Park Valley, Grouse Creek and Yost areas, April 19-21, 2016.
- Grouse Creek Area Spray for Scotch and Canadian thistle. Exact timing dependent on weather, mid-May to early June.
- Tall Whitetop aerial spraying in conjunction with Conservation District. Approximately 300 acres.
- Tri-State Cooperative Spray Day in the Goose Creek area. Focusing support on the “Conservation Agreement and Strategy for the Goose Creek Milkvetch”. Private landowners, BLM, USFS, Box Elder and Cassia County

invited. Late August or early September. Targeting Leafy Spurge, Black Henbane and Thistle, while avoiding the Goose Creek Milkvetch.

- Black Henbane and thistle spot spraying along County roads focusing on the canyon areas. Mid July through September.
- Canadian Thistle Biocontrol in the Grouse Creek area dependent on funding and availability.
- Continue monitoring Leafy Spurge biocontrol placed in the Goose Creek area during the 2015 season.
- Roadside spraying throughout West Box Elder County. Starting May and into early August.
- Russian Knapweed spot spraying in the Park Valley area and the Pilot Mountain range in the late fall. Amounts as needed to be determined by the Conservation District.
- RCCP grant funding being applied for through the Utah-Idaho CWMA of which Box Elder County Weed Department is an active member. Should the application be approved money would become available for weed control through the NRCS programs.

Clint Hill said that the bids they got for the work in Dry Basin was \$100 more per acre than what they'd planned. Blain Hamp of the State Forest and fire said they could make up the gap which would be approximately \$6500.00

The conifer summit took place in West Box Elder from October 19-23.

Scientists from around the country toured the landscape and couldn't believe what had been accomplished in the CRM area. Hats off to the CRM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.