

Notes for September 15, 2015 CRM Meeting

Attendees: Ken Spackman, Bryan Morris, Jay Tanner, Troy Forest, Clint Hill, Bracken Henderson, Chris Bryan, Scott Shahverdian, Elijah Portugal, Mike Linnel, Blain Hamp, Zach Maughan, Adam Brewerton, Bruce Sillitoe, Mark Anderson, Cathy Cannon, Charlie Sandford, Justin Small, Jed Reeder, Kourtney Stonehouse, Jeff Schick, Jim Christiansen. Distance attendees: Alan Smith, Scott Walker, Loren Poppert, Patti Kimber, Julie Tanner, LaNette Anderson

6:00 Ken Spackman welcomed the group and announced Commissioner Jeff Hadfield would now be Co-Chairman of the CRM.

Sub-committee project proposals

P/J and Range Jeff Schick said they have put together a 5 year plan. He turned the time over to Cathy Cannon.

1. 2016-Warm Springs
2. 2017-Emigrant Pass
3. 2018-Badger Flat, they will make a corridor to connect sage grouse areas.
4. 2019-Southern Wintering areas
5. 2020-Lynn area mastication and lop and scatter
Chris Bryan will be working on the arc clearances.

Invasive weeds- Mark Anderson gave an update on projects they've been working on through the year, including extra spray days. He encouraged folks to be aware of vulnerable areas and let the county know when they have invasive weed problems. It's important to get help so it doesn't spread and cause a larger problem. They will continue applying for grants to work on troublesome weeds. Bruce Sillitoe said the BLM could help together with those efforts on the weeds. Jay Tanner said the GCLA will be hiring a helicopter to spray thistle problem areas in Grouse Creek. He thought that the county might take advantage and utilize the helicopter to target invasive they wanted to hit. Julie Tanner brought up a biological weevil that is used on the thistle and wondered if that would be useful to look into. Discussion ensued about the time it would take to get results with that method of attack. Praise was given to J.J. Kendal who has stepped up to the plate to work on invasive in the CRM area.

Wildlife Adam Brewerton wants to concentrate on outreach this coming year to host a bat education night this coming year. They will use netting so people can see the bats close up. The desire is to have good experiences with and appreciation for wildlife. Alan.....

Water/Beaver Elijah Portugal gave a presentation about reintroducing beaver into the environment. See this link to see presentation.

Socio Economic Commissioner Hadfield talked about the hurdles that have to be jumped to get the cell towers up and running. Permission from landowners is coming along and fiber optics will shortly be installed. Commissioner Hadfield also talked about the possibility to install a restroom in Park Valley for travelers on SR 30. Possible Chemical toilet might be installed until we see how much use it gets. Diane Tanner said that if we find property to be donated for a rest stop, that an information stand could be installed informing visitors why junipers are being taken out and the benefit to the wildlife. This would be done as a public relations effort. She also said that the sign installed to move traffic through Grouse Creek isn't being seen in the evening very well. A possible sensor light or solar light might help to make it more visible.

Urban deer translocation update from Channing Howard seems to be successful. She showed the statistics and shots of the efforts in the past year. In November and December they will again be translocating another 200 or so deer.

Raven Control Mike Linnell said that the amount of permits they get to work on raven control isn't keeping up with the increase of the birds by any means. He will be getting permits again for this coming year but he has several areas in the state that need control efforts. He would like landowners keeping an eye out for large groups of ravens to concentrate efforts.

USU grad student Charlie Sandford who has been studying sage grouse in the area introduced Justin Small who will be replacing him. Charlie gave a brief report of this project and will be sending out the whole report for the CRM to read. Charlie said that the GPS collars help so much in the studies. He encouraged anyone who might have money to donate to do so. These collars would expedite the studies and be a great benefit. Ken Spackman asked the Conservation District to see if we could come up with enough for at least one of these collars. Several others in the CRM meeting were discussing possible money that they might be able to come up with.

8:00 Meeting adjourned