

Notes from the Feb.16th 2016 CRM Meeting in Park Valley

Attending: Tom Kunzler, Charles Sanford, Jay Tanner, Ken Spackman, Clint Hill, Brian David, Chris Bryan, Jeff Schick, Karl Flemming, Zach Maughan, Blain Hamp, Corey Barton, Jim Christensen, Terry Messmer, David Dahlgren, Brien Maxfield, Jon Maxfield, Justin Small, Robyn MacDuff, Wayne Peary, Diane Tanner
Distant locations: Adam Brewerton, Alan Smith, Verl Smith, Scott Chamberlain, Hugh Hurlow, Loren Poppert, Phil Tuttle, Cassie Melon.

6:00 Welcome from Chairman Spackman

Corey Barton –Box Elder Fire Marshal explained about a water inventory project he will be heading, to see where available water is that might be used in efforts to fight wild fire. They will find water sources and get prior permission to use that water and possibly develop the source to be of more use to fire prevention and livestock.

Mr. Barton said they will be working on a 3 year time line to find water and do improvements that will benefit everyone.

Blain Hamp said that Regional Conservation Partner Program monies (RCPP) could be available in West Box Elder for catastrophic fire prevention. He said if we are interested and move quickly to plan a project, we would likely be able to procure funds. Discussion ensued as to boundaries and what to pursue.

Terry Messmer showed a presentation about sage grouse in Utah and West Box Elder county. He explained that the research on sage grouse has become more and more meaningful with available tracking equipment and data gathering. The West Box Elder Conservation District has donated money - \$4000 for a gps collar and \$750 for a uhf receiver and \$1250 for data downloads for 3 years.

Please view the presentations at <http://utahcbcp.org/html/groups/boxelder>

Professor Messmer is looking for more collars to track birds. Please contact Terry Messmer at terry.messmer@usu.edu if you would like to donate towards this important effort.

Grad student Charlie Sanford gave a brief review of his dissertation. We will let you know where you can go to see a full report that would be helpful for landowners especially.

Sub-committee goals for 2016

Wildlife- Alan Smith & Adam Brewerton-Helping to reintroduce beaver into the CRM watershed area.

They will be working on some riparian area through next year in the Grouse Creek. They are also planning on developing a moose management plan as the numbers of moose are escalating rather quickly. Adam is planning on doing some outreach efforts which will have students and adults participate with a bat experience this summer.

Water-Jay Tanner is also involved with bringing beaver back into the watershed to increase groundwater levels and to extend the duration of runoff water to irrigate. He said that he and other landowners will be meeting with Will Atkin of the Department of Water Rights to see how the well situation is going in the Park Valley and Grouse Creek.

Range Land- Jeff Schick reported that the Range subcommittee is still focusing on PJ removal and specifically removing PJ in strategic location to connect the open sage grouse habitats, therefore creating corridors the birds can use during their seasonal migrations. These projects and others from the subcommittee have been presented to the WRI program in hopes of obtaining grant money to be implemented. Private landowners have also applied with NRCS, UGIP and other grant opportunities to get range projects funded. Chris Bryan commented that every project in WBE was ranked high by the WRI ranking committee. He also said that the BLM is working in advance to get these areas culturally cleared and hopefully the programmatic WBE NEPA will be completed this spring which will make Nepa process much less time consuming.

Invasive Weeds- Clint Hill and Mark Anderson

- WBE 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 White top 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 WBE 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 NECS programs.

Socio Economic-Diane Tanner reported that Bill Gilson had looked into the cost of putting Chemical toilets in the Park Valley area and found that it wasn't feasible. The effort for this year will be to find a grant to build a stationary restroom facility. Another project will be to find a county road just off of the state road to put up a kiosk where P/J treatments can be seen. This effort will be to inform the public why trees are being taken out. By telling the story of the increasing of ground water, aquifers and increase in sage grouse habitat, there will be an increase of support for our CRM.

Robyn MacDuff of Raptor Inventory Nest Survey (RINS) talked to the CRM group about their efforts to monitor nests through Utah. A link to her presentation is <http://utahcbcp.org/html/groups/boxelder> .

Hugh Hurlow spoke to the CRM about monitoring the effects on groundwater from juniper and pinyon cuttings. They are wanting to find areas in east of Grouse Creek that will be scheduled for treatment no sooner than two years from now so they can monitor normal changes and see how ground water improves after the clearings. They will use several methods to collect data. Clint offered to take Mr. Hurlow to a few potential places.

Jim Christiansen announced that March 9-10 at 7:30 in Park Valley will be the day when the public is invited to help catch sage grouse, collar and take them to a new area in Utah (Sheep Rocks) to help that struggling population rebound.

Zach Maughan from Forestry, Fire and State Lands said they would be putting in a catastrophic fire proposal again this year. He said that Julie Tanner had been gathering residents in kind efforts to help with fire prevention.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.