

# Notes on the February 19, 2013 CRMP Meeting

Attendees: Ken Spackman, Clint Hill, Jay Tanner, Scott Nannega, Beth Burritt, Bill Gilson, Jeff Schick, Troy Forest, Anthony Von Niederhousern, Scott Walker, Masako Wright, Alan Smith, Bill Hopkin, Jim Christensen, Eric Sant, Gregg Simonds, LuAnn Adams, Travis Mote, Diane Tanner, Ron Greer

6:00 Welcome: Ken Spackman

## **Update on sub committees**

Special Status Species Wildlife Protections: message by Paul Thompson  
The charge for this committee in the next year is to complete Task 1 and 2 and begin work toward Task 3.

Task 1) begin a Public Relations Campaign for Wildlife to dispel myths about ramifications of allowing agency monitoring of wildlife, especially sensitive species and to urge local residents to cooperate with research and monitoring programs and personnel,

Task 2) Promote Aquatic Habitat Protection by preserving aquatic habitats identified by agencies as used or occupied by special status species in their current state by avoiding any action that would remove water from these areas, and

Task 3) Implement Aquatic Habitat Projects by seeking funding for private land owners to implement habitat protection and expansion projects through public sector sources.

The Special Status Wildlife Committee has been in contact over email.

Accomplishments to date include:

1) Additional committee members have been added. These include individuals with specific expertise from the BLM, UDWR, NRCS, and USU.

2) The group decided that localized community meetings would be a good way to begin accomplishing Tasks 1 and 2. The proposed community meetings for 2013 include Lynn Valley, Yost, Grouse Creek/Etna, and Park Valley.

3) Within the next 3 weeks, the committee will schedule the first community meeting to be held in Lynn Valley for sometime in April.

4) The committee is still soliciting ideas for other positive PR opportunities for sensitive wildlife species.

Winter Rangeland Improvement- Troy Forest

Had first meeting with the sub committee just before the CRM meeting.

The sub-committee plans to complete an assessment of current conditions to prioritize which of the tasks in the CRMP to tackle first. Troy will remain the chairperson of the committee and they are seeking to have a

representative in each of the main landowning agencies on their committee.

#### Coordinated Weed Management – Bill Gilson

They've had district weed meetings to organize coordinated spray days. There will be chemical containers to either rent or purchase and chemicals will be supplied. The dates haven't yet been decided, but will be later.

#### Community and Economic Development – Diane Tanner

Card reading fuel pumps in Grouse Creek will be installed if we get two grants, one from the county Tourism Tax and one from State Rural Economic Development. Cardwell Distribution is getting the pumps and will install them.

The Box Elder Tourism Tax Grant also included two signs to be put up to direct traffic through Grouse Creek for fuel and to City of Rocks. City of Rocks and Idaho tourism is supplying artwork for the signs.

Lastly, a website for West Box Elder has been started.

A letter was read from Representative Bishop, pertaining to the process of the state takes ownership of the federal lands. Jay Tanner suggested that as an organization, we take a greater part in the policy should that bill go to congress.

#### Presentation by Open Range Consulting

Gregg Simonds and Eric Sant gave an excellent presentation on the data that they have collected and organized. This shows ground cover by vegetative type.

They gave a history of Juniper expansion using the years of 1977 and 2011 to be illustrative. The data shows that Juniper is on an exponential increase track in Western Box Elder. Gregg talked a little about the impacts this encroachment could have on water production, livestock feed, and loss of diversity. Using the data that has been generated we can identify areas that need to be treated. Several group members made inquiries as to what it would cost to do the same thing they have done in the Grouse Creek watershed on the rest of the ground in the CRM. Gregg thought where they had the baseline data they could do it fairly inexpensively.

The presentation may be found online at this address:

<http://utahcbcp.org/html/groups/boxelder>