

## Notes from the Feb.20, 2018 CRM Meeting

Attending: Commissioner Hadfield, Chairman Bryan Morris, Jay Tanner, Erik Spencer, Brien Maxfield, Jay Carter, John Maxfield, Bracken Henderson, Clint Hill, Jim DeRito, Matt Mckell, Chance Broderius, Cody Edwards, Karl Fleming, Jessica French, Calee Lott, Jack Greene, Kris Hulvey, Deni Murray, Beth Burritt, Cassie Melon, Emily Jencso, Mellissa Wood, Chris Perkins, Jeff Schick, Michael Peyton, Jack Greene, Diane Tanner. Distant attendees: Julie Tanner, Loren Poppert, Scott Walker, Chad Wilson, Alan Smith, Josh Dallin, Justin Small

Chairman Bryan Morris welcomed the group and introduced Jessica French who is the new Rangeland Specialist for the Forest Service and will be helping us in the CRM.

State Trapper Chris Perkins said that he has a new assignment and that Brent Stokes will be helping us in the future.

Rangeland update: Clint Hill went over the areas of proposed projects and funding. By April all sources of funding will be completed.

Lucin project: Jay Tanner gave an update on the Lucin water pipeline efforts. The troughs that are installed seem to be working fine.

Bird Tour update: Jack Greene said the tour will be on May11-12. There will be Cowboy poetry, music, star gazing, owling and a dinner on Friday night. On Saturday, there will be three areas where Audubon birders will teach attendees things about projects in the area, birds and history of the area. The CRM obtained a grant from the Box Elder Tourism Tax to help with some of the costs.

Mellissa Wood is the acting BLM Field Manager until the beginning of March. She went over several projects that are moving forward in

the CRM area. Some of those projects include installing 40 miles of fencing in conjunction with seedings for Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation after wildfire, replacing and maintaining guzzlers. Currently working on water system maintenance for the Dove Creek pipeline, and the Warm Springs pipeline.

Emily Jenco is the new Wildlife Biologist. She is working on getting a baseline survey of all waters on BLM managed land with the DWR. They will identify maintenance needs, where water can be removed, and where more water is needed.

The BLM also is working to propose a grazing grass bank in the Warm Springs area. This land would act as a place for displaced BLM permittees to go. They intend on being active managers and more engaged with grazing in that area.

SEA update: Calee Lott reminded producers to collaborate with her on contracts.

Josh Dallin, USU Extension updates: March 21 they will have their 1<sup>st</sup> producer education class. More information on classes are listed below.

Professor Kristin Hulvey and a grad student Deni Murray had a presentation on E-Coli & Nitrogen levels. The presence of E-Coli and Nitrogen in the areas they monitored were very low. They intend to do more studies to find the reason for low levels.

Justin Small USU gave his update on sage-grouse research.

Matt McKell, Chance Broderius, Cody Edwards: The Northern Region UDWR Aquatics group. Presentation below.

**Box Elder CRM Meeting  
UDWR Aquatics Update  
February 20, 2018**

***Yellowstone cutthroat trout***

Johnson Creek Restoration Project (to conserve Yellowstone cutthroat trout)

- YCT numbers were declining, brook trout were increasing, except in headwaters YCT>BKT
- 2011, built temporary fish migration barrier in headwater fork
- 2011-2014, removed via electrofishing all BKT upstream of barrier, 3 miles of stream
- 2013-2014, removed via chemical treatment all fish downstream of barrier, 6 miles of stream
- 2015, electrofished chemical treatment section, no brook trout, removed barrier
- 2015/2017, monitored two sites upstream of barrier, no brook trout
- YCT becoming established in lower section
- Sculpin salvaged before chemical treatment and re-stocked after
- Bluehead sucker transferred from Raft River to lower section on Sawtooth National Forest
- Working with Spencers to improve diversion, install fish screen to minimize fish losses to ditch

Potential Restoration Project in George Creek (to conserve Yellowstone cutthroat trout)

- Letter to property owners in 2008 outlined potential project; some opposition or hesitation
- Rainbow trout hybridizing with YCT, but genetically pure YCT in headwaters
- Potential plan/timeline:
  - Identify site for fish migration barrier, Forest or private?
  - Build barrier (or enhance, if already existing) in 2020
  - Remove all trout downstream of headwaters to barrier, 2020-2021, 4-8 miles of stream
  - Allow YCT to filter down from headwaters

***Bluehead Sucker/ Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout***

Raft River/ SF Junction Creek/ Basin Creek - Barrier Assessment

- Assessed 35 Possible barriers (identified from aerial imagery)
- 11 – Impassable, 11 – indeterminate, 13 – passable
- Funding proposal submitted through WRI to design and repair a diversion on Basin Creek
- Overall goal will be to repair all 11 impassable barriers and connect the Raft River from the state line to the headwaters in Basin Creek and up to Lynn Reservoir on the SF Junction Creek
- Will be a many year project upgrading the 11 impassable barriers working with multiple landowners in the junction valley

Ageing Study (Bluehead Only)

- Lower portions (near Yost Flats Road) and Canyon Reach of Raft River
- Proposed for Late summer 2018 or Spring of 2019 (State FY 19)
- Mostly public land, only private landowner in area is Spencer Brothers LLC
- Would like to be able to sample from upper diversion on Spencer's Property to culvert above BLM property (also on Spencer's)
- Our best population of Blueheads
- Will give us a better understanding of their age structure/ consistency of reproduction

***June Sucker (Rosebud Ranch)***

- Grow June Sucker to size where they can avoid predation in Utah Lake
- Since 2006 Rosebud has sent 117,000 June Sucker to Utah Lake

### ***Least Chub***

- Willow Pond
  - 2013 Rocky Pass Fire - Knocked back Numbers Briefly
  - 2014 Only able to capture 31 of our target 100 fish
  - Each year since fish have been easier to capture as water becomes more abundant
  - Went from 2 fish/ trap hour in 2014 to 84 fish/trap hour in 2017
- Rosebud Top Pond
  - Consistent Population of Least chub since 2008 (year they were stocked)
- Mud Basin
  - Possibility of introducing Least chub into the Mud Basin Spring if landowner is willing

### ***Boreal Toad***

- In 2012, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a 90-day finding announcing substantial information that listing could be warranted.
- ESA Protection not warranted decision released October 2017 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
- UDWR, BLM and Hogle Zoo Citizen Scientists performed 42 monitoring visits to 14 sites in 2017.
  - 403 Adults and 208 juveniles encountered in 2017. All adults captured received passive integrated transponder tags to track individual movements over time (~1,800 tags).
- Grouse Creek Boreal Toad population met viability criteria (Adults, Juveniles and reproduction)
  - In 2014 and 2015 , 3 sites declared viable
  - In 2016, 6 sites declared viable
  - In 2017, 8 sites declared viable
- Willow Above Coalmine
  - Hay wattles installed in April 2017 to increase standing water/improve shallow water breeding habitat.
  - Site was utilized for reproduction in spring 2017
- Introduction sites update
  - Cluster Springs
    - One adult toad observation in 1998
    - Pond development/improvement in 2004
    - Adults, juveniles and tadpoles transplanted in 2006 to 2008.
    - Breeding observed from 2009 to 2015 as well in 2017.
  - Keg Springs
    - No previous observations of Boreal Toads (2004)
    - Pond and spring development took place in 2004 and fencing installed in 2009.
    - Adults, juveniles and egg strands transplanted from 2010 to 2012
    - Breeding observed in 2015 through 2017.

### ***California Floater***

- eDNA detection for bivalves performed by Utah State University in conjunction with UDWR.
- Historic observations used to determine where sampling procedures implemented.
- Replicate samples taken at each location Pole Creek (n=2), Raft River (n=2), and Salt Creek (n=2).
  - Pole Creek – 1 positive/1 negative
  - Raft River - 1 positive/1 negative
  - Salt Creek – 2 Positive
- A positive result indicates presence of Floater DNA
- Negative results do not necessarily indicate species is not present.

- eDNA sampling in conjunction with Utah State University, continuing in 2018 to improve species distribution models in 3 river systems in Box Elder County.