



Notes for the April 21st 2015 CRM Meeting

Attendees: Troy Forest, Clint Hill, Kent Sorenson, David Dahlgren, Joe Wheaton, Nick Bouwes, Eric Thacker, Bracken Henderson, Diane Tanner, Kevin Oliver, Mark Anderson, Brad Jessop, Dylan Tucker, Jim Christenson, Chris Bryan, Charles Sandford, Lyle Holmgren, Alan Kunzler, Bekee Hotze. Brigham: Karl Fleming, Commissioner Jeff Hadfield. Grouse Creek: Patti Kimber, Julie Tanner, Joann Kimber, Rosemary Tingey, Glen Tingey, Blaine Tanner

6:00 Diane Tanner welcomed the group and turned time over to Dr. Joe Wheaton from USU. Dr. Wheaton gave a presentation on why bring back beaver into West Box Elder. The presentation talked about many ways that beaver can be helpful in our watershed such as help bring back, wetlands, habitat for many animals along with threatened species, help to raise the water table, and extend irrigation time. Partners would have to work together to make this effort obtainable. Look at the CRM web link to see the presentation

Kevin Oliver, District manager from the BLM discussed drought management. He explained that it is important to plan now about creative ways to conserve water. Possible reduction in stock numbers on the range and or delaying turning out dates. We need to talk about ways that have worked when there has been limited moisture in the year that have been successful in years before. Kevin also introduced the new range person for this area, Dylan Tucker. Kevin has invited Steve Elis from Washington DC to meet and show some of the great work that has been done in the CRM area. The BLM is on track to present their management plan for the greater sage grouse in June, after it is announced there will be a public comment period before the final decision is made.

Bracken Henderson was appreciative to all those attendees who have continued to support our meetings and helped to finance and work on projects. He talked about the capacity grant from the Intermountain West Joint Venture that we are presently applying for to support the coordinators position in the CRM. He explained that there are many opportunities for funding projects but not for staff to organize meetings, reports, facilitate subcommittees etc. He wanted to make sure the CRM was supportive of the effort to seek funds from this grant. He asked if

there were others in the meeting who were also applying for this grant that we might work together and not make it difficult for another entity in the CRM to obtain funds.

Bracken went on to explain that we are striving with this grant to create deliverables to be achieved by having the funds. We plan to introduce 3 Beaver colonies in the area, 2-3 restoration of existing wetlands, firebreaks and field 2 field tours. (One a birding tour) Dave Dahlgren said that Eric Thacker is measuring vegetation (Shrubs) that might serve as a deliverable.

Blain Hamp from the State Catastrophic Fire and Forest talked about the work they have been doing in the Grouse Creek area. They are using approximately \$200,000 in the CRM area. There is \$50,000 which will be used for communication to help get cell coverage in Grouse Creek. There will be another \$50,000 going toward water storage to use in firefighting. 5.5 miles of Fire Breaks have been accomplished and another \$100,000 for prescribed burns.

Kevin Oliver said that the application for the cell tower hasn't been filed yet but they are aware that it is on its way. They have been through this process before and will be able to get it thought without many issues.

Kevin was questioned about the timeline to get the cell tower in. He explained that it depends on the complexity. Bekee Hotze thought that it would be between 8 months to a year.

Bekee Hotze the BLM field manager brought a report that the BLM has produced about the milk vetch flower that is a candidate for being listed. Vegetation is different than animals and landowners won't be held responsible. The main threat for the plant is fire. Discussion about how landowners might be instrumental to protect the flower on their property. Having photos of the plant at differing times of year would be helpful and also aware if they have it on property, moving a fence to keep livestock off would be helpful. County Weed Director Mark Anderson will work with Bekee to see that precautions be taken to avoid spraying where know plant exists. Bekee will send out pictures of the milk vetch to landowners to help them identify the plant.

Charles Sanford (graduated USU research student) has been monitoring several sage grouse and nests. He reported his findings and the report was sent out to CRM members.

http://heritage.nv.gov/taxon_detail/17999

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/esUpdate/gooseCreekMilkvetch.php>

These are links with information and photos of the Milk Vetch sent by Bekee Hotze.

Meeting adjourned about 8:00.