



Notes for November 15, 2016

Attendees: Ken Spackman, Bryan Morris, Jay Tanner, Jeff Schick, Clint Hill, Jeff Schick, Dave Dahlgren, Charlie Sandford, Seth Gallagher, Chris West, Dave Dahlgren, Scott Walker, Jim Christensen, Mark Anderson, Cory Barton, Loren Poppert, Quincy Bahr, Jared Reese, Beth Burritt, Dylan Tucker, Jerry Bullock, Dave Fresques, Justin Small, Chris Bryan, Jay Carter, Brent Rose, Dustin Ford, Brien Maxfield, Jon Maxfield, Diane Tanner- Distance attendees: Alan Smith, Boyd White, Karl Fleming, Scott Chamberlin

6:00 Chairman Ken Spackman called meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Loren Poppert USFS District Ranger in Minidoka County spoke of the Lynn Bench sage grouse habitat improvement project on the western side of the Raft River range. Loren was pleased with how fast things had taken place. They started the NEPA in January and were able to sign decision five months later. Last week and this week they implemented hand treatment efforts and mastication units. The project covered 2000 acres. Phase 2 and 3 will do 1260 acre of Lop and Scatter and 700 acres of mastication. They will fly on seed on 230 acres. The Sawtooth uses "Good Neighbor Authority of Public and Private Lands. This makes things move along faster. The forest service was able to sign with Utah CWR doing the contracting for them for \$230,000 that helped speed things up.

Loren said that he expects aspen restoration might be their next project on the Raft River range. They also have a Juniper project for 30,000 acres south of Goose Creek on the east base of Cassia County. Half of that will be mastication. Clint asked Loren what the CRM could do to help.

Subcommittee follow-up

Range: Chris Bryan BLM has taken over as head for the range efforts. He said that in 2015 was given the assignment to do NEPA on 90,000 acres to see what potential treatment we can do. Last week the decision was signed. Most significant part is the environmental assessment set up specifies areas to treat do D&A NEPA adequacy. GNA might take a month to get approved. There will be a path to do Juniper work for the next 15 years in Box Elder.

Clint asked if trees will fall in Warm Springs this fall. Chris said they would.

Wildlife: Alan Smith has been looking at riparian areas using gps with photos of potential areas to work on. His plan is to get together with WRI to plan some projects. He mentioned that good things are taking place in our CRM with wildlife. The sage grouse, elk and deer look amazing!

Invasive Species: Mark Anderson reported on the efforts that the county had put in toward Russian Knap weed with the conservation district. They've had to shut down things with the moist warm fall. They've worked with individual landowners to help with their concerns. The landowners said that the fly on chemical works best but there is never a time you can figure you can relax. There will always be more seeds that are present in the soil. It has to be an ongoing effort. Grouse Creek had been sprayed for Scotch Thistle late last May. Landowners will need to see where they need to spot spray this coming spring.

Water: Jay Tanner said they are working to developing a map showing where ditches and streams are. There is a strategic proposal to improve head gates and streams and the distribution of the streams.

In Grouse Creek area, Beaver work with Utah State University has been going on. In the past two years the university has been measuring water and doing analog work in the streams. They have put in structures in areas were the stream is incised and narrow but deep. The purpose for measuring the streams as the project goes on, is to see if the same amount of water comes off the streams, just spread out in the time that it comes down. Range work along the stream will be monitored to see how it affects mesic areas. The biggest challenge is getting the beaver colonies to transplant.

Dr. Terry Messmer was the recipient of the Kleberg Award. Terry has done an exemplary job of getting groups to collaborate toward the benefit of the sage grouse.

Socioeconomic: Diane Tanner and Alan Smith sent out an email to see the interest in a class on starting an internet business. There were just a few people who responded with interest. Mitch Zundel the county economic development head suggested that those who were interested could find courses and degrees that can be obtained through BYU. <http://www.byui.edu/online> for a reasonable cost.

Diane also informed the CRM that Comnet expects the BLM to finalize things within 2-3 weeks in putting in the fiber optic in the cell towers in Grouse Creek.

Kelleigh Cole from the State Rural Economics came out and interviewed landowners in the Grouse Creek area to see what kinds of benefits they experience with cell service. Here are some of the things mentioned. Missing fewer business opportunities, vendors being able to catch up to ranchers, being able to call a vet while doctoring livestock, helps with gathering cattle, safety for drivers and hunters and catastrophic firefighting.

Quincy Bahr BLM went over 7 Instruction Memoranda, what they are, do and say and how it affects us. His presentation can be found at this link.

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

Dave Dahlgren introduced Seth Gallagher and Chris West from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Their 501-c3 is called NFWF. They have been touring the Rock Mountain areas. They are dedicated to sustaining, restoring and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitat for current and future generations. NFWF seeks to achieve this mission with public and private partners by investing financial resources and intellectual capital into science-based programs designed to address conservation priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

Box Elder County Fire Marshal: Corey Barton has state funding to do a water inventory project. He will be receiving funds each year to accomplish the inventory then improving those water sources not only for livestock and wildlife but also for firefighting. These sources will not be open to the public. It will be a voluntary option.