

Notes from the CRM meeting on April 19, 2016

Park Valley School at 6:00

Attending: Ken Spackman, Tom Kunzler, Jay Tanner, Rod Jones, Eric Spencer, Adam Brewerton, Jim Christensen, Dave Dahlgren, Justin Small, Jay Carter, Troy Forest, Alan Smith, Phil Tuttle, Kent Sorensen, Blain Hamp, Julie Tanner, Dylan Tucker, Mark Anderson, Clint Hill, Bracken Henderson, Jay Carter, Chet Fitzgerald, Diane Tanner, Commissioner Hadfield

6:00 Ken welcomed the group and congratulated Terry Messmer for his award from the Wildlife Society for his community –based conservation program.

Ken then turned the time over to Rod Jones, a landowner in WBE and So. Idaho. Rod showed some photos of his property in Cotton Thomas Basin where beaver used to be 20 years ago. It showed abundant water, vegetation, and fishing. His hope has been to reintroduce beaver so that property would go back to the way things looked like from the photographs. DWR has been working with him, trying to reestablish beaver and the habitat that beaver can help with. So far the beaver haven't been able to make much head way. Recently there has been more interest in bringing the beaver back, even with drawbacks that sometimes comes with the beaver. Utah State professor Joe Wheaton has obtained a grant that might help with reentry of the beaver. Rod had a question, answer session with lots of interest.

Kent Sorenson said that the DWR has finally got permission to use beaver from interstate drainages. By quarantining beaver for a while they would be able to keep diseases from transferring. The beaver will have veterinarian inspection before they are released. There was a lot of discussion about the beaver reentry successes, and failures.

Dave Dahlgren told how the Sheep Rock Mountains were the only place in Utah that hasn't bounced back in sage grouse numbers as the rest of Utah has. They have used WBE CRM folks to join in catching sage grouse from WBE, relocating them in the Sheep Rocks. There were eleven hens and nine male captured and had GPS trackers place on them and release in the Sheep Rocks. There were no mortalities with the capturing. Dave said there is a student who is monitoring in the Sheep Rocks. Justin Small gave an update on the new lek sights and numbers from his counts. With the new transmitters, the data they are getting is

fascinating and bird travel wasn't what they expected. There was discussion about showing the real time tracking to the tour folks.

Using Charles's data, the sage grouse had a real affinity for P/J treated areas. With good water years the treatments are looking great. The group discussed tour ideas and places. It was suggested that each car in the tour have a paper describing what to be looking for as the tour goes along.

Bracken talked to the group about the IWJV Capacity Grant. He explained that we still haven't received funding yet from the IWJV and that we were still planning to apply for the grant again. For the next application this time we can use sage grouse which will work in well with what we've been doing. He also talked about taking focus off of Lucin area and trying to work with catastrophic fires and improving water source sights for wildlife. The group discussed having RINS join in our grant. The feeling expressed in this meeting were that RINS wouldn't be helping with goals the CRM had.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30