

Notes from the CRM January 21, 2014 meeting

Attendees: Jay Tanner, Bracken Henderson, Clint Hill, Jeff Schick, Diane Tanner, Ken Spackman, Karl Fleming, Scott Miggettagin, Charlie Stanford, Beth Burritt, David Dalhgren, Mike Linnell, Chris Perkins, Jared Zierenberg, Laura Selman, Fred Selman, Bret Selman, Ike Thomas, Milt Oman, Clayton White, Jay Carter, Eric Spencer, Kelly Warr, Lance Wesmoreland, Troy Forest, Jason Tracy, Zac Darrington, Eric Thacker, Charlie Sandford. Distance attendees: Brian Maxfield, Anthony Von Niederhousern, Alan Smith, Scott Walker, Chris Bryan,

5:00 Chairman Ken Spackman welcomed everyone there and turned time over to the Wild Life Service people.

Mike Linnell, Jared Zierenberg, and Chris Perkins discussed things that have been going on in the state with the raven situation, how much money has been spent and the success rate of what they've been doing. They told about the pros and cons of different treatments with the ravens. Much effort has been involved in making sure that the goal of decreasing the predation of the Sage Grouse is handled in a way that is safe for all but the targeted bird. Chris mentioned that last year he had started efforts in late April and this year they will begin in early February. A representative from each area in West Box Elder was chosen to coordinate efforts in their area.

Eric Thacker asked if any of the group knew of funding that might be available to hire a technician for grad students to continue their monitoring of the sage grouse.

Eric introduced Charlie Stanford who is a grad student who will be working in the WBE area and would be interested in lodging somewhere near Park Valley or Dove Creek.

Diane Tanner gave an update of the Community and Economic Development sub-committee. The Card Reading fuel pump is installed and mostly paid for. Signs on State Road 30 have signs to direct traffic through Grouse Creek and into City of Rocks. It also lets people know that there is fuel available 20 miles up the road. Other signs directing traffic will be installed all the way to Almo Id. So people don't get lost. The county has given the Grouse Creek Economic Development Foundation 10 thousand dollars to go toward other of the projects going on in the area. A kiosk, cemetery sign and Kiosk are some of the other projects happening in the area. The Website for West Box Elder will be developed in the near future. Mitch Zundell and Jason Yerka have been helping with the efforts.

Jeff Schick updated attendees about the On-going Public and Private Pinyon/Juniper Treatments. Thousands of acres have been achieved so far. The NRCS has 2 million dollars to continue the treatments so we need more projects to do. There has been a P/J encroachment assessment done and mapping shows that there are some holes left in the Box Elder area to be addressed. Efforts to make a comprehensive map for the treatments in the whole area, is the goal for this year. Monitoring of the Pinyon/Juniper treatments will also take place. We'll need to go back at least every 7 years or so, so that the young trees don't come back.

Jay Tanner, committee chair for the Reservoir Suitability Analysis told the attendees that the state has looked at potential place for reservoirs. There are few suitable sights. ADLE loans for water companies are at 2 1/2 -3% for a 10 year period with no collateral to work on their systems. Individuals who have water rights need to identify areas that may help the water situation find ways to slow the flow and extend the water availability for 2 weeks to a month for irrigating. NRCS EQIP and money available to make better use of what we've got.

Scott Migettagin, from the Dept. of Water Resources was introduced to the CRM group. He expressed his willingness to help the CRM.

Winter Range Improvement Chair, Troy Forest said that the BLM has done a great job in increasing winter AUMs. The BLM has taken temporary AUMs and made them permanent as of December. There were several places in the Park Valley area that have been changed from nonrenewable to renewable. Keg Springs has been used 4-5 out of the past 10 years as a grass bank. Troy gave the BLM high praise for dealing well with NEPA.

Clint Hill, Co-Chair for the Invasive species, said that Mike Miller is a seasonal employee but will be back to work in the spring. It was suggested that we see if he might get on as full time as the winter is a great time to be looking for and working to get grants for Invasive weeds. Anthony Von Niedernhousern has some maps where the BLM has been spraying. The data that the BLM has will be useful as they continue on with weed grants they have already obtained and will yet apply for. Clint said that with the grant they had of \$18,000 for Hoary Crest White Top and Russian Knap weed, they accomplished the Russian Knapp weed but missed a few patches which will be taken care of this spring. Also the White Top work will be done this coming spring which the county will help with.

It was suggested that we look into making our area into a Weed Prevention area for Medusa Head Rye as it can be devastating to the range. It is easier to keep the land free from the species than try to get it out once it's here. It was also suggested from the group that Goose Creek area be targeted for Leafy Spurge.

There wasn't a representation for Special Species Wildlife tonight. Paul Thompson has a new position so we need to change leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00