

Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management (PARM) Local Sage-grouse Working Group

The Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management Plan (PARM) Sage-grouse LWG was organized in 1997 by Terry Messmer. PARM consists of state and federal agency personnel, representatives from local government, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, private industry, and private individuals. This LWG is currently facilitated by Dave Dahlgren.

Description of Area and General Population Information

The PARM LWG area covers portions of Garfield, Piute, and Wayne Counties that contain occupied sage-grouse habitats. Sage-grouse habitat in this area is well connected and the majority of the sage-grouse can be found on the Awapa and Aquarius plateaus. It is broken down into three sub regions; the Parker, Fish Lake, and Grass Valley. See <http://utahcbcp.org/files/uploads/parm/PARMfml-10-06-web.pdf> for maps and figures. The sage-grouse populations at Wildcat Knoll and Horn Mountain have been included with the Parker Mountain SGMA. The stakeholders (e.g., USFS, Emery County, etc.) working on these two populations have joined PARM.

The PARM area has been the most studied population of sage-grouse in Utah going back to 1998 and there have been several publications made available through these research efforts in addition to annual reports. See <http://utahcbcp.org/htm/groups/parkermountain> for more information. The Wildcat Knoll and Horn Mountain had two years of research with radio-marked grouse from 2008-2009.

PARM meetings and field tours.

Type	Date	Location	# attending	Comments
Meeting	27 Jan 2016	Loa	14	Updates and plans for the year
Lek Counts	7 Apr 2016	Parker Mtn.	12	Counted all leks on Parker Mountain Area
Meeting	27 Jul 2016	Loa	14	Toured the Mytoge Mtn. Project Area and the cheatgrass treatments on Parker Mtn.
Meeting	25 Oct 2016	Loa	23	Research review meeting

Project and Research Highlights

The USFS has proposed a large conifer removal project in the Mytoge Mountain area. Currently a WRI project proposal has been submitted for this effort. The project area contains two sage-grouse leks. The Dog Flat Lek is at the heart of the treatment area and will likely benefit the most from this project. USU is planning on deploying 5 or more GPS radios on Dog Flat during the spring of 2017. Other partners are also looking for funds to support monitoring efforts. This is a unique opportunity to get pre-treatment information on sage-grouse habitat use for a conifer

removal project. The conifer removal at the Cedar Groves has been completed and we look forward to monitoring the habitat improvements for this project in the future.

In 2016 Nate Dulfon finished his Thesis on vegetation characteristics of sagebrush on Parker Mountain. He found that spike treatments improved sage-grouse habitat and forage for livestock on the mountain. He also characterized the black sagebrush communities. We look forward to publishing his research in peer-reviewed journals in the future.

We currently have a WRI project for cheatgrass control on Parker Mountain. We monitored the treatment areas in September 2016 prior to chemical treatment in November. We will follow up monitoring in September 2017 to see what resulted from our treatment efforts.