

PARM Meeting Minutes

Feb. 4, 2014

Loa, UT Courthouse

Attendees:

Verl Bagley (USU Extension- Wayne County)
David Christensen (Parker Grazing Association President)
Andy Taft (PARM Co-Chair)
Tom Tippetts (UDAF GIP program)
Eric Ellis (UDWR – Sage-Grouse Plan)
Clint Wirick (USFWS Partners Program)
Kendall Bagley (UDWR Habitat Biologist)
Natasha Gruber (SGI/NRCS/MDF)
Brant Hallows (BLM)
Brandon Jolley (BLM)
Ron Torgerson (SITLA)
Boyd White (UDWR/NRCS)
Joanne Stenton (USFS)
John Keeler (Farm Bureau)
Val Payne (Emery County)
Rob Williams (Wayne County Commission)
Newell Harward (Wayne County Commission)
David Chappell (Rancher)
DeRae Fillmore (Wayne County Commission)
David Dahlgren (USU Extension- Logan)

Agenda (Minutes included):

Fence Markers Available:

Natasha Gruber and Clint Wirick told us about the available fence markers from the NRCS. Private land is the first priority, but other areas (SITLA or Federal land) may be considered as well. A form needs to be filled out for the NRCS. Natasha or Clint can help if interested.

We also talked about NRCS ESA Predictability. This is where a private land owner can sign up with an NRCS Conservation Plan (not necessarily a contract) and get protection for incidental take under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if the bird gets listed. Cooperators must follow the conservation measures in the conservation plan. NRCS can offer this because of their Conferencing Opinion, which is an agreement between NRCS and USFWS for 40 various Conservation Practices, including prescribed grazing. This “protection” is offered for participants through 2040. It is unclear at this point if this would be available to SITLA or other non-federal partners.

Emery County part of PARM now:

Val Payne (Emery County Rep) talked about their joining the PARM group because of the SGMA designation along with threats, habitat, and other issues that are much more similar to PARM than to

their Carbon County counterparts. There was overall support for this amongst PARM members. We discussed how to move forward from here, and decided that Emery County Representatives would go over the PARM Plan and propose changes to the current plan to fit Emery County into the existing plan. Their proposed changes would then be emailed to PARM members and once this is done, and some email discussion takes place we will have this presented at the next April PARM meeting. Usually the spring PARM meeting centers around counting the leks in the morning, but we will likely need a meeting following that effort. Val Payne will be heading up this effort to make proposed changes to the PARM Plan to add Emery County.

Comment Letter to the BLM RMP Proposed Alternatives (Wayne County Commission):

PARM did not submit its own separate comments, but worked with the Wayne County Commission to help with their letter. Commissioner Newell Harward presented the topic points of the letter to the group, which primarily supported Alternative E1, with some conditions.

Sage-Grouse Management Area (SGMA) boundary adjustments –

Dave Dahlgren showed maps of landownership and the SGMA for Parker. We discussed proposing to remove the private land around Loa and Bicknell. A 640 acre piece on the Parker was also discussed. Dave committed to preparing a proposal and sharing it with the state.

Future Sage-Grouse Habitat Projects-

We discussed the following Projects:

Mormon Peak PJ treatment – K. Bagley already has some ongoing projects in that area. We also talked about a project on the south side of the peak heading down towards Koosharem Reservoir. Lots of PJ encroachment into sagebrush there.

Praetor Slopes and Oak Springs – Need to expand more treatments in the area

Cedar Groves – PJ treatment in sage-grouse habitat. This project is already through the WRI process and will be completed in 2014 by BLM

Pass Reservoir-Post Hollow – More PJ treatment in sagebrush areas

Last Chance Tidwell – PJ treatment with a lek fairly close by, sagebrush restoration possible after treatment

Dog Flat Lek Area – there is some PJ encroaching, the BLM and UDWR will work together to get a project in the future

Fremont Valley (King Sheep) – PJ treatment in sagebrush within the SGMA

Fishlake Turnoff – Dave Dahlgren, Kendall Bagley, and Brant Hollows met near the turn off to talk about PJ treatment expanding in the area. This could help connect habitat between Mormon Peak and the Parker Mountain areas.

To Do List:

Dave Dahlgren – prepare SGMA boundary change proposal

Everyone – follow up on specific projects

Left Over To Dos:

Get Kreg Rasmussen's Telemetry data from the Monroe – Jim Lamb

Prepare a document for future PJ projects within the Parker SGMA – B. Hallows, J. Lamb, K. Bagley, and D. Dahlgren

Coordinate treatment of Cheatgrass near Red Knoll – R. Torgerson