

PARM Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2014

Attendees:

Jim Lamb, David Dahlgren, Terry Messmer, Verl Bagley, Eric Thacker, Rob Williams, Boyd White, Joanne Stenten, Kendall Nelson, Kendall Bagley, Dave Christiansen, Nathan (grad student), Tom Tippetts (and son), Vance Mumford, Ray Peterson

Agenda and Discussions:

1) Emery County Addendum? – Ray Peterson (Emery County)

We talked about the Emery County proposal to merge plans. Ray Peterson and Val Payne proposed we add the Emery County Plan as an addendum to the PARM plan until 2016 and the listing decision has been made.

2) PARM proposing a watershed restoration project on the USFS

We had a discussion about creating a proposal for a watershed restoration project on Mytogi Mountain. This area consists of a large area of USFS and BLM lands going up the highway from Fremont to the Fishlake Valley, and out to Highway 24 then back around to Loa and Fremont. Dave Dahlgren will create a map of the proposed area. The PARM members will help delineate and design a plan for treatment. Treatments will include aspen regeneration, which may include fire, harvest, etc. PJ treatments will be delineated in areas where PJ is encroaching sagebrush. Some areas may be benefited by sagebrush treatment, especially larger sagebrush areas at higher elevations. There was discussion about the slow NEPA process of USFS, and that BLM NEPA might go quicker. We decided we will move forward and keep trying.

3) Range Improvement Projects Update – Tom Tippetts

Tom gave an update on the range improvement on Parker and in association with the grazing association. They will not be doing any sagebrush treatments this year, but mostly water and fence projects. Plans are in place for these projects with the grazing association and SITLA. We had a short discussion on the future of sagebrush treatments on the mountain. USU is currently doing some research (starting summer 2014) with SITLA on response of treatments over time and grazing practices. The grazing association expressed their need to continue to treat sagebrush at some level in the future. USU's project should provide data and justification for appropriate treatment rates both spatially and temporally.

4) Update on proposed boundary changes to Parker SGMA – Dave Dahlgren

Dave updated the PARM group. The state is developing an online tool to deal with proposed changes. To date, and based on conversation with Eric Ellis, it looks very favorable for the proposed PARM changes.

5) Update on BLM Planning and Sage-Grouse Listing (Lesser Prairie Chicken) – Dave Dahlgren

Dave gave a short update on the BLM plan and the Adaptive Management Trigger process. The BLM is planning to be done by early May with their proposed Plan. The official decision on the alternatives won't happen until August or beyond at this point.

Other discussion items

Eric Thacker introduced Nathan, a graduate student who will be conducting sagebrush monitoring on the mountain. Nathan will assess the Parker Lake Pasture treatments done in the early 2000s. Nathan will also take data on the larger spike treatments in the higher elevation pastures.

To Do List:

Ray Peterson - send Emery Plan to Dave Dahlgren to make an addendum

Dave Dahlgren – make the Emery Plan an addendum to PARM Plan, change on website

Dave Dahlgren – Create a map and outline proposed plan for the Mytogi Mountain Watershed Restoration project.

Dave Dahlgren – Follow up on proposed SGMA boundary changes with the state