

## **Rich County Coordinated Resource Management Sage-grouse Local Working Group**

The Rich County Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Sage-grouse LWG (RICHCO) is facilitated by David Dahlgren. The RICHCO consists of state and federal agency personnel, representatives from local government, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, private industry, and private individuals.

### **Description of Area and General Population Information**

The Rich CRM is located in northeastern Utah, and is a significant population center for grouse in three states – Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. The SGMA management area includes Cache, Rich, Weber, Morgan, Summit and Wasatch Counties. The area boundary was determined by consulting with adjacent states, UDWR, and the Morgan-Summit Adaptive Resources Management Local Sage-grouse Working Group, and the CRM. It incorporates vegetation types used by sage-grouse, mostly in the Wyoming Basins eco-region.

### **Rich County CRM meetings and field tours.**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># attending</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Meeting	5 Jan 2016	Randolph	23	Updates and plans for the year
Lek Count	5 Apr 2016	North Rich County	8	Counted leks in the northern portion of the SGMA
BLM Meeting	21 Jun 2016	Randolph	25	BLM held a public meeting concerning the Crawford Mtn. conifer removal project
Field Tour	21 Jul 2016	Crawford Mtns.	16	Toured the Crawford Mtn. BLM Conifer removal project area.
Meeting	26 Oct 2016	Randolph	18	Discussed future projects and discussed general information for planning
Meeting	15 Dec 2016	Randolph	21	Project presentations and update meeting. Also had a board meeting.

### **Projects Proposed to Rich County CRM**

The BLM is planning a large conifer removal project on the Crawford Mountains. This project was cancelled several years ago due to local public petitioning. However, the Rich CRM and BLM worked together to get the local citizens and interest groups better educated and spent time in meetings and in the field discussing the project.

Additionally, the NRCS, SGI, and GIP have multiple projects to improve grazing systems and management across the county. Included in this is the Three Creeks Project, which will change

the grazing system to a more high intensity low duration system on the public (BLM and USFS) and private allotments. The BLM is currently in its decision making process and we eagerly await their NEPA decision.

### **Project and Research Highlights**

USU continues to monitor the sage-grouse population in Rich County. GPS radios on sage-grouse were added to the monitoring effort this year. Two cattle herds, one on Three Creeks and one on Deseret Land and Livestock, were also marked with GPS radios to help understand grazing distribution and how grouse may respond to grazing. This research will be some of the first to evaluate the impacts of grazing to grouse habitat selection and vital rates.