

Rich County CRM

Project Proposal Meeting

15 January 2013

#### Attendees

Todd Black	USU/EXT
Mike Welch	Board member/QRM
West Tingy	Board member/Permittee/landowner
Red Groll	Board Member/ Permittee/landowner
Karl Flemming	USFWS private lands program
Scott Tolentino	UDWR Bear Lake
Darren DeBloois	UDWR NR Wildbio
Adam Bretwerton	UDWR NR sensppbio
Randy Wood	UDWR NR Wildman
Kent Sorensen	UDWR NR Aquaman
Jim Derito	TU
Masako Wright	BLM/SLFO wildbio
Mellissa Rosehan	BLM/SLFO rangcon
Alvin Shaul	Board member/Permittee/landowner
Traci Allen	BLM/SLFO wildbio
Jared Zierrnnberg	USDA WS
Craig Kennedy	DLL
Jennifer Hansen	UT FFSL
Brad Jessop	BLM/SLFO

#### Announcements

Meeting schedule 2013—Next meeting 23 April 2013 1:00PM research projects update, project dbase updates. Summer field tour TBD/ 12/5/13 project proposals to CRM for 2014 funding.

Presentations (SEE ATTACHED PDF FILE)

UGIP

NRCS/Private lands

UDWR

BLM

FS

County

Items discussed

**Updates from the BLM sage-grouse plans**

The plan is supposed to be out to public for comment. It is anticipated to be out by June 2013 for a 90-day comment period.

The NEPA review and the comments in May-June will help determine which alternative will be chosen (preferred alternative).

BLM will be using the Utah maps developed in the Utah plan (we assume).

Regarding GRAZING: the BLM has to look at grazing impacts. They are not looking at grazing, however, as a primary concern. The initial expectation will be that the Connolly guidelines should be met. Because they need to be able to defend their position, they do need to have literature available to back up their decisions if they deviate from those guidelines. So..... in dry areas particularly, the BLM is particularly interested in local research that gives us a more nuanced understanding of grouse needs in those areas, to make sure the guidelines are relevant to the precipitation zones.

Cooperating agencies, including Carbon County, should receive a draft spring (a month prior to public release) 2013

There will be 5 final alternatives may be a combination of multiple alternatives

- No action
- The Utah state plan
- One based on the National Technical Team report
- A compromise one based on BLM's efforts to find a good middle ground
- Somewhere in the middle of all of the above

**Updates from the Gov's executive order/plan on sage-grouse**

--Was supposed to be out first 2 weeks of January

--The USFWS has reviewed and they have made comments

--There have been some minor changes to the document. These have to do with USFWS review and they would like the plan to address the following; transmission lines—what is that magical distance, disturbance level for power lines, —what is a disturbance level that is going to be allowed, USFWS wants to include past/existing disturbances, —mitigation rates USFWS service wants there to be a 4/1.

--These changes have not been shared with the group. IDK why?? “They are not changes that will change the documents purpose and meaning significantly”—UDWR).

--They have not done anything with the boundary/polygons.

--They are in the process of forming the implementation team.

--Supposed to be finalized by next week/early February.

NRCS will be strategically implementing the Sage-Grouse Initiative to get fences marked, P/J removal done, grazing management plans in place, and fire management done, among other practices. They are offering “regulatory predictability” for people with SGI contracts, through FWS, so it is worth discussing this with your local NRCS office.