

**SVARM  
LOCAL  
WORKING  
GROUP**      **Date: June 30, 2010 FIELD TOUR**  
**Time: 9:00 am**  
**Place: Heber, Utah USFS Ranger Station, starting point**  
**Members Present: Jan Anderson (Utah Farm Bureau), Riley Peck (UDWR/BYU), Boyd White (WDARM), Randy Larsen (BYU), JD Abbott (UDWR), DeWayne Erdmann (UDWR), Barbara Gardner (FFSL), Brad Cherry (UDWR), Derek Murdock (UDWR), Patricia Engel (UDWR), Doug Sakaguchi (UDWR), Tammy McGarry (UDWR), Katie Copple (UDWR), Jason Robinson (UDWR), Tyler Thompson (UDWR), Brad Jessop (BLM), Brook Chadwick (BLM), Bryce Monroe (BLM), Trevor Memmott (BLM), Reed Harris (Utah Lake Comm.), Shane Mower (NRCS), Matt Schulz (SLCO engineering), David Hansen (NRCS), Michele Devaney (NRCS), Steve Smith (CMWA), Kim Hersey (UDWR), Mark Farmer (UDWR), Betsy Hermann (USFWS), Nate Berg (USFS), Steve Madsen (BLM), Bob Riddle (Wasatch Co Public Lands), Troy Forrest (GIP), Curtis Warwick (BLM), Anthony Gray (USFS), Brendan Murphy (USFS), Lynn Berni (Salt Lake County), Marian Hubbard (Salt Lake County), and Lorien Belton (USU Extension)**

### **Field Tour Highlights**

SVARM held a joint tour with the central region UPCD and the local cooperative weed management area. The morning consisted of several stops along the Strawberry River where UPCD-funded streambank restoration projects had been completed in 2008-09 and 2004-05, as well as areas that still need future work. Restored areas had considerably greater willow cover, somewhat narrower stream channels, and were reported to have less daily fluctuation in water temperature, all of which provide a healthier environment for trout.

Afternoon stops focused on sage-grouse habitat improvements in the area. The first stop was at Trout Creek, where sagebrush treatments and minimal reseeding were done in 2006 to improve brood-rearing habitat and forb component. Forbs and grasses have come back strongly each year since the treatment occurred, including areas that were not seeded. Musk thistle continues to be a concern in the area but is treated on an ongoing basis to manage the infestation. As the group left the Trout Creek area, everyone slowed to observe the new information kiosk panel developed by the local working group to provide information about sage-grouse, recreation recommendations to avoid harassing the birds, and information about the habitat treatment visible from the parking lot.

The last stops, at Chicken Springs Ridge, were to view sagebrush treatments conducted last fall for brood-rearing habitat improvement. The first was done with a chain/harrow, and the second as a mowing further along the same road. Both treatments were intended to remove dense sagebrush cover, stimulate forb and grass growth to improve sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat.