

**STRAWBERRY
VALLEY
LOCAL
WORKING
GROUP**

Date: March 7, 2018

Place: Wasatch County Health Building

Members Present: Chelcey Larsen (NRCS), Matt Howard (UWDR), Robby Edgel (UDWR), Lorien Belton (USU Extension, facilitator)

Information Presented/Discussion Highlights

As meeting attendance was low, the meeting was somewhat informal. The following discussion and follow-up items were covered:

- Projects: although the co-op creek weed spraying was proposed this year in Central region, WRI it ranked relatively low, so may not receive funding. There is a private project NE of the reservoir putting in grazing water improvements.
- There are many ways Forest Service could be more involved in the working group. Lorien will work with Anthony to see if meeting at the FS office or other changes might get more involvement. At the very least, getting the range con, ranger, and Anthony in a conversation about the habitat projects would help move things forward.
- We have not heard from BYU researchers about the results of genetic work or other research projects. Lorien will reach out to Randy to see if we can get him or a graduate student to the next meeting. It would be interesting to know if they have any data on how the grouse responded to the fires last fall.
- A field tour to look at some of the riparian improvements could help spur discussion about sage-grouse use of wet areas. Lorien will ask Justin Robinson if he could lead a tour this summer. Lorien will see if Charlie knows of any local BDAs or other projects that might be able to be visited on a tour as well.
- The group discussed the upcoming mitigation rule. Once it is finalized, people Charlie Holtz works with may be interested. Lorien will make sure Charlie is aware of the program once that rule is finalized.
- The LWGs local conservation plan needs to be updated. One suggestion to make the strategies more implementable and clear would be to break it down by allotments, with specific goals in specific areas, so we can incorporate HAF data into planning conversations and decision-making.
- On the federal planning front, the USFS scoping report is not out yet, so it is unknown what potential amendments may be being considered to sage-grouse regulations within forest plans.

Follow-up Needed

- Lorien will reach out to Randy to see if we can get him or a graduate student to the next meeting.
- Lorien will ask Justin Robinson if he could lead a tour this summer.
- Lorien will see if Charlie knows of field tour project locations and update him on the mitigation program if needed.
- Lorien will work with Anthony to see if meeting at the FS office or other changes might get more involvement.

Next Meeting

Lorien will reach out to Justin to plan a field tour and announce it to the group. For the next meeting, having BYU present research and getting more FS people in attendance will be the goal. We may propose holding the meeting in the FS offices in Heber.