

SWARM Meeting Minutes
March 2007

Attendance

Christine Pontarolo BLM
Becky Bonebrake BLM
Jason Nicholes UDWR
Nile Sorenson NRCS/UDWR
Chad Reid EXT
Vicki Tyler NRCS RC&D
Rhett Boswell EXT
Nicki Frey EXT

Project Updates

- Stock dog workshop May 18th.

NRCS will be finishing project in Pine Valley on SITLA. ½ mile from Lek; will Dixie harrow and seed. Will leave more vegetation than originally planned and will not touch the drainages. Rhett will do GRSG and PYRA surveys. Expect it to be fenced with a 2-year rest. Surveys on the land will occur March 21st.

- Flinchpah (yeah, I know I don't spell that right –Nicki) would like to do some kind of project on his land. Considering pipelines, some Dixie-harrow. Will need a right of way to cross BLM land.
- Pine Valley – Mark Witney –EQIP Wildlife project at Cougar Spar. Was approved but deferred because nobody has surveyed the land prior to the project proposal. Planning on discing and reseeded 120 acres.
- Marshall Springs - WHIP project proposed by Baboon Peak.

\$2 million GIP money, specifically for grazing improvements. This money can be tacked onto EQIP and WHIP and used as the matching funds.

Jason provided 2006 lek data. He has made 1 visit in 2007 to each lek so far. Will continue to look for Greenville Bench lek. BLM offered to help with this effort.

- Talked to Mike Cox who has radio-collared birds in south Hamlin Valley (via Nevada). Noticed a raven issue in N. Hamlin Valley.
- Feels that the current lek sites are well documented. However, would like to make sure that everybody involved has the same terminology to avoid confusion in the future.

Rhett has 3 projects on the table for field research this summer. 1) Hamlin Valley, spike treatment; before-after control-treatment research method. 2) Tebbs Hollow; Dixie harrow; treated and untreated research method. 3). Badger Fire; post-fire seeding; treated and untreated research method.

- Will match research projects with High School or youth groups to begin the research education program (Wildlands Research Education Program).

Action Items

- Start on sage-grouse grant proposal for radio-telemetry by undergraduates.
- Undergraduate research project for predator surveys to determine our problem animals. This is a priority.
- BLM sage grouse mapping to identify habitat patches and connectivity. Requested by the National Science and Technology Center.
- Christine will update us about the Elko rangewide meeting in May.

Next Meeting: May 22nd, 10am Iron Country Extension Office.