

Minutes : Thursday, December 15, 2005
Start 10am
Place: Iron County Extension

Members Present:

Nicki Frey, USU Extension
Chad Reid, USU Extension
Jim Guymon
Mark Nelson, USU Extension
Becky Bonebrake, BLM

Info Presented:

Info concerning a new sighting of sage grouse around Minersville. Sage grouse were seen on Nov 7 by Randy Marshall. We got out a map and looked at where these grouse were using the info: T30S, R10W Section 32. This sighting is SW of where the lek of concern in the HDT plan is located. A bluff is south of the sightings.

Jim Guymon and Jeff Grandison saw grouse in Upper Bear Valley. 9 male grouse were counted. Bear Valley is along Highway 20 on the way to Panguitch. These grouse were seen December 13th.

There is another gentleman that has been seeing grouse on the Greenville Bench, an area that has not had grouse strut in several years.

Nicki passed out a copy of the letter sent to the High Desert Trail planning committee.

Group causally discussed the retirement of several UDWR employees today and the implications of these retirements to our group.

The group discussed the indicators and ratings for Habitat Condition for our viability tables. There was a lot of good discussion to determine what indicators to use. Determining the rating criteria also required some serious debate. We used past papers to determine a basis for these ratings. We had difficulty explaining our thoughts for these sections, but we were usually in agreement once we figured out how to say it. Unlike other groups we decided that Riparian areas during the brood-rearing season should be an indicator of good habitat.

FUTURE PLANS: Jim Guymon would like to recheck old leks now that habitat has changed so much. Chad and Nicki will discuss writing a letter to UDWR to Doug to get some gas money and/or a truck for several days. Becky is willing to accompany Jim.

NEXT MEETING: January 24th , 10am, Iron County Extension Office