

SWARM Local Working Group

May 20, 2008

8am – 2pm

Iron County Extension Office

Members Present: BLM(Kevin W. Christine P. Becky B), SUU (Dean W. Jim B.), USU ext.(Chad R. Mark N.), NRCS(Nile S. Jason B.), UDWR(Jason Nicholes)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction: all

2. UDWR update:

Lek surveys – Jason handed out data on Iron and Beaver County Lek highs for 2008 spring. Highs up on some leks and down on others. Overall Lek numbers were down slightly from 2007.

Jim Guymon – Jason handed out copy of Jim Guymon's report the DWR of his sage grouse surveys completed in 2008. Jim was able to find one new lek site this year. Lost Spring Lek is located 4.6 miles NW of the Parowan Gap Lek. 4 males counted in Mid April.

3. Travel to and tour Chad's Rabbit brush study site. Chad showed the group the heavy duty chopper used to cut the brush and then took us to the study site. He then showed the group the different plots and explained the methods used and chemicals used at each plot. Fall (October) treatments worked best. Spraying cut stumps with Tordon or Vanquish worked best. Spring treatments did not work with any type of chemical.

4. Travel to Hamlin Valley – Stopped at Niles Flinspach project site that is planned for the fall in 2008. Area will be treated with Dixie Harrow in a mosaic pattern and seeded. Also discussed plans for water transmission to area and where it would run and permitting.

5. Met with Bill and Sophia Hall and traveled to site where fencing projects will begin. Discussed fence, water troughs, ponds and the benefits of the project to sage grouse. All work will start in early July after sage grouse brood rearing.

6. Followed Halls to their well and solar panels near the Hamlin Wash Lek.

7. Met with Mike Scott of Nevada NDOW at the Beaver/Iron County line. Mike gave us information on proposed wind energy projects and possible impacts to sage grouse in area. 400 wind mill towers are proposed in Nevada on sage grouse summer range. Towers will be located on ridge tops on Table Mtn., Mount Wilson, and White Rocks areas. Also roads and transmission lines will affect sage grouse habitat. BLM members were concerned and said that they would work with Nevada BLM through their own channels. The rest of the SWARM group will get together to draft a letter explaining their concerns.

8. Nile took us to a chained site on the Paradise Fire rehab that was seeded this winter and chained this past March. No new seed growing yet but some of the remaining Native plants were growing.

9. Stopped at Halls Spike treatment in the south end of the Valley – treatment was done in the fall of 2006 – Spike was very effective at killing the mature sagebrush. Lots of grass and forbs. Some sage brush seedlings doing really well.

8. Set next meeting time and adjourn

Next meeting date will be June 24 at the Iron County Extension office from 1 – 3 PM.