

SWARM
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2007

Members Present

Mark Nelson, USU EXT
Jason Nicholes, UDWR
John Keeler, UFBF
Chad Reid, USU EXT

Nile Sorenson, NRCS
Nicki Frey, USU EXT
Paul Briggs, BLM

Items Discussed

A. Notices

1. UPD field day Sept 6th at Ruby's Inn
2. Cattlemen's BBQ 8/23/07, Cedar City Main Street park
3. Cedar Livestock and Heritage Festival Oct 26-27th
4. Restoring the West Conference in Park City in October

B. Fires Update – Paul Briggs

1. \$70 mill requested for restoration.
2. 8 mill pounds of seed needed; 6 mill pounds known to be available
3. Conference call on 8/21 to see how national BLM office will handle the deficit and/or distribution of seed. The plan is 1 big buy and the regions will split it.
4. State agencies have already bought their seed.
5. Seed that is purchase is based on availability; Crested wheatgrass, globe mallow, flax, small burnett. Trying to get bunchgrass natives
6. Once fires are out, will figure out what can be reclaimed and go from there. Plan on chaining over burned areas.
7. Millford Flat will be treated for restoration, 25, 000 acres.
8. Previously seeded areas are doing well.
9. SITLA providing some money, which has helped. They will be at Greenville bench this week to check that area out.
10. Rough cost/acre: \$200 for Paradise, \$119 for Millford. This includes clearances, etc.
11. NRCS considering putting sagebrush in focus areas in Millford Flat and Greenville.
12. Precipitation has been moving silt and fire ash in a mostly negative way.
13. Livestock will need to be off for 2 grazing seasons.
14. On the top of the hills, fires have definitely negatively impacted grouse habitat.
15. Cedar District has fewer permites that were largely affected by fires than Milford district.
16. Still figuring out what to do across private/public land boundaries. Maybe a cost-share or trading arrangement. Good opportunity to use GIP money.

C. Sage grouse Update – Jason Nicoles

1. Overall numbers up. Poults were seen in the Bald Hills. Hens were seen on Greenville bench on July 26th.
2. Group would like an updated spring count to add to records.

3. New lek in Bear Valley; Bald Hills drifted but birds were found for the first time in a long time.

4. Poorman Lek was burned in Greenville fire. This will be a high priority for restoration. Mahogany Knoll, on SITLA land, will be restored.

5. NRCS will help restoration efforts on areas where grouse habitat was impacted.

D. Research Update

1. Redesigned the treatment in Pine Valley. Set up transects to establish pre-treatment data. Will probably do some discing to that property.

2. We need 2 printed boards. UFBBF would like one paper copy

E. Updates for Folders

1. graphs for SAGR numbers updated

2. photos/GPS coordinates for grouse populations

Next Meeting: November 1, 10:00 – noon. Iron County Extension Office