

SWARM Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions
2. Project Review in advance of Watershed Restoration Initiative deadline--
 1. BLM
 1. Hamlin Valley bull hog , adding a fence; 721 acres of bull hog is left from this year. Arch clearance finished
 2. Pine Valley phase 1 and 2 trees, tree removal in early Fall 2017. Need arch clearance but it is not intensive.
 3. Long Hollow - 510 acres through NRCS to bullhog. This proposal to continue in 2017. 2000 acres of bull hog and 500 acres of lop and scatter.
 4. M3 - Spike and Bullhog. Need to treat it to improve UPD habitat, has >10% Canopy cover. This area has some cheat grass that needs to be considered.
 5. Horse Hollow -- phase 2 and 3 pinyon juniper removal. Clearance will still need to be done. 1500 acres, just north of 3 peaks. This is more of a fuels project and not in currently occupied by grouse
 6. Little Valley (near exit 100 on I-15). Small plateau valley lop and scatter that can create more corridors for grouse between Bald Hills and Dog Valley
 7. Buckskin Valley - 3700 acres of phase 1 trees to rehabilitate the area. Understory is still good.
 2. Curtis Roundy - UDWR Jackson Wash - 900 acres proposed for spring work; lop and scatter on the project, will hand broadcast through the area where needed, but the understory still looks good in most of the area. Will work with the Holts to patch into the private lands to create a larger project
3. Updates
 - A. Chad Reid
 - Conducting a study using Esplanade to control cheatgrass- Rim Sulfuron (Outrider) Spring and Fall applications. Bayer has funded this study. Looks like one application might take out Cheatgrass for 3 years.

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

• **Annual Range Meeting. April 4-6. The Utah-Arizona Range Livestock Workshop in St. George. 39th Year!!**

- Dean of Law @ BYU will be coming down to talk about land ownership etc.
- Discussion of Esplanade's effects on cheatgrass and annual grasses in Colorado.
- Tour will be conducted in Cane Beds, AZ, which is off of Highway 389, near Colorado City.

B. Stan Garley - UDWR - SGI applications.

- James Spears' property 80 acres. In Pine Valley. There will be a wet mow, and possibly bullhog and/or lop and scatter for the trees. Will put in some water troughs.
- Brad Bowler - Rosebud allotment. Will be working with Dan Fletcher for range improvements on that land
- Scott Stubbs - Upper Long Hollow allotment. This will patch into the work currently ongoing on JackRabbit.
- Bill Trimmer - Also patches into the JackRabbit work to the east. Will work with BLM to conduct range improvements.
- Sagegrouse Initiative for next year--- \$410,000 for each priority area. There are 2 areas in Iron County, one in Garfield.

C. Randy Marshall - Grazing Improvement Program - 15 new applications for the 5 counties in the SW. Most are for water improvements. Some are for fencing improvements. Will be ranked in March. Expect 8-10 will be funded.

D. Jason Nicholes - UDWR

- will be capturing deer in the Pine Valley site next week. The elk collaring will expand in the SW Desert. Will add 30 GPS transmitters this year to the 10 that are currently out.
- Division finished 3 new big game guzzlers on Wahwah, East Mountain and Crickets. All will have elk use, 2 will have deer and pronghorn as well.

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4. BLM - Presentation regarding the National Plan (in Utah) and its status. Presented by Jarrod Reese and Alan Bass. The following is a brief summary of the presentation. This presentation will be posted on the CBCP website as well as at <https://extension.usu.edu/wildlifeconflicts>

1. Instructional Memoranda (IM) Concepts: Used 7 IM to provide guidance for implementation of the sagegrouse management areas. Structured around 4 core concepts:
 1. Provide for consistency in implementation
 2. Retain flexibility at local level
 3. Gather monitoring data to support decision making
 4. Continue to coordinate with stakeholders
2. IM-2016-139 For RMP effectiveness monitoring
 1. This is more than just grouse. Handle all monitoring efforts. Health of the landscape.
 2. Across field offices
 3. You can use this information to help determine areas where you would want to do projects and treatments
 4. Tools:
 1. Eplanning: plan implementation
 2. Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) - consistent process for data collection. This is a monitoring protocol.
 3. Habitat Assessment Framework (HAF) assessing indicators of if an area provides needed components.
 4. AIM and HAF will be compiled into a Habitat Assessment Summary Report.
 1. Multiple Scales of Assessment. Based on Johnson (1980) discussion of order of decision making.
 2. First order - species distribution
 3. Second order - population areas, dispersal among populations

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4. Third order - fine scale. home range of small populations, lek cluster, movement among seasonal ranges
 5. Fourth order - site scale. season habitats, movement between daily use areas.
3. IM-2016-140 Adaptive Management Trigger Processes
 1. This is procedural again, not grouse specific.
 2. Helps identifies quick responses to ecological triggers. creates a process.
 4. IM-2016-141: Setting priorities for review and processing of grazing authorizations in GRSG Habitat.
 1. Highest priority areas are in the sagegrouse Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA), then General Habitat (GHMA).
 2. Areas where an evaluation indicates a need for a change to grazing management
 3. Areas without a completed land health evaluation
 4. Basically stating that the permittee renewal time period will not be the driver anymore. Resource need and condition will.
 5. This could help identify areas where GIP could focus.
 6. Sets priorities for effectiveness monitoring and compliance monitoring that includes the first year of implementing a new grazing system, riparian areas, areas where thresholds and responses have been set and areas THAT MAY be an issue:
 1. Spring grazing in breeding habitat
 2. riparian areas in summer brood-rearing habitat
 3. Grazing in nesting habitat
 5. IM-2016-142: Incorporating thresholds and responses into Grazing Permits and Leases.
 1. Incorporates thresholds and responses into terms and conditions of renewing a grazing permit.
 2. Use ARMPA Table 2-2 to develop thresholds for seasonal habitats, but not held to the specifics of Table 2-2.

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3. Use ecological site potential to guide thresholds of environmental conditions
 4. Based on multi-year trends NOT one year.
 5. Site specific analysis -- e.g. If the issue is in riparian summer brood-rearing habitat, we will analyze this habitat, this location, during this time of year.
 6. Creates a strategy to shorten the response time.
 7. Identify a broad range of options and the flexibility to the officer to make decisions.
6. IM-2016-143: O&G Leasing/Development Prioritization
 7. IM-2016-144: Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Policy
 8. IM-2016-145: Tracking and Reporting Disturbance
5. Research Update - Nicki Frey Utah State University Extension.
- we are still tracking birds in the Bald Hills, as long as transmitters and birds persist. As we collect those transmitters we refurbish them and will redeploy them in either Hamlin Valley or Buckskin Valley.
- we are tracking 10 birds in Hamlin Valley; as those transmitters come off we refurbish them and redeploy them.
- we are also collaborating with Nevada Dept of Wildlife to track 20 birds in Cave Valley and upper Hamlin Valley to determine connectivity as well as response to treated areas.
- Birds in Hamlin Valley did not move up and out of Hamlin Valley into Atlanta Mine. they moved south and west into the mountains.
- Birds in southern Hamlin Valley used the habitat in the valley and the eastern slopes throughout the year.
- We had another occasion of a birds moving from Mud Springs, over Poor Man Flat and across I-15 to just north of Dog Valley
- Erica has finished her thesis; 1 paper is already published in Human-Wildlife Interactions. Another is in the works. Her thesis will be available in the Digital Commons at Utah State University by March 2017. We will forward a link when we get it.

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NEXT MEETING: MARCH 7TH 10AM, AT THE IRON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE,
CEDAR CITY.