

SWARM Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Intro

- Chad Reid, Utah State University Extension
 - Dan Fletcher, Bureau of Land Management
 - John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau Federation
 - Nicki Frey, Utah State University Extension
 - Randy Marshall, Grazing Improvement Program
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Agency Updates

Dan Fletcher, BLM --habitat treatment project report from the fall

- 10,000 ac lop and scatter in Dog Valley;
- 1623 ac lop and scatter in Hamlin by White Bridge Lek; ChokeCherry Allotment
- bull hog in 1423 acres - ChokeCherry and Spanish George
- arial seeding 1605 acres in same area
- Upper Long Hollow lop and scatter 2,178 acres in Upper Long Hollow
- Mace Crane started yesterday for BLM

John Keeler, UFBF

- provided comments on Sage-grouse plans and Utah Prairie Dog plans
- concerns about plan as it relates to grazing, to ensure it doesn't restrict grazing
- part of Utah private land committee, concerned about the vegetation restrictions for USFS plan
- UFBF supportive of the amount of latitude for making informed local decisions in the BLM sage-grouse plan

Chad - USU Extension

- had a range school November 17th to go over policies for USFS

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

- 7" stubble height through June 15 could be a problem if other grazing animals.
- Livestock meeting April 5-7, 2016; wanting Mike Linnell to come down to talk about ravens and desert tortoise and other sensitive species.
- will be working with Bayer to do research on cheatgrass control.

Nicki - USU Extension

- update on the next sage-grouse forum, February 2016.
- research updates
 - Hamlin Valley - still have 9 transmitters on birds
 - Bald Hills - still have about 14 transmitters; collecting data until February 2016. Erica has completed the surveys of the transmission line for a change in human traffic and mammalian predator traffic. She has completed the surveys of the area for change in raven densities and use of transmission lines
 - Dog Valley - projected to start a project in 2016 with 10 transmitters. Will focus on hens
- will have a research update presentation during February's meeting

Randy - GIP

- last day of GIP sign up was yesterday; had about 20 applications
- has been seeing sage-grouse along pipeline corridor, has been seeing birds up high, pronghorn too, on Mound Mountain. (the corresponds to the data that Erica has been collecting)
- Slate Stuart has taken Ron Torgeson's position; so there will be an opening in the SE Region for the GIP.

Future Plans

Bureau of Land Management

- WRI - Indian Creek - phase II chaining
- 3 Peaks - 300 acres bullhog for fire defense
- Duncan Creek Phase III bullhog for fire defense
- Spanish George fencing and then chain in the east foothills adjacent to this year's bullhog treatment
- Long Hollow - lop and scatter, bullhog adjacent to Kearn Pipeline "The Narrows" 2,025 acres
- concerns about the deer habitat being lost in that treatment projects. working with UDWR to discuss the islands left. Also concerned with cheatgrass coming back in.
- In Long Hollow continue to open it up. 1300 acres
- Buckskin Valley treatments for UPD and Grouse; looking to avoid the Pygmy Rabbits in that area. 480 acres for UPD about 480 for harrow and bullhog for combined benefits and to rejuvenate the leks
- Hamlin Valley - north of white bridge, but south of rain gauge. about a combined 10,000 acres of stripping, bull hog, lop & scatter, and chaining

Nicki - Dog Valley research - focusing on hens; hired grad student to help with Hamlin/ Cave Valley and trapping

February meeting with have research presentations

February is also the Sage Grouse Forum in SLC

Move updates: Iron County Extension will be moving to the Fiddler's building in March.

Meeting Dates for 2016 : February 16th, April 12th, June 7th, August 9th, October 11th, December 6th.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015