

SWARM
Southwest Desert Adaptive Resource Management

Meeting Minutes

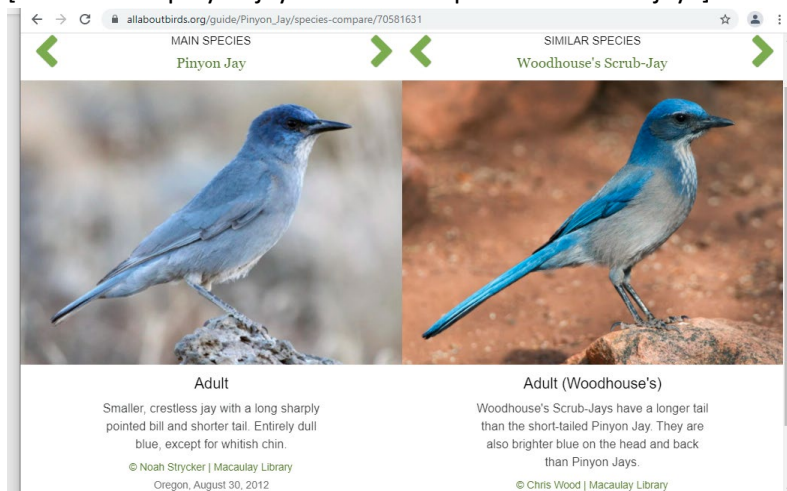
Date: June 8, 2021

Time: 10:00 am MST

Virtual, Via Zoom. See email for link

1. Introductions
2. Derek Christiansen, Cedar City, BLM; Nicki Frey, USU Extension; Jared Reese, BLM; Clint Wirick, USFWS; Aidan Beers, USU; Randall Violett, USU Extension Iron County; Kary Howard, FFSL Cedar City; Jason Nicholes, UDWR Cedar City; HEATERH Talley, UDWR; Dylan Hulett, PLPCO; Dan Fletcher, Cedar City, BLM
3. Research Updates
 - a. Nicki Frey / Dustin Schaible update on Raven research
 - i. Raven point count surveys
 - ii. Artificial nesting study in treated vs intact sagebrush; 40 mini cameras in treated areas, 40 in 'intact' sagebrush habitats
 - iii. Learning where ravens nest and move in order to capture and put transmitters on them
 - b. Derek Christensen update on Pinyon Jay research
 - i. Working with SUU monitoring pinyon jays. Identifying where the colonies are
 - ii. Learning about them for future studies. Found 5 new nesting colonies
 - iii. Captured and color banding via mist nesting
 - iv. Had a few active nests; pinyon jays state wide are not nesting as much most likely do to low pine nut crop, low moisture, etc.

[what does a pinyon jay look like compared to a scrub jay?]



- c. Presentation by Aidan Beers re: Greater sage-grouse habitat use.
 - i. Attach link to presentation
 - ii. Main points: southern Utah is the range margin for the species; generally poorer, patchier habitat;
 - iii. Look at habitat selection variability among study areas
- 4. ARTR/PUTR research project in the Bald Hills – Dan Fletcher
 - a. Looking at low/med/high elevation. Look at different techniques to improve sagebrush establishment in Bald Hills
- 5. Possible perennial forb research project at the college farm – Dan Fletcher
 - a. Want a perennial forb demonstration project
 - b. Doing a research project on grass at the SUU farm too, so they are moving forward with perennial forb project
 - c. Could we convert some of these ag farms into a perennial forb farm instead of alfalfa, in the face of a drying climate?
 - d. Looking at a few seed companies this summer; Randall starting a seed trial later today
 - e. Brent Hunter is a producer in the area that is already interested.
 - f. These are perennial crops, they will improve soil health, 'cover crops' reduce wind erosion.
 - g. This could be a way to conserve pollinator species and keep them from the listing process.
- 6. Working on the GRSG net conservation gain document associated with the Pine Valley pipeline development. Expect the EIS to be sent to the group in the near future.
- 7. Select new meeting dates
 - a. September 7th, 10am -12pm
 - i. Field tour? – please send ideas to Nicki in the next few weeks.
 - ii. Hybrid format
 - iii. If a meeting, have Aidan Beers present next round of data.