

# SWARM Meeting Minutes September 10, 2021

## Introductions

Teresa Griffin, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Mark Nelsen, Utah State University Extension  
Jason Deforest, PLPCO  
Dan Fletcher, Bureau of Land Management  
Randall Violett, Iron County Extension  
Nicki Frey, Utah State University Extension  
Derek Christensen, Bureau of Land Management  
Clint Wirick, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Zoe Moffett, USU Extension  
Jason Nicholes, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Jason Bradshaw, National Resource Conservation Service  
Lara Kitchen, Bureau of Land Management  
Jessica Kinross, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
CJ Butters – USDA Wildlife Services

## 2. Research Updates

### Zoe Moffett – Ravens and Sage-grouse in the Bald Hills

Looking at predators of sage-grouse, particularly ravens  
Conducting raven roadside surveys from Feb – June  
Artificial nest study May – June  
Raven trapping to deploy transmitters this fall  
Trail camera surveys at leks to document harassment of grouse by ravens  
Will send presentation recording

### Derek Christensen – Pinyon Jays and Vegetation Treatments

This summer surveyed to find jay populations  
Found 5 new nesting colonies  
Working with Curtis Roundy to create traps and do some trapping in Spring 2022 to band the jays and look at movement patterns

### Aidan Beers – Regionwide Sage-grouse Habitat Selection

Studying the telemetry conducted from 2013 to present  
Looking at habitat selection, particularly of treated areas, and areas close to trees  
Studying the effects of temperature on habitat selection.  
Will attach recorded presentation

### Dan Fletcher – Native forb seed plots

Looking at how to get better suited forbs into our seed mixes  
Working with Randall, created forb plots at SUU Farm  
Met last week with experts to discuss how to move forward  
SUU will enact an MOU, will start with ½ acre test trial  
Will plant winter cover crop this winter to prep the soil start seed control; will plant the forb seed in fall 2022  
Hoping to have a couple farmers interested in it rather than alfalfa

Dan Fletcher – Artemisia tridentata research plots

Studying ways to increase establishing ARTR

High Mtn Nursery to provide the plants

<1-acre plots, will try strategies such as drill seeding, potted plants, scalper, dropping seed stock in piles, etc.

Would be great to create a local sagebrush source

SWARM field day in November to help implement some of this.

### 3. Pine Valley Water Supply

The goal is to bring water into Cedar Valley from Pine Valley

The pipeline would be in grouse habitat

BLM identifying net conservation benefit through mitigation

One strategy is to identify areas where the pipeline could create some mesic habitat

Please review the document that was sent out earlier, and provide comments.

### 4. Sage-grouse Educational Signs

Created 2009; held up well until they faded, at which point they became targets

Need one at Hamlin T, Buckskin South pullout, Bear Valley pullout by Spanish Trail, and smaller one at Parowan Gap interpretive trail.

Cost about \$200/each. Nicki will set up account for purchase. She can pay for a couple of them but not all.

### 5. Chairperson Elections

Send nominations to Nicki Frey [nicki.frey@usu.edu](mailto:nicki.frey@usu.edu) by October 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. Bear Valley EA

Nicki will draft a support letter for the local working group

### 7. Next Meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> 10 -12.

This will be the meeting to present your WRI proposals for LWG comment. Nicki will provide refreshment for in-person attendees.

Nicki will send a sign-up sheet to see who will be coming in person.