

SWARM Meeting Minutes

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3. NRCS Planning changes.

looked at the Focal Area Map and discussed priority areas and historic range.

projects will be evaluated based on which priority area they fall into.

looked at the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide

threats tables

NRCS bulletin - projects in GRSG will not adversely affect GRSG or GRSG habitat. Projects in areas with GRSG will need approval if they fall within GRSG winter range. Application asks for description of benefits and risks to sage-grouse.

collision tools - created models of collision risks around leks. Mapped the areas around the leks to identify critical risk. sounds like NRCS used the same model as Heather to identify areas of high risk around the lek. There are a lot of organizations that are willing to volunteer some man-hours and that already have some supplies.

4. Becky - UPD recovery actions.

dusting to control plague

oral plague vaccine research

what did they use as criteria to select the plague vaccine spots? size of the colony, need a paired location nearby, USGS was mostly interested in doing the research at higher (cooler, more moist) sites. Would start this summer as a 3 year research project.

translocation sites - presented the list of 8 proposed UPD relocation sites. Minimum size of 200 acres in size. All sites are within or adjacent to mapped UPD habitat. The sites still need to be approved by the RT. No vegetation treatment is proposed.

Where do you collect the dogs from? Usually private lands. But it depends on the Recovery Team.

5. Hamlin Valley EA - Christine. Still waiting to be signed, but should be signed in a week or two. Looked at the Hamlin Valley focus area. Limiting vegetation management in GRSG habitat that is used as winter. Removing trees in areas that have an ecological site assessment of sagebrush, this wouldn't count toward this limitation.

Inter-seeding in crested wheatgrass seedings. (Nile suggests that this would also be very difficult to compete with established crested wheatgrass). (Becky suggests that she has had some success establishing other plants in older crested wheatgrass seedings.

There are areas that are "Lands w Wilderness Characteristics" and these areas will not be treated.

6. Sigurd-Red Butte offsite mitigation - Christine

Will probably start construction in March. Will have off-site mitigation to mitigate the Mudsprings lek impact.

fence removal of old fences and replace with fences with better specifications and they will also have the markers on them.

habitat improvement was also a big part. identified 3 larger areas in the Adams Well and Long Hollow areas.

monitoring component with plan.

7. Updates

UDWR plan to start lek counts March 1st - 3rd week in April. Will collect 20 feathers in each lek for analysis. Still need feathers from all leks. Each feather needs to be in an envelope, lek name, coordinates.

2nd part of deer transplant in March 5-6. Trapping off the Parowan front.

Iron County sponsoring a petition to allow Iron County to manage UPD on a 5-year trial. It would allow management by the county.

Clint - brought up the fencing information. GUSG petition for listing in the Federal Register.

USU Extension

grad student updates.

Nicki can provide polygons to anybody that wants to see where grouse have been based on the research.

SW Grazing Improvement - Randy

\$580,000 of project proposals. Going through them and ranking them now.

BLM - other updates. passed out a sheet on wildfires, transmission lines, Parowan Gap interpretive project, range projects. If anybody has any comments on any of these events please contact them.