

SWARM Meeting Minutes

Introduction

Curtis Roundy, Stan, Jason Bradshaw, Jason Nicholes, Clint Wirick, Randy Marshall, Nicki Frey, Melanie Mendenhal, Vicki Tyler, Dustin Schaible, Connor ??

Grouse Numbers -- Jason Nicholes has been counting since the beginning of March, still have a few to do yet. Everything seems to be a little bit down, but not definitive yet.

Research Plans -- 2 camera traps to look at fence; replenish Hamlin Valley birds; replenish Dog Valley birds

Solar Energy Zone near Minersville - about 1/2 of the area within the lek buffer zone. Minersville and Marshalls leks

Hens may be nesting within the next week, will be getting harder to find them.

We can wait a year to put transmitters out if we have missed the window for grouse trapping this year.

Worth going out to try it a night or two and see what we find, but no need to push it. We can wait a year to get the hen recruitment information.

WRI

Vicki gave the WRI report for the group. Presented the project rankings for the group (for the Bald Hills and Hamlin SGMA) to see what may be funded in this round.

Utah GRSG Adaptive Management Triggers

Vicki presented the information on the AMTs for Bald Hills and Hamlin Valley

No triggers are standing out right now that are attracting attention

What does a trigger mean? - money could go to those areas to fix the trigger, restrictions could be set in motion, area gets more attention

How do we turn the trigger off once it gets hit? this isn't as well defined as set criteria, but the responses are defined in the plan.

Habitat Treatment Plans

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Kearn River wants to do maintenance on 2 valves within grouse habitat. BLM will send out a letter requesting surface disturbance. This will most likely have to wait until after the nesting season. Just giving a head's up that the letter is coming out.

UDWR Habitat

Hamlin Valley Bullhog is almost done. Only 150 acres left. Will be removing trees in early April.

Jackson Wash lop and scatter will be starting in the next 3 weeks.

Buckskin Valley is finishing up bull-hog contract right now.

These are in mapped grouse areas, but not where we know there are actively grouse. Determined that the treatment should be beneficial to grouse, more so than any possible threat created by finishing up during breeding/nesting season.

NRCS

Finished Upper Long Hollow, Jackrabbit, Adam's Well in the last few weeks.

Chair Person - Stan Gurley

"Summer" Field Tour - WRI tours are going to be on Beaver River or Upper Sevier to look at the work being done there. Rhett is in charge of field tour. Group decided to join in to the WRI field tour.

Marshalls Lek - 4 transmitters; might better to go right at morning. I can look at see where they are 1am. Can be males or females. Connor, Dustin, Jason, Curtis are available early Thurs or Friday.

Dog Valley/Bear Valley - Looking at April 2-4, Stan, Curtis

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Add Dustin and Connor to SWARM list