

SWARM Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

1. Attendance: Jason Nicholes, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Nicki Frey, USU Extension; Stan Gurley, UDWR and NRCS; Christine Pontarolo, Bureau of Land Management
2. Research Updates: Aidan Beers still conducting research in Hamlin and Buckskin-Bear-Dog although transmitter sample size is slowing down. This is part of the process, because Aidan is beginning to conduct the data analysis portion of the project.

We discussed 2 papers that came out in the last year. One that discussed the importance of private land partnerships in the face of the warm/dry trend that we have been witnessing these last few years.

Identifying holes in the greater sage-grouse conservation umbrella

Jason D. Carlisle , Douglas A. Keinath , Shannon E. Albeke , Anna D. Chalfoun

First published: 30 March 2018 | <https://doi-org.dist.lib.usu.edu/10.1002/jwmg.21460>

Seasonal drought in North America's sagebrush biome structures dynamic mesic resources for sage-grouse <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ece3.4614>

3. Project Updates

Neck Fire – burned the Horse Valley Emergency Stabilization Rehabilitation from 2018. Burned over some previous burns. Will try to change response so that cheatgrass doesn't establish again or as robust. Marshall's land burned by Marshall's Well. But they are still interested in planting some bitterbrush back into that area. Want to drill seed our property.

Lizzy's Hill Bullhog – 2232 Acres – In the Chipman Peak area. Sage-grouse habitat is a priority for this project. This is also a sheep allotment. In the process of the cultural surveys right now.

Are there existing water sources? – yes. There is a spring – Lost Spring – that has been developed. The trees around the spring will be removed.

This will tie into the Roundabout Fire to the north. This fire was about 6 years ago. There is a bit of cheatgrass in there, so we'd want to be careful with how close we get with this current treatment.

Benson – 2,774 acres – in the Chipman Peak area. Just northwest of the Parowan Gap (on other side of hills). Bullhog, hand thin, and harrow in alternating stretches. The producer is contributing their NRCS farm bill project into these treatments. South end for grouse and range, the northern part will focus on improving mule deer habitat. Pygmy rabbit and raptor surveys have been completed. Will start in the next few weeks.

South Freemont Lop and Scatter – completed on Monday. Buckskin-Bear-Dog valley connectivity is now complete!! Found some Aspen stands that were previously hidden. Some water started to flow

Hamlin Valley –Old Mackleprang Homestead (Jim Spears) going to put some structures in the stream as it comes down, to try to slow the water down. Try some plateau to control cheatgrass that we saw this year.

Indian Peaks WMA – higher elevation habitat; lop and scatter

Upcoming Events:

WRI Fall Meeting November 21, 2019 at the Heritage Center, Cedar City, UT

Next SWARM meeting : December 10th, Iron County Extension Conference Room, Cedar City, UT