

SWARM local working group meeting

June 9, 2020, 10:00 – 12:00

AGENDA

1. Introductions

Heather Talley, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Mike Worthen, Iron County

Lorien Belton, USU Extension

Dustin Schaible, Cedar City Bureau of Land Management

Shawn Peterson, Bureau of Land Management

Jared Reese, Wildlife Sage grouse Biol BLM

2. Lek count updates – Stan Gurley

- Cedar district leks down overall, for the past 3 years 2018-2020
 - Hamlin 75, 68, 57
 - Bald Hills 108, 73, 71 – hit a soft trigger this year.
 - Peterson: Will follow up by discussing why it happened and what do we need to do so we don't go any farther.
 - Reese: looking at cause, habitat trigger is a bit more straightforward.
 - Panguitch SGMA: 255, 197, 155
- Avery is in the process of compiling everything statewide; will then come up with the status for trigger.

3. Policy and planning updates – Lorien Belton

- CBCP is rearranging a bit, so that there is some consistency to policy or statewide updates throughout the local working groups.
- Brief update on where the state habitat mapping progress sits.
- Appendices of maps are online. Newest drafts should be sent out for comments this month. Waiting for ALL the seasons to be complete.
- Nicki worked directed with Dr. Kohl to look at the model fit for southern Utah. We were able to select individual model parameters for each region of the US. So, the two of them worked together to select the correct model to fit the known locations as well as local reports of grouse.
- Simona Picardi is working on an interactive model will help us identify project based on both cost effectiveness AND habitat change impact. We don't really have a timeline for that.
 - Jared Reese: the BLM is helping Dr. Picardi with this effort.
- Programmatic EIS updates: the vegetation one just closed last week.
- Forest Service updates: in October the BLM 2019 plan was challenged, so then they had to go back to the 2015 plan. Both BLM and FS were almost ready to go with their latest versions and updates when this happened.

- USFS: the reviewing officer, Allen Rowley, is working on concerns identified, planning on a follow-up call in May – June. Changes will be written up and distributed to regional offices to make appropriate adjustments. Goal is to avoid similar lawsuit to BLM.
- Regional raven efforts – there is a team within the migratory birds office of USFWS to look at what we can do about ravens. They are trying to come up with a larger regional strategies, rather than piecemealing that by species.
 - At the corvid conference, the discussion was about ‘how’ to present a unified front so that people understand what is happening in the landscape, and ‘how’ do we get the political support.

4. Research updates – Nicki, BLM?

- Aidan Beers – placed based modelling, influence of ground temp
- Dustin is working on getting research project together to look at how much harassment is going on out on leks, also in simulated nests to see how much ravens are depredating them. Looking at treated areas, untreated areas, burned areas. Going to use cellular data tracking rather than satellite tracking. This can improve the rate at which we monitor the ravens when they enter habitat designated as priority grouse habitat.

5. ‘Open Mic’ for additional updates and news

a. Stan Gurley: Is UDWR still thinking of doing infrared flights to find leks?

Heather Talley: yes, we do have some of that information. Heather will send that information out. The process only found 1 new lek.

b. Jared Reese – adaptive management (triggers) updates

For example, Bald Hills – recorded this update, will attach with minutes

c. Hamlin Valley EA – still going forward. About to go out for public comment in the near future.

6. Next Meeting Date: September 8, 2010, 10am – 12pm. We will set up a WebEx link regardless of if we can meet face-

What can we add to the meeting to make it more worthwhile to you?

Presentation of ravens