

SWARM Meeting Minutes 8.26.13
noon- 2pm

Becky, Christine, Nile, Jason, Chad, Randy, CLint

1. Over of state plan

Points 2 and 3

We have 2 SGMAs
between the 2 SGMAs we have a 700,000 acres

things we can do : continue to monitor leks, address leks on private lands, fence marking

concerns: that's a lot of land; federal agencies are going to be limited by funding and what their agency is willing do.

What is the top thing on the line right now?
SRB project, then Hamlin Valley
landowners tend to go after the low hanging fruit

for the next meeting - go over bullet 5 and mesh our objectives and threats to create a starting point

2. If we have an open house what would we discuss?

county plan

updates to federal plan -- out for public review this month --

how will we pay for it? what does CBCP?

get the sportsmen's groups to come to our meetings - Rusty Aiken ?

do we put up an information booth at one of their meetings? -- Spring meetings

Mule Deer foundation is supportive usually

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

WTF guy is in St. George, something Bishop

public would appreciate knowing what projects are going on? what the numbers of grouse are? Maybe we could do an open house in December or January? How would we feed them? Do we have some money?

Sportsmen for Habitat booth? Utah Chukar Foundation?

FOR October - let's put together a list of potential subjects

3. Agency Updates --

BLM --

Christine has a new job. Works with state office now. Works on transmission lines.

interns went out to do habitat assessment work north of Minersville this summer. Habitat in this area is pretty poor -- cheat grass and juniper encroachment. no signs of sage-grouse.

SRB mitigation --offsite mitigation for transmission line. will treat 850 p/j near jackrabbit lek in October/November. Focus area: Adams Well, Long Hollow, and Jackrabbit

Hamlin Valley delayed because Christine was focused on SRB for a bit. Goal is to have it out in October.

South Beaver is geared up for this fall.

Becky - fire updates - 3 wildfire in sagebrush this year. Gap (800 acres), Black Mountain (5000 acres, 3500 acres of mapped SG habitat), and Rush Lake (300 acres of mapped SG habitat; along the phone line in Adams Well area). Currently working through funding and seed issues for restoration this fall. Considering using temporary electric fences to protect reseeding.

UPD plague vaccine study is on the ground. UPD Management Areas will be filled in with action items and action steps. Translocated to Black mountains and buckskin valley, also in Parker Mountain.

Jason/Nile -

couple of lop and scatter projects in Hamlin Valley, about 1000 acres. pipeline and water development in Choke Cherry in the next month. Marked the allotment fence. BLM provided the markers, did 2.4 miles of fence using the BLM specifications. Chaining vegetation looks good and White Rock fire looks good, given the weather we've had.

Nile is retiring! September 27th is last day.

John Keeler -- Trans-west powerline display of the different deterrents that they've been developing for bird aversion

Trans-west Express will be going from Wyoming to Vegas

Nicki - Research update

Cheyenne submitted thesis, working on publications

Heather still working on thesis, but provided summary reports

New student - Erica Hansen - started today. will be working with the key players to get a plan together.

Chad - Ag Extension Update

Black Green has money to use gasification to harvest woody material. Want a plant in Cedar and Panguitch.

Noxious Weed meeting - in St. George in August usually. They are moving it to November. Will rotate around the sound in the future. About 8 hours long, get that as credit toward their licensing. This would be enough for private landowners. Planning for Hurricane in November 2013.

Randy Marshall -

Been seeing grouse west of Bullocks well. Has thick PJ there. Not really good habitat. GIP projects coming in. Sign-up period going through the end of November.

Seeding of the Baboon Fire looks terrific. Lots of forbs and grasses growing back, looks really great. BLM marked 30 miles of fences in that area. Marking all new fences (in GRSG habitat)

Look for Nile's email and Jason's email of maps of locations.