

SWARM Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2015

Attendees: John Keeler, UFBB; Nicki Frey USU Extension; Curtis Roundy, NRCS; Clint Wirick FWS; Melanie Mendenhal, BLM; Paul Briggs, BLM; Randy Marshall, GIP; Chad Reid, USU Extension.

Curtis Roundy: 70 volunteers; 279 hours; 250000 fence markers, 138.5 miles of fenceline marked

Precision risk tool used to identify priority area.

Sagegrouse numbers rangewide increasing rangewide; Utah up 35% in lek counts; mild winters and moist springs are probably most of the reason for the increase.

Sagegrouse application for the Halls property in Hamlin Valley for 1750 acres of treatment has gone through to contract. 2-3 years of treatments

the Jackrabbit allotment (and adjacent allotment) contracted for roughly 3000 acres.

About 5 years of treatments

John Keeler: Utah Farm Bureau Federation; protested to the BLM plan during the protest period based on treatment of predators as regards to priority, and the handling of the Pinyon and Juniper areas that the working groups had already taken out of draft maps.

Clint Wirick - new landowner project may be available in this area.

Paul - Chokecherry Lop and Scatter and Chokecherry Bullhog, awarded funding from Resilient Landscapes funding. Lop and scatter is under contract right now. These should start in the fall 2015.

Melanie - Dog Valley Hand Thinning; Beaver Fuels enhancement project. 9,000 acres. To start this fall 2015.

Randy Marshall - needs 6-7 miles fence markers. Grazing Improvement projects contracting now. Seeing a lot of young sage-grouse through Little Horse Valley.

Nicki - BLM has dedicated \$40,000 to transmitters for Dog Valley. We'll contract through WRI to purchase transmitters and then transfer money to me for transmission fees.

Hamlin Valley still doing well. 10 transmitters still going strong; most birds are spending time in the south section of the valley. Coordinating with Nevada but nothing contracted yet.

Mark Nelson - pesticide training field day November 3rd (Tuesday). Trying to get drones from USU to show them about how they work and data we can get about the range from them.

Chad Reid - 10-year moratorium on Greater sage-grouse listing decision, and no judicial review put on the defense spending bill. John McCain stopped it in the Senate.

2. Field Day/Field Tour

Suggested to do a rangeland assessment in Hamlin Valley.
Spike hunt ends on October 15th.