

SWARM meeting

June 16, 2009

Mark Nelson, Nile Sorenson, John Keeler, Becky Bonebrake, Jason Nicholes, Nicki Frey

I. Updates

A. Nicki:

- a. Greenville Bench fire research project still under consideration
- b. Still collecting data on vegetation treatments in Pine Valley and Hamlin Valley. This will be the 3rd year. For Hamlin this is the 2nd post treatment; for Pine this is the 1st post treatment year.

B. Mark: Beaver area infested with grasshoppers. Could end up a competitor for forage for grouse. Mormon cricket population is starting to increase as well.

C. Becky: BLM has 2 technicians this summer again. They will be collecting inventory data on Buckskin this year.

- a. Lots of energy and wind projects going on.
- b. Flushed a hen off of nest in a UPD colony in one of the Minersville complex sites.
- c. Canvassed the Buckskin complex and 'marked' locations of pellet groups. Saw quite a high concentration of pellet groups.

D. Nile:

- a. Paradise fire in Hamlin Valley starting to look good. There is alfalfa and small burnet.
- b. Flinspach harrow project looks good. Not a lot of seeded species growing up yet, but it usually takes about a year before anything comes up. May see competition from existing crested wheat grass. Not seeing sagebrush coming from seed. Water that he thought would run all summer, is not running all summer. Trying to come up with a way to get some water in the south end of the property. Maybe a guzzler or a drip line.
- c. Dedicated hunters will be going out to maintain the chaining in the Bowlers property. They will be taking out all the saplings that are growing back in.
- d. Going to harrow 320 acres in Flinspach's property this fall. Did 280 last year.
- e. Dept of Ag called to spend ISMF money. Badger fire would be a good area. There is a section of private land that has been seeded but it didn't take well. The cultural clearances are already finished, so they are thinking of doing something there. 1500 acres, 400 private and the rest on BLM. Some chaining but also some drilling. Some chemical treatment on the private part (Plateau). Grouse lek is about 2 miles from that area.

E. John:

- a. PARM is having a tour on the 23rd of June. Meeting at 10am at Loa courthouse.

F. Jason:

- a. 300-400 acres of PJ removal in the Hamlin Valley area (Green's Canyon; state section, 3 miles from the lek).

- b. Got some funding in the Hamlin Valley area that doesn't have an EA yet, but they are working the BLM Fuels to get that. It will be 2 miles from the lek site. It will be a lop and scatter.
- c. Funding for work on SITLA land. South end of Pine Valley near Jockey Road. Meeting with Matt Wood and Ron Torgenson. It will occur on 3 state sections.
- d. Been talking to FS; looking at an EA in Bear Valley and south. Meeting with Nate Yorgenson to get some project ideas into the EA so that UDWR can do some work with them in the future. There will be a mix of treatment ideas.

II. Field Trip

- A. Still going as 18th of August. Meet at UDWR office at 9am. They will be looking at the Bald Hills area.
- B. Look at some of the past treatment sites, potential treatment sites.
- C. Visit the lek sites to check out these areas.
- D. Take the main Bald Hills road and visit the top where the lek is. Check out the area where the burn was to see how the vegetation has recovered. Then go to Greenville Bench and look at some areas where grouse have been seen in that area.
 - i. Talk with Lynn Kitchen to see if he will go with the group to show some areas where they've been seen.
 - ii. If there is time, we will swing by Minersville
- E. Bring sack lunch. Plan on a full day.
- F. Plan on carpooling.
- G. Nicki will be chips, drinks, and snacks for the field trip. Could order lunches through SUU.
- H. Invite landowners by word of mouth. Get head count by August 1.
- I. John will advertise in Farm Bureau news. Have them contact Nicki or Jason .
- J. Jason will send out a map with the field trip reminder showing alternate meeting site for those coming from the North.

III. Kiosks

- A. Can get it from Huge.com; \$125 per 2' x 3'
- B. UFBF will commit to 2; USU EXT will commit to 1.
- C. Dedicated hunters can put them up at sites.
- D. Did we want a couple laminated? Maybe 3.
- E. Contact Sheri Rochet at 865-3077
- F. Give a couple weeks to see what people can come up with.

IV. Elections

- A. Just a 1-year term
- B. Nile has volunteered to be the chairperson for the next year.

V. Other Ideas

- A. Host fall open house in Minersville or Beaver
- B. In the winter start having some evening meetings.

VI. Next meeting date: October 13th.