

Southwest Desert Local Working Group

June 2018

In attendance: Devin Johnson, USFS; Nicki Frey, USU Extension; Vicki Tyler, BLM; Melanie Mendenhal, BLM

ANNOUNCEMENT: INTERNATIONAL GROUSE SYMPOSIUM SEPTEMBER 24-28, IN LOGAN, UTAH

I. Nicki reviewed abstracts presented at the WAFWA Sage-grouse and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse workshop in Billings, MT. You are welcome to ask her for copies of the abstracts.

II. Grouse Research: Nicki was wondering what was going on in S. Buckskin. Their habitat looked heavily browsed; she had noticed that the grouse were not in this area this spring as they had been in the past.

Aidan will be putting out dataloggers in Buckskin and Bear Valley to measure heat and light in known grouse habitats.

III. AIM team is working in Hamlin Valley, although there are no seasonal technicians dedicated to grouse in particular this summer.

IV. Hamlin Valley habitat treatments most likely won't occur this fall. The EA has been sued and BLM is working through this process.

V. There have been treatments in response to the Brian Head fire. 2000 acres were treated near Pole Hollow and Williamson Hollow. Harrow and seeding. BLM is also working on the NEPA for work in Bear Valley; this work is slated for 2019.

VI. The WRI tour is June 30th.