

SWARM field tour June 15, 2010

9am – 2pm

Nicki Frey, USU Extension; Jim Bowns, USU Extension; Nile Sorenson, NRCS/UDWR; Chad Reid, USU Extension; Nate Yorgenson, USFS; Jason Nicholes, UDWR; Dale Harris, Rancher; Lyn Hullit, Rancher; Mark Nelson, USU Extension; Ronald Roberts, Rancher; Jordan Hennefer, BLM; Kevin Wright, BLM; Molly Galbraith, BLM; Brittany Stanglewicz, BLM; Michelle Downey, BLM; Christine Pontarolo, BLM; Dan Fletcher, BLM (field trip coordinator)

Stop 1: Off of Hwy 20, Buckskin turnoff. Freemont Allotment. Investigated ideas of treatment to create a new understory, and provide a variety of age classes in the shrub component.

Stop 2: South Springs. Looked over a riparian/springs area that is on private land. Thinking to fence out 3-5 acres to exclude it from grazing animals and protect the spring. Cattle could use land around it, and could provide access to water from the spring.

Stop 3: West Spring Allotment. In Lower Bear Valley. Proposed a revegetation project through UPCD. Want to create a mosaic of age classes, remove trees. Would like to blend the borders with some private in-holdings. 2 leks are here, 1 is active. Would like to open a corridor between SAGR populations. There is a good riparian areas in this allotment that BLM has been managing for historic Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat.

Stop 4: Upper Bear Valley. Kim Evans discussed different ownerships in the area. Looked at the extensive wet meadow and the present lek habitat. There is great brood rearing habitat in this area. The sagebrush is in good condition, with a great understory.

Lunch at the Forest Service cabin

Stop 5: Bear Creek Allotment. There is a 2 pasture rotation in place here. There is proposed treatment to remove invasive junipers. Use bullhog or pipe harrow, submitted to UPCD. Waiting for NEPA, and will probably minimize the treatment to stick within the old chaining boundaries. There is state, BLM and private ownerships.

Next Field Tour will be October 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be visiting the Pine Valley Area, details to follow.