

## Color Country Meeting

2/16/10

### 1. Intro

Christine Pontarolo BLM

Kevin Williams NRCS

Mike Worthen, Iron County

Kevin Dustin, WS

Nile Sorenson, UDWR/NRCS

Nicki Frey USU EXT/BI

### 2. Project Reports

BLM: setting up a statewide policy working group within their agency. Had kick off meeting in early February. Working with Dave Olsen and also USFWS within the group. Make sure they are coordinating with local working groups. Group will have an opportunity to review some of their policy items that concern grouse.

Dan Fletcher is working on a regional EA for reseeding

Hamlin Valley EA is a go. Draft EA out by November and signed at the end of the year.

Livestock grazing permit renewals, printed out a map of grazing permits that will occur in grouse areas.

In the meantime they want to go out in March and start trapping. Go through Jason and to get coordination for my volunteers.

\*\* try to find some scales to weigh birds

\*\*Christine will have an intern to help with the telemetry project until they get the money allocated.

\*\* trapping will be Parowan Gap, Minersville, Bald Hills

Mike –just here to listen

Kevin D. – just sitting in to see when/where they are needed. Down the line if they can be of help, once we get the idea of how the nests are doing or the predator density, they can work on that. SWARM can make a request

Haven't really set up some priority areas for this southern area. Kevin feels that these recommendations come from the working group as they are on the ground looking at the birds during their study.

Ravens seem to be a problem everywhere. Grazers are having a problem with Ravens as well. SWD appears to have a banner population of ravens.

Nile: flew the final seed on the Badger project on Friday. 1500 acres treated. Koshia and sagebrush. Hopefully get some new growth by that Minersville lek.

Project applied for at Mud Springs, surveying that for sensitive species before applying 'spike'. Mike has seen grouse in the area. So they need to be careful about creating a mosaic and leaving enough sagebrush intact.

SITLA Hamlin Valley and Halls –section south end of the valley, planning on chaining to thin out the P-J. Another section by Spanish George that still needs some planning. Looking at 2011 for that one.

Choke Cherry area is also needing some work, possibly a pasture fence. Need to talk to Kevin Wright. Mike F. has been talking with Nile about it, but it is in the beginning stages. It will involve some type of brush treatment.

Greenville Bench seeding finished.

Nicki Frey –

Hamlin Valley project a go. Nile thinks we can wait to trap until April 1. Peak around April. So we will have to coordinate with Christine on all personnel to get everybody's work done. Traps should be here in early March.

Need to make some more nets.

Waiting to see when the Grants.gov announcement will go out for the Hamlin Valley funding as well as the Bald Hills funding.

### 3. 2009 Accomplishments

Passed plan around and had participants select things that they thought we'd one.

\*\*send to John Keeler to have him fill it out.

\*\* compile the comments into a plan.

### 4. Discuss priority areas for flights

1. Adam's Well/ Kenny McNight's corral, he has a well there. Birds have been seen in that area several times. So, it was on the Adam's well allotment near the western edge of the allotment. NW of Parowan Gap lek
2. Minersville/Greenville area
3. Pine Valley (NW of Lund).
5. Next meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>.

What is the status of the signs? Nile will talk to Jason about them.

Sage grouse report.

Lisa – state permit has been approved on the coal mine. It has been appealed by Sierra Club, SUWA and local Panguitch residents. There will be a state hearing on the appeals process. The process will be held in Alton probably.

Impair scenic highway; Acid rain in Panguitch that will impact the historic bricks

UDOGM website has the project, appeals, and all that information up there.

BLM won't work on their draft document until that issue is resolved.

Vicki /Kevin – Upper Kanab Creek watershed. Vegetation treatments in 50,000 acre ranges; over 15-20 years. The EA has been approved. It is open to comments until Monday. Vicki would like to have us comment if we have time. Would need to request copies to view it.

Nile Sorenson – John Brammel, just south of Alton and part of the Upper Kanab Creek watershed, to put together a project of 300 acres of treatment. Bullhog on BLM. Removing oak with a Cat. This would probably be an NRCS equip/whip proposal. He also wants to put in a well, to make water available in dry seasons. There is a lake there, but it goes dry periodically. Working with Vicki and Dustin.

Lisa – on the Upper Kanab Creek area, proposing to go in and retreat old seedings. 3 areas that are state, private and BLM. "Sink Valley", "Black rock", "Mill Creek".

South Canyon Arch. Clearance finished. Will put in a fuels proposal to do some bullhog work.

Circleville Cove – did some chaining in 900 acres in a mosaic and seeded it. There was very old sagebrush with no understory. Trying to rejuvenate the area.

Erica Whiteman – met with Salvados about moving forward with their safe harbor agreement. Planning on talking to Nathan Brown to schedule a new count. Will take a 5 year average count. Don't want

them to let them move out of the 5 acre area; outside that is some irrigated land that is drawing them, so that might be a problem.

## 6. Identify Goals and Objectives

1. 4. Continue this; maybe ramp this up.

1.5 continue this

1.2 need to focus on this for the Garkane project coming in. We can go in a public comment on the FS website.

2.1 We are doing this, but need to keep up on this.

3. Improve water availability

3.4 Coordinate with private landowners to protect current water availability that benefits ...

3.3 Consider new water developments

Mud Springs. Pipeline that takes Panguitch bench water and pulls it down into Five Mile area where there has been several projects to improve habitat. This would fix guzzlers and other water availability in the area. This is city water. Pipeline would go on FS and BLM land.

Pond on SITLA land that is used by cattle and big game, around Wide Hollow area. Not usable by grouse. Needs a little work to make it available to other wildlife such as grouse.

4. Increase participation

4.4 host open houses and field tours

USU EXT and RC&D should coordinate to get it going with the RC&D.

4.5 distribute annual reports

4.2

5. Continue all actions

6. 6.2 need to keep on Dustin about changing the boundary of the Parker Mtn hunt. This boundary currently runs into John's Valley.

7. We do this as appropriate. This will tie back into Strategy four. But not an actual focus this year.

7.4 Will focus on this.

8. Reduce impacts of concentrated use

Continue to do this.

9.

9.2.2 continue with dedicated hunters to work on removing saplings

9.1 Continue our efforts with this.

7. Sign update: invoice Kevin Heaton's address and get John Keeler's invoice address.

8. Meetings dates:

1. February 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am
2. April 21<sup>st</sup>
3. June 16<sup>th</sup> Field tour
4. August 18<sup>th</sup>
5. October 20<sup>th</sup> Open House, evening meeting
6. December 15<sup>th</sup>