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| Uintah BasinLocal Working Group |  | **Date: 10/21/21**  **Place:** Virtual meeting via Zoom  **Present:** April Abate (DOGM), Jim Spencer (NRCS), Boyd Kitchen (USU), Terrell Thayne (GIP), John Spencer (Simplot), Natasha Hadden (BLM), Mike Hyde (Duchesne County and PLPCO) and Jason DeForest (PLPCO) and Lorien Belton (USU Extension facilitator). |

**Information Presented/Discussion Highlights**

*Presentation on wet meadow restoration techniques*

As a result of weather delays and then cancellation of a field tour to Kane Creek on the Forest, we had a zoom meeting instead to discuss the same concepts, even without the landscape to examine in person.

Jim Spencer led the presentation, as he attended a wet meadow restoration Zeedyk techniques workshop in Gunnison, Colorado in 2020, and has begun developing small projects in the UBARM area.

The conversation focused on:

* Introduction to what landscapes these concerns are relevant to, and what kinds of problems on those landscapes might be addressed by the Zeedyk techniques
* How to identify spots on the landscape in need of stabilization or erosion control, even before the problem worsens or is evident as erosion
* Brief overview of how different rock and log structures can be used in different circumstances (relying heavily on materials available online for images and design specs)
* Ideas for local projects and opportunities for collaboration on demonstration projects.

Lorien showed the group various resources with pictures and diagrams that illustrate both what to look for on the landscape and how to analyze and address the problems.

Jim described a test project in a very dry area near Vernal that had washed out due to unexpectedly high overland water flows, demonstrating the need for greater attention being paid to erosion, soil stability, and soil moisture in upland areas, in addition to the wet areas that these restoration techniques are primarily designed to help.

The group brainstormed ideas for possible projects, including possibly something associated with the fire rehab near Maeser, on the Ashley, or on Blue Mountain. There might be some utility in having a project that is visible from a relatively high-traffic road so progress would be easy to track and share throughout the seasons.

**Follow-up Needed**

* Lorien will send the NRCS Tech note and other resources to the full UBARM group
* Everyone will let Jim know if they notice possible areas for demonstration projects

**Next Meeting**

The next full UBARM meeting will be November 30th at 1 pm, primarily by Zoom.