

**UINTAH BASIN ADAPTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (UBARM)  
LOCAL WORKING GROUP**

**Planning/update meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2006

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Place:** State & County Building, South Conference Room

**Members Present:**

Brian Maxfield (UDWR)

Sarah Lupis (USU Extension)

Boyd Kitchen (USU Ext)

Stephanie Tomkinson (Questar)

Dave Bailey (UFBF)

**Information Presented/Discussion Highlights**

Group brainstormed a list of strategies and actions to be included in the Plan. The list, in no particular order is provided below. In the course of discussion, the group decided it would be a good idea to try and meet with the Tribe. It was decided that Boyd K. would try to coordinate the next meeting to be held at the tribal offices.

Strategies and actions, again, in no particular order:

1. **Strategy:** Increase cooperation and coordination between group and public and private partners.

**ACTION:** By 2007, meet with the Ute Tribe Fish and Game Department to update them on UBARM activities and encourage participation.

**ACTION:** In 2007, UDWR biologists will coordinate with Ute Tribe biologists to identify sage-grouse lek sites and count birds on Tribal lands.

**ACTION:** Work with the NRCS to review and potentially endorse NRCS WHIP and EQIP projects that would benefit sage-grouse in the Resource Area.

2 **Strategy:** Increase information/education opportunities with local community and UBARM partners.

**ACTION:** By 2008, develop informational handout about sage-grouse ecology and UBARM activities.

**ACTION:** Through 2016, include information about UBARM activities in County Extension newsletter.

**ACTION:** Schedule spring field tour of habitat management projects.

3 **Strategy:** By 2016, increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Work with the NRCS and private partners to develop NRCS WHIP and EQIP projects that would increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Work with agency partners to develop projects that would increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Work with private and public partners to monitor effects of habitat improvement projects on vegetation and sage-grouse habitat use.

**4 Strategy:** Increase the amount of mesic sites available to sage-grouse during the late summer and early fall.

**Action:** Work with public and private partners to maintain or create mesic sites in areas used by sage-grouse during late summer and fall.

**Action:** During times of drought, coordinate with public and private partners to maintain water available for sage-grouse during late summer and early fall in areas used during this time.

**5 Strategy:** By 2016, increase population and habitat monitoring efforts in the Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Encourage public and private partners to use techniques from Connelly et al. (2003) “Monitoring of Greater Sage-grouse Habitats and Populations”

**ACTION:** In 2007, UDWR biologists will coordinate with Ute Tribe biologists to identify sage-grouse lek sites and count birds on Tribal lands.

**ACTION:** UDWR to enlist and coordinate private volunteers and/or other agency biologists search for new leks and conduct lek counts on active leks.

**ACTION:** Through 2016, test dead sage-grouse for West Nile Virus and any other parasites/pathogens of importance.

**6 Strategy:** By 2016, work with public and private partners to reduce invasive/alien species, especially in areas used for nesting and brood-rearing.

**ACTION:** Coordinate with county weed control department to control cheat grass in areas used by sage-grouse.

**ACTION:** Avoid controlled burns and fight wildfires in areas dominated by cheat-grass.

**ACTION:** Encourage and support use of Plateau to control cheat-grass.

**7 Strategy:** By 2016, minimize effects of roads and utilities in areas used by sage-grouse.

**ACTION:** Re-vegetate utility corridors with sage-grouse seed mixes.

**ACTION:** Avoid placement of new roads and utilities near lek sites (specific distances should be site specific).

**ACTION:** Where possible, install perch deterrents on tall structures located in areas used by sage-grouse.

**ACTION:** Where practicable, install low-profile tanks in areas used by sage-grouse.

**8 Strategy:** Through 2016, avoid locating homes/cabins within important sage-grouse use areas. If development does occur, the work will minimize impacts to biodiversity.

**Action:** Participate in county planning efforts for home/cabin development to ensure that biodiversity impacts are minimized.

**Action:** Educate County planning departments about where important sage-grouse use areas are located.

**9 Strategy:** Through 2016, avoid locating oil and gas roads or pads near lek sites. Where impacts do occur, implement interim reclamation to well site(s) as soon as practicable.

**Action:** Participate in county planning efforts for oil and gas exploration and development to ensure that sage-grouse impacts are minimized.

**Action:** Influence BLM/USFS/SITLA/private enterprise planning efforts to minimize impacts to sage-grouse.

**10 Strategy:** Through 2016, prevent reestablishment of P/J through annual monitoring and maintenance level control efforts.

**Action:** Revisit and retreat as needed P/J removal sites

**11. Strategy:** Monitor impacts of hunting on sage-grouse population in Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Review and advise UDWR on sage-grouse harvest plans.

**12. Strategy:** By 2016, key public and private lands in the UBARM Resource Area (specific locations to be selected) are protected and/or managed so as to conserve/improve sage-grouse nesting and breeding habitat.

**Action:** Encourage use of UBARM defined desired conditions for state and federal lands and influence management actions in order to move toward those conditions.

**Strategic action:** Support partner efforts that protect sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat on public lands.

**Action:** Pursue private land protection on a few key parcels (TBD).

**Action:** Pursue habitat improvement projects (to meet Desired Conditions) or land management strategies on private lands in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting and brood-rearing.

### **Follow-up Needed**

Group to review final draft of plan

### **Actions Taken**

Meeting minutes approved.

### **Next meeting**

Date: **Thursday April 27, 2006**

Time: **1:00-3:00 PM**

Place: State & County Building, North Conference Room.

Tentative Agenda: Review final draft plan