

**UINTAH BASIN
SAGE-GROUSE**

Date: Wednesday February 10th 2004

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: County Building North Conference Room

Planning/update
meeting

Members Present;

Todd Black (USU CCES) – Meeting Facilitator
Renee Chi (USFWS-biologist)
Lanny Kay (UELS-Diamond Mtn. Landowners)
Steve Madsen (BLM-USO)
Brian Maxfield (DWR)
Bob Christensen (Ashley NF)
Rich Etchberger (USU)
Bill Stroh (Ashley NF)
David Allison (Consultant-UBAG Uintah Co.)
Stephanie Tomkinson (Questar)
Scott Chamberlain (SITLA)
John Busch (Oil & Gas)
Steve Strong (BLM)
Tim Faircloth (BLM)
Robert Specht (BLM)
Scott Chew (Rancher)
Alex Radosevich (Rancher)
Shayne McKee (Thunder Ranch)
Sherel Goodrich (USDA Forest Service)
Boyd Kitchen (USU Ext.)
Troy Cooper (USU Ext.)
Jim Brown (NRCS)
Jim Spencer (NRCS)

Information Presented

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Committee Board
 - b. How this group will function
 - c. Name of Group
 - d. Tracking treatments
2. Geographic Boundaries
 - a. What the group will cover
 - b. State plan units (modify)
 - c. Other key players
3. Conservation Plan
 - a. Template
 - b. P Standards

- c. Assignments
- 4. Next Meeting
 - a. Frequency

Discussion Highlights

The group decided on an official name: “Uinta Basin Sage Grouse Local Working Group” (UBLWG)

Todd Black asked for volunteers to chair the committee: Dave Allison and Scott Chew both volunteered to be co-chairmen.

Official assignments to date:

Dave Allison – Co-Chair

Scott Chew – Co-Chair

Todd Black – Facilitator/coordinator

Boyd Kitchen – Co-Facilitator/coordinator

Stephanie Tomkinson – meeting minutes recorder

The group discussed who should be on the working group committee. It was decided that a maximum of two representatives from the following organizations/stakeholders should be part of the working group:

UDWR – Brian Maxfield

BLM – to be decided

USFS – to be decided

NRCS – Jim Brown and Jim Spencer

WS (ADC) – to be decided

USFWS – Renee Chi

Land Owners – Scott Chew and ?

Tribe – to be decided

USU – Rich Etchberger

SITLA – Scott Chamberlain

Oil & Gas Industry – John Busch and Stephanie Tomkinson, both from QEP Uinta Basin, Inc. and ? (a representative from another company will also be selected).

Uintah County Commission – to be decided

Uintah County Farm Bureau – to be decided

Duchesne Cattlemen – to be decided

Duchesne County Representatives – to be decided

Book Cliffs-DeLambert-Almeida – to be decided

Geologic area to be addressed was defined:

Southern boundary – Book Cliffs Divide.
North-slope western boundary – Daggett county line.

Colorado and Wyoming have Sage Grouse groups. Appoint someone from each group to attend the other group's meetings. Communicate and share ideas and possibly projects. Brian Maxfield will contact the Colorado and Wyoming groups.

Individual projects in the basin need to be reported to this group. We will need to report on projects every 2 years – assess. This is an on-going, continued commitment; this group will not disband after one or two years. The group will continue to exist as long as the Sage Grouse and sage brush habitat are in jeopardy.

Habitat improvement: This group should be aware of and work together with the county, state, and local BLM plans. Our projects will identify, treat, and monitor areas in need of habitat improvement.

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- Money is available, we all need to communicate. We should not have different agencies or groups competing for the same monies.

The group needs to understand more about how our proposed projects will be funded.

Separate petitions were filed to list the Eastern and Western Sage Grouse; both denied. Another petition to list a “Range-wide Sage Grouse” has been issued. The 90 day finding period on this petition ends March 29, 2004. If it is not denied it will move on to the next stage – a 12 month finding period.

A question was asked to Renee Chi....will our efforts be recognized or do anything to prevent the listing of the sage grouse? She thought that our efforts would be recognized and would be considered when deciding whether to list the sage grouse or not.

It was emphasized that time is of the essence. We need to have a plan in place soon. The group thought it would be possible to have a plan and some projects started by the end of the year (2004).

Conservation Plan Template – We will use the Parker Mountain “Sage-grouse Plan” as an example. Template includes: Purpose of plan, Goals and Objectives, etc. (see attached plan).

PECE Standards: Our plan will be ranked and evaluated by these standards. The PECE Standards were written by the USFWS and each plan will be evaluated using these criteria.

The San Juan County Plan was approved and was put into place before the PECE Standards were established. However, they are still meeting the standards.

Our next meeting will be the working group only. The working group will keep all interested persons up to date and informed via email or letter.

In our next meeting, the group will start working on the template, this must be completed before any real work can begin.

Land owners need more representatives. Scott Chew is one representative but others are needed.

Dave Allison and John Busch will find another interested oil and gas rep.

Stephanie Tomkinson will take meeting minutes, organize into a format approved by the State, and will email to Todd Black. Todd Black will then email to everyone on the contact list.

Actions Taken

Geographic area was defined.

Working group was established – stakeholders identified, still need reps from most groups.

PECE Standards and Conservation Plan were explained.

Next meeting – Tuesday, March 9, 2004, 1:00 PM City County Building.

Follow-up Needed

- Bring existing information to next meeting. (All)
- Need to identify representatives to be in the working group.
- Todd Black will attach to these meeting minutes a copy of the PECE Standards and the Conservation Plan Template that we need to follow.
- Need a better understanding of funding. (Todd Black?)
- Scott Chew will contact the Uintah County Farm Bureau to ask that a rep be present at these meetings.
- Dave Allison and Todd Black will talk to the tribe, they will try to get someone to attend these meetings as a tribe representative.
- Dave Allison and John Busch will find another interested oil and gas representative.
- Agenda should be available 2-3 weeks before a scheduled meeting. (Todd Black)
- Update on Sage Grouse Petition – 90 day and 12 month finding. (USFWS)
- Lee Boren – Neola top man at Almeida.
- Contact Colorado and Wyoming Sage Grouse Groups. (Brian Maxfield)