UINTAH BASIN ADAPTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (UBARM)

LOCAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Planning/update meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2004
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Place: State & County Building, North Conference Room

Members Present:
Sherel Goodrich – USDA Ashley National Forest
David Allison – Consultant (Uintah County/UBAOG)
Stephanie Tomkinson – Questar
Todd Black – USU Extension
Tai Duncan – USU Extension
Mike Tamllos – USDA Wildlife Services
Dixie Sadlier – BLM VFO
Carlyle Rollins – USDA Wildlife Services
Jim Brown – NRCS
Darlene Burns – Uintah county
Clayton Chidester – UBAOG

Information Presented

- Mission Statement discussion
- Individual assignments: discussion/progress report
- Standard Operating Procedures Announcement
- Trending data

Discussion Highlights

Todd announced that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being developed by: Terry Messmer, USU Ext., Jack Payne, USU Ext., and Dean Mitchell, DWR, Upland Game Coordinator. The SOP will be reviewed by the working group and comments will be provided. Revisions will be made if necessary.

Todd clarified to the group that USU Ext. will compile and compose this document; the group will give any data collected to Todd.

Todd reported that he has been in contact with the tri-county commissioners and has brought them up to date on our progress.

Boyd Kitchen was not able to attend this meeting but did send Tai Duncan with his written report discussing historical data on

cattle and sheep numbers. The group reviewed and discussed this report.

The mission statement was reviewed and edited; Todd made the corrections and has inserted it into our plan. One key portion of the mission statement was to clearly state that our goal is to maintain the sage grouse numbers we have.

We want participants to understand we are not trying to recreate what historical numbers show. We understand this would be nearly impossible as the land use has changed dramatically.

By improving sage brush habitat we hope to maintain the current numbers of sage grouse. Some methods of habitat enhancement may be: sage brush treatments (mechanical and chemical), water improvements, and spring developments.

The group reviewed each section of the plan and decided what needed to be elaborated on. Todd will email the revisions to the group by November 12th.

Assignments Discussion:
Sherel Goodrich turned in his assignment of historical sage brush treatments on Forest Service land. Sherel will also provide a vegetation model on Forest Service land.

Mike Tamllos completed his assignment showing historical predator control. The data showed that between poison, hunting, and aerial gunning; poison made the biggest impact in controlling predators.

Steve Strong is gathering historical data on agricultural/grazing habitat trends.

Jim Spencer will provide historical data showing conversion of sage brush to agriculture.

Boyd Kitchen will provide historical homesteading data.

Darlene Burns will provide historical data on increased land development in sage brush habitat, specifically, Diamond Mountain.

Dave Allison will ask Bill Johnson for the Economic Development Report when it is available.

Stephanie Tomkinson will provide historical data on oil and gas development.

DWR will provide historical wildlife population data.

Stephanie has been in contact with Brian Maxfield, his assignments have been completed; he will email his data to Todd.

All of this information will be used to trend with sage grouse numbers.

Actions Taken
Continue to work on historical data.
The mission statement was finalized.
An SOP will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 30, 2004, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM State & County Building on Main Street in Vernal, UT, North or South Conference Room. Lunch will be provided.

Follow-up Needed
- The group will continue to work on assignments.
- Completed assignments should be emailed to Todd or brought to the next meeting on a CD.
- Stephanie will call the landowners and ask them to attend the next 2 or 3 meetings as their input at this point would be appreciated.