

**UINTAH BASIN  
ADAPTIVE RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(UBARM)**

LOCAL WORKING  
GROUP FOR THE  
GREATER SAGE-  
GROUSE

Planning/update  
meeting

**Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2004**

**Time: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

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

**Members Present:**

1. David Allison – Consultant (Uintah County/UBAOG)
2. Stephanie Tomkinson – Questar Exploration & Production Co
3. Todd Black – USU Extension
4. Jim Brown – NRCS
5. Scott Chew – Rancher, Landowner
6. Lanny Kay – Rancher, Diamond Mtn. Landowners
7. Boyd Kitchen, USU Extension
8. Brian Maxfield – UDWR
9. Debra Domenici – Kerr McGee

**Information Presented**

- Business/Housekeeping
- Review Minutes and Assignments
- Review & Approve SOP
- Plan Discussion

**Discussion Highlights**

Todd announced that he and Terry Messmer met with AJ Martinez to define the rolls of the different working groups recently formed. While the Conservation and Development Group focuses on habitat enhancement projects, this group should focus on details such as predation control and monitoring. This group will continue to identify habitat enhancement projects but will filter them through the Conservation and Development Group. AJ encourages information sharing and coordinated planning among the groups.

UDWR is building a tracking data base that we will use to track our data. Many other projects and data will be tracked in this data base; this will allow for easier trending and review of all efforts made in our area. We will also use it for reporting and monitoring.

The group reviewed and edited the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) then approved it.

Todd suggested we develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will guide the members of this group for several years. The members may change over time and this will help everyone understand why this group was formed and how it functions.

The group set a standard meeting time. It will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every other month starting in January 2005. The meeting will be from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM in the State & County Building located on Main Street in Vernal, Utah.

Todd advised the group that we all need to start keeping track of our time and mileage for these meetings. We will submit this annually and use the data to receive “in-kind” funding.

The Parker Mountain Sage Grouse Group translocation effort is working very well. We believe the Uintah Basin would be a good area to try translocation. This may be something we look into further if need be.

Dave Allison discussed the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and wants us to consider how we can incorporate this program into our plan.

Todd Black will be attending a seminar “Rangewide Recovery Team” that will be held in Sparks, Nevada on February 11 & 12, 2005. The seminar encourages local working groups from around the region to send a representative.

The group reviewed and discussed the management plan. Todd edited as we discussed and will send an updated plan to the group before our next meeting.

### **Next meeting**

**Date: Thursday, January 20, 2005**

**Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Place: State & County Building on Main Street in Vernal,  
UT, North Conference Room**

### **Follow-up Needed**

**In our next meeting:**

We need to discuss an administration budget and identify

potential funding sources.

Brian Maxfield will provide training to the group in sage grouse lek counting. The timing is perfect because the group will be asked to help with lek counts in the spring, beginning March 15, 2005.

Todd will ask Rick Baxter from BYU to give his sage grouse presentation.

Dave would like to invite the bird-dog group and Kenny Labrum from Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife to our next meeting.

Brian will give a report on the data collected from this year's wing survey.

We will continue our sage grouse management plan discussion.

Brian will provide Todd with a GIS map showing sage brush die off in our area. Brian will also provide current hunting data showing number of permits and subunits available to hunting.

Brian also needs to email Todd all of the data he has collected to date.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service should have a ruling by December 31, 2004 on whether or not the Greater sage grouse will be listed as an endangered species. We will discuss their decision in our next meeting.

Todd has emailed everyone in the group a table on conservation actions and a section of our plan titled "Identification of issues affecting sage grouse." Please review both documents and be prepared to decide on objectives and strategies for the various topics.