

**WDARM
LOCAL WORKING
GROUP**

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Place: Tooele County Extension Office, Tooele, UT

Members Present:

Planning/scoping
meeting

Sarah Lupis (USU Ext.)

Boyd White (Chair)

Jason Robinson (USU)

Ashley Green (UDWR)

Renae Bragonje (USFS)

Allan Mitchell (Co-Chair, landowner)

Lans Stavast (USFS)

Kim Asmus (UDWR)

Tom Becker (UDWR)

Linden Greenhalgh (USU Ext.)

Randy Swilling (BLM)

Information Presented/Discussion Highlights

Jason gave an update about sage-grouse research. In a recent flight, Jason found many of the Vernon collared birds on “the dark side”, i.e. the south slope of the Sheep Rocks. Others were headed toward known lek sites and one female was near Allan Smith’s. Others still were scattered throughout the flat areas. This discovery has lead Jason to believe that there is likely a zone of transitional habitat, used by a portion of the population, located in Horse Valley through the sagebrush flats. In that same flight, Ibapah birds were found in Nevada.

The Group continued to work on the Viability Tables. Updates to the habitat condition and landscape context sections are attached.

The Group discussed areas to focus on for lek searching efforts. They agreed to conduct a search in March for leks in the Vernon area (details below).

Actions Taken

Meeting minutes from December approved.

Follow-up Needed

Sarah to update CAP workbook with new information and bring summary to next meeting.
Boyd to coordinate with Richard Clark for April meeting.

Boyd and Alan to write letter of support for USFS project and submit to Group for approval.

LEK SEARCH: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 5:30 AM, meet at the Silver Sage Café in Vernon.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 29, 2006

**Conservation Action Planning: Greater Sage-grouse Viability Table for the West Desert—
Population Size and Distribution**

Category	Key Ecological Factor	Indicator	Indicator Rating				Basis for Indicator Rating	Comments
			Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good		
Size	Population Size	Maximum no. of males counted on all active leks in each subunit	Vernon: <200 Ibapah: <50	Vernon : 200-350 Ibapah: 50-100	Vernon: 350-500 Ibapah : 100-200	Vernon : 500+ Ibapah: 200+	UDWR lek count data; Historical counts and personal observations. 2005 counts: Vernon = 96 Ibapah = 42	Important to separate by subunit because they are separate populations. Lek counts are inconsistent, especially in Ibapah. New leks were found in 2005 which will be considered active in 2007 if males continue to be counted there.
Size	Population Size	Number of active leks in the entire Resource Area	Vernon: <4 Ibapah: <2	Vernon : 4-8 Ibapah : 2-4	Vernon: 8-16 Ibapah : 5-7	Vernon : 16+ Ibapah: 7+	UDWR lek count data; number of active leks, and number of historic, now inactive, leks. Also the potential to find new leks in the future with additional effort. Number of leks in Vernon = 4, Ibapah = 2.	Several new leks were found last year which will be considered “active” if counted again this year and next year. “Active” defined according to Connelly’s assessment and the UDWR protocol.

Minutes

Category	Key Ecological Factor	Indicator	Indicator Rating				Basis for Indicator Rating	Comments
			Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good		
Size	Population Distribution	Lek Distribution as measured by geographic areas of potential habitat.	Vernon: anything less than current distribution Ibapah: current distribution	Vernon : current distribution Ibapah: current distribution plus additional leks west of the highway.	Vernon: Current distribution plus more in Rush Valley Ibapah : "Fair" plus bench areas	Vernon : "Good" distribution plus additional leks in areas of potential habitat. Ibapah: "Good" plus all of Ibapah Valley.	Vernon: Potential habitat includes Stansburys, Simpsons, Sheep Rocks, Rush Valley, and along Hwy 6. Ibapah: although there are 2 established and 2-3 potential leks they are all very close together.	