

**WDARM  
LOCAL WORKING  
GROUP**

**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2006

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 PM

**Place:** USU Extension Building, Tooele, UT

**Members Present:**

Planning/scoping  
meeting

Sarah Lupis (USU Ext.)

Jason Robinson (USU)

Ashley Green (UDWR)

Kim Asmus (UDWR)

Tom Becker (UDWR)

Linden Greenhalgh (USU Ext.)

Mark Farmer (UDWR)

Scott Chamberlain (SITLA)

Jerney Maestas (NRCS)

Jan Anderson (UFBF)

Derrick Ewell (USU)

Boyd White (Landowner/Chair)

**Information Presented/Discussion Highlights**

Trails: Committee met with landowners; landowners are not happy about the proposed trails according to an article in the local paper.

Research update: Its hot! Lek counts concluded with another lek found on Goshute lands with ~30 birds. Jason feels that there are more leks out there—in both Ibapah and Vernon. 30 hens were collared this year; 24 initiated nests (vs. 13 from last year). 11 nests predated; hard to say from what. Ravens, red fox, coyote, weasels have all been seen in the area. One nest was abandoned; a juvenile bird who initiated a nest late in the season, laying 4 eggs. The other 13 hens had successful nests. A few eggs in those clutches did not hatch. These broods are doing well; only one has been lost. 3 broods are in Ibapah, 7 in Vernon. Brood size varies from week to week and seems to be changing constantly, indicating that there might be some brood hopping going on. The average is around 2-3 and the most they have is 4. Clutch size was around 8-9. Seems like hens loose a couple chicks within the 1<sup>st</sup> few days. Jason has also observed that some broods contain chicks of various sizes. Jason has observed large movements away from the nest site (~2 mi) directly after hatching. Broods seem to move up in elevation in some areas. In comparing this year to last year, things are drying out quicker this year. Things seem to be earlier this year—including hatch, initiation, flowering plants. They are collecting many insects this year and are collecting more Mormon crickets this year than last. Insects are collected with pitfall traps. Jason has been thinking about the condition of the hens—might be better this year. He thinks this might warrant additional research. Jeremy M. suggested speaking to Mike Gregg about it. Another interesting note: broods in Ibapah are in areas with no forbs but TONS of insects. They are using a burned area that was seeded with grasses, has almost no forbs, and lots of insects. In that case, they seem to be selecting dry areas with lots of insects. In Vernon they

flush other broods, in Ibapah they don't. Another suggestion—radio-tag chicks. Sarah noted that brood-hopping might be a density dependent phenomenon and that it might be interesting to see how that behavior works in a less-dense situation. Tom also noted that old timer C.Os have noted that many grouse were lost in hard winters; we've had good winter conditions lately. Jason also noted that he sees a lot of red fox in the Vernon area. USDA-WS does predator control but, its likely that they target coyotes. Jason also suggested that USDA-WS start raven control earlier. Jason's raven survey (started May 1) likely doesn't show the observed increase in ravens. For the rest of the summer, they will continue to follow the birds, monitor vegetation, monitor insects. Analysis will start in September, annual report to come out in December.

Proposed treatment in an area the birds are using in McIntyre on Bill and Gregg Jasperson's property. Spike treatment with NRCS planned for this fall; 600 acres. Manti NRCS office seems to be the contact. Jason gave them the spehel about edge and mosaic. They seem to have interests in both cattle and wildlife.

Group discussed the need, in general, to have better contact with landowners in the area.

Group set desired conditions and worked on stresses and threats. See attached summary table.

### **Actions Taken**

Meeting minutes from April were approved; coshia →koshia.

### **Follow-up Needed**

Sarah to coordinate with Richard Clark to have Trails Committee minutes and agendas distributed to WDARM members. They will also coordinate to provide GIS information to Sarah for the Plan.

Jason to send Jasperson's contact information to Ashley, Sarah, and Jan.

Sarah to contact Juab Co. (Manti) NRCS office and invite to meetings, get them on contact list. Mark and Ashley to make contact with NRCS, landowner, etc.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 9-11 AM, Tooele County Extension Office, Tooele, Utah.**