

**WDARM
LOCAL WORKING
GROUP**

Date: Friday, July 21, 2006

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Place: USU Extension Building, Tooele, UT

Members Present:

Planning/scoping
meeting

Sarah Lupis (USU Ext.)

Jason Robinson (USU)

Ashley Green (UDWR)

Kim Asmus (UDWR)

Jermey Maestas (NRCS)

Lans Stavast (USFS)

Jan Anderson (UFBF)

Spencer Gibbons (UFBF)

Information Presented/Discussion Highlights

Ashley Green gave an update about a meeting with landowner Bill Jasperson, the NRCS, UFBF, UDWR, and Jason Robinson. It was a successful meeting to explain opportunities for the landowner and the importance of his property to sage-grouse and other wildlife.

Ashley gave an update about the field tours (UPCD and BLM Fire). He got very positive feedback from participants. People were impressed with the warehouse, the Benyon Ranch project, and partnerships. Bill Hopkin (new director of GIP) was excited about what is going on in the West Desert and will hopefully make a big difference in outreach in the future.

Group brainstormed list of strategies and actions.

Spencer gave an overview of UFBF in this area. He covers this area and the northern part of the state. He, Mark Peterson and Jan Anderson met recently to make sure that sensitive species issues were being represented in the West Desert by the UFBF.

Jason gave an update on the sage-grouse research. Most broods are either failed or successful. In Vernon, 3/13 or 14 broods were successful. They do see a lot of chicks in the area and believe that brood hopping does occur. Last week, they worked with bird-dogs and plan to do this again in August. The big concern is that in the lower country, there has only been one successful brood and Little Valley has never had a successful brood for a radio-collared broods, despite seemingly good-quality habitat. Also, they have noticed that birds who move into McIntyre (from Benmore, Little Valley) don't leave and birds captured in McIntyre never move into new areas. The field season is wrapping up with data entry, insect data entry. Annual report will be out shortly. Another interesting note, no radio-collared birds in Ibapah have ever died (although 2 males lost their collars for other reasons). Kim offered to continue to check up on radio-collared birds to maintain contact with them. Jason plans to fly in August to find all birds. Jason has noticed that birds are congregating around any and all water sources. In many cases, sage-

grouse are using areas where pipelines are leaking.

Jason is coordinating a meeting with Frank Vincent and will be in touch with UDWR, UFBF,

Actions Taken

Meeting minutes from June 12, 2006 were approved.

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.

Sarah to contact Juab Co. (Manti) NRCS office and invite to meetings, get them on contact list.

Boyd to draft comments on USFS plan for Benyon Ranch to be approved by group.

Add Spenser Gibbons to WDARM mailing list (skg@xmission.com); add Jeremy Maestas to the mailing list. Look at updating mailing list in general.

Sarah to speak with Randy at BYU about providing annual reports to this group. Jeremy to send Sarah all BYU Annual reports.

Jason to send out an email to notify group about bird-dog surveys—volunteers are encouraged!

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 28, 2006 from 9-11 AM, Tooele County Extension Office, Tooele UT.