

**WDARM  
LOCAL WORKING  
GROUP**

**Date: Friday, October 6, 2006**

**Time: 8:30-10:30 AM**

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

**Members Present:**

Planning/scoping  
meeting

Sarah Lupis (USU Ext.)

Ashley Green (UDWR)

Kim Asmus (UDWR)

Jan Anderson (UFBF)

Tom Becker (UDWR)

Boyd White (Co-Chair, Citizen Science volunteer)

Jay Sagers (Landowner, Tooele Natural Resources Work  
Group)

Elizabeth and Alan Mitchell (Co-Chair, Bennion Ranch)

Burke Davenport (NRCS)

Linden Greenhalgh (USU Ext.)

**Information Presented/Discussion Highlights**

Jason emailed an update in:

The Group discussed a BLM Joint Fire Science “controlled” burn that happened last week. The second day the fire appeared to get out of the bounds of the burn project.

Waiting to hear about the Sage Valley project. The project should start next week, pending appeals this week. NRCS is finalizing archeology this fall. The spike treatment should be put on sometime before the ground freezes. Other aspects of the project will be also be started this fall.

Goshute project (800-900) acres has been chained and will be reseeded this fall.

Alan’s project that went in last year, the grass seed doesn’t seem to have been coming in as well as expected. Native penstemon has been growing. Ashley feels like it will come in in the next couple years and Elizabeth felt that there was enough native seed in the soil that something will respond.

Jan reported on a treatment demonstration he went to last week. He was impressed with the Harrow demonstration that took down very large sagebrush. This piece of equipment is heavier than the one that will be used in Sage Valley.

The Rush Valley/St. John area where a fire burned (~1100 acres) this August on SITLA and private land will get reseeded this fall.

Ashley and Marc have been working with the USFS to get additional proposals out to clean up a

p/j area and the diagonal pasture/electric fence. The group discussed their role in approving/endorsing proposals that effect sage-grouse and/or their habitats. Group hopes that they can be involved in the project development and scoping plan. Ashley noted that the USFS isn't doing a lot of work out here and they hope that that changes soon. Elizabeth brought up a document written by the NRCS called Vernon Watershed (plan?) and another document called the Vernon ecosystem plan (or something like that). There were concerns about balancing needs on projects between cattle, wildlife, and others. Ashley felt that projects, in general and this one specifically, can be designed to help both livestock, big game, and sage-grouse. He will be looking to the group to help with details about seed mix, treatment pattern, etc. Ashley will follow up by letting the group know about site visits, etc. Group discussed the need to go out and find projects in new areas that need work and work to balance the distribution of resources among lessees. Jan suggested that a public meeting be held to discuss projects. Elizabeth said that there was no grazing association and that this public meeting format could be accommodated at the spring meeting with the district ranger. Tom suggested that the resting period can be tough for folks interested in doing projects—he suggested looking for places where cattle can be moved to during rest periods including areas that need to have cheat grass reduction.

Ashley also mentioned that the UPCD regional team will be looking for input from the group about identifying and expanding focus areas.

Ashley reported on a project with Fillmore BLM with the Jasperson to do higher elevation project to benefit sage-grouse breeding habitat.

Group reviewed comments and revisions

Group discussed future of the group. Discussed purpose of the group (information, collaboration, etc.) and how things could be improved by meeting or associating with other groups including the SCD, Tooele Natural Resources Working Group, Deep Creek Watershed Group, local chapters of the UFBF. Was suggested providing a 1-page fact sheet about the group, on-going activities, etc. that can be distributed to the other groups in the area. Group discussed the need to get involved in more activities, rather than sit-down talking meetings.

### **Actions Taken**

Meeting minutes from July 21, 2006 were approved.

### **Follow-up Needed**

Tom and Jan to follow up on getting “mystery” document to Sarah to reference in the Plan and use to guide planning in the Resource Area.

Sarah, Jan, and Elizabeth to coordinate winter (January/February) dinner meeting. Agenda items

to include review/synopsis on “mystery” plans, sage-grouse research, stream restoration, brainstorming about future project needs. Look to forest service for list of permittees.

Sarah to send Lindon email/phone for Renee and someone at the BLM to finish updating the history of farming/ranching section.

Sarah to check with Dean re: updated sage-grouse layers.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 1, 2006, 9-11 AM, Tooele County Extension Building, Tooele, Utah.**