

West Desert Adaptive Resource Management Local Working Group - Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2008 - 9-12 AM . Tooele County Extension Office, Tooele, Utah

Meeting Purpose: To review the completed sage-grouse conservation plan, to update plan progress, and discuss 2008 project implementation, and 2008 leks surveys.

Meeting Participants

Alan Mitchell – Landowner/Chairperson
Todd Black – USU Extension
Terry Messmer – USU Extension
Jan Petersen – UFBB
Mark Farmer - UDWR
Ashley Green - UDWR
Scott Chamberlain - SITLA
Robin Naeve – BLM
Tyler Skaggs – BLM
Linden Greenhalgh – USU Extension
Kimberly Hersey - UDWR
Tom Becker. UDWR
Burke Davenport - NRCS
Karen Hartman - USFS

Average Travel Time per participant 2 hours – mileage 100 miles

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Terry Messmer reviewed the District Court Decision and Status of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Review Utah's Plan. The DWR will coordinate the state's response. A team will work to provide the information and the DWR will consolidate

The USFWS published a Federal Register Notice that stated the data comment period would end May 26, 2008. they subsequently extended it to June 23, 2008.

Terry reviewed the process that Utah will follow to address the data concern. The USFWS will have a lead person on the team. The team will be chaired by Alan Clark.

3. Local Working Group – 2008 Annual Report – USFWS PECE Policy

Todd reviewed the process. He presented an example from Parker Mountain. Ashley discussed the process on how things are added to the data base. The group reviewed the plan strategies and update the actions that were completed in 2006-2007.

4. Project Reviews – Strategies, Threats and Reducing the Risks

Mark and Ashley discussed projects in the area – 500 acres of Ibapah –

Jan Anderson discussed grazing projects in the area

The group discussed fuel load projects – projects in Juniper – lope and scatter projects

Tyler Skaggs reviewed proposed BLM projects in the area.

Todd than projected the local working group strategies and actions the group than reviewed the strategy items and identified actions that were implemented in 2006-2007.

5. Monitoring Needs

The group discussed the use of pellet group counts and dogs to monitor sage-grouse response to treatments. Todd will coordinate this activity with Ashley and Mark. To collect baseline data on proposed projects. All projects have had baseline vegetation data completed.

6. Utah Partner Summit

Informed the group about group about the April 24, 2008 Summit and the availability of travel scholarship funds to support local working travel.

7. Leks surveys – Jason Robinson will coordinate the lek surveys in West Desert. A training session will be held on Friday night, 1900 hours, March 21, 2008. A major emphasis of this work is to find and document new leks.

8. Other Business

The draft of the local working group plan will be submitted to the group for review within the 30 days. The group discussed the need for additional efforts to coordinate lek searches. The group will conduct a field tour this summer coordinated through Utah Partners. The groups discussed the need to include the other concerned citizens in field tours and local working group activities. Invitations will be extended to all stakeholders who have expressed interest in sage-grouse and sagebrush steppe.