

**WEST DESERT
(WDARM)
LOCAL WORKING
GROUP**

Date: June 14, 2012

Place: Tooele County Health Building, Tooele UT

Members Present: Patti Barney (NRCS), Bruce Clegg (Tooele County), Keeli Marvel (Dugway), Tom Becker (DWR), Dennis Sutherland (DWR), Kevin Robison (Mt. Wheeler Power Co.), Mace Crane (BLM), Jerry Hurst (Tooele County), Kim Hersey (DWR), Renae Bragonje (USFS), Alan Mitchell (Bennion Ranch), Boyd White (co-chair, landowner), Jan Reinhart (UDAF-UGIP), Traci Allen (BLM), Mike Tamllos (USDA-WS), Ed Naranjo (Goshute Tribe), Robbie Knight (Dugway), Robin Naeve (BLM), Michael Gates (BLM), Susan White (Office of Energy Development), and Lorien Belton (USU Extension facilitator).

Information Presented/Discussion Highlights

Feedback for State Sage-Grouse Planning Team

The group focused the entire meeting on providing feedback to the state sage-grouse planning task force on draft maps and other items provided for comment.

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing specific map boundary suggestions, including several changes from the shape files proposed by the state team. Kim Hersey made coarse adjustments on GIS during the meeting, and will send them to Jason Robinson for detailed feedback given his familiarity with the area.

Ed Naranjo, from the Goshute Tribe, indicated that the Tribe is interested in participating in Utah's planning process, and would like the Utah maps to include Tribal areas in Utah with sage-grouse, as well as providing guidance for management of sage-grouse in the Tribal areas across the Nevada border.

Renae noted a concern that Forest Service might over-interpret the mapped areas from the state plan and use the boundaries to enforce unrealistic standards for grazing management. Lorien will pass that comment along to the state team working on the stipulations.

The state team also requested that the working groups define the most important threats and key issues for sage-grouse in their areas. WDARM split the task into the two areas, Ibapah and the Sheeprocks, since there are different concerns in each area.

For the Ibapah area, primary concerns were:

- Fire/cheatgrass
- Predation
- Pinyon-juniper encroachment

- Water developments and loss of wet areas/riparian area that support insects and forbs (ponds are not as good as wet meadows, for example)

For the Sheeprocks area,

- Fire/cheatgrass
- Pinyon-juniper encroachment
- Ravens and red foxes (may become a larger problem soon)
- Recreation (including ATV off trail-riders, climbers, camping, the resulting trash problems, and other generally dispersed and unregulated recreation uses of the area)

As it was not clear from the state team whether WDARM should designate priority A and priority B habitat, the group suggested that B habitat be focused on areas that are currently largely sagebrush with restoration potential, but that currently has no evidence of sage-grouse use, and is adjacent to occupied habitats. That would make areas on the eastern side of the Sheeprocks, for example, category B habitat.

The group did not have enough time during the meeting to comment extensively on the draft stipulations that were handed out. Lorien will send them to the full list and request feedback soon. Everyone should look at the stipulations.

Actions Taken

No formal actions were taken.

Follow-up Needed

- Kim will send map edit suggestions to Jason Robinson, who will then forward them to the state team.
- Lorien will send the draft stipulations document to the listserv and compile comments from WDARM participants.

Next Meetings

No upcoming meeting was scheduled. A field tour to view recreation issues is still planned for a future time.