

West Box Elder Adaptive Resource Management Plan (BARM) West Box Elder Greater Sage-grouse Local Working Group

This report summarizes efforts made by individual and partners to address threats and strategic actions for the Parker Mountain Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) Local Conservation Plan October 2006. This adaptive plan is in effect until the year 2016. BARM partners not only reported on specific actions completed or addressed in 2006/2007 but also identified steps to be taken to implement additional actions into subsequent years of the plan. Please note that if a Strategy or an action number is missing from this report; it means that no action(s) were taken in 2006/2007 towards its completion. For the complete list of threats identified by the BARM group, see page 64 of the conservation plan located online at <http://utahcbcp.org/files/uploads/BARM/BARMfml-10-06-web.pdf>

1. **Strategy:** By 2016, identify P/J stands within the resource area that encroaching in key sage-grouse habitat.

- 1.1. **Action:** Revisit and make recommendations to retreat as needed P/J removal sites.

BARM partners identified cove canyon drainage north and south of highway 30 east of Park Valley as a sight where P/J needs to be removed. Raft River subunit

BLM identified Kimball Creek, Keg Springs, and Cook Canyon, North Grouse creek area, and Pole Creek in the Grouse Creek subunit as potential areas to thin and reduce encroaching P/J.

West Box Elder SCD identified Big Hollow drainage, Lynn Valley around Lynn Reservoir, Bally Mountain, George Creek Drainage (Raft River subunit), as a place to remove P/J. Raft River subunit.

- 1.2. **Action:** Work with partners to ensure that any P/J removal projects are not detrimental to other wildlife species. Above projects were approved by BARM partners, Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD), and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).

2. **Strategy:** By 2011 make an assessment of cheat grass and other non-desirable species in sage-grouse habitats.

- 2.1. **Action:** Review and monitor all vegetative sampling by all partners (range trend crew).

- 2.2. **Action:** Avoid using fire in sage-grouse habitats prone to invasion by cheatgrass or other invasive weed species. 10 mile area (Raft River subunit—Mike Olsen's place) was burned but then sprayed with Plateau and reseeded with seed mix (Kochia) that competes with cheatgrass.

- 2.3. **Action:** Evaluate all wildfires and prescribed burns and reseed with appropriate species to prevent establishment of cheat grass and other invasive weed species.

BLM seeded state and private lands around the Dairy valley fire with approximately 11500 acres with UDWR approved seed mixes.

Clear creek fire (ask Ron)

- 2.4. **Action:** Work with and identify other partners (County UDOT Private Industry) to establish fire breaks in key areas to protect important sage-grouse habitat.

BARM partners identified the 10 mile area (Raft River subunit—Mike Olsen's place). Other areas where work is or will be completed to address encroaching cheat grass include Lower Dove Creek area, Russian Knoll, and Baker place.

3. **Strategy:** By 2011, complete an assessment and condition of available existing water/riparian sources and identify potential new water sources.
 - 3.1. **Action:** Identify key elements of various water projects by developing partnerships to work cooperatively to maintain existing water sources. Solar pumps were put on existing wells on Cove Canyon drainage (private land). Dove Creek allotment area and developed a spring/well in the Dove Creek allotment. **Action:** Identify key elements of various water projects by developing partnerships to work cooperatively to develop new water sources. A new trough, pond and Warms springs wash (private land). Two new ponds were put in above fisher canyon (private)
 - 3.2. **Action:** Work with partners to identify projects to protect and make improvements upon existing water sources and making it more available/protected for wildlife uses. BLM dry canyon pipeline with water troughs and spill over pipelines (Grouse Creek subunit).
4. **Strategy:** By 2011, identify key public, private, and SITLA lands in the Resource Area (specific locations to be selected) that are protected and/or managed so as to conserve/improve sage-grouse nesting habitat.
 - 4.1. **Action:** Encourage use of defined desired conditions (Connelly et al) for state, private, and federal lands and influence management actions in order to move toward those conditions. No action taken.
 - 4.2. **Action:** Support partner efforts for special designations that protect sage-grouse nesting habitat on public, private, and SITLA lands. No action taken.
 - 4.3. **Action:** Use available grouse and brood telemetry data to identify key nesting/brooding habitat areas within the Grouse Creek sub unit. Ongoing USU research more areas are being identified.
 - 4.4. **Action:** Pursue habitat improvement projects (to meet Desired Conditions) on private and SITLA lands in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting habitat. All habitat improvement projects are approved and presented to UPCD and have BARM support.
5. **Strategy:** By 2011, identify key public, private, and SITLA lands in the Resource Area (specific locations to be selected) are protected and/or managed so as to conserve/improve sage-grouse leking areas/habitat. No action taken.
 - 5.1. **Action:** Seed Encourage use of defined desired conditions (Connelly et al) for state, private, and federal lands and influence management actions in order to move toward those conditions. No action taken.
 - 5.2. **Action:** Support partner efforts for special designations that protect sage-grouse leking habitat on public, private, and SITLA lands. No action taken.

5.3. **Action:** Pursue habitat improvement projects (to meet Desired Conditions) on public, private, and SITLA lands in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting and brood-rearing.

6. **Strategy:** Minimize the impact of excessive predation.

6.1. **Action:** Begin site-specific predation management considering all predator species (especially common raven) where necessary and appropriate. **No action taken.**

6.2. **Action:** Support efforts of USDA-WS to remove red foxes and ravens in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting and brood-rearing during spring and early summer. **No action taken.**

7. **Strategy:** Through 2016, avoid natural resource development within important sage-grouse use areas. If development does occur, work with industry to minimize impacts. (El Paso gas line)

7.1. **Action:** Participate in county planning efforts for natural resource exploration and development to ensure that biodiversity impacts are minimized. **No action taken.**

7.2. **Action:** Cooperate with partners (BLM/USFS/SITLA/NRCS) planning efforts to minimize impacts on sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat. **No action taken.**

Strategy: By 2016, identify measures to protect key wintering areas available to sage-grouse. **Ongoing USU research more areas are being identified.**

7.3. **Action:** Use available grouse telemetry data in the Grouse Creek sub unit and local knowledge in other sub units to map these areas. **No action taken.**

7.4. **Action:** Work with public and private partners to identify areas through winter locations (Dry Basin, Montgomery Ranch, South Kilgore, Dakes Pass). **No action taken.**

7.5. **Action:** Use UDWR fixed wing winter surveys for big game to identify areas. **No action taken.**

8. **Strategy:** By 2009, maintain or increase populations of sage-grouse in the Resource Area.

8.1. **Action:** Support continued sport hunting within current UDWR models.

8.2. **Action:** BARM group will consider support of any translocation of sage-grouse hens from the Resource Area. **BARM group supported translocation of 35 hens from Dry Basin to support translocation efforts to Strawberry Valley area.**

8.3. **Action:** Work with UDWR to explore other methods (Selected lek or lek complexes counts and statistical inferences, Group counting efforts, use of dedicated hunters) of counting sage-grouse leks. **No action taken.**

9. **Strategy:** Increase cooperation and coordination between GROUP and other public and private partners.

1.10. **Action:** Continue with quarterly BARM meetings. Review and assess our

local plan and MOU. **BARM partners meet 3-4 times a year as a group, three meetings were held in 2007**

10. **Strategy:** Through the duration of the plan, continue looking at and evaluating current predator management strategies especially in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting and brood-rearing.
- 10.1. **Action:** Modify power lines and wood fence posts (to remove raptor perches) in important sage-grouse areas, where feasible and where predator concerns have been identified. **No action taken.**
- 10.2. **Action:** Remove trees, remove/modify raptor perches, and maintain quality sagebrush habitat, where predation concerns on sage-grouse have been identified. **No action taken.**
- 10.3. **Action:** Maintain or increase site-specific predation management to consider all predator species (especially common ravens and red fox) where necessary and appropriate. **No action taken.**
- 10.4. **Action:** Initiate research on direct and indirect impacts of predation during each sage-grouse life history phase. **No action taken.**
- 10.5. **Action:** Coordinate management and research with USDA-WS.
Action: Support efforts of USDA-WS to remove mammalian predators and corvids in areas used by sage-grouse for nesting and brood-rearing during spring and early summer. **Wildlife Services aerial gunned several areas in the Raft River and Grouse Creek subunit early spring 06 and 07.**
- 10.6. **Action:** Identify additional sources of funding to continue current predator removal efforts. **No action taken.**