

CCLWG Meeting
Oct 27th 2005
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
US Forest Service Building, Panguitch

Members Present:

John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau
Lisa Church, BLM
Kevin Heaton, USU Extension
Adam Bronson, UDWR
Nicki Frey, USU Extension

Info Presented:

Alton Update:

- There are 5 sage grouse left with collars. A couple collars fell off without trace of the bird. One bird was found dead, presumably of natural causes. The others were either killed by predators or died of natural causes and then were scavenged. It is often hard to determine the cause of death after the birds have been scavenged. One predation event was witnessed; an eagle grabbed a sage grouse while Chel was conducting radio-telemetry.
- We have made the decision not to place any more collars on birds until spring. The roads will be getting impassible soon, and therefore there would be little benefit to getting more collars before it snows.
- Hand thinning of pinyon-juniper stands being conducted for BLM right now.
- Missy Siders has found a stock pile of grouse collars at the Monument and will shipping them to us. We will test them to decide if they still work and either use them or send them back to the manufacturer for refurbishing.

DWR money:

- There has been more money discovered in the DWR accounts. We discussed several uses for this money (\$6000), including: vehicle expenses, more collars, materials to make bird nets, and buying radio-collars.
- The group decided to use the money in several ways: 1) assist in vehicle expenses next spring, 2) buy materials to make informational signs (see below), and 3) buy and/or refurbish collars.
- Adam Bronson is coordinating with Dean Mitchell to get this money into the proper channels for our use.

Survey Cards:

- At our last meeting we discussed sending out survey cards to the local residents in the CCARM local working group area to determine the extent of sage grouse habitat use.
- We have created a survey card, and reviewed it at this meeting.
- Participants of the survey will drop the card at their local extension office.

- It was suggested that we use a little of the DWR money to purchase a small lottery gift to use as an incentive for landowners to return their survey cards. We would hold a drawing every other month for a winner of the survey.
- Kevin Heaton will mail Nicki the list of resident addresses and she'll print out the surveys and send them.

Setting Vegetation Treatment goals for management plan:

- Looked at the Arcview map to assess the amount of juniper pinyon in the study area. The numbers were off, so we'll wait to get that information from the GIS students at SUU.
- This year alone about 5,000 acres of juniper have been thinned. 1200 acres done in DogValley, 800 acres in Alton.
- Sage brush treatments have been small scale in the past. Usually around 500 acres a year.
- Made a rough goal for the management plan to target 750 acres annually.

Next meeting we will do an assessment of sage-grouse population and habitat conditions.

Presented the idea of assessment.

Future Work/Tasks:

- Develop information for an interpretive signs to be placed along the side of the highway in key locations.
 - Nicki will develop info
 - Adam will look into the money with Dean
 - Lisa will investigate who makes the signs and cost
 - All of us will consider good sites to locate them.
- Will do an assessment of our status.
- Nicki will incorporate socio-economic info from Garfield county plan and BLM plans.
- Kevin Heaton will send Nicki addresses of residents in the LWG area for the survey cards.
- Nicki will print and mail the survey cards.

Next Meeting Time: January 11th, 10am. Then we will meeting the 2nd Wednesday of every month until the plan is finished.