

Minutes

West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group (WBECRM) and the sage-grouse subcommittee meeting

Date 15 May 2012

Attendees

Alan Cowan/Dennis Fox Wind Energy Consultants
Spencer Morris—landowner
Ken Spackman/Jay Tanner—landowner Chairs
Nealt Artz—Cirrus Consultants
Terry Messmer/Beth Burritt/Todd Black—USU Extension
Stephanie Graham/ Brian Wing/ Avery Cook—USU Graduate Students
Dena Santini—USFS
LuAnn Adams—Box Elder County Commission CRM Chair
Patti Barney/Tammy Koldyke/Travis Mote—NRCS
Masaka Wright—BLM
Diane Tanner –CRM Facilitator Admin. Assistant

DISCUSSION

The group met and received updates from Todd Black, Terry Messmer, and LouAnn Adams on the status and progress of the Governor's Sage-grouse Task Force Committee.

The group reviewed the 2006 sage-grouse threats (revised document attached)

The group also discussed the 'core area map' (attached) and approved the core area boundary.

The group adjourned at 6:00PM and attended the CRM meeting. Cirrus Consultants held discussions with regards to some of the concerns, issues, important resources etc. for the Park Valley area. Cirrus did this same type of exercise in other parts of West Box Elder County on this day and further notes will come from them at a later date.

County Commission Field Tour

Date 18 May 2012

Attendees

Box Elder County—Commissioners LouAnn Adams and Brian Shaffer
Bracken Henderson/Dianne Tanner—UACD
Troy Forest—GIP
Jay Tanner, Brent Rose, Ken Spackman, John Maxfield,—Landowners BLM permittees
Scott Walker—UDWR
Juan Palma Kevin Oliver Quincy Barr—BLM
Scott Evans—Cirrus
Todd Black—USU/EXT

DISCUSSION

The group met at various sites from Park Valley to Grouse Creek to discuss issues of threats (fire, invasive weeds, juniper encroachment) to sage-grouse, some of the sage-grouse research that is been ongoing since 2003. Further discussion was had with regards to the importance of grazing to the sage-grouse population and local economy and livelihood of the residents.

Places visited included and discussion included; the muddy ranch SGI project, Dry Basin lek and fire break needs, the immigrant pass fire of 2007 the loss of sage-grouse leks and critical winter habitat, Badger Flay BLM fire/fuel load reduction project and the need for similar work on the Dairy Valley area, Pine Creek SGI project, and Cotton Thomas Basin and important sage-grouse brood rearing habitat. The tour concluded at 4PM.