**Parker Mountain**

**Type of Group:** sage-grouse and other related natural resources adaptive resource management group

**Location and Coverage Area:** The Parker Plateau, Grass Valley, areas north to Fish Lake and bordering Interstate 70.

**Key Issues for 2021**

* BLM working on NIPA to add to Mytoge Mountain project
* Designing and proposing a sagebrush treatment strategy for the Parker, on the SITLA block, with related water development work
* Parker Mountain sage-grouse population decline, hit a hard trigger, BLM review, UDWR closed hunt for Fall 2021

**Project, research, and partnership highlights in 2021**

* Continued planning for sagebrush treatments; group looked at potential treatment areas, funding was approved for phase I of treatment to be implemented in Fall 2022
* The Parker Mountain group provided coordination for BLM NEPA process for future conifer removal and other projects, adjacent to the Mytoge Mtn and other areas
* Coordinated with USU, UDWR, and Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation to continue brood count efforts using bird dogs to supplement and predict lek counts and learn more about the efficacy of the technique
* PARM Provided input into BLM’s review process for population hard trigger
* Spring lek counts field activity by PARM members in April 2021 and 2022

**Upcoming year plans**

* Begin more in-person meetings with virtual meetings also available when possible
* Conduct PARM Lek counts in coordination with UDWR
* Prepare WRI Proposal for sagebrush treatments on Parker Mountain

**Meetings and tours record for 2021**

* January 19, 2021 – Virtual Meeting
* April 14, 2021 – PARM Lek Counts
* December 9, 2021 – In-Person and Virtual Meeting
* April 14, 2022 – PARM Lek Counts

**Rich County CRM**

**Type of Group:** coordinated resource management group

**Location and Coverage Area:** all of Rich County, which forms the northern portion of the Rich-Morgan-Summit SGMA

**Key Issues for 2021**

* Continued strategic planning and development leading to an updated CRM plan
* Project coordination among CRM partners
* Three-Creeks Project Implementation

**Project, research, and partnership highlights in 2021**

* Continued development of infrastructure on Three Creeks (GIP led)
* The group is the point of communication where multiple partners coordinate natural resource management issues and projects
* Continued development of the strategic plan with a goal to complete in 2021

**Upcoming year plans**

* Finish an updated strategic plan for CRM
* Implementation of Three Creeks Project (led by GIP and the grazing association)
* Continue to coordinate information and projects for all CRM partners for natural resource management in Rich County
* New county Extension faculty, Reganne Briggs, provide leadership and coordination for the Rich CRM

**Meeting dates**

* March 2, 2021 – Virtual Meeting
* June 23-24, 2021 – Field tour combined with Utah SRM Summer Field Tour
* December 7, 2021 – Board Meeting and Regular Meeting – In-Person and Virtual
* June 28, 2022 – In-Person and Virtual Meeting

**Partner Engagement and Empowerment**

PARM members proposed a large sagebrush treatment project over multiple year phases that will begin in 2022. Past research has demonstrated the benefits of Spike treatment, if designed appropriately, to benefit sage-grouse. Vegetation response to these treatment areas can also benefit livestock and other wildlife species. While the UDWR is heading up this effort, the SITLA manager, livestock producers, and federal agencies have also provided considerable input into the process and have coordinated additional management projects on Parker Mountain. PARM has always provided a place for multiple partners to come together and collaborate with each other to provide natural resource management in the area.

**Local information needs driving research**

Within Rich County the Three Creeks Project has been approved and implementation has begun. Dr. Terry Messmer and his graduate students have been studying the sage-grouse population in Rich County for several years now. Being able to monitor any changes to the sage-grouse population, their response to the implementation of new grazing regimes, and changes in habitat will provide much needed information for future management of sage-grouse in Rich County and elsewhere.

**Opportunities for learning and understanding**

In June of 2021 the Rich County CRM combined efforts with Utah’s Chapter of the Society for Range Management for a field tour. All participants toured the management areas within Rich County and were able to consider forest and sagebrush management, along with riparian management. The partners that have monitored the effects of past management were able to share their results with both local partners within the Rich County CRM, but also SRM members attending from across Utah. These combined tours provide a unique learning experience for multiple entities and while looking at the very resources being managed.

**Providing feedback opportunities**

During our latest PARM meeting, PARM members had a chance to provide feedback on the UDWR closing the sage-grouse hunting season during the Fall 2021 hunt. Voices were heard from the private viewpoint, from federal agency personnel, and from the UDWR. While PARM is not a decision-making body, understanding of the situation along with discussing pros and cons of harvest management benefitted all participants in the meeting.

**Supporting Planning and innovation**

The Rich County CRM is working on a strategic plan for the group as an update to the original plan. While the efforts are still underway, this has given the group a chance to step back and have input from all partners within the group to help prioritize and shape our approach to natural resource management and coordination. We anticipate having the plan completed by 2023.