

Rich County CRM Meeting
January 19, 2023, | 2:30 pm
Rich County Senior Center

Attendees

In Person

Nancy Williams, BLM

Milena Rockwood, USFS

Brandon Neff, BLM

Sim Weston, Rich Commissioner

Jordan Davis, BLM

David Dahlgren, USU Ext.

Destiny Allgood, USFWS-PFW

Reganne Briggs, USU Ext.

Clint Cornia, Rancher

Online Via Zoom

Adam Brewerton, UDWR

Ethan Hallows, SITLA - Range

Stephanie Graham, SWCA

Jesse Dunniger, Working Lands

Amanda Holland, USFWS-Sage Lead

Kris Hulvey, Working Lands Conservation

Ben Nadolski, UDWR

Magan Nasto, Working Lands Conservation

Brad Jessop, BLM Fuels

Jessica Wade, BLM

Chante' Lindskog, UDWR, Aquatics

Terry Messmer, USU Ext.

Codi Braden, USU

Commissioner Simeon Weston started the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance. Then attendees introduced themselves and what organization they belonged to.

Update of projects in Rich County

Brad Jessop – BLM Fuels project

Ongoing project – Monument Salvage, near otter creek to remove beetle kill timber. They are starting to work through winter to be finished in Spring 2023

Future Project – Rich County Forest Health, in otter creek drainage. They are working to restore aspen habitat. NEPA has yet to be started. Projected to start Fall 2023 by mechanical and fire.

Future Project – East Crawford – focused on managing pinyon juniper to benefit sage grouse by lop and scatter. Some lands targeted will include SITLA. Projected to start Fall 2023

Kris Hulvey – Working Lands Conservation

Discussed briefly about Three Creeks data report. This group has been looking at grazing management, riparian health, and sage grouse habitat. This group has also been monitoring the new grazing rotation of Three Creeks looking at vegetation, water quality, and soils.

At sage creek water quality has improved in that E. Coli concentrations were out of compliance 15% of the time compared to 50-60% of the time. Additionally, standing biomass were increased and it was observed that grasses were able to go to seed this grazing season.

Megan, who works under Kris discusses a soil monitoring and carbon sequestration pilot project on Three Creeks. Three creeks was compared to Desert Land and Livestock. The results indicated that Desert Land and Livestock had 2X soil carbon compared to three creeks in riparian areas. This groups plans on collecting more data in the next 5 years.

As discussion about the carbon sequestration market was started. Some topics included working on carbon registry and who gets the revenue from this. It was brought to the group's attention that at this years' SRM meeting carbon workshops would be offered.

Ben Nadolski – UDWR, Winter Deer Conditions

The UDWR has been monitoring winter conditions closely to determine if emergency big game feeding protocol has been met. With the northern region having sustained cold and precipitation triggers have been met. Game cannot access forage and Deer body condition score has been concerning. Emergency deer feeding in Rich County is starting now.

Volunteer interested in helping with game feeding. Clint Cornia offered his contact to help with this effort.

The Woodruff Co-op renewal was discussed briefly. It was discussed that a meeting has been organized for involved parties on February 7th.

Chante' Lindskogg – UDWR, Native Aquatics Biology

Potential bluehead sucker surveys and mussel surveys were discussed. Chante' plans to start working in Rich County.

Milena Rockwood – USFA, prescribed burning

USFA is working on hiring new assistants. The Red rider timber sale is ongoing through Fall 2024. Logan and Ogden Aspen Restoration projects- projected to start on swan flat. It has been submitted to WRI.

Brandon Neff – Range Con, BLM

In the Woodruff pastures there are plans to start new fencing. Brandon is working with Taylor Payne with GIP funding.

Additionally, new enclosures are needing to be rebuilt on Randolph creek and Big Creek.

There are plans to put more throughs in Three Creeks for the north herd. This will improve water distribution. This seemed to be a problem for three creeks. Pregnancy rates and cattle weight were recorded. Bart Argyle and Randy Hoffman should have access to that data.

Nancy Williams – BLM, Woodruff Co-op

Working on making fencing wildlife friendly. Nancy also discussed the upcoming plan for the year.

Destiny Allgood – USFWS Partners

Core Sage grouse projects on private lands. She can work with producers who want particular projects funded that will benefit sage grouse habitat (i.e., fencing, water projects)

Discussion about future meetings:

A minimum of 2 meetings per year was suggested with a field tour. These meetings will include a December meeting, an April meeting, and a summer field tour.

It was proposed that a soil and water quality field tour would be a great tour this summer.

Commissioner Weston concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.