

PARM Lek Counts and Meeting

April 14, 2022

Loa, UT

- We met at 5:30 AM and split up to count all the leks in the Parker Mountain Area. We met back at the Loa Courthouse around 9:30AM to report on counts and have a meeting. It looks like lek counts are slightly higher than last year (2021), but still low compared to historical levels. The UDWR will produce the official count following the lekking period.
- We discussed the upcoming Spike treatments on the SITLA Block on Parker Mountain. ~ 800 ac are planned to be treated this coming Fall (2022). The project was not funded through the WRI process, but sportsman's groups chipped in together to fund Phase I (the first year). Jim Lamb is leading that project. We discussed opportunities to monitor the vegetation and grouse response. SILTA manager, Scott Chamberlain, was going to put out some veg plots. Dave Dahlgren discussed using the annual brood count surveys in late July and August to have volunteers run dogs and count grouse within the treated areas and reference areas nearby.
- We briefly discussed the UDWR plans for hunting sage-grouse on the Parker. The season was closed in 2021 and the UDWR is currently discussing the possibility of opening a hunt for the 2022 season, but no decisions have been made yet. Lek counts for 2022 will likely need to be officially reported prior to any decision being made.
- The BLM (Kaya) is moving forward with their prairie dog treatment using a chain harrow. The project will take place up south of Hare Lake. The NEPA process is still underway to get approval for the project. Sage-grouse were removed from the project as a targeted species.
- The BLM (Kaya) is undergoing a review process for the hard trigger that was hit in 2021 for the Parker Mountain population. Some work has already been done and PARM's sage-grouse plan was used heavily to have input into the process and helping focus the threats. PARM members will continue to participate in the process and provide data and information as needed. Kaya, Jim, and Dave met after the main meeting to discuss information needed for the review process. Kaya reported that she needs other BLM staff to help in the process by providing analyses and data concerning multiple factors that may impact the populations and be reviewed during the process. The UDWR was going to contribute harvest data from the Parker area and much of that data was publicly available through the harvest reporting survey.
- We talked briefly about starting to use Z-Dikes on the mountain in drainage areas. Clint Wirick (USFWS Partners Program) was leading that discussion. Parker may become a demonstration area for this management technique in the future for workshops etc.

Participant list and contact information:

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