

CCARM meeting minutes

August 30, 2011 noon -2pm

In attendance: Lisa Church, BLM; Rhett Boswell, UDWR; Cameron McQuivey, BLM; Kirk Nicholes, Alton Coal; Larry Johnson, Alton Coal; Nile Sorenson UDWR/NRCS; Jake Schoppe, USFS; John Keeler, UFBF; Nicki Frey, USU EXT; Kevin Heaton, USU EXT

I. Updates

A. CBCP has signed another contract with UDWR to keep local working groups going for another year. We will set out our course of action for the year at the next meeting.

1. To better inform our constituents, could somebody please bring a mailing list for regional permittees to the next meeting?

B. BLM

1. BLM RMPs will be revised to include better guidelines for grouse statewide by 2014. Waiting for national guidance to come out.

2. BLM EIS for Alton Coal is on schedule. There should be public meetings in the fall.

3. Work has finished on the 5-mile; south canyon has finished NEPA for 9,000ac.

4. Upper Kanab Creek project has been appealed; may be able to go forward w projects that aren't part of the appealed areas.

5. A draft UT BLM sage grouse guideline is coming out. Will amend all land use plans. Will make it tighter than the direction they have now. Other actions and disciplines will be affected in order to get them in line with the new guidelines.

B. UDWR

1. The Hatch project as funded through UPCD but the landowner backed out. So UDWR will do lop and scatter on the available land now.

2. Highway crossing signs funded 3/4 of the way. Dustin is going to talk to Barney Trucking.

a. Discussed putting guzzlers on the size of the road to minimize crossings. LWG discussed this option but decided there would still need to be fencing and a funnel.

C. Grand Staircase/Escalante

1. Discussion of the Ford Pasture area. When are birds using this area? Is there potential to do some surveys to figure this out?

D. Alton Coal

1. WS conducted predator control via poison eggs and trapping.
2. Currently talking with R Heaton to work on the habitat between Alton, Hoyt's and the mine to improve it for grouse
3. All operators keep a log of sightings, # seen, and where seen. Kirk would be willing to write it up.

E. UFBF

Dept of Ag Southern Utah grazing group want a document to go with their land plans that examines proper grazing management as regards sagebrush steppe and grouse.

F. USFS

1. John' Valley vegetation project was funded through UPCD and the first round of treatments is lining up. About 20,000 acres, 1 permittee.
2. The Tropic-Hatch Garkane Line moving forward. Jake and Lisa worked with Garkane to minimize new perch potential and move lines away from important grouse areas.

G. EXT

1. Dedicated hunters put up the trail signs we made earlier. They are by the hospital on the trailhead.
2. Discussion about where to put the other sign. Putting it at the turnoff of 89 to Alton is good. Also where the gravel road starts in Alton. Kirk will look into putting in on the gravel road area. Cameron suggested that another good area would be the turnoff to Deer Springs.

H. UDWR/NRCS

1. Nile saw a hen and 3 chicks in Alton at the 1st cattlegaurd.
2. Brammel project is close to getting finished. Due to good weather conditions, the green up is already looking great.
3. Getting sign-ups for SGI in John's Valley, around Witsoe.

II. Rhett Boswell unanimously elected as the new Chairperson.