

SWARM Local Working Group
March 35, 2008
1pm – 3pm
Iron County Extension Office

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions: members present included Jason Nicholes, Christine P., Kevin Wright (BLM), Chad Reid, Becky Bonebrake, Nicki Frey, Mark Nelson, John Keeler, Nile Sorenson

2. News for the group

a. AZ Strip meeting will be April 8th (St. George), April 9th (Kanab) and 10th (Field Trip).

b. Non-point source watershed meetings will start in September

c. Cedar Livestock Festival will be October 24-25th.

d. Beaver Watershed Day April 25th.

e. Flinspach Project: arch clearance in April, have surveyed the pipelines already.

3. Jason provided the most recent Sage-Grouse counts. Snowy winter has delayed counts as well as the birds. Jim Guyman is surveying for new leks sites again this year for three weeks. Mostly in areas where there have been accounts of birds, such as Minersville, Greenville Bench.

4. Spring/Summer Plans

a) Kevin gave an update on the Halls' project. Starting with pipelines. They will survey for fences and get arch clearances this summer. Plans made with Sage-Grouse in mind. They plan to create an artificial wetland of some kind. Additionally, there will be a new grazing rotation, using pastures every other spring. The pipelines will have troughs, so what size should we have the exclosures? Pond size? Shape? Nile would not recommend excluding all grazers. Nicki recollected that the original idea was to create an area of 'wetter' vegetation, not necessarily a pond. Field trip was proposed to go and see the site and make recommendations.

b) There was a FWS data call to the BLM for 2006/2007; which the BLM is concentrating on this spring.

c) Also, the BLM plans to continue collecting vegetation data that they began last summer.

d) Milford Flat – seeding is completed, and they've chained as much as possible so far. They are discussing monitoring plans for the fire.

e) Nicki has submitted a grant to do long-term research on the response of vertebrates to the Milford Flat restoration. Also, she is conducting a study on the predator community of the local area (Cedar City). She has submitted a proposal to Sportsmen For Habitat to do research in Hamlin Valley.

f) Chad is conducting a study on controlling rabbitbrush using several herbicides. Also looking at methods to control cheatgrass.

g) Mark is conducting a study to look at the success of 90 different varieties of grasses, to eventually provide alternative forage species for producers. The study is in North Creek.

Nile mentioned there is discussion about a treatment down the road on Mike Flinspach's Chokecherry property as well as SITLA property he leases. BLM reported that Flinspach's proposed fence was approved during the allotment renewal process.

5. Set next meeting time and adjourn

May 20, 2008. Field Trip. 8AM. Meet at the Iron county extension office. We will visit the rabbitbrush treatments that Chad has and then go to Hamlin Valley.