

Minutes : Thursday, October 19, 2005

Start 10am

Place: Iron County Extension

Members Present:

Nicki Frey, USU Extension

Chad Reid, USU Extension

Jeff Grandison, UDWR

Mark Nelson, USU Extension

Becky Bonebrake, BLM

Alan Gardner, Washington County Commissioner

John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau

Tom Simpre, NRCS

Wade Judy, BLM

**Info Presented:** This meeting was convened to discuss the High Mountain Trail, a trail that winds through Beaver, Iron, and Washington counties. The following are points made during this discussion:

- The trail was proposed by citizen recommendations to the land management agencies in 3 counties.
- Most of the trail used existing roads and trails
- The trail runs through a lek that is east of Minersville; lek is 50 yds from the existing road.
- Concerns that increased traffic on this road will disturb grouse in the spring.
- The working group can make suggestions for changes to the planned trail and its alternatives to Wade.
- Question: What is worse – Letting traffic on the paved road or re-routing the route through brood rearing areas on a two-track?

Tom Simpre reviewed plans for the Hamlin Valley treatments on Halls' private land.

- He asked the group what they would recommend planting in the treatment areas that may be used as brood rearing areas.
  - Suggestions included: small burnett, alfalfa, yellow sweet clover, glob mallow, forage kosha.
  - Some grasses suggested: Siberian wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Russian wild rye.
  - The group recommended talking to Tyler about getting seed.
- Nicki Frey requested that Tom contact her when he is getting started out in Hamlin Valley so that she might photo document the work.
- Chad Reid recommended placing a rain gauge in the treatment area. By knowing how much precipitation the land received after treatments, we might gain a better understanding of why some plants established or didn't establish.
- NRCS and Halls plan on discing this fall in 50-60 acres of big basin sagebrush.

- This area has been surveyed for pygmy rabbits by Keith Day's group; no traces of PYRA were found.
- After discussion with the local working group, the group agreed that discing the whole area in the fall would be beneficial to sage grouse and gave the green light.
- In the future, chemical treatment may be applied to the south end property that the Halls recently acquired, to thin out the vegetation there. This area won't need re-seeding because there is already a good base there.

Tasks:

1) Chad Reid and Nicki Frey will review the lek locations and the planned route and make comments regarding some changes to the route. They will email these comments to the group for review before submitting them to BLM.

2) Nicki Frey passed out the first 18 pages of the plan to the group for review. These page edits will be the final edit to these 18 pages. They are due at the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: November 30, 2005. 10am. Iron county extension office.**