

## Uintah Basin Adaptive Resource Management (UBARM) Local Working Group

The Uintah Basin Adaptive Resource Management (UBARM) Local Working Group (LWG) is facilitated by Lorien Belton. It is closely tied to the Uintah Basin Partners for Conservation and Development, often coordinating meeting scheduling between the two groups.

### Description of Area and General Population Information

The Uintah Basin LWG covers parts of Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett counties. A large population with multiple leks inhabits the Diamond Mountain area north of Vernal. This area has mixed landownership, including private, state, and federal lands, and is used primarily for agricultural purposes. The Diamond Mountain population is one of the few populations in Utah that is robust enough to support a limited sport hunt in the fall. Additional sage-grouse populations occur south and west of Vernal in areas including Forest Service land on Anthro Mountain, and BLM land further south. The southern populations in particular are in areas that have been highly impacted by oil and gas development. Some populations also occur farther south into the Book Cliffs. Populations on Seep Ridge, Deadman Bench, Little Mountain, Anthro Mountain, and Diamond Mountain have been the subject of research studies over the course of multiple years.



Uintah Basin UPCD/UBSRM joint field tour looked at wet meadow restoration projects. Photo by Lorien Belton.

Table 6. Meetings and tours held by Uintah Basin Adaptive Resources Management Local Working Group in 2018

| Meetings and Tours | Date              | Location             | # attending | Comments  |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Meeting            | February 13, 2018 | Vernal               | 16          | Joint meeting with the WRI/UPCD project presentation  |
| Field Tour         | August 14, 2018   | Cart Creek Watershed | 13          | Joint tour with UBPCD: wet meadow restorations  |
| Meeting            | December 12, 2018 | Vernal               | 14          | Population research updates, federal planning updates (BLM and USFS plan amendment revisions), and state plan updates |

## **Project and Research Highlights**

The group continues to value and enjoy the research updates from joint monitoring projects. Many of the local WRI projects are relevant to sage-grouse habitat improvement, so the group members participate actively in the WRI project proposal presentation meeting early in the year, an efficiency to avoid duplicate conversations. The LWG and WRI teams work closely together, and projects are both designed and assessed informally each year based on information from sage-grouse movement data. In addition, the group always participates actively in opportunities to comment on the federal and state planning processes, of which there were many this year.

## **Upcoming Year Work Plan**

The group will continue to have a strong habitat project implementation focus, now that the state of Utah plan and the BLM plans are completed. To the degree possible, projects will be aligned with needs identified through the sage-grouse monitoring data. The group will continue to monitor collared grouse in the area as long as the funds to do so exist.