

PARM Meeting November 6th, 2003

Attendees:	Jim Lamb	UDWR—CO
	Mack Morrell	Parker Mountain Grazing Association
	Jody Yale	USU Extension Richfield
	Todd Black	USU Extension CCES
	Dean Mitchell	DWR
	Russ Cowley	SCOG
	JoAnn Stenton	USFS
	Verl Bagley	USU Extension
	Mike Bodenchuck	WS
	Kevin Dustin	WS
	John Keeler	UFB
	Paul Pace	Farm Services
	Larry Greenwood	BLM Richfield Office
	Lori Armstrong	BLM Richfield Office
	Dwayne Elmore	USU
	Dave Dahlgren	USU
	Andy Taft	Parker Mountain Grazing Association
	Ron Torgerson	SITLA
	Kim Christy	SITLA
	Lou Brown	SITLA
	Laura Romin	USFWS
	Renee Chi	USFWS

Meeting started at 10:05 AM

Review of meeting minutes from 10/20/2003

--Laura Romin drafted another letter to the BLM to more specifically address the ACEC and its criteria

--Larry Greenwood—looked at ACEC's within Richfield Field Office all ACEC's exclude livestock. Likely this is how other ACEC's are in other BLM offices. Lori Armstrong indicated that there were ACEC's that included grazing.

--Andy Taft—gave input from the grazers and grazing association. The association has problems with what an ACEC implies and what it might imply. They do not support an ACEC. Mac Moorell read the BLM's direction letter from Sally Wisely and Gail Norton on who the BLM should be doing business and dealing with local communities and citizen based stewardship.

--Verl Bagley—the county plan for Wayne County opposes all ACEC's. The county is taking steps to aggressively detour any ACEC's. Verl gave the commissioners PARM's direction they were going to take and they were much more supportive with that.

Verl Bagley—Intermountain West Joint Venture gave their approval and spike treatment was approved. Weather problems have stopped the application and wind, snow and now frost might be a problem. We may have to wait until April/May unless it warms up a bit.

Discussion Subject more on the ACEC:

Mike Bodenchuck--discussed the use restrictions with regards to ACEC's and how that restricts WS ability to do their job.

Kim Christy—SITLA will likely not support the ACEC again because of restrictive management.

Larry Greenwood—discussed other options that the BLM might have to go with other options for management including local conservation plans.

Questions:

Questions were asked by the group about the direction the BLM will precede with the ACEC. It was the general consensus that the BLM is holding off in the review process of the ACEC until PARM meets today and drafts a letter.

Discussion Subject clarification letter from USFWS to BLM:

Verl Bagley read new draft letter addressed by the USFWS to BLM for review by the group. There were little concerns or comments from the group regarding this letter.

Paul Pace pointed out that the original ACEC letter alluded to grazing not being managed correctly. Laura added that a sentence could be added to the draft letter to say something about using grazing as a tool to manage the sagebrush step communities.

Todd—made a request to Laura for an electronic copy of the original ACEC letter and the clarification letter.

Discussion Subject

Dave Dahlgren-- Discussed transplant for 2004 of 40 birds maximum from Parker Mountain to Strawberry. Gave hand out and discussed vegetation treatments and outcome of production. Dwayne Elmore—gave handout of his efforts this summer with grazing treatments and enclosures. All prairie dog burrows were GPSed and determined if active and monitored. Vegetation treatments and monitoring is the main focus of the study. Most of the prairie dogs burrows are inactive. See handouts.

Discussion Subject

PARM letter to BLM—letter was drafted by group, signed and mailed to BLM. Copy attached.

Next meeting

Thursday January 22nd 10:00 AM Loa..

Assignments

--Group to redefine or define the Conservation area. Todd to bring DRG's (topo maps) and lek information to next meeting such that the area can be mapped/identified with a GIS. Include grass valley plateau valley, and Parker Mountain areas.

--Todd fill in plan identify issues by species prior to next meeting.

--Laura to get Todd e-copies of the two letters.

PARM

P.O. Box 160

Loa, Utah 84747

MEMORANDUM

To: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office,
Richfield, Utah

Cc:

From: Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management Working Group

Date: November 6th 2003

Subject: Proposed Parker Mountain ACEC

The Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management Working Group (PARM) was established through an MOU with local livestock groups and state and federal agencies to examine management and protection of sagebrush steppe communities and associated species within the Parker Mountain area. PARM objectives include: 1) reverse the sage-grouse population decline, 2) increase rangeland vegetation diversity, 3) improve the economic vitality of the local community and benefit Utah schools, and 4) assist in recovering the Utah prairie dog.

On 20 October 2003, PARM met to discuss the proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) on the Parker Mountain area. After much deliberation and discussion, the group believes that other alternatives besides the ACEC should be considered in the RMP process. Members of the group have expressed concern that an ACEC will place unnecessary restrictions on grazing practices, other land uses, and vegetation management options.

PARM has been conducting research on sage-grouse, Utah prairie dog, sagebrush and grazing regimes on School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)

property on Parker Mountain since 1998. While much of the data is still being analyzed and conclusions being drawn, preliminary results show an increase of sage-grouse numbers and forage availability has increased within treated areas. Various types of sagebrush treatments have been implemented and are continually being monitored to measure success and use of these treatments by various sagebrush steppe species. Preliminary research being conducted by PARM shows these applications and treatments may provide an effective means of managing the sagebrush steppe community on Parker Mountain. Similar and other vegetative treatments may be implemented on BLM grounds within the Parker Mountain area to manage the sagebrush steppe communities.

PARM is in the process of writing an overall sagebrush steppe management plan for the greater Parker Mountain area including BLM lands. This conservation plan will be the guiding document which will allow work to proceed to address declining sagebrush steppe communities and species. This plan will clearly state goals and objectives to adaptively implement and monitor treatments and progress. Specific strategies along with a proposed time line for completion will also be identified.

If through the Resource Management Plan (RMP) process an ACEC is designated, we request that the BLM include the development and implementation of the PARM Conservation Plan as the management prescriptions for the ACEC. PARM is an appropriate entity to assist with the development of management prescriptions based upon our knowledge of the area, on going research activities, experience with natural resource and local community objectives, and existing MOU.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

PARM Committee members

Gary Hallows

PARM Co Chair

Andrew Taft

PARM Co Chair

cc: Ron Bolander, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Salt Lake City,
Utah

Steve Madsen, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Salt Lake City,
Utah

Larry Lichthardt, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Salt Lake City,
Utah