

## TUSHAR ALLOTMENTS COLLABORATION

November 29, 2007  
Beaver Ranger District Office  
Beaver, UT  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Meeting Summary

#### Present:

Bob Campbell  
Davida Carnahan  
John Carter  
Rose Chilcoat (phone, part of day)  
Steve Flinders  
Diane Freeman  
Mary Erickson  
Wayne Hoskisson (phone, part of day)  
John Keeler  
Terry Krasko  
Mary O'Brien (note-taker)  
Terry Shepherd  
Doug Sorensen  
Joe Yardley  
Lee R Yardley (late afternoon)  
Selena Yardley

Michele Straube, facilitator

#### Public:

David Smuin

**Next meeting: February 6, 2008**  
**Beaver Ranger District Office**

**Meeting Agenda:** Included at the end of these minutes. Agenda topics not discussed, due to lack of time, are highlighted. They will be discussed during the 2/6/08 meeting.

**Operational Protocols:** Confirmed. [http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Operational\\_Protocols.pdf](http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Operational_Protocols.pdf)

**Note-Taking:** Mary O'Brien took notes on the computer, which were projected on the screen as we went along. Note-taking responsibilities will rotate – **note-taking volunteer needed** for 2/6/08 meeting.

#### Website:

- o Anyone who wants to post something on the website should contact Mary O'Brien ([mob@uoregon.edu](mailto:mob@uoregon.edu)) and she'll get it posted on a private USIECR site until the review team (Selena Yardley, John Keeler, Terry Krasko, Mary O'Brien) reviews and approves the posting. Once approved, USIECR will move the item(s) to the public portion of the site.

- The Collaboration wants easy public access to the Collaboration website. Options discussed for accomplishing this included:
  - A direct link to the Collaboration website on the Institute's website;
  - When people Google "Tushar Collaboration," they should get to the Collaboration website; and
  - Each Collaboration member can provide a direct link to the Collaboration website on their organization's website.
- Michele Straube will work with the Institute, and let the group know when possible changes have been made.

**Restatement of Agreement:** Confirmed. Copy is included at the end of these meeting minutes. [http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/restatement\\_agreement.pdf](http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/restatement_agreement.pdf)

**Final Report:**

- Michele Straube, as facilitator, will prepare the first draft of the Collaboration's final report documenting the Collaboration process and including Collaboration recommendations.
- Recommendations in the final report should include a discussion about implementation steps, if needed (e.g., already implemented, can be implemented immediately, requires additional NEPA review, requires some other additional process or review).

**Timeline:** A draft timeline was discussed. Michele Straube will revise the draft timeline based on the group discussion, and redistribute it for approval and posting on the website. [http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Tushar\\_Timeline.pdf](http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Tushar_Timeline.pdf)

- The issue was raised re: placement of utilization cages next week (first week of December).
- Those who are gathering data should try to notify everyone in the Collaboration (via Michele) as soon as possible, so that anyone who wants to join in the data-gathering, can put relevant dates in their calendars.
- Before the 2/6/08 meeting, maps should be up on the website that show vegetation, range improvements, other developments, vegetative treatments (e.g., chainings), roads, burns, riparian areas, capacity, etc. (Title, caption, map needed)
- Timeline was accepted as a working draft, with some additions from comments.

**Aquatic/fish/macroinvertebrate/riparian monitoring: Pine Creek and Ten Mile Creek.** See Jim Whelan (Fishlake/UDWR Fish Biologist) PowerPoint: "Fishlake N.F. Aquatic Biota Monitoring: Pine Creek and Ten Mile Creek."  
[http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Tushar\\_PP.pdf](http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/Tushar_PP.pdf)

**Collaboration Agreement Topics:** The group went through the following agreement topics, focusing on these issues:

- Summarize / confirm what has been done to date
- What questions do we need to answer to develop recommendations by April 2009?
- What information do we need to answer the question(s)?
- How to get information in 2008?
- Who takes on responsibility?

The group discussion was captured in the following charts. Michele Straube will develop “to do” lists from these charts, to help those assigned responsibility meet their commitments. Agreement topics not discussed in this meeting will go through the same discussion at the 2/6/08 meeting.

**Beaver reintroduction:** See Chart 1, “Beaver Reintroduction”

**Grazing management** (Doug Sorensen). See Chart 2, “Grazing Management – Existing and Desired Conditions”

**Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Allotment:**

- Doug described “capability”, “suitability”, and “forage capacity.”
- Showed a suitability map developed recently for Forest Planning and a suitability map overlying vegetation analysis (1960s-1970s). John Carter proposes incorporating soils (erosion vulnerability) into the situation.
- Forage capacity will be based only on lands being “capable” of being grazed.
- More utilization cages need to be placed.
- There are essentially two herds in the allotment.
- Cove Creek Pasture (bordering I-70) was burned in 2007; will be rested in 2008-2009.
- Wildcat, Twitchell, Grassy Creeks are all being used, even though they are not designated as “suitable.”

**Ten Mile Allotment**

We did not get to conditions/management issues on Ten Mile Allotment. Flying V Bar Ranch manager Wyatt Barnson should be present when Ten Mile Allotment is discussed at the 2/6/08 meeting.

**Chart 1: Beaver Reintroduction**

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
<p>Level II Riparian Inventory identification of Pine Creek as a creek that would be good for beaver habitat and reintroduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pine Ck is listed on a beaver transplant list for the UDWR southern region.</li> <li>○ If UDWR and cooperators/volunteers help translocate the species, implementation can be faster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analysis of adequacy of food supply for beaver reintroduction.</li> <li>○ Possibility of initial supplementation of food supply?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ First step: Development of a potential problems/solution management scheme; and communicate with the state. (Mary, Steve, Sean, Joe)</li> <li>○ Get signatures of water users (Robert Yardley, Joe Yardley, Pete Yardley, ENEL) and agreements with everyone else who might have a concern.</li> <li>○ Reintroduction during spring/early summer</li> <li>○ Monthly site visits to note beaver activity (Steve )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collaboration visit to Pine Creek (June 22, '07); consider beaver habitat conditions. [see <a href="http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/field_meetings_issues_200706.pdf">http://tushar.ecr.gov/pdf/field_meetings_issues_200706.pdf</a> ]</li> <li>○ Discussions of riparian benefits from beaver dams (e.g., extended season of flow); materials sent by Mary O. to Joe Yardley.</li> <li>○ Water rights: Pete Yardley has 40% (B-grade irrigation water); ENEL has bought 60%; Yardleys lease the right to use the water ENEL doesn't use. Point of diversion is above the gravel pit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If reintroduction, what month in 2008?</li> <li>○ Additional potential habitat for beaver in vicinity?</li> <li>○ What plans does ENEL have for water? (Terry K.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water flow measurements prior to release and post-release. Establish an in-stream water gauge/flow meter prior to release (funding? Ask hydrologist?)</li> <li>○ Identify a control stream for comparison on water.</li> <li>○ Add Pine Creek to the list of areas closed to beaver trapping in 2008</li> <li>○ Gathering data on browse levels (Mary O'Brien); as early as possible</li> </ul>
<p>Beavers can be removed after reintroduction if problems arise and cannot be resolved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential for ORV route to be relocated if water backs onto the route?</li> <li>○ Analysis of other potential problems that could occur and identification of potential solutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitor utilization during 2008.</li> <li>○ Continue current rest/rotation.</li> </ul>
<p>Grand Canyon Trust and Boulder Community Alliance willing to fund live traps.</p>	<p>Browse level of willows, cottonwood within 100' of Pine Creek.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What steps are necessary prior to reintroduction?</li> <li>○ Potential for UDWR to limit trapping in Pine Creek until beaver well-established?</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What arrangements for livestock management?</li> </ul>	

**Chart 2. Grazing Management – Existing and Desired Conditions  
Pine Creek – Sulphurbeds Allotment**

**1. Forage Capacity**

<b>What's Been Done</b>	<b>Remaining Questions</b>	<b>To Be Done in 2008</b>
Capability and Suitability analysis completed as part of 1. 1967 Range Analysis 2. GIS analysis for Forest Plan revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where are soils that are prone to erosion, i.e., that are not suitable for grazing?</li> <li>○ What is the current forage productivity on certain sites?</li> <li>○ What is the current ground cover on certain sites?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Prior to Feb 2008:</u> Groundtruthing of the current suitability/vegetation map to consider erosion (Doug visit in Salt Lake with Jim/John on GIS to look at preliminary sites for examining during summer 2008.) <i>Joe, Doug, Jim, John C., John K.</i></li> <li>○ <u>Prior to Feb 2008:</u> Doug scans in 1960s/1970s range analysis site maps.</li> <li>○ <u>Prior to April 1:</u> Putting out more cages. John can provide 12-15 upland cages. Doug will make some riparian cages.</li> </ul>
Updated analysis in early 1980's		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>End of June.</u> Re-reading trend studies in 2008 (Bob Campbell/Dave Tait/Doug Sorensen; Mary O'Brien; potentially UNPS people; Bob Edwards(?)-John C will check). 10-12 on Ten Mile and Pine Creek each; 2 weeks total.</li> </ul>

**2. Entry Dates**

<b>What's Been Done</b>	<b>Remaining Questions</b>	<b>To Be Done in 2008</b>
Existing dates from permit and old AMP, June 16 (used to be June 1).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are these dates suitable for continued livestock grazing?</li> </ul>	Define range readiness and when does it occur. A short literature search on range readiness (Doug; Bob C.). John C. says NRCS has developed site descriptions with tables on grass development/dates.

### 3. Livestock Control and Management

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Allotment boundary and interior fences have been constructed. Maintenance needed annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What additional work is needed to complete pasture integrity and adequately control livestock?</li> <li>○ Are dedicated hunters going to be working on fences?</li> </ul>	Evaluate existing fencing and develop fencing plan. (Selena, Doug, Sean Kelly)
Operators provide routine herding and movement between pastures.	What level or intensity of herding is needed to adequately control livestock?	Develop herding plan for each pasture (permittees, Doug).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What frequency of herding is currently occurring in each pasture?</li> <li>○ How would we know whether the problem in Wildcat is primarily the cattle not being out of Wildcat Creek on time?</li> <li>○ How would we know there is a "problem" or not in Wildcat Creek?</li> <li>○ How do we select other pastures to ask the same questions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visit Wildcat Creek, Grassy, Twitchell, North Creeks before, during, and after grazing in terms of forest plan standards. (Doug, Mary, Selena, Clark(?))</li> </ul>

#### 4. Water Quality

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Shell resources Level II riparian surveys in Pine Creek, Wildcat, and Lt. North Cr.	Are there springs and wetlands that need to be protected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>By May:</i> Need a rapid assessment checklist re: habitat conditions of springs (<i>Mary</i>)</li> <li>○ A survey of selected springs: both developed and undeveloped, for habitat conditions. Could be done during re-survey of Pine Creek/Sulphurdale Allotment springs (it's time to do that) (<i>Trust Wyss Fellow?; Doug; Mary(?)</i>)</li> </ul>
Stock water has been developed in many locations to provide adequate water and to draw cattle from streams and springs.	Are existing locations adequate? Is adequate maintenance being accomplished?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evaluate stock water locations for needed improvements.(some has been done with INFRA surveys) (<i>Doug; assigned permittee; Mary</i>) – e.g., Dipping Vat and associated wetlands below; North Spring overflow.</li> <li>○ Prioritize stock water developments/wetlands fencing (<i>Doug, permittees; Collaboration</i>).</li> </ul>
Doug has documentation of condition of developments on springs.	What are the conditions of springs habitat on the allotment?	

## 5. Elk / Livestock

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
UDWR herd unit elk counts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Degree to which aspen sprout browsing is due to elk?</li> <li>○ Degree to which understory is being consumed by elk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Bring by February:</i> January 2008 elk counts (UDWR; permittee observer?).</li> <li>○ Aspen browse counts throughout the allotment – before cattle entry; right after cattle leave; and prior to snow. (Mary)</li> </ul>
Population (elk/doe) objectives (at 890 in 2005; pressure to raise to 950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What data exist already on three-way exclosures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Before February:</i> Distribute Catlin/Carter paper on AUM/forage estimation of wildlife/livestock (Mary)</li> <li>○ Estimate AUMs of cattle and elk and forage consumption. (Jim Catlin/John Carter)</li> </ul>
Paper on ungulate consumption (John, Allison and Jim)	To Sean: <i>Are these planned 2008 data persuasive?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understory utilization prior to cattle entry and after cattle entry; and prior to snow (Jim Catlin/John Carter?)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pellet group counts</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pellet group counts (UDWR; Steve)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ White Ledges near Manning Meadow on Monroe exclosure (a visual)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>By end of May:</i> Two three-way exclosures in two places (4 exclosures) (Bob C., a field day for Collaboration)</li> </ul>

## 6. Grazing Season Dates

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Permitted dates are June 16 to September 30.	Are these dates suitable for continued livestock grazing?	Talking with BLM during 2008 (Doug, Terry, permittees)
	Are there options to work with BLM with earlier or later dates?	Revisit after data-gathering in 2008 (Collaboration)

## 7. Utilization Criteria

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Forest Plan Amendment, August 1, 2001.  All Permits modified to include new standards.	Is the standard being met or exceeded?	Monitoring in 2008 (Doug, John/Jim?; fall Whitman College students)
Monitoring from 2007.	Is the standard effective in improving the forage resource?	Using the rapid assessment method for aspen/cottonwood browse (Mary)
	Is the standard effective in allowing native species to thrive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>By February</i>: Bring a proposed method for assessing willow;</li> <li>o Use a Collaboration-approved method for assessing willow browse (Mary)</li> </ul>
	How to address both streambank and browse utilization?	Use Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment (David Smuin; Jim Catlin)
		A Forest Supplement to accept the browsing methods being used ( <i>Doug, Diane Freeman</i> )

## 8. Cheat Grass and Noxious Weeds

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Noxious weed infestations have been mapped and are treated each year.	Can cheatgrass seed production be reduced through early grazing? Doug did this on bulbous bluegrass in NV (Robin Tausch).	Test 3 years in a row on extreme NW corner of allotment. Some fences already in place. Clean pond out in the area. Potential chaining after intensive grazing on one portion ( <i>Doug, Lee R; Joe</i> )
Some discussion of cheatgrass treatments using livestock.	How well are some of the newer cheatgrass herbicides working? (Using some on Milford Flat fire?)	Literature search on results of similar work (e.g., Robin Tausch?)
		John talk to Nicole Frey about a potential graduate student interest in the cheatgrass experiment ( <i>John Keeler</i> ); Look up NFF masters grant application process ( <i>Mary</i> )
		Mapping of cheatgrass on the allotment (Permittees prepare a base map during the Feb. permittee meeting; Doug and permittees might ride); everybody add to it during the season.

### 9. Grazing Rotation

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Rotation schedule developed in AMP, being followed in Annual Operating Instructions each year.	Are these current schedules suitable?	Review rotation schedule in annual meeting in February (Doug, permittees)
	What are current difficulties with the rotation?	

### 10. Structural Improvements

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Fences and water developments have been constructed.	Are new or additional improvements needed??	Evaluate effectiveness of existing improvements (see # 3, 4)
List of improvements shown in permit as being assigned to permit holder for maintenance.	Are existing improvements in need of additional work?	

### 11. Vegetative Improvements

What's Been Done	Remaining Questions	To Be Done in 2008
Extensive chainings in the 1970's and 1980's.	Would the allotment benefit from additional treatments, and where?	<i>By February meeting:</i> Bring information on treatment sites, goals, evidence of goals being met/not met and where (Doug)
Prescribed burning was started in 1998 to present, Wildcat, Pine Creek, Cove Creek pastures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What goals existed for the treatments?</li> <li>○ What results have been written up on the treatments?</li> <li>○ Have the goals been met?</li> <li>○ Are any trend studies within the treatments?</li> </ul>	Determine what sites need to be visited to gather data that are missing (Collaboration)

## Tushar Allotments Collaboration

November 29, 2007 – 9:00 am – 5 pm  
Beaver Ranger District Office

### AGENDA

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Develop timeline to meet April 2009 goals
- Summary of Collaboration's accomplishments to date
- Reach agreement on questions to be answered by April 2009
- Develop preliminary data gathering plan for 2008 field season
- Clear assignment and acceptance of responsibilities
- Identify next steps

9:00–9:15 Introductions / introduce facilitator

9:15–9:45 Confirm operating protocols  
Notetaking  
Website

9:45—10:30 Restatement of Collaboration Agreement  
Develop timeline to meet April 2009 goals

10:30--10:45 **BREAK**

10:45—5:00 Go topic-by-topic through the agreement topics

- Summarize / confirm what has been done to date
- What questions do we need to answer to develop recommendations by April 2009?
- What information do we need to answer the question(s)?
- How to get information in 2008?
- Who takes on responsibility?

Beaver Reintroduction (Mary O'Brien)

Aspen Recruitment (Mary O'Brien)

Mountain Mahogany Recruitment (Mary O'Brien)

11:30 Jim Whelan, USDA Forest Service and UDWR  
Fish / aquatic data on Pine Creek and Ten Mile allotments

Around 12 **LUNCH** (provided by Grand Canyon Trust)

Grazing Management – Existing and Desired Conditions  
(Doug Sorensen)

For each of the two allotments:

- Forage capacity
- Entry dates
- Livestock control and management
- Water quality
- Big game / livestock
- Grazing season dates
- Utilization criteria
- Cheat grass
- Grazing rotation
- Structural improvements
- Vegetative improvements

Grazing Management – Existing and Desired Conditions  
Ten Mile Allotment

Around 2:45 **BREAK**

4:30-5:00 **Next Steps / Next Meeting**

If time allows **Public Outreach / Media Meetings**

NOTE: times are estimated; to be used as guidelines

### Invited Participants

Lee R Yardley Joe Yardley Selena Yardley Clark Bradshaw	Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Permittees
Wyatt Barnson	Ten Mile Permittee
Terry A. Krasko	USFS / Fishlake NF
Mary Erickson	USFS / Fishlake NF
Bob Campbell	USFS / Fishlake NF
Steve Flinders	USFS / Fishlake NF
Doug Sorensen	USFS / Fishlake NF
Sean Kelly	UT DWR
John Keeler	UT Farm Bureau
John Carter	Western Watersheds Project
Jim Catlin (unable to attend 11/29)	Wild Utah Project
Rose Chilcoat (join by telephone)	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Wayne Hoskisson	Sierra Club, UT Chapter
Mary O'Brien	Grand Canyon Trust
Terry Shepherd	Red Rock Forests
Donald Willden (unable to attend 11/29)	Beaver County Commissioner Sportsman
Kevin Mueller (join by telephone)	UT Environmental Congress

**Tushar Allotments Collaboration  
Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds and Ten Mile Allotments**

**Restatement of Agreement**

Beaver

- Collaboratively plan for the needs of functioning beaver colonies on at least one creek/stream within Pine Creek/Sulphurdale allotment.
- Collaboratively develop a plan for providing suitable habitat conditions for beaver on the creek selected, as part of NFMA analysis and which could lead to NEPA analysis for future projects.

Aspen and Mountain Mahogany

- Collaboratively document where recruitment is failing in aspen clones and mountain mahogany stands within the two allotments.
- Collaboratively develop a plan to restore recruitment, as part of NFMA analysis and which could lead to NEPA analysis for future projects.

Grazing Management

- Collaboratively develop existing and desired conditions and management practices to be used in developing management plans for the two allotments.
- What are they, how do we develop them, what is included?

End Product

- Collaboration recommendations, to be used in developing management plans for the Ten Mile and Pine Creek-Sulphurdale Allotments.