



Notes

Platte Valley Habitat Partnership January 24, 2013 Saratoga Town Hall State and Federal Government Partners Meeting

Notes of Jan. 24, 2013 inter-agency meeting regarding possible strategies and projects for the first PVHP plan on public lands in preparation of presentation to all PVHP partners on February 11 in the Platte Valley Community Center.

Purpose of Interagency Meeting:

1. Explore ways of creating seamless, multi-jurisdictional habitat improvements for mule deer in the Platte Valley.
2. Explore barriers and opportunities to multi-jurisdictional habitat improvement methods.
3. Explore more specific strategies for presentation to PVCC on February 11 for mule deer habitat improvements in the Platte Valley.

Agenda

1:00 Introductions and Project Progress

1:30 Start Coordinating the writing of the PVHP Plan.

2:00 Past wildlife habitat projects on USFS and BLM: discuss what has already been done to improve habitat for mule deer on public and private lands.

3:00 Multi-jurisdictional Mule Deer Habitat Improvements Planning: WGFD, BLM and USFS: projects that are possibly already planned and/or NEPA'd and can be included in the 2013 plan.

3:45 Other Subjects

4:00 Adjourn

Notes

First PVHP Plan: USFS – Mostly on Summer and Transition Ranges.

USFS will contribute information regarding past, present and planned treatments that also meet mule deer habitat objectives. USFS will make these contributions in map form, showing acres, and provide descriptions for the plan.

Types of treatments under consideration: several options for silvicultural prescriptions, prescribed burns, noxious weed treatments, aspen treatments, grazing management tools and improvement.

USFS needs telemetry data to show deer movements to help identify watersheds for treatments for the next five years.

In the future, USFS may want to consult with PVHP on:

- regeneration of lodgepole communities,
- travel management (year round).
- Identify areas for the USFS to work with private landowners and BLM on adjoining lands.

USFS would also like to discuss mule deer habitat and forests in the context of resiliency in the face of many types of changes and dynamic processes.

First PVHP Plan: BLM - predominantly transition range.

BLM will contribute information regarding past, present and planned treatments that also meet mule deer habitat objectives. USFS will make these contributions in map form, showing acres, and provide descriptions for the plan.

Types of treatments: mechanical, spike, burn, fence conversions, Plateau treatments, riparian management, aspen regeneration, conifer encroachment, noxious weeds.

In the future, BLM may want to consult with PVHP on:

- BLM will be assessing the watershed area in the lower and upper Platte Valley, including from a mule deer habitat perspective, over the next few years.
- Travel management (seasonal access).
- As part of this assessment BLM will continue to evaluate juniper treatments in riparian areas primarily on BLM lands. For the first plan, no juniper treatments will be included on BLM lands. BLM may work with private landowners to explore treatment methods that benefit mule deer.
- The discussion and learning needs to continue around effective habitat improvements and the associated required treatments to benefit mule deer.

For both agencies:

Include language that addresses the importance of treatments that are compatible with sage grouse considerations. USFS and BLM can use help from WGFD in archeological surveys for proposed treatment sites.

Ensure overlap with WGFD winter and transition range zones.