

FY99 EQIP Proposal

Project Name: PARKER MOUNTAIN RESOURCE AREA

First Year of Project: 1999 Last Year of Project: 2002

Name of Contact Person: Vane O. Campbell

Address: 340 North 600 East

Richfield, Ut. 84701

Telephone: (435)896-6441 ext 37 Fax: (435) 896 9339

E-mail address: vcampbel@utrich.utrichfiel.fsc.usda.gov

Type of proposal: 1

1. local -- one particular geographic area (small watershed)
2. state -- focus on a particular natural resource concern over large expanse (statewide grazing)

Executive Summary

The Parker Mountain Resource Area (PRA) is located in south central Utah in Garfield, Piute, and Wayne counties. The resource area encompasses the Awapa Plateau and the northern portion of the Aquarius Plateau. There is approximately 259,881 acres in the PRA and is managed by the Forest Service, BLM, and private land owners. The predominant land use is grazing and some logging at the higher elevations.

Sage grouse population are declining in the western states and becoming a concern. The Parker Mt. has the largest population in the state but studies indicate this area also has a declining population. From surveys conducted in 1935-1936 populations were estimated at 5200-9200 birds to estimates in 1997 of 966 birds.

The Parker Mt. Adaptive Resource Management Plan is a public and private partnership formed to implement and adaptive resource management approach to address stakeholders concerns and work toward the goal of providing multiple benefits for all resource users and wildlife inhabiting the area.

Natural Resource Concerns and Goals

Concern 1 --Animals - Population Health- Loss of Diversity / Declining Species / Population imbalance.

Goal 1 -- Define the contemporary habitat use of sage grouse on PRA

We will identify areas used most readily for strutting grounds, nest site selection, and brood use areas. By evaluation of these locations and their associated cover types and vegetation composition we can determine critical sage grouse habitat requirements. with this information we can then implement habitat improvements in the most critical areas. (Resource concerns 1,2,3,4,5)

Concern 2 --Plants - Grazing Lands Health Loss of plant Diversity / Declining Species

Goal 2 -- Evaluate the effects of previous management efforts on sage grouse habitat. We will determine what components are present in these areas and that are lacking in the untreated sites to focus resources in the right place. (Resource concerns 1,2,3,4,5)

Concern 3 --Soils- Soil Quality - Excessive sheet/ rill erosion.

Goal 3 -- Implement and evaluate management actions. PARM will focus resources on those areas that show the most promise for having significant benefits to the recovery of sage grouse and enhance agricultural production. (Resource concerns 1,2,3,4,5)

Concern 4 -- Water - Surface Water Quality - Sedimentation.

Goal 4 -- Assist in protecting the water sources from trampling; to reduce sedimentation in the impoundment basins thus improving water quality and permanence. To create vegetation buffer zones which may have enhanced the water holding capacity of these areas.

Concern 5-- Plants - Grazing Lands Health - Excessive erosion.

Goal 5 -- PARM will initially concentrate on identifying and implementing management actions that result in improving habitat quality for sage grouse and range condition. The factors that affect these conditions include the lack of grasses and forbs, along with increased soil degradation and erosion.

Project Outcomes

Top 5 Proposal Outcomes:

- 1. HUMAN WELL BEING-Protection of Property-Reduction in soil erosion/sedimentation/soil movement.**
- 2. HUMAN WELL BEING-Personal Opportunity-Improve assistance to limited-resource or underserved customers.**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION-Natural Enviroment-Improvement of riparian or wetland habitat.**
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION-Natural Enviroment-Increased or sustained diversity of the landscape/plants/animals.**
- 5. SUSTAINABILITY-Economic Opportunity-Increased local capacity to address natural resource/rural/economic development.**

Conservation Practices

1. Water developments	10 ea.
2. Fence	5 mi.
3. Brush management	10,000 ac.
4. Range seeding	10,000 ac.
5. Prescribed grazing	259,881 ac.

Total Proposal Acres to be Treated = 519,762

Acres Requiring Treatment by Land Type and Landowner Matrix A

Land Type	Non-Federal	Federal	Tribal
Total	47,640	212,241	
Cultivated Cropland		0	
Noncultivated Cropland		0	
Forest Land	9528	159,181	
Partureland		0	
Rangeland	38,112	38,112	
Urban Land		0	
Other Nonurban Land		0	

Partnership Participation

TA Matrix B

Partner	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
USDA agencies							
NRCS			6,000	6,000	6,000		
ES			15,000	15,000	15,000		
FSA			6,000	6,000	6,000		
FS			40,000	40,000	40,000		
USDA Wildlife			3,000	3,000	3,000		
non USDA agency							
BLM			40,000	40,000	40,000		
USF&WS			3,000	3,000	3,000		
Utah gvynt.							
DWR			90,000	90,000	90,000		
State Lands			75,000	75,000	75,000		
USU			23,800	23,800	23,800		
PMGA			3,000	3,000	3,000		
Fremont SCD			1,000	1,000	1,000		
Wayne Co.			1,000	1,000	1,000		

Location -- include a page size copy of the hydrologic map outlining the geographic priority area

1. county name(s): Piute, Wayne, and Garfield

2. hydrologic unit number(s): 14070003; 020, 030

3. congressional district(s): 03

Partnership Participation

FA Matrix B

Partner	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
USDA agencies							
NRCS							
ES			13,000	13,000	13,000		
FSA			100,000	100,000	100,000		
FS			10,000	10,000	10,000		
non USDA agency							
USF & WS			12,000	12,000	12,000		
BLM			8,000	8,000	8,000		
UT GOV'T							
DWR			30,000	30,000	30,000		
URMCC			2,000	2,000	2,000		
MLF			1,000	1,000	1,000		
ST. Lands			25,000	25,000	25,000		

Landuser Participation

**Landuser Participation and Civil Rights Impacts
Matrix C**

	Total Customers		Total Expected Participants	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
By Race and Ethnic Group				
Black (and not of Hispanic Origin)				
White (and not of Hispanic Origin)	50	52	50	52
Asian/Pacific Islander (and not of Hispanic Origin)				
American Indian/Alaskan Native (and not of Hispanic Origin)				
Other (and not of Hispanic Origin)				
By Ethnic Group				
Hispanic Origin (and any race)				
Total	50	52	50	52

Local Steering Group Information

**Steering Group Membership Information
Matrix D**

Group Planning Efforts		Value of Donated Group Time to Organize and Request Assistance	
Action Plan or Assessment	Number		
Conservation Needs Assessments		Number of meetings and work sessions	4
Areawide Conservation Plans	1	Average number of people attending meetings and work sessions	15

Steering Group Makeup		Number of People in Steering Group		
Group Members	Number	By Race and Ethnic Group	Male	Female
Federal Agency	7	Black (and not of Hispanic origin)		
State Agency	5	White (and not of Hispanic origin)	26	5
Local Agency	4	Asian/Pacific Islander (and not of Hispanic origin)		
Tribal Government	0	American Indian/Alaskan Native (and not of Hispanic origin)		
Academia	3	Other (and not of Hispanic origin)		

Organizations	6	Of Hispanic origin (and any race)		
Landowners	15	Total	26	5

EQIP Information

Percent of project allocated to livestock concerns: 100 %

EQIP Funding by Type and by Fiscal Year

Matrix E

Fund Type \$	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Educational Assistance (EA)							
Financial Assistance (FA)		42,563	100,000	100,000	100,000		
Technical Assistance (TA)		9,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		

Other information required to address ranking criteria

Monitoring Plan --

PARM partners propose to implement a 3 year population and habitat monitoring program to determine the possible reasons for declining sage grouse population on the PRA and evaluate the effects of experimental management actions on the sage grouse habitat use and populations. A full-time technician will be hired to implement the initial population and habitat monitoring phase of the project. This individual will conduct scientific evaluations and immediately disseminate and interpret the results for PARM to use in making decision. This person would be under the immediate supervision of the Fisheries and wildlife Extension specialist at Utah State University. The initial focus of this persons work will be to asses PRA sage grouse movements, habitat use, and mortality factors. In addition we propose to hire a part-time range technician to monitor range condition and trends on the PRA. This technician will be supervised by Utah State University the Wayne County Extension Office.

Outcomes

Soils -- There is approximately 259,881 ac. of forestland and rangeland. The predominant range sites are upland stony loam. (Wyo. sage), upland shallow stony loam (Wyo. sage), High Mt. loam (aspen). In the small canyons and gullies, on the deep soils, the range site is Mt. Loam (basin big sage). Based on the PSIAC sedimentation model this area is in the moderate 2.25 t/ac. to high 7.5 t/ac. for yielding sediment. The mountain loam sites are the highest 2.5 to 3 t/ac. These sites are basically big sage with no grass understory, some annual fobs. Gullies are forming, and head cutting. Practices will be aimed at increasing plant diversity, improving range health, and reducing soil erosion. It is estimated that soil erosion can be reduced to the low .45 t/ac. to moderate 1.5 t/ac.

Water -- This priority area is located on the Awapa Plateau. It consists of small canyons, rolling hills, and alluvial fans. Intense convective thunder showers occurring during the summer can produce flash floods that flow into the Fremont River. There are numerous small reservoirs and ponds in the area for livestock and wildlife. These ponds trap some of the sediment that is produced by these storms before it reaches the river. Water levels fluctuate during the year in these ponds which means that there is open area between the water and vegetative cover for the sage grouse. This gives predators a opportunity to kill the sage grouse. Livestock water from these ponds and can have an impact on the water quality. With the implementation of this plan we propose to develop more livestock and wildlife water, fence part of the ponds to increase vegetative cover down to the water's edge, revegetate the alluvial fans to a functioning state, increase infiltration, and reduce sediments reaching the river.

Human -- If the sage grouse are listed as a T&E species it could have dramatic consequences for the western states. The agricultural industry in the west would be especially hard hit. Governmental regulations would severely restrict the agricultural industry and many would possibly be forced out of business. The PARM will focus resources on those areas that show the most promise for having significant benefits to the recovery of sage grouse and enhance agricultural production.

Educational and information will come from USU, DWR, and the Extension Service. They will inform the steering committee and the general public as to how the project is going and what practices are having the most benefits to the sage grouse and livestock.

All of the stake holders were notified and attended a public meeting. They were informed of the project and what it will try to accomplish. There was a 100% favorable acceptance of the project.

Plants -- Range health on the PARM is fair over most of the area. The mountain loam sites which are located in the small valleys and drainages are in poor condition. Species composition is big sage and little to no understory. Raw gullies and head cuts are forming. Species composition on the upland range sites are mainly blue grama and black sage. Productivity is low. The priority area plan is to improve range health by improving species composition of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that will benefit wildlife and livestock, and wild ungulates. Improve grazing distribution with water developments that will benefit wildlife and livestock. Brush management and reseeding of the deep loam sites will reduce sedimentation, and improve water quality.

Improved range health and species composition will decrease the possibilities of noxious weeds gaining a foothold on the PARM. Working with the other agencies we will attempt to eliminate any existing infestations we find.

Animals -- Sage grouse have been proposed for listing on the Threatened and Endangered species. The PARM will focus resources on those areas that show the most promise for having significant benefits to the recovery of sage grouse and enhancement of agricultural production. Management strategies implemented to benefit Utah prairie dogs have been identified in the Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Plan. Site-specific habitat improvement recommendations for sage grouse will be coordinated with the PARM partners and the Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Team to ensure the actions are compatible with prairie dog recovery efforts.

Habitat improvements on the Parker Mountain Resource will be implemented to restore sage grouse, improve range conditions for livestock, and wildlife and assist in the recovery of Utah prairie dogs. PARM will allow project partners to gain more knowledge about how sage grouse use habitats relative to changing environmental conditions. PARM will reduce the uncertainty regarding the impacts of any management actions on sage grouse or other wildlife populations and ultimately result in improved over-all management of the Parker Mountain Resource Area.