From: "Jim Lamb" <jimlamb@utah.gov>
To: Renee_Chi@fws.gov
Subject: Re: Parker Mtn Knolls water pump storage project...mitigation ideas?
Date: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 2:50:36 PM

Howdy Young Lady,

Everything here is still running away with itself, but that is normal and OK. Stetsyn is three and thinks she should be in charge of everyone! How about your world outside work?

I have been getting some emails about the Parker hydro project here and there. I think a mix of a couple things would work well for some mitigation. One thing I have wondered for years is where does Grass Valley fit into the picture between the Parker birds and the Monroe birds? We have two leks in Grass Valley, one showed up after the Dixie Harrow project north of the Narrows. We have done quite a bit (tons actually) of Sage-grouse work on the Parker and the USFS did some collar work on the Monroe Sage-grouse. But, We have never looked at the Grass Valley birds to see if there is a connection between these two populations. What about some money for Collars and a student to look for that connection, or possible connection? With a little knowledge maybe we could push the grazing schemes (via the BLM)in Grass Valley to further benefit grouse in that valley.

Along with that we could design some habitat work to move p/j further up-slope in Grass Valley and do the treatment carefully to preserve the sagebrush that is already there.

What do you think of those ideas? I will think on it some more also.

Keep smiling, Jim

>>> <Renee_Chi@fws.gov> 10/4/2011 12:24 PM >>>

Hello Jim,

How are you? Hope all is well with you.

Do you recall the Parker Mountain hydro pump storage project that is proposed on the edge of the plateau? Well, they are in the planning process and want to know if there are any pro-active things they could do for sage-grouse. Of course, this is keeping in mind that their project will likely have minimal impacts on sage-grouse...other than the driving of construction equipment up to the reservoir location. The only other concern is weeds. Anyway, this is our opportunity to get them to do some proactive stuff. It could be purchasing land, restoration activities, etc.

Terry had proposed having them help study wintering habits of sage-grouse by pitching in money to collars and fund a graduate student up there. But, that is probably not "ideal" mitigation because wintering habitat has nothing to do with the area this project will be impacting (unless we look at sage-grouse use in Grass Valley).

Ideally, since a lot of research has already been done for the plateau, research may not be focus for potential mitigation. Are you aware of any properties that could be purchased, or conservation easements could be established that would be good for sage-grouse (on parker or in grass valley)?

Thanks,
Renee

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