

**Minutes of Targeted Grazing Committee
February 7, 2010
Denver, CO**

In Attendance	
John Walker – Chair	Craig Madsen
Rachel Frost – Chair elect	Whit Stewart
Rick Orr – Board Representative	Bob Welling
Andres Cibilis	Dave Bradford
Lovina Roselle	John Hendrickson
Karen Launchbaugh	Mike Ralphs
Ray Holes	Chan Glidwell
Mark Rude	

Discussed need for certification of Targeted Grazing Contractors. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have expressed a need for a list of certified providers. Mike Ralphs reported that the CPRM committee could help with certification and that SRM had the mechanisms in place to assist with tracking and keeping up with CEU. The normal route to certification is to first certify as CPRM and then get further certification for Targeted Grazing. Craig Madsen a contract grazer from Washington said that there have been problems with unqualified providers getting contracts and then doing a poor job.

David Bradford expressed the opinion that it was a lack of understanding about targeted grazing and the belief by many on the ground agency land managers that targeted grazing was simply a way to get access to forage resources. He stressed the need for education so that land managers would understand that it is not about livestock production but rather about vegetation management. This led to a discussion for the need to develop an issue paper for Rangeland Ecology and Management on targeted grazing. The consensus was that the committee should pursue that and John Walker volunteered to take the lead in organizing this effort.

The need to develop more educational materials to include success stories, NEPA documentation, etc. Concern was expressed about getting more going than the committee could take care of. It was argued that this was a separate non-overlapping project to developing an issues paper and could be pursued independently of the issues paper. This was agreed upon but no one volunteered to take leadership. So we need a person to volunteer to provide leadership for this activity.

Members present agreed that terms for Chair and Chair-elect should be 2 yr instead of the current 1 yr. John Walker will remain chair for 2010, Rachel Frost will be chair 2011 – 2012 and Karen Launchbaugh volunteered to be Chair-elect in 2011. The committee handbook will be revised to reflect this change and submitted to Rick Orr.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM

The following are committee activities that occurred outside the regularly scheduled meeting.

Rick Orr suggested that we send a letter to SRM board requesting that targeted grazing be included in the agenda for SRM meetings with agency heads this spring. I (John Walker) will send this letter. Rick and I discussed the need to include individuals that were not engaged in targeted grazing as currently defined but were interested in promoting good grazing management into the targeted grazing committee. Later Rick was contacted by people that were interested in participating in our committee. I will pole the committee members to determine the support for expanding the scope of this committee.

Rachel Frost and I met with Janette Kaiser about opportunities to promote and seek support for targeted grazing. Janette thought given Secretary Vilask's priorities there were opportunities to get greater recognition and support for targeted grazing. Targeted Grazing fits several priorities of the secretary including:

- Increasing rural wealth through developing new markets. This includes not only the potential for targeted grazing contracts but also opportunities for locally produced foods associated with targeted grazing.
- New programs should include all of USDA
- Sustain and restore ecosystems and clean water

I committed to writing a 1-page white paper for Janette that she could use to start a conversation on targeted grazing with other agencies.

Symposium: Targeted Grazing: Applying Research to the Ground

This symposium was held on Thursday to a full house. There was great interest and questions following each presentation had to be stopped to stay on time. The panel discussion following formal presentations lasted a full 2-hr and never went in want of questions. Narrated presentations of all talks were recorded and will be posted on our website. Ten people signed up to join our committee at this symposium raising the total number of committee members to 55.