

2015 Forage and Range Research Tour June 2-4, 2015

Forage and Range Research Laboratory (FRRL) scientists Drs. Kevin Jensen, Thomas Jones, Douglas Johnson, and Jack Staub lead scientists from the BLM, USFS, Utah DNR, Dugway Proving Grounds, and a seed company on a field tour of FRRL research sites in various parts of the Great Basin. These include sites at Curlew Valley near Snowville, White Rocks, Tintic, and Nephi Utah. The group later returned to Cache Valley for a tour of research plots, seed increase fields, and seed cleaning facilities. At sites in the west desert, plant materials and their development were discussed in the back drop of problems associated with their establishment and persistence under harsh growing conditions. Dr. Jones described how the FRRL conducts classical breeding efforts to improve drought, heat, and salt tolerance of grasses, legumes, and forbs for increased growth abiotic stress environment. Dr. Jensen provided insights into management practices for the establishment of plant materials in harsh environments and Dr. Johnson lead discussions on the merits and shortcomings of the development and establishment of native legumes and forbs in harsh growing environments. Drs. Blair Waldron and Mike Peel provided an overview of their rangeland and pasture research at Evans Farm in the Cache Valley.



Dr. Kevin Jensen leads a discussion of the merits of different improved FRRL plant materials for restoration of harsh western desert sites at White Rocks, UT.



Dr. Thomas Jones provides an overview of native and non-native plant materials and their ability to compete with invasive weeds at long term research plots (~20 years) in Curlew Valley (near Snowville, UT).



Dr. Douglas Johnson provides information regarding a seed increase of a native legume at North Park that will be available to the public for rangeland restoration and to improve ecological services on rangelands.



Dr. Mike Peel discusses the positive attributes of an improved native legume at Evans Farm for use in pastures.

Forage and Range Research Tour 2015

Tuesday, June 2

10:30 Rendezvous at the Snowville, UT truck stop off I-84 (Flying J)
10:45-11:45 Stop 1 Curlew National Grassland (10" AAP)
12:00-12:30 Grab lunch to go at Snowville truck stop
1:30 Drop off vehicles at Pleasant View along I-15
3:00 Refuel in Tooele
3:30-5:00 Stop 2 White Rocks (8" AAP)
6:00-7:00 Stop 3 Tintic (14")
8:00 Arrive at Nephi hotel; proceed to restaurant

Wednesday, June 3

8:00 Eat breakfast at hotel
8:30-11:00 Stop 4 Nephi (14")
11:00-11:30 Grab lunch to go at Nephi; refuel
1:30 Pick up vehicles at Pleasant View; head toward Logan
2:30-4:00 Stop 5 North Park (17.5")
4:15-5:00 Stop 6 Forage Compound (seed cleaning plant and cold storage)
5:30 Arrive at hotel

Thursday, June 4

8:15 Pick-up at hotel (after breakfast)
8:30-10:30 Stop 7 Evans (17.5")
10:45-12:15 Stop 8 Millville (17.5")
12:15 End of formal tour; depart from Millville or return to USU campus/lunch

Participants:

Jessica Delph (botanist; Dugway Proving Grounds, UT) and colleague
Francis Kilkenny (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station/Shrub Lab; Boise, ID)
John Proctor (USFS Region 4 botanist; Ogden, UT)
July Hilty (fire rehabilitation; BLM/Twin Falls district)
Scott Uhrig (fire rehabilitation; BLM/Twin Falls district)
Tom Warren (fire rehabilitation; BLM/Elko district)
Paul Herrman (L&H Seeds; Connell, WA)
Damon Winter (L&H Seeds; Connell, WA)
Kevin Gunnell (Nephi only) (vegetation monitoring; Utah Div. Wildlife Resources; Ephraim, UT)

Forage and Range Research Laboratory Guides

Jack Staub, Research Leader
Kevin Jensen, Research Geneticist
Tom Jones, Research Geneticist
Doug Johnson, Research Plant Physiologist