Taft Ranch
The Taft’s settled this land in the 1880’s

Original Patent

The South half of the North west quarter of Section 12 Township 29
South Range 3 East of Salt Lake Meridian in Utah Territory, containing
80 acres according to the official Plat.
What else was going on during the 1880’s

• President of the United States was Benjamin Harrison
• Statue of Liberty arrived
• Mark Twain's *Huck Finn* was Published
• Edison lit New York
• 20 Years after Kit Carson’s campaign against the Navajos
• The Shootout at the O.K. Corral
• My Grandpa Mitt Taft in front of the Jubilee Cabin on the Boulder Mountain
5th, 6th and 7th Generations on the Taft Ranch
Town of Bicknell in the 1980’s.
It is basically the same size now as it was when my dad graduated from high school in 1942
• Wayne County is 97% Public Land, 3% Privately owned
• Our #1 economic driver is agriculture, which is predominately cattle and sheep ranching
• The health of our local ranches is dependent on public land grazing
My interest in sage hens was triggered by the growing concern of declining bird numbers.
I learned from my experience with logging and the spotted owl that I needed to be involved.

There were no spotted owls in our area, however, our local mills were shut down.

Thirty years later, it was determined competition with another owl species caused the decline in spotted owls.

Action taken to save the owl was based on faulty science; it created serious consequences for community and resource.
Utah State suggested a collaborative group to study sage hen populations.

Hence the birth of PARM

Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management

Renee Chi and Terry Messmer From Utah State University
Our PARM working group is alive and working well.

PARM Partners

- Parker Mountain Grazing Association
- State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Environmental Defense
- National Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Ducks Unlimited
- Farm Service Agency
- Wayne County Commission
- Puite County Commission
- Garfield County Commission
- The Wildlife Society
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Utah Sportsmen - Dedicated Hunters
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Private Lands Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Ecological Services
- Utah Farm Bureau Federation
- Utah Cattlemens' Association
- Utah State University Extension
- Utah State University College of Natural Resources, Department of Wildland Resources
- Jack H. Berryman Institute
- S. J. Quinney Foundation
- North American Grouse Partnership
- Utah Chukar Foundation
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services
- U.S. Geological Survey
Weathering the Storm
What PARM has accomplished:

• Created an organization where partners could come together, discuss, build trust and friendships. We’ve brought people together in an amazing way. We’ve dealt with the two challenges: resource challenges and people challenges.

• Secured funding, from the $3,000.00 furnished by Parker Mountain Grazers to $2 million which has been used to fund graduate students to study the birds, fix ponds, put markers on fence lines, do vegetative treatments on the land and publish research.

• We’ve established population trends over the years. We’ve studied the birds to get baseline data and created strategies to help the birds.

• We’ve taken a declining population, seen it level out and become a increasing population. We are comfortable enough with our results that birds are still hunted. They are captured from Parker Mt. and are transplanted to other areas of our state.
My sheep have been used to manipulate the range, to enhance lek sites and improve brooding habitat.

Sheep numbers and sage hen numbers have decreased in the west in the past decades. Is there a correlation?
Going Forward:

• Because Parker Mountain is unique, it needs to be dealt with on a local basis instead of with broad regulation.

• Nearly 20 years of study and $2 million of research suggests that our efforts have been successful. I feel PARM is not only a success but a model for future challenges on the landscape.

• If we can focus on the data and resource knowing that each area is different and should be handled differently, we could customize a recovery plan for each area. The birds will tell us what they need.

• Vital is the need for flexibility based on site specific science to create a management plan that will best benefit the bird, the landscape and our community.

• It is my hope that our diligent effort has created a level of trust sufficient to delegate the stewardship of local ranges to those of us who live on the landscape, understand, depend on and love them.
Kit Carson was commissioned by the US Government to subdue the Navajo Indians.

His inability to remove the Indians from their home led to a more brutal tactic.

He removed their sheep, burned their peach trees and corn.

These native American refugees, with no means to sustain themselves simply walked out of the sandstone canyons and were driven to the reservations.

It was wrong then and would be wrong today.