



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Gunnison Basin HPP Committee

300 W. New York Ave, Gunnison CO 81230

April 25th, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Gunnison Basin HPP Members Present: Paul Mowery, Livestock Grower; Navid Navidi, Sportsman; Steve Guerrieri, Livestock Grower; Nick Gallowich, CPW; Kathy Brodhead, BLM

Guests: J Wenum, CPW; Pat Tucker, CPW; Nate Seward, CPW; Kevin Blecha, CPW

Introductions, Budget, & Old Business:

1. Committee members were introduced. Katie Richman reviewed the budget, and gave an update on current projects. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$75,693.25.

New Business:

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

1. Kathy Brodhead informed the committee that a potential snow fence project with David Brown was being tabled, as the application was not ready yet. The fence line is located on private land, and the snow fences that help keep water on the landscape are in severe disrepair. The project will be proposed to the committee in the future.
2. Kathy presented a BLM project proposal for seeding on Sapinero Mesa. Cheatgrass is present in the area and is quickly spreading, reducing the available forage for big game as it outcompetes native vegetation. The BLM will be spraying the area with herbicide and following the treatment with seeding of native species. The committee discussed whether weed control in this area is an effective, proactive treatment to prevent further spread, and noted that increasing recreation impacts in the area could be responsible for increasing

spread of weeds. The committee approved \$26,000 for purchase of seed.

3. The committee reviewed a proposal from David Nelson for a seeding and shrub planting project. The area is located in big game winter range, and the serviceberry and bitterbrush has been degraded from overgrazing by both livestock and big game. The proposal is a pilot project for future landscape habitat treatments to rejuvenate forage grasses and brush in the area. The committee noted concerns about the project's proximity to Hwy 50; however they felt that as a model for future habitat work, the location should match potential future treatment sites. The project was approved for \$1,000.

Roundtable:

1. Pat Tucker gave a review of the CPW Financial Sustainability bill, and informed the committee that the State Council meeting in April will result in an expansion of the type of projects that HPP committees may consider. There will be a statewide videoconference on May 31st to discuss these changes, which will be implemented on July 1st.
2. The committee discussed the upcoming Signal Mountain trail expansion. The BLM is currently doing the EA for trail development, and will invite HPP to comment on the proposal during the 30-day comment period. Increasing trail access and recreation in the area will certainly impact big game distribution, and so the committee will look forward to commenting on the plan.
3. The Statewide HPP Meeting will be held in Grand Junction on December 5th – 7th, and suggestions for topics are encouraged.

Next Meeting: April 28th, 2017 – BLM Signal Peak draft letter working meeting (no project proposals)