



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
USFS Sulphur Ranger Station in Granby, CO
December 13, 2017
1:00 pm

Introductions: **Members present:** Doreen Sumerlin/USFS, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, Doug Bruchez/Livestock Grower, AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Barry Smith/Sportsperson, John Mack/NPS (via phone) and Samantha Sorensen/Admin.

Guests present: Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, DWM Rachel Sralla, DWM Gene Abrams, DWM Jeremy Huntington, Ben Gallowich/CPW, Jon Morrissey/USFS, Shawn Farrell and Tish Linke.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$78,623.85.

Old Business: Minutes: Minutes from September 13th and November 30th were presented and approved as written.

Update on Muddy Spring Development: Doreen gave a presentation to the group that included before and after photos. She explained that the area was an entrapment hazard and had been repaired numerous times over the years. Water had been seeping into the dam and road below. Now water is pumping 2-3 gallons/minute into the tank. They used an all-purpose rangeland seed to replant the area.

FY18 Wilderness Weeds Report: Doreen gave a final report on the backcountry weed spraying. She presented treatment sites and results; explained that as treatment sites are removed from the list others are added to it.

New Business: Wilderness Weeds FY19: Doreen asked the committee for the same amount of funding as last year. They will be adding S. Skylark Creek and South Fork loop trail to the list of treatment sites. Lyle will be asking \$7k from RMEF. Work to begin in August and asking Cade to do the spraying again; he uses GPS so he can map as he sprays. Cade provides incredible reporting. The committee approved \$7,000.00 for the project out of FY19 funds.

Conway Farrell Tire Tank: Shawn Farrell would like to install another 12' tire tank. Total project cost projected at \$5,673, asking HPP for \$3,933 in materials. She plans to put in a culvert along

with an in holding tank. Lyle let the group know that DWM Jeff Behncke supports the project from a wildlife standpoint. Shawn estimates that they will provide 3 guys for 8 hours of labor each. Doreen pointed out that tire tanks are required to have escape ramps. Dave requested post project photos. The committee approved \$4,000.00 for the project.

Linke Ranch Forage Loss: Jeromy and Tish presented their proposal to the committee. Jeromy began by explaining that the challenge in the area is that 300 head of elk used to congregate where there are now homes. Elk have moved onto the ranch and he spends a significant amount of time hazing them. Jeromy put up exclosures; elk are hitting hardest in late May through June at first green up. The Linkes are seeking a reimbursement for 27 tons of hay in the amount of \$4050. Jeromy pointed out that a habitat improvement project on the neighboring BLM could alleviate some pressure from the elk. Lyle suggested working with RC on a future project. Doug theorized that the beetle kill is making it difficult for elk. Jon indicated that timber work on the FS will be done soon and scheduled burns may improve habitat for the elk also. The committee approved \$4,050.00 for the project.

Fence Vouchers/Approved Materials: Samantha provided committee members with a list of landowners who redeemed vouchers last fiscal year. The committee approved \$22,000.00 and decided to add fence stays to the list of approved materials.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Pronghorn DAU Comment Letter: Tabled

Select 2018 Meeting Dates: March 14th in RMNP, June 13th at the CPW office in Hot Sulphur Springs, September 12th at the BLM in Kremmling and December 5th at the Ranger Station in Granby.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Pronghorn DAU Comment Letter. Barry is up in the air about how much longer he'll be on the committee; suggested that Sportsmen Rep. be added to the March agenda.

Roundtable: Dave spoke about the wolf meeting in Steamboat Springs. He also mentioned that Dave Moreno with Wildlife Services mentioned that Pat Tucker/HPP is not fond of funding their services. Pat explained that he might have been implying that Wildlife Services didn't fall within the scope of HPP prior to the expansion. Pat thinks it's a good discussion for the State Council to have in April. Pat Tucker thanked everyone who was able to attend the Bi-Annual Conference and gave a quick summary; pointed out that slideshows from the conference will be available on the HPP website very soon. Lyle let everyone know that Kirk Oldham's collaring data led to a regulation change for PLO licenses; not doing away with HPP distribution hunts. Chuck asked after the CDOT signage request and Lyle said a letter was sent in but no response yet.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:12pm.