



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 16th, 2017

CPW Hunter Education Building, Canon City

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Paul Crespín, USFS
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Dave Gilbert, BLM
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Arlie Riggs, Livestock Grower
- Dwaine Robey, Sportsman
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Patty Knupp (NRCS), Zach Holder (CPW DWM), Justin Krall (CPW DWM), John Lamman (BLM Grazing Management Specialist), Charles Rorick (Landowner), Paul Coe (Sportsman)

Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:00 AM

Introductions

General Public Comments

Mike Trujillo gave an update on CPW predator management study. They have started collaring mountain lions in the area to track movements and behaviors as part of the study. Deer are also being collared to track movements and mortality rates. For now, contractors will be fulfilling the lion harvest quota north of highway 50. A formal lawsuit has been filed against CPW regarding the predator management study. A judge is reviewing that data, so there is no more information on the lawsuit as of right now.

Budget Report

Reviewed

Old Business

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

A load of tire tanks has been delivered to the Pueblo Fish Hatchery to be used for Sangre de Cristo HPP landowners.

New Business

Update on License Fee Increase Discussion-Mike Trujillo

There have been no license fee increases yet, but CPW has held public meetings and discussions involving the possibility of a license fee increase to cover the rising cost of operations. The topic has made the Governor's agenda for legislation this year. CPW is still in the process of finding a sponsor for the bill. License fees have not been increased since 2005. Part of the discussion is whether or not the bill should include a change to the process of adjusting license fees. Currently this can only be done through legislation, but it may be more beneficial to allow the wildlife commission to make the decision to increase or decrease a license fee. The decision on whether or not to increase fees and how much to increase them will be up to the legislature, not CPW.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Rorick Ranch Well Project

The landowner is asking HPP for \$1,750 to pay for materials needed for a water development. The Grazing Advisory Board and BLM will each match \$1,750 for the project. The landowner will contribute \$7,000 for drilling and 28 hours to install the pump and tank. The landowner is concerned about low pressure on the water system, so only one drinking source will be installed (one tank) for now. They hope to have the water source operational year round, depending on temperatures. The area is very dry and there is a lack of water sources for wildlife and livestock. Westcliffe has an urban deer issue and adding a water source to the area will help keep deer on public lands and out of the city. The committee does not pay for dry holes, so the landowner will only be reimbursed if it is a successful well. The landowner has agreed to this condition.

The committee approved this project for a reimbursement to the landowner up to \$1,750.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

NRCS Positions on HPP committees

Based on HPP statute, there is not an official NRCS position on HPP committees as the agency does not own any public lands. Rich Rhoades was the former NRCS representative on the HPP committee, but now that he has retired there is no need to fill his spot. The committee would like to have Patty Knupp attend meetings as an advisory position on the committee. Patty will not be a voting member, but her input is very valuable to the committee and it is very helpful to have her at meetings to give feedback on HPP projects.

Paul Crespin updated the committee on the USFS. The Junkins fire is still active and will continue to be active unless there is a big snow. USFS has settled a lawsuit regarding travel management decisions. As part of the settlement, 700 miles of forest roads in big game winter range will be closed seasonally between December 15th-March 14th. 3 roads have been closed already with CPW recommendations. They will be working on a 5 year EIS to establish a road system/travel management plan.

Terry Everhart thanked the committee for the hydro axe project on his ranch. It has been completed and he would like to show the completed project to the committee members this spring/summer.

Patty Knupp informed the committee that the deadline for EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) applications is February 17th. The NRCS is on a federal hiring freeze, but they have been cleared to hire some summer interns. Anyone who would like to apply for the internship can contact Patty for more information. They are trying to hire 20 interns across the state to start in May and June. Official announcements will be made in March and applications can be found on USAJobs.gov. Patty is also working on the Black Footed Ferret effort with NRCS, CPW, and USFWS. They have designated 4 ferret release sites, but unfortunately the plague has taken out 3 of the 4 release sites.

Justin Krall let the committee know that they have collared some urban deer to study their movements and try to determine better ways to keep them out of the city.

Zach Holder suggested that the committee take a field tour at the next meeting to look at the completed projects on Draper Ranch and Everhart Ranch. Zach will talk with the landowners to try to get a tour set up at the next SDCHPP meeting.

Mike Trujillo told the committee that they have secured \$328,000 to use on the Bosque Del Oso State Wildlife Area. The project will involve thinning 800 acres to improve wildlife habitat.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 28th at 9:00 AM at the Wetmore Community Center with a project tour to follow, weather permitting.

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