



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Uncompahgre HPP Committee

2300 S. Townsend, Montrose

February 16th, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Uncompahgre HPP Members Present: Mike Surber, USFS; Kelly Crane, CPW; Bobby Gray, Sportsman; Todd Stewart, Ag Producer; Dave Andrews, Ag Producer; Bob Black, Ag Producer

Guests: Pat Tucker, CPW; Steve Woodis, NRCS

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The current remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$11,101.09.

Old Business:

1. At the previous meeting Dean Stindt presented a seeding proposal on Tom Flynn's property in Mailbox Park, and the committee had specific concerns about aerial seeding in the area with adjacent BLM lands. Mr. Stindt has been trying to redesign the project to utilize ATV broadcasting instead of aerial seeding; however the landscape and the height of the sagebrush in the area make this extremely difficult. Instead, Mr. Stindt is trying to incorporate aerial seeding with a significant buffer zone between the private and BLM lands to reduce the risk of accidental seeding on BLM.

New Business:

1. Pat Tucker reviewed how committees should be handling proposals when the project area falls into Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. When projects are within CPW mapped habitat but not in USFWS mapped habitat, there is simply an internal approval process; however when

projects are in federally mapped habitat, HPP must have USFWS approval before proceeding with the project. In regards to fence repair projects, incorporating high visibility wire is required to obtain USFWS approval. The committee discussed whether high visibility wire should be required for any fence project to not only mitigate but help prevent future damage from big game. The committee sometimes maintains a stockpile of high visibility wire to give to fence project applicants; however no wire was purchased this year. Pat will purchase \$5,000.00 of high visibility wire for the committee to have a stockpile in FY18, and later in the meeting the committee approved the remaining \$1,881.09 of FY17 budget for additional wire purchase.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews:

2. Steve Woodis presented a hydroax and seed project for Dustin Mullins. The project area is located in winter and transitional range for deer and elk. Currently much of the area is dominated by oakbrush and pinyon juniper, which reduces the ability of the area to provide forage for big game. The project calls for 130 acres to be thinned with a hydroax, followed by seeding of 110 of the treated acres. This will open the canopy and give forage species the opportunity to establish in the area, increasing available food sources for big game. The project was approved for \$8,220.00.

3. The committee reviewed a fence repair proposal from Mark Templeton. The area is located in winter range and experiences significant elk use. The committee noted that it was unclear whether the property was within CPW mapped sage grouse habitat, but that high visibility white wire would be required regardless. The project was approved for \$1,000.00 pending Gunnison Sage Grouse review.

4. The committee reviewed fertilizer applications. The budget for fertilizer projects was \$32,400.00. There were 18 applicants with a total of 3,791 acres, and the price per acre was \$8.54. The committee approved this amount.

Other Business:

1. Pat gave an update of CPW's proposed license fee increase. While the general agreement is that fees must be increased in the near future, it is currently unknown how much they will be increased; when an increase might take effect; and how an increase would be achieved. There is currently no legislative sponsor for such a bill.

2. The committee would like to tour several recent projects on the Meadows Ranch property this summer. Katie will contact the Guires for availability in July.

3. The committee discussed moving to a set schedule for meetings. For FY18 the committee will have a summer tour, followed by meetings on the first Wednesday of August, December, February, and May. Fertilizer applications will be due on 1/31.

Next Meeting: TBD/Summer Tour