



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Colorado Parks & Wildlife 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs
Tuesday July 11, 2017
6:00pm

Introductions: Members attending meeting: Darren Ebaugh/Sportsperson, Chad Stewart/USFS, AWM Kris Middledorf, Nita Herold Naugle/Livestock Grower and Samantha Sorensen/Admin.
Guests attending the meeting: Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, Megan Knott/CCALT, Tyler Knott, Ella Knott, Karin Utterback-Normann, Ron Normann, Darrell Ebaugh, Tom Maneotis, Leslie Maneotis, Tyler Snyder, DWM Jack Taylor, DWM Andrea Sponseller and Libbie Miller/CPW.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a fiscal year 2017 and 2018 budget report. Pat Tucker explained how the program is funded.

Old Business: Minutes from April 17th were presented and approved as written.

Monger Hay Corral: Materials were not order from Game Damage prior to the FY17 deadline. The committee was fine with the project rolling into FY18.

New Business: Snyder/Fish & Cross Ranch Stackyard: Andrea and Tyler presented the proposal to the committee. The ranch was purchased 10 years ago. In 2013 they installed irrigation pivots and had to tear down 4 stack pens and consolidate into 1 hay shed. Last year elk were climbing panels. Requesting hog panels because of durability in deep snow and 2 double gates, stackyard would be about 1,000 linear feet. Materials would be requested from Game Damage and in-kind would be labor to construct the stackyard themselves. Hunting on the ranch exceeds charge/hunt and so they are not eligible for Game Damage. HPP has historically tried to help landowners with elk issues in this area. Libbie pointed out steel panels will hold up against elk trying to fight their way in. The committee approved up to \$6,100.00 for the project.

High Country Lamb Ranch Conservation Easement: Megan Knott along with Tom and Leslie Maneotis presented a proposal to the committee. Part of the proposed easement includes an 800 acre parcel that Tom purchased from a guy in Arizona who had wanted to split the property into 35 acre ranchettes. The intent is to prohibit development and subdivision and instead

continue agricultural production and hunting. Tom pointed out that he elected to take the 2 residential sites off, the other 2 sites are for cabins which would be summer use only but he does not foresee building. Megan explained that the types of Agriculture are not limited. Terms say what they cannot do vs. what they can do. Nita asked about the percentage the committee budgeted to spend on easements. Samantha and Pat pointed out that even though there are percentage guidelines in the HMP, the committee still has the flexibility to shift funds as needed. Libbie said that the area is good wildlife habitat. Chad interested in seeing the next generation farm. Megan pointed out that the CE would lower the estate tax, etc. making it easier to transfer to children. The committee approved up to \$10,000.00 for the project.

Knott Home Place Conservation Easement: Megan explained that Molly Fales is the contract manager for this conservation easement since she herself is conflicted. CCALT placed 1310 acres of the Knott's holdings under easement in 2011. This second easement would link the previously conserved land. Originally a sheep operation then moved to cow/calf. Hunting and fishing is allowed. Property is adjacent to National Forest where elk are facing a lot of pressure from recreation and therefore they utilize the Knott property. Elk are also staying lower due to pressure on Dunckley. Libbie stated that this area is also great habitat and based on their locations both properties are at high risk for development. Kris asked what keeps a landowner from trashing a CE making it less desirable for wildlife. Megan pointed out that there are scenic, Ag and wildlife terms of a CE. Pat explained that he has promoted HPP to CCALT. The committee approved up to \$10,000.00 for the project.

High Tensile Wire Fence: Karin and Ron presented their project to the committee. Explained that there is a 40 acre inholding with a broken down perimeter fence and the owners of the inholding are bringing in horses. Fences need to go up to keep the horse or horses off elk habitat. The high tensile wire they put up in 2003 has not had a single carcass. Contractor is Luke Adams and comes highly recommended but the ½ mile of fence is expensive due to steep terrain. Karin went on to explain that they depend on the in holder for winter plowing. The committee approved up to \$5000.00 for the project.

Fence & Herbicide Vouchers: Samantha asked the committee how much they would like to approve for vouchers this year and pointed out how much money was spent last year. Libbie pointed out that there may have been less due to the fact she was transitioning out at that time. Chad explained that they'd bumped up to 12,500 because they went over in 2015. Nita suggested contacting Routt County Weed Department to explain the voucher program. The committee approved \$10,000 for fence vouchers and \$5,000 for herbicide vouchers.

Vinyl Wire Purchase: Samantha let the committee know how many rolls of vinyl wire remained and asked them how many more they would like to purchase for this fiscal year. Pat explained that we do not want to become a 'warehouse' and should only purchase enough for the upcoming year. The committee approved a purchase of up to 20 rolls of white vinyl wire unless a couple more rolls would mean a price break then Samantha can act accordingly.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: HPP Expansion: Committee members were provided with a memo outlining the changes and Pat elaborated on how/why the State Council came to the decision they did.

Review FY17 Evaluations: Tabled

The committee decided to hold their next meeting on August 28th at 6PM; distribution hunts will be on the agenda.

Roundtable: Samantha pointed out that HPP applications have changed and it's always best to download applications directly from the website rather than using versions that might be saved on a computer.

Pat reminded the committee that the Statewide HPP meeting will be held December 5, 6 & 7.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM.