



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Gunnison Basin HPP Committee

300 W. New York Ave, Gunnison CO 81230

March 30th, 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; 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:

1. J Wenum gave CPW updates, including shed hunting closures and impacts of the severe winter conditions on deer and elk in the area. CPW license meetings are currently taking place, and due to the severe winter conditions and anticipated low survival rates in addition to new DAU objectives to increase herd sizes, there are expected to be reductions in deer and elk licenses in the Gunnison Basin. Finally, the BLM is entering planning phases for the Signal Peak trail development project. CPW, BLM, and local sportsmen, recreationists, conservationists, and the general public will be involved in the process.
2. Nick Gallowich gave updates on the CPW Financial Sustainability bill. There is currently a draft of the bill, however it does not have a sponsor. Although it is not finalized yet, the bill will likely involve the ability for CPW to set license fees based on the consumer price index.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

1. The committee reviewed a weed control project from USFS. The project will target toadflax infestations in the Alkali Basin, which is an ongoing weed control effort that the committee has participated in previously. The area provides important sage grouse habitat, as well as big game winter range. The committee noted that continuing to monitor and treat weed infestations is important to maintaining rangeland for big game. The project was approved for \$3,000 for FY2018.

Roundtable:

1. The next State Council meeting will be April 4th – 5th in Buena Vista. The Statewide HPP Meeting will be held in Grand Junction on December 5th – 7th, and suggestions for topics are encouraged.
2. The committee would like to see more projects on winter range areas for FY18, and are willing to consider conservation easement projects.
3. Kevin Blecha gave a review of recent aerial surveys. There is currently 26% fawn survival rate, although the severe winter conditions are not over yet and there will likely be more winter kill. Additionally, sage degradation in the area may have contributed to increased mortality prior to the severe winter. More study is needed to determine year-round causes of mortality.

Next Meeting: April 25th, 2017