



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Grand Lake Fire Station-201 W. Portal Rd. Grand Lake
September 13th, 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 and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests present:** Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, DWM Rachel Sralla, DWM Jeff Behncke, DWM Jeromy Huntington and Kirk Oldham/CPW.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$92,500.00.

Old Business: Minutes: Minutes from the June 14th meeting were presented and approved as written.

Troublesome Elk Update: Kirk gave a presentation on the movements of the E-8 Troublesome Elk herd. The committee was interested in the timing of elk movement and landowners were concerned about private land use and conflicts. Since 2016 74 collars have been utilized to date and they only collared adult female elk. They've had a high survival rate on collared animals with 98% survival over the last two years. The data shows that a lot of elk move into Winter Park out of DAU-8 into 13 over the summer. Others stayed in Rocky Mountain National Park, some traveled to North Park and a few moved to Georgetown. Elk shift during hunting season but still don't utilize public as much. Collared animals moving into and utilizing DAU-13 is of concern because the herd is moving in and out of the DAU. Chuck wondered if all of the downed timber in the area had anything to do with the elk not using public land. John mentioned that studies in the past had indicated elk movements were expanding. Kirk went over when and where elk were spending their time, 47% winter on BLM, 50% summer on FS, during rifle season 46% utilize private land and only 30% are on public. Pat pointed out that those results are not too different from what they see in Bears Ears. Kirk then went on to say they were thinking about making a change to PLO licenses. The idea is to have one PLO season from September 1-January 31 with the hope it will increase harvest on private, lessen movement/use of private and reduce dependency on distribution management hunts. Another benefit is that the PLO licenses have fewer restrictions than the DMHs. Doug felt it would be a

great way to get elk off of private. Kirk said that the process has already started and they can apply in April or get left overs later in the season.

New Business: Williams Fork Elk: Kirk would like to expand the elk collaring now that they are done with E-8. The plan would be to purchase 40 GPS collars for E-13 and monitor through 2020. \$54k has already been secured through Auction and Raffle which leaves \$13,777.00; asking HPP for \$10k. The collars have a 2 year battery life and if hunters don't cut them off then they can be rebuilt and reused. HPP contributed \$9k toward the project in E-8. The conversation turned back to PLO licenses. Kirk explained that they are trying to modify within the current limited licensing system. DMHs are not intended to be used for population control but they have been; a change in PLOs should fix that. Doug voiced concern over benefit to landowners and simplicity versus the voucher system. Barry felt the cart was being put before the horse and they need to let it run a full season to see results. Kirk mentioned that if it's still not working then the system can yet again be revamped. Lyle pointed out that they'll have an opportunity to compare data from the old PLO system with the new PLO system. The committee approved \$14,000.00 for the project.

Muddy Allotment Spring Dev.: Doreen let the committee know that additional funds no longer needed to be requested.

Hunt Coordinators: The committee approved \$10,000.00 for hunt coordinators. It was unknown if Ted Zagone would participate again this year, but there is still a vacancy on the east end. Lyle explained the program to Doug. Doug mentioned that he knows a few folks that might be interested in the open position.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Pronghorn DAU Recommendations: Kirk gave a presentation at the March meeting and the recommendations given are still in the draft DAU plan. The expanded outreach for DAU plans has delayed the process. Kirk will put a draft out and at that point will need a letter from the committee within 30 days. The agency is going to entertain putting out DAUs per calendar year. Kirk said he would like to think he'll need a comment letter in December. Pat pointed out that he plans to develop a template for DAU comment letters.

Select Committee Chair/Co-Chair: The committee selected Dave Hammer as their Chairman and Chuck Alexander as their Co-Chair.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Doreen would like to give an update on the Wilderness Weeds project. The committee plans to draft a pronghorn DAU comment letter. Fence vouchers will also need to be discussed.

Roundtable: Doug mentioned that he would like to get an overview of what's available through HPP; Lyle will get with Doug to discuss the program's background.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:07pm.