



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Pueblo Hunter Education Building**

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: Allen Vitt (CPW-Terrestrial Biologist), Paul Coe (Sportsman), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Mike Brown (DWM), Zach Holder (DWM), Travis Sauder (DWM), Charles Bryant (Huerfano County Weed District), Josh Tashiro (NRCS), Ben Lenth (San Isabel Protection Land Trust), Elin Ganschow (Landowner), Justin Krall (DWM)

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

### **Introductions**

#### **General Public Comments**

The future generations bill has passed and been signed by the governor.

#### **Budget Report**

The 2018 budget report was reviewed.

\$10,000 was allocated to the Florence State Trust Land habitat project; however those funds will no longer be needed. The contractor bids came in lower than expected, so they will be able to complete the project without HPP funds, and the committee can use those funds for other projects.

The inmate hand thinning project will not be completed this year, as the inmate crew has been short staffed and has not been able to complete work this season. The \$3,000 originally allocated can be used for other projects.

The HPP State Council approved a project to pay for a hydro axe operator to work On Spanish Peaks with the hydroaxe machine that CPW purchased. The operator will work through April,

May, and June, with the possibility of extending to August. The funds for this project have been added to the Sangre de Cristo budget.

### **Old Business**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

### **New Business**

#### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

##### Redwing Ranch Conservation Easement

This ranch is currently in the process of establishing a conservation easement on the property. The easement will be held by the San Isabel Land Protection Trust (SILPT). The CE will have limited development rights for one subdivision of 350-1,000 acres and three existing building envelopes, though Ben does not anticipate that the landowners will develop the property. Ben is asking for \$5,000 from HPP, though the ranch could use more funding if it is available. The committee would like to increase the requested amount to ensure that this ranch is protected. They have raised funds from GOCO, NRCS, and the SILPT, and the landowner is covering half of the overall cost. Conservation Easement funds from HPP will only be paid once the CE has closed. This easement is projected to close this fall, so the funds will come from the 2019 fiscal year budget.

**The project was approved for \$10,000 for fiscal year 2019.**

##### Music Meadows Habitat Project

This project was already completed, but the landowner did not receive as much funding from timber sales as they anticipated, so they are requesting assistance with the overall cost. Purchase orders will not be approved if the work was already completed, so the committee cannot contribute more than \$5,000.

**The project was approved for \$5,000 to be reimbursed to the landowner.**

##### Middle Creek Improvement

Charles is requesting \$4,905 to spray noxious weeds in the Middle Creek area. The committee has concerns that the ranch in question does not practice proper grazing management, which would likely cause the weeds to regenerate next year. Without proper grazing management weed spraying is not as effective. In addition, there have been several game damage claims on this property over the years. The committee is also concerned that the proposal includes wages for Huerfano County employees, which they do not feel falls under the purview of HPP. However, the committee greatly appreciates the work that Charles has done with Huerfano County, and recognizes the importance of the weed spraying program for the area. The committee would like to support by funding the purchase of herbicide that will be used by the county to control noxious weeds.

**The project was approved for \$4,905 for herbicide for the Huerfano County noxious weed program.**

##### Draper Ranch Habitat Project

Zach Holder is asking for \$10,000 to complete a habitat project on 40 acres of the Draper Ranch. The landowners have completed a lot of habitat work on their property over the last few years, and would like to continue to improve habitat for wildlife and livestock. The landowners will contribute \$5800 to treat an additional 20 acres. A total of 60 acres will be treated.

**The project was approved for \$10,000.**

## Spanish Peaks SWA 2019

The HPP state council has contributed funds to pay a hydro axe operator to work at the Spanish Peaks SWA and other surrounding areas. This means that the local committee will not need to contribute funds to the Spanish Peaks SWA habitat enhancement this year. The project was not presented.

### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

The approved projects have gone over the committee's budget, so Hanna will contact Pat Tucker to request additional funds to cover the approved projects.

The committee thanks Paul Crespin for his service to the committee and congratulates him on his retirement. His dedicated service to the local and state committee has been critical to the success of the program. The committee presented Paul with a recognition award to thank him for his dedication.



The USFS representative that will replace Paul Crespin's position should be selected soon.

The Upper Huerfano, Blackhawk, and Shultz Canyon habitat projects have been completed.

All of the tire tanks in the committee stockpile have been given out to landowners. The committee will discuss another tire tank order to replenish the stockpile at a future meeting.

The HPP State Council will have a meeting and field tour in the SDC committee area on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM**

**The next meeting will be held on: July 10th at 10:00 AM at the Lathrop State Park**

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