



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
February 13th, 2018
Royal Gorge Field Office

Committee Members present:

- Jim Aragon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower
- Ted Grover, Sportsperson
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Patty Knupp (NRCS), Kim Woodruff (DWM), Nicholas Padilla (USFS)

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM

Budget Report

The 2018 budget report was reviewed

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Longs Gulch and Midway Spring Project Increase-Stephanie Shively

This project was approved at a previous meeting, but the cost of pipe was miscalculated and an increase in funding is needed if the project is going to get done. Stephanie is requesting that the committee increase the project amount from \$1,875 to \$7,300 to cover pipe. The USFS has offered to provide the three tire tanks that were originally going to come from the HPP committee, so this will be an additional in kind match. HPP will no longer be providing 3 tire tanks for this project.

The committee approved a \$5,425 increase in funding. The project total is now \$7,300.

Tom Grette Project Increase-Kim Woodruff

Tom Grette has completed a lot of mapping and flagging so far, and will be able to get more work done for the committee this year with additional funding. Kim is requesting an additional \$2,000 for Tom Grette's layout, seeding, and supervision project. This would allow him to map and flag an area and supervise a crew for a BLM habitat project that will get done by the SWIFT crew this year, as well as working on other HPP projects such as Long's Gulch and Dead Horse

habitat projects. BLM will pay \$25,000 for this project. The request is to increase Tom Grette's funding from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The committee approved a \$2,000 increase in funding. The project total is now \$10,000.

Pinion and Juniper Sprout Removal-Kim Woodruff

Kim Woodruff is requesting \$4,980 to pay a contractor to complete hand thinning treatments on HPP habitat projects done in previous years. These projects involved thinning pinion and juniper trees to create better wildlife habitat, but now they are seeing pinion and juniper sprouts emerging in the treatment areas. The sprouts need to be cleared in order to maintain the integrity of HPP projects. This will ensure that the habitat in these areas continues to be suitable for big game. Project sites include Sand Gulch, Dirty Gulch, and Wellsville. There is potential for more maintenance projects like this in the future, but this is the most that the contractor will be able to do within this fiscal year. In the future, Kim will also apply for State Land Board enhancement funds to help with maintenance on past HPP project sites.

The project was approved for \$4,980.

Remaining committee business/other discussion

The Dead Horse habitat project will not get done this year because of a lockdown on prison inmate crews. The lockdown prevented SWIFT crew from doing the project within the window of time that the USFS allowed them in the area to work (Aug 1-Dec 15). Stephanie and Kim anticipate that this project will get done in the fall of 2018, which will be the 2019 fiscal year. The committee agreed that because the project was already approved and because the lockdown was out of their control, it will be okay to move the project to the 2019 fiscal year as long as the purchase order can be extended.

The committee members enjoyed the presentations and discussions held at the HPP Bi-annual meeting in December. Brett McMurry suggested that CPW look into setting up a booth or something similar at local high school bike races to educate people about the need to cooperate with seasonal trail closures and other restrictions that have been put into place to protect wildlife.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM

Next meeting: April 11th 10:00 AM at the BLM Office.

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