



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 5th, 2018
CPW Fort Collins Office

Committee members present:

- Ty Petersburg, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Scott Hampel, Sportsmen
- Dale Oberlag, USFS

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Raechel Nelson (Landowner), Angelique Curtis (CPW Biologist), Justin Foster (DWM), Pepper Canterbury (DWM), Seth Schwolert (Property Technician), Larry Rogstad (AWM), Travis Rollins (Larimer County Natural Resources), Janet George (Senior Wildlife Biologist), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM

Budget Report

The 2018 budget report was reviewed.

New Business

NLC HPP Southern Committee Boundary-Pat Tucker

The Northern Larimer County committee had a temporary boundary change put into effect in order to complete projects south of the original committee boundary. The temporary change did not have an expiration date, so the committee discussed whether to keep the 'temporary' boundary, revert to the original, or extend the boundary even farther South. The committee would like to keep the 'temporary' boundary that is currently in effect, which ends at the Larimer/Boulder County line. With the new boundary line in mind, the committee feels that it will be important to change the name to "Larimer County HPP", as the committee boundary now extends beyond just Northern Larimer County. The boundary now includes GMU 20, so that DAU information will be added in to the ongoing Habitat Management Plan Revision.

DAU plan updates-Angelique Curtis

The Herd Management Plan is being rewritten for DAU D4 which covers deer in the Red Feather Lakes and Poudre Canyon area. The deer population in this area is currently over the CPW population management objective. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is still a significant issue in the area, although prevalence has decreased from a high of 17% in 2001-2003 to around 5% since new management strategies were put into place (i.e. reducing deer density and maintaining a moderate proportion of mature bucks in the population). Both license sales and harvest success have increased, and public surveys reflect that most landowners and hunters

are satisfied with the current population and support maintaining a robust herd as long as CWD prevalence remains low. CPW aims to keep the CWD threshold below 10%, and they are currently at 5.4% based on periodic sampling.

The committee has heard the presentation from Angelique and agrees with population objective alternative 2, which raises the population objective to 13,000-15,000 deer from the current objective of 10,000-12,000 deer. The current population sits above population objectives, so the objective increase will match the current population and allow CPW to manage the herd as is. Likewise, the committee agrees with alternative 2 for the sex-ratio objective, which is the same sex ratio objective currently in place of 25-30 bucks: 100 does. This will maintain the hunting opportunity that has been available for the last 5 years and should continue to keep CWD prevalence low. A letter of support will be written in favor of Alternative 2 for both population and sex ratio objectives.

New Livestock Grower Representative

The Northern Larimer County committee currently has a vacancy for a livestock grower representative and will have a vacancy for a sportsperson representative when Scott Hampel steps down. A vacancy announcement will be sent out to committee members, wildlife managers, and the committee mailing list and that announcement can be forwarded to anyone who might be interested and posted in local offices. The application deadline is March 1st, 2018, and potential candidates will be interviewed and selected at the next meeting in April. Interested people should contact Hanna Cook.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee Distribution Management Plan is being rewritten and clarification is needed on requirements for project applicants. The committee feels it is important to be flexible on most things and they would like to look at projects on a case by case basis, but there are a few things that they will request from project applicants:

1. All projects should be reviewed by the local DWM before being presented to the committee. DWM support is very important to committee members when deciding on funding a project.
2. HPP is funded by the sale of big game hunting licenses, and the committee recognizes the necessity of supporting hunting as a big game management practice. The committee strongly recommends that project applicants allow a reasonable amount of hunting on their properties if they are requesting funding from HPP. They understand that there can be extenuating circumstances, so if the applicant does not allow hunting they should come prepared to explain their reasoning and it will be factored into the decision making. Applicants that allow hunting will generally be given preference over those that do not.
3. This is a partnership program, so the committee encourages applicants to have a 50/50 match for funding requests. This can be a cash match or an in-kind match.
4. Fences built using committee funds should be wildlife friendly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM

Next meeting: April 16th at 5:00 PM at the CPW Fort Collins Office

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