



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

July 12th, 2018

Royal Gorge Field Office

### Committee Members present:

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

### Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

**Guests:** Kim Woodruff (DWM), John Frerichs (Landowner)

**Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM**

### Budget Report

The 2018 and 2019 budget reports were reviewed.

### Old Business

Stephanie updated the committee that the IM Ridge/Herring Park Habitat Project has been completed. They were able to treat almost twice as many acres as they originally estimated.

### New Business

#### Project Application Proposals and Reviews

##### John Frerichs Solar Pump-John Frerichs

John Frerichs is asking for \$10,000 for a solar pump to install on a well that was drilled last year. He has already spent \$15,000 to drill the well because the area has been very dry (especially this year) and a new water source was needed. Lack of water in the area is causing big game to congregate at the few water sources that currently exist on neighboring properties, and this is causing excess damage. The landowner feels that a solar pump will be the most efficient method of moving water, and will provide water for wildlife throughout the day. Installing a reliable water source on this property will allow for improved distribution of big game, as well as allowing the landowner to run cattle on his property. He is not concerned about this drawing more big game to the property and any resulting game damage. The pump will feed one tire tank, and any overflow will be routed to a nearby pond and the stream that runs through the property. John will pay for a portion of the pump as well as pipe and plumbing materials. He will also install the tire tank and necessary plumbing. The committee suggested that John look into connecting the pump to the nearby electrical source to save money. John will look into it, but as of right now it appears that the solar pump will be the most beneficial for wildlife. The committee suggests \$9,000 plus one tire tank.

**The project was approved for \$9,000 plus one 8ft tire tank.**

#### Tom Grette Professional Services-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$7,000 to pay Tom Grette for his services mapping and flagging project sites and supervising work crews. CPW and BLM employees do not have a lot of time for mapping and flagging, so Tom's services are vital to the success of habitat projects in the area. CPW and BLM staff will contribute time for planning and implementation. Tom was able to do extra work last year when the committee approved budget increases so the committee suggested increasing the starting budget, as it looks like Tom will have more than \$7,000 of work to do this year.

**The project was approved for \$12,000.**

#### Inmate hand thinning-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$3,000 to pay for chainsaw maintenance, gas, oil, and safety equipment for inmate labor crews that will complete hand thinning on public lands to improve wildlife habitat. Big game have been seen in habitat treatment areas more often, so it is clear that the past treatments have been successful.

**The project was approved for \$3,000.**

#### Mike Oswald Pinion and Juniper Sprout Removal Phase II-Kim Woodruff

Kim Woodruff is requesting \$3,750 to pay a contractor to complete hand thinning treatments on approximately 100 acres of 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. Phase I was completed last year and it went well. BLM will match \$3,750.

**The project was approved for \$3,750.**

#### Voucher program renewal

This program has been done annually, and provides landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs can approve and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Eligible landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within ARHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year, with a maximum of \$350 per voucher. Vouchers can only be used once, and any unused funds are forfeited. Only eligible materials can be reimbursed. The committee will add railroad ties to the list of eligible materials.

**The committee voted to continue this program with a limit of \$350 per landowner.**

**Landowners are allowed up to \$350 of reimbursement for fence materials to fix damage cause by big game. Total project limit is \$9,000.**

**The committee will also continue the stockpile program in which landowners are allowed to take white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile to be used for projects in the AR area. Vouchers must be fully filled out and returned to Hanna Cook as soon as materials are received by the landowner. Vouchers can be approved by DWMs or committee members.**

#### Tire Tanks Voucher Program

The committee needs to discuss a system of reserving tire tanks that are allocated to projects during committee meetings. The committee suggested attaching a cow tag to reserved tanks to

ensure that those tanks are not given out by DWMs with the voucher program. The committee will also now require that landowners pick up their tanks within the same fiscal year that they are allocated. The committee discussed the option of holding some tanks in Salida so that they are more available for landowners in that area. DWMs will gauge interest from landowners so that the committee can discuss the best way to get tire tanks to that side of the committee area for landowners that are unable to transport them from Canon City. The committee currently has 14 8ft tanks and 2 12 ft tanks.

#### Meals/operating expenses

**The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.**

#### Sportsperson Representative

The committee had two applicants for the sportsperson representative position. Unfortunately, neither applicant was able to attend the meeting. The committee would like the chance to meet and interview any applicants for the vacant position, so they have decided to re-open the vacancy and postpone the vote until the next meeting. A new vacancy announcement will be sent out. The deadline for applying will be September 10<sup>th</sup>. All applicants are required to attend the meeting for interviews on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Remaining committee business/other discussion**

The committee has nominated Jeff Williams as the new committee chair. Jeff has accepted the position.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 AM**

**Next meeting: October 9th 10:00 AM at the BLM Office.**

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