



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
CPW Area Office-0088 Wildlife Way in Glenwood Springs, CO
September 19, 2018
1:00pm

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: DWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower, Scot Dodero/Livestock Grower, Hilary Boyd/BLM & Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** DWM Brian Gray/CPW, DWM Brian Woodrich/CPW, DWM Matt Yamashita/CPW, Joe Fazzi/USFS, Clark Wooley/USFS, Susan Stevens/AVLT, Ryan Lahti, Darryl Bangert, Julie Mao/CPW and HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker (1:51pm).

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report and the beginning balance was \$162,900.00

Old Business: Minutes from July 10th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Clyncke Bear River Ranch Fertilizer: Darren explained that the Upper Yampa River HPP committee had approved the standard \$5,000.00 and per their past agreement the Lower Colorado River committee would also approve \$5,000.00 for fertilizer. The new DWM for that district is Adam Gerstenberger.

Upper Horn Pond Improvements: Darryl presented committee members with proposals, photos and a map. He pointed out that the new owners would like to augment water in a couple drainages for wildlife. The main irrigation ditch produces 32cfs and they currently use 5. Another ditch on the property produces 15cfs. They would like to pump water to 7 new ponds. Scot asked if Darryl had talked to water resources about storing the water. Brian Woodrich pointed out that the water commissioner had been out and the ponds would be ideal to pull animals away from other private properties. The water would also be used for irrigation and they plan to plant native grasses later on down the road if they receive funding for water. When asked about hunting, Darryl explained that limited hunting would be allowed this year and that the landowners would like to let animal numbers stabilize on the property before they allow more hunting; would eventually be open to commercial and special hunts. Committee members expressed that they liked the project but voiced concern over the size and cost of the project, pointing out that some of the ponds would be within 1,000 feet of one another. The committee approved \$34,975.00 for the construction of 3 ponds.

USFS Bulter Invasive Management: Joe Fazzi with the Rifle Ranger District passed out proposals and explained that the project site is north of Rifle Gap. Plan is to stabilize the banks of Butler Creek, plant willows, put up electric fencing and spray invasive weeds in order to improve the riparian health and slow water for deer, elk and cattle. Asking HPP to pay the weed contractor for labor; USFS would purchase the herbicide. The committee approved \$7,500.00 for the project.

Lahti Fencing: Ryan asked the committee to fund another ½ mile of wildlife friendly fence to expand on the ½ a mile that he's currently working on. Design would be the same as last time; a four strand fence that has vinyl wire for the top strand. The committee approved \$3,300.00, not to exceed \$1.25/foot, for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: DAU Presentation D-14 & D-53: Pat Tucker pointed out that the Commission wants to know where we're at with deer and elk. HPP will need to submit a comment letter to Julie voicing their opinion. HPP only comments on deer, elk, pronghorn and moose DAU plans. Julie began by explaining that the 2 DAUs are adjacent to one another. D-14 is the Brush Creek herd and D-53 is the Basalt herd; Cottonwood pass and red table mountain divide the two. Low and stagnant populations are the key problem despite reducing the number of licenses. Objectives are way above the current numbers; a few potential causes are recreation, land development and a need for large scale habitat improvements. CWD has yet to be detected in these 2 herds. WAFWA increased buck harvest and pushed to a later date (post rut). CPW has started using ranges for objectives, which allows the agency to manage at adjusted levels due to outside factors such as drought. Matt pointed out that units below objective have reduced doe licenses to 10, which is the minimum number needed to hold a hunt code. Draft plans were emailed to committee members and are available on the website. Julie needs a comment letter from the committee prior to October 31st.

Select Next Meeting Date: February 6th in either Eagle or Gypsum beginning at 1:00pm.

Roundtable: Darren let the committee know that the Jouflas Ranch Conservation Easement the committee funded back in FY13 never closed. Pat stated there's still a chance it will go through and the reports HPP paid for could still be useful. Unfortunately there is nothing on the application that states the landowner/applicant has to repay money if a CE doesn't close. However, moving forward HPP will not pay for transaction costs until after an easement has been closed and recorded. Jim Daus plans to meet with Steve Jouflas next week.

Pat talked about how water projects have increased in popularity due to the drought. A hard winter could prove to be challenging for deer and elk after such an extreme drought.

The committee spent \$50,775.00.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.