



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Uncompahgre HPP Committee

2300 S. Townsend, Montrose

February 20th, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Uncompahgre HPP Members Present: Todd Stewart, Ag Producer; Loren Paulson, USFS; Kelly Crane, CPW; Bobby Gray, Sportsman; Dave Andrews, Ag Producer; Angela LoSasso, BLM; Bob Black, Ag Producer

Guests: Pat Tucker, CPW; Tony Bonacquista, CPW; Matt Ortega, CPW; Mark Caddy, CPW; Natalie Renneker, CPW

Introduction: Committee members were introduced. The current remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$76,805.55.

New Business:

Project Application Proposals and Reviews:

1. The committee reviewed fertilizer project proposals. There were 14 applicants this year for a total of 2891 acres. The available budget was \$32,400.00, and the committee approved \$11.74 per acre with a \$5,000 cap on individual recipients.
2. Fence repair projects from the Garvey Brothers Cattle Company and Marla Fritzlen were reviewed. These are small repair projects that the Garveys submit every year, and the committee feels that repairing fences damaged by big game helps prevent big game entrapment or death, as well as increasing landowner tolerance for big game in important winter range. The projects were approved for \$500.00 (Garveys) and \$250.00 (Fritzlen).
3. The committee reviewed Emergency Game Damage Funds. The committee recognizes that there may be situations where landowners would receive more financial benefit from pursuing Game Damage claims. However, these types of claims tend to be extremely complicated due to damage from multiple species or across multiple growing seasons; or the landowner may not be

eligible to file GD claims. The Uncompahgre HPP committee is interested in considering these types of conflicts for “Emergency Game Damage” funds where projects may be submitted as forage purchases or other forms of compensation.

Other Business:

1. The committee resumed discussion about a pond cleanout program for the spring and/or next fiscal year. Area 18 DWMs feel that pond cleanouts would be a worthwhile project and that local landowners would be willing to participate. However, they noted that local BLM and USFS personnel may not feel that this type of pond work is covered by existing Environmental Assessment/NEPA. The committee will continue to explore the idea of a pond cleanout program for FY2020, and will seek clarification from the federal agencies on NEPA issues.
2. The Distribution Management Plan is due for revision. The current plan will be distributed to the committee and DWMs for review in advance of the next meeting.

Next Meeting: May 1st, 6:30pm