



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**July 23rd, 2019**

**Lathrop State Park**

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Dave Gilbert, BLM
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Dwaine Robey, Sportsperson
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Outhier, USFS

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Allen Vitt (CPW-Biologist), Bob Holder (CPW-DWM), Dennis and Dotty Feister (Landowners), Destiny Chapman (USFS), Travis Sauder (CPW-DWM), Dylan Thompson (CPW-Bosque del Oso Technician), Bill Toupal (Landowner), Glenda Torres (BLM), Linda Poole (San Isabel Land Protection Trust)

**Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:10 AM**

### **Introductions**

### **Budget Report**

The 2019 and 2020 budget reports were reviewed.

### **Old Business**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Dave Gilbert is looking to retire from the BLM at the end of the year, and will step off of the committee at that time. Glenda Torres will be nominated to replace him as the BLM representative. Glenda has worked with HPP on projects in the past and she will be a good replacement for Dave. The committee agrees and looks forward to having her as a committee member.

Dan Prenzlou (Former SE Regional Manager) has been selected as the CPW director. Brett Ackerman has taken his place as the Southeast Regional Manager.

The Redwing Ranch Conservation Easement was delayed because they are waiting on paperwork from BLM and NRCS. The project has been rolled over to this fiscal year to allow time for closing.

## **New Business**

### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

#### Feister Habitat Manipulation Update-Dennis Feister

Dennis is asking HPP for \$5,000 to treat 25 acres of habitat. This project was approved last year. Work was delayed because Dennis's son (who is doing the labor) was called out for fires all summer and the snow during the winter made it impossible to work in that area. The committee agrees that fire and weather have caused a lot of delays in the past year. They would still like to see the project get done, so they agree to extend funding into this fiscal year. 25 acres will be treated at \$200/acre.

**The project was approved for \$5,000.**

#### Torres Canyon Habitat Project-Bob Holder, Dylan Thompson

Dylan is asking HPP for \$19,000 to treat 42.22 acres of pinion juniper. Thinning the pinion juniper will allow forage to regenerate and will improve habitat for wildlife. This will help draw big game to the area and will reduce grazing pressure on riparian zones and private lands. RMEF will contribute funds to treat an additional 57.78 acres, and CPW will contribute funds for planning, mapping, monitoring, and noxious weed treatment. They plan to complete this project during the winter months, if possible. They have other areas mapped out, so if the bid comes in lower than expected they will be able to treat additional acres.

**The project was approved for \$19,000.**

#### Toupal Habitat Restoration Project-Bill Toupal

Bill is asking HPP for \$4,500 to treat willow that is encroaching on pastures on his property. The property neighbors the Bosque del Oso SWA. Bill would like to treat (cut down and then treat with herbicide) the willows that are encroaching onto his pastures in order to increase grazing opportunities for wildlife and livestock. The committee is concerned about this, as the area is a natural floodplain and the willows are beneficial to that environment. The committee does not want to fund the removal of the willows, and would like to see other projects to improve wildlife habitat implemented on this property and leave the riparian area alone.

**The project was denied.**

#### 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. He will be able to work on the BLM Iron Dollar Habitat Project, which will help to ensure that the project gets completed this year.

**The project was approved for \$7,000.**

### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

HPP will no longer be exempt from the state purchasing rules regarding bids. Any project(s) that pay more than \$25,000 to a single vendor will have to go out for bid. Reimbursements do not apply.

The HPP statewide meeting will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction.

The San Isabel Land Protection Trust is now pushing for community based conservation and they are starting a pilot program in the Wet Mountain Valley. They will be having meetings to

lay out a 50-100 year vision of what they want for the environment, economics, and community. CPW, BLM, USFWS, and USFS plans will all be incorporated. They will try to bring in funds to get projects done and goals accomplished with the community.

Dwaine expressed concern about the lack of monitoring the committee has on past projects. He would like to see more feedback to the committee on how projects are doing after 6 months, 1 year, and beyond. The committee agrees and will further discuss the best way to implement monitoring at the next meeting.

Allen Vitt let the committee know that the E-27 and E-28 DAU plans are out for public comment.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM**

**The next meeting will be held on: October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM at Dwaine's House in Westcliffe.**

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