



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

### **Uncompahgre HPP Committee**

#### **Project Tour + Meeting**

**July 8th, 2019**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Uncompahgre HPP Members Present:** Loren Paulson, USFS; Kelly Crane, CPW; Bobby Gray, Sportsman; Angela LoSasso, BLM; Todd Stewart, Livestock Grower

**Guests:** Roxie Stewart, Bruce Leben, Theresa Leben, Mark Richman, CPW; Tony Bonacquista, CPW; Matt Ortega, CPW; Kevin Duckett, CPW

#### **Tour:**

The committee toured Bruce Leben's property to evaluate hydroax, seeding, and water development projects that were completed in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The area is located in important winter range for deer and elk, but the habitat had been overgrown by oakbrush and pinion-juniper, which offers little forage for big game. With HPP, NRCS, and landowner funds, 250 acres of the ranch were hydroaxed, and much of the area was re-seeded with native grasses and forage species. Ponds and irrigation structures were also installed to help increase water availability and forage production for wildlife. The project was successful in removing unproductive mountain shrubs from the landscape, and regenerating forage and grass. Mr. Leben reports that deer and elk now routinely use the treated areas for browse and cover, and that elk will calve on the property.

#### **Meeting:**

**Introduction:** The current remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$73,555.55.

#### **New Business:**

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

1. The committee reviewed a fencing project from A Bar D Ranch. This project is part of an ongoing effort to replace existing degraded fencing with wildlife-friendly fence. Large numbers of elk and deer migrate through the ranch and utilize the area during fall, winter, and spring. The ranch has done a large portion of work already without assistance, and HPP has also participated in previous fencing projects. Two quotes were obtained from Fire

Mountain Fencing and Kaylor Fencing. Fire Mountain Fencing's quote was lower; however the landowners have completed previous fence projects with Kaylor Fencing and preferred to use that contractor. The committee approved \$12,540.00 based on 50% of the lower bid, and the landowner will pay the additional costs to use Kaylor Fencing. The committee will also provide 4 rolls of high visibility wire.

2. The committee reviewed a fencing project for Elk Springs Ranch. The project was previously approved for \$13,213.20 in FY19; however with the severe winter the project was not implemented. The committee re-approved the project for \$13,213.20 and 4 rolls of high visibility wire for FY20.
3. The committee reviewed a pond development project from Bruce Irvine. The project area is located on USFS allotments in winter range for elk, and experiences seasonal use by deer. The area is dry despite ongoing pond improvement efforts on this property and nearby public and private lands, resulting in competition between livestock and big game for water sources. The proposal involves constructing a new pond to catch and hold runoff water to improve big game distribution throughout the area, and reduce competition with livestock. The project was approved for \$2,000.00.
4. The application for fencing materials from San Miguel Valley Corp was not ready for review and the project was tabled.

**Next Meeting: September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**