



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

October 17th, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:20 PM

Carnegie Library, Monte Vista

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**Members Present:** Mick Davis, Dale Gomez, Suzanne Beauchaine, Brent Woodward, Eduardo Duran, Rick Davie, Mark Bechaver

**Guests:** Brent Frankland (CPW-DWM)

**Administrative Assistant:** Hanna Cook

### Budget Report

The 2020 budget report was reviewed.

### Old Business

The SLV DMP has been accepted by the HPP State Council, and will now go to the commission for final approval.

### New Business

#### DAU PH-14 Plan-Brent Frankland

Brent is renewing the DAU plan for PH-14. CPW is not proposing any changes to the previous plan, so the objectives from the last ten years will be the same for the next 10 years. If there are any major changes to the herd or biological pressures (i.e. disease, extreme drought, development, etc.) then Brent will be able to revisit the plan and make revisions prior to the 10 year expiration date. The current population objective for pronghorn is 2,000-2,500 animals, and the sex ratio objective is 27-33 bucks/100 does. The population is currently under objective at approximately 1,400 animals, and 26 bucks/100 does, so the population objective will allow for some growth of the herd. Limitations on the population are believed to be drought, availability of quality forage, and fawn recruitment. There has also been historical over-harvest of does, which caused a sharp decline in the population in the 90s. The availability of water resources seems to have a significant impact on the pronghorn population, fawn survival, and dispersal of pronghorn in the area. It will be important for HPP and other agencies to continue to work together to install new water developments in the area to help support this herd.

Neither Brent nor the committee have heard of many game damage complaints dealing with pronghorn in the area, and game damage and dispersal licenses will continue to be used as a tool to help alleviate any increased conflicts that may arise. However, private land development may be a future concern, especially for the dispersal of pronghorn. While this has the potential to increase conflicts, the committee feels confident that if they continue to work with both public and private landowners to continue to install valuable water developments they will be able to help alleviate any potential future conflicts by improving the dispersal of pronghorn. Implementing the proposed objective will involve keeping buck harvest at status quo, but

eliminating public and private land limited doe licenses. It will also involve continuing depredation control and further enhancing habitat and water resources. The committee agrees with Brent's proposed objective of 2,000-2,500 animals and 27-33 bucks/100 does. They will write a comment letter that will be given to the commission along with the draft plan.

#### DAU PH-16 Plan-Brent Frankland

Brent is renewing the DAU plan for PH-16. CPW is not proposing any changes to the previous plan, so the objectives from the last ten years will be the same for the next 10 years. If there are any major changes to the herd or biological pressures (i.e. disease, extreme drought, development, etc.) then Brent will be able to revisit the plan and make revisions prior to the 10 year expiration date. The current population objective for pronghorn is 1,000-1,500 animals, and the sex ratio objective is 27-33 bucks/100 does. The population is currently under objective at approximately 900 animals, and the sex ratio is within the objective at approximately 32 bucks/100 does. The population objective will allow for some growth of the herd. Limitations on the population are believed to be drought and availability of quality forage. Fawn recruitment in this herd has been relatively stable since 2008. The availability of water resources seems to have a significant impact on the pronghorn population and dispersal of pronghorn in the area. It will be important for HPP and other agencies to continue to work together to install new water developments in the area to help support this herd.

This DAU is on the "transplant list", which would allow the DAU to receive a transplant pronghorn herd should the population of this herd decline sharply. Neither Brent nor the committee have heard of many game damage complaints dealing with pronghorn in the area, and game damage and dispersal licenses will continue to be used as a tool to help alleviate any increased conflicts that may arise. However, private land development may be a future concern, especially for the dispersal of pronghorn. While this has the potential to increase conflicts, the committee feels confident that if they continue to work with both public and private landowners to continue to install valuable water developments they will be able to help alleviate any potential future conflicts by improving the dispersal of pronghorn.

Implementing the proposed objective will involve keeping buck harvest at status quo, continuing depredation control, and further enhancing habitat and water resources. The committee agrees with Brent's proposed objective of 1,000-1,500 animals and 27-33 bucks/100 does. They will write a comment letter that will be given to the commission along with the draft plan.

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

##### Invited Guests for the HPP Annual Meeting

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 committee can invite two guests that will have their expenses paid for. The committee has chosen to invite Tanner Dutton and Heather Dutton. If they are unable to make it, the committee will reach out to Dave Topolewski.

#### **Next Meeting: TBD**

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