



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**October 3rd, 2019**

**Dwaine Robey's House, Westcliffe**

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), Zach Holder (CPW-DWM), Destiny Chapman (USFS), Glenda Torres (BLM), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Ron Torretta (USFS), Roger Gregg (Landowner/Custer County Weed Board)

**Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:00 AM**

### **Introductions**

#### **General Public Comments**

Mike Trujillo announced that Fischer's Peak is the new 42<sup>nd</sup> state park. The management plan for the park is in the works.

CWD mandatory testing for deer (both whitetail and mule deer) has been established for this hunting season throughout the southeast region for both bucks and does.

USFS has implemented a fire ban on the San Isabel and Pike National Forests. The Decker fire is still burning, and to date it is approximately 3,700 acres. When the ban is lifted the USFS will be working on some more prescribed burns.

#### **Budget Report**

The 2020 budget report was reviewed.

#### **Old Business**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

## **New Business**

### **Project Monitoring**

The committee would like to get information on projects from previous years and see how the projects have turned out and what benefits they are showing in the years after completion. Currently, Hanna receives project completion reports by the end of each fiscal year, but no monitoring reports beyond that. The committee would like to collect information from 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years after completion on select projects. Hanna will send out the project completion evaluations from previous years, and the committee will let her know which projects they would like to follow up on. Hanna will work with Mike to create a follow up evaluation form. Specified projects will require a follow up evaluation at 1, 3, and 5 years after completion. Monitoring evaluations will be sent to the committee for review.

### **DAU D-32 Plan Revisions-Allen Vitt**

Allen has been working on revisions to the D-32 DAU plan. The current estimated population average is 8,400 deer (objective is 9,800-10,800), and the buck doe ratio estimated average is 35-40 bucks/100 does (objective is 25-29/100). Hunter satisfaction has been high, and CPW staff feel that the population is doing well and is showing increases towards the population objective. There have been minimal game damage claims in the area.

CPW recommends maintaining the current population and sex ratio objective at 9,800-10,800 deer, and 25-29 bucks/100 does. The committee agrees that there have been minimal game damage issues in the area, and they would like to see the population grow to meet the objective.

**The committee agrees with Allen's recommendations and feels that this will be the best management strategy for the area. They will write a comment letter that will be sent to the commission along with the D-32 plan.**

### **Landowner Tire Tank Limits**

The committee does not currently have a limit on how many tire tanks a landowner can receive per year. In the interest of ensuring that there are enough tanks for any landowner that wants them, the committee is setting a limit of two tire tanks per landowner or property per year. If someone would like to request additional tire tanks above the limit of 2 per year, then they can come to a committee meeting to make that request.

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

#### Lookout Mountain Habitat Improvement Project-Zach Holder

Zach is asking HPP for \$10,000 for a 30 acre habitat enhancement project on BLM property. The area is overrun with pinon juniper and does not have very much quality wildlife habitat. 2,260 acres have already been treated in nearby areas, so this treatment will further the improvement of wildlife habitat on public lands. This will help to draw big game off of neighboring private lands, reducing game damage claims and improving hunting opportunities. A guzzler will be installed to provide water for wildlife and livestock. BLM and National Wild Turkey Federation will provide funds to treat an additional 110 acres and purchase the guzzler. BLM will also complete NEPA, planning, monitoring, and contract administration. The committee asked if they would be able to complete additional acres if the funding was increased. Zach and Glenda agreed that they would be able to complete additional acres, so the committee would like to increase the funding to \$20,000 to treat a total of 60 acres.

**The project was approved for \$20,000.**

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

### Invited Guests for the HPP Statewide 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 Glenda Torres and Patty Knupp. If they are unable to make it, the committee will extend the invitation to Ron Torretta or Destiny Chapman and Arlie Riggs. They will all check on federal agency rules for this kind of travel.

The committee would like to thank Dwaine Robey for hosting the meeting and for arranging a wonderful lunch for everyone.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM**

**The next meeting will be held on: January 7th at 10:00 AM at the USFS office in Pueblo.**

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