



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Uncompahgre HPP Committee

Zoom Video Conference

August 26th, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Uncompahgre HPP Members Present: Kelly Crane, CPW; Bob Black, Livestock Grower; Bobby Gray, Sportsman; Loren Paulson, USFS; Todd Stewart, Livestock Grower; Thane Stranathan, BLM Nominee

Guests: Bill Head, NRCS; Mark Caddy, CPW; Renzo DelPiccolo, CPW; Natalie Renneker, CPW; Beverly Herdt, CPW; Luke Hoffman, CPW; Bryan Westerburg, CPW; Mark Chaffin, Kevin Quintana

Introductions: Committee members and guests were introduced. AWM Renzo DelPiccolo announced his retirement date of September 1st and thanked the committee for their years of work and dedication. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$113,950.00.

New Business:

1. The committee reviewed a fence proposal from Bruce Irvine to replace .5 miles of sheep fence with wildlife-friendly fence. The project area is located in winter range for elk, and experiences seasonal use by deer. The existing fence consists of woven wire, which is in poor condition and does not properly contain livestock in addition to presenting entanglement risks for big game. The project involves replacing the old fence with new wildlife-friendly fence to HPP specs, including high visibility wire and jump crossings. The project was approved for \$2,000 for materials, and HPP will provide 2 rolls of white wire.
2. The committee reviewed a fence proposal from Mark Chaffin. The property experiences heavy big game use year-round, especially during migration. Some existing woven wire fence is present, however it is old and in severe disrepair. The project involves removing approximately .75 miles of old woven wire fence, clearing the right-of-way, and constructing a new wildlife-friendly fence that meets HPP specs including a high-visibility topwire. 4-5 gates are already present, and are left open when livestock are not present to serve as crossings. The project was approved for up to \$9,405.00 for contractor labor, and the committee will provide 3 rolls of white wire.
3. The committee reviewed a proposal from John Harold for phase 3 of his ongoing fence project. The property experiences heavy big game use in the spring, summer, and fall, especially during migration. The existing woven wire fence is old and in disrepair, The

project involves replacing 1 mile of the old fence with new wildlife-friendly fence that meets HPP specifications, including a high-visibility topwire. The project was approved for \$12,540.00 for contractor labor, and the committee will provide 4 rolls of high visibility wire.

4. Bill Head and Kevin Quintana presented a proposal for a pond project. The property is located in a major migration corridor for deer and elk, and previous habitat enhancements have been completed on the property, including food plots and another pond development. The current proposal includes installing a second pond at the lower edge of a series of hayfields, and is intended to help catch and hold irrigation run-off to provide additional water for deer and elk. Currently the runoff spills over the edge of the property into steep draws, where it causes erosion problems and does not contribute towards forage or water availability. Future improvements to the pond structure would include seeding the area to increase forage availability. The quotes for the project varied widely because the scope of work was presented differently, and the committee noted that while the project idea was beneficial for wildlife, the cost was possibly too high to justify. The project was tabled until more information could be obtained, including more detailed and targeted quotes and a seed mix. The landowner was also advised to seed additional partnerships, including through RMEF, MDF, and/or NRCS.
5. The committee reviewed a fencing proposal from John Lloyd. The property is located in transitional and winter range for deer and elk. The existing fence is in severe disrepair, presents entanglement risks for big game, and does not properly contain livestock. The project includes removing 3960-feet of old fence, and replacing it with new wildlife-friendly fence to HPP specs with gate crossings and high visibility topwire. The project was approved for \$1,859.00 for materials, and HPP will provide 2 rolls of white wire.
6. The committee reviewed a pond project from Ella Marolf. The existing pond was constructed in the 1970s, and has been a reliable source of water for wildlife. However, in the past several years pond's storage capacity has been reduced by 50% or more, and frequently runs dry by the end of the summer. The project involves removing the silt and debris, resealing the pond, and using extracted materials to reinforce the dam. The project application included two contractor quotes which were fairly different both in scope of work and price. The committee also noted that it was unclear from the application why the pond has been failing. The project was tabled for more information.
7. Todd Stewart presented an application for pond cleaning on USFS allotments. A number of small ponds have historically provided water for livestock and wildlife, but in recent years the ponds have become silted in and/or leaky. Todd estimated that a contractor would be able to clean about 10 ponds for \$10,000; however he has not received a formal quote. The committee noted that this type of work is a priority, but a formal quote would be required. The project was tabled.
8. The committee reviewed a pond cleaning project from Oscar Massey to continue work that was started in the spring. In the first phase, 25 ponds on USFS and BLM allotments were completed, along with USFS, BLM, and HPP cooperator funding. The ponds have been inspected and appear to be holding water well so far this year. An additional 20 ponds would be targeted in this phase, although the work will be completed with a trackhoe instead of a dozer. The committee discussed whether an itemized or prioritized

list of ponds should be generated prior to approval. Ultimately, they felt that between CPW, USFS, and BLM participation in the project, as well as successful completion of the previous phase, Mr. Massey should be able to identify and treat appropriate ponds that stand a reasonable chance of holding water in the future. The project was approved for \$4,246.00 to reimburse equipment rental and fuel costs.

Next Meeting: TBD