



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Uncompahgre HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference

February 9, 2022

6:30 p.m.

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

**Guests:** Murphy Jacox, CPW; Mark Caddy, CPW; Michael Blanck, CPW

**Introduction:** Committee members were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$5,731.37.

#### **New Business:**

1. Dean Stindt presented a proposal for guzzlers on the Maverick JSL property. The project area is located in winter and transitional range for elk, and experiences year-round use by deer. The area is very dry, which limits the ability of big game to utilize recent habitat improvement projects and results in deer and elk using nearby agricultural operations for water. The project involves installing an 80 x 80 collection apron to collect water that will flow into a 1500-gallon tank with a drinker for wildlife use. The apron will be fenced to prevent damage from livestock or wildlife. An exclusionary fence will be constructed to protect the apron, and an overflow pond will also be constructed to retain any additional water after the guzzler is filled. This will improve big game distribution across the project area, increase wildlife utilization of recent habitat improvements in the area, and reduce conflicts with livestock and agricultural operations. Older water developments in the area and on this property have not had as much effect on big game distribution as desired; however this design includes a larger catchment apron to improve efficacy. The project was approved for \$6,625.00 for contractor costs.
  
2. The committee reviewed a fencing project from Ella Marolf. The property is located in winter range, and experiences year-round use by deer. Frequent wildlife crossing has damaged the existing fence, which is in severe disrepair in high-traffic sections. The fence no longer contains livestock and may injure big game as they move through the property. The project consists of repairing or rebuilding sections of fence as necessary

to HPP specs. The committee approved the project for \$3,000 for materials; however the landowner was also approved for \$7,700.00 for a pond project earlier in the year and the committee will only pay for one project. The landowner will determine which project to proceed with and the other project will not be funded this fiscal year.

3. Fence repair projects from the Garvey Brothers Cattle Company and Marla Fritzlen were reviewed. These are small repair projects that the Garveys and Fritzlens submit every year, and the committee feels that repairing fences damaged by big game helps prevent big game entrapment or death, as well as increasing landowner tolerance for big game in important winter range. The projects were approved for \$500.00 (Garveys) + 2 rolls of white wire, and \$250.00 (Fritzlen).
4. The committee reviewed fertilizer project proposals. There were 14 applicants this year for a total of 2611 acres. The available budget was \$32,400.00, and the committee approved \$12.82 per acre with a \$5,000 cap on individual recipients.

**Other Business:**

1. The committee discussed white wire distribution by DWMs to landowners without seeking committee approval. There may be instances where minor repairs are needed, or some small assistance would help alleviate conflicts and prevent damage. Since the committee does not offer fence vouchers, currently any requests for white wire must wait to be considered at meetings, at which point the window of opportunity for improving relationships may have passed. Allowing DWMs to distribute 1 roll from inventory would help increase landowner tolerance for big game on private agricultural operations. The committee approved distribution by DWMs. If the need is greater than 1 roll, the landowner must apply to the committee in the normal fashion.
2. Murphy Jacox described a potential fencing project on the Dry Creek Basin SWA. The property is a mix of BLM and state land that is cooperatively managed as a SWA for hunting access, and a previous allotment on the BLM was made to go vacant to support use of the land as a SWA. There is currently a boundary fence between leased portions and state land that is not wildlife-friendly. The potential project would replace the fence with wildlife-friendly fencing that would open migration corridors for wildlife, while still containing livestock and preventing cattle trespass. The project could be completed in one or multiple phases, depending on the level of support. BLM indicated willingness to contribute to the project. The committee noted that this project would meet the scope of HPP's objectives, and asked Murphy to develop an application and complete the CPW regional approval process for a SWA project before applying for HPP funding.

**Next Meeting: May 4, 2022 @ 6:30pm**