



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee

Phone Conference

April 21st, 2020

6:30 p.m.

HPP Members Present: Andy Brown, CPW; John Sheek, Sportsman; Nate West, BLM; Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower; Tanner Young, Livestock Grower

Guests: Brad Weinmeister, CPW; Judy Vogel; Kelly Crane, Bob Black, Loren Paulson, Bobby Gray – Uncompahgre HPP members

Introductions & Budget Report:

Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$36,600.00.

New Business:

1. Brad Weinmeister presented the draft Herd Management Plans for E24 for both the Montelores and Uncompahgre HPP committees. The DAU faces significant challenges with loss of winter range, increasing development and recreation demands, and diminishing calf recruitment; however extensive public outreach revealed that most people favor an overall population increase.

The committees supported the proposed population objective increase of 15%, with the goal of increasing the population throughout the DAU except for unit 70. The committees do not believe the increases would create significantly more conflict, and that HPP and CPW have the resources necessary to address conflicts should they occur. Additionally, sportsmen and other stakeholders have expressed the desire to expand hunting opportunity and see more elk on the landscape. It should be noted that the majority of sportsmen favor a larger population increase of 25%; however, with significant calf recruitment issues across southwest Colorado, the committees believe that the proposed 15% increase within the 10-year time frame is more realistic. The committees also noted concerns about the loss of winter range due to continued residential growth and increasing recreation demands on public lands. The committees will draft comment letters for Mr. Weinmeister to include in the plan.

2. The committee reviewed Judy Vogel's seed project proposal. The project area is located in important elk winter and transitional range, and experiences year-round use by deer. A 200-acre field on the property that used to support wildlife grazing has been infested with weeds during years of very little agricultural use, and it no longer produces significant forage. This results in big game utilizing other hayfields on this property and nearby private lands, causing damage to growing forage, stacked hay, and fences. The project involves applying herbicide and seeding with grass and forage species to bring the field back into production. Increasing forage availability in this area will help hold deer and elk off of nearby hayfields and stacked hay that are utilized for livestock. The committee discussed the seed mix and recommended that Jim Garner review the mix. Cattle grazing would be delayed for several years to help vegetation establishment. The project was approved for \$8,500 towards purchase of the seed.
3. The committee reviewed fertilizer applications and approved the following: Jori White, \$1,740 (116 acres). Bruce McAfee, \$750 (50 acres).
4. The Lanier Seed, Dozier Pond, and Young Pond projects did not have applications ready and were tabled for a future meeting.

Next Meeting: June 16th, 6:30pm