



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Gunnison Basin HPP Committee

Zoom Meeting

July 9th, 2020

11:00am

Gunnison Basin HPP Members Present: Nick Gallowich, CPW; Matt Vasquez, USFS; Kathy Brodhead, BLM; Shane Cox, Livestock Grower; Paul Mowery, Livestock Grower; Navid Navidi, Sportsman

Guests: Paul Jones, UGRWCD; Pat Tucker, CPW; Dayle Funka, USFS

Introductions & Budget:

1. Committee members and guests were introduced. The budget increase for FY21 was reviewed, and the remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$148,500.00.

Old Business:

1. The committee discussed the Bob Robbins feedlot fence. The project had originally been approved for FY20 and CPW Game Damage provided materials for the fence; however the landowner was not able to get a contractor on the property to construct the fence before the end of the fiscal year. The committee reapproved the project for FY21 for \$5,000 for fence construction costs.
2. Paul Jones presented an updated wet meadow restoration project for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District. The project was approved in FY20 for \$14,100; however due to changes in project leadership and other delays, \$10,572.26 of the funding was not spent. The project is still ongoing with work planned for this fall, although with COVID concerns, much of the work is changing from hand work to heavy equipment. Plug and spread structures are planned for multiple sites, and funding would go towards rock delivery and equipment/contractor costs. In addition to HPP funds, other cooperators include USFS, BLM, NRCS, and NWTF with large matches. The project was approved for the remaining \$10,572.26 for FY21.
3. Dayle Funka presented an updated proposal for the Taylor Park Cattle Pool fence project, which was originally approved for \$19,800 in FY20 but could not be implemented last year. The existing fence consists mostly of buck and pole, which is in disrepair and no longer contains livestock for rotational grazing. USFS is providing

materials and the permittees will provide labor to tear down and remove the existing fence line. The committee noted that the allotment represents critical big game habitat, and that it is important to properly manage livestock grazing in the area to maintain habitat quality for deer and elk. The project was approved for \$20,000, and the committee will provide 4 rolls of white wire.

New Business:

1. Dayle Funka presented the annual USFS weed control projects in Soap Creek and Alkali Basin. The projects will primarily target toadflax and oxeye infestations along with other noxious weeds. The areas provide big game winter range, and experience year-round use by deer. Soap Creek is highly utilized by hunters and horse traffic, which results in large weed dispersal and the presence of weed species not usually found in the Gunnison Basin. Alkali Basin experiences heavy use by elk, and previous weed treatments have been observed to result in much smaller pockets of toadflax. The USFS treats additional infestations and administers agreements with the county for right-of-way weed control, and is planning future fuels reduction treatments in those areas. The projects were approved for \$5,000.00 each for contracted weed control.
2. Nick informed the committee about a potential snow fence project on BLM land at Tomichi Dome. Existing snow fence is in disrepair and needs to have sections replaced. The committee noted that keeping water on the landscape would be a worthwhile project and supported an application submission.

Roundtable:

1. Pat Tucker thanked the committee for participating on Zoom and noted that COVID restrictions for travel and group meetings may persist throughout the fall or winter. The options and technology for virtual meetings has been working to keep HPP business going during different degrees of lockdown, and will continue to be utilized until meetings can resume normally.

Next Meeting: TBD