



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Gunnison Basin HPP Committee

October 26, 2021

11:00am

Gunnison Basin HPP Members Present: Nick Gallowich, CPW; Dayle Funka, USFS; Paul Mowery, Livestock Grower; Navid Navidi, Sportsman; Shane Cox, Livestock Grower

Guests: Darren Long, USFS; Brandon Diamond, CPW; Phil Gurule, CPW; Curtis Allen

Introductions & Budget: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$129,499.50.

New Business:

1. Dayle Funka and Curtis Allen presented a pond cleaning proposal. Many small ponds within the Flattop area grazing allotments have filled in with mud and fallen trees, and dams have washed out from spring runoff, reducing water storage capacity. Big game in the area utilize the ponds for water, but decreased water availability causes competition with livestock for water sources on grazing allotments and private lands. The proposal includes cleaning out 4 ponds to remove debris and reconstruct dams. Increasing water storage capacity will result in reduced competition between livestock and big game and improved distribution across the landscape. This will help hold deer and elk on public land for longer periods of time and reduce damage to private agricultural operations. The project was approved for \$4,000.00.
2. Curtis Allen also presented a fencing proposal. 9,000-feet of allotment boundary fence is in disrepair, and does not properly contain livestock which prevents proper grazing rotation. The project consists of replacing the existing fence with wildlife-friendly lay-down fence to HPP specs. Permittees on both sides of fence would maintain and manage the fence. USFS will provide materials, and the permittees requested \$36,000 for labor. The committee discussed prices for both materials and labor, but while there was overall support for the project, they felt that \$4/ft for labor was too high. The project was tabled, and Mr. Allen was invited to reapply and provide an itemized materials list as well as a formal contractor bid for the labor.
3. The committee reviewed voucher programs for FY22, and additionally approved pond vouchers as follows:

- a. No minimum acres
- b. For use on USFS allotment only unless DWM pre-approves pond on private land
 - i. Pond must receive significant wildlife use
- c. \$1,000 increments for two ponds cleaned out with heavy equipment
- d. Up to 5 vouchers annually per recipient
- e. Before and after photos and GPS locations required before payment

Next meeting: TBD