



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Gunnison Basin HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference

August 15, 2022

8:00pm

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

Guests: Clayton Bondurant

Introductions & Budget: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$25,953.80.

New Business:

1. Clayton presented a cheatgrass control project for the CPW Sapinero SWA. Cheat grass is an invasive grass that alters ecosystems and causes numerous negative effects, including, but not limited to, reducing habitat quality for elk deer, the federally threatened Gunnison sage grouse. The Red Creek drainage has experienced an explosion in cheat grass over the last 15 years and treatment has become a focus of multiple land managing agencies. Last year the BLM spot treated 480 acres on the west side of the drainage. This year with the support of the USFS, BLM plans to spot treat an additional 440 acres on the east side of the drainage adjacent to Sapinero State Wildlife Area.

The project consists of extending the BLM treatment onto approximately 166.5 acres of Sapinero SWA based on the patch locations of cheatgrass, with priority closest to the BLM treatment to maximize landscape scale impact. Preventing cheatgrass germination for up to 4 years will suppress existing populations and allow native grasses and forage species to reestablish, which will increase quality and quantity of food sources for big game on the SWA.

Cooperator funding from Colorado Field Ornithologists and USFS has been secured but has not been transferred to CPW yet. The committee approved up to \$50,000.00.

Next meeting: TBD