



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 26th, 2017

Royal Gorge Field Office

Committee Members present:

- Jim Aragon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower
- Ted Grover, Sportsperson
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Kim Woodruff (CPW-DWM), Vickie Russo (USFS), Bret Mathers (CPW-Wildlife tech), Lucy Waldo (Central Colorado Conservancy), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Kevin Feier (landowner), Bob Carochi (DWM).

Meeting called to order at 10:16 AM

Introductions

General Public Comments

None.

Budget Report

The 2017 budget report was reviewed

Old Business

The committee clarified their qualifications for landowners who want to use the fencing voucher program. There is no acreage minimum, but the landowner must be a legitimate agricultural producer and allow a reasonable amount of hunting. Vouchers should be used for fence repair from wildlife damage and not for new fence construction.

Stephanie updated the committee on the IM Ridge/Herring Park habitat project. In addition to the \$8K awarded by the ARHPP committee, the project was awarded the HPP State Council Habitat Grant for \$100K.

New Business

Noxious Weed Presentation-Vickie Russo

Vickie Russo gave a presentation on noxious weeds in the area and how to treat them if you find them on your property. If you find a plant that you are concerned about you should collect it and bring it to your local ranger station. They will be able to identify the weed and give recommendations on how to treat it. There is also a CDA noxious weeds app that can help you identify weeds. Identification is important so that you can eradicate dangerous noxious weeds immediately before the plant spreads.

Homestead Spring Development-Vickie Russo, Jim Larsen

The landowner would like to develop a spring at the Sanborn Western Camp that will help distribute water in the area for livestock and wildlife. The landowner will complete labor and installation and they are asking HPP for \$2,580 for pipe and sakrete, plus one 8 ft tire tank. The spring will fill two tanks on the Sanborn Western Camp, as well as one tank on adjacent USFS property. The USFS will contribute a tank and \$800 for additional materials.

The project was approved for \$2,580 plus one 8 ft tire tank.

McMurry Land and Livestock Company Water Project-Brett McMurry, Bob Carochi

This BLM and SLB property currently has a water system using a windmill pump that breaks frequently and is currently nonoperational. The landowner/grazing permittee would like to replace the windmill with a solar pump that will provide a more reliable water source for livestock and wildlife. Wildlife are currently moving to adjacent private lands to find water, and this water source will encourage wildlife to stay on public lands. This will also improve grazing management and wildlife distribution. The landowner will remove the windmill and install the new solar pump, and HPP would reimburse the landowner for the solar pump, panels, and pipe.

The project was approved for \$6,500 reimbursement to the landowner.

Badger Creek Conservation Easement-Lucy Waldo, Kevin Feier

The landowner is requesting \$3,500 for baseline fees for a conservation easement that will cover 160 acres in South Badger Creek. Great Outdoors Colorado has awarded them a grant for transaction costs and the landowner is donating the land to the conservation easement (est \$200,000). The land is important winter habitat for mule deer and elk as well as having some important riparian habitat. The Central Colorado Conservancy will be the conservation easement holder. Hunting and fishing is allowed with permission from the landowner. The Central Colorado Conservancy will add HPP's name in the CE recognition section.

The project was approved for \$3,500 for fiscal year 2018.

Pridemore Water Development Increase-Jim Aragon

The committee originally approved this project for \$7,000 plus tire tanks as needed (02/15/17). The bid has been received and the price has increased by \$2,732.51. The landowner is requesting an increase to cover water development materials and installation.

The project was approved for \$9,732.51 (increased from \$7,000 originally approved) and two 10 ft tanks.

Dead Horse Habitat Project-Kim Woodruff

This will be a joint habitat project between CPW and USFS. Kim would like to use the SWIFT crews to complete approximately 105 acres of hand thinning treatments with \$5,000 in funding from HPP and \$15,000 from auction and raffle funds. This project must be completed between August 1st and December 15th due to seasonal constraints, so SWIFT crew must be used instead

of free inmate crews. These treatments will help mitigate impacts that new recreational trails have put on wildlife.

The project was approved for \$5,000 for fiscal year 2018.

Dome Rock SWA-Bret Mathers

Bret will be bringing a project proposal for habitat treatment on Dome Rock SWA to the Arkansas River HPP committee in the future. The project will likely take place in the spring or summer of 2018. The project will consist of hydroaxe treatment to improve habitat for wildlife.

Remaining committee business

Patty Knupp informed the committee that a partnership is forming in the Badger Creek area that will have the potential to bring some new projects to the committee in the future.

Stephanie Shively informed the committee that the Leadville Ranger District is working on a mastication project North of Buena Vista. They may bring projects to the committee in the future for additional funding. The projects focus on mule deer habitat improvement through hydroaxing and seeding, closing non-system routes, bat habitat protection, and big horn sheep habitat improvement.

The committee would like to replenish their tire tank stockpile as landowners have been requesting them and the current stockpile is down to only a couple of tanks. A conference call will be set up to approve a new order of tire tanks.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM

Next meeting: May 4th at 10:00 AM-conference call

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