



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 28th, 2017

Wetmore Firehouse

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Paul Crespin, USFS
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Dave Gilbert, BLM
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Arlie Riggs, Livestock Grower
- Dwaine Robey, Sportsman
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Zach Holder (CPW DWM), Allen Vitt (CPW-Terrestrial Biologist), Mike Brown (CPW-DWM),

Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:08 AM

Introductions

General Public Comments

Mike Trujillo updated the committee on the sustainability bill. The bill is moving forward in the legislature and has moved through several committees. It will still take some time before there is any definitive decision.

Budget Report

Reviewed

Old Business

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The Spanish Peaks SWA habitat project is underway and will be done before the end of the fiscal year. 48 acres have been treated to date.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Weeping Rock Weed Management-Cyndee Blenkush, Kate Spinelli

The landowner was unable to make it to the meeting, so no project was presented.

Florence State Trust Land Habitat Enhancement Project-Zach Holder

CPW has a recreational lease on State Trust land, but the area needs habitat work to create favorable habitat for wildlife. This property is near public land that has favorable wildlife habitat but no hunting. Big game have been staying on the adjacent land because the habitat is more favorable than on the State Land Trust property, so hunters are unable to access them. Habitat treatments will encourage big game to stay on the Florence State Trust Land, thereby increasing hunting opportunities. The USFS has a timber lease and has agreed to this project and Zach will get approval from State Land Board. Zach would be able to complete \$5,000 worth of habitat treatment this year and can continue the project with more funding for the 2018 fiscal year. The 2018 portion of the project will get additional funding and contributions from CPW, State Land Board, and BLM.

The committee approved the project for \$5,000 for fiscal year 2017 and \$10,000 for fiscal year 2018, contingent on approval from SLB.

South McDonald Ranch Timber Clearing-Warren McDonald

The landowner will complete timber clearing work on South McDonald Ranch. He is charging \$350/acre, which the committee agreed is a reasonable fee. The project is a continuation of work already being done on the property in order to improve wildlife habitat and forest health. Bob Holder was unable to attend the meeting due to extenuating circumstances but the committee would like to ensure that he has reviewed the application and approved the project.

The committee approved the project for \$4,900 contingent on Bob Holder's endorsement.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee stressed the importance of having DWM approval on all projects. Landowners should contact their DWM for approval before submitting an application to the committee. It is important to the committee that CPW is on board with all approved projects.

Paul Crespin updated the committee on some HPP State Council discussions. The State Council is expanding the scope of qualifications for HPP projects to consider projects that can help with CPW big game population objectives. Pat will be visiting committees to have this discussion with them and will send materials to committee members in the near future.

The HPP annual meeting will be held this year on December 5th, 6th, and 7th in Grand Junction.

Allen Vitt updated the committee on radio collar research on elk and mountain lions. They are tracking movements and survival rates in order to get data that will help inform future management policies.

Paul let the committee know that Lisa Carrico with the Great Sand Dunes National Park will come in to talk to the committee about their ungulate management plans. He also updated the committee on the Junkins fire-it is still burning and will probably flare up again in the summer. USFS is discussing the best way to handle it.

Dwaine announced that the Outdoor Buddies program has been scheduling a lot of hunts and they have been very busy. They will be holding the 6th annual Community and Armed Forces Appreciation Day at A Painted View Ranch in Westcliffe on Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 AM.

Dave Gilbert suggested that the committee look at completing some projects that involve the cleanup of downed fences that are no longer in use. Old wire can tangle wildlife causing injury and death, but these old fences are often not cleaned up.

Mike Trujillo announced that CPW and SLB will be jointly purchasing a hydroaxe that will be used for habitat projects state wide. The Wild Turkey Federation will fund an operator for the first couple of years and CPW and SLB will discuss funding after that.

The HPP State Council will hold a meeting and field tour in Salida on July 11th and 12th.

The Sangre de Cristo field tour was cancelled due to weather, and will be rescheduled in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM

The next meeting will be held on: July 7th 9:00 AM in Wetmore. There will be a field tour followed by lunch and a regular meeting at the Everhart Ranch. Regular meeting will start at 1:00 PM.

Hanna Cook, HPP Administrative Assistant
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719-227-5221
hanna.cook@state.co.us