



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 27th, 2017

CPW Fort Collins Office

Committee members present:

- Ty Petersburg, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Scott Hampel, Sportsmen
- Dale Oberlag, USFS

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Travis Rollins (Larimer County Parks), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Sally Ross (The Nature Conservancy), Chris Vandemoer (Landowner)

Meeting called to order at 5:06 PM

Introductions

Budget Report

The 2017 budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

Jess Stiles has updated Hanna on the Ben Delatour Boy Scout Ranch project. Approximately 20 acres have been treated so far and they are on track to finish the project by the projected date of 03/31/2017.

New Business

License fee increase

There have been no license fee increases yet, but CPW has held public meetings and discussions involving the possibility of a license fee increase to cover the rising cost of operations. The topic has made the Governor's agenda for legislation this year. CPW is still in the process of finding a sponsor for the bill. License fees have not been increased since 2005. Part of the discussion is whether or not the bill should include a change to the process of adjusting license fees. Currently this can only be done through legislation, but it may be helpful to allow the wildlife

commission to make the decision to increase or decrease a license fee. The decision on whether or not to increase fees and how much to increase them will be up to the legislature, not CPW.

Project applications

Riparian Buck Rail Project

This property (TJ Mac) has had a range assessment done by NRCS, and both the assessor and the landowner feel that the riparian area needs to be better protected. The landowner, Chris Vandemoer, would like to install a buck and rail fence to keep livestock out of the riparian area. The fence would be approximately 0.68 miles and the landowner is asking HPP for \$6,660 to pay for materials. The ranch is in a very dry area, and the spring is a very valuable water source for wildlife. When the landowner runs livestock in the area, they tend to congregate in the spring and trample the vegetation. Water is currently being pulled off of the spring to existing tanks and the landowner plans to add another tank to a dry pasture in the near future. This will provide alternate water sources for livestock so that they are not congregating at the spring and will improve grazing management. A wildlife friendly fence will protect the riparian habitat from livestock while still allowing wildlife to access the spring. The Nature Conservancy has a conservation easement on this property, and they are working with the landowner and NRCS to come up with a grazing management plan. The landowner plans to move livestock to another pasture this year and will not graze them near the spring until the fence is completed to prevent further trampling and disturbance. The project would start after July 1st and the landowner will complete installation of the fence (landowner time and landowner's paid employees).

The project was approved for \$6,660 for fiscal year 2018.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Pat Tucker informed the committee that the HPP annual meeting will be held on December 5th, 6th, and 7th in Grand Junction. If committee members would like to see any particular topics on the agenda they should send those ideas to Pat.

Dale Oberlag updated the committee on the USFS prescribed burn plan in the Poudre Canyon. A draft decision memo has been submitted and they are hoping to begin the prescribed burn this spring. They are estimating 500-640 acres will be burned.

Charlie Gindler has retired from Larimer County Parks and will no longer be sitting on the committee as a parks representative. The committee will ask Charlie if he would like to sit on the committee as a livestock grower representative. Travis Rollins from Larimer County parks will attend committee meetings when possible as an advisory position.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM

Next meeting: Monday, April 24th at 5:00 PM at the CPW Fort Collins Office.

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