



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

North Fork HPP Committee

Delta County Annex Building

July 31st, 2017

7:00 p.m.

North Fork HPP Members Present: Ken Holsinger, BLM; Cody Purcell, CPW; Steve Kossler, Livestock Grower; Jess Campbell, Livestock Grower; Dennis Garrison, USFS; Adam Gall, Sportsman; Ross Allen, Livestock Grower

Guests: Marcella Fremgen; Stuart Sinclair, CPW; Kevin Blecha, CPW; Evan Phillips, CPW

Introduction: Committee members were introduced. Katie Richman reviewed the end of FY17 budget. The budget for the new fiscal year was \$101,500.00, and with previously approved projects for FY18, the remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$37,300.00.

New Business:

1. Marcella Fremgen presented two fencing proposals for two landowners whose properties border Black Canyon National Park. The existing boundary fences between the private lands and the NPS are old and in disrepair, consisting of woven wire. The proposal for both projects involves removing the woven wire and replacing it with barbed wire, with wildlife-friendly spacing and 42" height. Seed work has been done in the area, and some oakbrush removal is planned. The committee had previously identified this area as a high-conflict zone and noted that they would like to do some work near the park to help reduce conflicts associated with elk refuge issues created by the park regulations preventing hunting. However, it is unknown whether either landowner allows hunting on the properties. The projects were tabled until the question of hunting access could be answered.
2. Kevin Blecha presented a research proposal. A study is currently taking place to examine

interactions between elk and humans/habitats in the Gunnison Basin, and determine drivers of elk movement as well as distribution of elk between the basin and North Fork Valley. The objectives of the study are to understand elk habitat use with relation to conflict features; apply findings to DAU plans for better management/harvest; and develop habitat use maps for the region. In addition to helping CPW meet management objectives, the research should also help guide the committee's decision-making process in terms of identifying conflict areas and solutions. The total funding request is \$59,000, which is anticipated to be funded from the State Council, or from local Gunnison and North Fork committees if the council does not approve the request. The committee supported the project going to the State Council in August, and will also provide partial funding if necessary.

3. Kevin also gave a brief review of the elk DAU plan revision. A draft for HPP to review and comment on is anticipated in October, with changes to the plan expected to be implemented for 2018 licensing.
4. Evan Phillips gave a brief review of the deer DAU plan revision for the Grand Mesa and West Elk units. The draft is expected to be available for HPP comment in October.

Other Business:

1. The Statewide HPP meeting will be held on December 5-7 in Grand Junction.

Next Meeting: TBD