



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

October 2nd, 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: Gretchen Reuning (Fort Collins Conservation District), Travis Rollins (Larimer County Natural Resources), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM

Budget Report

The 2017 and 2018 budget reports were reviewed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

DAU Plan Rewrite

DAU plans will be revised this year to update population and sex ratio objectives for deer and elk. Some areas have seen a slight increase in deer populations that has been sustained by the habitat, so that may allow for a slight increase in population objectives. CPW has decided to look at the Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring results from this year before deciding on how the plan will be written. If they see a spike in CWD they may change the management objectives for deer. CPW has conducted surveys and held public meetings to gauge public opinion on the plan. When the draft DAU plan revision is ready it will be distributed to committee members for review. The committee will then be asked to write a comment letter that will be submitted to the wildlife commission before the draft is approved.

2018 Habitat Management Plan Update

The Habitat Management Plan for the Northern Larimer County HPP committee is due to be renewed in July of 2018. The committee will be able to revise the previous plan instead of doing a complete rewrite. Each committee member was given a copy of the current HMP and will be asked to go through the plan to mark sections that can be rewritten, condensed, or changed. The focus should be on major changes such as wildlife conflicts in the area, game management objectives, and project types. The draft rewrite will need to be completed by April 1st and given to Pat Tucker for review before going to the commission for approval. The committee would like to review the plan and make notes, and revisions will be discussed and approved at the next committee meeting.

HPP Expansion

All committee members have received a memo about the HPP State Council's clarifications of HPP objectives. HPP committees currently focus on funding projects that solve agricultural/big game conflict, particularly relating to deer, elk, pronghorn, and moose. The State Council has agreed that it will be beneficial for committees to also consider the other objective listed in the statute, which is helping the division (CPW) meet game management objectives. In the past, committees have turned down projects because there is not a direct agricultural conflict. However, the State Council has decided to expand the scope of acceptable projects to include those that help achieve game management objectives, even if there is not a direct agricultural conflict. Committees should still focus on resolving agricultural conflicts, but they will now be able to fund projects concerning game management objectives at their discretion. This expansion went into effect as of July 1st, and new research applications are available on the HPP website. Local committees can decide how they would like to approach these types of requests.

Project applications

Eversole Habitat Project

Gretchen Reuning is requesting \$5,000 for a habitat project on Eversole Ranch. Thinning of conifer forests will allow aspen stands to regenerate, which will lead to better forest health and improve wildlife habitat. The EQIP grant has been secured for \$82,057 of additional funding. The committee would like to see a more detailed and concise forest management plan. The committee would also like to see support from the local DWM for the project. They are requesting that a concise Forest management plan be submitted along with support from the local DWM, Brock McArdle, before they vote on funding. The project has been tabled pending the requested information.

Two Bars Seven Habitat Project

Gretchen is requesting \$5,000 for a habitat project on Two Bars Seven Ranch. Thinning of conifer forests will allow aspen stands to regenerate, which will lead to better forest health and improve wildlife habitat. The EQIP grant has been secured for \$289,342 of additional funding. The committee would like to see a more detailed and concise forest management plan. The committee would also like to see support from the local DWM for the project. They are requesting that a concise Forest management plan be submitted along with support from the local DWM, Brock McArdle, before they vote on funding. The project has been tabled pending the requested information.

Voucher Programs

Herbicide

The committee would like to continue the herbicide voucher program with the same rules and funding limits as last year's program. Landowners can send herbicide voucher applications (applications found on website) to Hanna and, if they qualify, Hanna will send a voucher to the landowner. Vouchers can be redeemed at Larimer County Weed District, and weed district recommendations should be used when purchasing herbicide. HPP will pay 50% of the cost of herbicide, up to the maximum allowable amount. Larimer County Weed District will bill HPP for this portion and the landowner will pay the remainder when making the purchase. Vouchers are for herbicide only and cannot be used for application costs. Qualifying landowners will receive vouchers for the following amounts based on acres owned:

35-160 acres = \$100 maximum

160-400 acres = \$200 maximum

400-1000 acres = \$300 maximum

1000+ acres = \$400 maximum

The project was approved for \$3,000 total and vouchers will be sent out on a first come first served basis.

Fertilizer

The committee would like to continue the fertilizer voucher program with the same rules and funding limits as last year's program. Landowners can send fertilizer voucher applications (applications found on website) to Hanna and, if they qualify, Hanna will send a voucher to the landowner. Fertilizer must be applied to hay fields, and the landowner will need to indicate how many acres are being fertilized with funds from the voucher. Landowners will be reimbursed for 20% of the bill, up to \$750. Landowners will send completed vouchers to Hanna along with an itemized sales receipt in order to receive reimbursement.

The project was approved for \$7,500 total and vouchers will be sent out and reimbursed on a first come first served basis.

Fencing

The committee would like to continue the fencing voucher program with the same rules and funding limits as last year's program. Landowners can send fencing voucher applications (applications found on website) to Hanna and, if they qualify, Hanna will send a voucher to the landowner. Vouchers can only be redeemed at Poudre Valley Co-op and can only be redeemed for the list of approved materials found on the voucher. Poudre Valley Co-op will bill HPP for redeemed vouchers, up to the maximum amount. Remaining balances must be paid by the landowner at the time of purchase. Qualifying landowners will receive vouchers for the following amounts based on acres owned:

160-600 acres = \$200 maximum

600-1000 acres = \$300 maximum

1000 + acres = \$550 maximum

The project was approved for \$12,000 total and vouchers will be sent out on a first come first served basis.

Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses/Committee Recognition

The committee approved \$500 to be used for working meeting meals.

The committee approved use of funds for committee recognition, as needed.

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.

Scott Hampel announced that he will be stepping down from the committee at the beginning of next fiscal year. Scott agreed to announce the vacancy to various sportsperson groups to see who is interested in taking his place as sportsperson rep on the Northern Larimer County committee. Interested candidates should come to a committee meeting for discussion of the position.

There is still a vacancy on the committee for a livestock grower representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM

Next meeting: January 8th at 3:00 PM at the CPW Fort Collins Office

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