



HPP State Council Meeting April 3 & 4, 2018

LOCATION: Marriott Residence Inn, Glenwood Springs, CO

Attendees: Pat Tucker, Dean Riggs, Hunter Seim, Greg Jungman, Paul Crespin, Mick Davis, Gary Visintainer, Ken Morgan, John Hardwick, Teri Polley, Hanna Cook, Katie Richman, Samantha Sorensen

Guests: Perry Will, Area 8 AWM, Brad Henley, SE Deputy Regional Manager, Sheila Lamb, FS, JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager, Mike Trujillo, Area 11 AWM

Absent: Terry Everhart

April 3rd 1:00 to 5:00

Introductions: Sheila Lamb, FS nomination to State Council to replace Paul Crespin. Sheila is also USFS rep on South Park HPP committee; JT Romatzke, replaces Ron Velarde, NW Regional Manager; JT was the prior Colorado Parks and Wildlife Rep for the Grand Mesa committee.

Appreciation awards were presented to the State Council.

Discussion with JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager; honored to be in new position, very supportive of HPP.

- Future Generations Bill passed through Senate and now in the House; at Appropriations on Friday. There are many good things in the Bill.
- We are paying close attention to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) with mandatory checks in some DAU's. JT may ask the State Council to participate in the statewide management strategy.
- IPAWS is the new license system; a robust strong system to take the agency into the future.
- Shed antler closure went through the wildlife commission March 2 thru April 31st; This has been tough dealing with the public and officer threats, federal management partners
- Pat will give a presentation in May at the Wildlife Commission meeting to include the HPP Management Plans.
- Predation is front and center in many discussions. We are in year two of research that is going on near Salida and in the Piceance. Litigation re: these studies is still ongoing. CPW is also paying close attention to the wolf reintroduction debate.
- There is much going on with Sage Grouse. Gunnison Grouse is listed and the HPP committee projects are checked off with Kathy Griffin, Grouse Coordinator, The Greater Sage Grouse is also reviewed, and HPP remains proactive in to make sure our projects are not detrimental to them.
- JT answered questions from the State Council.

Discussion/Decision HPP and Predator - The question was brought up at a local HPP committee; Is it

legit for HPP to help with predator control in the name of helping CPW meet game management objectives? This is not something that HPP has been involved in and the State Council discussed this in light of the expanded statute. The decision was that HPP would not be involved in predator control activities. Pat will convey this to Wildlife Services as well as to the local committees. This also highlighted that, even though an activity could be seen as being in compliance with the statute, the project still may not be suitable or appropriate for HPP to undertake.

Funding Requests - Spanish Peaks, SWA 9000 acres; State land board purchased a hydro ax with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Turkey Federation. The hydro ax is currently operating on the Spanish Peaks SWA. Mike Truillio presented asking for \$45,000 in additional funding from the State Council for operating May and June for a total of 135 acres. The hydro ax keeps the encroachment off the food plots. Mike shared the Spanish Peaks Range Management Plan and noted the Rocky Mountain Elk foundation continues to support the local committee on the SWA. The State Council supported this request and agreed to provide the funding requested for FY18.

Under the current terms of the SLB/CPW contract, this hydroaxe can only be used on SWA's or SLB property - not on other public or private lands.

This is a new undertaking for both CPW and SLB and there may be future budget requests from HPP but they will originate and go thru local committees on a per project request; not as a lump sum grant from HPP to the hydroaxe program.

HPP Powerpoint Show - Pat presented a PowerPoint presentation that he uses for talking to groups about HPP and he will present it to the upcoming Wildlife Commission.

Research Projects - Discussion with JT on the State Councils stance on research and recreation impacts. What parameters does the State Council use on these projects? The current guideline for the local committees is if the committee has a conflict project and a research project, the conflict project has priority. Everyone agrees that recreation is becoming a major influence on big game movements, habitat use, etc but it is much bigger than just HPP.

Personnel Services costs charged to HPP - At the inception of the Habitat Partnership Program, HPP money was used entirely for projects. In 2006, when HPP was transferred to the NW Region, HPP program expenses (ie. vehicle mileage, travel expenses, etc) began to be paid from the fund. In 2016, as a condition of hiring 3 administrative assistants, HPP agreed to pay their salaries, benefits and expenses. In FY18, CPW's financial services section began charging the cost for any employee recording time worked on HPP is now charged to HPP. According to the Financial Services section, this is an accounting process to account for all program expenses in one central location. At the end of the fiscal year, HPP will be reimbursed for these costs so that there would be no impact to the HPP fund. Since this just started in July and since we wanted a clear understanding that would survive any staff changeover, a written agreement is being produced to clarify and document that this is how this will work and HPP staff is carefully monitoring this. Our concerns are 1) making sure HPP is actually reimbursed and 2) more program dollars being used for administrative costs means fewer dollars are available for project needs and how that affects our commitment to the agricultural community.

DNR Grant Discussion - A survey was sent to people in our agency who deals with grants. Pat raised a question about HPP and the interpretation of this survey. Not clear what this means for HPP as grants have different standards for competition and publishing than what we currently do. Pending.

Hemp & Hops Discussion and the Email from Game Damage - The State Council discussed hemp & hops and agreed that HPP will not be handling any hemp issues. While this would primarily involve exclusionary fencing, which we don't provide, the Council felt that until there were demonstrated issues between big game and hemp growers, HPP should not be involved. This is consistent with current CPW game damage direction.

Legislation Status -SB 143 & HB 1198 - the Future Generations bill as well as a bill requiring training for the Council and committees on roles and relationships were discussed.

Roundtable

Dean - nothing

Hunter - BLM move to GJ discussion. In the current budget bill, congress did not appropriate any money for this. Oil & Gas has dwindled.

Greg - Emails from sportsmen regarding the Generation Bill have not been positive; Questioned if he should be writing letters.

Paul - Dry conditions are showing really bad reports. FS is preparing for a historical fire season. There are large targets to the saw mills is habitat work. Imbedded in the omnibus bill, is fire suppression money. Fire costs have increased and in 2020 the bill allocates millions annually. The sexual harassment attention has put some very serious allegations and caused the agency to take immediate action to the forest service.

Sheila -Produce volume!!

JT - good

Mick - can HPP funds be used for CWD?

Gary - With the research Darby is doing and the drought, I would like to see license increased this year. I would like to see Colorado Parks and Wildlife reactive instead of proactive.

Ken - As the State Farm Bill coordinator, the NRCS has an incredible amount of money. Attended the North American Wildlife Conference in Virginia - reorganization of Ag, group all programs under one group. NRCS has the expertise, provides all the expertise. Under the reorganization, FSA would be in charge. Farm Bill rewrites this year and it will not be happening - all negotiations broke down. Hopeful EQUIP will open up and put more money on the ground for wildlife habitat. Black footed ferret update. There are landowner incentives for prairie dogs. When we work on the landscape, let's find value in the whole application.

Katie - Went to the CSU Management Short Course - thank you!

Hanna - Always good to listen on these discussions - thank you!

Sam - Said it best - thank you!

April 4th 8:00-noon

FY18 & FY 19 budget - Council discussed program budget in general. Approved FY19 committee budgets at current levels. Committees should spend down their allocated funds and if additional funding is needed, they can request it from the State Council.

Habitat Grant - Discussion about habitat grant and how HPP hasn't seen the level of requests we had hoped for. Rather than wait for a grant application, an idea was brought up to to work with the Forest Service and BLM to develop a proactive approach that would commit money to them. This would give them the ability to plan and budget for the project and be assured of HPP funding. Landscape level projects at a significant funding level is still the goal. Pat will discuss with local BLM and FS staff to see if this is of interest.

Arch Clearance - HPP has allowed committees to hire a BLM or FS approved archeologist to conduct an Arch Clearance with the understanding that this arch clearance is the HPP contribution to a project.

Review/Thoughts of Bi-Annual Meeting - The recreational theme was valuable and well thought through. Todd Graham's presentation was outstanding. The State Demographer was also very good. Some participants requested breakout sessions. Several committees were under represented. Gunnison and Republican Rivers committees were absent. The guest invite from the committees broadened the representation. Suggest at opening to reach out and meet someone you have never met before. There seems to have value seating like positions together. Other venue suggestions: Embassy Suites in Loveland. We need to make sure this remains a HPP committee conference.

Review/Approval of Distribution Management Plans - Northern Larimer County, San Juan Basin, Lower Colorado River, and North Park were discussed and the Council recommended approval of them to go to the P/W Commission for approval for the next 10 years. These will provide a good template for the remaining 15 committee plans coming due over the next 2 years.

Local Committee Updates - Katie, Hanna and Samantha gave updates on their committees.

Katie

Grand Mesa

- New AWM rep - Kirk Oldham replaces JT Romatzke
- Budget: \$16,000 left/\$101,500, several smaller projects upcoming but unlikely to spend all
- Most of the budget went to water projects and stockpiling white wire

Gunnison Basin

- New Livestock rep - Shane Cox
- Budget: \$74,500 left/\$140,000
- Big projects: \$40,000 in elk collars, \$20,000 female collars & cheat grass control test project

Montelores

- Committee is becoming very active
- Budget: \$42,000 left/\$118,000
- Lots of smaller ponds & fences, several weed cost shares, great success with fence and fertilizer vouchers

North Fork

- Budget: \$10,000 left/\$101,500
- Traditional projects and elk collars

San Juan Basin

- Slow year
- Budget: \$62,000 left/\$160,000
- Rewriting DMP, finished last of Pargin thirteen ponds and fences; piloting pipe fence

Uncompahgre

- New FS rep Loren Paulson replaces Mike Surber
- Complete two State council projects
- Budget: \$35,000 left/ \$162,000
- Larger projects; hydro axe, burn, pipeline, two fencing projects

All my committees had a challenge of fertilizer in this mild winter.

Hanna

Republican Rivers

- Dustin Wise is new committee chair
- Kenny Rogers is stepping down
- Budget: \$23,000/\$44,000
- Current projects consist of habitat, water, trees and grass

Northern Larimer County

- Meeting on April 16th to appoint two new members as livestock grower and sportsperson
- Updating DMP
- Budget: \$15,000 left; mostly habitat and fencing projects

South Park

- Committee has been quiet since last fall, only \$1610 remains unallocated
- Projects include habitat, weed control, fencing and water

Arkansas River

- Budget: \$22,563 left/\$70,000
- Herring ridge should be complete soon
- Had issues with inmate lockdown that delayed project

Sangre de Cristo

- Budget: \$1,200 left/\$70,000
- New FS rep soon

Mount Blanca

- Mike Maldonado is the new chairman, Brian Bechaver is the new Colorado Parks and Wildlife rep
- Budget: \$13,000 left/\$85,000
- Committee is enthusiastic about new project

San Luis Valley

- It's been slow with \$68,000 remaining of their budget; a meeting next week with eleven projects on the agenda.

Samantha

North Park

- Budget: Currently = \$57,487.84/80,000.00
- Changes: The committee nominated Bill Falvey as the new BLM rep./replaced Zachary Hughes
- Projects: 6 projects approved thus far mostly consisting of stackyard construction plus fence and vinyl wire vouchers.

Middle Park

- Budget: Currently = \$26,218.85/125,000.00
- Changes: Dave Hammer is the new chairman.
- Projects: 11 projects approved thus far. 2 water projects, 2 weed projects, youth hunt coordinator (2 deer harvested), elk collaring (study the movements of the Williams Fork herd). Bulk of budget was spent on elk collaring, PJ removal, plus fence and herbicide vouchers.

Upper Yampa River

- Budget: Currently = \$39,481.99/100,000.00
- Changes: Chad Stewart took a new position; a new USFS rep. will be nominated soon.
- Projects: 12 projects approved thus far. 2 CE, 3 stackyards, 3 fence. Bulk of budget spent on conservation easements and fence vouchers.

Lower Colorado River

- Budget: Currently = \$55,510.00/200,000.00
- Projects: 18 projects approved thus far. \$70,125.00 rolled from last year for PJ removal (BLM). 8 fence, 2 habitat improvements, 4 water projects and 2 prescribed burns in the works.

Northwest Colorado

- Budget: Currently = \$86,766.50/200,000.00
- Projects: 9 projects approved thus far-mostly habitat work (Ag conversions & hydro axe). 1 spring development and 1 weed management project. Bulk of budget has been spent on fence vouchers.

White River

- Budget: Currently = \$0/200,000.00 requested an additional \$10,177.46 from Pat
- Projects: 30 projects approved thus far- mostly Ag conversions, weed control and water projects. \$49,000.00 was spent on monitoring this year.

Signage - HPP never did signage for their projects. Signage can increase public awareness. These can become target practice. This will be left up to the local committees.

Summer Field Trip - July 17 & 18 Trinidad