



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Uncompahgre HPP Committee

2300 S. Townsend, Montrose

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

6:30 p.m.

**Uncompahgre HPP Members Present:** Todd Stewart, Ag Producer; Loren Paulson (proxy), USFS; Kelly Crane, CPW; Bobby Gray, Sportsman; Dave Andrews (proxy), Ag Producer; Angela LoSasso, (proxy) BLM

**Guests:** Mark Caddy, CPW; Tony Bonacquista, CPW; Matt Ortega, CPW; Bruce Irvine, Paul Scriffiny, Dean Bursch, Chas Burbridge; Austin Shelby, CSF

**Introduction:** Committee members were introduced. The current remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$115,886.80.

### **New Business:**

#### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews:**

1. Bruce Irvine presented a pond cleanout project. The application was originally for a series of pond cleanouts, however those ponds have already been completed. Additional work is planned for next fall pending weather conditions. Several ponds that have already been cleaned out still need to be treated with a soil stabilizer to prevent erosion and help seal ponds to prevent water loss. The committee approved \$281.25 for purchase of the soil stabilizer, and the landowner will provide labor to apply it to the ponds. The committee also requested that Mr. Irvine resubmit the application in late spring or early summer for fall pond cleanouts.
2. Dean Bursch and Chas Burbridge presented a fencing proposal for 9000-feet of new wildlife friendly fence. The existing fence is old and in severe disrepair, and does not properly contain livestock on the respective properties. The area is located in summer, transitional, and calving ranges for big game, and the fence frequently injures or entangles deer and elk. The proposal

includes removing old fence, clearing new line, and construction of new wildlife-friendly fence to HPP specs including high visibility wire. The project was approved for \$15,500.00 for materials, and HPP will supply 8 rolls of hotcote.

3. Paul Scriffiny presented a fencing proposal for 6600-feet of new wildlife-friendly fence. The existing fence consists primarily of old woven-wire sheep fencing, which presents entanglement risks for deer and elk. The project will include removal of the old fence and construction of new wildlife-friendly fence to HPP specs including high visibility wire. The project was approved for \$16,005.00, and HPP will provide 5 rolls of hotcote.
4. Austin Shelby presented a Colorado State Forest Service proposal for mastication work on USFS. The project targets overgrown understory, primarily oakbrush and serviceberry, in lower elevation winter range for deer and elk. The project involves mastication and thinning of the understory to improve forage availability, which will help reduce wildlife conflicts on nearby private lands. Follow-up treatment, likely including prescribed burns, will be completed by USFS in the future. The mastication project is planned for summer and fall of 2019, and additional cooperators are still being sought. Costs are still unknown as contractor bids have not been secured yet. The committee supported the project and will write a letter of support for Mr. Shelby to pursue additional funding, but will table the project until the spring when the total budget and anticipated costs are more firm.
5. The committee reviewed a fencing proposal from Robert Romero. Large sections of old fencing have been replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing in the past, and there is one remaining section of 1280-feet that needs to be replaced. The area experiences heavy big game use during migration events, and the fence is located in a major funnel/crossing point for deer and elk. The fence will be wildlife-friendly to HPP specs including high visibility wire, and will include two big game crossings. The project was approved for \$2,295.00.

**Other Business:**

1. The committee discussed implementing a pond cleanout program for the spring and/or next fiscal year. Other HPP committees issue vouchers to landowners, or work with local ag associations to complete cleanouts on public lands. The committee would be interested in DWM feedback on pond cleanouts and will further discuss the idea at the February meeting.

**Next Meeting: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**