



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### San Juan Basin HPP Committee

San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Ct., Durango

February 28th, 2018

6:00 p.m.

**San Juan Basin HPP Members Present:** Anthony Garcia, USFS; Mike Schmidt, BLM; Sandy Young, Livestock Grower; Adrian Archuleta, CPW; John Gardener, Sportsman; Phil Craig, Livestock Grower; Aran Johnson, SUIT

**Guests:** Brad Weinmeister, CPW

**Introduction:** Current project updates were reviewed. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$77,145.96.

#### **New Business:**

1. Brad Weinmeister reviewed post-hunt big game population numbers with the committee. The surveys were difficult to conduct this year due to extremely low snow. Deer numbers appear to be stable, with a higher than desired buck ratio. Given the prevalence of CWD in this area, target buck ratios will likely be lowered in the upcoming DAU plan revision. Elk numbers are lower than desired with extremely low cow/calf ratios. License setting meetings are in the near future, and Brad anticipates severe antlerless elk tag cuts. Either sex tags will also likely be reduced or eliminated. The committee briefly discussed potential causes of the low calf survival rates, including cow senescence, CWD, hunting pressure and weather/climate changes.
2. The committee reviewed FY18 fertilizer applications. There were 19 applicants with a total of 2340 acres. The committee discussed how the price per acre varies each year based on numbers of applicants, and noted that with the drought this year fertilizer may not be as necessary as other years. However, given that applicants are only eligible every 3<sup>rd</sup> year for

fertilizer, the committee did not feel that it would be fair to reduce the fertilizer budget for this year's recipients. The committee approved \$25.00 per acre with individuals capped at \$3,000.

3. The committee continued to work on revisions and updates to the Distribution Management Plan, with particular focus on updating conflict areas, eligibility rules and management strategies. Katie will continue to work with the DMP and will present a final draft at the next meeting. The plans are expected to be reviewed at the May Commission meeting for final approval.
  
4. The committee approved \$4,884.88 for an order with Kencove to replenish the inventory of pony rail. The pony rail will be provided to fence project applicants and voucher recipients as needed.

**Meeting adjourned. Next meeting April 11th, 2018**