



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Lathrop State Park**

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Dave Gilbert, BLM
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Arlie Riggs, Livestock Grower
- Dwaine Robey, Sportsperson
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Jeff Williams (BLM), Steve Oswald (Landowner), Kim Woodruff (DWM), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Jeff Outhier (USFS), Paul Coe (Landowner), Bob Holder (DWM), Dennis and Dotty Feister (Landowners), John Kidd (USFS)

**Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:10 AM**

### **Introductions**

#### **General Public Comments**

John Kidd gave an update on the fires that are currently burning in the area. Teams have been working hard on the Spring fire and have been able to contain a portion of it (approximately 70% contained as of yesterday). There is still a lot of work to do, but progress looks good. They have been working with the power company to restore power to areas that have been cleared for repopulation so that residents can return to their homes. CPW has been actively involved since the onset of the fire. CPW Staff have been helping with evacuations, assessments, and law enforcement.

### **Budget Report**

The 2018 and 2019 budget reports were reviewed.

### **Old Business**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

### **New Business**

Jeff Outhier has been appointed as the new USFS representative on the committee. He still needs to be approved by the commission. The committee will be notified when the appointment is finalized.

## **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

### Sand Gulch BLM Water Development-Jeff Williams, Steve Oswald

Jeff and Steve are asking HPP for \$4,000 to help to drill a new well and install a pump on the Sand Gulch Allotment. There is an existing well that has dried up, so there is no longer a reliable water source in the area and this is causing poor livestock and wildlife distribution. The new well will be drilled near the old well and a new pump will be installed. The new water source will improve grazing management. A solar pump would not work well in the area, and windmills have been frequently vandalized in the past. Based on this information, the permittee has decided to run the pump off of a generator. The permittee will provide the generator and installation of plumbing materials and the tire tank. The BLM and the Front Range Grazing Advisory Board will contribute money for the well and infrastructure (pipe, tire tanks, etc.).

**The project was approved for \$4,000.**

### Feister Habitat Manipulation-Bob Holder

The Feisters are asking HPP for \$5,000 for a habitat treatment project on their property. This ranch has seen frequent game damage in the past, and the landowners have been completing habitat treatments to improve wildlife habitat and help alleviate damage to crops. Dead trees will be removed and pinion junipers will be thinned to allow for regeneration of Aspen and forage. This will create more favorable habitat for big game by increasing forage quality and quantity and will help to keep big game away from hay fields. This will also reduce the risk of wildfire in a very susceptible area. 33 acres were completed last year, and the Feisters would like to start work on the next phase which will treat 48 acres. HPP funds would pay for 25 acres, and the Feisters will pay for an additional 23 acres plus payment for machine maintenance and labor to haul off felled trees.

**The project was approved for \$5,000.**

### Tom Grette Professional Service-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$7,000 to pay Tom Grette for his services mapping and flagging project sites and supervising work crews. CPW and BLM employees do not have a lot of time for mapping and flagging, so Tom's services are vital to the success of habitat projects in the area. CPW and BLM staff will contribute time for planning and implementation.

**The project was approved for \$7,000.**

### Iron Dollar Hydroaxe Treatment-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$15,000 to treat approximately 43 acres of pinion juniper on BLM land using a hydro axe. Thinning pinion juniper will improve wildlife habitat on public lands and will help to redistribute big game on a large scale. BLM will match \$15,000 to treat an additional 43 acres. Kim is seeking additional funding to treat more acres, but if the funding is not received this fall then they will move ahead to treat approximately 86 acres this year (using HPP and BLM funds). The overall goal of the project is to treat a total of 248 acres as funding is secured.

**The project was approved for \$15,000.**

### Inmate Hand thinning-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$3,000 to pay for chainsaw maintenance, gas, oil, and safety equipment for inmate labor crews that will complete hand thinning on public lands to improve wildlife habitat. Big game have been seen in habitat treatment areas more often, so it is clear that the past treatments have been successful.

**The project was approved for \$3,000.**

### Voucher program renewal

This program has been done annually to provide landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs or committee members can sign and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Eligible landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within SDCHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year, with a maximum of \$600 per voucher. Vouchers can only be used once. Unused funds are forfeited. Only eligible materials will be reimbursed.

**The committee voted to continue this program with a limit of \$600 per landowner. Landowners are allowed up to \$600 of reimbursement for fence materials to fix damage cause by big game. Total project limit is \$5,000.**

**The committee will also continue the stockpile program in which landowners are allowed to take white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile to be used for projects in the SDC area. Vouchers must be fully filled out and returned to Hanna Cook as soon as materials are received by the landowner. Vouchers can be approved by DWMs or committee members, but only CPW staff is authorized to distribute materials.**

### Tire Tanks Order

The SDC committee's stockpile of tire tanks has been depleted, so a new order needs to be made to ensure that tire tanks are available for landowners. The committee would like to make an order of only 8ft and 10ft tanks, as the 12ft tanks are too hard to distribute. The order will not exceed \$5,000.

**The project was approved for \$5,000.**

### Meals/operating expenses

**The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$1,000 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.**

### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

The SDC committee's Habitat Management Plan will be due for renewal in May of 2019. The committee will have a work session at the next meeting to go through the old plan and make updates as needed.

The HPP State Council approved funding in April to pay for a hydro axe operator to work on the Spanish Peaks SWA. Work has been ongoing this summer using the hydro axe purchased by CPW and SLB. A lot of work has been done already using CPW and HPP funds. Due to wildfire concerns, hydro axe operations have just been suspended. The suspension will continue until conditions improve.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 PM**

**The next meeting will be held on: September 18th at 10:00 AM at the Pueblo Hunter Education Building.**

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