



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way
September 18, 2018
7:00PM

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Curtis Keetch/USFS and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Asst. AWM Mike Swaro/CPW, DWM Johnathan Lambert/CPW, DWM Ross McGee/CPW, DWM Justin Pollock/CPW and Kurt Frentress

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$70,682.25.

Old Business: The minutes from July 31st and August 21st were presented and approved as written.

New Business: William Robinson Vinyl Wire: Ross presented committee members with applications. The property is on the west side of Juniper Mountain. The landowner has already removed the old sheep fence and installed the new fence; he just needs the vinyl wire top strand. Plans to begin installing vinyl wire in May and would be happy with a reimbursement. Lessees for cattle in the summer but it is mostly a hunting property. Evan pointed out that a lot of wildlife moves through the area and the project would tie in with work done on Strawberry across the road. The committee approved \$1,752.64 for the project.

Duzik Water Development: TABLED

Lyon Grass Conversion: Justin and Kurt explained that the project would be a 36 acre conversion. The property is 360 acres located on CR 74. Justin had gotten in touch with Trevor Balzer who had said it might be a good HPP project. The property is a migration area for elk and deer plus grouse. The project area is 3 miles from a sage grouse lek. The ground was ripped last fall and sprayed to kill smooth brome. There's no conflict but the project would improve wildlife habitat. The landowner used to graze it but felt there was too much liability. If the committee approves the conversion they may eventually look into a water development too. Chad asked if the site would essentially be a food plot for wildlife. Chad and Gary were concerned that there wasn't a conflict. Evan pointed out that HPP has expanded to allow for projects that help achieve game management objectives. Kurt said they'd like to be done by October 20th before the snow flies. The committee approved \$2,810.38 for the project.

Highway 13 Wildlife Crossings: Mike let the committee know that there are efforts being made to install wildlife crossings along Highway 13 between mile markers 111 and 116. The Middle Park committee contributed \$5,000.00 to the Highway 9 project but this project has a lot more components. There are a lot of unknowns since the area is transitional range and there could be upwards of 5k elk moving through at a time. There is a lot of pressure to do something since it's a human health and safety issue.

Chad pointed out that a 5 mile stretch is a very small drop in the bucket. The committee decided that they were not comfortable contributing to the project.

Distribution Damage Vouchers: Vouchers are another management tool available to DWMs when dealing with winter conflicts. Evan explained that he typically asks for 200 elk vouchers but due to the severe drought, fires and poor winter range conditions he asked that the committee consider increasing the amount to 400. Collar data was provided for committee members to show that elk and deer avoid burn areas. Evan asked the committee if they would support deer vouchers to be used around the burn areas, since animals will be pushed onto adjacent lands. Chad felt that there could be a local uproar if CPW started killing deer. Gary felt that the agency needs to issue more cow tags. Mike explained that licenses are set in March and that they're often a year behind when trying to deal with drought, fires and harsh winters. Gary expressed that he feels the agency is pretty lousy at managing wildlife and conveyed there needs to be more flexibility to adjust licenses as necessary. Sean asked if the main goal was to prevent conflict or reduce mortality. After much discussion the committee decided to approve the 400 elk vouchers plus 50 deer vouchers that were only to be issued in the event a landowner was experiencing damage. Evan will provide numbers to the committee in the spring.

Vinyl Wire Vouchers: Samantha explained the vinyl wire voucher system that the North Park and Upper Yampa River committees use and thought the Northwest committee might be interested in doing something similar since vinyl wire is becoming more popular. The committee decided to wait until Pat Tucker had a chance to speak with Game Damage about carrying vinyl wire.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Distribution Management Plan: No update.

Select Next Meeting Date: November 20th at 7:00pm.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.