



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
November 19th, 2019
Royal Gorge Field Office

Committee Members present:

- Jim Aragon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower
- Tyrel Woodward, Sportsmen

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Kim Woodruff (DWM), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Jamin Grigg (CPW Biologist)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM

Budget Report

The 2020 budget report was reviewed.

New Business

DMP Final Approval

The committee has read the latest draft of the DMP, and they have voted to approve it as the final draft. The draft will be sent to Pat Tucker and the State Council for review and approval, and will then be sent to the Wildlife Commission for final approval.

PH-39 DAU Revisions-Jamin Grigg

Jamin has been working on revising the PH-39 DAU plan. The current pronghorn population is estimated at around 200 animals and 19 bucks: 100 does. The current objective is 150 animals and 50 bucks: 100 does. Jamin feels that 200 is the approximate carrying capacity of this herd because of the habitat. They have tried to grow the population in the past by limiting doe harvest, but the population of 200 seems to be the limit. The main concerns for this herd are a loss of habitat through development, limited water resources, and loss of agricultural land.

Pronghorn harvest management in this DAU consists of Over-The-Counter (OTC) archery licenses and limited buck and doe rifle and muzzleloader licenses. CPW is proposing increasing the population objective to 150-200 pronghorn and decreasing the sex ratio objective to 20-25 bucks: 100 does. The current population currently falls in or near those ranges, so CPW will be

able to manage at status quo for the current herd. There have been minimal game damage complaints and hunters and landowners generally seem satisfied with the current population level. Some landowners have complained about the OTC archery licenses, as the numbers of archery hunters have increased dramatically and this has been pushing pronghorn off of public land and onto private lands. CPW is considering going from OTC to limited archery licenses for this DAU.

The committee agrees with Jamin's assessment that the high elevation habitat and development in this DAU will limit growth of the herd, and they have not heard any landowner complaints about pronghorn in the area. The herd seems stable, and they feel that keeping the population at status quo is the best option. **The committee will write a comment letter for Jamin's proposed plan.**

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

SWIFT Crew Hand Thinning Project-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$5,000 to pay the DOC SWIFT crew to treat habitat in the Wellsville and Sand Gulch areas. Muley Fanatics will match \$5,000. The SWIFT crew will be hand thinning pinyon and juniper. This project is in an already established treatment area, so the SWIFT crew will be adding some acres on to the couple thousand acres that have already been treated. Tom Grette has already mapped and flagged this area. This will be a new crew, so all acres treated during training of the new SWIFT crew will be donated at no additional cost. Crews will work for 6.25 days, and Kim estimates that 3-4 acres will be treated per day (approximately 19 acres treated total).

The project was approved for \$5,000.

The Pocket Water Development-Brett McMurry

This project was not discussed. Brett let the committee know that he needs to coordinate with the USFS before moving forward with the project. The project has been tabled.

Fertilization Project Discussion-Jim Aragon

The committee has not done fertilizer projects in the past, but Jim wants to discuss the possibility. The committee is concerned that opening the door up to fertilizer projects may create a situation where the committee is asked to buy fertilizer for more and more landowners each year, which will spend most of the budget. Applying fertilizer to public land with already treated habitat may be an option, as it will help to enhance the habitat treatments and create better habitat for wildlife on public lands. The committee will consider this and continue to discuss it in the future, especially if or when any fertilizer projects are proposed.

Remaining committee business/other discussion

Invited Guests for the HPP Statewide Meeting

The HPP statewide meeting will be on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Grand Junction. The committee can invite two guests that will have their expenses paid for. The committee will consider this and let Hanna know if they come up with anyone to invite.

Jeff Pridemore still needs to pick up his HPP tire tank, which is being held in Salida. The committee has agreed that if he does not pick up and install his tank by January 1st, then it will be forfeited and will go back to the HPP stockpile in Canon City.

The AR committee still has 4 10 ft tire tanks that are being kept at Lathrop State Park. The tanks need to be transferred to the Canon City stockpile. The SDC committee still has 25 rolls of white wire at the Canon City facility that need to be transferred to Pueblo. Jim will work with Mike Trujillo to get everything transferred.

Patty Knupp let the committee know that NRCS has funding for water projects through EQIP.

Pat let the committee know that the HPP State Council is working on revisions of the HPP statutes. The revisions will likely not be reviewed this year, but he is hoping that it will happen in the next year or two.

Kim updated the committee that the Dead Horse Habitat project is underway, and they will be able to treat more acres this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Next meeting: February 26th at 10:00 AM at the Royal Gorge Field Office.

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