



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Colorado Parks & Wildlife 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs
September 16, 2019
5:30pm

Introductions: **Members attending meeting:** AWM Kris Middledorf/CPW, Eric Scherff/BLM, Larry Monger/Livestock Grower, Nita Naugle/Livestock Grower, Kelsey Crane/USFS, Jeff Clyncke/Livestock Grower, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting:** John Twitchell/CSFS, Clinton Whitten/NRCS, Fritz Aurin, Dean Rossi, Michael Rossi, DWM Adam Gerstenberger, Sarah & Bob Woodmansee.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha provided committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget for FY20 was \$23,776.00.

Old Business: Minutes from August 5th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Mountain Lion Research Presentation-Mat Alldredge: Kris gave a brief overview of HPP and then introduced Mat Alldredge. Mat gave a presentation on mountain lion research; he was hired to do the study after the Director felt the information would be useful with interactions between humans and lions on the rise.

Elk Mtn. Habitat Improvement: Tabled.

Rossi Stackyard: Adam explained that the area is at the edge of winter range. Rossi's hay is currently stacked with cones around it; came out to be a little less than a 330'. Game Damage covers just under half the cost of a NW special, which is about \$1900 total, they're asking HPP for approximately \$1,000.00. Rossi would contribute the labor to construct the stackyard. The committee approved \$1,000.00 for the project.

Hanger Ranch/CSFS Habitat Improvement: See below.

Wilhelm Ranch/CSFS Habitat Improvement: See below.

Aurin Ranch/CSFS Habitat Improvement: John Twitchell began by explaining the Good Neighbor Agreement. All three proposals, Hanger, Wilhelm, and Aurin, are for the same type of work but he completed three separate applications since there are three different landowners. The landowners agreed to allow the vendor access to neighboring Forest Service where mastication is to take place on approximately 690 acres. The vendor, Dale Army out of Glenwood Springs,

agreed to honor the FS rate for the 3 private landowners. John asked HPP to pay \$13,000.00 for mastication of 52 acres on private property; the primary goal would be wildfire mitigation but the treatments would also benefit elk and deer by changing the age structure of oak brush and serviceberry. The committee had a lengthy discussion about fire mitigation projects and whether or not they met one of the two purposes of HPP. They also discussed when retreatment would be necessary and possible monitoring of the project. Jeff pointed out that he understood how treatments higher up in elevation would benefit wildlife but treatments around the houses are not for wildlife. Private landowner in-kind contributions would go toward weed treatments and potentially future brush work. Larry said he was not thrilled about the lack of match on private and wondered why HPP was asked to foot the entire bill; why not involve the NRCS. Nita viewed the USFS as a partner too and considered it one large project. Larry voiced his concerns about the effectiveness of mastication work. The committee approved \$10,400.00(\$4k for Aurin, \$4k for Wilhelm, and \$2,400.00 for Hanger) with the understanding that the remaining \$2,600.00 would need to be paid by either the landowners or a different contributor. Fritz Aurin said he felt Larry was being reasonable and offered to pay 20% of the cost on his property.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: New Chairperson/Co-Chair: The committee agreed that Kris Middledorf would serve as chairman and Larry Monger would be the co-chair.

Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting-Kris let everyone know that Kelly accepted the invite. Larry has yet to ask Justin if he would like to attend. The meeting is December 3-5 in Grand Junction.

Select Next Meeting Date: January 13th at 5:30pm with a possible conference call in October to discuss a stackyard proposal. Future Agenda Items: Kris will ask John Twitchell to give a presentation in January.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.