



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Uncompahgre HPP Committee

Phone Conference

April 21st, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Uncompahgre HPP Members Present: Bob Black, Livestock Grower; Kelly Crane, CPW; Loren Paulson, USFS; Bobby Gray (proxy)

Guests: Brad Weinmeister, CPW; Montelores HPP Committee Members

New Business:

1. Brad Weinmeister presented the draft Herd Management Plans for E24 for both the Montelores and Uncompahgre HPP committees. The DAU faces significant challenges with loss of winter range, increasing development and recreation demands, and diminishing calf recruitment; however extensive public outreach revealed that most people favor an overall population increase.

The committees supported the proposed population objective increase of 15%, with the goal of increasing the population throughout the DAU except for unit 70. The committees do not believe the increases would create significantly more conflict, and that HPP and CPW have the resources necessary to address conflicts should they occur. Additionally, sportsmen and other stakeholders have expressed the desire to expand hunting opportunity and see more elk on the landscape. It should be noted that the majority of sportsmen favor a larger population increase of 25%; however, with significant calf recruitment issues across southwest Colorado, the committees believe that the proposed 15% increase within the 10-year time frame is more realistic. The committees also noted concerns about the loss of winter range due to continued residential growth and increasing recreation demands on public lands. The committees will draft comment letters for Mr. Weinmeister to include in the plan.

Next Meeting: TBD