



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

March 3rd, 2020

USFS-Pueblo Office

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Dwaine Robey, Sportsperson
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Outhier, USFS

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Zach Holder (CPW-DWM), Dave Gilbert (Retired BLM), Glenda Torres (BLM), Jerry Bachman (Landowner), Joe Williams (Fire Management Officer USFS), Paul Coe (Landowner)

Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:07 AM

Introductions

General Public Comments

The HPP State Council had a meeting last week. They tried to go to legislature to update the statute, but they were unable to get on the schedule for this year. They have support to try for next year to update the statute before the program funding expires in 2023.

Dean Riggs has retired from CPW. Interviews have been held for his replacement.

Budget Report

The 2020 budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Bachman Ranch Water Improvement Project-Zach Holder, Jerry Bachman

Jerry and Zach are asking HPP for \$5,000 for materials and labor needed to establish a pond to provide water for wildlife on Bachman Ranch. Water sources on the property were not maintained and are not functioning. Jerry is trying to reclaim the property to establish good wildlife habitat. He has already established a food plot and some water tanks, which has

increased wildlife use a little bit, but he thinks that a pond with native grasses that attract wildlife may be more beneficial. Jerry owns the water rights and would like to run water from existing springs to an existing pond. Big game used to frequent the area, but they have left due to poor habitat. Re-establishing the vegetation and water sources will improve the quality and quantity of habitat for wildlife, and would attract big game back to the area. This will allow the landowner to increase hunting opportunities (especially youth hunting). The landowner will contribute additional funds for materials and labor.

The project was approved for \$5,000.

Williams Creek Road Mastication-Jeff Outhier

Jeff is asking HPP for \$21,660 for mastication on 24 acres of roads to clear dead and downed trees that resulted from wildfires. This will create a fire break for future wildfires and prescribed burns, and will open the road for potential future treatment of the habitat. The USFS spent \$41,000 last year to clear other sections of this road and another road in the area. The USFS is planning a prescribed burn in the area, and clearing this road will help with the implementation of the burn. This burn is the first priority for the USFS and will be implemented as soon as they get a burn window. A portion of this project will take place on private property, and the landowner has signed off on the work on their property. There is concern from some committee members that there will not be any immediate effect from this project, as there aren't any habitat treatments planned, other than the one prescribed burn. However, the committee still agreed that this work needs to get done to help with future wildfires and habitat treatments. Jeff Outhier has abstained from voting for this project.

The project was approved for \$21,660.

SDCHPP Tire Tanks and White Wire

The SDC committee has 51 rolls of white wire that are available to eligible landowners. Rolls are kept at the Pueblo CPW office.

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 10ft tanks, as the 8ft tanks are too small for what most people need, and the 12ft tanks are too hard to distribute. The vendor was able to fit 12 10ft tanks on a truck load for the last order made by HPP, so the committee will plan on the same amount for a full truck load.

The project was approved for up to \$8,700 for 12 10ft tanks. The tire tanks will be shipped to Pueblo.

The committee will 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. Landowners are allowed 1 roll of white vinyl wire per year and 2 tire tanks per year. Requests for additional wire and tanks can be brought to the committee.

Voucher program renewal for 2021

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.

Meals/operating expenses

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

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Committee Recognition award

The committee would like to thank Dave Gilbert for his time on the committee and congratulate him on his retirement from the BLM. Dave has been an important part of this committee for 13 years, and he will be missed as a committee member.



Mike gave the committee some updates:

- CWD-new units have been found with CWD this year as a result of testing.
- The Fisher's Peak management plan process is underway. They have been working on Elk studies, and they are also working on opening the first public trail on the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM

The next meeting will be held on: May 26th, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Lathrop State Park.

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