



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

August 15th, 2017

6:00 PM – 8:15 PM

Carnegie Library, Monte Vista

Members Present: Mick Davis, Rick Davie, Dale Gomez, Eduardo Duran, Mark Bechaver, Suzanne Beauchaine, Brent Woodward

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Brent Frankland (CPW-Biologist), Robert Marquez (Landowner)

Budget

2017 and 2018 budget report reviewed.

General Public Comments

None.

Old Business

Almost all evaluations have been entered. The last one should be received and entered soon and the 2017 fiscal year will be closed out.

New Business

DAU Plan Revision for GMU 80 and 81-Brent Frankland

DAU plans for deer and elk in GMU 80 and 81 will be re-written this year. The new objectives will be in effect for the next 10 years, but they can be adjusted if there is a catastrophic event (i.e. disease or fire) that affects the population. Chronic Wasting Disease is likely to start making an appearance in San Luis Valley and CPW is taking this into consideration when revisiting population objectives. An increase in the buck to doe ratio could potentially increase the risk of CWD. The deer population objective is currently set at 6-7,000, but that objective has not been reached since 1999. The reason why deer populations have been staying below the objective is unclear. Population objectives for deer may be decreased to match the natural herd numbers. Elk population objectives may be increased slightly. The committee agreed that they would like to see the numbers remain the same, if not have a slight increase. The public has voiced the same opinion.

A draft of the new DAU plan will be put out to the public at the end of September. It will need to go through various levels of approval, but the hope is that it will be finalized by Spring 2018. The draft will be sent to the committee for review. Committee members will then vote on the draft, and if there is unanimous approval the committee will write a letter of support that will accompany the draft DAU plan.

Antelope Census Updates

The most recent counts from Jack Martin have shown good fawn/doe ratios.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Rajadero Canyon Water Catchment Repairs-Robert Marquez

The San Luis Valley HPP committee funded the purchase of a liner for a water catchment projects 3-4 years ago. The storage tank for that catchment is beginning to rust and the landowner is worried that it will start leaking very soon. The landowner would like to install a liner in the tank to avoid leaks. BLM may be able to fund a small amount of this project, but the committee will not require a match from BLM.

The committee voted to approve the project for \$2,157.

English Valley Well Repairs

The pump system on the English Valley well has failed several times over the last few years and has required repairs. This well is very important for wildlife, so if the pump fails it needs to be fixed quickly. This project will allow for funds to be used for repairs if or when they are needed without having to wait for the next meeting to get committee approval. Mick Davis and USFS will match \$800 each.

The committee approved the project for \$1,600.

Next Meeting: October 4th at 6:00 PM at Carnegie Library.

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