



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

North Fork HPP Committee

Maloney House, Delta County Fairgrounds

March 27th, 2016

6:00 p.m.

North Fork HPP Members Present: Ken Holsinger, BLM; Ross Allen, Livestock Grower; Cody Purcell, CPW; Steve Kossler, Livestock Grower

Guests: Stuart Sinclair, CPW; Andrew Taylor, CPW; Pat Tucker, CPW; Adam Gall, Landowner

Introduction: Committee members were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$43,050.00.

New Business:

Project Application Proposals and Reviews:

1. Adam Gall presented a forage purchase proposal. The property on Sunshine Mesa includes a 55-acre irrigated field which is located in big game winter range and experiences heavy use by deer and elk, severely impacting forage production. The availability of forage does help hold elk off of other nearby irrigated fields which have also experienced game damage in the past. The proposal included leaving the third cutting of hay exclusively for wildlife consumption, and being paid for the value of the forage that would have been produced (70 tons). The project was approved for \$70 per ton, for a total of \$4900.00.
2. The committee reviewed the Fence Repair Crew and Fence Repair Materials projects. Historically these projects had been popular and were utilized by landowners to repair big game damage to fences; however, there has been little use of these funds in recent years. The committee discussed implementing a fence voucher system in lieu of the repair crew. Vouchers will be issued in the field by the DWMs in \$200 increments to

landowners with fence damage from deer and elk. Landowners with significant acreage or severe damage may qualify for multiple vouchers at the DWM's discretion. The repair crew and materials budgets will be combined into one \$5,750.00 fence voucher project for the remainder of FY17, and the committee will re-evaluate the project and budget for FY18.

Other Business:

1. The committee expressed interest in having Adam Gall fill the vacant Sportsperson Rep position. Mr. Gall is a member of the Colorado Chapter Board of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and a member of RMEF, and hunts deer and elk in Colorado in addition to mentoring women's and youth hunts. Pat Tucker gave an overview of the HPP program and the role of the sportsmen's rep in the community. Mr. Gall was interested in joining the committee and will plan to attend the next meeting to gain experience with the committee.

Roundtable:

1. The committee noted future potential projects, including weed projects with USFS; cheatgrass and weed control with BLM; and continuing whitetop control efforts on McKlusky SWA.
2. Pat Tucker announced the statewide HPP meeting, which will be held on December 5th – 7th in Grand Junction. Pat also gave an update on the proposed license fee increase and Financial Sustainability Bill, which is being drafted this week.

Next Meeting: TBD