



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

March 14th, 2017

6:00 PM – 8:25 PM

Carnegie Library, Monte Vista

Members Present: Mick Davis, Brent Woodward, Rick Davie, Dale Gomez.

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Melissa Garcia (Field Manager SLV-BLM), Eduardo Duran (BLM), Brent Frankland (CPW terrestrial Biologist), Nick Derienzis (4UR Ranch Manager)

2017 budget report reviewed.

New Business:

Discussion on BLM representative-Melissa Garcia

Melissa Garcia has selected Eduardo (Ed) Duran as the potential new BLM representative on the San Luis Valley HPP committee. In the past, there have been discussions at committee meetings involving some committee members bringing up concerns about BLM projects. Melissa is concerned about putting Ed in a position where he would have a conflict of interest in being a BLM employee and an HPP committee member if the committee is advocating against BLM projects. Melissa would like to determine what the best role is for BLM when working with HPP to ensure the most effective and beneficial working relationship. The committee feels that it is very important to have a BLM representative on the committee and they have not nor will they have any intentions of putting any agency representative in an uncomfortable or conflicted position. There have been discussions on BLM projects in the past and the committee members viewed it as an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion about concerns. Information that comes from such discussions is vital to the partnership that makes HPP such a successful program.

The committee does not intend to advocate against other agencies as the primary focus is fence and forage projects that will help resolve wildlife and agricultural conflicts. The success of HPP, and the projects that the program takes part in, depends on the partnership between landowners, sportsmen, and various federal and state agencies. The San Luis Valley committee rarely writes letters concerning other entities, and when they do they are almost exclusively written to show support for a project or decision. Letters have to be formally discussed and voted on by committee members and then approved by the HPP coordinator and CPW senior management. The committee members agreed that they would very much like to see Ed on the committee as the BLM representative and a voting member, and have requested that Melissa submit a letter appointing Eduardo Duran to the committee.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

4UR Ranch Fencing-Damon Gibbons

The landowner is asking HPP for \$3,548.17 for fencing materials. The existing fence on part of the property has been damaged and needs to be replaced. The landowner would like to rebuild 1.25 miles of the fence with extra braces and lower the height to minimize future damage. CPW recently purchased a conservation easement on the property and they are 2 years into a 10 year agreement where hunters can apply for access permits so they can go through the ranch to access forest service lands. The landowner also allows some family to hunt on the property, but it is minimal. Game damage claims have been paid on this property in the past. The property does operate as a guest ranch and the landowners have decided that they do not want to use white vinyl wire for aesthetic purposes. They will use smooth wire on top and will follow CPW guidelines on spacing to ensure that the fence is wildlife friendly. The landowner will pay for additional materials and labor. **The committee approved the project for \$3,548.17 as a landowner reimbursement for materials.**

Wishbone Water Development- Dale Gomez

USFS is asking HPP for \$3,000 for 4,000 feet of pipe needed for a new water development on the Wishbone Sheep Allotment. USFS and grazing permittees will pay for additional materials (tanks, spring boxes, pipe) and installation. There are currently no good water sources for livestock and grazing management has been poor. This water source will allow for improved grazing management and will increase water and forage for wildlife. This is an important wintering habitat for elk, and big horn sheep use the area regularly.

The committee approved the project for \$3,000.

Shallow Forage Reserve Water Development-Dale Gomez

The USFS is asking HPP for \$2,820 for materials needed to replace four existing dysfunctional water developments on the Shallow Forage Reserve Cattle Allotment. USFS and permittees will pay for additional materials and installation. HPP funds will pay for 2 tanks, 1 spring box, and 2,000 feet of pipe. This property is important winter range for deer, elk, and big horn sheep. Replacing the water sources will provide reliable water and result in improved grazing management and wildlife distribution which will improve the quality and quantity of forage.

The committee approved the project for \$2,820.

2018 Antelope Census Project-Mick Davis

This will be a continuation of a project done year to year. Jack Martin will continue to conduct pronghorn counts and will give the data to CPW. Brent Frankland mentioned that the data has been beneficial and that CPW has been able to use Jack's counts as a supplement to their own data and that it is useful to compare the numbers from different counts. The census area and wages will remain the same as last year's project.

The committee approved the project for \$15.60/hour plus allowable mileage-up to \$1600 for fiscal year 2018.

The committee thanks Mick Davis for providing dinner for everyone at the meeting!

Next Meeting: May 11th at 6:00 PM at Carnegie Library.

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