



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

September 21st, 2017

Calvillo's Restaurant

6:00 PM-10:00 PM

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### Committee members Present:

- Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- Paul Minow, *BLM Representative*
- Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative (pending)-on agenda???*
- Ty Ryland, *Livestock Growers Representative*

Administrators: Hanna Cook

Guests: Rick Basagoitia (CPW-AWM), Conrad Albert (CPW-DWM)

### Budget Report

The 2017 and 2018 budget reports were reviewed.

### New Business

#### DAU Plan Rewrite

Rick Basagoitia updated the committee on the Herd Management Plan (DAU plan) rewrite for deer and elk in GMUs 80 and 81. The DAU plan sets population objectives and sex ratio objectives for deer and elk. The populations have been slightly below the previous population objective. Elk populations were too high in the past, so the population objective was decreased and more tags were given out. The population is now below objectives so CPW is working to find a happy medium. Advancing science helps to assist in management objectives. For example, elk collars have been used to determine the elk population and movement patterns. Public meetings have been held and surveys have been sent out to gauge the public's support for management plans. Drafts of the plan should be sent out by the end of the month. The committee may be asked to review the draft and write a letter of support.

Rick Basagoitia introduced Brian Bechaver as the new CPW representative on the committee as Jason Surface was promoted to assistant AWM in Fort Collins and will no longer be sitting on the Mount Blanca committee. The Wildlife Commission will need to approve Brian's appointment to the committee at a future meeting.

## **HPP Expansion**

The HPP expansion has gone into effect as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and committees can review new research and monitoring proposals that are aimed at assisting with game management objectives. Local committees can decide how they would like to approach any new proposals they receive and if they would like to outline any special processes or requirements for proposals involving game management objectives.

The committee agreed that these projects should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than place any strict guidelines on them. The committee would like to start funding more proactive projects. They hope to see more project proposals for habitat treatment, water developments, etc.

## **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

### **Hunt Coordinators**

Conrad Albert is proposing a continuation of the hunt coordinator program that the committee has funded year to year. Andy Espinosa will still be the hunt coordinator for Northern Costilla County and the Hunt Coordinator Board is in the process of selecting a new hunt coordinator for South Costilla County. The new hunt coordinator will be expected to spend some time with Andy Espinosa in order to become familiar with the way that the committee would like to see dispersal hunts executed. Conrad is proposing a budget of \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for the new hunt coordinator.

**The committee approved the project for \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for the new hunt coordinator-hunt coordinators will be paid \$25/hour plus allowable mileage.**

### **Columbian Ranch Forage Purchase**

This project has been done for several years and purchases forage for wildlife from David Faucette (Columbian Ranch). Conrad Albert, Rick Basagoitia and the committee feel that this is still a very important project, as it reduces some potentially very large game damage claims. Conrad is asking for \$24,000 to purchase 240 tons of forage.

**The committee approved the project for \$24,000.**

### **Cougar Run Forage Purchase**

There has been no contact with this landowner so far. The project is tabled.

### **Landowner Fence Repairs or Fence Contractor**

There are several landowners in the committee area that have frequent damage to fences from big game crossing. Conrad is proposing hiring a fence contractor that will work specifically in South Costilla County and will complete emergency fence repairs for these landowners. The fence contractor will install white vinyl wire when repairing fences (with permission of landowner) to try to reduce the amount of damage caused to fences. The white vinyl wire will come from the committee stockpile. Conrad is proposing a budget of \$10,000.

**The committee approved the project for a total of \$10,000-fence contractor will be paid \$25/hour.**

The committee would also like to continue a fence voucher program for small fence projects. DWMs can give out vouchers (Hanna can send them to DWMs as needed) to landowners who need a small amount of fence materials (i.e. \$800 or less) to repair

big game damage. Landowners can be reimbursed for these expenses when they send the voucher and receipt to Hanna.

**The committee approved the project for \$5,000 total.**

#### **Committee Meals/Operating Expenses/Recognition**

The committee approved \$500 for working meeting meals.

The committee also approves spending money on a reasonable item for committee recognition.

#### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

##### **Federal agencies' role on committees**

Representatives from federal agencies have to be careful that their roles on committees do not create a conflict of interest. The committee agrees that they do not want to put anyone in that position. If any committee representative-federal or otherwise-feels that they are in a compromising position they should let Hanna, Pat Tucker, or the committee know so that the situation can be fixed. Committee members agreed that if the committee needs to write a letter of support or opposition, members can recuse their names from the letter if they do not feel comfortable with the letter.

##### **Committee Chairperson Position**

Ron Garcia announced that he does not feel he has had enough time lately to dedicate to the committee chairperson position. The committee nominated Mike Maldonado as the new chairperson and Mike accepted the nomination.

The committee approved Mike Maldonado as the new committee chairperson.

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 18th at 6:00 PM at Calvillo's Restaurant.**

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