



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Conference Call
February 8, 2018
1:00pm

Introductions: Participants introduced themselves as they joined the conference call. Members present were: Blaine Evans/livestock grower, Tara Wertz/USFWS, Danny Meyring/livestock grower, DWM Josh Dilley/CPW and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW.

USFS Mad Rabbit Trails Comment Letter: Members were presented with a draft of the comment letter prior to the meeting. Josh explained that Jimmer's name was used as the signature since he didn't think it appropriate that Darrell's name, or his for that matter, be on a letter addressed to the Forest Service. Blaine expressed that he doesn't want the trail and feels as though the letter should better emphasize the money spent by adjacent landowners. Josh explained that the initial draft had more detail but his boss felt that since HPP is funded by sportsmen's dollars it shouldn't include such strong language. Josh would like to sit down and explain to him that the view point is the committee's not CPW's. Tara asked Josh to add 'traditional elk calving' to the letter in order to point out that distribution throughout the Forest where elk remain are in those core calving areas and that they've been there for a while, they're there for a reason and now they are getting moved off. She also suggested changing motorized route to route. Whether it's motorized or not, they really don't want any sort of established trail that will increase usage and disturbance. Tara provided Josh with literature pertaining to studies done on motorized trails. He hasn't had a chance to fully review the documents but may incorporate information in a future comment letter. Danny felt it might help to get a few adjacent landowners to comment. Josh mentioned that he'd spoken with Coy and Kit Wilcheck. Danny asked if Hayworth had been contacted as well. Josh said he hadn't contacted Jack Hayworth but will make a point to call him too. It was determined that once NEPA starts there would be another opportunity to submit comments in the summer of 2018. Tara was bothered by the fact the USFS was moving forward despite past conversations with NPHPP. Josh pointed out that a turnover of staff may be to blame for that. Samantha was able to pull up past project information and let everyone know that adjacent landowners were contributing \$200 a year from 2007-2014 for hazing elk. Josh offered to read the original draft. Tara and Blaine voiced that they liked the first letter more. Danny said the original sounds like what it should be. It was agreed that Josh would remove some sharp language from the original

draft and have a conversation with his boss about the committee's view point. If he doesn't get the nod then he'll use the second letter with the discussed additions. Josh will send Samantha the final version to share with committee members.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.