



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

September 10th, 2019

Trinchera Sawmill

6:00 PM-9:20 PM

Committee members Present:

- Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative*
- Ty Ryland, *Livestock Growers Representative*

Administrators: Hanna Cook

Guests: Conrad Albert (DWM), Scott Nilson (BLM)

Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

The Culebra Creek fencing project was not completed by the fiscal year deadline, and it is still only partially completed. This happened last year with another fencing project, so the committee discussed how to handle projects that are not completed within the allotted time. First, the committee has agreed that they will not fund future projects for landowners who do not finish their projects by the June 30th deadline. The committee will also make sure to ask the landowner if they will be able to complete their project by the deadline, and if they say no then they will look at splitting the project into phases or moving the funding to the next fiscal year to allow them more time. Finally, the committee would like to send letters to landowners that have not completed their project by the deadline, notifying them that if their project is not completed they will no longer be eligible for future HPP funding (including fence vouchers, projects, and hunt coordinators).

Scott Nilson is replacing Paul Minow as the BLM representative on the committee. His information has been sent to the commission for approval, and once approved he will be an official voting member.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Hunt Coordinators-Conrad Albert

Conrad is proposing a continuation of the hunt coordinator program that the committee has funded annually. Andy Espinosa will still be the hunt coordinator for Northern Costilla County and Franklin Kuhn will be the hunt coordinator for South Costilla County. Hunt Coordinators will still be able to bill HPP for fence repair to fences that have been damaged as a result of dispersal hunts. The hunt coordinators often don't have time to repair fences right away while they are hunting, so they can still submit invoices to HPP for fence repair after the hunting season is over, as long as they still have funds in their budget and are working on fences with big game damage within the core project area. Hunt coordinators will be asked to submit time stamped before and after photos of the fences they worked on when billing HPP for fence repair duties. The suggested budget is \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for Franklin Kuhn.

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

Columbian Ranch Forage Purchase-Conrad Albert

Conrad would like to continue the forage purchase on the Columbian Ranch. The committee still feels that this is the most effective option to alleviate conflicts in the area, and it seems to be helping the neighboring landowners a lot. Conrad had some concerns about the landowner's grazing plan last year, so he will be working with the landowner to come to an agreement on a firm grazing plan (number of cattle, time spent on pasture, etc.). No reimbursement will be made to the landowner until Conrad has confirmed that the agreed upon plan was followed. The proposal is for 240 tons of forage at \$100/ton for a total of \$24,000.

The project was approved for \$24,000 contingent on DWM approval of grazing plan.

Fence Contractor- Brian Bechaver

The fence contractor program was not used much last year. The committee has heard from DWMs that the contractor did not respond to DWM calls very quickly, and a lot of the requested fence repair projects did not get done. The committee would like to talk with last year's fence contractor and ask if he is still interested in continuing to work with HPP. If he is, then they will add to the contract that landowners must be contacted within 24 hours from the time the DWM has contacted him to set up an appointment. These fence repair projects are time sensitive, so it is important that the fence contractor is responsive.

The project was tabled until the committee has a chance to talk to the fence contractor.

Alvin Kunugi Fencing Project-Alvin Kunugi

Alvin would like to replace 1 mile of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence including white vinyl wire. He would be able to get the fence done within the fiscal year. The project application was not completed yet, so Alvin will work with Conrad and Brian on the fence design and application. The project will be presented at the next meeting.

The project was tabled pending a completed application.

Fence Voucher Budget Update

The committee spent a large portion of the fence voucher budget on fence clips that will be kept in the stockpile and given to landowners with white wire. The committee increased the fence voucher budget back to \$5,000 to account for any fence vouchers that may be used this year. **The project budget was increased to \$5,000.**

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Upcoming MBHPP DMP Revisions

The committee's DMP is due for renewal in July of 2020. The committee will set a meeting in late winter/early spring to have a work session and make any necessary revisions to the plan.

Brent Frankland would like the committee to review the upcoming Pronghorn DAU plans for the area. The committee will hear his presentation at the next meeting and will vote on a comment letter at that time.

Next meeting: October 22nd at 6:00 PM at the Trinchera Sawmill.

Hanna Cook, HPP Administrative Assistant
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719-227-5221
hanna.cook@state.co.us