



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 21st, 2020

Royal Gorge Field Office

Committee Members present:

- Jim Aragon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower
- Tyrel Woodward, Sportsmen

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Bob Carochi (CPW DWM), Lisa Corbin (USFS), James Pitts (USFS), Jim Campbell (Landowner), Wayne Shoemaker (Landowner)

Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM

Budget Report

The 2020 budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

The 4 10ft tire tanks have been transferred from Lathrop State Park to Canon City. The committee now has 11 8ft tanks and 4 10 ft tanks in the stockpile.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Tire Tank Requests:

Jim Campbell is requesting 2 8 ft tire tanks from the ARHPP committee stockpile to replace old metal tanks that are fed by an existing spring development. He plans to pick them up and install them in May. **The committee approved the request for 2 8ft tire tanks.**

Dave Wolf is requesting 2 8ft tire tanks to replace old metal tanks that are fed by an existing well. **The committee approved the request for 2 8ft tire tanks.**

HPP requires an escape mechanism in all tanks for smaller animals that have fallen in.

Garden Park Stackyard Project-Bob Carochi, Wayne Shoemaker

Bob Carochi and Wayne Shoemaker are requesting \$2,200 for fence materials needed to build a 660 ft stackyard on the Shoemaker Ranch. Elk have been moving onto the ranch and eating large amounts of hay. Bob said that they may reduce the size of the stackyard, but the committee suggests keeping it at 660 ft to allow for more hay storage if it is needed in the future. The landowner will install the stackyard.

The project was approved for \$2,200.

Poncha Loop Aspen Enhancement-Stephanie Shively, Lisa Corbin

Stephanie and Lisa are asking HPP for \$10,000 for a habitat treatment on USFS property West of Poncha Pass. This is part of an ongoing large scale aspen enhancement project. Some acres and a timber sale have already been completed. 156 total acres will be treated as part of this phase of the project. A contractor will cut encroaching conifers and stands of old, dying aspen trees that are not regenerating on 156 acres. This will help to promote new aspen suckering and will reduce fuel loadings and increase forage for big game. There are grazing permits on this property as well. Stephanie and Lisa will also be asking the HPP state council for \$120,000, and USFS will be contributing \$130,000. The contractor will cut aspen and conifer trees, lop and scatter slash, yard boles to a landing, and deck the logs. This project will be completed in the fall of 2020, so this will fall into the 2021 fiscal year. The committee likes this project and would like to increase the amount from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Stephanie has abstained from voting on this project.

The project was approved for \$20,000 for fiscal year 2021.

2021 Fence Vouchers

This program has been done annually, and provides landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs can approve and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Eligible landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within ARHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year, with a maximum of \$350 per voucher. Vouchers can only be used once, and any unused funds are forfeited. Only eligible materials can be reimbursed.

The committee voted to continue this program with a limit of \$350 per landowner.

Landowners are allowed up to \$350 of reimbursement for fence materials to fix damage cause by big game. Total project limit is \$9,000.

2021 White Wire and Tire Tanks

The committee has a stockpile of white vinyl wire and tire tanks to distribute to landowners. Landowners are allowed to take white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile to be used for projects in the AR area. **Any landowner that would like white wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile must fill out a materials voucher at the time of pickup. The Voucher must be approved by a DWM or committee member, and returned to Hanna Cook as soon as possible.**

-Vouchers must be authorized (signed and dated) by a DWM or committee member for a landowner to be eligible. Landowners are allowed 2 rolls of white wire per year. Requests for additional rolls can be brought to the committee for special approval. Landowners can receive both a materials voucher and a fencing reimbursement voucher in the same year, as long as both vouchers are approved and signed by a DWM or committee member.

-Tire tank requests must be presented to the committee during a meeting or conference call to ensure availability. Approved tire tanks must be picked up before the end of the fiscal year, or the landowner will forfeit their reserved tank. DWMs or Aaron Atwood can issue tanks if it is urgent, but the preference is that the request goes before the committee first.

HPP requires that all tanks have an escape mechanism installed to allow small animals to escape if they fall into the tank. The committee would like to provide escape ramps that will be given out with each tire tank to ensure that landowners have the resources to follow this rule. The committee will order 40 pre-fabricated escape ramps that will be kept with the tire tank stockpile in Canon City. Landowners must fill out a voucher for escape ramps, even if they are only picking up escape ramps for tire tanks already installed.

The committee approved the purchase of 40 escape ramps for up to \$1,200 total.

2021 Meeting Meals and Operating Expenses

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

Remaining committee business/other discussion

The committee needs to include an impact areas map for their DMP. The committee discussed impact areas and decided on Nathrop, Garden Park/4 Mile, and IM Ridge/West of Black Mountain. Jim will gather UTM's for each location for the map, and will write up a short description for each area that will go in the committee plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM

Next meeting: May 15th at 10:00 AM at the Canon City Hunter Education Facility.

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