



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 10th, 2018

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Carnegie Library, Monte Vista

Members Present: Mick Davis, Rick Davie, Dale Gomez, Eduardo Duran, Carol Lee Dugan, Mark Bechaver, Suzanne Beauchaine, Brent Woodward

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Luciano Sandoval (USFS), Dieter Erdmann (Western Rivers Conservancy), Tanner Dutton (USFS), Brian Bechaver (CPW), Melissa Shawcroft (BLM), Kelly Garcia (USFS), Shane Johnson (permittee), Pete Clark (landowner), Kelli Poole (CPW)

Budget

2018 budget report reviewed.

New Business

Schilling Spring Water Development-Luciano Sandoval

The USFS is asking HPP for \$29,805 to help with costs to drill a well, purchase a solar pump, and install infrastructure. Installing a water system on the property will bring a reliable water source to an otherwise dry area. USFS and permittee will pay for additional materials, tanks, and will help with planning and implementation. They were originally going to pump water from a spring, but the spring has a very low flow and would not provide a reliable water source for livestock and wildlife, so they have determined that a well is necessary. 3-4 years ago a water witch examined the area and determined where to drill. The committee suggests that the landowner have this completed again to ensure successful drilling. Having a reliable water source will allow for proper grazing management, and will improve wildlife habitat. This should encourage big game to stay on public lands instead of moving to private lands to find water.

The project was approved for \$29,805. HPP will pay for half of dry hole up to 400 ft.

Olguin Ranch Fencing -Dieter Erdmann, Brent Woodward

Dieter is requesting \$4,400 for labor and materials needed to build 1.4 miles of wildlife friendly fence on the Olguin Ranch. The property is owned by the Western Rivers Conservancy and border the San Luis Hills SWA. The Western Rivers Conservancy will pay for additional materials and provide labor. They have also applied for the NRCS EQIP grant for additional labor and materials. The new fence will help protect riparian areas from trespassing livestock, while still allowing big game to access water.

The project was approved for \$4400 contingent on securing the EQIP grant.

Olguin Ranch Water-Dieter Erdmann, Brent Woodward

Dieter is requesting \$5,750 to help pay for a storage tank, well, and plumbing materials for a new water development on Olguin Ranch. The new development will provide water for livestock, which will help to protect the nearby riparian area by providing an alternate water source. The project will be completed in the 2019 fiscal year. The Western Rivers conservancy and NRCS EQIP grant will provide additional materials and labor.

The project was approved for \$5750 for FY 2019.

Shaw Creek Hydro Axe Project-Dale Gomez

The USFS is asking for \$8,750 for hydro axe treatment in the Shaw Creek area. RMEF will contribute \$7,500, and a total of 50 acres will be treated. Mechanical treatment will thin conifers and help with the regeneration of aspen, grass, forbs, and shrubs. This will improve wildlife habitat and will encourage big game to stay on public lands instead of moving to private lands. This should reduce game damage claims, and thinning will reduce the risk of wildfire. USFS will contribute in-kind funds for planning, supervision, and monitoring.

The project was approved for \$8750.

Clark Fencing Project-Suzanne Beauchaine

The landowner is asking for \$6675 for labor and materials needed to replace 1 mile of fence with new wildlife friendly fence. This property borders the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, so the landowner experiences extensive damage from elk moving between the refuge and private property. Danny Temple (Cloud Crest Ranch) will be the contractor and will buy materials and complete labor. The landowner and Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge will each contribute additional funds for labor and materials.

The project was approved for \$6675.

Nicomodes Water Project-Tanner Dutton

Tanner is asking HPP for \$4,300 to pay a contractor to replace 2 miles of pipeline on an existing water development in the Nicomodes area. USFS and BLM will pay for tire tanks to replace the old tanks, purchase additional plumbing materials, and will remove old pipeline. The permittee will help to install tanks and pipeline as needed. New pipeline and tanks will make the water source more reliable for livestock and wildlife.

The project was approved for \$4300.

Chicken Spring Pipeline Extension-Tanner Dutton

Tanner is asking for \$5,300 to pay a contractor to bury 2.5 miles of pipeline that will provide water in the Embargo Creek area. 3 tire tanks will be installed. This water development will improve grazing management and will provide a reliable water source for wildlife on public lands in an otherwise dry area. This should help reduce big game damage on private lands. USFS will provide tire tanks and additional materials. USFS and permittee will install tire tanks. An agreement still needs to be worked out with the Division of Water Resources before work can begin.

The project was approved for \$5300, contingent on an agreement with DOWR.

Gallegos South Habitat Improvement 2019-Brian Bechaver

Brian will be asking HPP for approximately \$43,000 from HPP for approximately 525 acres of hydroaxe treatment. The project is on State Trust land, so it must be approved by the HPP coordinator, AWM, and regional manager before it can be presented to the committee. The project has not been approved by the HPP coordinator or the regional manager yet, so the

application will not be formally presented until approval is granted. The project will increase forage for wildlife and livestock, improve habitat for wildlife, and improve hunting opportunities.

The project is being tabled pending further approval.

English Valley Well repair 2019-Mick Davis

Mick is asking for \$1600 that can be used to complete repairs to the English Valley well system as needed. Dale Gomez and Mick Davis will each contribute \$800 for repairs if and when they are needed.

The project was approved for \$1600 for FY 2019.

Antelope Census 2019-Mick Davis

Jack Martin is interested in continuing the antelope census for FY 2019. DWM Brent Woodward and biologist Brent Frankland have told Mick and the committee that the information gathered from the census are very useful, especially because the Pronghorn DAU plans are going to be revised this year. Wages will remain the same, and mileage will be paid based on allowable rates set by the State of Colorado.

The project was approved for \$1600 for FY 2019. Jack will be paid \$15.60/hour plus allowable mileage.

MVNWR Hunt Coordinator-Suzanne Beauchaine

The elk management plan on the refuge has been finalized. A hunt plan has been created, and there is potential need for a hunt coordinator. The elk herd has been growing, and complaints from neighboring landowners have increased. Suzanne will likely meet with CPW, HPP, landowners, and refuge staff to determine whether a hunt coordinator is needed.

Other committee business

Brent Woodward let the committee know that the 4UR Ranch may be applying for more funding for another fencing project.

Next Meeting: Conference call-Date TBD.

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