



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Calvillo's Restaurant  
6:00 PM- 8:30 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*
- Ty Ryland, *Livestock Growers Representative*

Administrators: Hanna Cook

Guests: Tucker Blythe (Acting Superintendent-Great Sand Dunes National Park), Dewane Mosher (Great Sand Dunes National Park), Clayton BonDurant (DWM), Luke Hoffman (DWM)

### Budget Report

The 2018 budget report was reviewed.

### New Business

#### Project Application Proposals and Reviews

##### Jeff Phillips Fencing-Luke Hoffman, Clayton BonDurant

Jeff Philips' fences have been getting damaged frequently by a large herd of elk that are often in the area, and he has been having a hard time keeping cattle on his property. The landowner plans to fix and rebuild (where necessary) approximately ½ mile of fence. The landowner has agreed to build a wildlife friendly fence and will use white vinyl wire on the top strand. This ½ mile is the section that gets damaged most frequently. Jeff Philips is asking HPP to buy the materials and he will complete the labor.

The committee approved the project for \$1,750, plus white wire from the committee stockpile as needed.

##### Kathy Shoup Fencing-Luke Hoffman, Clayton BonDurant

There is concern about whether a new fence is needed in this area, and whether that fence would fit within HPP's directives. The committee has agreed that they are okay with funding a new fence build, as long as the DWM determines that the fence is needed to alleviate conflicts between the landowner's agricultural operations and big game. Clayton will visit the property and meet with the landowner to determine

whether this project is a good fit for HPP or not. The project is tabled until Clayton is able to get more information from the landowner.

### **San Luis Hills Cattle Guards-Brian Bechaver**

Big game have been driven onto private property because feral horses are destroying forage on public property. This is causing damage to private agricultural lands. The San Luis Hills public property will be managed as a State Wildlife Area and public access is allowed. Fences have been built to keep feral horses off of public lands, but gates have been consistently left open which allows feral horses and trespass livestock back in. Cattle guards would prevent horses and livestock from entering the public area and will allow for the regeneration of forage. An increase in forage will encourage big game to stay on public lands and should reduce damage to private property. The committee expressed interest in the project and potentially holding a vote in the future, but they did not vote at this meeting as the project needs to be reviewed and approved by the HPP Coordinator, AWM, and Regional Manager because it involves State of Colorado property. The project has been tabled pending further discussion and approval.

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

#### **Meeting Location**

The committee discussed meeting in a new location, as the restaurant they currently meet in can get loud and it can be hard to hear important discussions. The committee agreed to try some new places to find a new meeting location. The next meeting will be held at Oscar's Restaurant.

Dewane Mosher updated the committee on the ongoing Ungulate management plan process at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. The agency review process has been completed and USFWS and CPW are submitting comments. After that, the plan will be opened to the public for comments. They hope that the plan will be ready by next year (2019). They have applied for funding to help pay for the hunter volunteer training program, which aims to have three teams of trained volunteers that will harvest and haze elk in various areas. They will also be working to monitor elk movements using GPS collars to help inform current and future management plans.

Ron Garcia updated the committee on the Baca Wildlife Refuge. They have put up an exclusionary fence to keep elk out of the riparian area, which has been working well.

The committee discussed the possibility of finding a fence contractor to repair landowner fences as needed. They could hire a fence contractor or create a voucher program that would reimburse landowners for labor. The committee would need to set caps for vouchers, agree on hourly rates, decide how landowners would request reimbursements, etc. This will be discussed more at upcoming meetings.

The committee would like to look in to purchasing Spinning Jennys that would be kept at the Baca refuge with the white vinyl wire stockpile. These could be checked out to landowners to make installation of the wire easier.

**Next meeting: TBD**

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