



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Oscar's Restaurant  
6:00 PM- 9:30 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:** James Romero (CPW-DWM), Rick Basagoitia (CPW-AWM), Wayne Loomis (Landowner), Dorothy DeAngelo (Landowner)

### Budget Report

The 2018 and 2019 budget reports were reviewed.

### Old Business

Spinning Jennys and pliers have been purchased and can be loaned out to landowners who are installing white wire. White vinyl wire is also available at no cost to the landowner. Vouchers are absolutely required for any landowner who is taking materials from the stockpile at the Baca Refuge. Committee materials cannot be distributed without a voucher, and all vouchers must be returned to Hanna Cook as soon as possible.

### New Business

#### Project Application Proposals and Reviews

##### Loomis Game Damage Situation-Wayne Loomis, James Romero

Wayne Loomis has had large herds of elk on his property, and they have been causing damage to crops and fences. There is an average of 100 elk each day, and due to the current drought conditions they have come to the property earlier in the year than normal. Wayne feels that this is also a result of the Baca National Wildlife refuge running cattle and pushing elk off of public lands. Hazing has not been working well, and the landowner has been having a hard time getting them to disburse.

Wayne has not previously submitted game damage claims or discussed the issue with the HPP committee, but the committee strongly suggests that he start with game damage claims. Wayne let the committee know that he grows hay to feed his livestock, so even with game

damage payments, he will still have to go find hay and haul it back to his property for his livestock. The committee understands this dilemma, but ultimately feels that game damage claims are still worth it and will at least help with the financial burden. James Romero has been working with Wayne to start the game damage claim process, and has issued kill permits and implemented hazing techniques. James and Wayne will work together to ensure that these resources are being used whenever possible to help reduce conflicts.

The committee has also suggested that Wayne work with them to build wildlife friendly fences, which may reduce the frequency and severity of elk damage to fences. The committee is happy to assist with project funding and fence design if Wayne decides to apply. For now, Wayne has requested a fencing voucher to purchase some new materials to fix the damaged fences. The committee has given Wayne a voucher for \$800 for fencing materials. They will also discuss and implement a new fence contractor program, which will allow for a contractor to visit properties that regularly experience fence damage from big game and make small repairs where necessary. This should help to reduce the burden on landowners who frequently experience elk damage, such as Wayne. The committee has requested that Wayne come back to them if he is still having issues so that they can discuss other possible solutions.

#### Hunt Coordinators

Mike Maldonado is proposing a continuation of the hunt coordinator program that the committee has funded year to year. Andy Espinosa will still be the hunt coordinator for Northern Costilla County and Franklin Kuhn will be the hunt coordinator for South Costilla County. At a previous meeting, Conrad Albert suggested that hunt coordinators can and should be fixing fences that have been damaged by big game, especially if the damage occurred during a hunt. The hunt coordinators are regularly on these properties and will be able to identify damage and make repairs after they are done with the hunt or scouting. The committee agrees that hunting should be the first priority, but if Andy and Franklin are repairing fences then those hours can be billed to HPP. 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.**

#### Forage Purchase-Conrad Albert

The project was not discussed.

#### Fencing repair voucher program-Materials and Labor

The committee would like to continue a fence voucher program for small fence projects. DWMs can give vouchers (Hanna can send them to DWMs as needed) to landowners who need a small amount of fence materials (i.e. \$800 or less) to repair big game damage. Landowners will bring vouchers to Monte Vista Co-op. Monte Vista Co-op will keep the voucher and will bill HPP for approved materials only. Landowners are responsible for any unapproved items or any expenses over the allowable voucher amount. Landowners can also be reimbursed for the purchase of fence materials when they send the voucher and receipt to Hanna.

**The committee approved the project for \$5,000 total, with a limit of \$800 per landowner.**

Labor vouchers were not discussed.

Brian and James are aware of a fence contractor that may be willing to work with HPP to make small fence repairs on properties with big game damage. They will talk with this contractor

before the next meeting, where the committee can discuss funding, rules, and logistics with the contractor.

Meeting Meals/Committee operating expenses

The committee approved \$500 for working meeting meals.

The committee also approves spending money on a reasonable item for committee recognition if the need arises.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

The committee will require that anyone requesting project funding attend meetings. This will now be a requirement for every project request.

**Next meeting: August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM at Oscar's Mexican Restaurant.**

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