



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Ct., Durango

September 17th, 2018

6:00 p.m.

San Juan Basin HPP Members Present: Adrian Archuleta, CPW; Mike Schmidt, BLM; Dan Huntington, Livestock Grower; Phil Craig, Livestock Grower, George Malarsie, Sportsman; John Gardner, Sportsman; Aran Johnson, SUIT

Guests: Jesse Montoya

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The August meeting minutes and current project updates were reviewed. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$42,800.00.

New Business:

1. The committee discussed an elk monitoring project with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. It is anticipated that the data gathered from this monitoring effort will be applicable to the management of elk within the rest of the San Juan Basin HPP area. The primary focus of the anticipated project will be to identify bottlenecks/high traffic corridors on transition range, where elk migration movements are very narrowly funneled. This project will collect valuable data by tracking changes in annual elk movement and distribution patterns across tribal and public lands, especially during migration events. This data is needed to help inform CPW decision-making processes on management objectives, and to assist HPP in supporting management objectives and reducing conflicts with private landowners. The project was approved for \$15,187.80 for helicopter capture costs.
2. Scott Piccoli was not able to attend the meeting with an update on cooperators for his fence application. The project was tabled for the next meeting.

3. The committee discussed a potential project from Wes Lewis for water developments on the Hershey ranch north of Pagosa Springs. The landowner does not allow any kind of hunting and would not consider any hunting opportunities. The committee generally requires landowners to allow some type of hunting unless there is a critical need and special circumstances that preclude hunting access; in this case the committee felt that there is sufficient water in the area and did not see much benefit to wildlife or sportsmen to create a potential refuge situation where big game might become concentrated in an area where they could not be hunted. The committee noted that the landowner would be welcome to submit an application, but without allowing hunting it would be difficult to make the case that HPP funding would be appropriate.
4. The committee approved \$4,682.41 for a Kencove order of 25 rolls of ponyrail, 15 buckets of staples, and 10 staple drivers.

Other Business:

1. The committee discussed the Livestock Grower Representative vacancy. There is no established procedure for nominating a new representative; however the committee would like to ensure even representation across the committee area and fair accessibility to interested parties. Phil and Dan will take flyers to the next CCA meeting, and Katie will send flyers to the Farm Bureau offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs. Interested parties can contact Phil, Dan, or Adrian to discuss the position and the committee will review candidates at the next meeting.
2. The committee will tour the Cox Canyon water development on Monday, 9/24 at 11:30am. NRCS, Area 15 technicians, and Montelores committee members have been invited to attend as well.
3. The committee discussed upcoming public input opportunities with the 2020-2024 five year season structure; deer and elk DAU plan revisions; and BLM travel management plan revisions.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting November 26th @ 6pm