



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Ct., Durango
February 25th, 2019
6:00 p.m.

San Juan Basin HPP Members Present: Adrian Archuleta, CPW; Anthony Garcia, USFS; George Malarsie, Sportsman; Dan Huntington, Livestock Grower; Jesse Montoya, Livestock Grower; Mike Schmidt, BLM; Aran Johnson, SUIT; John Gardner, Sportsman

Guests: Pat Tucker, CPW; Larry Zauberis, Steve Pargin

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$27,554.85.

New Business:

1. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the previously-discussed Piccoli fence project, which includes removing .75 miles of old hazardous fencing and replacing it with wildlife-friendly high-tensile and electric wire.
2. The committee reviewed a pond project for Pat Kerrigan. The project area is located in winter and transitional range for big game, and experiences year-round use by deer. The landowner would like to build a pond to improve irrigation on hay fields, which will increase production and offset forage losses by big game. The application was unclear on the HPP cost and landowner match, as well as the level of wildlife use in this area. The project was tabled for more information.
3. The committee reviewed pond and seed projects from Pamela Glasco. The proposals include cleaning out and sealing an existing pond, and reseeding an existing pasture to increase forage production. However, the applications lacked a clear wildlife focus and indicated that the landowner did not allow hunting on the property. The committee denied the applications.

4. The committee reviewed fertilizer project proposals. There were 20 applicants this year for a total of 2020 acres. The committee approved \$20.00 per acre with a \$4,000 cap on individual recipients, for a total project cost of \$39,900.
5. Steve Pargin reviewed the ponds that were cleaned out under “Pargin Ponds” in FY19 and distributed before-and-after photos. The committee was very appreciative of the scope of work and number of ponds that have been cleaned, repaired, and/or sealed over the past several years. Mr. Pargin would like to continue cleaning out ponds in FY20, and the committee will consider that application at the next meeting.
6. The USFS Burn project application was not ready for consideration. Anthony Garcia gave a brief overview of the project, which is planned for 6000-7000 acres north of Highway 160 near the Pargin burn area. The project will be ready for review at the next meeting.

Other Business:

1. Adrian reviewed initial data from post-hunt population survey flights. Calf numbers are still low despite high pregnancy rates, and study is needed to determine when, where, and how calves are being lost throughout the fall and winter. Fawn numbers seem stable, and high buck:doe ratios are above current population objectives, which poses concerns with CWD.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting April 22nd @ 6pm