



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

July 16th, 2019

Trinchera Sawmill

6:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Committee members Present:

- ☒ Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- ☒ Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- ☒ Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- ☒ Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- ☒ Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative*
- ☒ Ty Ryland, *Livestock Growers Representative*

Administrators: Hanna Cook

Guests: Clayton BonDurant (DWM), Paul Minow (Retired BLM Committee Representative), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Pam Rice (Great Sand Dunes Superintendent-NPS), John Werner (Landowner), Lynn Sutherland (Landowner), Kindal Adolf (Land Manager)

Budget Report

The 2019 and 2020 budget reports were reviewed.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Werner Fence Project-John Werner, Clayton BonDurant

John and Clayton are asking HPP for \$2,355.96 for fence materials. John has a ½ mile stretch of fence that is old and is regularly damaged by elk. He would like to replace the fence with wildlife friendly fence, including white wire on top and some drop down sections. The committee recommends that John uses extra clips that will allow this entire section of fence to be dropped if needed. The ability to raise and lower a fence when possible will save the landowner a lot of time and expense repairing fences. HPP would provide materials and white wire and clips, and the landowner will pay a contractor and contribute his own labor for removing the old fence and installing a new one.

The project was approved for \$2,355.96 plus 2 rolls of white vinyl wire from the committee stockpile.

Sutherland Fence Project-Lynn Sutherland, Clayton BonDurant

Lynn and Clayton are asking HPP for \$3,588.87 for fence materials. Lynn has a ¾ mile stretch of fence that is old and is regularly damaged by elk. Landowners have cattle grazing on hers and/or her neighbors' properties for most of the year, so it is important that her fences are

reliable. She would like to replace the fence with wildlife friendly fence, including white wire on top. The committee recommends that Lynn uses extra clips that will allow this entire section of fence to be dropped if needed. The ability to raise and lower a fence when possible will save the landowner a lot of time and expense repairing fences. HPP would provide materials and white wire, and the landowner will pay a contractor and contribute her own labor for removing the old fence and installing a new one.

The project was approved for \$3,588.87 plus 3 rolls of white wire from the committee stockpile.

2020 Committee Operating Expenses and Meeting Meals

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$250 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

2020 Landowner Fencing Supply Program and Fence Vouchers

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 purchase their materials and then send the receipt and the signed voucher to Hanna to request reimbursement. Landowners are responsible for any unapproved items or any expenses over the allowable voucher amount. The committee will add clips to the list of allowable materials. The committee will also remove white vinyl wire from the list, as that is currently being provided to landowners from the committee stockpile. This program will also pay for fence clips that will be kept with the white vinyl wire.

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

The HPP State Council has purchased white wire for local committees. Each committee is allowed 25 rolls. The new shipment of 25 rolls of white wire was delivered to Monte Vista. Landowners will receive 4 bags of clips per roll of white wire to allow them to build their fence in a way that the top wire can easily be dropped down when needed. Landowners that would like to receive white wire should discuss this with their DWM. DWMs will then call Brian Bechaver, who will review the request and issue a white wire voucher if the landowner is eligible.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Committee recognition award

The committee would like to thank Paul Minow for his 6 years of service on the Mount Blanca HPP committee. Paul was given an award as a thank you. Paul has been a valuable member of the committee since 2012 and the committee appreciates his time and dedication.

Dan Prenzlów has been selected as the new CPW director.

The statewide HPP Annual meeting will be held on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Grand Junction.

Pam Rice gave some updates on the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Visitation at the park has been very high this year. The final EIS for the ungulate management plan has been submitted, and they are hoping to have a decision in mid-August. 35 GPS collars have been put on elk to track their movements. This will help to provide some useful pre-management data, and will help with the new management plan. The Medano Ranch acquisition is still underway, but the

process was slowed down because TNC has to clean up a hazmat area where there was a cattle dip tank before it can close. TNC will continue to operate their bison herd for 5-7 years while Medano Ranch acquisition is ongoing. They will remove their bison at the end of that period. After that, the Park is hoping to establish a bison herd on the Park and the National Wildlife Refuge. A new internship program has been started at the park and they currently have a couple of vacant positions. Finally, the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout reintroduction program will be implemented at the end of August in Sand Creek.

Next meeting: September 10th at 6:00 PM at the Trinchera Sawmill.

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