



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

North Fork HPP Committee

Delta County Annex Building

July 23rd, 2019

6:30 p.m.

North Fork HPP Members Present: Ken Holsinger, BLM; Steve Kossler, Livestock Grower; Dennis Garrison, USFS; Ross Allen, Livestock Grower; Jess Campbell, Livestock Grower; Adam Gall, Sportsperson; Andrew Taylor for Cody Purcell, CPW

Introduction: The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$1,072.80.

Old Business:

1. Robbie LeValley presented an overview of the weed control work that Delta County has implemented in conjunction with HPP for the past several years. Other partners include CDOT, CDA, and Montrose County. Each year the program treats hundreds of acres of public and private lands within Delta and Montrose counties utilizing multiple contractors. While some infestations are being maintained at or below current levels, weather conditions can vary annually and may result in different weed flushes in new locations. The work will likely be ongoing for many years.

New Business:

1. The committee reviewed a weed control project from Ben Harris for the North Fork Valley Ranch. The landowners have been implementing habitat improvement projects for the last several years, including hydroax thinning, pond work, seeding, and weed control. In the past spring, 60 new acres were hydroaxed, and 120 previously-treated acres were sprayed with herbicide. Currently, recently cleaned ponds are major sources of weed infestation on the property. The project proposal includes cost-sharing \$7,000 of herbicide to continue treating weeds near ponds and throughout the rest of the property. The project was approved for \$3,750.
2. The committee reviewed a water development project from Todd Harding. The property receives heavy big game use year-round, and the landowner wants to increase the irrigated portions of the pastures to improve forage production. The project involves 3 phases: installing pipeline across the entire field; installing sideroll sprinkler irrigation; and installing

a pond or reservoir to increase water storage capacity. The committee approved \$4,500 for pipe and irrigation supplies for this phase. Future phases of the project must include NRCS cooperation.

3. The committee reviewed a seeding proposal from the Lazy H Ranch. This project is similar to previous phases of work completed on the ranch. The landowners have been thinning pinion-juniper and reseeding with native forage species on various areas of the property. Currently 300 acres are being cleared with a fecon, and the landowners are requesting \$5,000 for seed. The property receives heavy wildlife use, and is located in an important corridor where wintering big game can be held off of lower agricultural operations. The committee approved \$5,000.
4. The committee reviewed a fencing proposal from Mark Thaemert. The property is adjacent to Todd Harding's property, and also receives significant big game use which results in damage to the fence at high-traffic crossing points. The existing fence is largely in disrepair and does not properly contain livestock, as well as presenting entanglement risks for big game. The proposed new fence would be wildlife-friendly to HPP specs, including high visibility wire. Some of the fence is a private:public boundary, which the committee does not fund. The project was approved for \$1,200.00, which represents the materials for 50% of the fence that is a private:private boundary.

Other Business:

1. The committee continued revisions to the Distribution Management Plan.
2. The committee noted that distributing rolls of white high visibility wire (1 per \$200 fence voucher) was approved. Adding high vis wire to continually-damaged sections of fence will help to prevent future damages and extend the life of the fence/HPP investment.

Next Meeting: TBD