



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

Phone Conference
April 20th, 2020
6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Brad Weinmeister, CPW; Jim Shepherdson

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$20,562.05.

New Business:

1. The fence voucher budget is approaching capacity with more fence voucher applications anticipated before the end of the fiscal year. The committee approved a \$2,400 increase to the fence voucher budget.
2. Jim Shepherdson presented a fencing project to replace an existing 800-ft section of barbed wire fence with wildlife-friendly pipe fence. The property is located in important transitional and winter range for deer and elk, and is adjacent to Navajo State Park which funnels increased pressure from deer onto the property. The existing fence consists of barbed wire with some sheep fencing, and it has been mostly flattened by frequent wildlife crossings so that it does not properly contain livestock. The proposed fence would be constructed from pipe with a top rail at 48" high, and two lower rails spaced apart so that wildlife can pass through below the top rail. HPP and CPW specs dictate a maximum height of 42", however Mr. Shepherdson feels that his horses would not be contained by a 42" fence. The committee discussed fence design specs and potential reasons for variances. While the committee has funded alternative fence designs, pipe fences that exceeded 42" in height were constructed with high tensile wires rather than hard

pipe rails. Mr. Shepherdson responded that 42” would not be a feasible fence height for his horses, and that high tensile tends to cause injuries to horses even more so than barbed wire. The committee also noted concerns about setting a precedent for funding fence projects that would not meet CPW and HPP wildlife-friendly specs. The project was tabled for more consideration and discussion at a future meeting.

3. Brad Weinmeister presented the draft Herd Management Plans for E30 and E31. Both DAUs face significant challenges with loss of winter range, increasing development and recreation demands, and diminishing calf recruitment; however extensive public outreach revealed that most people favor an overall population increase. The draft plans were provided to committee members to review, and the committee will resume discussion at the next meeting to develop comment letters on each plan.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting April 27th @ 12:00pm