



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

6:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Conference Call

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**Members Present:** Mick Davis, Dale Gomez, Eduardo Duran, Suzanne Beauchaine, Carol Lee Dugan, Brent Woodward, Rick Davie

**Guests:** Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Clayton Bondurant (CPW-DWM)

**Administrative Assistant:** Hanna Cook

### **Budget Report**

The 2020 budget report was reviewed. All projects are still on track to be completed this year.

### **New Business**

#### Bear Creek Hand Thinning Project-Dale Gomez

Dale is asking HPP for \$7,800 to pay for hand thinning of over-mature mountain mahogany and piñon juniper in the 2021 fiscal year. The funds will pay for an 8 person saw crew for 4 days of work, and they will treat approximately 9 acres. This area is steep and rocky, so the price is higher than with other areas, but it is an important winter range for mule deer that they have not been able to treat in the past. USFS and National Wild Turkey Federation will pay for another crew for one week each. A total of 28 acres will be treated. This treatment will allow for an increase in understory vegetation and re-sprouting of mountain mahogany. This increase in the quantity and quality of forage will help to keep big game on public lands and off of neighboring agricultural fields where they have been causing damage. The crew is currently scheduled to work in this area in July of this year, but if they are not able to work due to Covid-19, they will reschedule for May or June of next year. Habitat work has been done in this area in the past, so this will further enhance and connect the work that has already been done to make it more effective. \*Dale Gomez abstained from voting

**The project was approved for \$7,800 for FY 2021.**

#### Burro Springs Road Closure Project-Mick Davis, Clayton BonDurant

Mick and Clayton are asking HPP for \$5,950 for labor and materials needed to build pipe fence and gates that will be used for road closures. This is a State Trust Land property that has had a lot of illegal roads built by recreationists. The increased use of illegal roads has been driving big game off of the public land and onto nearby agricultural fields where they cause damage. In addition, a large scale water development has been installed on the property (in partnership with HPP) to provide water for wildlife and livestock, and motor vehicle use on illegal roads could cause damage to that project. The State Land Board and the permittee will contribute additional funds and labor for the fence and gates, and CPW will provide road closure signs, and Mick Davis is helping with planning and implementation. \*Mick Davis abstained from voting.

**The project was approved for \$5,950 for FY 2021, pending SLB funding approval.**

#### Roberto Garcia Well Project-Rod Ruybalid, Mick Davis

Mick is asking HPP for \$9,000 to drill a 400ft well on Roberto Garcia's property. This area is currently very dry, and water has to be trucked in for livestock grazing. This will provide a more reliable water source for wildlife and livestock, and help to keep pronghorn off of crop fields. There have not been many HPP projects in this area, so Mick hopes that completing this project will help to get the word out to other landowners in the area about working with HPP. The landowner will pay for the other half of the well drilling costs. HPP will pay half of a dry hole up to 400 ft. \*Mick Davis abstained from voting

**The project was approved for \$9000, or half of a dry hole up to 400 ft.**

#### 2021 English Valley Well Repair-Mick Davis

It is helpful for Mick Davis and Dale Gomez to have money approved for repairs to this water development so that they can order materials and make repairs right away when needed. This ensures that the water development continues to run properly and does not leave the area without water for too long in the event of a malfunction. Mick will contribute \$800 and Dale will contribute \$800. \*Mick Davis and Dale Gomez abstained from voting.

**The project was approved for \$1600 for FY 2021.**

#### 2021 Antelope Census-Mick Davis

Mick has talked to Brent Frankland and Brent Woodward and Clayton BonDurant and they have told him that the numbers from the antelope census are very helpful for game management. Mick suggests continuing this program for the 2021 fiscal year. \*Mick Davis abstained from voting.

**The project was approved for \$2000 for FY 2021. Paid at \$16/hr plus \$0.52/mile.**

#### 2021 Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses

The committee agreed to allocate \$500 for FY 2021 towards working meeting meal expenses. They also agreed to approve future committee recognition awards when needed per the HPP administrative directives, and will allocate \$200 to committee operating expenses.

#### 2021 Fence Vouchers and Materials Stockpile

The committee voted to approve \$5,000 to be allocated to small fence repair projects in FY 2020. Landowners can discuss this with their DWM, and the DWM will bring the request to Brent Woodward. Brent can approve vouchers up to \$500. Anything above \$500 will need to go to the committee for approval. Approved projects will be allocated from this budget in the form of an in-store pick up or reimbursement voucher. This budget can also be used to purchase fence materials (white wire, clips, and installation tools) to be kept in the SLVHPP stockpile. Each roll of white wire will come with two bags of fence clips. Installation tools have been purchased by the committee and will be loaned out to landowners as needed. All tools must be returned to the committee stockpile as soon as the landowner is done with them.

\*\*The rules for the committee stockpile of white wire and clips will be the same as the fence vouchers. DWMs will bring landowner requests to Brent Woodward, and Brent can issue a voucher for up to 4 rolls of wire and clips from the committee stockpile. Any requests for additional rolls will go to the committee.

**The project was approved for \$5,000 for FY 2021.**

#### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

Suzanne has been having trouble with Elk on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. However, there are certain areas of the refuge that they are not comfortable allowing hunting

on without a hunt coordinator. Suzanne will look into the possibility of working with HPP to hire a hunt coordinator for the refuge. She will work with CPW on this, and look into logistics and cooperators for additional funding before bringing a formal proposal to the committee.

**Next Meeting: TBD**

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