



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

July 13th, 2020  
Video Conference

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### Committee members present:

- Jason Surface, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Dale Oberlag, USFS
- Raechel Nelson, Livestock Growers
- Joe Straley, Sportsmen

**Administrative Assistant:** Hanna Cook

**Guests:** Travis Rollins (Larimer County Natural Resources), Zach Thode (Landowner), Brock McArdle (CPW-DWM), Eric Lowery (CPW-DWM), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator)

**Meeting called to order at 5:06 PM**

### Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed.

### New Business

#### Tepee Spring Pipeline Project-Zach Thode

Zach is asking HPP for \$5,000 for pipeline and tanks needed to extend an existing spring to two new tanks to bring water to otherwise dry pastures. Zach will be using NRCS designs for reinforced concrete pipe. He will be using stock tanks instead of tire tanks, because using tire tanks would disqualify his organic certification for the property. Zach will provide additional materials, equipment rental, and installation labor. The tanks will allow for better grazing management and will provide water for livestock and wildlife.

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

#### Tepee Wildlife Corridor Project-Zach Thode

Zach is asking HPP for \$1,231.28 for posts, wire, gates, and concrete to create a fence that will guide big game to use an underpass instead of crossing the county road. Zach is installing fence through his property to create a migration corridor that will allow big game to move through the property while guiding them away from crop fields and the riparian area. They will also be installing improved fencing that will guide wildlife towards an existing culvert that goes under

the county road. This will encourage them to cross safely under the road instead of over it, where they can be hit by cars. The fence that HPP is paying for will allow wildlife to access the culvert for crossing, while keeping cattle in the pasture. Landowners will rent equipment and complete labor. Some college students will also come out to assist in the construction of the fence.

Zach is working with neighbor Richard Knight and Ray Aberle on the design and implementation of this project. The roads currently have a lot of wildlife crossings, but there are several existing culverts that may allow for safer wildlife crossing. Currently many of the culverts are fenced off, so they are not used by wildlife. This may be a solution that will provide safer migration for animals and reduce accidents without risk of cattle escaping. Game cameras will be used to determine if this works to encourage animals to use the underpass.

The committee suggests making a fence on the roadway more wildlife friendly so that animals are able to cross instead of getting stuck on the road. Brock McArdle agreed that having some easy crossing areas away from the culverts will help big game from getting stuck on the roads. Zach has agreed to tie up wire on a couple of spots away from the culverts to allow for easy crossing. Brock and Jason Surface agree that this project and the use of game cameras will be beneficial to determine if this method can be used in other areas.

The committee has requested at least one report on the success of the project before the end of the 2021 fiscal year. Brock will be the point of contact to get updates from Zach to the committee.

**The project was approved for \$1,231.28.**

#### Laramie River Ranch Stackyard Project-Brock McArdle

Brock is asking HPP for \$1,240 for two new gates for an existing stackyard. The existing gates are old and need to be replaced, but the rest of the stack yard is in good shape. They are ineligible for game damage as they have restricted hunting because they are a Dude Ranch and are concerned about increased liability with hunting. The gates would come from the CPW Game Damage Department and will require that the landowner signs Game Damage's cooperative agreement.

**The project was approved for \$1,240.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM**

**Next meeting: TBD**

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