



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee

Zoom Video Conference
July 14th, 2020
6:30 p.m.

HPP Members Present: Andy Brown, CPW; John Sheek, Sportsman; Nate West, BLM; Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower; Tanner Young, Livestock Grower; Ivan Messinger, USFS

Introductions & Budget Report:

The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$129,300.00. Proposed FY21 fence and fertilizer voucher amounts based on previous years would leave \$102,200.00.

New Business:

1. FY21 voucher allocations were approved as follows: Fence Vouchers - \$3,000; Fertilizer Vouchers - \$24,100. Landowners may claim up to three \$300 fence vouchers per fiscal year; landowners may file for fertilizer vouchers every 3rd year for \$15.00 per irrigated acre, capped at \$4,000.
2. Andy Brown presented the Coalbed Canyon SWA guzzler project for CPW. Coalbed Canyon SWA provides important winter and transition range for mule deer and elk, and provides habitat for wildlife in a landscape dominated by private lands. However, the SWA has very little water available, and big game heavily utilizes water and other resources on adjacent private lands causing conflict with fences and forage. The project involves installing two 1,000-gallon guzzlers with water catchments to capture snowmelt and precipitation. One guzzler will additionally be fed with water from a nearby existing well. Increasing water availability on the SWA will help reduce big game pressure on nearby private agricultural operations, and will improve overall habitat and distribution throughout the area. Additionally, CPW recently completed a major seeding project on the SWA to enhance forage quality and quantity. This water development project will further enhance the habitat on Coalbed Canyon SWA. The project was approved for \$6,772.00 for guzzler purchase.
3. Fertilizer applications were approved as follows: Paul Weyand, \$3,975.00 (265 acres).
4. The committee reviewed a fencing project from Paul Weyand. Approximately 3,070-feet of existing barbed wire fence is in severe disrepair, and does not

prevent cattle trespass from neighboring parcels. The project would involve removing old fence and replacing it with wildlife-friendly fence to HPP specs, including high visibility wire, in phases. The application was not fully complete with a materials list or finalized fence design regarding post and stay spacing, so the project was tabled for the next meeting.

Other Business/Roundtable

1. The FY21 draft meeting schedule will be sent to committee members.
2. Pat Tucker gave brief CPW and HPP updates.

Next Meeting: August 25th @ 6:30pm via Zoom