



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
STATE COUNCIL ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING  
October 1, 2020**

**Council Attendees:** Hunter Seim, Sheila Lamb, Mick Davis, Greg Jungman, Gary Visintainer, John Hardwick, Robbie LeValley

**Staff:** Pat Tucker, Teri Polley, Hanna Cook, Garrett Watson

**Guests:** Brian Dreher (Terrestrial Section Manager), Duke Phillips (Ranchlands), Anya Byers (TNC), Caitlyn Kelly (TNC), Pam Rice (NPS)

**October 1 - 7 PM to 8:15 PM**

The HPP State Council heard the Medano Zapata Ranch Preserve bison fence proposal. This project was first presented to the Mount Blanca committee on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The MB committee had concerns about the non wildlife friendly (5') fence being proposed as well as the elk crossings but thought there might be some opportunities with the crossing for HPP involvement. The committee did not have any funds left in their budget for this and so it was moved to the State Council for consideration.

The applicant (TNC) made a similar proposal to the Council that they had made to the MB committee. The Council discussed the proposal and the local situation and asked questions about the project. There was much discussion about the fence height, the limited public hunting opportunities, concerns about how to have wildlife friendly fencing/crossings when the goal is to contain the bison, past crossings and history in the area with elk and bison and the feeling that the NPS, TNC and USFWS needed to be the more involved. It was also mentioned that TNC was interested in 'experimental' designs for the crossings and fencing, which concerned the Council.

After all this, the council felt this project did not meet the program guidelines and HPP wasn't the appropriate program for the request and declined to fund the request. However, the Council was willing to consider a new proposal that addressed the Council's concerns.