



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference

April 19th, 2021

6:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Pat Tucker, CPW; Brad Weinmester, CPW; Elena Simmons, Maureen & Wayne Wendle, Gloria Ryan, Sarah Bangert

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$51,380.93.

Old Business:

1. Sarah Bangert updated the committee on the Valley View Goat Grazing project. The fire last fall burned the planned treatment area, and the oakbrush is beginning to return. Targeted goat grazing in the fall on 150-250 acres is expected to be even more effective after the burn. \$5,850.00 was reapproved for FY2022, with implementation planned in late September to utilize a short second growing season.

New Business:

1. Wayne and Maureen Wendle presented a fencing proposal. The property includes a riparian corridor along the Pine River and irrigated hayfields, and experiences year round use by deer and elk. The existing fence is ~80 years old and in severe disrepair, does not properly contain livestock, and presents entanglement risks to big game. The project includes removing approximately .25 miles of old fence, and constructing new wildlife-friendly pipe fence. Wire spacing and height will be to HPP specs. The new fence will contain livestock while still allowing big game to move through and utilize the property. The project was approved for \$4,960.00 for materials.

2. Elena Simmons and Gloria Ryan presented a well refurbishment project. The property experiences year-round use by deer and elk. The area is very dry and livestock and big game compete for water sources, particularly when Cherry Creek is low or dry. There is an existing well on the property with reliable water, however the pump is not functional and needs to be refurbished to properly provide water for livestock and wildlife. The project includes refurbishing the well infrastructure to become operational again, and pumping the water into an existing pond. Increasing water storage capacity and availability will improve big game distribution throughout the area. The project was approved for \$7,700.00 for contractor costs.

Admin note: due to staffing issues in FY21, the project was administratively approved by HPP Coordinator to be moved to FY22.

Other Business:

1. Brad Weinmeister reviewed E30 and E31 post-hunt elk population estimates. Both units are below objective and continue to experience poor calf recruitment. CPW is currently conducting research throughout the state to attempt to identify causes of calf recruitment issues.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting TBD