



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

March 8th, 2021

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Conference Call

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**Members Present:** Mick Davis, Dale Gomez, Eduardo Duran, Brent Woodward, Mark Bechaver, Suzanne Beauchaine

**Administrative Assistant:** Hanna Cook

### **Budget Report**

The 2021 budget report was reviewed.

### **New Business**

#### Bear Creek Mahogany Pruning Project Updates-Dale Gomez

The Bear Creek Mahogany Pruning Project was previously approved by the committee for \$7,800, with a match from both the USFS and the NWTF (each partner pays for one week of hand-thinning crews). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the NWTF has not been able to hold fundraiser events like they usually do, so they are uncertain if their funding will be available for this year or not. Dale would still like to continue with the project, and the USFS has already completed their match portion, plus an extra two weeks of hand thinning in the project area. He is asking the SLVHPP committee if they are okay with continuing with their portion of the project even though the NWTF match may not come through. The USFS matching amount has increased, so the match is still well over 50% of the project cost even without NWTF funds. The SCC crew that HPP's funds would be paying for would like to start in April, so the purchase order will need to be submitted ASAP.

Mick Davis suggested that the HPP committee should be able to cover the amount that NWTF can't in order to treat more acreage. The match from USFS will still be more than 50%, and the committee has enough funds to pay for an extra week of hand thinning crews. Dale confirmed that they should still be able to get the crew out for a second week. With HPP paying for two weeks of hand thinning, and the USFS already paying for 3 weeks of hand thinning, the acreage treated will be higher than originally estimated.

**The project increase was approved for a total of \$15,600.**

#### HPP Escape Ramps for Tire Tanks-Mick Davis

HPP requires that all HPP-funded water development projects have an escape ramp installed in tanks to allow smaller animals that have fallen in to get out. Mick knows of some HPP water projects that have been funded in the past that do not currently have escape ramps. NRCS sells escape ramps, so Mick would like to purchase some to bring all of the tanks up to date. He will

visit all of the past HPP water projects to check for ramps, and will deliver ramps to any project that does not have one installed.

**The project was approved for \$1,300.**

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

Hanna has heard of some potential projects that will need to be reviewed by the committee, so we will need to schedule a spring meeting.

**Next Meeting: April 27th, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.**

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