



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### San Juan Basin HPP Committee

San Juan Public Lands Center

June 28, 2022

6:00pm

**San Juan Basin HPP Members Present:** Anthony Garcia, USFS; Mike Schmidt, BLM; Dan Huntington, Livestock Grower; Jesse Montoya, Livestock Grower; George Malarsie, Sportsman; Ty Smith, CPW; Phil Craig, Livestock Grower

**Introductions:** Committee members were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$57,660.00.

#### **New Business:**

1. The committee reviewed a seeding proposal from Phil Drake. The property is located west of Ignacio Canyon, and elk typically migrate from the canyon to irrigated fields. Unusually high numbers of elk were present from December to April, resulting in a large Game Damage claim. The proposal consists of seeding a 10-acre project area with a hay mix to improve forage quantity and quality after this intensive grazing by wildlife. The project was approved for \$874.50 for seed costs.
2. The committee reviewed the annual Pargin Ponds Cleanout project. USFS allotment ponds are cleaned out and treated with salt, bentonite, and/or liners as needed. This project has been successful in previous years, with a large number of ponds receiving improvements that have increased water storage capacity and subsequent big game utilization across the area. The work is complementary to other ongoing habitat improvement projects, and the committee approved \$19,000.00 for materials and labor.
3. The committee approved FY 23 voucher programs - see attached.

**Meeting adjourned. Next meeting TBD.**

## **San Juan Basin HPP Voucher Guidelines:**

- All vouchers are on a reimbursement basis.
- Voucher programs are approved at the beginning of the fiscal year and are available to landowners throughout the year, i.e. in between meetings/as needed via DWMs.
- All vouchers must be submitted for payment no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Hunting access is required.

### **Fence Voucher:**

- Minimum 35 acres
- Leased acres qualify
- Not allowable on allotment fences
- \$200 increments tiered by acreage:
  - 35-99 acres = \$400 | 100 – 199 acres = \$600 | 200+ acres = \$800
- Available by application
- 1 roll of white wire per voucher may be distributed if landowner requests it on the application
- Restrictions on allowed materials: posts, barbed/barbless wire, electric braid, stays, staples, etc
  - No woven wire or hog panels, no tools, no chargers, etc

### **Fertilizer Voucher:**

- No minimum acreage
- Leased acres qualify
- Irrigated, forage-producing acres only (no dryland, no row crops) that receive significant use/damage by big game
- Rotating eligibility every 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Available by application before deadline in January or February
- Committee determines universal price per acre at spring fertilizer meeting
- Vouchers capped at \$4,000