



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
USFS Ranger Station-100 Main Street, Walden
January 13, 2020
1:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: Jimmer Baller/livestock grower, Tara Wertz/USFWS, DWM Jacob Way/CPW, Blaine Evans/livestock grower, Danny Meyring/livestock grower, and Administrative Assistant Samantha Sorensen/CPW. Via phone: Todd Peterson, and Tifany Rubalcaba. **Guests present were:** HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, AAWM Josh Dilley, and DWM Zach Weaver.

General Public Comments: Jimmer presented Josh with a statue as a thank you for his years of service on the North Park committee.

Budget: Samantha provided committee members with a budget report. The remaining balance for fiscal year 2020 was \$53,440.96. Blaine reminded Samantha that the Haworth Solar Well could be unencumbered; the approved remaining budget was \$55,940.96.

Old Business: Minutes: Members were provided with draft minutes from June 20, August 22, and December 2; all were approved as written.

New Business: North Sand Hills Resource Protection Fence: Tifany explained that fences would mitigate social trails impacting shrubs and grasses. She shared visitation figures for the area and asked HPP to pay for materials including cable fence. There were concerns over fencing out cattle, but Tifany pointed out the area is not part of a grazing allotment. Jacob thought that maybe BLM law enforcement might be a better fit for this scenario. Tara asked if the habitat is important enough to save, because law enforcement is not always present and OHV use is increasing. There were questions surrounding the proposed height and success rate of cable fence. Josh stated that the habitat is critical but erosion from OHV trails has the area torn up; impacts over time could have a major effect on critical winter range. Jimmer asked if rider would damage other areas in better shape as a result of the fence. Todd voiced concerns over safety of cable fence. A number of alternative/additional funding sources were suggested such as RMEF, front range riders or other ATV groups, and the CPW trails coordinator. The committee decided to table the request until they had more information and additional funding had been explored.

North Park BLM Habitat Restoration/Road DCMSN: Tifany's second proposal requested funding to rip decommissioned roads. Looking at roads done in the past it's been successful thus far. A

little less than 30 decommissioned last year. The roads would be closed for good. Todd inquired as to what kind of closure would be in place. Tiffany explained that there is no funding for signs or gates as of right now. Josh said the areas are in sage that can easily be driven through to get around any structures. He went on to say the project would take unproductive ground and turn it into forage. Samantha reminded the committee that projects over \$25k are required to go out to bid. The committee approved \$25,000.00 for the project with the request that carsonite signage with a reinforced channel post be placed at the beginning of the closures.

Ad for Stackyard and/or Fence Damage Applications: The committee decided on an application deadline and determined the date of the stockgrower's meeting so that Samantha had everything she needed to place an ad in the newspaper. Handling of Future Stackyard Requests: Jacob asked if it were a problem or a perceived problem to have only one deadline for stackyards. The committee agreed that they would continue to advertise for stackyards and fence materials as they've always done, with the hopes they can handle the bulk of requests all at once. However, stackyard requests received at other times of the year can be brought up at any meeting for consideration.

Other Business: Changes to Approved Projects: The committee felt that requests to change previously approved funding has been few and far between so they will continue to handle those requests on a case by case basis. Pat mentioned that PO increases are possible but HPP will not agree to do so for a tiny amount. Jacob stated that it might be best to ask the landowner to pay for the difference if any last minute or minor changes are made.

Refuge Update: Tara reported that there were ten hunters each season, several were return hunters. Nothing was harvested in the first two seasons. In season three there were four elk harvested and in season four there were five elk harvested.

Select Next Meeting Date: March 25th at 1pm, location TBD. Future Agenda Items: Review/Approve Fence and Stackyard Applications, Todd and Jacob agreed to give a summary of the HPP conference.

Roundtable: Jimmer and Zach discussed the Yarmony Ranch CE and hunting access. Pat let everyone know that he is not taking HPP to the legislature this year. He explained that the whole department is only allowed five bills and that there's no urgency until 2023. There will be some changes but mostly status quo.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:23pm.