



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

South Park Committee

June 16th, 2020

Zoom Video Conference

Committee members present:

- John Woodward, Livestock grower
- Tyler Stoltzfus, CPW
- Webb Smith, Livestock grower
- Randy Tingle, Sports person
- Christine Cloninger, BLM
- Steve Allard, Livestock grower
- Sheila Lamb, USFS

Administrator: Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Tyler Swirka (Landowner), Robert Colwell (Landowner), Daniele Garner (Landowner), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Scott Murdoch (DWM), Dawson Swanson (DWM), Jaclyn Kachelmeyer (Colorado Open Lands)

Meeting called to order by Steve Allard at 10:00 AM

Budget Report

The 2020 and 2021 budget reports were reviewed. All projects should be completed this year.

The HPP State Council has increased the 2021 and 2022 budgets by 10%.

Old Business

The SPHPP DMP has been approved by the commission.

New Business

DM Ranch Fencing Project-Tyler Swirka

Tyler is asking HPP for \$3,428 for materials to replace approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. Elk and pronghorn have been causing a lot of damage to fences. Tyler will be putting in extra H braces in the areas with heavy traffic that are damaged more by elk to add extra support. The cost of this fence is higher than most fence projects, but the committee is willing to fund \$1500 for materials, plus 4 rolls of high visibility wire from the stockpile.

The project was approved for \$1500 plus 4 rolls of white wire from the committee stockpile for FY 2021.

DVPA Timber Treatment-John Woodward

John is asking HPP for \$10,000 for 5.5 acres of hand thinning treatment. They have already treated some areas on the property and it has worked out well. The landowners will pay for an additional 5.5 acres. 11 acres will be treated in total. The treatment includes hand-thinning, piling slash, bucking logs, and burning slash piles. The slash piles will not be burned until next year or later, when there is a burn window, so the Deer Valley Park Association will withhold some of the payment until the slash piles have been burned to ensure that it gets done. The habitat treatment will help to create more habitat and forage for big game.

There is concern about the lack of deer hunting opportunity in the area. This means that the deer population is not easily controlled, and they need to find ways to increase deer harvest to manage the population. John let the committee know that they will be trying to increase deer harvest on this property this year. They already allow some elk hunting, but they will be trying to increase deer hunting as well. Dawson suggested using private land only tags, which would allow one hunter to have multiple deer tags. This could help to increase harvest without having a lot of hunters on the property. Dawson, Scott, and the committee agree that harvesting 5-6 does this year will help, and will be good goal to start with since the landowners have just started allowing deer hunting. John has agreed that they will aim for 5-6 does harvested in the upcoming hunting season and will work with Dawson and Scott to implement this.

John does not feel that this project will increase conflicts with elk by creating more habitat. Elk are already being pushed onto the property by the surrounding developments, and this project will create more forage for wildlife and livestock, reducing competition.

The project was approved for \$10,000 for FY 2021.

**John Woodward abstained from voting

Echo Valley Ranch Fencing Project-Robert Colwell

Robert is asking HPP for \$2,935 for fencing materials needed to replace 2.23 miles of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. There is heavy elk traffic here and they often damage the fences. The landowner will use high visibility wire on the top strand, plus 10 pole crossings in high traffic areas so that elk can clear them easier. The landowners allow hunting with a disabled veterans program. The white wire will come from the committee stockpile. The landowner will complete labor. TNC is the conservation easement holder for this project, and they have written a letter of support approving it. **The project was approved for \$1,270 plus 9 rolls of white wire from the committee stockpile for FY 2021.**

Pettee Ranch Fencing Project-Daniele Garner

Daniele is asking HPP for \$5,000 for fence materials to replace old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. Elk have been causing a lot of damage and the fence is getting too old to effectively repair it. Landowners will do all labor to remove old fence and install new fence, HPP will pay for materials. High visibility wire will be used for the top strand.

The project was approved for \$5,000 plus 6 rolls of high visibility wire from the committee stockpile for FY 2021.

2021 Vouchers:

Fencing/Fence Materials

The South Park HPP committee would like to continue the landowner voucher program to supply fencing materials to landowners for small fence repair projects. DWMs will hand out vouchers to eligible landowners, and landowners have the option of being reimbursed for purchases, or of picking up materials from the SPHPP stockpile.

The fencing supply and reimbursement voucher program will be renewed for FY 2021 with a total budget of \$8,000 with the following rules:

- Landowners must allow some hunting access
- Vouchers are good for either \$350 reimbursement or \$350 in materials from the stockpile. One roll of white wire from the stockpile may be added on to the voucher limit.
- Vouchers must be filled out for any landowner taking materials. Material vouchers can be signed by a committee member or a DWM.
- Landowners must have a minimum of 160 acres. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee at a noticed meeting.
- Landowners are allowed 3 rolls of high visibility wire if they aren't getting other fence materials.

\$1000 will be allocated to reimbursements, and \$7,000 will be allocated to the purchase of fence materials needed to replenish the stockpile as needed.

Herbicide

The South Park HPP committee would like to continue the landowner voucher program to reimburse landowners for herbicide purchases.

The herbicide voucher program will be renewed for FY 2021 with a total budget of \$2,500 with the following rules:

- Landowners can be reimbursed for herbicide purchases up to \$250
- Herbicide vouchers can be given out to eligible landowners after being signed by a DWM or a committee member
- Landowners must have a minimum of 160 acres. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee at a noticed meeting.
- Reimbursements are for herbicide only (no dyes, no application costs)

2021 Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Pat Tucker let the committee know that the state council does not plan to order rolls of white wire for committees in the near future. So, if the committee needs to replenish their white wire stockpile, they should do so from their materials budget. In addition, HPP will be working remotely and will not be traveling for meetings until at least September, so video meetings will continue for a while.

Jaclyn Kachelmeyer works with Colorado Open Lands, who holds conservation easements on the DM Ranch, DVPA, and Pettee Ranch. She let the committee know that they are in support of all three projects presented today.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM

The next meeting will be held on July 28th at 10:00 AM as a video conference.