



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference

August 30th, 2021

6:00 p.m.

San Juan Basin HPP Members Present: Anthony Garcia, USFS; Phil Craig, Livestock Grower; Dan Huntington, Livestock Grower; Mike Schmidt, BLM; Adrian Archuleta, CPW; John Gardner, Sportsman; Jesse Montoya, Livestock Grower

Guests: Justin Adkisson

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$88,320.00. During budget review, the committee increased the FY2022 fertilizer voucher allocation to \$45,000.

Old Business:

1. The committee resumed discussion on the Adkisson Fence project. The project area includes 72 acres that experience year round use by deer, and heavy migration and winter use by elk. Horses that are used for an outfitting business are kept on the parcel, and frequent damage to the fence by wildlife crossing results in poor livestock containment as well as big game entanglement. The proposed fence design includes pipe posts, with pipe top rail and smooth lower wires preferred. The top line could be reduced to smooth wire due to cost constraints depending on funding, and the top wire could be replaced with pipe in the future. The proposed HPP cost was between \$9,100 - \$15,350 depending on design.

The committee noted that the fence budget was much more expensive than previously approved fencing projects, and worried about setting a precedent for higher cost fence designs. Additionally, the use of outfitting horses does not meet the traditional expectation for agricultural use. However, the property receives significant use by elk in the winter, and fencing for horses has been previously approved. The committee approved \$5,000 for materials costs and will, provide 6 rolls of white high-visibility wire if it is desired. An inspection will be required prior to reimbursement to ensure that the fence meets wildlife-friendly specs.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting November 8th