

DRAFT

Pending Committee Approval at
next Mount Blanca HPP
Committee Meeting.



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Monte Vista Office

12:00pm

Committee members Present:

- Vacant, *USFWS Representative*
- Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Shane Lancaster, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- Scott Nilson, *BLM Representative CALL IN*
- Brian Behaver, *CPW Representative*

Administrators: Kimberly Berscheid

Guests: Tyler Cerny - DWM, Leon Martinez - DWM, Dean Lee - USFWS, Pam Rice - NPS, Sally Wier - Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Ron Garcia - Retired USFWS.

Budget Report

The 2022 and 2023 Budget Reports were reviewed.

Old Business

The meeting minutes were approved.

New Business

Broken Box Ranch Conservation Easement - Sally Wier, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Sally is asking the committee for \$20,000 to pay for transaction costs for a conservation easement on the Broken Box Ranch. The ranch is adjacent to BLM and State Land Board property, and is very close to the BLM's Blanca Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Additionally, it encompasses four active artesian wells, and 24 acres that are seasonally flooded wet meadow and rare playa-like habitat for wildlife. The conservation easement will prohibit subdivision of the property and other uses inconsistent with the existing wildlife habitat. Rio Grande Headwaters will steward the property in perpetuity to ensure conservation values are upheld. Annual monitoring will be done to ensure the landowners are abiding by the terms set forth in the easement.

The project was approved for \$20,000 to pay for transactions costs on The Broken Box Ranch Conservation Easement for FY 2023.

N. San Luis Valley Dispersal Coordinator

CPW is asking the committee for \$25,000 to pay Doug Ouren for his services as the North San Luis Valley Dispersal Coordinator. The NFWS will provide a vehicle and housing for him during the project. He will coordinate efforts on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Great Sand Dunes National Park and surrounding private lands to prevent harboring of large elk herds. Overall the project is designed to improve distribution on the landscape, increase CPW's ability to maintain population objectives and overall hunter success. It is anticipated that the overall effects will reduce the potential for game damage in the N. San Luis Valley. Doug will provide the committee with a presentation at the end of the season providing Oversight will be provided by local Colorado Parks and Wildlife, USFWS and USNPS.

Doug is requesting a pay rate increase to \$25 per hour for the FY 2023. He anticipates the project will go from early September to end of February.

The project was approved for up to \$25,000 (\$25 per hour) to pay Doug Ouren as the North San Luis Dispersal Coordinator for FY 2023.

Landowner Fence and Materials Reimbursement Vouchers

The committee would like to continue a fence voucher program for small fence projects. Landowners are eligible for up to \$1,200 for materials to repair damage by big game. DWMs can distribute the vouchers to eligible landowners (Kimberly will send to DWMs as requested). Landowners will purchase their materials and then send the receipt and signed voucher to Kimberly to request reimbursement. Landowners are responsible for any unapproved items or any expenses over the allowable voucher amount. **The committee approved the project for \$5,800, with a limit of \$1,200 per landowner for FY 2023.**

The MBHPP committee has rolls of white wire to be given out to landowners to make fences more wildlife friendly. Landowners will receive 2 bags of clips per roll of white wire to allow them to build their fence in a way that the top wire can be dropped down when needed for wildlife crossing. Landowners that would like to receive white wire should discuss this with their DWM. DWMs will then contact Brian Bechaver, who will review the request and issue the white wire voucher if the landowner is eligible.

Committee Operating Expenses and Meeting Meals

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$250 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition for FY 2023.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Next Meeting: TBD