



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Mount Blanca HPP Committee Meeting
February 13, 2023 at 12:00 pm
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office - Monte Vista

Committee Members Present:

- Brian Bechaver - CPW
- Roy Oliver - Livestock Grower
- Alvin Kunugi - Livestock Grower
- Shane Lancaster - Livestock Grower
- Mike Maldonado - Sportsperson
- Scott Nilson - BLM
- Vacant - USFWS

Attendees Present:

Cathy Hagen - BLM
Dario Archuleta - BLM
Meg Shelley - USFS (Virtual)
Pete Stagner - Landowner
Leon Martinez - DWM, CPW
William Miedema - DWM, CPW
Ron Garcia - Retired HPP Member
Dean Lee - USFWS

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The remaining budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$0.00.

Old Business

Minutes- The minutes from the December 9, 2022, meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Poncha Vence Towers-

Meg Shelley asks the committee for \$20,000 to install 2 VENCE towers on Poncha Pass East, Alder Allotment. This area was burned in 2019 by the Decker fire, and the interior fencing has not been replaced. The towers will enable livestock producers to utilize virtual fencing for their cattle and lessen the need for interior fencing on the landscape. This project will allow wildlife to move more freely and reduce the entanglement risks traditional fencing can produce. The BLM/FS permittee will contribute funding for the collars for cattle participating in the project. USFS and BLM are contributing to the purchase of additional towers and will be responsible for the installation and implementation.

The committee discussed the project and approved \$5,560 toward the tower purchase. Admin note: Michael Blanck supplemented the budget to cover the

project amount. The total HPP contribution is \$11,000, split between the SLV and MB Committees.

N. SLV Elk Dispersal Coordinator Project Update-

Doug Ouren presented a PowerPoint summarizing the project and accomplishments for this year. He mentioned more volunteer involvement and more time out of the vehicle this year. Overall, the season was a success, and Doug achieved the project's objectives.

Retirement Recognition for Ron Garcia-

The committee presented Ron with an Elk Statue honoring and thanking him for his time on the Mount Blanca HPP Committee.

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule- The next committee meeting is TBD.

Roundtable

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.