



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee Meeting
September 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
CPW - Pueblo Hunter Education Building

Committee Members Present:

- Cody Purcell - CPW
- John Stroh - Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz - Livestock Grower
- Warren McDonald - Livestock Grower
- Paul Coe - Sportsperson
- Glenda Torres - BLM
- Jeff Outhier - USFS

Attendees Present:

Mike Brown - CPW
Zoe Moffat - NRCS
Patty Knupp - NRCS

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$60,000.

Old Business

The minutes from the June 20, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Tom Grette Professional Services-

Glenda asked the committee for \$9,000 for professional services provided by Tom Grette. He would provide parcel layouts for future projects and flagging, pre-seeding hydro-axe parcels, supervising hydro-axe operators, and manipulation mapping of the current projects. Historically, this project has been funded and provides “boots on the ground” observation of potential, current, and previous projects. Due to increasing workloads, federal agency employees cannot visit and supervise all projects, and Tom can relieve some of the responsibilities. CPW and BLM staff will contribute time for planning and implementation.

The project was approved for up to \$9,000 for Tom Grette’s professional services. Labor, mileage, and materials are to be included. Paul Coe provided his proxy vote to John Stroh in his absence.

FY24 Voucher Program-

Fence Vouchers:

The program is funded annually and provides landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs or committee members can sign and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within SDCHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year with a maximum of \$800 per voucher. Vouchers can only be used once; unused funds are forfeited, and only eligible materials will be reimbursed as listed on the voucher. **The committee voted to continue the program with a limit of \$800 per landowner. The total project limit is \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 24. Paul Coe provided his proxy vote to John Stroh in his absence.**

Materials Pickup:

The committee will also continue the stockpile program, where landowners can take white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the stockpile for projects in the SDCHPP area. Vouchers must be filled out and returned to Kimberly Berscheid as soon as the materials are received. DWMs or committee members can approve vouchers, but only CPW staff is authorized to distribute materials. The limit is two rolls of white vinyl wire and one tire tank per landowner per year (if a reimbursement request voucher is NOT added). Landowners receiving a reimbursement voucher may take one roll of vinyl and one tire tank per year. Landowners are allowed a materials voucher and a reimbursement voucher in the same year with the abovementioned limits. The committee has purchased tools to be lent out to landowners for installing the white wire. The tools must be returned to CPW staff or a committee member immediately upon completion. Paul Coe provided his proxy vote to John Stroh in his absence.

FY24 Stockpile Materials Order-

The committee voted to allocate \$15,000 to purchase tire tanks, escape ramps for the stockpile, and additional tools to be lent out to landowners. Paul Coe provided his proxy vote to John Stroh in his absence.

Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses-

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition. Paul Coe provided his proxy vote to John Stroh in his absence.

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule-

The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.; location is TBD.

Roundtable

Mike Brown discussed current happenings with CPW and a potential large-scale habitat project in Huerfano County. He will update the committee when he has additional information. Black-footed ferrets were released at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Additionally, he mentioned that a new SWA was acquired in Beulah, and usage requires a reservation via Aspira. Occupants must have a valid hunting license to access. He encouraged committee members to report big game issues and offered OGT as an option to report anonymously.

Warren McDonald has been outfitting elk hunts and mentioned expanding the SDCHPP boundary due to a large herd of elk east of I-25 causing damage. The committee discussed the conflicts and that HPP has been expanded statewide.

Glenda has had a record year for acres treated in the area. Prescribed fires are happening, and she is juggling with the potential government shutdown.

Patty Knupp discussed the funding available with NRCS and that the cutoff for EQUIP applications is at the beginning of December. Awards will be sent out in May or June for those approved.

Zoe Moffat appreciated being at the meeting; she encouraged committee members to share her contact information for any forestry projects in Las Animas and Huerfano counties.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:44 a.m.