

DRAFT Central CAC Meeting Notes
Game & Fish Office, Albuquerque, Tuesday April 13, 2010

CAC Members Present: Bill Rehm, Bob Nordstrum, Jeff Young, Billy Jack Pound, Dick Kreiner, and Isaac Mitchell

CAC Members Absent: Dr. Jim Fanning

Agency Cooperators Present: Dale Hall, Dave Heft, Bev deGruyter, and Zack Parsons

Public present: John Carroll, Albuquerque; Doug Dougherty, RMEF; Gary Martinez, NMWF; and Commissioner Kent Salazar

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rehm at 1:02 p.m. Dale informed the group that George Tash moved to Arizona and Dr. Arvas has appointed Isaac Mitchell to fill his term. Dr. Fanning has also recently resigned from the committee due to illness. Dale said that Andrea Chavez called him this morning and that she was ill and could not attend.

Bev introduced Zack Parsons. He will be the new wildlife biologist for both the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts.

Bill welcomed members of the public that were present and gave Commissioner Salazar an opportunity to speak in case he had to leave. Commissioner Salazar thanked all committee members for their help and donating their time. He said that the Commission is proud of the program and the citizens are a big part of its success.

Bill spoke to the fact that sportsmen are footing the bill for habitat, not hikers or back packers. Even though we all benefit from the work the program has done. He feels that the program has supplanted the federal agencies budgets. He has had a concern for many years that some day all HSP funds will be going to maintenance, so agencies have to budget some to help or we must start funding only projects with low maintenance requirements. He has been on the committee and relayed stories how the funding formula was to restrictive and does not instill competition. For example to lump funds to pay for a large fisheries project, you cannot do it easily under the formula. He also feels the committee should have the ability to say "no" to a proposal and throw it off the list, not just send it to the bottom. For example, the committee does not want to fund projects that are close to people's houses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Game Commission will act on CAC recommendations on July 8, 2010 in Silver City. Dale mentioned that Gary Fonay, Hobbs and Thomas "Dick" Salopek, Las Cruces are new commissioners replacing Commissioners Sims and Montoya.

Bill Falvey has left the Mountainair Ranger District. Mark Olson dedication will occur on June 7, 2010 with lunch in Grants at noon and then to trick tank site. Dick mentioned that Dave received a national NWTF award for habitat management. Socorro BLM Biologist Carlos Madril also received national recognition. This is quite an honor for the State and we are all proud of them.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The May 7, 2009 CAC meeting notes were read by the group.

Motion was made by Dick and seconded by Jeff to accept with no corrections. The motion was passed by the group.

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS (2009 and 2010)

Dale noted that project leaders are finishing up their 2009 projects and should be well under way on their 2010 projects. They have cleared the 2011 proposals and asking for final approval. Agency cooperators let citizens know the status of projects they are currently implementing.

PROGRAM RENEWAL STATUS

Dale reminded the group that the HSP sunsets in April 2011. The State Game Commission has authority over the Program. He gave the group an overview of the process and timeline that he and the Executive Committee (EC) are pursuing in preparation to seek renewal of the Program. The EC has identified issues of concern with the Program, and they have inspected random projects throughout the State. The executive committee has received guidance and sideboards from the three agency partners' leadership.

The three priorities of agencies if renewed by the Commission is that the Program in the next decade will:

1. Maintain current projects,
2. Take a landscape planning and implementation approach, and
3. Emphasize aquatic and angling improvements.

Dale indicated that he and the Executive Committee are looking for ideas as to how the citizens could look at proposals on a statewide basis.

Bob mentioned that a "super-fund" could come off top of allocation to set aside money to fund best projects. He said we need a process for the cream (best proposals) to float to the top. Bill suggested the Interagency or Executive Committee (EC) members could identify the cream for the citizens to review. Bob indicated that he is a member of the RMEF PAC and that they use professional from a variety of interests to help decide. It brings out good competition.

Dick thought limiting any superfund to 10% off the top for the EC to pick. He raised the idea that each CAC could forward a project to the EC. Bill liked the idea that local committees approve and advance proposals to the EC. Bob raised the idea that a state committee could be established made up of a rep or the chair from each CAC.

AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Dave gave a presentation on the effects of fire. He said that burning proposals are the largest part of his HSP budget because it gives the best value, both in terms of dollars and ecological benefit. The vegetative treatment is then followed with water developments, if needed. He showed before and after burning pictures and said that he has seen water flowing in canyons that have been dry. He attributes this in part to removing the trees that intercept snow and drink precipitation available. He noted some erosion flushes after burning, but it does not compare to the years of ongoing erosion if not treated.

Burning is costly and administratively difficult, especially large, hot burns that the wildlife need.

Dick noted that Dave had asked for \$45,000 in HSP funds to burn. How much would that do? Dave said that it would be matched with agency funds and that 2-3

blocks could be burned with that amount. Blocks range from 3,500 to 21,000 acres in size.

BUDGET STATUS:

Dale handed out the *2008 Implementation Report*. He said this document is one of two that is specifically called for in the Sikes Act as an annual accounting of accomplishments and expenditures.

Dale handed out a chart that demonstrated that Habitat Stamp sales have leveled off at about \$850,000 since 2005, but boosted in 2009 to \$980,000 (4.9 million buyers). He could not explain, but could be due to increased publicity surrounding program renewal. With most big game license sales now in a limited draw system, the only way to sell more Habitat Stamps are to small game hunters and fishermen.

He showed a chart of the HSP Fund balance to show how the fund has been purposely spent down from a high of \$4 million to about \$1.3 million. This was done by instituting flexibility to the agencies, nagging project leaders, and a double budget in 2007. With the balance having been drawn down and stamp sales leveling off, the budget for 2010 has been brought in line with income. With Stamp sales up in 2009, there may be an increase 2012 budget.

2011 MAINTENANCE;

Dale indicated that the statewide maintenance request for 2011 is \$237,000. Dale mentioned part of the agencies leadership in the future program is to make sure projects are maintained. Agency units are developing a maintenance schedule and reporting the cost on a project by project basis.

He showed the group a spreadsheet that displays this concept. He said that Mt. Taylor was going to update their maintenance sheet, but that he had not heard back from them since the interagency meeting in February.

Dale indicated that BLM will not charge the HSP labor to maintain projects; the HSP will pay for supplies and materials. After some discussion, *Bob made a motion that both agencies should adopt the same policy: that the HSP would pay for materials and the agency would pay for labor to maintain projects. This was seconded by Jeff and passed unanimously.*

PRIORTIZE 2011 PROPOSALS:

Bev indicated that they have dropped two projects in the Mountainair Ranger District because Bill Falvey had left the district.

Andrea was not present, but Dale said that the BLM had completed the burn planned for 2011. No back up proposals were available. After discussion the committee moved the money to the USFS within the region.

Bev indicated that they could do the Tablezon Trick Tank. She said that the Schartzner TT needs to be replaced and that it is NEPA and Arch ready. Dave said that he could do more maintenance or burning with the funds.

Central Habitat Stamp Program 2011 Project Proposal List (Final)

Citizen Rank	Project No.	Project Name	HSP Request	Agency Match	Other Match	Total Budget	ALLOCATION/ Balance	Landscape	Tier
		CENTRAL BLM--Albuquerque					\$ 10,000		
1	CB-2011-001	Albuquerque HSP Maintenance	10,000	2,000	0	\$ 12,000	0	all	1
drop	CB-2011-003	Chivato Mesa North Slope Maintenance Burn for Deer	0	70,000	0	\$ 70,000	0	IC Grant	1
		REQUEST	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000			
		CENTRAL FS--Cibola					\$ 127,528		
1	CF-2011-001	Cibola HSP Maintenance	54,528	28,000	15,000	\$ 97,528	73,000	all	1
2	CF-2011-002	Cibola Burns*	45,000	50,000	0	\$ 95,000	28,000	see below	1
3	CF-2011-041	Tajique Chained Area Thin for Deer, Ph. 2	6,000	2,000	0	\$ 8,000	22,000	none	1
4	CF-2011-051	Tablazon Trick Tank for Deer	11,000	1,000	0	\$ 12,000	11,000	none	1
5	CF-2011-042	Schartzer TT Replacement	11,000	1,000	0	\$ 12,000	0	none	1
drop	CF-2011-042	Priest Mtn Thin/Burn for Bighorns	0	10,000	0	\$ 10,000	0	none	
drop	CF-2011-043	Tajique Burn of Ph. 1 Meadows for Deer	0	7,500	0	\$ 7,500	0	none	
		REQUEST	\$ 127,528	\$ 99,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 242,028			
		*CF-2011-002 sub-burns that are ready if favorable conditions prevail:							
		Burn Name					Emp Sp.	Landscape	Acres
nr		Thompson Canyon Block					Deer	Datil Mtns	4,300
nr		Sargent Canyon Block					Turkey	W. San Mateo	3,500
nr		Fisher Block					Turkey	none	9,000
nr		North and East Red Blocks					Deer	E. San Mateo	11,000
nr		Chavez/Whitecap Block					Deer	E. San Mateo	14,300
nr		San Juan Burn					Deer	E. San Mateo	21,700

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nr		Corn Block					Deer	E. San Mateo	4,200
nr		Gallinas Block					Deer	none	3,900
nr		Baney Block					Deer	W. San Mateo	15,900

Motioned by Dick and seconded by Bob to adopt the amended 2011 Project list. Passed.

PRIORITIZE 2012 PROPOSALS:

Dale indicated that there is no proposed budget for 2012 and that one will be presented this time next year after his administration meets. Proposals that the advisors rank today will be the ones the agencies will concentrate conducting NEPA on in the next year.

Motioned by Bob and seconded by Jeff to accept the following ranking of the 2012 Central Proposal list. Passed.

CAC Rank	HSP NO.	PROPOSAL NAME	LEAD	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	HSP COST	AGENCY COST	OTHER COST	TOTAL COST	LANDSCAPE PLNG/PARTNERS
1	CB-2012-001	Albuquerque HSP Maintenance	Chavez, Andrea	Conduct maintenance on selected projects throughout the FO. Projects will be listed in a separate spreadsheet.	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$10,000	
2	CB-2012-003	La Ventana Burn for Elk	Chavez, Andrea	Burn 370 acres of encroaching PJ/Ponderosa on grassland habitat. One time investment of HSP funds to maintain, connect or build riparian pasture boundaries that will be established in the upcoming grazing plan (to be completed by Dec 2010). Approx. 16 miles of fence.	\$13,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$63,000	
3	CB-2012-002	Cebolla Canyon Riparian Pasture Fences	Chavez, Andrea	Phase 2 of forest restoration project to reduce the encroaching PJ into native grasslands and open meadows. Maintenance of about 30 existing HSP projects on the forest. Partner is volunteer groups providing labor.	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$80,000	
drop	CB-2012-004	Owsley PJ Spray for Deer	Chavez, Andrea		\$35,000	\$265,000	\$0	\$300,000	
1	CF-2012-001	Cibola HSP Maintenance	deGruyter, Beverly		\$40,000	\$28,000	\$15,000	\$83,000	

CAC Rank	HSP NO.	PROPOSAL NAME	LEAD	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	HSP COST	AGENCY COST	OTHER COST	TOTAL COST	LANDSCAPE PLNG/PARTNERS
2	CF-2012-002	Cibola Burns	deGruyter, Beverly	This proposal houses multiple burn proposals. As prescriptions windows for individual burns open, funds will be allocated to that burn up to amount approved. Burn hot & largest area the \$s will allow. Up to 20% of each unit could be thinned. Goal is to reduce woody vegetation that visually inhibits bighorns from using water source. Secondarily, it is hoped that treatment will help recharge La Casa Spring itself.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$80,000	
3	CF-2012-402	Priest Mtn. PJ Thin for Bighorns	Bernal, Mark	Remove W. Turkey Cone trick tank that is no longer functioning and replace with new one at new location. New trick tank will be 3500 gallon galvanized inverted umbrella with ground drinker.	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$40,000	Southern Manzano Mtns.
4	CF-2012-401	Gallinas Trick Tank Rehab. for Deer	Huning, Tyler	HSP#??? Trick tank is no longer functioning and we propose to replace it with new one at new location. New trick tank will be 3500 gallon galvanized inverted umbrella with ground drinker.	\$11,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$21,000	
5	CF-2012-403	Round Mtn. Trick Tank Rehab for Turkeys	Huning, Tyler	Thin 100 of 365 acres of PP forest to remove understory (small trees, branches, needles) and place in piles and burn in winter. This will improve turkey foraging and rearing habitats. Remaining trees will grow larger for use as future roost trees.	\$12,000	\$3,300	\$1,200	\$16,500	
6	CF-2012-201	Redondo-Sedgwick PP Thin for Turkey, Ph. 1 of ?	Zamora, Consuelo	Thin 100 of 425 acres of PP forest to remove understory (small trees, branches, needles) and place in piles and burn in winter. This will improve turkey foraging and rearing habitats. Remaining trees will grow larger for use as future roost trees.	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$65,000	
7	CF-2012-202	Sawyer Canyon PP Thin for Turkeys	Zamora, Consuelo	Thin 100 of 425 acres of PP forest to remove understory (small trees, branches, needles) and place in piles and burn in winter. This will improve turkey foraging and rearing habitats. Remaining trees will grow larger for use as future roost trees.	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$65,000	
7	CF-2012-202	Sawyer Canyon PP Thin for Turkeys	Zamora, Consuelo	Thin 100 of 425 acres of PP forest to remove understory (small trees, branches, needles) and place in piles and burn in winter. This will improve turkey foraging and rearing habitats. Remaining trees will grow larger for use as future roost trees.	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$65,000	

NEXT MEETING/FIELD TRIP:

The Executive Committee inspected projects last summer. The agency leadership would like to get other people looking at projects also. Dale asked citizens to pick a project and go look at it with the agency personnel. Take some pictures, note any maintenance need or vandalism and report back to Dale.

Adjourned at 5:10 pm.