

Payson Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes 11/03/21

Jake Jaeger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- Jake Jaeger elaborated on the scoring for HPC projects, passed out a scoring sheet for it.
 - All proposals for the 2021 period were evaluated in October by AGFD scoring team led by Andrew Cavalcant.
 - All the conservation groups also have the project evaluations, and a funding meeting will be conducted in January.
 - Funding should become available in March.
 - Reminder to ensure not to start projects until the agreements and funding is distributed, any work done before the process is completed will lose eligibility for funding.
- Jake Jaeger called for updates from the group on ongoing and completed HPC projects around the room.
 - Called for future projects to ensure compliance is in place, HPC committee looking for landscape scale projects.
 - Flying VH highlighted on AZFamily for needed thinning of AZ forests to prevent catastrophic wildfire as well as in a FS press release highlighting partnerships with AGFD, NFF, and other partners
 - https://www.azfamily.com/news/arizona_wildfires/forest-restoration-prevent-wildfires-arizona/article_c195bf2e-358d-11ec-bc9a-73dba7a06f47.html?block_id=667537
 - McFarlin elaborated on a cost share that MSA was able to help with approximately \$20,000 in poly pipe on a project. The 20,000 that was donated by the MSA was utilized as part of the price match.
 - Jake Jaeger elaborated that if the proposals have a 1:1 price match, has a higher likelihood of being approved.
 - Goughnour also stated that this year, projects had done a lot better in including the criteria outlined in the sheets that were passed out.
 - Jarrod McFarlin talked on the Mescal catchments - stated around the holidays the catchments will be worked on, and estimates it takes about 2 weeks per catchment, 3 catchments will be redone.
 - Seth Sheer gave an update on the project on the Bar X, currently awaiting litigation of a civil suit, as soon as it's concluded, work will commence on the 4 dirt tanks.
 - Matt Paciorek stated that some burns had been put on halt, in addition, mastication projects begin in Chamberlain, 109, and South of Young. SRP funded half of the project. Additional maintenance work done around Pine, and around Young.
 - Mead Ranch mastication off the 29 road.

- New Feral Cattle Gather project on the Verde River. 4FRI update next few weeks.
 - Around the Globe – Thumb area, will have mastication and burns.
- Dustin Darveau Gave Game Management Updates within Region 6.
 - Elk Population Surveys in Game Management Unit 22 and 23
 - Helicopter Surveys
 - 6 hours in each unit
 - Ground Surveys as needed
 - Joe Sayer elaborated on Unit 22 recommendations for elk and turkey
 - Overall, recommended reduction of 155 elk permits.
 - Recommended removing OTC hunts for turkey
 - Seth Sheer elaborated on Unit 23 recommendations for elk and turkey
 - Overall, Recommended reduction of 55 elk permits.
 - Overall, Recommended reduction of 65 turkey permits in Spring.
 - Perry Miller elaborated on Unit 24A recommendations for elk and turkey
 - Overall, removal of antlerless hunts for elk, change to 10 total permits for Any Elk permits.
 - Overall, addition of 4 turkey permits for a total of 10 turkey permits.
 - Dustin Darveau showed data for Bighorn Sheep Population Surveys.
 - 22 south population bouncing back from disease outbreak
 - 24B doing well, low numbers due to windy conditions
 - 37B, numbers low, Believe to have missed sheep, sheep were in flats, where they are not typically.
 - Dustin Darveau talked about Kuiu Conservation Direct Initiative – Four Translocation Projects in AZ.
 - 10 Bighorn Sheep removed from 24B
 - Released at Newman Peak, Picacho Mountains in 37A.
 - Research to study population health, habitat use, and disease monitoring.
 - Previous GPS collar deployments in January and October 2020.
 - In October of 2021, the following number of GPS collars were deployed: 5 GPS collars in 22S, 5 GPS Collars in 24B, 7 GPS collars in 22N, 3 GPS collars in 22/23.
- Jake Jaeger reiterated that there is access dollars available, to start planning HPCs which will be due next September. Contact Jake Jaeger if you are interested in funding/additional funding.
- Goughnour touched on MSA banquet, \$160,000 was netted from the last banquet. Stated that if you have some projects that you'd like to do, think about reaching out to the MSA.
- Next Meeting scheduled for **February 16, 2022 at 6pm.**

- Next Meeting, start planning on new projects, good time to begin working on them.
- Will have conducted deer surveys, so can relay information relating to the deer surveys.

Meeting adjourned 7:30PM.