



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

### **Montelores HPP Committee**

**Dolores Public Lands Center, Dolores, CO**

**August 24th, 2017**

**6:30 p.m.**

**HPP Members Present:** Andy Brown, CPW; Nate West, BLM; Ivan Messinger, USFS; George West, Ag Producer; Tanner Young, Ag Producer; John Sheek, Sportsman; Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower

**Guests:** Pat Tucker, Bonnie Loving, Dan Duncan

#### **Introductions & Budget Report:**

Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$73,545.00.

#### **Old Business:**

1. The committee previously approved \$1460.00 for Game Damage materials for the Malin fence project. Marc Malin reviewed the length of fence, and materials needed for the fence line, and determined that additional materials would be needed. The committee approved a new total of \$2187.66.
2. Lon Varnis' seed project was briefly reviewed. The existing vegetation is well established and in good condition. There is very little area that needs to be reseeded. However, there are areas that would benefit from hydroax work, for which the landowner may still request funding from HPP. The project was tabled until the landowner was ready to make an application.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews:**

1. The committee reviewed a seed project from Joe Lanier. The project area is currently cropland; however the landowner would like to convert it to natural grasses and forbes. There is very little cattle grazing in that part of the property, and it is used mostly for hunting. The committee is interested in the project, however the application did not include a seed mix and was tabled.

2. Bonnie Loving presented a project for an herbicide cost share program with Montezuma County. In the past HPP has provided herbicide for the county's cost share program; however this year the county is interested in operating on a reimbursement basis with landowners. There have already been a large number of applications from landowners to complete weed treatments this fall. The committee had several concerns about parameters for the program, specifically whether the landowners would be required to allow hunting access, or have agricultural status, proximity to public lands, a minimum acreage, significant damage/conflicts from big game, and grazing restrictions. The project was tabled to allow Bonnie a chance to work up HPP eligibility requirements for landowners and present the program at the next meeting.
3. The committee reviewed proposals from Richard Marsh for pond work and Steve Nowlin for a fence project, however the applications were incomplete and the committee needed more information. The projects were tabled for the next meeting.
4. Fertilizer applications were reviewed. Don Duncan was approved for \$4,000 (330 acres), and Kevin Lovett was approved for \$420 (28 acres).

**Roundtable:**

1. The statewide HPP meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction.
2. Pat Tucker reviewed the recent expansion to HPP, which allows committees to consider and fund research and habitat improvement projects to help meet game management objectives.
3. Pat reviewed the recent financial sustainability bill, which failed in a senate committee.

**Next Meeting: September 26th, 6:30pm**