



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Eagle Public Library-600 Broadway St. Eagle 81631**  
**Wednesday January 24, 2018**  
**1:00pm**

**Introductions:** **Members attending the meeting were:** Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower, Rick Bumgardner/Sportsperson, Scot Doderer/Livestock Grower, DWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Pat Luark/Livestock Grower, Phil Nyland/USFS, Hilary Boyd/BLM and Samantha Sorensen/Admin.

**Guests attending the meeting were:** Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, AWM Perry Will/CPW, Jessica Crawford, Lacey Bair, Amy Cassidy, Sami Dinar/USFS, Loyd Gerard, DWM Brian Gray/CPW, Fred Kuersten, Jeff Shroll/Town of Gypsum, Joe Hood, Kristy Wallner/BLM and Jim Daus/EVLT.

**General Public Comments:** Pat Tucker and Darren briefly spoke about the bi-annual Statewide HPP meeting.

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented committee members with a budget report and the remaining amount was \$101,477.50.

**Old Business:** Minutes from the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** HPP Signs for Project Sites: Hilary brought an example of a sign that the Mule Deer Foundation uses on project sites that they've helped fund. She thought that HPP might want to consider doing something similar in order to spread the word about the program and its accomplishments. Pat Tucker supported the idea but would like to speak with State Council members regarding ideas so as to avoid 19 different signs. The committee agreed to table the proposal.

Gerard Ranch Cattle Guard Improvements: Loyd explained to the committee that he's getting hit hard with pressure of recreational users leaving gates open. He pointed out that one gate had been left open 86 times over the course of 48 hours and 50-60 cattle are getting through at a time. It's a 2 hour ride to one of the gates. He proposed replacing the gates with cattle guards in order to keep cattle from grazing forage intended for deer. He would take care of maintenance. He asked HPP to pay for 2 of the cattle guards. The committee approved \$9,520.00 for the project. Loyd mentioned that there's talk of pumping Abrams Creek and if that happens he may be back with a water proposal.

Rifle Creek Fencing Phase II: Fred let the committee know that John Powers would like to continue replacing old fence with wildlife friendly fencing. Brian pointed out that the area is deer and elk winter range and they migrate through the property. Big game are getting held up on the old fence. It's a continuation of a previously approved project. Property is leased out for hunting. The committee approved \$7,125.00, not to exceed \$1.25/foot, for the project.

Cattle Creek/Braderich Creek Burn: Phil explained that both sites have been fully prepped for fire. Weed control, grazing, NEPA and cultural clearances have all been done; they're ready to light the match. \$46/acre is the estimated total to burn and he's asking 35% from HPP. It's mostly oak brush then thick aspen near red table. A mosaic burn will stimulate new growth in thick areas, pockets of regeneration is the goal. Their plan is to burn in the spring to minimize conflicts with hunters. Pitkin County funds pending and he also plans to speak with Eagle County about funding as well. Federal employees will be doing all of the work. The committee approved \$15k on Cattle Creek and \$10k on Braderich Creek.

Little Grand Mesa Weeds: Tabled

Hood Ranch Habitat Improvement: Joe pointed out that his project has been ongoing for 8 years now but there is still a ton of work left to do on the property. He's making a mosaic pattern then he stacks and burns the downed aspen and he only gets weeds where the stacks have been burned. He comes in with seed afterward to prevent weed growth. They allow hunting but the elk do utilize the property as a safe haven. 20 miles of new bike trails have been proposed in South Canyon, where all the elk hang out. Joe explained that he's also put in an application with RMEF, which is pending. DWM Dan Cacho supports Joe's efforts. The committee approved \$4,500.00 for the project. Joe Hood said he's also looking into initiating a conservation easement; Darren explained what the committee could contribute to a CE.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Presentation-Update on BLM Projects: Kristy Wallner gave a PowerPoint presentation on completed BLM projects including the Hales Flat water saver.

HMP Discussion/Approval: Committee members were given copies of the Lower Colorado Habitat Management Plan with proposed changes. Members approved the changes and they were made aware that the formatting may change prior to submittal to the Wildlife Council.

**Roundtable:** Hilary said they're hoping to start the Cedar Mountain mechanical work in February.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in Glenwood Springs.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.