



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Montelores HPP Committee

Dolores Public Lands Center, Dolores, CO

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

5:30 p.m.

**HPP Members Present:** Andy Brown, CPW; Ivan Messinger, USFS; George West, Livestock Grower; Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower

**Guests:** Tyler Kersey, CPW; Oma Fleming, Dove Creek; Kenny Smith, Dove Creek; Dave Harper, CPW; Pat Tucker, CPW

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

Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$69,441.82.

#### **New Business:**

1. The committee reviewed a proposal from the Dove Creek Weed Control District for an herbicide cost-share program. District cost-share programs have been implemented west of the Mancos River, where the district receives funding from the county. However, east of the river there is no county funding available since those landowners are in a different tax district. The District would like to continue funding a cost-share program with HPP to assist eastern landowners with weed control efforts. The project was approved for an herbicide purchase up to \$5,000.
2. The committee reviewed a weed control project from Cliff Bankston. The project was previously considered but was tabled due to uncertainty about the exact location of the parcels to be treated. Some of the project area is located within the Uncompahgre HPP committee area; however the Montelores committee felt that there is local benefit to treating weed infestations since the deer that use this area primarily remain within the Montelores committee area. The committee tentatively approved 50% of the project up to \$1,212.50, contingent upon the Uncompahgre committee agreeing to have this project funded in their area.
3. Fertilizer applications were approved as follows: Justin Dennison, \$2,415.00 (161 acres).

4. The USFS Thinning project was not ready for the committee to formally consider, however Ivan reviewed the scope of the project. The USFS will be conducting hand-thinning in preparation for future burn projects. Oakbrush will be thinned to remove overgrown understory while leaving older stands in place. Opening the canopy and thinning the understory in conjunction with burn retreatment will help improve forage production for big game, as well as encouraging pine regeneration after beetle kill. The project will be ready for consideration at the next meeting.

**Other Business:**

1. Ivan Messinger informed the committee that the guzzler projects from FY17 have experienced consistent and heavy use by big game, and were an important source of water during the drought. Photos will be provided at the next meeting

**Next Meeting: April 23, 6:30pm**