



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee

Phone Conference
April 29th, 2020
1:00 p.m.

Grand Mesa HPP Members Present: Harley Metz, Sportsperson; Kirk Oldham, CPW; John Walter, Livestock Producer; Bob Mosher, USFS

Guests: Pat Tucker, Bob Morris, Michael Blanck, Scott Hoyer, Travis Bybee

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$14,468.00.

New Business:

1. Travis Bybee presented a water development for Don Price. Currently, livestock and big game compete for water in the project area. A pond on the property used to hold water, however it has developed leaks and is usually dry despite having water available to fill the pond. The lack of available water for wildlife causes deer and elk to concentrate around other water sources on this property and neighboring properties, causing conflicts with livestock and agricultural operations. The project involves reconstructing the pond with heavy equipment and treating it with salt and bentonite. Reestablishing the pond will increase water storage and availability in the area for both wildlife and livestock, and will help reduce conflicts around water sources and improve big game distribution. The project was approved for \$2,355.00 for contractor costs.
2. The committee reviewed a fencing proposal from the city of Silt. The town owns a 4-acre parcel community farm and is requesting exclusionary fencing. The property does not have any hunting access, and providing exclusionary fence would prevent deer use in an important wintering area, which could potentially create new conflicts in the area. The committee denied the project because without a true agricultural/wildlife conflict component, it did not fit the scope of HPP.
3. The committee reviewed a seeding project from Tony Elkins. The property is located in big game transitional and winter range, and receives year-round use by deer. A 60-acre irrigated field has been heavily grazed by big game, reducing the amount of forage produced for livestock. The proposal includes fall seeding of the field with native grasses

and forage species to help increase forage production and offset losses to wildlife. The project was approved for \$3,307.50 for seed costs.

4. Travis Bybee presented a proposal for guzzlers on Garfield Creek SWA. The SWA is an important area for big game throughout the year, and helps reduce agricultural conflicts on nearby private lands. The area has received a number of recent habitat improvements, but there is a lack of water throughout the property. The project includes installing 5 guzzlers across the SWA to improve water storage and availability for big game. The project was approved for \$2,603 for guzzlers, contingent upon matching funds from MDF.

Next Meeting: TBD