



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

### **Grand Mesa HPP Committee**

**Phone Conference**  
**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Grand Mesa HPP Members Present:** Harley Metz, Sportsperson; Kirk Oldham, CPW; John Walter, Livestock Grower; Bob Mosher, USFS; Paul Bernklau, Livestock Grower; Don Fulton, Livestock Grower

**Guests:** Pat Tucker, Michael Blanck, Travis Bybee, CPW; Wayne McCray

**Introduction:** Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$49,540.04.

#### **New Business:**

1. Wayne McCray presented the annual West Divide Cattle Association pond cleanout project. The ponds have filled in with silt and fallen trees, and dams have washed out from spring runoff, reducing water storage capacity. Decreased water availability in the area causes competition between big game livestock on the grazing allotments. The match involves permittee time to plan machine travel routes and accompany the operator, as well as fuel costs, applying salt or bentonite as needed, and any additional reseeding, weed control, or other work on the disturbed ground around the ponds. USFS may also contribute some matching funding. The committee requested GPS coordinates, maps, and before-and-after photos to account for project accomplishments. The project was approved for \$5,000.00 for contractor labor.
2. The committee reviewed a fencing project from Brad Baldwin. The property is located in important winter range that holds large numbers of elk, and the landowner tolerates big game without filing game damage claims. 1 mile of the existing fence (including boundary and interior cross fencing) is in disrepair and does not properly contain livestock. The proposal involves removing the old fence and replacing it with wildlife-friendly fencing to HPP specs. The committee approved up to \$6,300.00 for fencing materials to be purchased from CPW Game Damage, with remaining available funds to be reimbursed to the landowner for additional materials. The landowner will pay for contractor labor to install the fence, and will

provide labor to install cattle guards.

3. The committee approved FY21 voucher programs as follows:
  - a. \$4,000 for herbicide vouchers in \$200 increments, up to two vouchers per landowner annually, to be distributed as needed by DWMs.
  - b. \$10,000 for fence vouchers in \$200 increments, up to three vouchers per landowner annually, to be distributed by DWMs as needed. The committee also approved 1 roll of white wire per voucher to be distributed if the landowner requested it.
  - c. Fertilizer voucher budget will be 25% of the total budget (totaling \$27,912.50), which reflects a small increase due to the committee budget increase this year.

### **Roundtable**

1. The committee briefly discussed the role of HPP in fencing projects. There is some concern that while a fence may be a wildlife-friendly project, it also adds significant value to the property. Committee members were conflicted about the statutory scope of HPP in assisting with fence conflict issues in cases where the landowner may also realize significant financial benefit in terms of increased property value. However, it was noted that the committee has taken steps to institute reasonable criteria for fence “eligibility” by not fencing public-to-private boundaries, and requiring a 50-50% match on fence projects.

**Next Meeting: November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm**