



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee

Phone Conference
December 2nd, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Grand Mesa HPP Members Present: Kirk Oldham, CPW; John Walter, Livestock Grower; Heidi Plank, USFS; Harley Metz, Sportsperson; Paul Bernklau, Livestock Grower; Sylvia Ringer, BLM

Guests: Travis Bybee, CPW; Spencer Shideler

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced.

New Business:

1. The committee resumed discussion on Spencer Shideler's brush clearing and seeding proposal. The rest of the property experiences significant use by deer and elk in the spring and fall, and some use throughout the winter. However, 160 acres of the project area are heavily overgrown with oakbrush. These stands do not offer forage for deer and elk and are too thick to provide cover. This causes wildlife in the area use the nearby pasture and consume forage meant for livestock. The project involves mulching 80 acres with an 8' fecon head in a mosaic pattern to open spaces between mature oakbrush. The contractor will target the smaller, younger brush and leave larger mature oak for cover. The seed is a dryland mix that will produce native grasses and forage, and the broadcaster will be attached to the back of the mulcher. Mr. Shideler plans to treat any reemerging oakbrush and/or weeds next year with a backpack sprayer to extend the life of the treatment. The project was approved for 50% of the contractor costs up to \$5,000.

Next Meeting: February 18th @ 1:00pm