



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
White River HPP Committee
August 16, 2021
12:00 pm

White River HPP Members Present: Bailey Franklin- CPW, Mary Taylor- BLM, Angelo Theos- Livestock Grower, Jim Brennan- Livestock Grower, Curtis Keetch- USFS, Lenny Klinglesmith- Livestock Grower (proxy)

Guests: Michael Blanck- CPW, Katie Richman- CPW, Bill de Vergie- CPW, Chad Carter

Introductions: Committee members, new staff, and guests were introduced.

Budget Report: The budget at the start of the meeting was \$165,800.00.

Old Business: The minutes from June 4th meeting were approved as written.

New Business:

1. Buckles Ranch/Hole in the Rock Water Development- Chad Carter presented a joint water development project between Buckles Ranch and Hole in the Rock Ranch. The landowners of the two ranches aim to collaboratively provide additional water sources for livestock and wildlife in the area by installing a pipeline from an existing spring to 3 new stock tanks. The project location's current lack of water availability serves as a limiting factor for wildlife distribution as both properties experience year-round use by both deer and elk. The project was approved for \$18,262.50.
2. Punchy Cattle Company Water Tanks- The committee reviewed and discussed the design of the Punchy Cattle Company water tanks that serve as an all-in-one stock tank with integrated storage. The committee would like to explore cost sharing options and would be willing to review a potential purchase of some tanks for committee inventory at the next meeting.
3. Grady Ranch Seeding- The committee reviewed a seeding project for Lime Kiln section of the Grady Ranch. The project would mechanically treat and seed existing dryland fields with custom seed mix to increase available forage for seasonal grazing of deer and elk. The committee noted the project proposal requested slightly over a 50/50 match with \$4,860 requested from HPP. The committee stated that they would like to see a 50/50 match and reduced the HPP funding to 50% of the total project cost. The project was approved for \$4,442.50.
4. Grady Ranch Fence- The committee reviewed an additional Lime Kiln fencing project to remove approximately a quarter mile of old woven wire fence and replace it with new wildlife friendly fence. The stretch of fence has had consistent wildlife entanglement, with losses of mule deer and elk that have gotten hung up and/or injured in the woven

wire fence. The project was approved for \$2,147.

5. Grady Ranch Weed/Brush Control- The committee reviewed a weed and brush control project for the Lime Kiln section of the Grady Ranch. The project objective is to mechanically treat 10 acres to remove brush and better mitigate noxious weeds to assist in additional forage production for wildlife and livestock. The project was approved for \$1,000.
6. M/R White River Ranch Miller Creek Reseeding- The committee reviewed a reseeding project for the Miller Creek portion of the White River Ranch. It was noted that this project had been previously funded and had two crop failures due to drought and late frosts. The committee stated they would only fund half of the project cost, would require a follow up about the project success, and would like the land owner to address noxious weed concerns. The committee also stated if this attempt was unsuccessful, the committee would not provide any further funding for this project. The project was approved for \$4,635 with the noted stipulations.
7. R Lazy J Ranch Brush Thinning- The committee reviewed the brush thinning project from for the R Lazy J Ranch. This project would be phase two of the brush thinning work completed last year. The project was approved for \$11,060.80.
8. Hole in the Rock Ranch Water Development and Brush Thinning- The committee reviewed two project applications from Randy Nickerson of Hole in the Rock Ranch for a water improvement and brush thinning project. The committee approved the water development project for up to 50% of total cost up to \$17,535.63 contingent upon successfully drilling the well and hitting water. Additionally, the brush thinning project was approved for \$8,500.
9. Watson Ranch Water Improvement- The committee reviewed a project from Diana Watson for the Watson Ranch that would provide for 1 spring development, 3 cisterns, and 3 additional water tanks at various elevations on the ranch. These new water developments would allow for better wildlife and livestock distribution across the landscape. The project was approved for \$28,453.
10. Herbicide Voucher Program- The committee approved \$24,000 for FY22 Herbicide Vouchers.
11. Pond Voucher Program- The committee discussed the need for water projects and developments, especially in such a dry year. The committee approved the implementation of Pond Cleanout Vouchers for a total of \$10,000 for FY22 with the following requirements:
 - a. \$1,000 per voucher for a minimum of 2 ponds cleaned
 - b. Up to 5 vouchers per landowner each fiscal year
 - c. For use on allotments only unless DWM pre-approves pond on private land
 - d. Ponds must receive significant wildlife use
 - e. Before-and-after photos and GPS locations required before payment
12. Conservation Easement Transaction Costs- The committee discussed the idea of whether they would be willing to fund conservation easement transaction costs. The committee was open to the idea and potential project proposals.