



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Montelores HPP Committee

Mancos NRCS Building - 604 Bauer Ave  
July 27th, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

**HPP Members Present:** Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower; Ivan Messinger, USFS; John Sheek, Sportsperson; Andy Brown, CPW; Tanner Young (proxy)

**Guests:** Michael Blanck, CPW; Seth Sorenson

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

Committee members and guests were introduced. Michael Blanck was introduced as the new statewide HPP manager. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$102,200.00.

#### **New Business:**

1. The committee reviewed FY22 voucher programs. Voucher allocations were approved as follows:
  - a. Fence Vouchers - \$3,000 with no minimum acreage and up to three \$300 vouchers per landowner per year.
  - b. Fertilizer Vouchers - \$24,100. Landowners may file for fertilizer vouchers every 3rd year for \$15.00 per irrigated acre, capped at \$4,000 per individual.
  - c. Pond Vouchers - \$15,000 for fifteen \$1,000 vouchers. 2 ponds must be completed per voucher with a maximum of 5 vouchers per individual. Ponds should be on USFS or BLM allotments unless pre-approval has been given for work on private lands by a DWM or committee member.
  - d. Pond Bentonite - \$5,000 for bentonite purchases as needed for use with pond vouchers.

The committee also discussed implementing herbicide vouchers, but since a number of other cooperators are involved in annual weed treatments on public and private lands, those vouchers were tabled indefinitely.

2. The committee reviewed weed control and seeding proposals from Judy Vogel. The project area is located in important elk winter and transitional range, and experiences year-round use by deer. A 232-acre field on the property that used to support wildlife grazing has been infested with weeds during years of very little agricultural use, and it no longer produces significant forage. This results in big game utilizing other hayfields on this property and nearby private lands, causing damage to growing forage, stacked hay, and fences. The area was seeded last fall with good success, however it needs to be overseeded again this fall to continue to

improve revegetation. Weeds would also be treated via spot-spraying to help reduce the presence and spread of noxious weeds. Increasing forage availability in this area will help hold deer and elk off of nearby hayfields and stacked hay that are utilized for livestock. The projects were approved for \$1,901.00 for herbicide application, and \$8,686.00 for seed purchase.

**Next Meeting: August 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30pm**