



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Upper Yampa River HPP Committee
CPW Office- 925 Weiss Drive Steamboat Springs, CO
September 20, 2021
5:30 pm

Upper Yampa River HPP Members Present: Kyle Bond- CPW, Jeff Clyncke- Livestock Grower, Nita Naugle- Livestock Grower, Larry Monger- Livestock Grower, Cedric Damby- Sportsman, Eric Scherff- BLM

Guests: Michael Blanck- CPW, Kris Middeldorf- CPW, Adam Gerstenberger- CPW, Sally Ross, Lori Windler, Carl Windler

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

Budget Report: The budget at the start of the meeting was \$99,500.00.

Old Business:

1. The minutes from the April 5th and April 9th meetings were approved as written.
2. Moonhill Highland Fence- The Moonhill Highland Fence project was approved in the previous fiscal year but was neither started nor completed. The committee was asked to reconsider approval for this year. The project was reapproved for \$5,000.

New Business:

1. Flying Horse Ranch Conservation Easement- The committee reviewed a project proposal from Louis Dequine and Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust to fund a perpetual conservation easement of approximately 322 acres on the Flying Horse Ranch. The property provides diverse year-round habitat for elk, mule deer, and moose. The property is one of a few working ranches that remain in the area as the property is partially surrounded by expansive subdivisions and a nearby ski area. The northern boundary, however, maintains an existing conservation easement and the addition of this conservation easement in the area will allow for a large portion of the previous Morrison Creek Ranch to be held under conservation easement. The project was approved for \$10,000 in conservation easement transaction costs.
2. Rehder Ranch Habitat Enhancement- Sally Ross from Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust presented a project that would masticate approximately 77 acres of gambel oak on Rehder Ranch, a privately owned parcel held in a perpetual conservation easement abutting the Routt National Forest. The project is a part of the Good Neighbor Authority project with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust. Rehder Ranch is located in critical winter range and serves as a

major migration corridor for elk and mule deer. The habitat improvement project would be guided by a treatment plan developed by the CSFS and implemented using a masticator to decrease the density of gambel oak. This would result in a mosaic that would provide a diversified gambel oak age and size class, thus decreasing the overall density. This would improve understory grasses and forbs during the summer seasons as well as promote better elk and mule deer movement through the property. The project was approved for \$45,000.

3. South Hunt Fence- Lori and Carl Windler presented two fencing projects for their South Hunt property that totaled over \$140,000 to replace an existing dilapidated fence that runs approximately 2.57 miles through rough and rugged terrain. The fence is located in an area that maintains a large elk herd and has caused wildlife entanglement issues. While the committee limits fencing projects to a maximum of \$5,000 per project, due to extenuating circumstances in 2021 and the lack of meetings in the previous fiscal year, a onetime exception was granted for this combined project. The project was approved for \$10,000.
4. Broken Bone Fence- Lori and Carl Windler presented a fencing project for their Broken Bone property to replace approximately 2.41 miles of fence. The fence is located in good elk and mule deer habitat, typically holds large numbers of elk, and serves as elk calving grounds. The project will remove the existing fence and replace it with wildlife friendly fence. The project was approved for \$5,000.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. FY22 Vouchers Programs-
 - a. Fence Vouchers were approved for up to \$10,000.
 - b. Herbicide Vouchers were approved for up to \$5,000.
2. White Wire Inventory- The committee approved the purchase of 1 pallet of white vinyl wire for committee inventory and distribution. The committee anticipated the cost would be approximately \$5,000-\$6,500.
*Administrative note- The wire purchase came to a total of \$6,269.50.
3. Committee Chair- Jack Taylor, former CPW representative, had previously served as Committee Chair and with his recent resignation from the agency, the Chair position was vacant. The committee appointed Larry Monger, Livestock Grower Representative, as the new chair as of 09/20/21.

Roundtable: Kris Middledorf provided CPW updates.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:54 pm.