



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee

Garfield Creek SWA

August 25, 2022 - 9:00a.m.

Grand Mesa HPP Members Present: Kirk Oldham, CPW; Joe Fazzi, Livestock Grower; Eric Bruton, Livestock Grower; John Walter, Livestock Grower (proxy); Harley Metz, Sportsman (proxy)

Guests: Kyle Wilson, CPW; Bob Morris, CPW; Michael Blanck, CPW; Scott Hoyer, CPW; Travis Bybee, CPW; Buddy McNeel, CPW; Ivan Archer, CPW; Jim Toomer, Wayne McCray

Tour: The committee and guests toured multiple hydroax treatment sites throughout the Garfield Creek SWA. Vegetation response was highly varied based on aspect, seed bed, and soil type. Large treatment areas are scattered throughout the SWA, with good forage response in many of them. The treatments have helped to hold big game on the SWA for longer periods of time, reducing game damage conflicts on nearby private lands.

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$43,162.50.

New Business:

1. Wayne McCray and Jim Toomer presented the annual Alkali Creek and West Divide Cattle Association pond cleanout projects. 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 trackhoe 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. Each project was approved for \$5,000.00.
1. FY23 Voucher Programs were approved - see attached.

Roundtable:

1. Michael discussed the recent HPP legislative update and expansion.

Next meeting: October 27th @ 1:00pm

Fence:

- Minimum 80 acres, leased acres qualify
- \$300 increments
- Up to 2 vouchers per landowner annually, if DWM determines need is greater than \$600.
 - If need is greater than \$600, landowners should apply for a fencing project
- DWMs give out applications for fence voucher; landowner submits application to admin. Voucher must be obtained prior to purchasing materials.
- 1 roll of white wire per voucher may be distributed if landowner requests it on the application.

Herbicide:

- \$400 increments
- Up to 2 vouchers per landowner annually, if DWM determines need is greater than \$800.
- DWMs distribute approved vouchers directly to landowners
- No minimum number of acres required

Fertilizer:

- 25% of annual budget
- Landowners may apply for the number of irrigated, forage-producing acres.
 - Dryland or row crops do not qualify.
- No minimum number of acres required, leased acres qualify