



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee

Mancos NRCS Building - 604 Bauer Ave
August 30th, 2022
6:30 p.m.

HPP Members Present: John Sheek, sportsman; Andy Brown, CPW; Eldon Simmons, livestock grower; Nate West, BLM; Ivan Messinger, USFS

Guests: Rich Marsh, Bonnie Loving

Introductions & Budget Report:

Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$-900.00. The State Council did not provide supplemental funding for the committee, however Michael Blanck may approve additional projects up to \$20,000.00.

Old Business:

1. The committee reviewed the Marsh Pond Project, which had previously been approved for FY23 for \$5,000.00. The ponds received significant water in the spring, and are now too full or muddy for the work to continue as planned. Mr. Marsh proposed instead utilizing the approved funding on a different parcel, where heavy runoff events have caused significant erosion of existing ponds. The revised project involves enlarging and deepening two ponds to help slow water so that it stores in the ponds. Improving water storage capacity will help improve big game distribution and utilization of the habitat. The modification to the original project application was approved.

New Business:

1. Bonnie Loving presented a weed control project to help reduce knapweed infestations after phreatophyte removal. Noxious weeds tend to establish before native species following ground disturbance, and outcompete beneficial grasses and forbes. This reduces forage quality and quantity for livestock and big game, despite the beneficial removal of salt cedar and Russian olive. The County will administer the program to work with landowners who have previously completed phreatophyte removal. The project was approved for \$5,000.00.
2. The committee reapproved Joe Lanier (220 acres, \$3,300); Kevin McComb (120 acres, \$1,800); and Breen McComb (150 acres, \$2,250) for FY23 fertilizer vouchers. These landowners were approved in FY22; however they did not receive irrigation water.

Next Meeting: November 8 @ 5:30