



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado River HPP Committee Meeting
August 23, 2023 at 11:00 am
Gypsum Public Library

Committee Members Present:

- Darren Chacon - CPW
- Scot Dodero - Livestock Grower
- Pat Luark - Livestock Grower
- Jim Nieslanik - Livestock Grower
- Rick Bumgardner - Sportsperson
- Nick Jaramillo - BLM
- Phil Nyland - USFS

Attendees Present:

- Michael Blanck - CPW
- Jake Stanton - CPW
- Marian Cole - CPW
- Danielle Johnston - CPW
- Julie Mao - CPW

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid - Virtual

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$132,500.

Old Business

The minutes from the July 19th meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Admin Note: The agenda items were rearranged to accommodate the Sportsperson's interviews.

Sportsperson Interviews-

The committee interviewed for the Sportsperson vacancies that Jim Nieslanik and Scot Dodero resigned from. The applicants were Mike Goscha, Loyd Gerard, Chase Nieslanik, and John Hildebrandt. **The committee selected Mike Goscha and Loyd Gerard to fill the vacancies based on their interviews, experience, and knowledge.**

Whispering Winds Ranch Mastication-

Eric John presented a mastication project that will treat 19 acres, including 36 acres of weed control and 25 acres of seeding to improve big game forage on the ranch. A mastication machine will thin out and remove dense/dead mountain shrubs, small-

diameter aspen, and serviceberry vegetation to promote understory growth. The property provides critical habitat for elk and deer year-round. Increasing the forage opportunities will help to reduce game damage claims on neighboring agriculture fields. **The project was approved for \$8,700.**

E12, E15, and E165 HMP Presentation-

Julie Mao presented the draft HMP for the units listed. The plan is still in the preliminary stages, and she will send out an official draft plan for the committee to review in late fall. No comment letter is requested at this time.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Information-

Brittany Parker introduced herself and the organization to the committee. She has been working on fence removal and modifications in the area. She wanted to let everyone know that she is a resource for applicants who want to transition their fencing to wildlife-friendly or for removal.

Garfield County Weed District Information-

Steve Anthony talked with the committee about efforts the county is taking to assist with weed and ways the two can partner up to treat more acres in the area.

Remaining Committee Business

Upcoming Meeting- The next meeting was scheduled for February 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., CPW Office - Glenwood Springs.

Roundtable

Danielle Bilyeu presented the Colorado Seed Tool to the committee and encouraged everyone to check it out. It can be found on the app store on cellular phones.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.