



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023, at 10:00 am, Lathrop State Park

Committee Members present:

- Cody Purcell, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Paul Coe, Sportsperson
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Outhier, USFS
- Glenda Torres, BLM

Administrative Assistant:

- Kimberly Berscheid

Guests: Allen Vitt - CPW, Angela Safranek - USFS, Destiny Chapman - USFS, Bob Holder - CPW, Lonnie Brown - Landowner Representative, Charles Bryan - Huerfano County Weed Control.

The meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:03 AM

Budget Report

The budget balance at the beginning of the meeting was \$17,000.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

San Isabel National Forest Targeted Grazing/Habitat Improvement Project - Angela Safranek and Destiny Chapman

The San Isabel National Forest is asking HPP for up to \$75,000 to purchase Vence base stations that will be placed on Forest Service, BLM, and State of Colorado lands. The base stations would allow grazing permittees full utilization of virtual fence capabilities. Currently, the Forest Service has 3 operators interested in participating and are willing to contribute funding towards collar rental, labor, and other expenses associated with the project.

Habitat disturbance is lacking in several locations on the Forest Service, BLM, State, and private lands due to fencing challenges on the terrain. Virtual fencing is expected to make a huge difference to wildlife and habitat ecology. The committee agreed to contribute \$8,000 from the budget and go to the Program Manager for the additional \$29,500.

The project was approved for \$8,000 for the purchase of a Vence Base Station.

Anderson Liberty Ranches Weed Control Project - Lonnie Brown and Charles Bryan

Lonnie and Charles are asking HPP for \$5,850 to pay for herbicide chemicals and commercial applicators to treat 130 acres for noxious weeds. The ranch was heavily burned in the Spring fire and has left patches of Canadian, Scott, Bull, and Musk thistle. These patches are 7 to 8 ft. tall in places and cover up to 15 acres of nearly solid thistle in old riparian zones. The thistle infestation is spreading downstream with each flood causing additional infestations. They plan to significantly reduce the noxious weed growth with the use of spray chemicals and will utilize Huerfano county personnel and equipment for application. It is anticipated to take a minimum of 3 years' worth of treatment to successfully eradicate the weeds. **The project was approved for \$5,850 for herbicide chemical and commercial operator application.**

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

John Stroh has been in contact with Christy Wyckoff to assist with her fence project and elk jump design. He also mentioned that the committee would like to do site visits in May and June to see progress on projects.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 am.

The next meeting will be held on: May 9, 2023 - Project Site Tour

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