



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee Meeting  
June 20, 2023, at 10:00 am  
CPW - Pueblo Hunter Education Building

### Committee Members Present:

- Cody Purcell - CPW
- John Stroh - Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz - Livestock Grower
- Vacant - Livestock Grower
- Paul Coe - Sportsperson
- Glenda Torres - BLM
- Jeff Outhier - USFS

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

### Attendees Present:

Mike Brown - CPW  
Kelsey King - CO Open Lands  
Warren McDonald - Landowner  
Maurice Heikes - Landowner

### Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

### Budget Report

The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$3,500.

### Old Business

The minutes from the February 15, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

### New Business

#### Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Conservation Easement-

Kelsey King is asking the committee for \$10,000 towards the transaction costs for a conservation easement on the Sanders property. The easement would include 196.5 acres in Custer County. The Sanders operates Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and rehabbed animals for Colorado Parks and Wildlife throughout their operation. The easement would prevent further landscape fragmentation and preserve habitat for big game species.

**The project was approved for \$10,000 for conservation easement transaction fees.**

#### Livestock Growers Vacancy Interviews-

**Warren McDonald:** Warren has been ranching since the 1980s and runs a cow/calf operation and an outfitting business in Las Animas County. He has sat on the Spanish Peaks Purgatory Soil Conservation Board and the Southern Colorado Livestock

Association. Additionally, he participated in the acquisition of the Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. He holds CPW in high regard and feels his background and experience would be an asset to the committee.

**Maurice Heikus:** Morris is retired from the highway department and has lived in the La Veta area his entire life. He and his wife run a small cow/calf operation. He has served on the school board and 4-H committee. He knows how committees are operated and understands how difficult it is to find members. His background, experience, and knowledge would greatly benefit the committee.

The committee chose to welcome both applicants to serve as members. They are grateful to have two highly qualified applicants and look forward to working with them in the future. Information was sent to the HPP Program Manager to request approval from the CPW Director. Once that process is complete, they will operate in total capacity as a Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee member.

Admin Update: Due to statute requirements, Michael Blanck, HPP Program Manager, could only appoint one applicant. Warren McDonald was selected to be the new rep for the committee.

#### **Remaining Committee Business**

The committee discussed another project site tour and requested that Redwing Ranch be added. Kimberly will work on scheduling and will notify everyone via email.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:34 a.m.