



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Middle Park HPP Committee Meeting
March 15, 2023 at 1:00 pm
RMNP Grand Lake, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Jeromy Huntington- CPW
- Chuck Alexander - Livestock Grower
- Doug Bruchez - Livestock Grower
- Dave Hammer - Livestock Grower
- Conway Farrell - Sportsperson
- Vacant - BLM
- Seth Jennings - USFS
- Chris Clatterbuck- NPS

Administrative Assistant Present:

Marian Cole

Attendees Present:

Jeff Behncke- CPW
Serena Rocksund- CPW
Heather Halbritter- CPW
Kale Watson- CPW
Michael Blanck- CPW
Zane Stewart- CPW
Carol Morales- Applicant
Tim Thomson- Applicant
Darrin Eisele- Applicant
Amy Sidener- GCDNR
Amy Birtwistle- USFS
Jesse Hamlin

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The remaining budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$53,715.70.

Old Business

Minutes- The minutes from the December 14th meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Morales Seeding/Weed Control- Carol Morales presented a seeding and weed control project for the spring. The seeding project would target areas that were treated for oxeye daisies in the fall to bring back grasses and aid in erosion control. The weed control would continue to mitigate the noxious weeds for the upcoming growing season. The project was approved for up to \$2,800.00.

Pinto Valley Ranch Mastication- Tim Thomson presented a mastication project for approximately 18 acres. Pinto Valley was part of the Tyler Mountain Forest Restoration project that the committee and State Council had funded a portion of in FY21. The committee had toured the project in July. This phase of the project would remove remaining large aspens and target noxious weeds in the treatment areas. The committee expressed concerns with the high cost of the project but believed it was a

good habitat project. The committee asked if any portion of the project could be completed in FY23 but Tim stated that project was unable to begin until next fiscal year. The project was approved for up to \$33,000.00 in FY24.

Deer Creek Ranch Mastication- Darrin Eisele presented a mastication project for approximately 70 acres. Deer Creek Ranch was also part of the Tyler Mountain Forest Restoration project that the committee and State Council had funded a portion of in FY21. A portion of the project would target an area affected by the Silver Creek fire. The committee expressed the same concerns about the high cost of the project. The committee asked if any portion of the project could be completed before the end of the fiscal year and Darrin stated they could try to accomplish a portion of the project before the end of June. The project was approved for up to \$20,000.00 in FY23 and preapproved for up to \$30,000.00 in FY24.

CPW Area 9 SWA Weed Control- Zane Stewart presented a weed control project to provide additional noxious weed treatment through the entire growing season. Through the use of a hired contractor, this effort would provide supplemental noxious weed control across the 19,000 acres of State Wildlife Areas in Grand and Summit counties. To fund the project in full, the funding would need to be approved for both FY23 and FY24. The State Council SWA Fund had been fully encumbered for FY23, therefore, the portion requested from FY23 would need to be funded from the committee's budget. The committee shared concerns about CPW not being able to fund these management efforts internally. However, the committee was in support of weed management, and its funding through the State Council SWA Fund. The project was approved for \$5,035.00 in FY23 from the committee and preapproved for an additional \$5,035.00 for FY24 from the State Council SWA Fund.

Remaining Committee Business

FY23 Herbicide Voucher Program- The committee approved the herbicide voucher program for redemption at Northwest Ranch Supply for up to \$650.00 per voucher with a total allocation of \$15,000.00.

Meeting Schedule- The next meetings were tentatively scheduled for the following dates and associated locations:

May 17, 2023- CPW Office

July 26, 2023- BLM Office

Roundtable

USFS Update- Seth introduced Amy Birtwistle as the new Range Ecologist and shared she would most likely be the new committee representative.

NPS Update- Chris announced Isabel de Silva was hired as the new Ecologist on the west side of the park and that she would serve as the new committee representative.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm.