



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee Meeting  
February 15, 2024 at 1:00 pm  
Collbran, CO

### Committee Members Present:

- Ivan Archer - CPW
- Eric Bruton - Livestock Grower
- Joe Fazzi - Livestock Grower
- Forrest Towns - Livestock Grower
- Harley Metz - Sportsperson
- Erin Kowalski - BLM
- Heidi Plank - USFS (proxy)

### Attendees Present:

- Brandon Bruton - Applicant
- Duke Wheeler - Applicant
- Thatcher Wheeler - Applicant
- Russell Knight - BLM
- Travis Bybee - CPW
- Michael Blanck - CPW

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

### Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

### Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$0.00.

### New Business

Nichols Fence- Travis Bybee presented a fence voucher application on behalf of Ben Nichols. The current fence is old and in disrepair. Deer and Elk use the properties seasonally and are hard on the fence. The scope of the project includes replacing ½ mile of fencing using wildlife-friendly specs. **The project was approved for \$6,064.00.**

\*Administrative Note- \$6,064.00 of project funding approved by HPP Manager.

Wheeler Fence- Duke Wheeler presented a fence project to the committee. The current fence is old and in need of repair. Deer and elk use the property seasonally and are hard on the fence. The project's scope is to replace ¼ mile of fencing using wildlife-friendly specs. **The project was approved for \$1,787.19.**

\*Administrative Note- \$1,787.19 of project funding approved by HPP Manager.

Mamm Creek Seeding Phase 2- Duke Wheeler presented phase 2 of a seeding project that the committee had approved in FY23. The project site sits in important big game habitat and experiences year-round use by elk and deer. The first half of the project

included farming the field out with oats and phase 2 includes farming it out with alfalfa and grass. **The project was approved for \$3,866.00.**

\*Administrative Note- \$3,866.00 of project funding was approved by HPP Manager.

### **Remaining Committee Business**

Fence Voucher Guideline- The committee discussed fence vouchers. The District Wildlife Managers in the area have been having more requests for fence vouchers for operations that are smaller than what the minimum acreage is right now (80 acres). The committee decided to add a clause to the guideline that DWMs may use their discretion when issuing fence vouchers.

Goat Grazing- The committee had a discussion about goat grazing and its uses.

Meeting Schedule- The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

### **Roundtable**

USFS Funds- Joe Fazzi shared with the committee the possibility of partnering with the USFS for projects in the future.

CPW Reorganization- Michael Blanck gave the committee an update on CPW's reorganization. HPP traditionally was based out of the Northwest Region under the Private Lands Program but will now be moving to a new branch, Recreation and & Lands.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.