



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

White River HPP Committee Meeting  
March 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm  
CPW Office- Meeker, CO

### Committee Members Present:

- Bailey Franklin - CPW
- Lenny Klinglesmith - Livestock (proxy)
- Angelo Theos - Livestock Grower
- Jim Brennan - Livestock Grower
- Rich Parr - Sportsperson
- Mary Taylor - BLM
- Curtis Keetch - USFS

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

### Attendees Present:

Mike Swaro  
Ross Mcgee  
Darby Finley  
Jonathan Lambert  
Michael Blanck  
Chris Lockwood  
Callie Scotchfield  
Jane Turnburg  
Jenny Hansen  
Doug Overton  
Andre Delcalzo

### Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

### Budget Report

The remaining budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$73,012.50.

### Old Business

The minutes from the August 21<sup>st</sup> & October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

### New Business

Etchart Ranch Habitat Improvement- The committee reviewed a habitat improvement project from John Etchart. The scope of the project includes reseeding 160 acres and implementing one new well on the property. The current fields are not producing desirable forage due to the amount of cheat grass and other various weeds, roundup ready alfalfa seed will be used to get the most desirable forage for big game. The new well will be implemented on the western portion of the property where it will serve as a reliable water source for big game year round, especially during periods of drought. **The project was approved for \$25,115.00.**

Shults Ranch Seeding- The committee reviewed a 30 acre reseeding project from Shawn Bolton. The committee had previously helped reseed the same field but due to various factors the project was not successful. This project aims to reseed the same 30 acre field that will provide forage for big game. The committee is requiring proof that the

sprinkler irrigation system is functioning and that mechanical mowing will occur to prevent noxious weeds. **The project was approved for \$2,550.00.**

M/R White River Ranch Pond Sealing- The committee reviewed a pond sealing project from Chris Harris. The project aims to reseal two existing pond on the property with bentonite and PAM. The two ponds were cleaned recently with heavy equipment but are not effectively holding water. These two ponds will provide reliable water sources across a remote portions of the property to both wildlife and livestock. **The project was approved for 11,000.00.**

Grady Ranch Fence FY25- The committee reviewed a fence removal project from Mike Grady. The scope of the project includes removing approximately ½ miles of old woven wire fencing and replacing with a new fence. The new fence will be built to wildlife friendly specs to be more compatible for livestock and wildlife. **The project was approved for \$4,550.50 for FY25.**

Meeker Dome Water Improvement FY25- The committee reviewed a water improvement project from Don Mersch that would provide reliable water sources for big game. The project sites sits in critical deer and pronghorn habitat. The scope of the project includes implementing a new well and 3 tire tanks on the property. **The project was approved for \$31,079.73 for FY25.**

RAP Landscape Habitat Monitoring FY25- The committee discussed the continuation of the final year of the five year contract for habitat monitoring. **The project was approved for \$50,000.00 for FY25.**

USFS Lost Park Weed Control FY25- Curtis Keetch presented a 60 acre weed control project to the committee. The project aims to treat 60 acres of the Lost Park Allotment and surrounding areas horseback for houndstongue. Curtis abstained from the approval decision. **The project was approved for \$3,400.00.**

CPW Oak Ridge/Jensen/Square S SWA Weed Control FY25- Mike Swaro presented a weed control project for treatment on the Oak Ridge, Jensen, and Square S State Wildlife Areas (SWA). The project aims to double the work accomplished annually by CPW staff by hiring a contractor to conduct horseback treatments. Bailey abstained from the approval decision. **The project was approved for \$22,000.00 for FY25.**

Rio Blanco County Cricket Control- The committee reviewed a cricket control project that would specifically target Mormon Crickets. Due to pending CPW legislature about invertebrates the committee felt it would be appropriate to table this discussion until further guidance from the State Council. **The project was tabled.**

### **Remaining Committee Business**

FY25 Voucher Programs- The committee approved each voucher program as follows:

- a. Herbicide Voucher Program- Approved for up to \$35,000.00.
- b. Pond Voucher Program- Approved for up to \$10,000.00.



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Elk Herd Management Plans- Darby Finley presented the Elk Herd Management plans for DAU E-6 and E-21. The committee was in support of the proposed draft alternatives regarding population objectives and sex ratios for both E-6 and E-21. Comment letters were drafted to reflect the committee's support.

### Roundtable

Future Projects- The committee had a brief discussion about future projects that will be coming to the committee.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.