



Habitat Partnership Program Meeting Minutes

Upper Yampa River Committee Meeting

September 15, 2025

Virtually - Google Meet

Committee Members Present:

- Kyle Bond - CPW
- Jeff Clyncke - Livestock Grower
- Larry Monger - Livestock Grower
- Owen Meyer - Livestock Grower
- Jack Taylor - Sportsman
- Eric Scherff - BLM
- Baili Foster - USFS

Attendees Present:

Michael Blanck - CPW
Cam & Laurie Kuelthau
Doug Monger
Martha Ventilla

Administrative Assistant Present: Kayla Friedrich

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget at the start of the meeting was \$33,954.83

Old Business

The minutes from the July 22, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Elk Mountain Ranch Ponds: Cam and Laurie Kuelthau presented a water project that included developing 3 ponds on their property. The pasture has 2 unreliable springs with limited water. The contractor has not been able to look at the project and develop a quote yet but is coming out in the next few days. The committee will fund the project with the following guidelines: if only 1 pond is being developed, funding up to \$7,500.00 is approved - if more than 1 pond is being developed, funding up to \$10,000.00 is approved.

Monger Spring Development: Doug Monger presented his spring development projects that were not able to be completed last fiscal year. The project would consist of developing two existing springs on his property. The springs serve as a water source for elk, deer, and pronghorn as well as cattle during the spring, summer, and fall. Currently the springs both sit in the bottom of a draw and the water turns into mud and muck without a spring system in place. Doug discussed water rights on spring #1 and that the neighbor with the senior water right was not willing to work with him. Doug will capture the water ~300 yards away from the spring and utilize the runoff for wildlife and livestock. The committee funded the project for \$4,387.00.

KISNOMADS Fence: Martha Ventilla presented an additional phase of her fencing project on the Moonhill Highlands property and KISNOMAD conserved acres, which are surrounded by public lands. The NRCS funding Mrs. Ventilla listed on the previous fiscal year application did not come through, leaving part of the fence unfinished. After further discussion with Martham it was clarified that the HPP portion of the project was also not fully completed last year and is still under construction. It also became apparent that construction of the current project proposal is already underway. Jeff Clyncke explained that HPP is not able to fund projects that have already been started or reimburse for materials that have already been purchased. DWM Kyle Bond indicated that he provided Mrs. Ventilla with four rolls of vinyl-coated wire approximately two weeks before this meeting. Michael Blanck discussed his expectations for HPP committees to prioritize the use of their limited budgets and expressed disappointment that Mrs. Ventilla's previous HPP Project had not been completed prior to the end of the fiscal year, as is required. Michael urged the committee to not provide funds for this proposal, due to the applicant's failure to complete the previously approved project or to disclose this to the administrative assistant when HPP reimbursements were requested. The committee decided not to fund this project proposal.

Remaining Committee Business

The committee discussed the Crosho fire in the Steamboat Springs area and if additional funding may be provided by the program manager to assist landowners. Funding will be available as needed.

Roundtable

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025 at the CPW Steamboat Springs Office.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM