



Habitat Partnership Program Meeting Minutes

South Park Committee Meeting

May 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Fairplay Community Center - Fairplay, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Brance Anderson - CPW
- Dave Gottenborg - Livestock Grower
- John Woodward - Livestock Grower
- Webb Smith - Livestock Grower
- Allen Kerby - Sportsman
- Christine Cloniger - BLM
- Vacant - USFS

Attendees Present:

David McNitt - BLM
Mark Lamb - CPW

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$39,800.

Old Business

The meeting minutes from December 10, 2025, and March 27, 2025, were approved as written.

New Business

Materials Request-

McGill Materials Request:

Lee McGill requested 12 rolls of high-visibility wire for his buffalo ranch in Pine, CO. Elk and deer frequent the property, and he wants to retrofit his existing fence with a wildlife-friendly design. Due to prior obligations, he was unable to attend the meeting.

The committee tabled the request until further questions could be answered.

Winding River Ranch Fence Project and Materials Request:

James Leg presented the fence project for his ranch in Park County. He asks the committee for \$39,347.50 for labor and materials to replace 3.4 miles of fence with a new wildlife-friendly design. The existing fence is old and not wildlife-friendly, causing entanglement hazards for wildlife. CPW District Wildlife Managers have cut several elk out of the fence; some didn't survive. Replacing the existing fence with a wildlife-friendly design will reduce entanglement hazards and potential game damage claims, as well as contain livestock.

The committee approved \$20,000 for materials, \$17,500 for labor, and 14 rolls of high-visibility wire to remove and replace 3.4 miles of fence with a wildlife-friendly design. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Voucher Program Renewals-

Herbicide Vouchers:

The South Park HPP committee will continue to provide the Herbicide Voucher Reimbursement Program as follows:

- Herbicide and/or herbicide application will be reimbursed to mitigate the effects of noxious weeds on their property.
- The landowner must own or lease a minimum of 160 acres within the SPHPP committee boundary, be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations, and allow a reasonable number of hunters access to their property during big game seasons.
- Landowners are eligible for one Herbicide Voucher Reimbursement per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- The vouchers can be used with the Teller Park Conservation District's (TPCD) Noxious Weed Cost Share Program. Landowners can contact the TPCD at 719-472-3671 for more information.
- District Wildlife Managers will approve and distribute the Herbicide Voucher Reimbursement to eligible landowners.

The FY26 Herbicide Voucher Program was approved for \$750 per voucher, for a \$4,500 project total. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

Fence Vouchers:

The South Park HPP committee will continue to provide the Fence Voucher Reimbursement Program as follows:

- Vouchers are issued to repair damages caused by big game animals on private agricultural property or grazed public lands.
- The landowner must own or lease a minimum of 160 acres within the SPHPP committee boundary, be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations, and allow a reasonable number of hunters access to their property during big game seasons.
- Approved materials for reimbursement:
 - Wire: Barbed, smooth, electric, or high visibility vinyl wire.
 - Posts: Wooden, metal, or electric fence posts.
- Landowners are eligible for one Fence Voucher Reimbursement or one Stockpile Materials Pick-up per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

- District Wildlife Managers will approve and distribute the Fence Materials Vouchers to eligible landowners.

The FY26 Fence Voucher Reimbursement Program was approved for \$750 per voucher, for a project total of \$1,500. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

Stockpile Materials Pick-up:

The South Park HPP committee will continue to provide the Stockpile Materials Pick-Up vouchers as follows:

- Vouchers are issued to repair damages caused by big game animals on private agricultural property or grazed public lands.
- The landowner must own or lease a minimum of 160 acres within the SPHPP committee boundary, be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations, and allow a reasonable number of hunters access to their property during big game seasons.
- Landowners are eligible for one Fence Voucher Reimbursement or one Stockpile Materials Pick-up per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- Each landowner is eligible for one roll of high-visibility wire in addition to the allowable \$750 in fencing materials or three rolls of high-visibility wire if no other materials are received per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- Landowners must call Jacob Eggers, Wildlife Technician, to arrange for pick-up.
- District Wildlife Managers will approve and distribute the Fence Materials Vouchers to eligible landowners.

The FY26 Stockpile Materials Pick-Up Program was approved for \$750 worth of materials, plus one roll of high-visibility wire or three rolls of high-visibility wire if no other materials are received. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

FY26 Stockpile Materials Order:

The South Park HPP committee approved \$5,000 for fence materials to replenish the stockpile for FY26. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

FY26 Meeting Meals and Committee Operating Expenses:

The South Park HPP Committee approved \$500 for meeting meals and \$500 for operating expenses (including retirement statues) for FY26. Webb Smith provided his proxy to John Woodward.

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule-

The next South Park HPP Committee meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Fairplay Community Center.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.