Habitat Partnership Program Meeting Minutes

Montelores Committee Meeting
February 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Mancos Conservation District- Mancos, CO

Committee Members Present:

- ☑ Andy Brown - CPW
- ☑ Eldon Simmons - Livestock Grower
- ☐ George West - Livestock Grower
- ☑ Tanner Young - Livestock Grower
- ☑ John Sheek - Sportsperson
- ☑ Nate West - BLM
- ☐ Ivan Messinger - USFS

Attendees Present:

Andy Watkins
Jonathan Patcheck
Vance Koppenhafer
Jaquline Doyle

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the beginning of the meeting was $47,000.00.

Old Business

The minutes from the August 20th and November 5th meetings were approved as written.

New Business

Project Applications-

Watkins Pond Cleanings:

Andy Watkins presented a pond cleaning project to the committee. The project involves cleaning two ponds that have become silted in and repairing a spillway on one of the ponds. Big game use the property year-round, and both livestock and wildlife depend on these water sources due to the lack of other available water in the area. **The project was approved for $6,000.00.**

Dove Creek Herbicide:

The committee reviewed an annual weed control project from the Dove Creek Weed Control District. The county will fund an herbicide cost-share program for properties east of the Dolores River. This funding will enable landowners to purchase chemicals targeting invasive species listed on the Colorado Noxious Weed List to improve big game habitat. **The project was approved for $5,000.00.**

Koppenhafer Virtual Fence:
Vance Koppenhafer presented a virtual fencing project to the committee. The scope of the project includes implementing virtual fencing on the leasees' USFS and BLM Allotments. Both allotments experience year-round use by deer and elk. Implementing virtual fencing will enable the lessee to avoid constructing additional interior fences for big game to cross, and will allow for better grazing management for better range utilization. **The project was approved for $8,832.45.**

Patcheck Virtual Fence:
Jonathan Patcheck presented a virtual fencing project to the committee. The scope of the project is to implement virtual fencing on the West Mancos Allotment. Virtual fencing will enable better grazing management and prevent livestock from entering sensitive riparian areas. **The project was approved for $12,625.00.**

Doyle Pond:
Jaquline Doyle presented a Pond construction project to the committee. The scope of the project included the construction of one pond on the property. The committee was concerned that the pond was not really being used for wildlife but rather landscape feature since a neighboring pond was so close to the property.

Doyle Thinning:
Jaquline Doyle presented a thinning project ot the committee.

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule:
The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.