



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee

**Rifle Fire Station - 1850 Railroad Ave, Rifle CO
October 28th, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

Grand Mesa HPP Members Present: Kirk Oldham, CPW; Harley Metz, Sportsperson; John Walter, Livestock Grower; Don Fulton, Livestock Grower; Heidi Plank, USFS

Guests: Paul Bernklau, Scott Hoyer, Bob Morris, Eric Bruton, Travis Bybee, Pat Tucker, Michael Blanck, Ty Bevan

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. Paul Bernklau was presented with a retirement award and the committee thanked him for his service. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$31,171.70.

New Business:

1. Ty Bevan presented a water development project for the Mormon Mesa ditch users. The project area experiences year-round use by elk and deer, and seasonal/winter use by moose. The existing irrigation system that services 13 agricultural producers has become antiquated and does not deliver water effectively, which reduces the amount of water available for producers to grow forage for livestock and wildlife. The proposal includes constructing 8 diversion boxes along 4 miles of the ditch. Improving efficiency of water delivery will allow 13 producers to increase forage yields for both livestock and wildlife, and will improve big game distribution throughout the area. This project is similar to a previous ditch improvement project from several years ago that significantly improved water efficiency. The project was approved for \$10,000.00.
2. The committee considered purchasing game cameras to improve project monitoring and support data collection efforts for big game movement and inventory. Currently the committee is unable to provide project partners with monitoring equipment for completed projects when requested, or when a project involves the use of game cameras for data collection. The committee feels there is a need to have game cameras available to monitor completed projects, and to make cameras available

for projects involving remote big game classification and surveys. \$2,000.00 was approved for cameras, SD cards, lock boxes, and security cables.

Other Business

1. The committee interviewed Ty Bevan and Eric Bruton for the vacant livestock grower representative position. Eric was nominated for confirmation by the Parks & Wildlife Commission.

Next meeting: February 10th @ 1:00pm