



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Middle Park HPP Committee

BLM Field Office - 2103 Park Ave Kremmling, CO 80459

September 8, 2021

1:00 pm

Middle Park HPP Members Present: Jeromy Huntington- CPW, Chuck Alexander- Livestock Grower, Doug Bruchez- Livestock Grower, Conway Farrell- Sportsperson, Tiffany Rubalcaba- BLM, Seth Jennings- USFS, Chris Clatterbuck- NPS

Guests: Michael Blanck- CPW, Jeff Behncke- CPW, Zane Stewart- CPW, Matt Schiltz- CSFS, Tim Thomson, Philip Sevier, Tom Galley, Jesse Hamlin

Introductions: Committee members, new staff, and guests were introduced.

Budget Report: The budget at the start of the meeting was \$125,000.00.

Old Business:

1. The minutes from June 9th meeting were approved as written.
2. FY21 Tyler Mountain Project Update- Matt Schiltz presented the committee with maps, photos, and videos of the mastication project that was approved and completed during the last fiscal year. The project was very successful and treated more acres than anticipated. Tim Thomson also shared about the project and proposed a future site visit of the project location. Many thanks were expressed to the local committee and the State Council for support of the project.

New Business:

1. Trapper Valley Ranch Fence- Tom Galley presented a fencing project to replace an existing dilapidated fence that has caused several wildlife entanglements. The fence is located in steep, rugged terrain that serves as winter range and a migration corridor for deer and elk. Due to the terrain, Tom proposed a 3 strand lay down fence that would be laid down just before hunting seasons and remain down until the summer months when livestock would be in the area. The committee would like to see white vinyl wire as the top wire but also acknowledged that it wasn't ideal for lay down fencing. The project was approved for \$2,500.
2. Kemp Breeze SWA Fence- Zane Stewart presented a fencing project for use of HPP State Council State Wildlife Area funding. The project entails replacing 5 miles of fence line on the Kemp Breeze State Wildlife Area. The fence is located along both the Colorado River and Williams Fork River corridors that are heavily fished year round in addition to livestock grazing use with the associated cattle lease. The current fence line is in disrepair, does not adequately contain livestock, and has caused wildlife entanglement

along the river corridor. CPW requested that State Council fund the materials required to construct 5 miles of wildlife friendly fence and CPW will provide all of the labor to remove the old fence line and install the new fence. The committee expressed the need for riparian areas to be grazed as well as the need for water gaps for livestock grazing in the respective pastures. The committee approved of the project with the addition of water gaps that were livestock, wildlife, and fisherman friendly. The project was approved for \$22,000 from State Council funds.

3. Aspen Canyon Ranch Fence- Philip Sevier presented a fencing project to replace an existing fence line that was in rough shape. The committee acknowledged that the location is near the first approved project and it too is located in a steep, hard to access area that serves as a migration corridor and winter range for deer and elk. Philip proposed the use of 8 gates throughout the fence line that would be left open for wildlife passage whenever livestock was not present. The committee would like to see wildlife friendly specifications but did acknowledge that white vinyl wire is not ideal for such terrain. The committee stated that if white wire was not used, they would request as many gates as appropriate for the area be put in place. The project was approved for \$8,250.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. FY22 Vouchers Programs- The committee discussed the need to increase voucher amounts due to the rising cost of materials. The committee approved an increased allocation of up to \$25,000 for the Fence Voucher Program. The committee would like to explore setting acreage requirements to dictate the voucher amounts. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
2. Hunt Coordinator- The committee discussed that they no longer had a hunt coordinator in place and would not be able to get one in place for this year. The committee acknowledged other possible options and potentially not continuing the hunt coordinator program. The discussion was tabled for further discussion at a later date.
3. Meeting Schedule- The committee tentatively approved the following meeting dates and associated locations:
 - December 15, 2021 - USFS
 - March 16, 2022 - RMNP
 - May 18, 2022 - CPW
 - July 13, 2022 - BLM

Roundtable: The committee discussed the most recent USFS closure updates related to the Troublesome Fire.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm.