

**DRAFT**

Pending Committee Approval at  
next Arkansas River HPP  
Committee Meeting.



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**August 8, 2022**

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Hunter Education Building, Canon City**

### **Committee Members present:**

- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower (Telephone)
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower (Telephone)
- Ron Goodrich, Sportsman (Virtual)
- Sean Shepherd

### **Administrative Assistant:**

- Kimberly Berscheid

### **Guests:**

Zach Baker – Assistant AWM, Bryan Lamont – Biologist, Patty Knupp – NRCS, Chrissy McFarren – Landowner, Brady Everett – Landowner.

### **Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM**

#### **Budget Report**

The 2022 and 2023 budgets were reviewed.

#### **Old Business**

Meeting minutes were approved.

#### **New Business**

#### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

##### Tom Grette – Project Layout and Supervision

Glenda is asking the committee for \$8,000 to pay Tom Grette for his services mapping and flagging project sites and supervising ground work crews. CPW and BLM employees do not have a lot of time for mapping and flagging, so Tom's services and expertise are vital to the success of habitat projects in the area. CPW and BLM staff will contribute time for planning and implementation.

**The project was approved for \$8,000 for Fiscal Year 2023.**

#### Luis Gulch Guzzler – Bob Carochi

Bob is asking the committee for \$4,426.00 to pay for 3 Drinker – 110 guzzlers and the labor to install. This guzzlers will provide a water source for wildlife and livestock in the area. The location of the water source will allow for better wildlife distribution. Additionally it will reduce game damage conflicts on neighboring parcels. The landowner will provide the labor to install the guzzlers. Game cameras will be placed on the guzzlers to monitor usage, before and after photos will be provided. Committee members raised the concern of collecting rain water and asked that Bob consult with the Water Board to ensure this practice is permissible. Bob will report back to the committee when he has this information.

**The project was tentatively approved for \$4,426 for Fiscal Year 2023 pending further information.**

#### Deer Haven Wheaten College Well Additional Funds – Bob Carochi

Bob is asking the committee for \$1,300 to cover the additional fees associated with the well project. Due to the prolonged permitting and clearance timeline the cost of the water development increased. The original project was approved by the committee in December of 2021.

**The project was approved for \$1,300 for Fiscal Year 2023.**

#### Antelope Gulch Water Point Project – Brady Everett

Brady is asking the committee for \$18,131 to pay for a pump, solar panels, and solar power tower installation to develop a water source near Badger Creek. The project will allow for better grazing distribution on the Buffalo Drop State Land Board property. This is part of a large scale, multi-agency project that is taking place in the area to restore critical riparian habitat.

**The project was approved for \$18,131 for Fiscal Year 2023.**

#### North Badger Riparian Enhancement Project – Chrissy McFarren

Chrissy is asking the committee for \$3,145 to reimburse the Badger Creek Ranch for labor and materials to install a water development on BLM and SLB property. The water source will reduce impacts to the critical riparian area nearby and promote better grazing distribution. The water source will also reduce forage conflicts between livestock and big game by providing an alternative source.

**The project was approved for \$3,145 for Fiscal Year 2023.**

#### Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Herd Management Plan – Bryan Lamont

Bryan presented the HMP for DAU RBS-9 to the committee. The plan is status quo compared to the last and sets the population target at 375 big horns. The committee agreed with this and feels that it is adequate carrying capacity for the area. The committee agreed to provide a letter of support to Bryan for the HMP. Kimberly Berscheid will draft and send it to the committee for review.

#### Committee Operating Expenses

**The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.**

#### 2023 Fence Voucher Program Renewal

This program has been done annually, and provides landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs can approve and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Eligible landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within ARHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more

than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year, with a maximum of \$400 per voucher. Vouchers can only be used once, and any unused funds are forfeited. Only eligible materials will be reimbursed.

**The committee voted to continue the fence voucher program with a limit of \$400 per voucher. Landowners are allowed up to \$400 reimbursement for fence materials to fix damage caused by big game. Total project limit is \$9,000 for Fiscal Year 2023.**

#### 2023 White Vinyl Wire and Tire Tank Voucher Program

The committee has a stockpile of white vinyl wire and tire tanks to distribute to landowners. Landowners are allowed to take materials to be used for projects in the AR area. Tire tank requests must be presented to the committee during a meeting or conference call to ensure availability. Approved tanks must be picked up by the fiscal year, or the landowner will forfeit their reserved tank. DWMs or Aaron Atwood can issue tanks it is urgent, but the preference is that the request goes before the committee first. **Any landowner that would like white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile must fill out a materials voucher at the time of pickup. The voucher must be approved by a DWM or committee member and returned to Kimberly Berscheid as soon as possible.**

#### 2023 Materials Order

The committee has voted to allocate \$5,000 to purchase materials for the stockpile including tire tanks, escape ramps and white vinyl wire.

**The committee voted to allocate \$5,000 to purchase materials for the stockpile including tire tanks, escape ramps and white vinyl wire for fiscal year 2023.**

#### **Remaining committee business/other discussion**

Jeff Williams is asking to be relieved at Committee Chair. Ron Goodrich volunteered to take over the role. The committee agreed and the change is effective immediately.

Bob Carochi offered to source escape ramps for the committee stockpile. He will update with the order information.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM**

**Next meeting: TBD**

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