



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2022

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Fort Collins Office

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### Committee Members Present:

- Justin Foster, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Dale Oberlag, USFS
- Raechel Nelson, Livestock Growers
- Joe Straley, Sportsman

**Administrative Assistant:** Kimberly Berscheid

**Guests:** Brock McArdle - CPW, DWM, Don Anderson - Landowner, Travis Rollins - Larimer County Natural Resources, Heather Knight - Landowner.

**Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM.**

### Budget Report

The budget at the start of the meeting was \$57,500.

### New Business

#### Diamond Tail Ranch - Stackyard Gates

Brock McArdle is asking HPP for \$1,000 to replace 4 stack yard gates to keep elk out of stored hay on the Diamond Tail Ranch. The Landowner will provide labor to remove the old gates and install the new ones. The gates will provide a secure enclosure and reduce any potential game damage claims. The property provides habitat and forage for a large elk herd in the area.

**The project was approved for up to \$1,000. Lars Larson provided his proxy vote in favor of the project.**

#### Carpenter Ranch Water Development

Heather Knight is asking HPP for \$5,000 to help pay for contractor labor and materials to develop a water source on the Carpenter Ranch. The water development will consist of a 1,000 gallon cistern, fencing, pipeline and a 12ft tire tank. The critical riparian habitat is being damaged from livestock, the new water development will help to protect and restore the area. Additionally, it will provide a continuous water source for livestock and wildlife.

Front Range Community College students will be doing ecological and vegetation monitoring on the project. The landowner and lease will be responsible for monitoring and ongoing maintenance.

**The project was approved for up to \$5,000. Lars Larson provided his proxy vote in favor of the project.**

#### Committee Meals/Operating Expenses FY23

**The Committee is allowed \$500 for working meeting meals. The committee would also like to allocate \$500 for committee operating expenses, which include expenses for committee member recognition.**

#### Voucher Program Renewal

The committee has opted to remove the application requirement for all vouchers (fence, herbicide and fertilizer). Eligible landowners will be sent a voucher upon request. DWMs will have the authority to issue vouchers on behalf of the committee, additionally requests can be sent to Kimberly.

#### Fencing

**The fencing voucher program will be renewed for FY 2023 with a total budget of \$12,000 with the following rules:**

- Applicants must own the land the fence is on and they must own a minimum of 160 acres.
- Only eligible materials can be reimbursed. Eligible materials are listed on vouchers.
- Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher for reimbursement.
  - o The committee has removed the requirement of purchasing at Poudre Valley Coop only. Landowners may shop wherever they choose and will be reimbursed once required information is received by administrative assistant.
- Voucher amounts are based on acreage as follows:
  - o 160-600 acres = \$500 voucher
  - o 600-1,000 acres = \$750 voucher
  - o 1,000 acres and over = \$1,000 voucher
- Landowners are eligible for one voucher per fiscal year, any unused amount will be forfeited.

#### Herbicide

**The herbicide voucher program will be renewed for FY 2023 with a total budget of \$3,000 with the following rules:**

- Applicant must own a minimum of 35 acres.
- Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher that is good at Larimer County Weed District (LCWD) only. Landowners must use LCWD recommendations.
- HPP will reimburse the landowner 50% of the cost of herbicide only, up to the voucher limit.
- Voucher limits are based on acreage as follows:
  - o 35-160 acres = \$200 voucher
  - o 160-400 acres = \$400 voucher
  - o 400-1,000 acres = \$600
  - o 1,000 acres and over = \$800

## Fertilizer

The fertilizer voucher program was renewed for FY 2023 with a total budget of \$10,000 with the following rules:

- Landowners can get a rebate of 20% of the total bill up to \$1,500, excluding taxes and application fees.
- Fertilizer must be applied to hay lands.
- Eligible landowners must own a minimum of 160 acres.

## White wire

- White wire is kept in a stockpile at the Fort Collins CPW office to be given out to qualifying landowners who would like to make their fences more wildlife friendly. Committee members or DWMs can issue wire vouchers to qualifying landowners. Tools are also available for loan to help with installation, but landowner must return the tools as soon as they are done with them. A voucher must be filled out for any landowner who receives wire from the HPP stockpile. Kimberly can send blank vouchers to committee members and DWMs at any time during the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Next meeting: TBD

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