



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado River HPP Committee
CPW Office- 0088 Wildlife Way Glenwood Springs, CO
August 17, 2022
1:00 pm

Lower Colorado HPP Members Present: Darren Chacon- CPW, Scot Dodero- Livestock Grower, Pat Luark- Livestock Grower, Jim Nieslanik- Livestock Grower, Rick Bumgardner- Sportsperson, Hilary Boyd- BLM, Phil Nyland- USFS

Guests: Matt Yamashita- CPW, Brian Gray- CPW, Layton Stutsman- CPW, Brian Wodrich- CPW, Julie Mao- CPW, Nick Jaramillo- BLM, Kristy Wallner- BLM, Samantha Dinar- USFS, Clayton Gerard

Introductions: Committee members and guests were introduced.

General Public Comments: The committee discussed a potential pond project for Wayne Pollard. The committee recommended the use of pond vouchers to assist with the project.

Budget Report: The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$54,747.12.

Old Business: The minutes from the July 11th meeting were approved as written.

New Business:

1. BLM Red Hill Water Savers- Kristy Wallner presented a project to implement two new water savers on the Red Hill allotment. The area lacks water availability which has limited livestock grazing for several years. Water savers have proved to be successful and reliable water sources in several locations across BLM allotments. The water savers should improve water availability, increase forage quality, and aid in wildlife and livestock distribution. Hilary abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$25,000.00.
2. BLM Trail Gulch Pond Development- Kristy Wallner presented a project to construct six new ponds on the east side of the Trail Gulch allotment along the boundary of the Bull Gulch Wilderness Study Area. The project includes salt and bentonite for the ponds and seed for all areas of disturbance. The project is located in good wildlife habitat and will also aid in livestock and wildlife distribution across the landscape. Hilary and Pat abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$13,500.00.
3. CPW Basalt SWA Weed Control- Darren Chacon presented a continuation of the weed control project that took place last year on the Toner Creek Unit of the Basalt State

Wildlife Area (SWA). The Basalt SWA serves as deer and elk winter range and provides big game hunting access. The Toner Creek Unit of the SWA previously maintained agricultural fields but have since been infested with noxious weeds. Continued weed control across the total 600 acres will improve big game habitat values and provide more quality forage for wildlife. Darren Chacon abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$15,000.00 from the State Council SWA fund.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. Deer Herd Management Plans- Julie Mao presented the draft Deer Herd Management Plans for the D-13 Maroon Bells and D-43 Sweetwater Creek Mule Deer Herds. The committee was in support of the proposed draft alternatives regarding population range and sex ratio objectives for both D-13 and D-43, with the exception of one committee member not in support of the D-43 draft alternatives. Comment letters were drafted to reflect the committee's support.
2. BLM Committee Member Update- Hilary announced she would no longer be serving on the committee and introduced Nick Jaramillo as the new BLM representative on the committee.
3. FY23 Voucher Programs- The voucher programs were amended as follows:
 - a. Fence Vouchers- Approved for up to \$15,000 with the following tiers:
 - 100-160 acres \$ 200.00
 - 161-600 acres \$ 300.00
 - 601-1000 acres \$ 400.00
 - 1001+ acres \$ 600.00
 - b. Herbicide Vouchers- Approved for up to \$10,000.00 with the following tiers:
 - 100-160 acres \$ 200.00
 - 161-600 acres \$ 300.00
 - 601-1000 acres \$ 400.00
 - 1001+ acres \$ 600.00
 - c. Pond Vouchers- Approved for up to \$20,000.00 for public or private ponds.
4. Upcoming Meeting- The committee tentatively scheduled the following meeting date and associated location: January 11, 2023 - Eagle

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25 pm.