



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

North Fork HPP Committee

Lazy H Ranch - 44946 Hwy 133, Paonia
August 16TH, 2022
9:00am

North Fork HPP Members Present: Steve Kossler, Livestock Grower; Kyler McCarrel, USFS; Andrew Taylor, CPW; Jess Campbell, Livestock Grower

Guests: Doug & Kerry Harris, Marta Laylander, Lisa Escher, Steve Woodis

Tour: The committee toured the Lazy H property. Mastication, seeding, water development, and weed control work has been ongoing since 2016 to reset oakbrush succession, reduce fuels and mitigate wildfire risk, and improve forage quantity and quality for wildlife.

New Business:

1. The committee reviewed the DeGuelle fence removal project. The property experiences heavy migration and winter use by deer, elk, and moose. Currently 1.25 miles of old hazardous barbed wire, sheep, and hog wire fencing exists on the property; however livestock are not present and the fence is no longer needed. The proposal consists of removing the old fencing, and no new fencing will replace it. Removing the fencing will help reduce migration barriers, decrease entanglement risks for big game, and improve utilization of the habitat. The project was approved for \$3,800.00 for labor costs.
2. Kyler McCarrel presented a water development request for the West Elk Grazing Allotment. There is an existing tank with a productive spring, however the tank is old and does not function properly. This is an important water source that helps improve livestock and big game distribution, and provides water during spring and fall migration. The well site is inside the wilderness boundary, which complicates hauling and installation. The proposal involves taking banded wood panel pieces in on horseback and assembling the tank at the site. The project was approved for \$5,000 for materials.
3. The committee reviewed a cheatgrass control project from Lazy H Ranch. Mastication work has been completed in the area, and cheatgrass dominated the reestablished vegetation. Recent trials of Rejuvra have shown to be effective in preventing

cheatgrass seed emergence for up to 4 years, resulting in significant reduction in infestations. The project involves applying Rejuvra to a 25-acre test site this fall. If the treatment is effective, seeding will follow to help improve forage quality and quantity for livestock and big game. The project was approved for \$3,750.00 for contractor costs

Next Meeting: TBD