



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
HPP State Council Committee
December 6, 2022 6:30pm - 8:30pm Zoom Virtual Meeting

State Council HPP Members, Manager, Assistant Present: Ty Bevan, John Hardwick, Hunter Seim, Gary Visintainer, Robbie LeValley, Todd Peterson, Brian Dreher, Greg Jungman, Sheila Lamb, Michael Blanck, Teri Polley

Additional Attendees & Guests: Vicky Russo, Bethany Freeman, Maddie Rehn, Luke Holguin, Jordon DePriest, Alan Franz, Kim Berscheid, Marian Cole

Slater Pasture Project - Vicky Russo, Range Technician & Bethany Freeman, Range Management Specialist both from the South Park Ranger District present a 2.5-mile 5 mile fencing project that is part of a four-pasture allotment in the Pike National Forest. This Slater Creek allotment is approximately 745 acres with three good water sources with excellent vegetation. This is not a boundary fence but is needed to reintroduce livestock grazing to help the vegetation for wildlife. The local Arkansas River HPP committee approved and awarded \$5000 for this project. The State Council approved to fund an additional \$28,000 for this project.

Baldy Mtn Landscape Resilience, Habitat Improvement Project - Maddie Rehn, GMUG Project Coordinator National Forest Foundation, and Luke Holguin, Zone Wildlife Biologist Norwood/Ouray Ranger District of the GMUG National Forest presented this project requesting \$115,000 from the State Council. The local Uncompahgre HPP committee supported and allocated \$25,000 to this project. The project's primary purpose is to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitats for multiple species. The long-term absence of fire on the landscape has caused a buildup of vegetation that has resulted in unhealthy conditions and has made the area more vulnerable to disturbances such as beetle and disease outbreaks, soil erosion and

flooding, and catastrophic wildfires. After much discussion on this complex project, the council decided to table this request to reconsider at a later date.

Rough Cut Ranch Fence and Tire Tank Project - Jordon DePriest, CPW DWM & Alan, and Peggy Franz presented. These projects are outside of the HPP committee boundaries and the first heard since the statutory expansion. In GMU 129 south and east of Fowler, CO is predominately all private property and habitat to pronghorn. The frequently hunted 1700-acre property habitat is short grass prairie and the project is replacing an old barbed wire fence with a wildlife-friendly fence. The landowner is requesting \$8000. Additionally, there are six locations for water tanks on the Rough Cut Ranch. One tank is operational, one is serviceable and four tanks blew away. The landowner would like to install permanent tanks with automatic fill systems. This will help with overgrazing and assist the wildlife with a water source. The council approved both projects: \$8000 for the fence and up to \$5000 for the water tanks.

Committee Budgets and HPP Manager Approval Authority Increase - CPW and DNR purchasing authorities recognized the challenges associated with inflation and successfully doubled the purchasing thresholds. The HPP manager asked the state council to increase his project approval authority. The State Council thoroughly discussed and supported this request, and approved to increase Michael's project authority to \$50,000.