



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2022  
Conference/Video Call

Committee Members present:

- Vacant, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- Paul Coe, Sportsman
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Outhier, USFS
- Glenda Torres, BLM

Administrative Assistant:

- Kimberly Berscheid

Guests: Allen Vitt - CPW Biologist, Michael Blanck - HPP Manager, Mike Brown - CPW AWM, Mike Smith - CPW Technician, Destiny Chapman - San Carlos Ranger District.

**Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:03 AM**

### **Budget Report**

The budget report was reviewed.

### **Old Business**

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

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

##### Spanish Peaks SWA Forest Thinning - Mike Smith

Mike is asking the committee for \$35,000 for approximately 93 acres of habitat treatment on the Spanish Peaks SWA. State Council will contribute \$15,000 for additional acres treated. Mike is also applying for a \$50,000 match from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and additional money from the Director's Innovation funds. It is estimated that up to 400 acres in total will be mechanically treated with this year's project. This is a multi-year project that is following a management plan developed in 2017. The focus will be on thinning ponderosa and mixed forest areas to allow for undergrowth and better forage. The habitat improvement encourages deer and elk to remain on the State Wildlife Area and off of nearby private lands. **The project was approved for \$35,000.**

Spanish Peaks SWA Forest Thinning State Council Funds - Mike Smith

Mike is asking HPP State Council for \$15,000 to combine with the Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee funds. This will allow him to apply for additional money from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation which required a match of \$50,000.

**The project was approved for \$15,000. Michael Blanck was present and approved the funding from State Council.**

Spanish Peaks SWA Grasslands Conversion and Weed Management - Mike Smith

Mike is asking State Council for \$5,000 to purchase chemicals for treating smooth brome grass on the SWA. This project will allow for perennial stands of alfalfa to be planted, providing additional forage for deer and elk on the property. The additional forage will encourage the wildlife to stay on the property and help to eliminate game damage on nearby private lands.

**The project was approved for \$5,000.**

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

Allen Vitt - CPW Terrestrial Biologist updated the committee on recent big game survey flights as well as the Lion Study that is ongoing in the area.

John Stroh discussed that there have been a lot of recent real estate transactions in the area that will be bringing in residents with little to no knowledge about conservation and habitat management. He would still like to pursue the workshops that were discussed at a previous meeting to provide education and resources to the landowners. The committee agreed and will be working towards workshops in Fiscal Year 2023.

Glenda Torres provided an update on the Memorial Fire pit for Mike Trujillo. The committee will continue working on options to honor him.

Mike Smith will keep the committee updated as to when the hydroaxe crew will be working on the Spanish Peaks SWA and encouraged everyone to come down and see the machines in action.

Kimberly Berscheid, discussed her absence and provided guidance on who to contact with Committee business during this time.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM**

**The next meeting will be held on: TBD**

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