



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

White River HPP Committee

Zoom Video Conference

February 24, 2022

5:30 pm

White River HPP Members Present: Bailey Franklin- CPW, Jim Brennan- Livestock Grower, Lenny Klinglesmith- Livestock Grower (proxy), Angelo Theos- Livestock Grower, Rich Parr- Sportsperson, Mary Taylor- BLM, Curtis Keetch- USFS

Guests: Michael Blanck- CPW, Bill de Vergie- CPW, Mike Swaro- CPW, Darby Finley- CPW, Dani Neumann- CPW, Danielle Johnston- CPW, Frank Huitt, Suzan Pelloni, Shawn Bolton, Kelly Sheridan, John Gioia

Introductions: Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report: The budget at the start of the meeting was \$2,533.80. This amount reflects the unencumbered funds from the Punchy Water Tanks Inventory Purchase due to supply chain issues and the inability to receive the product before the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business:

1. The minutes from October 14th meeting were approved as written.
2. Oak Ridge/Jensen/Square S SWA Weed Spraying- The project was originally approved for \$17,250.00 from the State Council SWA fund at the October 14th meeting. The quote for the project came in higher than originally anticipated due to increased labor and fuel costs. The committee approved an additional \$2,100.00 for the project to cover the full cost of labor. This approval increased the total project amount to \$19,350.00 from State Council funds.

New Business:

1. Seed Mix Tool- Dani Neumann presented the Seed Mix Tool to gain local committee support before approaching the State Council for funding. A statewide team of CPW employees developed a tool that considers a list of site-specific criteria to produce CPW-approved seed mixes and reverse check seed mixes to flag any undesirable seed. This tool would be a professionally-developed app available in the Apple and Google stores, for free, to any users working in land reclamation. The committee was in support of the project.
2. Hole in the Rock Ranch Water Development Phase II- The committee reviewed the second phase of a water development project for Randy Nickerson of the Hole in the Rock Ranch. Earlier this year, the first phase of this project was partially funded by HPP to implement a new well and solar pump system to serve as an additional water source on the ranch. Phase II of the project will implement four new tanks and pipe

from the newly implemented well and solar pump system. The total cost requested from HPP was \$35,825.00. Due to the cost of the project (over \$20,000.00) and lack of available committee funds, the project must obtain approval from the State Council after acquiring local committee support. The committee was in support of the project. *Administrative note- The project was approved by the State Council at the March 2nd meeting.

3. L Bar Slash Ranch Conservation Easement- Kelly Sheridan and John Gioia presented a perpetual conservation easement of 1,768 acres on the L Bar Slash Ranch. The property is adjacent to the Oak Ridge State Wildlife Area and in close proximity to the White River National Forest. With the property under conservation easement, it will protect conservation values and aid in preserving critical wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and landscape connectivity. The project was preapproved for up to \$10,000.00 for FY23.
4. R Lazy J Ranch Water Development Phase I- Shawn Bolton presented the first phase of a water development project on the R Lazy J Ranch. The property lacks water sources and it serves as a limiting factor for wildlife and livestock grazing distribution. Phase I would implement pipe from two springs to two new tire tanks. The project was approved for up to \$17,000.00.
*Administrative note- The committee encumbered all available funds with the approval of this project. The additional \$14,466.20 needed for this project was approved by the HPP Manager, Michael Blanck.
5. Trail Canyon Ranch Fence- Frank Huitt presented a fencing project on the Trail Canyon Ranch. Frank is interested in improving wildlife habitat and implementing wildlife friendly fencing. The property is surrounded by BLM and the fence was damaged in a fire in recent years and does not effectively contain livestock. HPP was asked to fund only the white vinyl wire to aid in the implementation of a wildlife friendly fence. The project was approved for up to \$2,200.00.
*Administrative note- With all committee funds encumbered, the \$2,200.00 needed for this project was approved by the HPP Manager.
6. LK Ranch Seeding- The committee reviewed a seeding project for Lenny Klingsmith on the LK Ranch. The project would entail weed spraying on 40 acres and seeding of 20 acres. Instead of monetary funding, Lenny proposed an exchange for the electric fence supplies in committee inventory that were purchased several years ago. The electric fencing was previously loaned out to landowners but in recent years has not been used and has been sitting in storage. This will permanently remove the electric fence supplies from committee inventory. The committee approved the exchange of the electric fencing materials in inventory for the completion of the seeding project.
7. Pelloni Seeding- Suzan Pelloni presented a seeding project on approximately 15 acres. The project is aimed at providing quality forage for deer and elk in the area. This will be a mechanical seeding project with a dryland seed mix. The committee discussed the concern of the proximity of this location to the highway. It was determined there was a good sagebrush cover between the seeding area and the highway to serve as a buffer for wildlife. The project was approved for up to \$1,950.00.
*Administrative note- With all committee funds encumbered, the \$1,950.00 needed for this project was approved by the HPP Manager.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. E-10 Herd Management Plan- Darby Finlay presented the draft Yellow Creek Elk Herd Management Plan and the proposed objectives. The committee supported the draft alternative to adjust the population objective to 8,500-10,500 elk and the sex ratio of 18-25 bulls per 100 cows. The committee drafted a letter of support.

2. D-11 Herd Management Plan- Darby Finlay presented the draft Bookcliffs Deer Herd Management Plan and the proposed objectives. The committee supported the draft alternative to moderately decrease the population objective to 5,000-8,000 deer and lower the sex ratio to 27-32 bucks per 100 does to better align with degraded habitat due to a variety of factors and improve overall sustainability of the herd. The committee drafted a letter of support.
3. Punchy Cattle Water Tank Inventory- This inventory purchase approved at the October 14th meeting was unencumbered due to supply chain issues and the inability to receive the product before the end of the fiscal year. The committee discussed the potential of preapproving this purchase for the next fiscal year. The committee would like to see if the BLM would still be interested in a cost share for the next fiscal year. The topic was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.
4. Upcoming Meeting- The committee tentatively selected March 31st for the next meeting date.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.