



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

White River HPP Committee

CPW Office- 73485 Highway 64 Meeker, CO

July 25, 2022

5:30 pm

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

Guests: Mike Swaro- CPW, Bill de Vergie- CPW, Cory Bullen- CPW, Ross McGee- CPW, Trevor Balzer- CPW, Joe Merriam, Joe Sullivan, Suzan Pelloni

Introductions: Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report: The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$169,500.00. Once all budget funds have been encumbered, additional budget encumbrances for FY23, through June 30, 2023, will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

Old Business: The minutes from the March 31st and May 31st meetings were approved as written.

New Business:

1. Merriam Habitat Improvement- Joe Merriam presented a habitat improvement project to implement four new water tanks as well as brush thinning and reseeding on approximately 280 acres. The area had been previously overgrazed and only had one water tank. Landowners intend to divide the pastures for better rotational grazing and implement a two year grazing deferment once the project is completed. The project was approved for up to \$53,217.85.
2. CPW Oak Ridge SWA Water Improvement- Cory Bullen presented a water improvement project for the Oak Ridge State Wildlife Area (SWA). The SWA currently has an existing, reliable spring on a north facing slope. The project aims to capture this spring and pipe water to three tire tanks. The addition of cisterns and tanks would aid in livestock and wildlife distribution and utilization of the landscape. The project was approved for up to \$27,100.00.
3. CPW Jensen SWA Well Development- Cory Bullen presented a new well development for the Jensen State Wildlife Area. There are two existing wells on the SWA that are in need of refurbishing to serve as adequate water sources. The project aims to develop the two existing wells and implement one new well development and pipe water from the three wells to multiple tanks. The project was approved for up to \$43,500.00 contingent upon the successful drilling of a producing well.
4. Bair Bros. Sheep Company Habitat Improvement- The committee reviewed a habitat

project for the Bair Bros. Sheep Company that included brush thinning, seeding, and pond sealing. Wildlife and livestock have been concentrated in certain areas of the ranch due to available forage and water access. The project entails clearing dense brush across approximately 158 acres and reseeding to create more available forage for wildlife and livestock. Additionally, the sealing of ponds will ideally create more reliable water sources in the area. The project was approved for up to \$22,583.11.
*Administrative note- \$10,900.96 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

5. Buckles Ranch Brush Thinning/Seeding- The committee reviewed a habitat improvement project for the Buckles Ranch which would thin dense, mature pinyon juniper and reseed to create more available forage for livestock and wildlife. The ranch sustains mule deer and elk year round and issues with elk getting into haystacks and feeding with livestock in the winter. The project was approved for up to \$7,500.00.
*Administrative note- \$7,500.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.
6. M/R White River Ranch Berryman Spring Improvement- Lenny Klingsmith presented a spring improvement project as last year's well project was unsuccessful. The project area currently maintains waterline infrastructure that includes a cistern and four tire tanks, however, the spring that fed the system has dried up and no longer serves as an adequate water source. The project objective is to develop an existing spring, implement a new cistern, and pipe water to the existing infrastructure. Lenny abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$15,889.14.
*Administrative note- \$15,889.14 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.
7. Sullivan Brush Thinning/Seeding- Joe Sullivan presented a thinning and seeding project for approximately 50 acres. The area had been previously overgrazed and lacks forage availability. The project is in close proximity to other HPP projects in the area and will aid in improving the landscape for both wildlife and livestock. The project was approved for up to \$7,631.85.
*Administrative note- \$7,631.85 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.
8. Pelloni Water Development- Suzan Pelloni presented a water project for an area that lacks any available water sources. The nearest water access for wildlife is at least a mile away, or across the nearby highway in Sheep Creek. The project would involve drilling a new well to supply a solar water tank system to provide water access for wildlife in the draw. The new well would provide water access in close proximity to available forage on one side of the mountain and potentially reduce the amount of wildlife highway crossing conflicts. The project was approved for up to \$18,504.05 contingent upon the successful drilling of a producing well.
*Administrative note- \$18,504.05 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. FY23 Voucher Programs-
 - a. Herbicide Vouchers- Approved for up to \$24,000.00.
 - b. Pond Vouchers- Approved for up to \$10,000.00
2. Upcoming Meeting- A conference call was tentatively scheduled for July 29th for projects that did not meet the agenda deadline for this meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.