



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Northwest Colorado HPP Committee

Craig Chamber of Commerce - 775 Yampa Ave Craig, CO

October 26, 2022

6:00 pm

**Northwest Colorado HPP Members Present:** Evan Jones- CPW, Sean Durham- Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer- Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols- Sportsman (proxy), Toni Toelle- BLM

**Guests:** Johnathan Lambert- CPW, Garrett Smith- CPW, Seth Schwolert- CPW, Mike Swaro- CPW, Ray Aberle- CPW, Randy Vincent, Tamara Vincent, Randan Vincent, Ryan Swartzell, Giles Poulson, John Gioia

**Introductions:** Committee members and guests were introduced.

**Budget Report:** The budget was fully encumbered at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. All additional budget encumbrances through June 30, 2023 (FY23), will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

**Old Business:** The minutes from the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

#### **New Business:**

1. Roundtop Ranch Water Development- Randy and Randan Vincent presented a two phase water development project that would implement new pipe and tanks to pump water to 4 holding tanks and distribute to 10 tire tanks for livestock and wildlife use. Elk, deer, and pronghorn are present in the area nearly year round competing with livestock for available forage and water. Water availability is very scarce across Roundtop Mountain which has caused livestock and wildlife conflict. BLM and NRCS are in support and partnering in the project. The additional water sources will allow for better grazing distribution across the landscape on both private and public land. Livestock and wildlife will disperse to currently underutilized areas and decrease the impact on sensitive riparian areas. The project was approved for up to \$24,525.78 in FY23 and preapproved for up to \$37,430.79 in FY24.  
\*Administrative Note- \$24,525.78 of project funding for the FY23 portion was approved by the HPP Manager.
2. Coon Draw Ranch Well Development- Ryan Swartzell presented a well development project to implement a new well, cistern, and tire tanks to better distribute livestock and wildlife across the ranch. The property is located in a deer and elk migration corridor and maintains resident pronghorn. The concentration of cattle and wildlife at the existing water sources has led to soil compaction and limited distribution across the landscape. Ryan approached the NRCS about the project but he was informed there was a 3-5 year wait. The project was approved for up to \$73,313.62 contingent upon successfully drilling a producing well.

\*Administrative Note- \$73,313.62 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

3. Lay Creek Ranch Conservation Easement- Giles Poulson and John Gioia presented a perpetual conservation easement of 1,225 acres on the Lay Creek Ranch. The property is contiguous with BLM and serves as deer, elk, and pronghorn overall range and winter range. 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 approved for up to \$15,000.00.

\*Administrative Note- \$15,000.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.