



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Northwest Colorado HPP Committee Meeting

April 4, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Chamber of Commerce- Craig, CO

### Committee Members Present:

- Evan Jones - CPW
- Sean Durham - Livestock Grower
- Chad Green - Livestock Grower
- Gary Visintainer - Livestock
- Gary Nichols - Sportsperson
- Jill Carlson - BLM
- Curtis Keetch - USFS

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Marian Cole

### Attendees Present:

Mike Swaro- CPW  
Justin Pollock- CPW  
Ray Aberle- CPW  
Kale Watson- CPW  
Michael Blanck- CPW  
Marie Haskett- PWC  
Doug Myhre- USFS  
Emily Howe- Applicant  
Penny Howe- Applicant

### Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

### Budget Report

The budget was fully encumbered at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and unencumbered funds were encumbered at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. All additional budget encumbrances through June 30, 2023 (FY23), will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

### Old Business

Minutes- The minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved as written.

Lay Creek Ranch Conservation Easement- The project approved at the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was unable to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. The applicant requested if funding could be provided during the next fiscal year, July 2023- June 2024. The committee was in support of funding the project next fiscal year. The project was preapproved for up to \$15,000.00 in FY24.

### New Business

Howe Ranch Fence- Emily Howe presented fence replacement project to implement approximately 0.8 miles of wildlife friendly fence. The existing fence line is dilapidated woven wire that has caused wildlife entanglements, particularly elk

calves and yearlings. The ranch is located in an elk migration corridor and serves as transitional range. The committee noted the high cost for less than a mile of fence. The committee shared that they typically don't fund capital improvement type projects but would be willing to fund wildlife openings and the removal of the woven wire. The project was preapproved for up to \$6,000.00 for gates, H brace posts, the removal of the woven wire, and would provide 4 rolls of wire from inventory in FY24.

USFS South Fork Williams Fork Weed Control- Doug Myhre presented a weed control project to treat severe infestations of houndstongue, canada thistle, and yellow toadflax along the South Fork of the Williams Fork River. The project proposed 10 days of horseback and backpack weed spraying. Doug explained the Good Neighbor Agreement and how the USFS would like to utilize the agreement to get USFS dollars on the ground as a match. Evan abstained from the approval decision. The project was preapproved for up to \$7,000.00 contingent upon USFS Good Neighbor Authority funding in FY24.

CPW Indian Run & Cold Springs SWA Weed Control- Mike Swaro presented a weed control project for treatment on the Indian Run and Cold Springs State Wildlife Areas (SWA). The project aims to double the work accomplished annually by CPW staff by hiring a contractor to conduct horseback treatments. The Cold Springs treatment would occur in the Wiggins unit that had been affected by a fire. The committee confirmed that CPW would provide the match in labor and materials and that this project serves to increase and provide supplemental noxious weed control. Evan abstained from the approval decision. The project was preapproved for up to \$11,200.00 from the State Council SWA Fund in FY24.

### Remaining Committee Business

Stackyard Discussion- The committee reviewed the Colorado Revised Statutes as it pertained to stackyards and HPP. Considering the severe winter, several stackyards would need to be repaired, replaced, or implemented prior to next winter. The committee discussed the Game Damage (GD) requirements and how the committee could assist those who did not qualify for GD. The committee asked if State Council would be able to provide funds to assist with the large stackyard need for local landowners due to the severity of the winter. Michael Blanck stated he would approach State Council at the upcoming meeting about a potential stackyard fund.

BLM Representative- The committee welcomed Jill Carlson as the new BLM representative on the committee.

### Roundtable

Commissioner Haskett thanked the committee for all they do for the community. Justin informed the committee about a potential water project for Flanders Ranch.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.