



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee Meeting

February 21, 2023

Virtual/Conference Call

Committee Members Present:

- Andy Brown - CPW
- Tanner Young - Livestock Grower
- George West - Livestock Grower
- Eldon Simmons - Livestock Grower
- John Sheek - Sportsman
- Nate West - BLM
- Ivan Messinger - USFS

Attendees Present:

Michael Blanck- CPW
Kimberley Berscheid- CPW
Oma Flemming
Kenny Smith

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$78,100.00.

Old Business

The minutes from the August 30th meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Dove Creek Herbicide Cost Share- Oma Flemming and Kenny Smith presented the annual herbicide cost-share program for the Dove Creek Weed Control District. The county will fund an herbicide cost-share program for properties east of the Dolores River. This funding will allow landowners to purchase chemicals to target invasive species listed on the Colorado Noxious Weed List including Russian thistle, Canada thistle, and musk thistle. This project will help increase forage for wildlife. The proposal is to continue funding the program in FY23. **The project was approved for \$5,000.00.**

Oak Brush Habitat Improvement- Ivan Messinger presented a habitat improvement project in the San Juan National Forest west of Dolores for \$142,000.00. This project is a continuation of oak reduction efforts by the Forest Service. The proposal is to

hand thin 237 acres of Gamble Oak to protect and enhance thermal cover for wildlife and increase forage. **The project was tabled at the committee's request to seek additional funding sources and to come back in FY24 to revisit the project.**

FY23 Fertilizer Voucher Applications- The committee reviewed fertilizer voucher applications. There were 12 applicants, including 4 applicants that were approved in FY22 but deferred due to water availability, for a total of 2,452 acres. **The committee approved \$15.00 per acre with a \$4,000.00 cap, for a project cost of \$33,335.00.**

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule- The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023, at 6:30 pm, at the Mancos NRCS Building.

*Administrative Note- The April 18th meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for April 24th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Roundtable

The committee had no other business to discuss.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.