



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

South Park HPP Committee Meeting

February 23, 2023

Virtual Conference Call

Committee Members Present:

- Tyler Stoltzfus - CPW
- Steve Allard - Livestock Grower
- John Woodward - Livestock Grower
- Webb Smith - Livestock Grower
- Randy Tingle - Sportsperson
- Christine Cloninger - BLM
- Sheila Lamb - USFS

Attendees Present:

Michael Blanck - CPW
Jake Sonberg - CPW
Bill Rivale - CPW
Patty Knupp - NRCS
Steve Rzepka - Applicant
Nick Race - Applicant

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$58,720.

Old Business

The minutes from January 9, 2023, were approved.

New Business

Lost Creek Noxious Weed Project-

Nick is asking the committee for \$10,000 to pay for herbicide and contracted labor to treat 183 acres in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. The area provides critical wildlife habitat and resources for elk, deer, and moose. Noxious weeds infest several hundred acres of the wilderness area in the South Platte District. Most of the infestations are found on roads leading to trailheads, trailheads themselves, and within the first 1-3 miles of the trail. Without proper sustained management the noxious weeds will push further into the wilderness area making them exponentially more difficult to treat while degrading valuable wildlife habitat.

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness is a nonprofit organization that assists with weed management and will provide labor and sprayers for volunteers to treat areas on foot.

The project was approved for \$7,000 to purchase herbicide out of the FY23 budget and \$3,000 for contract labor to treat noxious weeds out of FY24 in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area.

Salt Works Ranch Solar Pump-

Steve is asking the committee for \$11,008.88 to pay a contractor to install 2 solar pumps and systems on the Salt Works Ranch. The ranch was homesteaded in 1862 and the current owners are 7th generation. Steve is working to help the family create a self-sustaining ranch and the solar pump systems will provide a critical resource to livestock and wildlife in 2 different locations on the property. The first will be installed at an existing well, tank, and windmill site. The windmill is no longer functioning and will be removed. The second location also has an existing well and portions of a solar pump system that is no longer functional along with an old rusted water tank. Steve will install 2 8ft. rubber tire tanks provided by the Arkansas River HPP Committee for water. Fences will be constructed around the solar pump systems to protect them from livestock and wildlife damage.

The project was approved for \$11,008.88 for a contractor to install 2 solar pumps and systems.

Remaining Committee Business

Committee Discussion: Minimum requirements for projects-

The committee is open to considering each project to its own merits and will review them on a case-by-case basis. The minimum acreage for fence materials/vouchers and herbicide vouchers will remain at 160.

Roundtable

Patty Knupp updated the committee on the current NRCS happenings.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.