



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee Meeting  
June 8, 2023 at 1:00 pm  
Parachute, CO

### Committee Members Present:

- Ivan Archer - CPW
- Eric Bruton - Livestock (proxy)
- Joe Fazzi - Livestock Grower
- Forrest Towns - Livestock Grower
- Harley Metz - Sportsperson
- Erin Kowalski - BLM(proxy)
- Heidi Plank - USFS

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

### Attendees Present:

Michael Tornos- Applicant  
Robert Lapsley- Applicant  
Jim Toomer & Wayne McCray-Applicant  
Dean VanWinkle- Applicant  
Paul Spencer- Applicant  
Khal Yaghi- Applicant  
James Carnahan- Applicant  
Travis Bybee- CPW  
Scott Hoyer- CPW  
Kyle Wilson- CPW  
Michael Blanck- CPW

### Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

### Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$101,500.00.

### Old Business

The minutes from the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

### New Business

Tornes Ponds- Michael Tornos presented a multi-phase pond project to the committee. The project site experiences elk and deer seasonally and a bull moose that utilizes the property year-round. The property is currently overgrown, has not been used in quite some time, and has very little water availability. The scope of the project includes building 14 ponds on the property to serve as water sources for big game and livestock. **The project was approved for \$11,918.00.**

Parker Basin Irrigation- Robert Lapsley presented an irrigation project to the committee that is a continuation of a FY23 project. The project site sits in important big game habitat where elk and moose utilize the property year-round and deer use the property in the summer, fall, and springtime. The current irrigation system is outdated and in need of updating. The scope of the project includes installing pipe in the current ditch to be better able to control the flow and direction of water. Installing new

infrastructure into the ditch will allow for water to be distributed more effectively and increase the amount of forage for livestock and big game. **The project was approved for \$4,621.55.**

Alkali Creek Pond Cleaning- Jim Toomer presented an annual pond cleaning project to the committee. There are many ponds on the Alkali Basin Allotment that have filled in with silt, fallen trees, and dams that have been washed out from spring run-off, reducing water storage capacity. This reduction of water availability causes competition between big game and livestock. The scope of the project includes cleaning 12-20 ponds on the allotment. **The project was approved for \$5,000.00.**

West Divide Pond Cleaning- Wayne McCray presented an annual pond cleaning project to the committee. There are a lot of ponds on the property that are in need of cleaning and resealing to increase effectiveness and water availability for livestock and big game. The scope of the project includes cleaning 12-20 ponds. **The project was approved for \$5,000.00.**

Upland Ranch Seeding- The committee reviewed a seeding project from Lance Woodyard. The project site experiences year-round use by deer and seasonal use by elk. The scope of the project included seeding 12 acres of an existing hay meadow on the property with Meadow Brome. This will allow for a more diverse hay culture, healthier strands, and a higher quality forage available for big game. **The project was approved for \$780.00.**

VanWinkle Fence- Dean VanWinkle presented a multi-phase fence project to the committee. The property experiences year-round use by deer. The current fence is extremely old and in need of replacement, fence posts are rotting out and the fence is no longer holding livestock on the property. The fence is also made of sheep wire and is not wildlife friendly. Constructing about ½ mile of new wildlife-friendly fence will allow for a better rotational grazing system, which will leave more forage for big game and reduce entanglement risks. **The project was approved for \$2,551.00 and two rolls of white wire.**

Spencer Fence- Paul Spencer presented a fence project to the committee. The project site sits in important big game habitat and experiences year-round use by deer and seasonal use by elk and moose. The current fence line is old and dilapidated, which no longer holds livestock off of the property. The scope of the project includes building a new 2.5 mile wildlife-friendly fence to prevent cattle from the neighboring BLM and USFS allotments from trespassing, allowing big game to graze the property without the competition of livestock, and providing a more suitable winter range for big game. **The project was approved for \$10,732.65 and ten rolls of white wire.**

Yaghi Fence- Khal Yaghi presented a fence project to the committee. The project area experiences deer year-round and elk seasonally. The property is mostly pasture and does not currently run livestock but will in the near future. In order to keep livestock on the property a new perimeter and a few interior fences will need to be installed.

The scope of the project included repairing 1.2 miles of existing fence and building 2.3 miles of new fence. The committee expressed concerns with the amount of new fencing being built and how the original plans did not include the fence being wildlife-friendly. Yaghi agreed to build the new fence to wildlife-friendly specs. **The project was approved for \$8,515.80 to construct 1.5 miles of perimeter fence and six rolls of white wire.**

Carnahan Fence- James Carnahan presented a fence project to the committee. The project area experiences seasonal use by moose and provides important winter range for deer and elk. The scope of the project includes constructing a new interior fence on the property to keep livestock out of a newly created pasture. The new pasture will provide more forage for big game. The fence will be built with smooth wire and to wildlife-friendly specs, reducing the risk of entanglement. **The project was approved for \$6,206.00 and four rolls of white wire.**

FY24 Voucher Programs- The committee reviewed and approved voucher programs as follows:

- a) Fence Vouchers- **The committee approved \$10,150.00 for fence vouchers, distributed in \$300.00 increments.**
- b) Fertilizer Vouchers- The committee discussed making changes to the fertilizer voucher program for FY24 but will discuss further at the next meeting. **The committee approved \$25,375.00 for fertilizer vouchers.**
- c) Herbicide Vouchers- **The committee approved \$10,150.00 for herbicide vouchers, distributed in \$400.00 increments.**

### Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule- The committee tentatively approved the following meeting dates for FY24:

DATE	TIME
August 24, 2023	1:00 pm
October 26, 2023	1:00 pm
February 15, 2024	1:00 pm
April 24, 2024	1:00 pm
June 6, 2024	1:00 pm

\*Administrative note- The August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled and rescheduled for August 17, 2023.

### Roundtable

Game Damage- The committee had a discussion about Game Damage.

Wildlife-friendly fencing- The committee had a discussion about wildlife-friendly fencing specs and deviations from them.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.