



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

HPP State Council Committee

June 28 5:30 pm Community BBQ & June 29 8 am - 12 pm

In Person Meeting; Moffat County Courthouse 1198 West Victory Way, Craig, CO

State Council HPP Members, Manager, Assistant Present: Ty Bevan, Todd Peterson, Greg Jungman, Gary Visintainer, Robbie LeValley, Sheila Lamb, Hunter Seim, Riley May, Michael Blanck, Teri Polley

Additional Attendees & Guests: Marian Cole, Mike Swaro, Darby Finley, Ryan Swartzell, Blair Rynearson, Dan Tekuila

### **June 28 Community BBQ - 5:30 pm**

In appreciation for the community support during the 2023 Northwest Colorado Winter Operations Project, the State Council hosted a community BBQ at the Moffat County Fairgrounds in Craig, CO for the private landowners, Area 6 staff, and contractors. Over 125 invitees were in attendance.

### **June 29 8:00 - Noon**

Coon Draw Ranch Water Development Project - The State Council approved increasing the Northwest HPP committee budget by \$34,377.25 for this project that will implement a new well, solar pump, storage tank, satellite stock tanks, and mainline pipe to provide water access for wildlife and livestock in areas that currently lack any water availability. Along with improving the range, the applicant was hopeful this improvement will keep animals from crossing Highway 13. The council requested the applicant, Ryan Swartzell, to add monitoring to this project.

Colorado State Forest Thinning Project - \$100,000 was approved by the State Council. This thinning project presented by Blair Rynearson from the CO State Forest Service, has a strong wildlife and grazing benefit with natural regeneration and no seeding is needed.

Northwest Winter Debrief and Outlook - Darby Finley, CPW Terrestrial Biologist in Craig, and Mike Swaro, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager Area 6 gave a presentation to the State Council summarizing the Northwest Colorado Winter Operations project. The council further discussed the successes of this project.

CPW HPP State Council Representative Position: The council discussed filling this vacancy and will be submitting suggestions to Michael.

Dan Tekuila, Ph.D. Invasive Plant Program Manager & Pesticide Use Coordinator USDA - Forest Service gave a presentation on invasive species and weed management to the state council.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26/27 in Colorado Springs.