



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee Meeting
March 2, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Grand Junction, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Ivan Archer - CPW
- Eric Bruton - Livestock Grower
- Joe Fazzi - Livestock Grower
- John Walter - Livestock Grower
- Harley Metz - Sportsperson
- Erin Kowalski - BLM
- Heidi Plank - USFS

Attendees Present:

Jody Piland, Tom Bieser
Don Wagstaff, Brandon Bruton
Dorothy Nauroth, Ned Nauroth
Russel Knight, Kirk Oldham
Scott Hoyer, Travis Bybee
Michael Blanck, Marian Cole
Kimberley Berscheid

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$31,993.75.

Old Business

The minutes from the October 27th meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Piland Fence- Jody Piland presented a fence project to the committee. The property is located in important big game habitat and experiences year-round use by elk, deer, and moose; with a heavy presence of elk in the winter. The project involves constructing .6 miles of new wildlife-friendly fencing to finish an interior fence that splits two parcels. Finishing dividing the two parcels will allow for livestock to effectively graze and increase the amount of forage left for big game. **The project was approved for up to \$5,500 and the committee will provide 3 rolls of high-visibility wire.**

Nauroth Ranch Field Reclaim- Dorothy and Ned Nauroth presented a field reclaim project to the committee. The current fields have been depleted by deer and elk that use the property seasonally. The scope of the project includes re-working the soil and reseeded with alfalfa and grass seed to generate new growth and increase the

amount of forage for big game. The proposal was to reclaim 80 acres for \$12,208.00. The committee and Nauroth's were both concerned that they would not be able to finish all 80 acres by the FY deadline. Dorothy and Ned Nauroth committed to completing 40 acres by the FY deadline. The committee requested Dorothy and Ned Nauroth to return in the fall to propose the other 40 acres. **The project was approved for \$6,104.00 to reseed 40 acres.**

Horsethief Mountain Habitat Improvement- Scott Hoyer presented a project to the committee near Horsethief Mountain to install two wildlife guzzlers. Adding these water sources to the landscape will create more water sources on public lands, potentially reducing game damage on private lands and increasing hunting opportunities. **The project was approved for \$1,200.00.**

FY23 Fertilizer Voucher Applications- The committee reviewed fertilizer voucher applications. There were 33 applicants for a total of 5,118 acres. **The committee approved \$5.70 per acre with a \$4,000 cap, for a project cost of \$29,181.25**

Starting next FY, July 1, 2023, the committee will require fertilizer applications to designate total irrigated acres to be fertilizer. Itemized sales receipts for voucher redemption must detail an adequate amount of fertilizer purchased for the acres claimed on the application. A minimum application rate may be designated by the committee.

FY23 Herbicide Vouchers- There was a need from District Wildlife Managers for more herbicide vouchers. **The committee approved an additional \$6,000.00 for a total project cost of \$12,000.00 for herbicide vouchers in FY23.**

FY23 Fence Vouchers- The committee also discusses increasing the fence voucher budget but decided to table the discussion until the next meeting. The committee decided to forego fence voucher applications and have District Wildlife Managers issue fence vouchers for FY24.

Remaining Committee Business

Livestock Resignation- John Walter announced his resignation from the committee after serving 19 years. The Livestock Vacancy will be posted and interviews will be held at the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule- The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023, at 1:00 pm, at the Collbran Fire Station.

Roundtable

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.