



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado River HPP Committee Meeting  
March 28, 2023 at 1:00 pm  
Eagle County Government- Eagle, CO

### Committee Members Present:

- Darren Chacon - CPW
- Scot Dodero - Livestock Grower
- Pat Luark - Livestock Grower
- Jim Nieslanik - Livestock Grower
- Rick Bumgardner - Sportsman
- Nick Jaramillo - BLM
- Phil Nyland - USFS

### Administrative Assistant Present:

Marian Cole

### Attendees Present:

Matt Yamashita- CPW  
Devin Duval- CPW  
Brian Wodrich- CPW  
Layton Stutsman- CPW  
Jake Stanton- CPW  
Kale Watson- CPW  
Tony Zuniga- CPW  
Kritsy Wallner- BLM  
Jessica Foulis- EVLT  
Torrey Davis- EVLT  
Perry Eaton- Applicant  
Mike Eaton- Applicant  
Chase Nieslanik

### Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

### Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$8,247.12. All additional budget encumbrances through June 30, 2023 (FY23), will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

### Old Business

The minutes from the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

### New Business

BLM Horse Creek Weed Control- Kristy Wallner presented a weed control project to treat approximately 200 acres in the Horse Creek area on the Hack Creek and Horse Mountain allotments north of Dotsero. The project aims to treat acres associated with prescribed burns, range improvements, mastication projects, irrigated areas, along roads, and trails on the allotments. The common weeds in the treatment areas have historically been scotch thistle, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, bull thistle, canada thistle, houndstongue, and sparse infestations of spotted Knapweed. Nick and Pat abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$2,150.00.

BLM Gypsum Weed Control- Kristy Wallner presented a weed control project to treat approximately 465 acres in the Gypsum area on the Red Hill, East Hardscrabble, and

West Hardscrabble allotments. The project had the same goals and targeted noxious weed species. Nick abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$5,000.00.

BLM N. Gypsum & Burns Weed Control- Kristy Wallner presented a weed control project to treat approximately 596 acres in the North Gypsum and Burns area on the Blowout, Trail Gulch, Greenhorn, Bull Gulch, Spring Creek, and Luark allotments. The project had the same goals and targeted noxious weed species. Nick and Pat abstained from the approval decision. The project was approved for up to \$6,407.00. \*Administrative note- \$5,309.88 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

Eaton Forest Conservation Easement- Torrey Davis, Jessica Foulis, and the Eaton family presented a perpetual conservation easement of approximately 160 acres south of Edwards. The property is surrounded by USFS lands and serves as key transitional range for mule deer and elk. The area provides critical wildlife habitat and is comprised of some of the few remaining working agricultural lands in Eagle County. The property offers a buffer for wildlife from continued development and increased recreation in the area. The Eaton family is a multigenerational owner who would like to keep the property in agriculture and conserve the property for future generations. The committee confirmed that hunting would not be prohibited by the terms of the easement. The project was preapproved for up to \$10,000.00 in FY24.

Hagedorn Piney Conservation Easement- Torrey Davis and Jessica Foulis presented a perpetual conservation easement of approximately 90 acres north of Vail. The Hagedorn Piney property is adjacent to Piney Lake with easy access to surrounding USFS lands. The property is located elk, mule deer, and moose overall range. The committee posed several questions and expressed concerns with the ski tow and associated use of the property. The final terms of the easement were still pending. As such, the committee requested that the landowner attend a future meeting to discuss the terms and the property more in depth. The project was tabled.

USFS/Pitkin County Filoha Thinning- Phil Nyland presented a habitat improvement project to thin brush on approximately 80 acres of USFS and Pitkin County Open Space lands. The area provides valuable habitat for mule deer and elk and serves as a winter range in GMU 43. The Pitkin County property does not allow for recreational access but, the USFS portion provides hunting access. The committee requested that if the price per acre allowed, the scope of the treatment be expanded. Phil abstained from the approval decision. The project was preapproved for up to \$15,000.00 in FY24.

### **Remaining Committee Business**

Upcoming Meeting- The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2023 at the Glenwood Springs CPW Office.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 pm.