



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado River HPP Committee Meeting
February 7, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Glenwood Springs

Committee Members Present:

- Darren Chacon - CPW
- Loyd Gerard - Livestock Grower
- Pat Luark - Livestock Grower
- Mike Gosha - Livestock Grower
- Rick Bumgardner - Sportsperson
- Nick Jaramillo - BLM
- Phil Nyland - USFS

Attendees Present:

- Michael Blanck - CPW
- Jake Stanton - CPW
- John Groves - CPW
- Becca Ryan - CPW
- Samantha Canetti - CPW
- Ellen Peterson - USFS
- Kristy Wallner - BLM
- Andrew Taylor - Vegetation Mgmt. West

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$123,800.

Old Business

The August 23, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as written.

New Business

Braderich-Floha E-15 Prescribed Burn-

Phil Nyland presented a prescribed burn project to treat approximately 1,600 acres in the White River National Forest. The targeted areas in GMU 43 have declined due to pressure from deer and elk displaced from the historic winter range in the last 40-60 years and provide critical winter range and calving areas. The project will encourage regeneration in the mountain shrub and aspen community and establish better winter range forage conditions, focusing on increasing cow/calf ratios and relieving pressure on neighboring private lands. Aerial ignition by helicopter will be utilized due to the difficulty of accessing rugged terrain. The USFS and Pitkin County will contribute to the project.

The project was approved for \$24,000 for aerial ignition and will be distributed via Task Order with the USFS. Funding is valid through June 30, 2025. Phil Nyland abstained from voting on the project.

Crown MX Seeding-

Kristy Wallner presented an aerial seeding project on the Crown Allotment. The project would treat approximately 245 acres, and the objectives are to restore sagebrush parks, create fuel breaks, conserve soil, and increase rangeland forage diversity by utilizing a dryland-aggressive seed mix of native species that will withstand grazing and drought conditions. BLM and the Grand Junction Grazing Board will contribute to the project.

The project was approved for \$15,312.50 to purchase a seed mix.

2526 Seeding -

Kristy Wallner presented an aerial seeding project on the Stifel Creek and Trail Gulch Allotments. The project would treat approximately 951 acres, and the objectives are to reduce bare ground and prevent the establishment and spread of noxious weeds and invasive grasses, especially in areas where grass and shrubs have little presence in the understory due to the canopy cover of pinon-juniper trees.

The project was approved for \$40,448.82 to purchase seed mix and aerial seeding application.

Remaining Committee Business

Upcoming Meeting- The next meeting was scheduled for April 10, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., location to be determined.

Roundtable

Andrew Taylor with Vegetation Management West introduced himself and his company.

The committee would like to invite Jim and Scot to the next meeting to present their retirement statuses.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.