



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Grand Mesa HPP Committee

611 Main St., Silt, CO 81652

February 9th, 2017

1:00 p.m.

**Grand Mesa HPP Members Present:** JT Romatzke, CPW; Michael Blanck, CPW; Don Fulton, Ag Producer; Heidi Plank, BLM; John Walter, Ag Producer

**Guests:** Pat Tucker, Duke Wheeler, Kiley Gale, George Gipp, Wayne McCray, Jim Toomer, Gary Galloway, Peter Dodd, Greg Gipp, Cary Gipp, Daren Olson, Charles Meiklejohn, Charles Burenheide, Eric Bruton

**Introduction:** Committee members were introduced. JT Romatzke, Michael Blanck, Levi Atwater, and Scott Hoyer gave updates on winter conditions, anticipated potential projects, and recent information from within the area. Pat Tucker gave updates from the State Council. Katie Richman reviewed the budget and status of current projects. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$54,803.80.

### **New Business:**

#### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews:**

1. The committee reviewed fertilizer project proposals. The budget for fertilizer projects was \$25,375.00. There were 21 applicants this year for a total of 3223 acres. The price per acre came to \$7.87, and this amount was approved by the committee.
2. Duke Wheeler presented several project proposals for weed spraying and seeding in different areas of his property. The project area holds large numbers of deer and elk year-round, which cause damage to fences and compete with livestock for forage. These projects are part of ongoing efforts to bring new areas into production for big game forage. The committee approved \$2,310.00 for seeding; \$6,138.00 for weed spray on "Honey Pot" and "Turkey Shop" fields; and \$1,250 for weed spray on "100 Acres" field. Additionally, \$3,512.52 was approved for follow-up weed spraying on "Honey Pot" for FY2018.

3. The committee reviewed applications from West Divide Cattle Growers for pond cleanouts on the West Divide and Alkali Creek allotments. These projects are yearly maintenance work for the Cattle Growers. The projects were approved for \$5,000.00 each.
4. Charles Burenheide presented a proposal for pond restoration work on the Cheney allotment. Currently the ponds do not hold water, which concentrates big game and livestock around water sources on private lands. Pond restoration work will improve big game distribution throughout the area and reduce competition with livestock and damage to private lands. The project was approved for \$1,530.00.
5. Eric Bruton presented a proposal to continue replacing old division fencing with wildlife-friendly fence. The existing fence is in disrepair and does not properly contain livestock, and continues to be damaged by frequent big game crossings. The old fence will be removed and replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing to HPP specs, with gates installed at sites where deer and elk frequently cross. The project was approved for \$3,518.35. Wood posts and barbed wire will be obtained from Game Damage, and additional materials may be purchased by the landowner and will be reimbursed.
6. The committee was informed that a previously approved (FY16) seeding project from Robert Lapsley did not take place last year, and that the landowner was interested in completing the project this spring. Due to timing issues with the next meeting, the committee re-approved the project for FY17 for \$4,000.

**Next Meeting: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - Collbran Firehouse**