



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee

Dolores Public Lands Center, Dolores, CO

February 27, 2018

5:30 p.m.

HPP Members Present: Andy Brown, CPW; Tanner Young, Livestock Grower; John Sheek, Sportsman; George West, Livestock Grower; Eldon Simmons, Livestock Grower; Nate West, BLM

Guests: Garth Nelson, Don Janz, Mark Garlinghouse, Leroy Oliver, Bonnie Loving, Gus Westerman

Introductions & Budget Report:

Committee members and guests were introduced. Katie gave a budget report and updates on current projects. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$62,037.34.

New Business:

Project Application Proposals and Reviews:

1. Bonnie Loving presented a proposal for aerial herbicide application on the Weber Canyon STL. The area was burned in 2012, and the reestablished vegetation is almost entirely invasive cheatgrass and thistle. The area is located in valuable winter and transitional range, and experiences year-round use by deer. Additionally, the STL is open to hunting through a CPW lease. However, the lack of forage across the entire burn area results in very little big game activity, and increased utilization of nearby agricultural operations. Montezuma County will apply herbicide to approximately 290 acres of the 1,000 acre burn area, and will monitor the area to determine efficacy. The county may also apply seed to areas where native vegetation does not reestablish well. If the treatment is successful, other partners will be approached to continue treating the remaining burn area. The project was approved for \$5,000.00.
2. Gus Westerman presented an herbicide cost share program for Dove Creek Weed Control District. HPP reimbursed the county for a bulk herbicide purchase last fiscal year, and the county saw great success with the program. The program targets landowners east of the river, most of which are absentee owners or in-state owners with large parcels of non-crop rangeland. Most of these areas have large infestations

including within the seedbed, which complicates control efforts. The landowners have been very cooperative with the cost share program and weed control compliance has improved. The county wishes to continue this work and expand the program to include more landowners. The project was approved for \$5,000.00.

3. Garth Nelson and Leroy Oliver presented a proposal for a water development on the BLM Canyon of the Ancients allotment. Currently the water supply includes a fenced-off catchment apron which is piped into tanks. However, the apron is degraded and does not funnel enough water into the tanks. Livestock are on the allotment for 1.5-3 months of the year, and there is not sufficient water for the cattle or for wildlife. The project would remove the old apron and install a new 25x50-ft steel catchment, including a shed roof system to reduce evaporation and increase water collection. Increasing water storage in the area will better serve livestock, as well as providing water to big game in the area during and after cattle use. This will improve big game distribution throughout the area and help hold deer and elk on the BLM land for longer periods of time. The project was approved for \$4,000.00 for materials.
4. Seed projects from Ben and Joe Lanier were tabled until next fiscal year.
5. Fertilizer applications were approved as follows: Ben Lanier, \$4,000 (330 acres); Don Janz, \$750 (50 acres); Mark Garlinghouse, \$3,000 (200 acres).
6. The committee reviewed a proposal from Tanner Young for a pond cleanout. The Youngs have a newly acquired property which receives irrigation and has several springs. However, the existing ponds are dry and do not hold water. Livestock will be present on the property for several months in the spring, and deer are present year round. The project would include cleaning and reconstructing one large pond, which will be filled by the existing spring and supplemented when necessary with irrigation water. Increasing water storage on the property will improve livestock distribution, as well as provide water to big game in the area during and after cattle use. Tanner abstained from voting on the project, and the committee approved \$1,250.00.
7. The committee approved up to \$5,000 for a ponyrail purchase from Kencove to replenish inventory. The existing and future materials will be stored at the Dolores Hatchery to ensure that the Montelores' inventory stays separate from San Juan Basin's, and that HPP has access to it at all times.

Roundtable:

1. The committee discussed whether having a booth or table at local events like the Ag Expo or the county fair would increase HPP's exposure in the area.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2018 - 6:30pm