



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Grand Mesa HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference
November 17th, 2020
8:00 p.m.

Grand Mesa HPP Members Present: Kirk Oldham, CPW; John Walter, Livestock Grower; Bob Mosher, USFS; Don Fulton, Livestock Grower; Harley Metz, Sportsperson; Paul Bernklau, Livestock Grower

Guests: Heidi Plank, Sylvia Ringer

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. Bob Mosher will be replaced by Heidi Plank as the USFS representative. Sylvia Ringer has been nominated as the new BLM rep. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$33,652.04.

New Business:

1. The committee reviewed a fencing project proposal from Eric Bruton. The project area is used year-round by big game, especially during the winter and calving season, and supports large numbers of elk. The property currently has old degraded interior fencing, which does not properly contain livestock or allow for proper grazing rotation. The fence also presents entanglement risks for big game. The proposal includes removing the old fence and replacing it with new wildlife-friendly fences to HPP specs, including high visibility wire. The fences will allow for better grazing rotation on the property, resulting in increased forage available for both livestock and big game and improved overall habitat quality. Big game will be able to move throughout the property without getting caught in the fences and causing further damage to the property. The project was approved for \$3227.46, and the committee will provide 1 roll of white high-visibility wire.
2. The committee reviewed a fence repair proposal from Robert Flohr. The property is located in transitional and winter range, and experiences heavy use by deer and elk. Approximately 1900-ft of fence is in need of repair due to damage from frequent big game crossings, with an estimated cost of \$750. Fence vouchers are available for this use, but are limited to 3 vouchers/\$600 per landowner annually. The project was approved for \$750, and the committee will provide 3 rolls of white wire.

3. The committee reviewed a brush clearing and seeding proposal. 160 acres of the property are heavily overgrown with oakbrush. These stands do not offer forage for deer and elk and are too thick to provide cover. This causes wildlife in the area use the nearby pasture and consume forage meant for livestock. The project involves mulching 80 acres in a mosaic pattern to open spaces between mature oakbrush, and these areas will be reseeded to improve forage production. The committee generally supported the project, however the landowner was not present to answer questions regarding the seed mix, rate of seeding, existing understory vegetation, and equipment or treatment type. The project was tabled for more information.
4. The committee's inventory of white wire is low. Up to \$5,000 for 26-28 rolls from Kencove was approved for a future order.

Next Meeting: February 18th @ 1:00pm