



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Grand Mesa HPP Committee

Zoom Video Conference  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

**Grand Mesa HPP Members Present:** Kirk Oldham, CPW; John Walter, Livestock Grower; Heidi Plank, USFS; Harley Metz, Sportsperson; Paul Bernklau, Livestock Grower; Sylvia Ringer, BLM; Don Fulton, Livestock Grower

**Guests:** Michael Blanck, CPW; Travis Bybee, CPW; Bob Morris, CPW; Pat Tucker, CPW; GW Horine, Ty Bevan, Brad Banulis, CPW

**Introduction:** Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$25,467.68.

#### **New Business:**

1. GW Horine and Ty Bevan introduced themselves to solicit State Council nominations from the committee for the sportsperson and livestock grower representative positions. Committee members asked questions of both candidates, and approved both nominations.
2. The committee reviewed fertilizer project proposals. There were 29 applicants this year for a total of 5578 acres. The committee approved \$5.00 per acre with a \$4,000 cap on individual recipients, for a total project cost of \$27,890.00.
3. The committee reviewed a stackyard repair project from Frank Daley. The stackyard is generally effective in protecting stacked hay from big game damage, however one of the gates was damaged by elk and needs to be replaced. The project was approved for \$350 to obtain a replacement gate from Game Damage.
4. Richard Watkins presented a fencing proposal for Eagle Springs Organic Farm. Approximately 6,000-ft of old fence needs to be removed and replaced with new wildlife-friendly fencing. The committee noted that the property had previously been involved in hemp production, and was currently involved in vegetable production. Neither of these two uses meets the scope of HPP. However, the current owners and management are attempting to revitalize the property to produce forage for both livestock and wildlife. The committee expressed concern about providing

new infrastructure to start a new ranching operation, rather than mitigating current conflicts with an existing fence. Additionally, some of the fence design specs were not wildlife-friendly. The project was tabled until the fence design could be revised, and a more cohesive proposal that meets HPP standards could be worked up.

5. Ty Bevan presented a fencing proposal for the Dole property. Approximately 1 mile of old hazardous fencing needs to be replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing to properly contain livestock, improve grazing rotation management, and prevent injury to big game that utilize the area. The project was approved for \$6,050.00 for materials, and the committee will provide 4 rolls of white wire.

**Roundtable:**

1. Brad Banulis was introduced as the new Senior Wildlife Biologist for the NW Region.
2. The committee discussed the idea of purchasing game cameras to assist in project monitoring. Cameras would be distributed by DWMs on approved projects and data would be made available to the committee. The committee supported the idea and will consider the purchase at a future meeting.
3. The current fencing voucher application states that landowners who earn more than \$2,500 in hunting fees are not eligible for fence vouchers. The committee did not support this eligibility restriction and will host a conference call to review voucher guidelines.

**Next Meeting: February 22 @ 1:00pm - conference call**