



Colorado First Conservation District
 970-329-3145
 145 Commerce Street Craig, CO 81625

Moffat County Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Program Committee
April 14, 2026 · Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM. Roll call was performed with the following members of the Moffat County GrSG Working Group and grant applicants in attendance:

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|--|----------------------------------|
| Kacey Green, CFCD GrSG Administrator | Colton Murry - CFCD GrSG Member |
| Mark Lowrey, CFCD GrSG Project Manager | Rebecca Burton - GrSG Member |
| Cassie Lamb - CFCD GrSG Monitor | Jeff Comstock - Moffat County |
| Nick Charchallis - CFCD GrSG Member | Brad Ocker - Landowner/Applicant |
| Stephen Hinkemeyer - CFCD GrSG Member | Doug Davis – CFCD GrSG Member |

Guests: Headwaters of the Colorado (Ken Brenner, Mat Smith)

Adoption of the Agenda/Review and Approval of Minutes

Steve noted a spelling error and requested that it be corrected.

Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the correction, Rebecca seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Compliance and Financial Review - Kacey Green

Project	Status	Acres	\$ Approved	Match	Notes
ZC Livestock 20250313_GSG_001	complete	724	\$74,900.00	\$14,000.00	pd
Gerber	approved	water	\$30,026.00		
Nottingham - 010	complete	236	\$29,300.00	\$7,000.00	pd
Raftopoulos - 016	complete	1,500	\$89,750.00	\$10,000.00	pd
RV Angus - 006	in process	500	\$154,000.00	\$308.00	
Visintainer - 014	complete	4,200	\$106,191.00	\$34,108.32	pd
Brosious - 017	complete	1,633	\$42,121.00		<i>Chemical</i>

					\$83,968 pd with BIL
Swartzell -012	in process	440	\$140,580.00		
3 Springs - 007	in process	83	\$26,912.00		
McFarland - 009	in process	water	\$33,900.00		
Charchalis South - 018	in process	2653	\$186,187.00		
K. Kawcak - 024	in process	200	\$24,125.00		
Bellio - 019	in process	104	\$13,166.00		
Pankey - 020	approved	320	\$87,190.00		
Cole - 015	in process	water - PALS	\$7,964.56		
Tallent	in process	water	\$19,864.00		
Olson	in process	32	\$5,226.90		
RAD Counts	approved	574	\$23,273.00		
Camilletti	approved	fence removal	\$13,711.00	\$1,301.00	
Chesna	in process	39	\$10,421.60		
Terry	in process	58	\$14,776.00		
Taylor - 030	in process	800	\$66,600.00		
J Kawchack -031	in process	734	\$61,106.00		
RD Kawchack -032	in process	57	\$2,736.00		
B. VanMatre - 033	in process	384	\$29,261.00		
J. Cook - 034		40	\$1,920.00		
Duzik - 035	in process	fence removal	\$27,036.00		
G. Williams - 036	in process	72	\$3,456.00		
	TOTALS:	14,943	\$1,205,120.06	\$151,170.16	

Total Acres Impacted: **14,943 acres** (Acres Projected in Grant Language: 12,000)

-Total Allocated to Habitat Restoration: \$1,205,120.06

-Total Remaining for Habitat Restoration: \$1,674,785.05

-Total Remaining for Conifer Removal: \$175,000.00

Kacey informed the committee that CFCD was awarded an additional \$1 million for the habitat restoration line item within the sage-grouse funding. An additional 5% for administrative costs was also included. The total additional funding to \$1,315,000, including indirect costs.

\$1,674,785.05 is the total remaining for habitat restoration, which includes the additional \$1 million that was just added to this line item.

Project Updates

Cassie compiled an up to date handout showing the status of each project, shown below:

Completed: Z/C Livestock, MC/Nottingham, Raftopoulos, Visintainer, McFarland, Cole's Ranch, Brosious, and Camilletti.

Approved/In Process: RV Angus, Swartzell, Three Springs Ranch, Gerber, Charchalis South, Kawcak_K, Pankey, Bellio, Olson, Tallent Ranch, RAD Counts, Terry, Grandbouche (6 landowners).

For Review: Olson (today), Wygant, Kawcak_FR, Vermillion.

Upcoming: Parrott.

Parrott: The Parrott project includes spraying for Scotch thistle, anticipated for spring 2026. Following this treatment, the applicant will use a no-till drill to interseed a native grass mix and a sage grouse preferred forb mix into old agricultural fields to restore them to native range.

Wygant - Seth has two contractors that are going to place bids, in hopes to review during the May meeting.

Mark noted some projects that are about to begin.

Steve asked if a letter to Ryan Swartzell was sent rescinding his previously approved project. Kacey confirmed the certified letter has been sent and delivered.

Projects to Review

Ocker

This project proposes aerial spraying of approximately 222.5 acres to control invasive annual grasses, primarily bulbous bluegrass, on non-irrigated rangeland. The project is located 4.5 miles south of Craig, near Craig-Moffat Airport. It lies within four miles of another spray project funded by CFCD through ATB and is mapped within a contiguous block of sage-grouse general habitat. Mark displayed the project map, noting its close proximity to the Jim Showalter project. The anticipated start date is after July 10, 2026, depending on contractor availability and recommendations.

Cassie presented a slideshow outlining the full project proposal. She recently conducted a site visit with Brad Ocker, confirming the presence of bulbous bluegrass, and displayed transect data for the committee.

Cassie also reviewed the financial breakdown, noting the project is requesting \$11,745.78. A committee member asked Brad whether a sufficient seedbank of desirable grasses is present to prevent post treatment issues. Brad confirmed that the infestation is currently manageable and that adequate desirable grasses are present, though he noted the east end of his property is more heavily impacted. Doug asked about Brad's grazing timeline; Brad stated he plans to turn cattle out between May 15 and

June 1, depending on forage readiness. Doug suggested grazing early while the bulbous bluegrass is still green, as cattle will consume it at that stage but avoid it once it turns brown.

Nick moved to accept this project. Doug seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing Discussion

Doug asked Nick how many acres of potential invasive annual grass treatment exist within the previously discussed project area. Nick was unsure of the exact acreage but estimated between 1,000 and 2,000 acres along County Road 35. He noted that multiple landowners in the area may be interested in coordinating efforts to control invasive annuals.

Colton asked how treatment would affect desert madwort, which is prevalent in the area. He recently treated it with a pre-emergent herbicide, Prowl, which is effective for approximately six months. Nick noted that winter annuals have experienced a particularly strong year, resulting in widespread and undesirable establishment. Colton questioned whether Prowl would be effective for controlling species like desert madwort given its shorter duration compared to Rejuvra, which can remain effective for up to five years.

Doug noted that, with additional funding available in the habitat restoration budget, there may be an opportunity to treat larger acreages of invasive annual grasses. Nick agreed and suggested the County Road 35 area as a good candidate for further exploration. Doug offered to assist in contacting landowners to gauge interest in CFCD supported treatment efforts. Steve asked whether sage-grouse are present in the area; Nick recalled some presence, while Colton noted that sharp tailed grouse are more common.

Steve asked if any new CRP projects had been submitted. Mark responded that Brad Ocker's application is the most recent one received, though it was not in CRP. Colton expressed hope that the additional funding will generate increased interest and more applications.

Doug added that there are additional areas around Elkhead Reservoir that could benefit from treatment for bulbous bluegrass. He expressed concern about the spread of infestation, particularly near the Granbouche projects being seeded this spring, which are surrounded by approximately 500–600 acres of infestation. He stated that he plans to contact landowners in those areas to gauge interest. Kacey noted that this area is becoming increasingly connected through CFCD funded projects, alongside ongoing BLM efforts and conservation easements.

The next meeting of the MCGSG group will be:
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
In the NRCS office conference room.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve, Doug seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM.