



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

CAC MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2019

In Attendance

Members: John Allendorf, Louie Bouma, Laurie Johnston, Denley Loge, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Kylie Paul, Matthew Quinlan, Carey Schmidt.

Staff: Randy Arnold, Lori Brooks, Vivaca Crowser, Loren Flynn, Joe Jaquith, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele, Mike Thompson.

Guests: Commissioner, Tim Aldrich, Loren Flynn, and Angie Grove.

Welcome & introductions

Vivaca Crowser welcomed all in attendance and gave a special welcome to guest speaker, Angie Grove (Chair of the State Parks and Recreation Board in Helena).

Region 2 Updates

Randy Arnold, Region 2 supervisor, shared with members Region 2 updates:

- **Fisheries:** Pat Saffel is at a meeting to gather public comments on changes to fisheries the regulations. Regulations are reviewed on a four-year cycle.
- **Grizzly Advisory Council:** Established at the request of Gov. Bullock. There is a page on the FWP website with topics discussed at monthly meetings and the first meeting will be Oct. 3-4 at the Kleffner Ranch near Helena. Meeting in Missoula will be December 4-5, 2019.
- **Land Projects:**
 - **Garrity Addition:** 610 acres outside of Anaconda.
 - **WW White FAS:** 80 acres, West Fork of the Bitterroot.
- **R2 Headquarters Remodel:** Capital improvements on office remodel and expansion.
- **Sharon Rose:** Working with the BLM plan and Forest Service projects.

Wildlife

Mike Thompson and other CAC members discussed reasoning behind the elk shoulder seasons as a management tool. Mike states that the main reason is that we couldn't keep up with the elk during the regular five-week season and how to stabilize the situation. Biologists believe it is useful to cover what damage hunts may not and landowners say it is useful to regulate the types of hunters allowed. Opinions are split on the effectiveness. Next meeting of the elk hunting season proposal workgroup is September 18, 2019. The "CWD Quarterly" issue has been updated and is out today.

State Parks

Loren Flynn and Angie Grove discussed the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. It will be out for public comment in mid to late September. Angie explained what issues the board is working on, could the board/FWP be more intentional on state park and recreation topics, and could we be more intentional with our recruitment of board members with this interest.

Bonner Learning Park (36 donated acres with provisions): Agreement needs to be reached with Montana Rail Link for public access. The discussion is float in access versus MRL access and which is more cost effective?

Loren gave slideshow presentation on Fort Owen State Park in Stevensville. He discussed roof replacement and other maintenance needs the land acquisition project to make a parking lot for the site and the need for fundraising.

Fisheries

Pat Saffel gave an update on the tentative fishing regulations. They are out for public comment until 9/15/2019. Then will go to the commission on 10/17/2019 for final decision.

CAC Member Topics

Randy Arnold discussed electric bikes being considered motorized vehicles and not allowed on trails. The debate questions if recreation is harming wildlife (i.e. backcountry skiing stressing elk) and if people are being harassed by e-bikes or snowmobiles on the trails.

Matt Quinlan talked about mandatory game checks—social issues versus what is needed for scientific reporting.

CWD

Commissioner Aldrich shared that 600 licenses were sold in two hours for the Libby CWD zone hunt.

Joe Jaquith referred to great CWD article in current issue of *Montana Outdoors*. He discussed the necessary processing paradigm shift (gutless method): Process meat in field and don't bring whole animal back.

Randy Arnold brought up the question of what the role of FWP is when the public wants their animal tested for CWD in non-problem zones. There is a meeting tomorrow on how we proceed.

Block Management

Cary Schmidt asked what the status of the Block Management Program is this year versus last year.

Randy Arnold signed eight new contracts and stated that BMA staff, Tyler Rennfield, handles an estimated 2,000 inquiries during the hunting season.

Wrap-up

Vivaca Crowser will send out a Doodle poll to find the next meeting date.

Thank you to Dori Schiele for organizing a wonderful dinner and to the guests, Angie and Loren for their presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm. Next meeting TBD.