



# Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

## MINUTES

Steve Bullock, Governor

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

Dan Vermillion, Chairman  
PO Box 668  
Livingston, MT 59047  
406-222-0624  
District 2

FWP Headquarters  
1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, MT

December 11, 2014

Gary J. Wolfe  
4722 Aspen Drive  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-493-9189  
District 1

Commission Members Present: Dan Vermillion, Chairman, Richard Stuker Vice-Chairman, Larry Wetsit and Gary Wolfe; Matt Tourtlotte via video

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: Jeff Hagener, Director and FWP Staff.

Guests: December 11, 2014 - See Commission file folder for sign-in sheet.

Richard Stuker  
1155 Boldt Road  
Chinook, MT 59523  
406-357-3495  
District 3

### Topics of Discussion:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2014 Commission Meeting and November 20, 2014 Commission Teleconference
3. Approval of Commission Expenses
4. Commission Reports
5. Director's Report
6. RMEF/BLM Public Lands Access Improvement Partnership Award
7. Boating Restrictions on Silver Lake – Proposed
8. Bait Seining Waters Annual Rule – Proposed
9. Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Commercial Fishing Regulations – Proposed
10. Commercial Use Administrative Rules – Final
11. WMA Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed
12. Beartooth WMA Whitetail Prairie Addition (R4) – Final
13. Fish Creek WMA Addition (R2) – Final
14. Roundup Deer Management Plan – Final
15. 2015 Black Bear Quotas – Proposed
16. 2015 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed
17. 2015 Deer Hunting Regulations – Proposed
18. Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda

Larry Wetsit  
121 East Indian Street  
Wolf Point, MT 59201  
406-650-7071  
District 4

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2014 Commission Meeting and November 20, 2014 Commission Teleconference

*Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion to approve the November 13, 2014 Commission Meeting and November 20, 2014 Commission Teleconference minutes with a correction to page 6 of the November 13, 2014 minutes.*

Commissioner Wolfe and Coleen Furthmyre, Commission Secretary discussed page 509, item 14 in the November 13, 2014 minutes.

*Action on Motion: Motion passed.*

3. Approval of Commission Expenses  
*Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion to approve the Commission expenses. Motion Passed.*

4. Commission Reports  
Commissioner Wolfe stated he attended the Region 1 and 2 Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) meetings, excellent meetings, impressed with the commitment and passion of the volunteers; attended the Inter-

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Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks

Agency Grizzly Bear meeting, well attended, great discussions; attended the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame Inaugural Banquet, inspiring evening.

Commissioner Wetsit stated Region is quiet; hunting season went well; attended TIPMont meeting, very impressed with the work that is done, surprised of the number of hunters that abuse their privileges.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated he received a call from a gentleman who lives on the Missouri river and had windows shot out of his house; received a call on a Lost River Ranch fencing issues; calls on bison decision, wolves and sage grouse. Spoke with Blaine County Commissioner regarding the high number of coyotes in the highline area; conversations with hunters and landowners regarding either sex B tags for next year.

Chairman Vermillion stated the Commission and sportsmen are appreciative to the Department for the bighorn augmentation; several calls on the "shoot-outs" that have occurred and asking why the Commission isn't doing anything, explained there is not much the Commission can do; need more education. Sam Sheppard has been hired as the Region 3 Supervisor. Commended Karen Loveless, Drew Scott and other FWP employees for the successful management hunts around Livingston. Received several calls regarding a opening day citation that was issued in the Shields Valley.

Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement explained the details regarding the Shields Valley situation that occurred on the opening day of hunting season; important for the Department remain proactive in dealing with these types of situations.

Commissioner Wolfe and Kropp discussed how to properly tag an animal.

Commissioner Tourtlotte stated it was a successful hunting season; bird season was plentiful; positive feedback on Marias River and bighorn sheep augmentation.

#### **5. Director's Report**

Director Hagener stated he has received a lot of call on several issues; goes in the field with wardens every year, every citation issued is discretionary, tough circumstance and difficult situation. Attended North American Wetland Conservation Council meeting; Congress omnibus spending bill states the Fish and Wildlife Service can spend no money promulgating a rule regarding the sage grouse ruling but they are under court order to have the decision made by September 2015. Still working on the Grizzly Bear delisting; looking at bighorn sheep depopulation.

Commissioner Wolfe asked what the status of the bighorn trapping and transplant that was approved.

John Vore, Game Management Bureau Chief stated the transfer is complete; 9 sheep were transferred to Maiden Rock and 21 went to hunting district (HD) 455; all were removed from HD 482.

Coleen Furthmyre, Commission Secretary asked to change the November minutes page 509, item 14 to state "Chairman Vermillion excused himself from the meeting".

**Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion to approve the amended minutes stated by the Commission Secretary. Motion passed.**

Chairman Vermillion stated he has worked with Warden Drew Scott for many years; a very conscientious warden; instrumental in all aspects.

#### **6. RMEF/BLM Public Lands Access Improvement Partnership Award**

Blake Henning, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Linda Cardenas, Washington Office-Bureau Land Management (BLM) presented an award to FWP employees Alan Charles, Craig Fager, Darlene Edge, Nick Clarke and BLM employee Angela Brown for helping to secure permanent public access to approximately 41,344 acres of public lands in time for Montana's 2014 general big game hunting season.

Angela Brown stated the awardees appreciate the recognition of their efforts to improve public access; high priority for BLM.

Chairman Vermillion thanked the Skyline Sportsmen, Beaverhead Sportsmen Association, BLM and RMEF for their work on this project.

Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement recognized Commissioner Wetsit for his contribution to the TIPMont program.

#### **7. Boating Restrictions on Silver Lake – Proposed**

Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement explained Silver Lake is a storage reservoir owned and operated by the City and County of Butte-Silver Bow and is located in Deer Lodge County. Water stored in Silver Lake is released to Warm Springs Creek for in-stream flow and industrial purposes and water levels can change quickly. A number of intake and outlet structures for the reservoir are located on the east end of Silver Lake. Facilities include the intake for water diverted from Twin Lakes Creek, Storm Lake, and Storm Lake Creek; a gravity

flow outlet into Warm Spring Creek; and a bridge and pump station. The east end of Silver Lake is shallow which intensifies the effect of rapid water levels changes. The presence of inlet and outlet structures, the shallow east end of the reservoir, and the potential for rapidly changing water levels throughout the reservoir pose a safety hazard for water craft operated on the lake on the east end; motorized water craft use in the east end may also lead to trespass and damage to the reservoir structures. Bull trout gather at the inlet structure on the east end of the reservoir during spawning. The proposed restrictions in the remaining area of the reservoir allow fishing use to continue while providing for public safety. FWP recommends the petition be approved; use of the lake by the public is limited the agency sees no reason to object to the petition and allow it to go to public comment.

Aimee Fausser, FWP Legal Council, explained the process and procedures for petitions.

Commissioner Wolfe stated Region 2 staff has been working with the county and has reached out to the local sportsmen groups on this petition.

**Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Commission approve the amended rulemaking petition to adopt new rules pertaining to motorized boat use on Silver Lake submitted by Butte-Silver Bow County.**

Dave Schultz, Butte-Silver Bow Public Works Director stated Butte-Silver Bow is the owner/operator of the Silver Lake water system; industrial water system for Butte and Anaconda; explained reasoning for petition.

Ben Krakowka, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Attorney stated the lake is very important for industrial and recreational use; county, local sportsmen and land owners support petition.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

#### **8. Bait Seining Waters Annual Rule – Proposed**

Don Skaar, Bureau Chief of Special Projects explained a bait fish seining license is required for: persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana; and any person who seines for and has in their possession more than 24 dozen non-game bait fish. The Commission may designate waters that are allowed for these purposes, and FWP describes these waters annually in the Commercial Bait Seining Application form. If approved, the current list of approved waters plus the changes proposed will be released for a 15-day public comment period and be proposed to the Commission for final approval in January. The proposed changes are:

**Western District:** Burnt Lake, Fish Lake, Herrig Creek.

**Eastern District:** Flat Lake

Chairman Vermillion asked how the Department will ensure the bait is clean and will not change the species in different water sheds.

Skaar explained each Region will specify the species that can be collected; need to have a pragmatic approach to changing bait regulations and do more scoping with the public.

Commissioner Wolfe asked how extensive bait seining is in Montana.

Skaar explained on average, 100 permits are sold per year.

Vice-Chairman Stuker asked how the Department decides how many days are allowed for public comment.

Aimee Fausser, FWP Legal Council explained in certain circumstances there are specific requirements and in other circumstances it is at the discretion of the Department.

Vice-Chairman Stuker asked for a copy of the requirements for public comment issues.

**Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion that the Commission approve these waters for removal/addition to the list of lakes authorized for collection by bait fish seining license holders, pending review of public comments following a 15-day comment period.**

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

#### **9. Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Commercial Fishing Regulations – Proposed**

Don Skaar, Bureau Chief of Special Projects explained FWP received an application for a 2015 commercial fishing permit to harvest carp via active seining from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena. By statute, the Commission is authorized to approve one commercial

fishing operation for each body of water and to establish specific regulations regarding gear, limits, seasons, closures and other limitations deemed necessary. This application is for a Class B Permit that requires a fee of \$200 plus a \$1,000 Surety Bond. The Commission has approved the commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry and Lake Helena for the past eight years. The Commission has two options: tentatively approve the proposed regulations and solicit public comment prior to a final decision, or revise the proposed regulations and solicit public comment. If approved, a 15-day public comment period will be solicited and brought back to the Commission for final approval in February.

**Action:** *Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion that the Commission tentatively approve the regulations for a commercial fishing operation on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena for 2015, pending public comment.*

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion:** *Motion Passed.*

#### **10. Commercial Use Administrative Rules – Final**

Charlie Sperry, Responsive Management Supervisor explained in October, the Commission, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board, proposed an amendment to the Commercial Use Administrative Rules that would allow a guide to collect fees from clients when conducting permitted use on behalf of a permitted outfitter. The Department recommends the Commission and Board replace the language proposed in October with the following new language that is consistent with Board of Outfitters rule language pertaining to guides collecting fees from clients, with an additional provision allowing a guide to receive a tip that is separate from the client fee:

A guide hired or contracted by an outfitter to provide authorized services may collect payment on behalf of the outfitter for services provided. Any and all payments must:

- (a) be collected only with the express consent of the supervising outfitter; and
- (b) be directly deposited to the outfitter that hired or contracted the guide.
- (c) This rule does not prohibit the person hired or contracted from receiving a tip that is separate from the payment received for the services provided as authorized by the sponsoring outfitter.

FWP received two comments; the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) recommended to replace the language proposed in October with new language that is aligned with the Montana Board of Outfitters (MBO) administrative rules regarding collection of client fees, new language that would allow a guide to collect client fees as long as the guide has the expressed consent of the outfitter, and the fees are deposited only to the outfitter's account; this approach would help to avoid confusion resulting from FWP and MBO collection standards; FOAM agreed with the Commission and Board's original proposal to allow a guide to receive a cash tip separate from the client fee. The second comment from a guide, agreed with most of the proposed amendments but noted that most travelers don't carry a check and most guides are not equipped to take credit card payment. The comment period ended on December 5.

**Action:** *Commissioner Wolfe moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Commission adopt the amended language as presented by FWP, pending adoption by the State Parks and Recreation Board.*

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion:** *Motion Passed.*

#### **11. WMA Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed**

Ken McDonald, Chief of Wildlife explained the Commission adopted a set of public use rules for Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas (WHPA) in December 2012. These rules are scheduled for updating and adoption by the Commission every two years. Current rules underwent a public review process before being adopted in 2012; no public review has taken place on the proposed changes. Recommended changes include the following:

- Addition of Fisheries Conservation Areas (FCAs) to the list of properties covered by the public use rules.
- Clarification of public uses and restrictions on FCAs and WHPAs, including pets, riding stock, camping, fires, hunting blinds, and trapping.
- Clarification of camping opportunities and restrictions on WMAs in Region 6.
- Prohibition of exploding targets.

**Action:** *Commissioner Wetsit moved and Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed 2015-16 Biennial WMA Public Use Rules.*

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion:** *Motion Passed.*

**12. Beartooth WMA Whitetail Prairie Addition (R4) – Final**

Ken McDonald, Chief of Wildlife explained FWP's Habitat Montana Program is intending to partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Pittman Robertson funding to purchase in fee title 2,840 acres known as Whitetail Prairie from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) for its appraised value of \$4.075 million; the Commission endorsed this project in February 2014. The property is located east of Craig and northeast of Helena in Lewis and Clark County, immediately adjacent to the Beartooth WMA and would be incorporated into the WMA. The property provides year-round habitat for elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, mountain lion, wolf, furbearers, mountain grouse, and for a variety of non-game birds and small mammal species, while providing public hunting, trapping, hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities. The property includes intermountain foothill grasslands important to ungulates and numerous other wildlife species seasonally and year-round, mountain stream habitats important to westslope cutthroat trout and other aquatic species, preserving and protecting wildlife and fisheries habitats. The acquisition would guarantee public recreational access to the Whitetail Prairie property and 880 acres of adjoining state lands and federal BLM lands. A public meeting was held at the Wolf Creek School on October 20, with one person in attendance; public comment for the EA and Management Plan ran from October 6 - November 4; sixty-one written comments were received; 55 in support and 6 opposed/neutral.

**Action:** *Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion that the Commission approve FWP's recommendation to purchase the Whitetail Prairie property from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as described.*

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Blake Henning, RMEF, strongly endorses the project.

Mike Kuiper, Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), supports project.

Dave Cole, Helena, urges support.

Joe Cohenour, RMEF, great opportunity; supports addition.

Steve Miller, MDF, supports addition.

Nick Gevok, Montana Wildlife Foundation (MWF), great investment; supports addition.

Bob Hermance, Conrad, supports addition.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated to make sure administrative access is well documented.

Chairman Vermillion thanked all parties involved for their work and support.

**Action on Motion:** *Motion Passed.*

**13. Fish Creek WMA Addition (R2) – Final**

Ken McDonald, Chief of Fisheries explained FWP proposes to acquire a 148-acre addition to the Fish Creek WMA through a purchase from the Five Valleys Land Trust. The property is a private inholding within the 34,573-acre Fish Creek WMA and borders Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) lands. This property was formerly owned by Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) and is one of several inholdings that has been sold to private buyers prior to the Nature Conservancy's acquisition of the PCTC lands in Fish Creek. The property is located immediately downstream of the confluence of the South and West Forks of Fish Creek and includes one-half mile of Fish Creek and its associated riparian corridor as well as adjacent upland habitat for elk and other wildlife species; the main stem of Fish Creek provides a key migratory corridor and sub-adult rearing area for fluvial bull trout; confluence areas are important for travel corridors, and often support wider riparian habitats than other areas. Management of the property would be under the guidance of the Fish Creek WMA and Fish Creek State Park Interim Preliminary Management Plan. The appraised purchase value of this property is \$350,000; Thompson Falls Mitigation Fund would contribute \$120,000, Trout Unlimited would contribute \$6,000, and the remaining balance would be funded with FWS Pitman Robertson funds and Habitat Montana funds, if necessary. A public hearing was held in Alberton on October 21; public comment for the draft EA ran from October 8 - November 7; 78 comments were received; 71 comments supported and 4 opposed the acquisition. The adjoining parcel, which was sold recently, is being developed and posted against public access.

**Action:** *Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion that the Commission approve FWP's purchase of this addition to Fish Creek WMA.*

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Pelah Hoyt, Five Valleys Land Trust Director, grateful for the opportunity to work FWP and conserve the heritage.

Bob Ream, Helena, prime area; supports addition.

Nick Gevok, MWF, kind of property that is right for development; supports addition.

Chairman Vermillion thanked all parties involved for getting this project completed.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

**14. Roundup Deer Management Plan – Final**

John Vore, Game Management Bureau Chief explained in response to concerns and complaints expressed by its citizens concerning the growing population of urban deer and the increased risk to human safety and property damage, the City of Roundup, in conjunction with FWP, has developed a Deer Management Plan for the City. The plan lays out goals, actions needed and a management process to implement actions. Public hunting, restricted to archery as the primary tool to manage urban deer numbers; property owned by the City and Musselshell County where public hunting can occur has been identified; a process has been set up to involve public hunters in the deer management program. A public hearing of the Roundup City Council was held on October 7, 2014; residents and adjacent private property owners attended the hearing and voiced concerns about hunters trespassing on private property but overall supported the Deer Management Plan; public comment ran from November 13 - December 8; 19 comments were received: 9 in favor, 0 against, and 10 offered comments not pertinent to the plan. The Musselshell County Commissioners and the Musselshell County Sheriff have been contacted in regards to the plan and are signatories to the plan. The City of Roundup has been proactive in developing a management plan that is both reasonable and effective.

**Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion that the Commission adopt approval of the City of Roundup Deer Management Plan as presented.**

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

**15. 2015 Black Bear Quotas – Proposed**

John Vore Game Management Bureau Chief explained season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. Black bear season dates and season structure for 2015 were finalized in February 2014; quotas may be changed annually. For 2015, FWP proposes no changes to the existing 2014 black bear hunting season quotas. Public comment will run through 5 PM, Friday, January 23, 2015 with final adoption by the Commission at the February 12, 2015 Commission meeting.

**Action: Commissioner Wetsit moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Commission adopt the 2015 Black Bear Hunting Quotas as presented by FWP.**

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

**16. 2015 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed**

John Vore, Game Management Bureau Chief explained except for sage grouse, upland game bird season dates for 2015 were finalized in February 2014. Other season elements including bag and possession limits may be changed annually. There are no established quota ranges for spring turkey permits and all changes require Commission approval. There are two proposed changes for 2015 spring turkey quotas and limits, and both concern turkey hunting district 395; all other elements of the spring turkey quotas and limits are proposed to remain unchanged from 2014. Public comment on this proposal will run through 5 PM, Friday, January 23. Proposed changes are:

HD 395-20: increase general permits from 35 to 50

HD 395-21: increase youth permits from 5 to 10

**Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved and Chairman Vermillion seconded the motion that the Commission adopt the proposed spring 2015 turkey quotas and limits as presented by FWP.**

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

**17. 2015 Deer Hunting Regulations – Proposed**

John Vore, Game Management Bureau Chief explained season structures and hunting district boundaries for deer are adopted biennially in an odd-numbered-year framework; the Commission has agreed to entertain some proposals outside of the regular cycle to address specific issues. Public comment will run through 5 p.m., January 23, 2015. FWP is proposing the following changes to harvest antlerless mule deer during the 2015 season:

**Region 3**

HD 300 - propose issuing 75 mule deer b-licenses to address some over-browsing and to follow AHM.  
HD 331 - propose issuing 200 mule deer b-licenses to address some over-browsing and to follow AHM.

### Regions 6

All Region 6 HDs except HD 652 - propose allowing either-sex mule deer on the A license to follow AHM and address sportsmen's concerns about overharvesting bucks with the current buck-only season.

### Region 7

All Region 7 HDs - propose issuing some mule deer b-licenses to follow AHM and provide the tools to address game damage. The number of b-licenses issued in each HD would vary and depend on the spring 2015 deer surveys. If the spring 2015 surveys show deer numbers below long-term average in a hunting district then no b-licenses would be issued for that district. If the population is at or above long-term average then the number of b-licenses issued would be on a sliding scale and depend upon how much above long-term average the population is.

**Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion that the Commission adopt the tentative 2015 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP. I also move to adopt all other portions of the previous 2014-2015 deer season regulations not affected by the Commission's actions today.**

Chairman Vermillion asked why Region 6 did not take the same approach as Region 7 and justification for mule deer bucks. Have received comments regarding the rapid transition back to either-sex mule deer.

Mark Sullivan Region 6 Wildlife Manager explained it is a more conservative approach.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated he visited with Mark Sullivan; hopes to have the survey done before it is finalized. Spoke with individuals in the Bearpaws who stated there a record numbers of mule deer and are supportive of this proposal.

Commissioner Wolfe shares the same concerns has Chairman Vermillion.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Mary Ellen Schnur, Montana Outdoor Guides Association (MOGA), pleased with Region 7 looking at district management instead of regional management.

Steve Miller, MDF, not sure if this is proper game management; mule deer population has been declining since 1992.

**Action on Motion: Motion Passed.**

Chairman Vermillion asked Vore to discuss the sheep transplant and what has happened in the last two weeks and what will the communication process will be between the Department and Commission in the future.

Vore stated the Department will keep the Commission apprised of any depopulation and repopulation progress; a lot of ground work needs to be done.

Chairman Vermillion stated the Commission would like quarterly updates on this issue.

Vice-Chairman Stuker asked if there are any studies that state how long you have to wait after an area is depopulated, to repopulate.

Vore stated this is a disease that is carried within the animal itself; once a herd is depopulated, can start repopulation the same year; would take a couple years to depopulate.

Chairman Vermillion and Vore discussed permit deadlines.

### **18. Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda**

Brian McCulloch, Helena, concerned about public access to private lands; since 2005 no late hunts have been allowed for antlerless animals.

Chairman Vermillion asked McDonald to describe the two types of hunting options that are available after hunting season.

McDonald explained game damage and management hunts/seasons that are offered after hunting season.

Bob Ream, Helena, there used to be late seasons hunts in Region 2 for elk and white-tail deer; bighorn sheep depopulation idea is valid, but the area chosen should be done by the Department; thanked the Department for being pro-active on bighorn sheep.

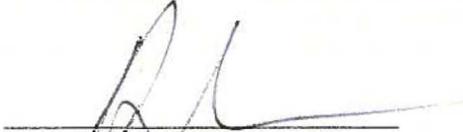
Nick Gevok, MWF, encourages the Commission to attend a Devil's Kitchen Working Group meeting; need to look at wildlife management on a landscape scale.

Mary Ellen Schnur, MOGA, explained the deer management plan was written in 1995 with minor tweaks since then; would be happy to look at the white-tail and mule deer plan with Department.

Vice-Chairman Stuker thanked the Department for working on different issues in Region 4; have heard positive comments regarding Region 4 on hunting and management issues.

**Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wetsit seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.**

**The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**



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Dan Vermillion, Chairman



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M. Jeff Hagener, Director