

Region 3 Citizens' Advisory Committee Divide, MT April 25, 2007

CAC Attendees: Ed Peretti, Amy McNamara, Michael Leach, Leroy Mehring, Joe Cohenour, Sandy Sallee, Cyndy Andrus, Tom Barnes, Sam Samson, Meg Smith, Marina Smith

Absent: Rick Arnold, Ted Coffman, Bob Gibson, Al Harmata, Craig Sharpe

Staff Present: Pat Flowers, Mel Frost, Bruce Rich, Kurt Alt, Vanna Boccadori, Kari Janikula, Joan Buhl, Larry Peterman

Guests: Ariel Overstreet, Becky Weed, Randy Smith, Maynard Smith, Mark Kambich

Pat Flowers: Welcome, introductions, background of CAC

Review of agenda:

- Tour of Smith Ranch and how they integrate fish and wildlife with their ranching operation opportunity for CAC members to ask questions of the Smith family.
- Discussion of conservation easements will be added to agenda for August meeting. Glenn Marx and Ron Marcoux have both indicated they are willing to talk to the group about the value of conservation easements.
- Legislative overview Larry Peterman will provide overview later this p.m.

Meg Smith outlined the tour of their ranch and how they integrate wildlife into their operation.

Maynard Smith – introduced video "Landscape" produced by FWP with cooperation and funding from other organizations (i.e.' Stockgrowers and industry). The video features artist Larry Zabel and the fundamental values and the love of the land shared by the public and ranchers.

- Tour of Smith Ranch.
- Randy Smith, member of the Big Hole Watershed Committee, discussed ongoing projects/issues on water use and management in the Big Hole watershed.
- Mark Kambich reviewed the cooperative weed control efforts and projects that are taking place in the Big Hole Valley.

Bruce Rich

- Arctic grayling will not be put on the endangered species list at this time re: decision of USFWS 4/23/07.
- Yellowstone cutthroat Passed out brochure on the Landowner Incentive Program explaining to CAC members what the program is about and potential referral of landowners in the Shields and Yellowstone drainages.
- Reviewed fishing regulation revision process.

Dinner

Larry Peterman

- Highlighted legislation that the department has been tracking and providing testimony on. You can access FWP tracking summary on the web at www.fwp.mt.gov. Go to hot topics and select legislative summary.
- Oil and gas leases have quadrupled over the last few years. These leases are happening in key, critical areas and are leaving an incredible footprint on the landscape. Energy resource uses are driving this exploration. The department is protesting oil and gas leases—not enough stipulations presently exist. FWP has put together a power point presentation on the subject and is available for presentation at a future CAC meeting.

Next meeting will be in Gardiner on August 9. Agenda will include conservation easements (Pat will invite Glenn Marx/Ron Marcoux) and discussion of potential CAC topics.