R1 Citizen's Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary 4/11/07

In attendance:

CAC members & alumni: Don Bothwell, Frank Danner, Don Clark, Steve Hawkins, Tony Anderson, Brent Mitchell, Jon Dahlberg, Terry Comstock, Tammi Fisher, Darrell Coverdell, Terry Connor, Mark Sheets, Tim Engleson FWP Staff: Jim Satterfield, John Fraley, Lee Anderson, Brain Marotz, Jim Vashro, Alan Wood, Tom Litchfield, Dave Landstrom, and Martha Abbrescia

Jim Satterfield opened tonight's meeting with a legislative update.

South Fork Flathead Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program Public Meeting (5/03/07) Update:

- News Release and Fact Sheet (developed collaboratively by the CAC Subcommittee and FWP) will go
 out tomorrow after the final edits are made.
- There will be a paid ad in the Daily Interlake one week prior to the meeting.
- Will work with FWP Commission to lift the limits on the high mountain lakes in this project so that anglers can do their best to harvest fish prior to treatment.
- Martha gave an overview of the webpage(s) that will be navigable from the Region 1 website concerning this conservation program. Intention is to have at least a viewable mock up by the 5/03/07 public meeting.

Round Table Discussion:

- Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) has essentially closed approximately 630k acres in our region
 (exception PCTC land with the conservation easement on it) to trapping which they've deemed as a
 commercial activity. The Trapper's Association doesn't seem to get straight answers from Art Vail
 (PCTC). Really frustrating to have a company that has always been a good friend for so many
 years...the ambiguity of the reasoning behind this sudden change is mind-boggling. The Trapper's
 Association is planning to go the national level of trappers, the corporate level of PCTC.
 ACTION ITEM: Jim Satterfield will call and speak PCTC before the next CAC meeting to see what he
 can find out on this topic.
- South of Libby, there are approximately 3200 acres that is a mix of PCTC, USFS, State Lands and private lands that is bordered by Hwy @, Farm to Market Road & Swede Mt. Rd that is increasingly becoming populated. The residents of this area are starting to think about the possibility of requesting a regulation change to Archery Only. ACTION ITEM: Don Clark to further discuss possible tentative for the Commission with Jim Williams.
- Question asked regarding bow hunting and new equipment available to aid the archer in animal and arrow retrieval. Again, the starting point would be Jim Williams.
- Question asked about what steps could be taken when dogs are seen chasing wildlife? Report the incident to authorities, warden, sheriff, etc. If you know who owns the dogs, the name and address would be most helpful in the written statement.
- Owen Sowerwine Natural Area / Old Steel Bridge Closure / Stillwater Game Preserve These areas have become a big game refuge, all vegetation is gone up to browse lines. The Audubon is getting involved. ACTION ITEM: Brent Mitchell to have more in depth discussions with Jim Williams, think through, possibly move forward.
- Comment received that the stocking of the slightly larger 3" to 4" salmon in Echo Lake has had a really god outcome. The pros and cons of stocking this type of fish were discussed.
 ACTION ITEM: Darrell will write a letter to Jim Vashro and Vashro will address both Echo & Peterson Lake.
- Mountain Lion Permit made an excellent season.
- How did the Lynx even get listed in Montana? Suggestion made for Lynx study.
- Mark Sheets requests a copy of the Thompson Fisher Easement. ACTION ITEM: Alan Wood will provide.

• Very happy to read that the REDD counts are up to 2300 in the WigWams. Bull trout are doing well in Koocanusa!

Jim Vashro reviewed the Fishing regulation setting process (4-year basis) with the group.

Dave Landstrom gave an overview / update of the Paul Taylor Memorial Fishing Access Site & Lake Five.

Next Meeting set for May 16, 2007 6:00 p.m. – R1 Public Meeting Room