

REGION ONE

CAC Meeting Summary

5-16-07

Present: Jim Satterfield, Alan Wood, Bob Friedman, Jim Vashro, Frank Danner, Dave Landstrom, Kent Laudon, Terry Connor, Dan Savage, John Fraley, Lee Anderson, Tammi Fisher, Darrell Coverdell, Don Clark, Terry Comstock, Mike Feldmann, Brian Marotz, Jon Cavigli and Martha Abbrescia. (This is the last R1 CAC meeting until late summer.)

Jim Satterfield started tonight's meeting with special information regarding **"Wolves & CAC's"**. Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator, is proposing that statewide CAC's be the regional forum for sharing information about what we (FWP) are thinking and soliciting public comment. The plan is to introduce the topic at the May Commission meeting and then bring more detail to the work session in September, with a tentative regulation proposal at the December meeting. FWP would like to visit with all CAC's between now and Sept. 27th to review the status of wolves and where we are developing a season structure, as well as solicit the CAC's input about what they'd like to see regarding this topic.

Jim Vashro reviewed with all the Fishing Regulation Setting Process. Anglers have until June 1 to submit their issues for consideration. On Oct. 25th, regulations will be set that will be in effect for the next 4 years. Different issues and different scenarios may affect different bodies of water. We welcome your input. Jim Vashro will include the CAC members in the circulation of the tentatives, as they are available.

Jim Vashro also addressed the recent letter received from Darrell Coverdell regarding Echo Lake Kokanee management. In summary: Region 1 needs 3.2 million kokanee eggs to meet stocking needs. Lake Mary Ronan is the primary source for those eggs. Some years, we come up short and when that happens the eggs have to be distributed to the high-demand kokanee fisheries.

Jon Fraley and the Sub-committee reviewed the recent South Fork Drainage Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program public meeting that took place on 5-3-07. Approximately 40 people attended this meeting at the Red Lion Hotel conference room at Kalispell Center Mall and overall the meeting went quite well and was extremely informative. Items to keep in mind:

- This public forum will be an annual event that will take place over the course of this controversial project.
- This year's meeting was educational, and described what FWP intends to do and how.
- Next year's meeting will be aimed at updating the public on what we have done so far and how the project is going.
- Meetings in subsequent years will give lake-by-lake status reports on how things are shaping up after the toxicants.

Round Table Discussion:

- Poaching slogan "Enough is enough" has been a real hit in the Eureka community.
- Supertags: Where does the money go? What are the odds? John Fraley will get last years information and report back to the CAC for an idea of the odds. Obviously the odds change as more Supertags are purchased.
- Since wardens can't be everywhere...wouldn't it be great to have more FWP contact out there? Example: They could be volunteers as long as they wore an FWP uniform, they could be delivering an educational message, explaining different information (i.e. little

- known facts about the area or water body) they could “catch someone doing something right”. This would go along way to change the overall perception of FWP and the fact they are not just there to catch you doing something wrong, write a ticket, and confiscate game, etc.
- Misconception of Enforcement Division is that “busts” are made because FWP wants the “good stuff” for their lobbies.
 - North end of Flathead Lake – have heard several comments about the desire to consider closing that north end, as it is the only place geese have to rest.
 - What was the salmon egg numbers in Lake Mary Ronan for the last 5 years? What is the overall management plan for Lake Mary Ronan? Jim Vashro will gather information for the CAC.
 - Forestry Expo had a great turnout!
 - The change in the Kalispell Hunter Education teaching program that condensed the class to one week is proving to be very well received by the adults and students in the classes.
 - Lone Pine State Park has received a tremendous increase in usage over the last several years. What is the plan for the parking solution? Dave Landstrom explained what has been attempted so far with DNRC land banking etc., as well as different options that have been attempted. The downfall is that the Department has been unable to move quickly enough to complete a purchase in this very desirable area within the Flathead Valley.
 - What is FWP’s stance on personal watercraft and jet boats in the Flathead River? Concerned group could petition the FWP Commission by 9-30-07.
 - The Wolf “Issue” is going to be HUGE.
 - Request made that the media be invited to the Wolf pre-meeting that Ken McDonald is proposing so that the public can be informed on what is being considered.
 - Regulations could be a lot clearer and easier to read.

Next meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, September 5, 2007