CAC Meeting Summary Notes Region One – Kalispell

10/10/07

Present: FWP Staff; Jim Satterfield, Martha Abbrescia, Jim Vashro, Dave Landstrom, Jim Williams, Matt Boyer, Joel Tohtz, Kristy Personett, and Ben Chappelow.

CAC Members: Don Clark, Justin Sliter, Darrell Coverdell, Tony Anderson, Dan Savage, Jim Morey, Jon Dahlberg, Bob Friedman, Marshall Corbett, Terry Conner and Jerry Smalley.

WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT UPDATE PRESENTATION

Jim Satterfield welcomed all to tonight's meeting and started the agenda by introducing Joel Tohtz and Matt Boyer to the group to give an update on the South Fork Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project as during the past two weeks, Black and Blackfoot Lakes were treated and are going very well.

Matt Boyer gave Power Point Presentation, which included photos and video of the treatments.

Rotenone is delivered according to the volume of the treatment area. Black Lake is 49 acres and because of its total volume, 49 barrels of rotenone were applied. To minimize impact to the area, a SEAT aircraft was used to distribute most of the rotenone into the lake and minimal barrels were distributed by boat. The Black Lake treatment was a 3-day effort and included Lower Black Lake, which is 4.3 acres and took .5 barrel of rotenone.

Blackfoot Lake is a 16-acre lake that took one day and 2.5 barrels of rotenone. Delivery was by boat only. SEAT aircraft was not used.

Post treatment will take place approximately 50 days after treatment (mid-late November) at which time sentinel fish will be dropped into the lake in a cage. If the sentinel fish are still living after 24 hours, the lakes are considered detoxified and will be restocked with pure westslope cutthroat trout in the spring after the ice melt.

More genetic testing will take place on approximately 50 fish from potential WCT rehabilitation lakes to determine what course of action is the most appropriate for each specific lake, such as swamping or poisoning.

Annually a public meeting will be conducted to keep the public apprised of the progress of this project.

Matt Boyer, Joel Tohtz and Jim Vashro answered general questions from the CAC members and clarified procedures.

The CAC shared with FWP staff that they feel one reason this project is going well to date is due to the openness of information shared by FWP.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- Waterfowl opener has been slow. North Shore of Flathead Lake is a unique area for waterfowl and is perhaps changing due to the large numbers of water skiers on that north end of the lake.
 - Dave Landstrom shares that there is currently a big effort underway to possibly create a refuge in that area.
- Swan Lake netting...what were the results? How many lake trout? How many bull trout? A rumor mill is starting and it would be good to get this information out to the public as soon as possible.
 - Jim Vashro just received latest update from USFWS prior to this CAC meeting. The results are as follows: Netted 26 miles of Swan Lake, the take consisted of 2174 lake trout of which 1400 were tagged and released. Also netted 378 bull trout and 2 road-killed black bears.

- Jim Satterfield shares with the group that this issue will undoubtedly be under guite a debate and there may be pressure to remove lake trout from Swan Lake. We'll be talking much more about this topic in the future.
- Echo Lake No-Wake petitions many conflicting stories out there as to what needs to happen, why and for whom. What is the current status officially?
 - Jim Satterfield explained the process to petition and the rule making process. We have received 4 different petitions for Echo Lake with differing opinions of how the rules should be implemented and we have received one petition for Swan Lake. The deadline for these types of petitions is 9/30 and are usually addressed at the October Commission meeting. This year, however, the petitions may be postponed to the November Commission meeting. Will have this information in the next few days.
- Archery hunting is really changing...there are just too many people out there with bugles.
- Several months ago, CAC member sent email to Commissioner Workman to petition commission to consider illuminated knock at end of arrow to help archer retrieve arrow and animal. Haven't heard any response.
- There is a growing perception of too many grizzlies in northwest Montana. Could press releases add more information about how many are estimated to be Region One? When the release indicates that 18 have died due to various human-caused interactions...that makes one wonder just how many are out there?
- 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. Today, Don Clark met with Jerry Brown and hopefully this issue will be before the commission in December.
- This is the second year of the mountain lion permits. One thing noticed is that some of the same people received permits this year as did last year. Now that we have data, most hounds man groups agree that a 3year waiting period and preference is needed to distribute those permits equitably.
- Scotsman's Peak area is a mixture of ATV's, OHV's and goats, On 11/20/07 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a "Friends of Scotsman's Peak" Meeting at the First Interstate Bank in Libby to discuss and hopefully get the ball rolling to request that this be designated as a wilderness area.
- Crystal Lake access...what is going on with this? Is this a private lake? Ever since Happy's Inn closed, the public has lost access to this lake and the surrounding homeowner's are saying that it is a private lake.
- How many new gates has Kootenai Forest installed? Why can't they enforce their trails so that more could remain open? The answer is not merely closing more; it's really an enforcement issue with the USFS.
- It was an outstanding year for Hunter Education in R1. The general consensus for the instructors is that the shortened version and online courses won't work. The hands-on training is really needed.

UPDATE ON BLACK BEAR SEASON

- It's been a very busy season in Region 1 and our remote area offices. We have checked in over 200 black bears this fall so far.
- Many black bears taken that would normally be involved in conflict from the out skirts of town.

OUTLOOK ON DEER & ELK SEASON

- Populations of mule, whitetail and elk are strong following a succession of mild winters.
- There is a diverse age structure in the Bull & Buck components of herds.

NEXT Meeting Scheduled for: 12/12/07 at 6:00 p.m., FWP Public Meeting Room