FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2007

LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

In Attendance - Tim Aldrich, Louie Bouma, Edward Hebbe III, Rich Lane, John Manley, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland

Absent – Chad Bauer, Ed Greef, Margaret Moddison, Jaala Wickman

Staff- Mack Long, Lee Bastian, Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz, Mike Thompson

Guests- Chris Smith, FWP Chief of Staff, Gary Bertellotti, Region 4 Supervisor

Opening Remarks: Mack opened the meeting by welcoming our guests. Chris Smith, Chief of Staff and Gary Bertellotti, Regional Supervisor for Region 4. The main two agenda topics will be a legislative update by Chris Smith and Mike Thompson will provide an summary of the Region 2 spring wildlife survey.

General Comments:

Tracy Manley commented that he had two calves killed by wolves. Louie Bouma thanked Vivaca for forwarding the other CAC Notes. Mack Long and Louie Bouma had attended the Ducks Unlimited Banquet in Lincoln and between the two families had won three firearms through their raffle.

RRAFT COMMITTEE (River Recreation Advisory for Tomorrow)

The Governor signed the Executive Order for the creation of the regional RRAFT Committee. 17 members were selected from a pool of 59 applicants. We have representation from all rivers in the region. The RRAFT Committee will be taking a broader look at river usage throughout the region. Tim Aldrich and Jim Olson were selected to serve on the committee.

MONTURE FAS (located between Clearwater Jct and Ovando on Hwy 200)

The public has used the site for boat launching and contributed to damage the banks. During the summer heat and low water flows, Monture Creek is used as a thermal refuge for Bull Trout. We need to decide how this site should be managed. This FAS does not have a developed boat launching site. Some high water events took out some of the bank and we have done some restoration work. Do we close it to all boat launching? Do we designate an area for boat launching? No proposal has been made to increase public access.

POKER JOE FAS

This site has been closed for several months while the department determined if we have

legal access to the site. On March 21, FWP reached a pre-settlement agreement with the landowners along the access road. Since then speed bumps have been installed. Signs stating no RV or boat access have been installed along Hwy 93. No parking signs from the bridge to the site were also installed. We are looking at possibility to increase the parking area. Legal ownership of the access road still needs to be determined.

Grizzly Bears

Has there been a decrease in the number of grizzly bears killed since we implemented the Bear ID test? We know that the grizzly population has been increasing. Do not have any specific data. We did not have any grizzlies killed last year and just one for this year.

Legislation – Chris Smith

It was a rough session but we did come out okay in the end.

No new license fee increases until 2011.

Approved Bills

- 10 million Access Montana (1 time only funded for State Parks & FAS acquisitions)
- Interpretive Specialist Position
- Wildlife Conflict Specialist Position for Region 1
- Survey and Inventory
- Maintain Pilot Position
- 1.2 million for the State Wildlife Grant Program
- General Funding increase each FY of \$250,000 for Fisheries and Wildlife programs
- HB116 & SB126 Permanent funding for Future Fisheries Division
- HB304, HB831, SB128 Water rights permanent instream flow
- HB254 allow 2 rods on Lake and Reservoirs in the Western Fishing District
- SB314 Changed requirement of when you need a warm water fish stamp.
- SB110 Operating an outfitting business without a license is now a felony
- SB115 Redirects all restitution funds from the courts to FWP for Enforcement and Education
- Enforcement division no longer has to do vacancy savings
- HB38 gives the FWP Commission authority to reduce the price for ewe sheep and antlerless moose licenses and eliminate the 7-year wait. Removed the prerequisite for having a general elk license before purchasing an A9-B12 antlerless elk license.
- HB450 only collect the last 4 digits of a social security number
- Approved the addition of the antelope, bison and mountain lion in our supertag lottery.
- SB372 gives the FWP Commission authority to issue wolf license.
- HB364 provide livestock producers with compensation for lost of livestock

because of predators. Contacting Senator Baucus to request funding from the federal government. Defenders of Wildlife have agreed to provide \$50,000. Wildlife Services will do the investigation. Recommending a 7 member board be established to review investigation and determine compensation.

Bills that did not pass

- HB71 Trapper Education
- HB171–1 year waver of hunter education for older hunters
- HB613 lowering age for hunters
- SB78 Bridge Access
- HB381- rewrite the Elk Plan

SPRING WILDLIFE SURVEY - MIKE THOMPSON

Species	Total Population	Permits
Mountain Goats	197	19
Big Horn Sheep	1645	80 ewe 39 either sex
Doe Mule Deer	1663 (sample count)	1125 antlerless doe permits
Antlered Buck Mule Deer		525 permits (5 Hunting Districts have limited buck permits)
Elk	18,208	6,040 antlerless permits + 19 days either sex in the Bitterroot

Survey Data Inputs in Management Decisions:

- Hunting Season Regulations
- Game Damage Assistance
- Agency Timber Sales Reviews
- Subdivision and Development Reviews
- Habitat Protection (Fee & Easement)
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Habitat Enhancement on Private Lands
- Management of other wildlife species
- City, County, State, Federal decision makers and the public