

***Citizen's Advisory Council
Region 2-Missoula
Meeting Notes
December 13, 2006***

Attendance: Mack Long, Rich Lane, Mike Thompson, John Manley, Stephanie Strickland, Jack Reneau, Pat Saffel, Margaret Moddison, Louie Bouma, Ed Greef, Tim Aldrich, Edward Hebbe III, Lee Bastian, Jim Olson, Ginny Schmautz.

Also in Attendance: Michael Lewis, Carol Aldrich.

Absent: Chad Bauer, Jaala Wickman, Bud Pile, Pat O'Herren.

Thank you to Carol Aldrich for helping get the meeting set up and the food prepared.

The meeting commenced at approximately 6:55pm and Mack Long began with a list of topics that he would like to cover during the meeting.

The lists of topics included:

- Michael Lewis from the Helena Responsive Management Unit presents "How Do People Value Fish and Wildlife in the Western United States?"
- Discuss term limits and vacancies. Bud Pile may be moving and may no longer be a part of the committee. Do we replace his position or do we leave it vacant? This is the largest committee in the state and we need to keep the number of members at 18 or less.
- FYI on Poker Joe Access.
- Discuss the creation of the Regional River Recreation Committee.
- Next meeting, cover bison and the disabled access bill.

Michael Lewis then began his PowerPoint presentation on "How Do People Value Fish and Wildlife in the Western United States?"

- Michael first stated that the data collected for this presentation was obtained by a study done by MTFWP and 17 other western states in association with Colorado State University. The study was conducted in 2004 and the objective of the study was to survey the public on how they value their fish and wildlife resource. Another objective of the study was to encourage public involvement and to provide planning and policy development.
- The primary purpose of the study was to determine the values people hold, how they were shaped, where the people live, what influences their values, and how will their values influence management in Montana.
- A brief background of the mail-back survey showed that 3000 people were randomly selected in 18 western states. Montana had the highest response rate. Less than 50% of people surveyed responded. On a follow up telephone survey they found that the people that did not respond were less likely to participate in outdoor activities.
- Values are formed early on in life, are stable, and are highly resistant to change.
- The study showed that over the last 10-15 years traditional values toward wildlife is changing. Traditional values hold the belief that wildlife is here to benefit people.

-There are 4 value types:

- 1) Utilitarian- "Eat'em" attitude. Fish and Wildlife is for human use; people come first.
- 2) Mutualist- "Hug'em" attitude. Humans and Wildlife depend on each other and benefit from one another.
- 3) Pluralist- "Eat'em or hug'em" attitude. Hold both utilitarian and mutualist values. Values will depend on the specific situation.
- 4) Distanced- "Fear'em" attitude. Do not hold either value and have no affinity toward wildlife. If anything they are fearful and distanced from wildlife. Most likely from an urban setting.

-Utilitarian and Pluralists tend to be male or hunt and have lived in the state for a longer period of time.

-Approximately 34% of people surveyed were utilitarians, 33% were mutualists, 20% were pluralists, and 13% were distanced.

-The study found that people that live in urban areas had a higher income level, had a higher level of education, and held a more mutualist value, whereas people that lived in rural areas tended to hold a utilitarian or pluralist value.

-Montana statistics showed that approximately 47% of people surveyed were utilitarians, 19% were mutualists, 27% were pluralists, and 7% were distanced.

-Ginny S. asked if the people surveyed were long time residents or new residents and how many of each were surveyed.

-Michael L. responded that a sampling of all residents were surveyed, new and long time.

-Throughout the 18 states in the survey there were areas of high population and areas of low population. It was found that the more developed a state became, the values moved toward a more mutualist value.

-Over time, 20-50 years, values change.

-Is there a connection to broader societal shift?

-The world value system is gradually shifting from a materialistic value to post materialistic values.

-Definition of materialistic is having the basics: Food, shelter, etc. This represents 2/3 of the United States population.

-Definition of post-materialistic is having beyond the basics of food and shelter and focusing more on quality of life issues. Example: "Where do I belong?"

-States with higher proportions of traditional utilitarian values have the highest portion of materialistic values.

-States with higher proportions of mutualists have the highest portion of post-materialistic values.

-There is a positive relationship between the percentage of mutualists and environmentalism at the state level.

-It is supposed that there is a shift away from utilitarian, though, it is not changing how MTFWP is operated. Montana is still heavily traditional utilitarian values. The shift in values may impact the way MTFWP operates in the long term (40-50 yrs) and would like to be proactive with change.

-With Montana's influx of new residents, there is a lot of butting heads on who is right and wrong because of different sets of values between long time residents and new residents. Understanding each other's values may help for future collaboration.

Michael ended his PowerPoint presentation by asking if anyone had questions or comments.

-Jim O. suggested that the surveys be done more often to track trends.

-Stephanie S. stated that she is not a hunter, but feels that she identifies with the hunting community. She suggested that the definition of a utilitarian value should be changed from lumping hunters into this group because she felt that hunters tend to be very in tune with the land and do not necessarily put wildlife below people; hunters are often more conservationists than others. She felt that the definitions were perpetuating potential for argument.

-Michael L. restated what he heard from Stephanie and said that the definitions weren't meant to suggest that the point is *how* to define people's values, but that people tend to fall into one of these categories.

He also asked, how do you define utilitarian values without offending anyone and without making assumptions?

Michael then used an example of how mutualists display their values as mutualists until a cougar eats Fluffy, the dog. The family value and protection of the family comes first and foremost and many times different values are displayed when issues, such as the cougar, are present.

-Louie B. asserted that as a FWP employee, you tend to hold a more mutualist value. Then he asked, what good are these surveys?

-Mike L. replied that the goal of the surveys is to find out what the public values. We work for you and want only to present the facts.

-Tim A. stated that the presentation is perceived differently than it was necessarily intended to. The public, as they are watching the presentation, try to put themselves into a value group. He also reminded Michael L. that he is not presenting to a bunch of FWP managers.

-Michael L. said that they had borrowed language from Colorado State University (CSU) for definitions in short sentences and used what was generally occurring to get the definitions.

-Pat S. asked if people who are surveyed categorize themselves?

-Michael L. responded by saying that a series of belief statements were created for the surveys at CSU. The belief statements were empirically established and looked at the respondents' answers to start defining value types. It took 20 years to compile the list of values.

-Pat S. suggested that they make the categories more complex so that people did not feel like they were being boxed into groups.

-Rich asked if the survey inquired whether or not the individuals hunted?

-Michael L. responded yes, it was asked if the individual had hunted in the past, present, or plan to hunt in the future. Also if they fish, view wildlife, etc.

-Jim O. asked if the trend starts to shift away from Montana values if there is anything we can do about it?

-Edward H. brought up wolf issues and stated that he did not think they were any good to the coexistence of animals and that he would like to see what the bottom line cost of the wolf program was.

-Michael L. said that wolf issues in Montana are a very hot topic and that it usually follows the traditional utilitarian values. Edward H. represents how 60% of Montanans feel about wolf issues.

- Mack L. suggested that the survey be done more frequently because of the influx of people moving to Montana and the changing trends. He stated that dealing with the public is different now than it was 10 years ago.
- Margaret M. said that people from urban communities have a different set of family values than people from rural communities. Montanans tend to have more conservative values and people moving in from urban communities are bringing new values into the area. The more the urban community gets involved with politics, the more Montanan values change.
- Michael L. said that this creates a new structure in the community.
- Margaret M. suggested that we need to somehow protect Montanan values and protect what urban cultures are trying to move away from.
- Michael L. said that maintaining a cultural identity in Montana is important to its citizens. He also asked how do we stop utilitarian values from becoming mutualist values?
- Stephanie suggested that we educate newcomers, because we can't stop folks from moving in-sustainable use of the land is what is important.
- Ginny S. said that the education of newcomers is a good idea. We kind of do that at the office everyday when answering the phone. New residents have no concept of how wildlife (bears, deer, etc.) lives. New residents need training.
- Lee B. said that the issue of agriculture, selling land, and economic security is changing the landscape of Montana.
- Michael L. said that the shortcoming of the survey is due to so many different values. When it is hard to make ends meet the materialistic needs come into play and land is often sold. How can we enhance or promote values to newcomers? Education is promoted through hunting circles. It is important to understand each other's values.
- Jim O. talked about private rights and how to utilize your own property.
- Pat S. stated that different parts of the state are changing at different rates, for example Missoula is growing much faster than Glasgow. Hunters can fall into any one of the four value categories and should change the "eat'em" definition from utilitarian values because hunters can hold any one of these values. An example might be how Native Americans have a major respect for wildlife.
- Mike L. said he wants to stay in touch with how the public feels and asked, what do you think we should change about the presentation.
- Rich L. asked, who would be buying hunting licenses when utilitarian values die of? Over time, how will we fund increasing programs if the trend is declining for hunting fees?
- The general consensus was that we need to continue to gather data and figure out how the agency will be funded.
- Margaret M. asked how chronic wasting disease would affect license revenue?
- Mack L. said that one strategy to take action against the spread of chronic wasting disease (cwd) was to increase the sale of hunting licenses to reduce the population of deer and thereby preventing the spread of cwd, but this caused a public uproar.
- Louie B. suggested doing a survey to find out about if the 5-week season worked without an extended season. He also asked how the preference point system was working and what number of applicants has preference points? There have not been any statistics provided. Should we keep this system going?

-Tim A. said it would be hard to determine the accuracy of the data collected regarding the 5-week hunting season because of the many variables and speculation such as weather and access.

This ended the discussion about values

-Mack L said there are two things he would like to cover before the meeting adjourned: the Poker Joe Access and the River Recreation Committee.

-Louie B. suggested that we quickly put together a meeting schedule for the year before we continue.

-Dates for tentative schedule are as follows:

Wednesday, February 28th, 2007

Tuesday, May 15th, 2007

Wednesday, August 22nd, 2007

Wednesday, December 5th, 2007

If something comes up we can hold an extra meeting.

-Mack L. gave a briefing of the issue of Poker Joe Access. Poker Joe Access is a managed, primitive site that FWP has had for 33 years. For the last 1.5 years we have been in a battle with the landowners about access. The landowners claim that the deed did not clarify if it was public access 33 years ago. Recently the neighbors of the site have put up a chain to prevent access. We wrote a letter stating that we do not agree and are now taking legal action. We do not know how this will turn out... The neighbors think there is too much speeding, trash, and that their livelihood is being affected. We have started a trash pick up program and have had a Port-a-Potty installed last summer. The media has been covering this issue and we just wanted everyone here to be aware of what is happening. What do you think?

-Lee B. included that the neighbors feel that they are in the right because the survey of the road states that the road after the bridge is classified as private. After the property was purchased in 1973, improvements were made to the site and was originally intended to be an access site. This site has been compared to the stretch of the Blackfoot River, during July and August, as far as being overused.

-Jim O. then shared a story about driving on the Poker Joe Access road and how a neighbor had installed his own speed bumps that were very severe. After driving over the bumps at 15mph, the speed bumps ripped off a panel on the car and tore a hole in the oil pan. Installing the speed bumps is illegal on a public access road without permission.

-Ed G. stated that he had noticed that there were a lot of people at this site and that it is critical what we decide to do now and how it will affect the future. He suggested that there should be more parking, access, and a general increase in the size of the site. If it can't be expanded, he suggested that we sell or trade for another area that can be better utilized.

-Mack L. said that if we build a bigger site, it would put more pressure on the river system. He suggested that maybe we install capacity 3/6 parking stalls that will also reduce access to the site.

-Jack R. said that the site use is only going to get bigger and bigger and cannot be ignored.

-Stephanie said she hadn't thought about parking and asked if everyone thought that if more parking became available, more people would come? She thought that people

would come regardless of available parking spaces and thought that we should try to focus on trying to keep them from parking in landowner areas.

-Tim A. stated that if we are going to spend money to increase the number of access sites in the future, should recognize the need for management. We need a vision about how we are going to manage these areas.

-Louie B. suggested that we take action against the chain put up across the access site by cutting the chain links each time to make it smaller and smaller until it will not reach across any more.

-Pat S. said that there was an article in the Missoulian about the split values of river use. He used the example of the Rock Creek bill being introduced and how fishing accesses are being used for beach parties, not fishing access.

-Jim O. asked if it were possible to start collecting fees to help support access sites, since fishermen currently carry the burden.

-Pat S. said as it is, people cannot get their boats in and out of the water at some of these locations because of the other uses.

-Mack L. said that, what he was hearing is, we should make Poker Joe Access a point of concern and work at figuring out how to manage it.

-Jim O. repeated his thought about an access fee.

-Mack L. replied that they have tried in the past, but it has continually been shot down.

This ended the Poker Joe Access discussion.

-Mack L. said that he wanted to briefly introduce the idea of creating the River Recreation Management group in place of the Blackfoot Recreation committee. This committee will include the Bitterroot, Clark Fork, Rock Creek, and the Blackfoot. Is anyone here interested in sitting in on this type of group? Just planting the seed of thought, no discussion on it tonight, but keep it in mind.

-Lee B. stated that we are planning on sending a packet out to the public with information on this committee. Let us know if there is any interest so we can get you in the application process. The first meeting will be at the end of January and meet once a month for approximately 18 months.

-Mack L.- Drop us an email within the next week if interested.

-Louie B. – Will we be discussing term limits this meeting?

Mack L. – We will cover that next meeting. I know we have been putting it off for some time.

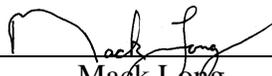
Louie B. – Please thank Vivaca for keeping everyone updated.

Mack L. – In reference to term limits, we don't want to lose everyone at once, so we should try to figure out a way to stagger it.

Thanks for coming.

NEXT CAC MEETING IS SHCEDULED FOR February 28th, 2007

Submitted By: _____


Mack Long

Dated: _____

12/22/06