

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 27, 2008
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 7 PM to 10 PM

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

Absent – Chad Bauer, Stephanie Strickland, Jaala Wickman

Staff- Mack Long, Vivaca Crowser, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz, Dianne Schmautz, Mike Thompson

Guests-Quentin Kujala

Opening Remarks:

Mack introduced Quentin Kujala, Helena Wildlife Bureau Chief, summarized the March Commission Meeting, and described the formation of the statewide elk archery advisory group.

Quentin spoke about the tentative season setting in December. The common thread involved:

1. Justifications
 - Crowding issues
 - Distribution and the possibility it is affected by crowding
 - Equity between user groups (archery and rifle)
2. Season Structure
 - Tied to access
3. Hunter shift (redistribution)
 - If archery is limited where will those hunters go? The Department is looking at those areas.
4. Consistency of regulations for both archery and rifle
5. Equity
 - Do you count number of elk taken or the opportunity to pursue?
6. The Commission adopted as tentative:
 - 75% of 3year average estimated archery inside the Breaks
 - 85% of 3 year average (approximately) outside of the Breaks
 - 2,000+ written and emailed comments received with another 2,400 received at the area meetings.
 - If there are limited permits then non-residents are limited to 10%.
7. Recap of March Commission Meeting on this topic.
8. Statewide Archery Advisory Group
 - 40 nominations with selection by the Director
 - Group to include: landowner, Outfitter, Non-resident Hunter, Resident Hunter, Affiliated, Non-Affiliated, Local Government, and Commerce.
 - Will be looking at alternative season structures.

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QUESTIONS/ANSWERS/DISCUSSION:

1. What are elk plan objectives? Are we under or over?
 - We are over elk plan objectives.
2. How does this affect landowner/outfitter permits?
 - Limited permits causes uncertainty of getting a permit.
 - 10% of non-resident client base gets adjusted.
3. Will the outfitter guarantee go away?
 - Yes!
4. Who is on the new Archery Advisory Group?
 - Names and biographies of members were read.
5. Will meetings be open to the public?
 - Yes.
6. Will the boundary stop at the National Forest line?
 - It will stop at the wilderness line.
7. Discussion of A-9 on Rocky Mountain Front.
8. How widespread is opposition from landowners?
 - Overwhelming.
9. Are the people putting in for permits now aware of the changes?
 - Unknown.
10. Are landowner/outfitters opposed because of lost lease opportunity or for biological reasons?
 - Mostly the first because it is moving from a guaranteed opportunity to the possibility of an opportunity if they draw a permit.
 - UPOM – Dianna Robbins R4 CAC Vice Chair.
 - Upset the Department is taking away their ability to sell elk and will address it in the legislature.
 - The concept of selling elk violates the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Management which is democratic not commercial.
11. The biology of the whole issue should be a priority with season structures and with the Department, not social wants.
 - HB 42 mandates the Department to manage to objectives by 2009
 - Management effectiveness is a piece of the action
 - The Department does not see archery season as the biggest contributor to harvest
12. Elk Plan
 - For elk management districts with a number objective and season. The quota will be one of the following: liberal, restrictive or standard.
 - Changes from this format will be affected by either the department or at the suggestion of the working group.
13. How will we get to objective? Will this change do it?
 - This changes equates to more access.
14. Season extension questions?

- What has been tried?
 - Where did we succeed?
 - Where did we not succeed?
 - Why did we not succeed?
 - What new tools need to be developed?
15. Can names be put on the damage hunt roster now?
 - No. The dates are in the ARM and are July 15 to August 15
 16. If Objectives are now met, is there an access problem?
 - Yes, almost always.
 17. Will there be landowner repercussions such as locking out the public?
 - There are a lot of landowners outside the Breaks that do not know what is going on.
 18. What is the effect from the Continental Divide on west?
 19. Will they address changing equity between rifle and archery?
 - Criteria are built into the season proposals.
 20. Does removal of the guaranteed license restrict access or opportunity?
 21. The season structures for the affected 30 districts are not new to the management toolbox.
 22. The front office people have noticed that a lot of people are not going east any more. The cost of fuel is forcing them to look for opportunities closer to home. Party applications are beginning to make more sense to a lot of people
 23. Limited permits (HD380) for bulls tend to become trophy areas with 7-9 year olds carried on the range.
 24. Should all of these districts be managed for these older bulls? Can you reduce the number of older bulls and still stay in objective? Could we dip into the age structure?
 - Older bulls, higher bull to cow ratio, clearly are a part of the draw to the area.
 25. How do you get people to shoot more cows?
 - Once you shoot a bull, you have to fill a cow tag before you get another bull tag.
 - Give 10 bonus points if you take a cow instead of a bull.
 - Can hunt bulls only in one hunting district but cows anywhere.
 - Help aging hunters to stay in the game with some motorized access.
 26. Education: people do not understand that A9-B12 is an additional license and not a permit and that the only thing needed to purchase it is a conservation license.
 27. B12 are unlimited and bring in non-resident hunters in excess of 17,000

BREAK 8:50 – 9 PM

28. Is there any mention in the Elk Plan about wolves?
 - It only recognizes them as an evolving factor of the landscape.
 - The June 12 Commission Agenda includes wolves.
 - Used to get the late season cow permit at Gardiner but since the wolves

have been introduced there is no longer and opportunity for that tag.

29. Wolves have been pushing elk in HD 298 from one side of the valley to the other and back. Quite a lot of anecdotal information was share on wolf experiences.
30. How do we think of archery? In the 2000 to 2005 time frame 1,000 additional archers were added to the picture. In 2005 they were up 20%.
31. 1700 bison were sent to slaughter. These should be opportunities for hunters. There were 8,300 applications.
 - Once they move over the line, hunting is no longer an option. It is mandatory that they be removed.

COMMENTS FROM CAC MEMBERS

1. **Bison:** Hunters are willing to share half the bison. At least half should go to the hunters and not 100% to the Indians. The Indians are selling the meat. Anecdotal information on purchasing meat. Current EA has limitations. A new EA is in the works.
2. **Antler auctions** are in place once again and are open to the public. They netted approximately \$70,000.
3. **CAC membership rotation.** Three positions are available. 1,2, and 3-year terms need to be in place before advertising. Once the staggered system is set up, then new members are on for 4 years. Members can always re-apply. We will be advertising the positions soon.
4. **Wild Horse Island Sheep Transplant** – Discussion of transplant to Kootenai Falls area, Boulder die off, Lost Creek. Garrison herd is coming back. Couldn't we liberalize the season? Last year the Commission removed the 7-year wait on ewes. The lab report on the Elk Horns dies off is tied to lungworm and then pasturella (pneumonia) gets them.
5. **Plum Creek Timber** – Discussion of options from block management to commercial leases, sales to The Nature Conservancy (TNC), conservation easements, possible FWP enforcement of OHV rules on PCTC lands.
6. **Missoula County Shared Information** – PCTC access will be changing radically with a potential of gated communities in the middle of the forest. Road closures was a topic of discussion as well as the close door discussions with the Forest Service on converting PCTC road cost share to include all uses instead of timber harvest only. The agreement was completed but not signed and would serve as a template for all cost share lands. Attachment D of the agreement does not exist (list of affected lands.) Negotiations with a Federal agency should be public, not private. Missoula County may have to litigate on grounds of public safety. A Mr. Kaufman who purchased the land from PCTC has permanently closed recreation roads that had seasonal closures on them in the Clearwater Area North and East of Lake Alva. Missoula County has taken on the issue of public access and recreation. Wildfire costs in such areas are an issue as well as liability for loss of life. These are not legal documents and the Clerk and Recorder has

been reminded that it is illegal to file such documents. The DNRC is having it's own discussion with PCTC.

7. Trouble brewing in Ravalli County with PCTC lands. They have requested all of their lands be zoned residential at 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres and 1 per 40 acres. FWP comments were not in favor of subdivisions in certain areas. Secretary Rey is in favor of the Forest Service transferring from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. He also favors turning over any Federal land inside of Sovereign Nations. This includes the National Bison Range and other similar areas. When the County responded with objections, the agreement was within hours of being executed with no public involvement. Missoula County will not record the documents but 13 other Counties will accept them. Senator Tester is now involved.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10 PM

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mack Long
MACK LONG, REGION 2 SUPERVISOR

7/10/08
DATE