

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, August 12, 2009
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Janet Bennett, Louie Bouma, Todd Frank, Edward Hebbe III, Dudley Improta, Charlie Johnson, Rich Lane, Denley Loge, John Manley, Chris Marchion, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland

Staff: Mack Long, Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Mike Hathaway, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmutz, Dianne Schmutz, Mike Thompson

Absent Committee Members: Chad Bauer, Margaret Moddison

Opening Remarks:

Regional Supervisor, Mack Long, commenced the meeting at 7:15 with an introduction of new members.

New Members: Janet Bennett, Dudley Improta and Denley Loge have been chosen to join the team by their peers on the Advisory Committee. Tim Aldrich has also been asked to return to the Committee for a second term.

Recognition Awards: A service recognition award was presented to Chris Marchion with sincere appreciation for his valuable contributions to the Advisory Committee. Retiring members Chad Bauer and Margaret Moddison were not in attendance to receive their awards.

Committee Introduction: Each member of the Advisory Committee and each FWP staff member in attendance gave a short bio for benefit of new members.

FWP Departmental Reorganization and Structure: Mack spoke about the Departmental reorganization and explained the new structure and how FWP is funded.

Wolf Report: Wolf Specialist, Liz Bradley provided an over view of wolf area units, numbers, quotas, and regulations.

Biennial Season Setting Process: Wildlife Manager, Mike Thompson, contrasted the old season setting process with the new collaborative methodology of front-loading that process via public comment and through and public open house before the tentative hunting season regulations are written. Public scoping, in the form of written comment, will be handled through the website and mail-in format, and will run from August 4th through September 4th. Key questions to be answered are:

1. What are the issues?
2. What do you like and want to keep?
3. What do you want to change?

The new process will make it possible to incorporate more public input into the season setting process.

Current Items of Interest:

1. Fish Creek
FWP has received a letter of support from the Mineral County Commissioners for the acquisition of approximately 41,000 acres of Plum Creek land in Mineral County. This request will be carried to the FWP Commission for approval to proceed at the Commission Meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2009.

2. Clearwater/Marshall Block
This acquisition of 24,000 acres of Plum Creek land will be funded through the Habitat Conservation Program (HCP) funds.
3. Mitchell Slough
The State Supreme Court has affirmed Mitchell Slough as a public access stream subject to 310 permitting. There are currently three portage requests to be considered with one at Victor Crossing, one at Bell Crossing and one at the Tucker headgate.

Travel Expense Vouchers: Expense vouchers were briefly explained to the new CAC members.

CAC Participation and Interest:

1. Members would like to meet the Director.
2. Discussion on availability of permits to non-residents and how the process works.
3. Commendation from Louie Bouma to Vivaca Crowser for her dedication in providing information to the Committee. Louie often finds it timely.
4. Presentation on the high cost of Zebra Mussellshell mitigation by Pat O’Herren. Pat provided information on control efforts by Washington, Idaho and Montana. Washington Highway Patrol has the authority to stop all out of state boat trailers. Idaho has implemented an annual fee of \$125 for non-resident boats to fund wash stations. Montana legislature has funded nuisance species control that includes this invasive specie.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at the Missoula FWP HQ.

Minutes approved by:

Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

Date