

CAC 3-3-2010

5:30 p.m.

CAC Present: Randy Richard, Ron Hvizdak, Wally Wilkinson, Tony Anderson, Don Clark, Rick Komenda, Mike Shepard, Dan Savage, Darrell Coverdell, Tim Engleson, Roger Diegle, and Greg Foley

FWP Present: Jim Satterfield, John Fraley, Jim Williams, Jim Vashro, Lee Anderson, Dave Landstrom, and Martha Abbrescia

Others: Chuck Hunt

Showed video clips and pictures of the Bighorn sheep transfer from WHI.

Updates from last meeting

Kuhns WMA: Wally Wilkinson has worked with Tim Their to sign the area and this has helped somewhat. The SE corner of Kuhns has a new homeowner and saw someone scoping with their weapon and showed concerns. Thanks to Wally for his help in this topic.

CFAC: Tony & Mike & Greg will be on the sub-committee along with Jim Williams & Tim Thier.

Mountain goats in the WF range – this native habitat and would be a fun project to get you all involved in. This all depends on the priorities within the department and what gets the funding. These sheep may go to where they used to be many years ago....Stryker, Red Meadow North, Mt Thompson Seeden, maybe the head of Williams Creek... Jim Williams will email some “goat info” to the CAC.

Eureka Elk – is ongoing and the biologists involved are talking things through right now....

Wolf Tapeworm information has been emailed out to the CAC. Is there any talk about more information going forward to hunters? Maybe a paragraph in the wolf regs? Handout?

Wolves: waiting on Judge Malloy....to make decision. Meeting next week in Helena (the WL MGR group) going to look at possible regulation stuff for next year. Jim Williams predicts wolf quotas and hunting opportunity will go up. Keep in mind everything depends on Judge’s decision.

Program Updates:

Flathead Lake: The Tribe is looking at holding some scoping meetings sometime this spring. There have been ongoing meeting between the Tribes and the Directors office. Hopefully we’ll

have more information in the next few months. Watch papers for any information regarding scoping meetings.

Church Slough – finally moving ahead to develop boat ramp....the boat use portion of the EA will be the bigger discussion than the ramp itself.

Sterile Gerards are going into Lake Kooconusa once 34,000 of them have been they have been fin clipped.

Sending proposal to the Commission next week to waive the limit on Wildcat Lake in the South Fork project. If it goes thru, it would be adopted in late May.

Pair-A-Dice FAS – is on the town side of the bridge when you're heading toward T Falls/Plains. The locals are excited about it. Looking at late summer construction

Lake Mary Ronan – facelift beginning in September. Improve boat trailer parking. Will start next fall.

Lake Five FAS – there are things happening there.....there has been a settlement agreement in the DO office. The appellants – primary focus is their perceived impacts of increased boating on L5. If you remember they were seeking dual boat laws – one for homeowners and one for others. The DO has agreed to carry to boating rule change request to the Commission that would apply to everyone. Restrictions include: no 200 foot no-wake rule, all water skiing traffic would travel in one direction, one the one to likely be the most controversial....also a proposal to ban the use of personal watercraft.

Round Table:

Randy Richard

- Fishing in the reservoirs has been pretty good.
- Wolf tracks are everywhere.
- Got a letter a few weeks ago....from the MT rep for the Sierra Club and is now the head of Illinois Chapter for Animal Defense Fund,

Wally Wilkinson

- Access is needed on Flathead in the winter. West shore is about the only ramp for the north end of the lake. So, if the tribes want us to catch more fish...where shall we put in? Many people are approaching him about this?
- Wrote a letter to the Governor and Joe Maurier after the Flathead Wildlife meeting. Got a letter back from Art Noonan.

Tony Anderson

- Youth hunt is good for two years, right? -Yes, this will be an interesting one to watch to see what happens.

- Concealed weapons – in Utah their concealed weapons license is good in 32 states. In MT, a person born before 1-1-85 can take the online hunter's education course and can carry concealed in MT. John Fraley will find out if the MT certificate is also good in any other states.

Don Clark

- Anti -trapping bill on public lands. Libby Rod & Gun Club has opposed this bill.
- Re: turning hounds loose if wolves are present....we still turn loose however, we do avoid the most populated wolf areas, also, we don't turn loose a whole pack...only one or two at a time. Not sure if bells on the hounds make any difference.

Bernie Cassidy

- Flathead County has the most concealed weapons permits in the state.

Mike Shepard

- Sheep wrangling was the most fulfilling thing that I have done in a long time. I am humbled.
- The Saturday opener is a STRANG E thing. Messes too much with tradition.

Dan Savage

- Footloose group is very dangerous. Real focus needs to be directed at this right now. The advertisements that Footloose has in the media and are really working on people's emotions. 3 dogs were caught on public land. No mortalities.
- FWP website – no description of CSKT regulations – can some sort of cooperation go on in this arena?

Tim Engleson

- What is the business about the squaring of the bonus point system? The Commission is continuing to discuss this issue. This topic was not approved this time. All other states have a preference point system.

Darrell Coverdell

- Sheep roundup – would surely help if there was more lead time to round up volunteers and coordinate their schedules.
- The HOF program is a great program. The group that I went with to Ashley Lake was awesome.
- Deer are dying in Custer County – the eastern side is having a rough winter.

Greg Foley

- Swan Lake – people do not understand why there is a 10 lake trout limit on Swan lake when we are spending all this money to gill net. Please do news releases to educate people in this area and put information on the website.

Roger Diegle

- Sheep plus domestic sheep equals disease. Education in this area would also be helpful...things like what the disease is, how is it transmitted. Also, Sheep for Weeds program is a disaster for Bighorns. Jim Williams will get everyone the new Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy on PDF.

April 21 is the next meeting.