

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 10, 2010
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Jane Bennett, Louie Bouma, Connie Buresh, Todd Frank, Dudley Improta, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Pat O’Herren, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Carey Schmidt, Dennis Schutz & Stephanie Strickland

Staff: Mack Long, Vivaca Crowser, Ginny Schmautz, Lee Bastian, Mike Thompson

Welcomed New Members: Connie Buresh, Carey Schmidt & Dennis Schutz

Introductions: Went around the room so that everyone could briefly introduce themselves.

Overview of the CAC function: Mack explained the CAC roles and responsibilities for the benefits of the new members and as a reminder to others.

Updates (Brief updates were provided on the following):

- Bitterroot Elk & Proposed Research Project. Mike Thompson summarized the Bitterroot elk population and cow/calf ratio concerns, especially in the West Fork, and related hunting regulation changes. He also summarized an upcoming research project that will examine the cause of elk calf mortality. CAC member Charlie Johnson had requested this update and he provided more information the Bitterroot Elk Working Group and Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association’s involvement with this issue. Group discussion followed.
- R2 Survey & Inventory Reports. Mike Thompson distributed R2 Survey & Inventory report summaries for 2005-2010 for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, antelope, mountain lion, black bear, deer & elk.

Prioritization of Upcoming Meeting Topics:

- It has been several years since we’ve brainstormed topics to cover at future CAC meetings. The following list was developed and everyone had an opportunity to cast their vote for their top 3 topics. We’ll be prioritizing these topics and sending out draft agendas for future meetings.

<i>Votes</i>	<i>Topic</i>
6	➡ Wolves – What now?
5	➡ Hunter access to closed private lands/harboring issues
3	➡ Simplify hunting & fishing regulations/public misunderstanding of regs
3	➡ Restoring outdoor rec. in family culture (esp. hunting, fishing & trapping)
3	➡ Citizen days on rivers—applicability of this model for R2 rivers
2	➡ Commercial river use, especially on the Bitterroot
2	➡ Non-traditional use of Fishing Access Sites

2	➔ Lower hunting age
1	➔ Predators and their effect on wildlife populations
1	➔ Statewide coordination of wildlife harvest strategies
1	➔ ORV use
1	➔ Changes with the intro of the Elk B license/public confusion
	➔ Increasing Antelope in R2
	➔ Review of mule deer permit areas
	➔ Land acquisitions & operations dollars to manage new lands
	➔ Review/revision of elk management plan
	➔ Bighorn sheep population in R2/effects of pneumonia outbreaks
	➔ Public land grazing
	➔ Spotted Dog
	➔ Block Management incentives
	➔ Native vs. non-native species (prioritization for management)
	➔ River Recreation/Alcohol use/behavior issues
	➔ FWP Current Funding (sources & projected balances)
	➔ Non-traditional revenue sources for FWP to explore

Wolves - Discussion led by Mack Long

- ❖ General update on wolf delisting. FWP fact sheets and news release distributed to all CAC members.
- ❖ FWP may appeal the decision along with pursuing other options that will still allow us to manage the impact on Montana's wildlife.
- ❖ Group discussion followed

Other Comments:

- ❖ Request from CAC member Dudley Improta to talk about citizen days on rivers

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by:


 _____ by vc
 Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

 8/17/10
 Date