

# FWP R2 CAC Meeting

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, December 7, 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, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, Pat O’Herren, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Carey Schmidt & Stephanie Strickland

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

**Meeting Topics for Discussion** included fishing regulation simplification, hunting season recap, & overview of upcoming legislative session. FWP then went around the room and asked if there were any additional topics from CAC members for the meeting.

**Fishing Regulations: Pat Saffel**

- Explained the fishing regulation process and how the regulations go out for public review every four years. In 2011 FWP will be making recommendations and seeking public comments on proposed changes. Public comments and final recommendation will go before the FWP Commission at their October meeting for final approval.
- FWP will be recommending a more liberal brown trout harvest throughout the region.
- FWP is also considering trying to simplify regulations for the R2 rivers (especially the Bitterroot).
- CAC members brought up a concern about fish identification & brainstormed some ideas for outreach/education on this topic. Ideas included having an online “fish ID” test that was either voluntary or required.
- Other ideas & concerns expressed by CAC members: Jim Olson would like to see a river recreation plan for the Bitterroot that addresses commercial & non-commercial use. He is interested in finding funding for this effort. Casey Schmidt brought up a discussion on fish screens in the Bitterroot drainage.

**Recap of 2010 Hunting Season: Vivaca Crowser & Mike Thompson**

- This year we opened on a Saturday but the overall harvest for Saturday and Sunday combined was similar to opening day harvest in prior years.
- The biggest change this year in harvest was through the Darby check station and hunter participation. This year there were fewer opportunities for hunters to harvest a cow in HD 250 & 270. A lot of the elk harvest reported through the station came out of the Big Hole Valley during the first part of the season & parts of the Bitterroot during the last 10 days. The number of hunters through the check station was down considerably. Region-wide, hunter participation was down 12% from 2009 and 25% from the five-year average.
- Overall harvest was down but whitetail harvest was up about 30%.
- Received positive comments on the 2 day early deer hunt for youths.
- Charlie Johnson shared his experience from working at the Darby check station. There are many hunters that do not read or understand the regulations.

**Legislation: Mack Long**

- It looks like there could be between 140 and 150 bills that could affect FWP.
- Pat O'Herren – There is a bill that would not allow FWP to provide comments on fish and wildlife habitat for the subdivision review process. One resource we use is the CAPS program that is on the FWP website. Pat would like to see the CAPS program continue as a resource for planners & developers and asked the CAC for feedback on whether they supported the program.
- Louie Bouma & Denley Loge requested that FWP provide the CAC with as much information & updates on the legislative session as they can.

**Other Topics: All**

- Jack Reneau – Wanted to discuss a letter that was sent to Joe Maurier from the Gallatin Wildlife Association in regards to the proposal by FWP to capture 500 elk over 5 years to test for brucellosis. One concern was that an EIS and public review process was needed.
- Denley Loge – Asked if there is a way to have more info included in the regulations so hunters would know before they apply for a special permit in an area where most private land is leased by outfitters. Mike explained that there may be more opportunity for that with the introduction of the new regulations database.
- Pat O'Herren – Have Zebra Mussels been introduced in Flathead Lake? Pat explained that divers had found some early life stage and it has been sent to the lab for testing. General discussion of AIS outreach efforts that were completed in 2010.

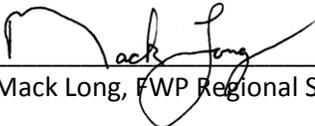
❖ 2011 Meeting Dates

- ✓ February 22
- ✓ May 24
- ✓ August 18
- ✓ December 13

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, February 22, 2011, Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

  
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Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

12/20/2010  
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Date