

# **CAC Meeting**

## **Region 5 Citizen Advisory Council Meeting**

**January 12, 2011  
5:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings, MT 59105**

**Meeting called by: Gary Hammond**

**Type of meeting: CAC Council Meeting**

**Location: Region 5 Headquarters**

**Facilitator: Bob Gibson**

**Attendees: Mike Whittington, Doug Dreeszen, Daniel Aadland, Doug Haacke, Daniel Dutton, Gary Hammond, Bob Gibson, Harold Guse, Doug Habermann, Ken Frazer, Ray Mule', Dianne Stiff, T.O. Smith, Ron Aasheim (video conference)**

**Guest: Gregory Aldrich**

**Absent: Dale Vermillion, Gregory Keller**

### **Topics**

5:30-6:30 p.m.	Welcome, Dinner & Conversation	Gary Hammond
6:30-7:00 p.m.	Issues of Concern	CAC Members
7:00-8:00 p.m.	2011 Legislative Session Overview	Ron Aasheim
8:00-9:00 p.m.	CAPS – Crucial Areas Planning System	T.O. Smith
9:00-9:15 p.m.	Administrative Housekeeping and Adjourn	Bob Gibson

Welcome, Dinner & Conversation

Bob Gibson

Discussion:

- **Mike Whittington** – Concerns about the Yellowstone WMA and proposed location for the state park. The Billings and Laurel Rod & Gun clubs and local chapter of the Pheasants Forever presidents signed a joint letter to the Director asking the Department to rethink that location. We understand that the Commission put off making a final decision on this State Park until this spring. We are hoping to get out to the site with commissioners to visit about this location, and hope there is consideration for some other locations that would lend themselves to some historic interpretation with the Bozeman Trail or maybe a view of Pompey’s Pillar, etc. There is concern about the 2011 legislature. The bills proposed or being rumored to be proposed could affect sportsmen and wildlife. The leading concern among sportsmen continues to be access.
  
- **Dan Aadland** – Game wardens Paul Luepke and Justin Hawkaluk checked Dan’s hunting camp last fall. They really presented themselves in very professional manner, and he appreciated that. The most current item is the story about the monster track vehicle in the river on the East Rosebud done by KTVQ2 television. That is clearly a 310 violation. Dan has included Jeremiah Wood on this violation. The Carbon County Conservation District has been contacted and will be meeting tomorrow. When you see something like this that you don’t like, at least tell the media who are promulgating it. He had contacted KTVQ2 on this story and they stopped running it. Had a complaint from Wanda Wilcox regarding lack of maintenance through the winter at Jeffrey’s Landing on the Stillwater River. People stop and use the restroom. (Bob Gibson clarified that FWP doesn’t maintain any of the FAS’s roads in the winter.)
  
- **Doug Haacke** – Regarding elk populations there are all sorts of thoughts out there about no more elk up to too many. After FWP collects data on the 2010 hunting season, it would be a good idea to get the information out to the public to dispel rumors. Same thing goes for the wolves. Access is still the number one issue. Thanks to Gary and his staff for keeping that promise with access being a priority within Region 5. He was contacted recently regarding a new no trespassing sign that went up on a popular spot on a small stream in Carbon County. It was dealt with within 24 hours, and headed off a potential conflict with a landowner. Thank you to the Region 5 game wardens for taking care of these situations right away. Initiative 161 is a mandate presented by the citizens of Montana. Access could see some money coming in from increased revenues from nonresident licenses, and hope that money will be used like it has been in the past to help resolve access issues and problems. It would be good to get something in the Boulder drainage.
  
- **Dan Dutton** – Our property is in the block management. Talking to hunters last fall the success rate was down due to warmer weather and the deer were not bunching up as quickly as they should. As soon as the corn was picked or cut then the whitetail deer came out like flies. We had the same number of hunter days but a lot less hunters this year. No kids came out to hunt this season. Saw a few vehicles at the new access on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone. There is a big area if you travel from Bridger to Edgar for ducks and geese. Suggested looking at block management in that area for waterfowl only. Dan had two hunters get run off of a piece of BLM land that comes right next to the highway west of Belfry. Encourage signing of public land like this. Jeremiah Wood was out looking at two 310 permits on his property. Introduction of a guest, Greg Aldrich, who is quite active in sportsman’s activities in the area.
  
- **Doug Dreeszen** – Any negative comments from hunters on the Saturday opener? Harold Guse said there were negative comments from landowners, but the hunters loved it. During the youth deer hunt when adults are scouting do they need wear hunter orange? No there isn’t a requirement to wear hunter orange when you are just hiking. Overall the youth hunt was a success.

Action items: Signing of public lands. Block management between Edgar and Bridger.	Person responsible: Gary Hammond & Dale Nixdorf	Deadline: Ongoing
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Discussion: Major Issues -

1. Several pieces of legislation that address Commission authority.
2. Thirteen bills on bison.
3. Thirteen bills on wolves.

4. Several bills dealing with land acquisition.
5. Ranching for wildlife and other ways to address the I161 issue.
6. Budgets - all state agencies have a 5% across the board cut. We'll go back in later in the session and talk about how we may get some of that money back in our authority. FWP is different from other state agencies that we do not have general funds in the fish and wildlife parts of the operations. It doesn't help the general fund, but it is something that is being looked at as far as a reduction in government. Question – Would the money be taken out of licenses and placed in the general fund? If the legislature were to do that than they would be doing something called diversion. If the hunting and fishing license dollars are used for anything other than management of fish and wildlife, the federal government takes all the federal money that FWP receives. This has been discussed in previous sessions and this session.

Bills reviewed: HBs 148, 151, 159, 173, 174, 228, 241 and SBs 13, 43, 83, 84, 90, 107, 112, 115, 119, 133, 136, 144, 148, and 157.

The legislative tracking summary is located on the FWP website - <http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html>. On the home page it is listed under Fish & Wildlife.

Action items: Informational	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: Next CAC Meeting
CAPS – Crucial Areas Planning System		T.O. Smith
<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Strategic planning and data services – a new bureau with reorganization of FWP. T.O. is the bureau chief. He is in charge of all the data collection and the planning of the agency. As a new bureau, he has taken the lead on embracing change taking technology and information to another level with the residential development, oil and gas leases, pipe lines, wind energy, etc., affecting Montana.</p> <p>Crucial Area Planning System (CAPS) – series of maps that describe the information FWP has been collecting through the years in the most important and highly valued areas of the state for specific species, sweets of species, fish and wildlife.</p> <p>CAPS is not regulatory – not something that makes someone do anything. If you are a developer, oil and gas man or looking at a transportation project, no longer do you have to wait until close to the end of the process, when in front of a county commission seeking approval for a zoning change, to find out whether you've purchased a 100 acres in a critical winter range for elk for example. You can look on the internet and find out if that's the case or at least that's what FWP thinks right now. This is information FWP has anyway, and CAPS could possibly help a businessmen from making a wrong decision.</p> <p>CAPS is on the FWP website at <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/conservationInAction/crucialAreas.html">http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/conservationInAction/crucialAreas.html</a>. Members are encouraged to take a look.</p>		
Action items: Informational	Person responsible: T.O. Smith	Deadline: None
Administrative Housekeeping & Adjourn		Bob Gibson
<p>Next Meeting: May 17, 2011</p> <p>Agenda Items: Legislation Recap; Land Purchasing and Closing in Montana Recap; Movement on Wolf Management</p>	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: Notify CAC Members by May 6, 2011