

# FWP R2 CAC Meeting

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 22, 2010  
**LOCATION:** FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

**Members:** Tim Aldrich, Jane Bennett, Louie Bouma, Charlie Johnson, Jack Reneau, Carey Schmidt, Dennis Schutz

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

**Proposed idea for revised boating regulations on the Clark Fork/Bitterroot Rivers - discussion lead by Pat Saffel:**

- Goal: Provide safe, compatible and diverse water-based recreational experiences (see handout of current regulations and proposed revisions).
- Call for a subcommittee to help review proposed changes to current regulations.  
\*Suggestions for the revisions during discussion included changing the wording from “motorboats” to “watercraft.” Also, committee members reached a general consensus that it would be beneficial to get other interest groups involved in the development of the proposal. Pat Saffel affirmed that this had been done.

**OHV Panel Discussion:**

**Panel Members:** Jeff Darrah (FWP), Chuck Briggeman(BLM), Chad Benson(LNF), Jason White (FWP)

- Jeff discussed OHVs at the enforcement level. He said OHV’s are incidental to other enforcement issues, with wardens spending 12 hours/warden/year enforcing OHV regulations. His other points included:
  - ✓ If you squeeze OHV users out of some place, they will move on to another.
  - ✓ The main complaints about OHV users occur during hunting season.
- Chuck (BLM) discussed OHVs on BLM land. He said that the Travel Management Plan of 1999 opened/closed gates, which restricted retrieval of game, and that the BLM had no dedicated trails – just open roads.
- Jason White (Helena) talked about the four components of the Montana OHV program (Grants, Enforcement, Safety and Education). The Grant Program funds go to maintenance, enforcement, weed control, signing of OHV trails, and OHV education. (Funding was hurt by permanent registration of OHV’s). The OHV Program’s wish list includes:
  - ✓ Better partnerships
  - ✓ Common signs
  - ✓ Easy-read maps
  - ✓ Loop-trail systems to help redirect irresponsible use
- Louie asked about youth education/certification: Jason said there is currently a home study course and there will be an online option available soon.

- ▶ Chad (FS) talked about the Ninemile approach to managing OHV's, which included "Forest Protection Officers" (young people enforcing OHV restrictions). His high points included:
  - ✓ 4-5 people can make it bad for everyone
- ▶ OHV discussion:
  - Louie: wants a good certification program for kids, a physical, hands-on program. (Problem=funding)
  - Charlie: commented on number of resources and the detriment to wildlife. Said more education (especially at the youth level) and more enforcement (at the federal level).
  - Janet: suggested we confiscate vehicles, or maybe wire GPS units to vehicles (Problem=funding)
  - Raven: suggested a standardized way to report violations might give people more of an opportunity to report violations and may be more effective.
  - Carey: paradigm problem – we're sympathizing with people over closures, but the reality is they can go wherever they want.
  - Mack: pointed out that FWP often has concerns with proposed loop trails because of their potential impacts on wildlife habitat, but he still see the value as pursuing them as options.
  - Mike: pointed out there are 50,000 registered OHV's in Montana, so does that mean FWP/other land agencies are not communicating as well as they could be with 50,000 people? FWP needs to know this user group better.

#### Legislation

- ▶ Bills briefly mentioned included:
  - ✓ SB 303: Net gain of land purchased by state prohibited – if the state buys something, we have to sell something. Senate second reading 2/23/11
  - ✓ SB 348: Requires FWP to allocate \$6000 for every wolf estimated to inhabit Montana. Senate hearing 2/16/11.
  - ✓ DOT reimbursed – FWP pays \$1-\$3 for every deer carcass the DOT has to pick up.

#### Next meeting

Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

3/08/2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date