FWP R2 CAC Meeting

Citizen Advisory Committee Region 2

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday, May 24, 2011**
LOCATION: **FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula**
TIME: **6:00 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, Jeff Darrah, Ginny Schmautz, Lee Bastian, Mike Thompson, Pat Saffel

Four retiring CAC Members:
These members have terms that expire this year: Louie Bouma, Tracy Manley, Pat O'Herren and Jack Reneau were presented with plaques and a **Big Thanks** for their service on the CAC.

Selection Process for New Members:
Vivaca went over the process to fill our four vacant positions beginning in June. Applications will be available June 15-July 8, and Vivaca will send out a news release to announce the recruitment process on June 15. All four members with expired terms reapply if interested.

Legislation:
Mack - The Department is doing an analysis on all the bills that passed and how they will affect the department, but this has not been completed at this time.

- Dennis Schutz was disappointed that the mandatory trapper education bill failed and the trappers of Montana will stay committed to getting this passed during the next legislative session.
- Several question on how the bison bills turned out. CAC members wanted to know:
  - Will bison be put on Spotted Dog? And Mack replied that the department is working on a EA to explore options, including Spotted Dog, where bison could be placed.
- Several comments on the need to keep working for more habitat for sportsman and more access for the public.

A round table discussion, led by CAC members on issues, concerns, suggestions and what they are hearing in their communities and circles:

- FWP needs to consider how to reach some of the outdoor minded public that does not engage in hunting and fishing as their primary outdoor recreation activities. These general recreationists are very engaged in the outdoors, but they

don't even know what FWP does, how it is funded, what its mandates are, etc. For example, these general recreationists have a hard time understanding the wolf controversy and the difference between the Federal Fish and Wildlife and MT FWP. The wolf issue has been very divisive and has damaged the general public's perception of hunters and FWP

- Feeling that FWP is disliked amongst some of the CAC circles because they are not understood. Maybe FWP should focus on efforts to determine how to market itself to the general public so that there is an understanding of who the agency is, what FWP does and why and how it is funded. FWP could do a better job of making itself relevant to more people.
- Get kids out of the classroom; there are opportunities to engage high school students in Missoula in FWP projects. Kids could help develop websites or work on some field projects. Have one or two youth member on our CAC.
- Hunter recruitment: Some feeling among group members that kids under 12 should be allowed to hunt.
- Several members expressed the sentiment that they are learning a lot by being a part of the CAC.
- Hunter access continues to be a concerns that many CAC members are hearing in their circles.
- Landowner issues – One landowner can lock up his land and it causes problems for all the surrounds landowners.
- Need to revisit our Elk Management Plan and permits in archery only areas. One member is hearing comments that Bow hunters are killing all the big elk.
- Complements to the work that the biologists are doing in the Bitterroot, especially in regards to the elk research study.
- Stream Access – after seeing what happened this legislative session, it is really important to educate the public on what it is and the importance.

Next meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2011 dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

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Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor Date