2010-09-30 CAC Notes

Present: Jim Satterfield, Jim Williams, Roger Diegle, Greg Foley, Darrell Coverdell, Jon Dahlberg, Tony Anderson, John Fraley, Lee Williams, Dave Landstrom, Jim Vashro, Buzz Isfeld, Don Clark, Mike Shepard, Bernie Cassidy, Sue Tomas, Randy Richard and Martha Abbrescia.

Administrative updates

List Term Lengths of all active members in the minutes. Asking all to stay on the committee through June 2011.

Report on the Youth Assistance Program—YAP subcommittee

Overview of program for youths that might not otherwise be able to afford fishing or hunting licenses.

Sue Tomas – set up bank account for Youth Assistance Program by donations that have been received. Three licenses have been given out to date to kids from Big Brother / Sisters. \$685.00 received in donations. The child needs to be referred by someone or some organization like Big Brothers, etc. This will be "word-of-mouth" program and not advertised in News Paper. Tony indicated that it is a 501 3c non-profit company. (Yikes!)

Deer and Elk Hunting Season Outlook—Jim Williams

New Wildlife Biologist in Libby, Tonya Chilton, thanks to Don Clark for participating on the committee.

Deer ONLY early hunt for youths on 10/21 & 10/22. Saturday opener this year for regular season.

Survey & Inventory Results:

 WT Deer
 Fawns/100 Adults: 2010=37, 2009=24, 2008=29, 2007=41
 (4,904 WT Deer Classified)

 Mule Deer
 Fawns/100 Adults: 2010=39
 (712 Mule Deer Classified)

 Elk
 Calves/100 Cows: 2010=25
 (3,271 Elk Classified)

Big Horn Sheep Transplant – domestics are in the Tea Kettle Area. Want to be REAL careful due to disease. This topic is on hold.

Mountain Goats – Reintroduction to the Whitefish Range of Northwest Montana. (Smoky Range, Stryker, Wedge Canyon area). Maybe move 15 goats to this area and augment some from the Crazies. Want to be real careful due to Crown of the Continent Eco-system. (Jim Williams is more of a "lumper").

CAC Members and FWP Managers will provide updates and input on topics of interest.

Rick Komenda – Wolves are gonna be one of the top subjects this year. Stillwater DNRC is going to open some roads this year to ADA hunting. It is a mess down in Lake County with what is going on in Law Enforcement.

Roger Diegle – the press release only mentions 525 wolves. The commissioner Bob Reams last year said there would be at least 200 wolves. How many are there? Why always the minimalist approach.

Greg Foley – these types of numbers (above) make it look like all agencies agree and that FWP also estimates that there is only 525 wolves! This is ridiculous!

Flathead Lake – what s going on there?

Darrell Coverdell – Perch and Whitefish fishing on Flathead Lake has been tough. Vashro – the storms in April & May killed the perch fry. Without any Perch of the year, the Whitefish don't come.

Some folks don't understand the use of game cameras – please explain. Lee – they are illegal if you use them for hunting. If you do have a hunting license and you're out there actively hunting, you can't have a camera. They can't be used to assist you in your hunt. You CAN use them to scout an area PRIOR to the season.

Jon Dahlberg – Been around Dillon for elk, hear about ranchers talking about wolves....but never saw any sign of them.

Tony Anderson – because of car accident this spring wasn't able to go bear hunting this fall.

Flathead Wildlife and Montana Wildlife Federation is going to pursue legislative action toward "bucket biology".

Dave Landstrom – it's nice to be a Parks employee in these Wolf and bull trout meetings! The Parks Division is going through a Parks fee increase through the Parks Biennial Fee Rule. It doesn't have to go through the Legislature.

Parks camping is going from \$15 to \$18. The other big news is that a reservation system is coming for next year...most likely starting in March. There will be a \$10.00 reservation fee that will go to the company. There will only be 24 state parks (out of 53) participating in the reservation system and then only 50% of the sites at those parks will be involved.

Street Pond – Robin Street wanted to leave a legacy and after 4 years this is finally done! Access, parking, restrooms etc on 5 acres. Managed as a family fishing pond in the Fishing Access Site Program. 250 catchable rainbows have been planted.

Lake Mary Ronan project is underway and is scheduled to be done in November. That baby is getting a facelift!

New process for permitting fishing competitions – (ice fishing derbies) R1 derbies account for almost half of the fishing derbies in the state. Some derbies are fitting into the commercial use policies.

Jim Vashro – Fishing regulations are set every 4 years and the major process will be starting again next year. Some proposals have been sent to the commission for consideration. More to come.

Shady Lane Family Fishing Pond has had a picnic shelter built for the public's use.

Wildcat Lake is going well.

Swan Lake Netting program got 10,000 lake trout this year. Last year netted 5,000. Next year will hold another round of netting.

Flathead Lake – Scoping meetings this spring....CSKT assembled an ID Team. CSKT says they will have EA out by December. Joint State-Tribal Agreement has been renewed every 4 years. The new proposal is to renew it indefinetly. There will be public meeting held in Polson at the City Library on October 14.

Buzz Isfeld – thanks for allowing alumni

Wally Wilkinson – Youth Trap shooting League – if you know of any kids that want to learn how to shoot let Wally know. Kids have to attend Hunter's Safety first and must be 12-18 years old (still in high school).

Don Clark – Baucus / Tester introduced their wolf hunt bill – at least they are trying. Excited about Tonya as the new Libby Biologist.

Retired Steve Magone wrote a very good article about the tapeworms in wolves.

Excited about the possible work to reintroduce the goat.

Mike Shepard – does the group want him to follow up to see if the folks that own the domestic sheep/goats can or will move them somewhere else? Yes – but, include Tim Their, the biologist.

Why doesn't FWP extend bear season to the middle of June so that some of the bears that are getting all over town could be eliminated? Jim Williams gives lengthy explanation.

Also says he has never seen so many ATV's behind closed gates in his life. No enforcement is happening out there in the backcountry.

Bernie Cassidy – Grouse numbers are down. They are few & fair between. There are a lot of bears running around.

Randy Richard – Lawmaker once said that statistics show that 80% of all statistics are false. The fawn count in Eureka is way down. Nobody is seeing fawns in that area. Seeing a lot more elk calves though. Seeing wolves on the east side.

Set future meeting dates, select topics for 2010-2011 season

December 1, is the next tentative meeting date.

Topics to include: Lake 5, Hunting Season Round Up, follow up on Initiative 160 Anti-Trapping, Pre-legislative session.

The following items were suggested at the June 2010 meeting as topics for the coming year.

- --Wolf management, listing status, hunting quotas, seasons, and areas
- --Flathead Lake Fisheries Co-management with the Tribes, status and EA
- --Access issues: Sophie Lake, land conservation projects, Flathead Lake, others
- --Enforcement topics: fine levels, interaction with penalties and judges.

Bring Tim Their in to give some updates.