

R1 CAC Meeting 5-11-2011

FWP Public Meeting Room

Members Present: Tony Anderson, Mike Shepard, Bernie Cassidy, Don Clark, Ron Hvizdak, Randy Richard, Greg Foley, Dan Savage, Darrell Coverdale, Roger Diegel, Jon Dahlberg

FWP Present: John Fraley, Lee Anderson, Jim Satterfield, Dave Landstrom, Tim Thier, Jim Williams, Matt Boyer, Joel Tohtz, Brian Marotz, Kristy Personett

Jim Satterfield: Legislative session overview. Bills pertaining to FWP received a lot of vetoes. Although we still had some good bills pass. Tony Anderson noted that the legislative session created a lot of negative press throughout the States. Jim also discussed using this CAC meeting for the public meeting regarding the South Fork Westslope Cutthroat Conservation Program. Public participation has declined on the issue, which would infer that FWP is doing a good job on this project.

Tim Thier: Eureka Urban Elk Issue (See Tim's memo, attached, that presents management options)

- The population is increasing and comfortable where they are; especially Dancing Prairie Preserve where over-browsing of the resource is causing trouble. Wolves are not as big an issue as some people think.
- Issues include homeowners worried about hunting close to homes, hunter numbers, resources being over-grazed (especially Dancing Prairie's rough fescue, a threatened plant species).
- The issues are being addressed and homeowners are more knowledgeable about options they have.
- Options that were identified include limiting hunter numbers in certain areas by special permit bull hunting, late season hunt, antlerless elk hunting opportunities, Nature Conservancy to do more on their property (Dancing Prairie). Plan A is increasing public awareness of hunting rules by signing. Plan B is permits to reduce hunter numbers.
- Maria and Lewis of TNC were present. Lewis has offered to schedule hunters for Dancing Prairie. Maria is concerned about houses/neighbors around the Preserve being affected by hunters. She has talked with Sean ___ about the issue. He informed her that hazing doesn't work to move populations, just hunting. Maria is worried about the degradation of the Preserve and wondered where the elk would go if "harassed"? Thier said most likely the Wood's Ranch and Forest Service/DNRC lands.
- A late season hunt would be on private land only to reduce hunter numbers during general season. Thier thought we could have a muzzleloader season on DP.

- Anderson also suggested a block management type of agreement with TNP to support the Dancing Prairie mission.

Action items: signing, TNC discussion, proposals for fall seasons, news release.

Satterfield closed the discussion in preparation of the WCT presentation by Matt Boyer. Jim congratulated the sub-committee on urban Eureka elk on their work.

Don Clark thanked Jim Williams for the excellent work on the Mtn. Lion Symposium.

Mike Shepard asked about the goat transplant; is it dead? Thier says it's on "hold" waiting for lab results and more information, also working with Glacier Nat'l Park.

Bernie Cassidy talked about the new FWP violation laws. They are having workshops and training.

Next CAC meeting/BBQ will be held at Lone Pine on Wednesday, June 22nd from 6 – 9 pm.