

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

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MEETING DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 2011
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Louie Bouma, Jane Bennett, Carey Schmidt, Todd Frank, Tim Aldrich, Jim Olson, Charlie Johnson, Jack Reneau, Denley Loge, Connie Buresh, Dudley Improta, Ray Rugg, and Dennis Schutz

Staff: Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz, Mike Thompson and Mack Long

Round-robin:

CAC members went around the table and shared what they had been hearing. An overview of the topics brought to the table included:

- Mountain lions are moving down to closer homes and subdivisions
- People are not happy with the elk “b” licenses
- Outfitters want to bring clients to hunt on BMA’s
- Grizzly bears are everywhere in the upper Blackfoot
- People are seeing a lot more problem bears in the valleys

Fishing Regulations and Boating Regulations - Pat Saffel, Regional Fisheries Manager

The committee thanked the Department for their handling of the comments, public meetings and finding a good compromise for the final boating regulation changes on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers near Missoula.

Pat summarized that fishing regulation setting process went fairly well with a moderate amount of public interest. Some of the stretches of the Bitterroot River, including the east and west forks, were changed in order to simplify the regulations. Brown trout regulations were liberalized on parts of the Bitterroot and Rock Creek.

Bison & Wolf Update – Mack Long, Regional Supervisor

Due to the large amount of public comment against relocating bison on Wildlife Management Areas, bison will not be placed on any of the state’s WMAs. Right now it looks like bison will be moved to the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

The wolf season has been extended to February 15th. At the January Commission Meeting FWP will be looking at other options to harvest wolves in order to reach the 220 quota. Reaching the statewide quota is very important to our wolf

management goals, and locally we really need to reduce the number of wolves in HD 250. We have very few hunters on the ground this season in HD 250 because deer and elk hunting are limited in this district.

To increase wolf harvest, members pointed out that hunters need more tools and suggested considering:

- Using electric calls
- Baiting
- Trapping – take it on as a pilot project – trappers could keep the first wolf and any others they trapped would go against the quota
- Have Idaho people come over to teach a class
- Reduce the cost of nonresident licenses
- Offer more than one wolf license to a hunter
- Have more hunters on the ground in HD250

2012 - 2013 Proposed Hunting Season Updates – Mike Thompson – Regional Wildlife Manager

Mike reviewed the proposed hunting regulation changes for Region 2. The deadline for public comments is 5:00 PM Monday, January 23rd. FWP distributed postcards with information on the dates and locations for the season setting meetings.

2012 Meeting Dates

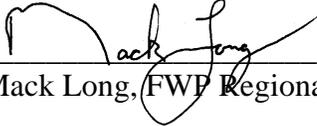
The meetings will be the first Tuesday of the following months starting with dinner at 6:00 pm with the meeting to follow at 6:30 pm

- February 7
- May 1
- August 7
- December 4

Next meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 6 pm, at the FWP R2 Office

Minutes approved by:



Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

12/20/2011

Date