

4/4/12 CAC Notes

Present: Ron Hvizdak, Lee Brundin, Paul Fieldner, Don Clark, Terry Comstock, Wally Wilkinson, Mike Corkish, Tony Anderson, Brent Mitchell, Mike Shepard, Chuck Hunt, Greg Foley, Roger Diegle, Darrell Coverdell, Linda Regnier, Rick Komenda, Randy Richard, Dan Savage, Steve Hawkins, Kari Gabriel, Grif Gabriel, Lee Anderson, Alan Wood, Dave Landstrom, John Fraley, Jim Satterfield, Martha Abbrescia

Caribou News Clip

25 Year Bowhunter Instructor award to Terry Comstock

Flathead Lake NEPA Process Update: Jim Satterfield shares the letter that Bruce Rich sent to Tom McDonald (CSKT) asking that FWP be removed from the EIS in its present state because FWP feels the document is incomplete in both content and process.

Wally: When was the Flathead Lake Co-Management plan was created? Was there any modeling done for the number of laketrout? The Tribes estimate a range from 660K to 1.8 M lake trout in Flathead lake.

JS- to emphasis my intent tonight is to simply bring you up to speed on why FWP temporarily has withdrawn from the EIS process.

Rick Komenda: Who will be the Decision makers in this process? FWP Director and Tribal Chairman (Originally was Pat Graham and Fred Matt)

Other Fisheries Update: Jim Vashro –

Fishing Season – Handed out current Hooked on Fishing Activities if anyone is interested in helping out. New Regulations are also available. One of the big changes – family fishing ponds used to be on honor system, now regulations state that adults can only catch & release.

Mining operations in Canada could cause significant impacts to some of our drainages due to Selenium.

Dave Landstrom – Parks Update: Next month we bring on 50 seasonals to run our State Parks. We're already open for camping in places around Flathead for Mack Days. Big initiatives taking place right now – one being that we were afraid of losing funding due to small vehicle registration going away. In fact, the fee went up \$2.00 to \$6.00 on

your license for 54 state parks annual pass. The real change has happened with the Opt Out - If they do opt out, its for the life of the vehicle.

West Shore Ramp is being extended by 15 feet.

Lee Anderson / Enforcement

Working with the Sherriff's Office in Lake County to address private ownership of exotic animals.

Update on Nathan Reiner position / DNRC.

Worked with Whitefish PD about mule deer shot in town and ended up shooting a couple of houses.

Spring bear season is coming up and you don't have to validate your license anymore... its good statewide.

Round Table:

Ron Hvizdak: Hunter Ed changes – we had 22 11 year olds and 8 of those don't tyrn 12 until after the season. The March 15 deadline is adding to the Costs of FWP, that sort of thing isn't cheap. Kids can't count cow elk now...mixed reviews....the parents that have kids don't like it and the ones that don't have kids really like it.

Lee Brundin: Thanks to Kent Laudon for the talk in Libby on Wolves. He was very professional and doesn't seem biased.

Paul Fieldner: sold \$217,000 worth of fur at MT Trappers Association event. There was also a wolf trapping group there with the thought that if FWP starts to look at trapping as a wolf management tool, perhaps they can lend their opinion as to how to best go about it. Seems that snares are the effective option is this general locality.

Don Clark: Had a houndsmen meeting in Libby on March 12. Jim Williams and Tim Their, Tonya Chilton and Phil Kilbreath were all there. The guys are pretty excited about new regulations on wolves.

Terry Comstock: Has been on Upland Game bird Council since I've been off the CAC. It's been a really great experience and really informative.

Steve Hawkins: upset about regulation change in HD109 that went to permit for the last two weeks. Nothing about the permit only in the regs or March 15 packet!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wally: Where are the whitefish in Flathead Lake? In springs when we get a good hatch of yellow perch, the whitefish come in to feed on them and this makes them very catchable. The combination of high winds and cold weather has essentially killed the perch eggs, not bringing the whitefish in to feed in them.

Tony – Wolves, wolves, wolves. They've stopped looking at the biological issues.

Robin Street will be presented with a picture that shows his dream of lots of kids fishing on his pond.

Brent Mitchell: Audobon would like to give Ben Chappelow an "Atta Boy" for helping us on everything from vandalism to whatever.... Audobon is also having a bird festival in June. Also a handicapped trail will be put in that will overlook the Ox bow water on the left. (Go in on Treasure Lane and the first 700 feet will be accessible. Note: no dogs or horses in the Owen Sourwyne area!!!!)

Mike Shepard – buddy's dog was chewed up by wolf in Columbia Falls. The subdivisions need more direction from the FWP planner.

Chuck Hunt: McGregor Lake access cost a little over \$8000.00 in attorneys fees to get sportsman's access back.

Flathead Wildlife meeting on 4/12 at 7 pm will be about Wild Horse State Park management plan as designated primitive park.

Greg Foley: Bonus points are now squared this year. This is a huge thing this year to help your odds! Some good studies out there going on regarding mountain lions. There are some good things across the board happening with predator control.

Darrell Coverdell: Echo Lake needs some advance planning this year as it will most likely have some flooding. It would be great to give some advance criteria to the folks so that it wouldn't be such a surprise.

Domestic wolves are back in the Ferndale area and they seem to like to go after other domestic animals. Is there some legal recovery for the owners of the domestic wolves to be sued due to the loss caused by their animals?

Linda Regnier: Thank you for the information regarding fish tonight – thank you Jim Vashro. I've been trying to educate myself on the wolf issue regarding viable wolf issues.

Rick Komenda – personally not a trapper, however, I support that mode of management. There's a whole hassle of gubernatorial candidates – talk with these candidates to see where they stand on many of these issues.

Randy Richard – I make my living through furbearers. We went thru bad winter of 96-97 and it took about 3 years to recover. The mountain lions have taken a beating in the regulation process because we can't control the wolves and we can't control the bears. Tim talked to me about going to a permit season on the east side for last two weeks of the year. Did Tim cave for the wishes for three big land owners? If this is what happened, I will be very vocal because that just isn't right! Regarding the Selenium, is a by-product of coal mining and is a bio buildup like mercury. It causes schlerosois of the liver and birth defects. Lake Kooocanusa (in Canada) is classified as threatened. The selenium levels are extremely high in the reservoir. The Libby people just went thru asbestos and now they'll have to deal with Selenium poisoning as well?

Dan Savage: Denny Rehberg bill 1581 appears to have a lot of implications for sportsmen.