

CAC Meeting

Region 5 Citizen Advisory Council Meeting

December 11, 2012
5:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105

Meeting called by: Bob Gibson

Type of meeting: CAC Council Meeting

Location: Region 5 Headquarters

Facilitator: Bob Gibson

Attendees: Mike Whittington, Doug Dreeszen, Daniel Aadland, Doug Haacke, Daniel Dutton, Dale Vermillion, Bob Gibson, Harold Guse, Ken Frazer, Ray Mule', Dianne Stiff, Doug Habermann

Guests: Chas Van Genderen, State Parks Administrator, Rep. Virginia Court – D-Billings (Husband Jim)

Absent: Gary Hammond, Greg Keller

Topics

5:30-6:30 p.m.	Welcome, Dinner & Conversation	Bob Gibson
6:30-7:00 p.m.	Issues of Concern	CAC
7:00-9:15 p.m.	2013 Legislature	Members/ Legislative Rep.
9:15-9:30 p.m.	Administrative Housekeeping and Adjourn	Bob Gibson

Welcome, Dinner & Conversation

Bob Gibson

Discussion:

- Dan Dutton – There were a number of hunters that were in his area near Belfry this fall. The deer population is lower which has been for the last few years. The road is complete so noticed people are using the new fishing access site to hunt birds.
- Dan Aadland – Even though mule deer numbers are down in hunting districts 575 and 520, there are plenty of mule deer does on their place.
- Doug Haacke – No report.
- Dale Vermillion – On Sweet Grass Creek where their property is located, they are overrun with whitetail, but not mule deer.
- Mike Whittington – The Billings Rod and Gun Club has begun partnering with Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) on the pheasant production project located on the Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area. They have \$4000 in the budget for next year. A presentation on this project would be good to have at a one of our future CAC meetings. The Billings Rod and Gun Club came up with \$5000 of year end money for ranches that had fences burned during the summer. This is assistance to ranchers who allow public hunting. If any CAC members know of anyone, let Mike know.
- Doug Dreeszen – Doug had a question on a bighorn sheep being taken illegally in the Pryor Mountains. It was in fact a legal harvest. His next question was why the Nez Pierce tribal members can hunt elk near Gardiner since there is no longer a late season there anymore. Harold Guse explained that there is a part of their treaty that addresses unoccupied areas of traditional hunting. This started with bison hunting and has expanded to elk. There are other tribes that are allowed to do the same.

Topics for future meetings: Pheasant Production Habitat Projects

Person responsible:
Bob Gibson

Deadline:
Future CAC Meetings

2013 Legislature Discussion

Legislature/CAC Members

Discussion:

Bob Gibson passed out the official list of bills that FWP will be pushing this session. Nothing really controversial and if anyone has questions, Bob can answer.

Virginia Court is on the FWP House Committee for the second time around. She is a proponent of state parks. None of the bills she is looking at herself currently affect FWP during this session, although this is one of the busiest committees as far as citizen participation. She encourages citizens to participate and the Citizen Advisory Council to contact them.

Topics brought up by CAC members:

- The resurrection of the ditch bill.
- Concerns regarding a drafted bill to stop all future bighorn sheep transplants.
- Supportive of block management enhancement.
- Concerns about bills that would compromise access.
- Concerns about bison bills. The bison issue perceptions have already impacted and shut down some properties to hunting.
- The sportsmen community is counting on FWP’s liberalized wolf regulations.

- Cut back grazing on public land is another issue.
- There is potential legislation to change record keeping with licensed outfitters that would handicap enforcement efforts.
- The penalties and fines seem so small in Montana on fish and game violations. Would support stiffer penalties in our state.
- Definitely not opposed to an increase in the cost of a resident fishing license and would be supportive of an overall reasonable increase cost of licenses if it were brought up.

Action items: Informational	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: None
Administrative Housekeeping & Adjourn		Bob Gibson
Next Meeting: Early March 2013.	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: Notify CAC Members by late February 2013