

R1 CAC Meeting

11-29-2012

FWP, Public Meeting Room, 6:30 p.m.

CAC Present: Kari Gabriel, Rick Komenda, Linda Regnier, Darrell Coverdell, Greg Foley, Roger Deigle, Chuck Hunt, Don Bothwell, Jon Dahlberg, Mike Shepard, Wally Wilkinson, Paul Fielder, Ron Hvizdak, Lee Brundin, Tony Anderson.

FWP: John Fraley, Jim Williams, John Vore, Dave Landstrom, and Martha Abbrescia.

Guest: Senator –Elect Jennifer Fielder

Plum Creek and Stoltze Lands, Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Access: Land use guidelines, wolf trapping, vandalism, what sportsmen can do to help:

Brian Hobday: Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. – shares with all the Open Lands use Policy and shares maps.

History: Stoltze has been around since early 1900's and are from the Minnesota area. Stoltze is down to only 1 mill now, used to have 3 mills operational. This site has been around since 1923. Stoltze owns approximately 38,000 acres. Our primary goal is managing for wood, wildlife, water and recreation. We used balanced management. Here is more liberal than in MN. For example, we allow OHV behind gates here, however off-road is limited to the actual roads. Recreational use continues to increase on Stoltze Lands. The use of the lands is a "neighborly accommodation" it is a privilege not a right. Primary problems we experience are weed spread and vandalism. We've established a really good working relationship with the local game warden, Chris Crane. Over the years we have had extreme predation problems. Being in Block Management really helps because in exchange for allowing hunting on our lands, we get enforcement, etc.

Tony Anderson: Asks if information pertaining to the costs associated with the damages that take place could be distributed so that the CAC could help remind folks to be respectful so that these lands remain open to the public, as the privilege that it is.

Brad Moehlmann: Plum Creek Timber Co. - Passes out Open Lands Policy.

Plum Creek Timber Company is from Oregon, managing coastal forests. Plum Creek is the largest private land owner in northwest MT, where there are bountiful recreational opportunities. Plum Creek lands are also in the block mgmt program and open to hunting, however, not all areas are drivable.

There is a premier disabled hunting site at Red Gate Road with 12 miles of road. Big step we took this year is that we allowed recreational trapping, following the FWP regulations regarding wolf trapping. Trappers must be certified by FWP. This is working pretty well so far. Traps are not allowed within 150 feet of any road or trail or 1000 feet of any residential area. Plum creek gives out permits for wood cutting up to 2 cords of wood from June 1 through November 30 for \$25. No commercial fire wood cutting. Things to be aware of is that we have open and closed roads. A lot of roads are gated but that doesn't mean they are closed. Look for the sign that says that the road is open or closed. On closed roads we DO NOT allow OHV's ...this is different from Stoltze.

One thing that is becoming a big deal is that there have been a lot of people parking in front of the gates. This is becoming a real big deal.

Plum Creek partnered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and received \$50k for weed control in the Thompson River area to promote habitat. This sort of partnership helps to control costs to keep lands open.

Single most popular vandalism is damage to gates.

State Parks, trails program, DNRC Leases; Recreational Use Permits,

Dave Landstrom, FWP Parks Division –Senator Elect Fielder asked for an overview on MT State Parks breaking away from FWP, and for the viewpoint of the CAC

- feels that having two commissions for FWP would be problematic.
- biggest problem of the Parks program is funding.
- Parks issues usually come in way down the line compared to the popular hunting/fishing issues, get very little time from the commissioners.

** This would be a really good topic for another meeting once more is known.

Greg Poncin, DNRC – School Trust land monies are to fund education. There are several areas that we formally lease to FWP for camping.

Greg Foley: How will the new lease at Big Arm be determined? - What will it appraise at in 2014 when current lease is over?

CAC Roundtable: Current advisors should be prepared to report on one or two issues and pass along advice

Rick Komenda: Needs clarification from Enforcement...if hunter walks behind gate & legally takes animal then goes to get ATV for retrieval. I've heard that this a game violation or is it simply a trespass?

Linda Regnier: been trying to keep track of issues. Especially disheartened about the Commission decision in the Spring regarding trapping. I'm very sad that they extended the trapping season to the end of February.

Greg Foley: Had been on goat hunt in eastern MT by Big Timber, ranch has been in family for 70 years, for the 1st time they've closed access to hunters due to free ranging bison. Rancher-after-rancher are getting their ducks in a row to go together and close their lands to the sportsman. FWP is causing a lack of access for the sportsman. This is a serious problem and access on the east is going to get worse and worse until this gets resolved. Growing problem that will affect our access.

Roger Diegle: The above was more the Governor than FWP. Will something change now that Schweitzer is going to be gone?

Chuck Hunt: Robin Street was nominated for the Great Chief Award for Pine Grove Pond. ...hats off again to their family. Dec 13 is Flathead Wildlife's annual game feed here in this

room...you are welcome to come. Church Slough is meeting with the attorney to put pressure on attorney to reopen Church Slough.

Mike Shepard: Encounters with 9 lions and 4 grizzly bears. One was 8.5 feet long!!

Wally: Youth trap shooting league will be the end of January. Will bring flyers to the next CAC.

Paul Fielder: Looking for clarification....trap pan tension on wolf traps? Just small area in R1 requires an 8 lb minimum tension in the pan area...where lynx are a concern.

Ron Hvizdak: Cow B tags: People are not liking the fact that people can shoot two elk. Preference is permits vs. b tags. Knows people that got moose tags (finally) and hunted for 66 days and never even saw a moose.

Lee Brundin: Moose is a big concern in my area also. Concerned with recruitment on big horn sheep. Concerns also about elk...seems like older mature bull elk are gone.

Darrell Coverdell: How did netting of adult lake trout go in Swan lake this year?

Don Bothwell: Dec 1....some trapping opens, then, wolves open on Dec 15.

Jon Dahlberg: ATV use behind locked gates is just bizarre. Until we get the penalty in the court system set to actually penalize those people....it will never stop. A \$35 fine is not scary.

Jim Vashro: re: Flathead Lake EIS.....Tribes have received a lot of comments on the draft EIS

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2013