FWP R2 CAC Meeting

Citizen Advisory Committee Region 2

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday, May 7, 2013**
LOCATION: **3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula**
TIME: **6:00 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Jane Bennett , Louie Bouma, Brian Bidlake, Connie Buresh, Dudley Improta, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Stephanie Strickland

Staff: Vivaca Crowser, Mike Thompson, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele, Aaron Berg, Ladd Knotek

2013 Legislature Update-Tim Aldrich, CAC Member

Tim gave a summary/update on the final legislature decisions and he informed us of the bills concerning FWP that did or did not pass.

Overview of Current R2 fisheries projects –Ladd Knotek, Acting Fisheries Manager

Ladd gave an update on Region 2 fisheries projects and issues in the upper Clark Fork, Georgetown Lake, Bitterroot River, Blackfoot River, and Clearwater/Seeley Lake area (see attachment for items discussed).

2013 Wolf Season Proposal-Mike Thompson, Regional Wildlife Manager

Mike Thompson gave an update of the 2013 wolf season proposal. The proposal goes to the FWP commission on May 9, 2013 and will then be a tentative open for public comment through June 24. The wolf proposal for this year calls for an archery only hunting season that would run from Sept. 7 through Sept. 14. The general rifle hunting season would follow and run Sept. 15 through March 31. The trapping season would run Dec. 15 through Feb. 28, and, just like last year, those new to wolf trapping would have to complete an education course to participate. The overall harvest limit for the upcoming seasons would be five wolves per person in any combination of wolves taken by hunting or trapping.

CAC Critical Review-Vivaca Crowser, Regional Information and Education Officer, and Pat Saffel, Acting Regional Supervisor

Vivaca and Pat asked the CAC members how meeting format could be improved. One option discussed was to hold six, 2.5 hour meetings per year instead of four, 4-hour meetings. The members concluded that they would like to stick to holding 4 meetings per year unless a specific topic drives a follow-up meeting. Louie suggested the possibility of having a fifth meeting during legislative session.

The group also discussed membership term limits and agreed not to institute limits. FWP will again be recruiting four CAC members in June. Current CAC members and R2 managers will be part of the selection process.

Many members asked that FWP use them more on committees and give them more responsibility for communication in their communities.

Thank you/Term Expirations

Thank you to Dudley Improta, Jane Bennett, Tim Aldrich & Denley Loge who just completed a four-year term on the R2 CAC.

Upcoming 2013 Meeting Dates

The remaining meetings for 2013 will be the first Tuesday of Aug. & Dec., starting with dinner at 6:00 pm with the meeting to follow at 6:30 pm. Specific dates are as follows:

- **August 6**
  Agenda to include a round-robin discussion of issues that are on the minds of CAC members and a facilitated discussion/ brainstorm session on FWP image & marketing potentials. FWP Helena staff will attend.
- **December 3**

Next meeting

Tuesday, August, 6 pm, at the Missoula FWP office (3201 Spurgin Rd)

Minutes approved by:

Pat Saffel, Acting FWP Regional Supervisor

May 23, 2013
Date

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FISHERIES PROJECTS & ISSUES

Fisheries Highlights

1) Upper Clark Fork - Year 3 of caged fish studies; River restoration work starting; Fish barrier planned for Silverbow Creek; Main stem trout estimates (2013) highest seen to date. Priority is to assure consistent, cold instream flows – Silver Lake water a good possibility
2) Georgetown Lake – Limnological studies and water quality; Stocking and fisheries evaluations underway; Challenge to keep water levels high
3) Bitterroot River – Evaluating elevated W. cutthroat trout mortality in upper Bitterroot River; Status of mountain whitefish and other non-game fish
4) Blackfoot River – Mike Horse mine; Monitoring of restoration projects; Native fish emphasis
5) Clearwater/Seeley Lake area – Bull trout & cutthroat trout restoration, emphasizing watershed restoration work on the Marshall Creek WMA and fish passage
6) Evaluation of lake stocking programs:
    a. Browns & Warm Springs Ponds – rainbow trout
    b. Clearwater Chain of Lakes – kokanee & w. cutthroat trout
    c. Georgetown Lake – Rainbow trout and brook Trout
7) Region-wide: evaluation of brown trout expansion and interaction with other trout
8) Mountain Lake Surveys and Management: Middle Clark Fork and Rattlesnake completed, other areas in progress

Fishing Access Sites / River Recreation Highlights

1) Alberton Gorge - Transition of management from Parks to FAS/Fisheries
2) Site Closures/Openings
    a. Milltown – Clark Fork open to floating, still some issues on lower Blackfoot
    b. Warm Springs Closure – for remediation work
    c. Florence Bridge – site closure during installation of new bridge
3) Blackfoot River – Float-in site pilot project. Sites can be reserved
    Corrick's River Bend, River Junction, Ninemile Prairie, L. Lindberg
4) Mitchell Slough – Angler access project at fence line crossings/road crossings
5) Site Development and Acquisition
    a. Weigh Station FAS - nearly finished
    b. River Junction & Kelly Island FAS next on list for upgrades
    c. Upper Clark Fork - Site acquisition & development; just getting started
6) River Recreation Surveys – Planned contract with U of M initially targeting Blackfoot & Bitterroot Rivers
7) Proposed boating regulation changes on Alva, Marshall and Harpers Lakes