

Spotted Dog Workgroup

Meeting #3

July 17, 2013

Deer Lodge Community Center

Topic for the evening was public access and hunting season-setting process. FWP gave an overview pertaining to Spotted Dog WMA travel plan, primarily.

Jason S – Travel plan could and should be more permissive so that the public can see more of the WMA in summer. Then close down to the current travel plan for hunting season.

Dave D – We haven't been going above and beyond (as far as expanding the access) until the Stagecoach Road issue is settled.

Jason – Is there trapping? Dave D- East side of Road 314

Gary Swant (Public) – used to fish Dog Creek – could this WMA be a special use WMA that 4 wheelers could use without improving the roads. The idea is to have a unique use opportunity.

Bill Mosier – Stage road goes through my place and the road is bad and there are 7 gates that people will leave open.

Steve Saari – disabled, but I don't like 4 wheelers. Should have cattle guards and fewer gates because people like me have trouble opening and closing gates.

Neil Horne – 25-30 miles of open roads now. Be careful about opening more roads.

John Hollenback – I closed some roads on my place and people thought the hunting got better.

Jodi – weeds are an issue with more roads

Jason- public access is a goal – weeds don't trump the access.

Jodi & Dan- current public complaints pertain a lot to the reservoir.

Bill Mosier & Dave – Survey shows that FWP owns half of the reservoir.

Steve Saari – For the next 30 years what do you want the place to be? Some people would like to see a walking trail. It's for everybody-- not just what you and me want.

Fred Staedler – Stage road goes through a state section – have to show that the road was used for commercial purposes before statehood or there needs to be a right of way acquired.?

Bill Pierce – Should be different plans for different times of year. Don't think that snowmobiling is causing much problem- personal experience.

Gayle Tomlinson – been going snowmobiling for years and the elk have been fine.

Ray – we don't want to drive elk onto private stacks in winter

Bill Pierce – Road 314 is a good boundary for limiting winter use

John – We need to schedule a time in the future to discuss these points we need to specifically set up a time to pursue these things further.

Jason – I foresee a document capturing the thought and recommendation

Jim Flynn- We need to see an agenda and we need FWP administrative support for notes etc. FWP has too little time available. FWP should pay for some administrative support and then we can have subcommittees. I hesitate offering this because I don't see how you have the time for it.

-FWP should be recognized as a land mgmt agency

-we need some admin support

-first recommendation of the Work Group should be admin support

John – we have to have the people – let's do the best we can with what we've got.

Liz- I like the idea of the subcommittee – have the list of issues

Neal Horne- I don't think FWP is doing so bad so far

Gayle- We need to prioritize what we work on

Jodi- FWP should bring a specific goal/proposal for review. Then the WG reviews it.

John Beck – What about hunting seasons this year? Do the elk counts show an increase?

Ray Vinkey suggested that the Sept. agenda be the hunting proposals.

Bill- Need to set agendas ahead of time involving FWP and officers and then have that go out to the group. To get on the agenda you need to get a hold of the right person responsible.

Jason S- I may be satisfied with the travel plan for hunting but I want to explore the summer plan further

Jodi- Make a calendar for the year that outlines an agenda according to need

Jodi volunteered and the Group accepted her as secretary.

Dan McQueary – The only thing you can change is weeds, access, a few things- – Access is the biggest thing. So do an access plan as the baseline for mgmt. I never had so many elk on my property as I have had the last 2 years. Have to take care of Spotted Dog WMA with the landowners in mind.

The tour will be Aug 2. Everyone meet at the Deer Lodge Community Center at 8:00 A.M. and plan to be on the WMA for at least 6 hours. Bring a lunch, FWP will bring drinks for all.

Next meeting is 3rd Tues in Sept. (17th)