

R1 CAC 4/16/14

FWP, R1, Public Meeting Room

Present: Paul Fielder, Chuck Hunt, Greg Foley, Larry Lack, Bob Lawson, Leo Marnell, Mike Rooney, Kari Gabriel, Warren Illi, Bill Matthews, Jim Vashro, Mike Shepard, Brent Mitchell, Jerry Smalley

FWP: Leo Rosenthal, John Fraley, Mark Deleray, Jim Satterfield, Lee Anderson, Dave Landstrom, Jim Williams, Kristy Personett

Leo Rosenthal – Leo went through a detailed Power Point presentation regarding the Swan Lake Lake Trout Netting project. If you would like a copy of Leo's annual report (available soon) ,summarizing the status of the project, please email him at:

lrosenthal@mt.gov

Comments/questions from CAC members:

- Concern over LT in Holland and Lindberg Lakes and the effects on Bull Trout.
- Funding needs evaluated; is the project worth the cost?
- Loss of opportunity for Sportsman; Lake Trout fishery in Swan.
- Comparison to Yellowstone Lake project; bycatch, etc.
- Has there been an angler pressure survey? Leo explained how this has happened.
- Has electro-fishing over eggs been used? Yes, by MSU.
- Suggested use of "archeological vacuum".

Mark Deleray discussed the new Flathead Lake Lake Trout Consumption Guidelines and Safe Eating Guide - "eat the smaller fish".

Roundtable Discussion:

Lawson –

- Is the AIS effort increasing in 2014? Basically the same as last year.
- Feedback – when FWP does hunter harvest surveys, the phone number should be available rather than show as "unknown". More people would answer. *John Fraley passed along this suggestion to the head of the hunter harvest survey... They have been discussing this with the phone company but it is hard to change it...*

Fielder –

- MT Plus (combination of various Sportsman groups) event in Missoula May 31st. Primarily to talk about trapping initiatives. Encourage attendance.
- Trapping meetings in Kalispell – 51 attending at Snappy's. Thirty-one attended the spring Trapper's meeting held at FWP; FWP staff participated and were appreciated. Tim Their presented a synopsis of the 2013 wolf trapping season; 38% of harvest statewide was by trappers, 47% in NW MT.
- Plains – MT Woods and Water magazine 1st edition coming soon. Could be good tool for FWP issues.

Marnell –

- Libby kids fish pond – any ceremony? No, but Mark will get the stocking information.

- Concerns about Deer B licenses for private land, excluding Plum Creek and Stoltze land. Jim Williams explained we are still in a conservative mode in Region One B-tag quotas.
- Leo did a 21-mile survey in his car in the Pipe Creek area and counted 150 white tail deer.

Hunt –

- National Wildlife Federation representative attended the Flathead Wildlife Inc. meeting to give a synopsis of the bi-partisan Sportsman Act legislation. Listed resolutions adopted by MT Wildlife Federation.
- Flathead Wildlife Inc. year end barbecue is May 8th, 6:00 pm at Lone Pine (hopefully). They are monitoring the Holt Rd. access issue as well as McGregor Lake site, and the Flathead Lake gillnetting issue.

Rooney –

- Editor of Western News suggested using Illinois game harvest medallion system to receive feedback regarding hunter harvest.
- Katie Coyle has kits to take samples for her didymo study.

Foley –

- Flathead Lake issue. Is FWP in active negotiations with CSKT? They are supposed to start netting soon. Contentious issue. CSKT moving forward, FWP is not joining them in the netting effort. USFWS issued a limited collection permit for Bull Trout to CSKT.

Lack –

- This has been the quietest time for comments that he's seen during his CAC membership.
- Milfoil – he sits on the invasive species committee in Sander's County. Inspection stations - it's difficult to stop boats, easy for them to avoid stations.
- Whitetail B tags – 1 property owner out of 12 gave permission to him last year to hunt. Concern about tags being good outside of private property.
- PTHFV change in criteria - is not opposed. Concern over having no card in possession when signing up for Forest Service roads. *FWP will notify road managers of the change.*

Gabriel –

- Does mercury in fish affect eagles? Is it harmful? Mark will research the effects and inform Kari.
- Observed herd of 75 elk by intersection of Hwy. 40 and Hwy 2.
- Events for Wild Wings Recovery Center: Cabela's, May 2nd 10a.m. – 2 p.m., and FWP, May 17th noon – 3p.m.

Next CAC meeting: Thursday, May 29th at Lone Pine State Park Visitor Center!!!!!!!!!!!! This will be the last meeting before the summer break.