

R-1 Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting
R-1 Public Meeting Room
January 27, 2015

Present: Mike Robertson, Kari Gabriel, Chancy Jeschke (here for subcommittee meeting), Chuck Hunt, Mike Rooney, Jay Sheffield, Larry Lack, Ron Hawkinson, Charles Abell, Mike Shepard, Jerry Smalley, Tony Anderson, and Jim Vashro

FW Commissioner Gary Wolfe, Jim Williams, John Fraley, Alan Wood, Mark Deleray, Lee Anderson, Dave Landstrom, and Brian Schwartz

6:30 p.m. Welcome and opening comments:

Jim Williams – Gave overview of his State Legislature experience last week, touching on some House & Senate bills pertinent to hunting/fishing concerns. To access, on FWP website under Popular This Week, click on 2015 Legislature-FWP Bill Tracking.

Chuck Hunt – Montana WL Federation website has bill tracker. Make calls; let voice be heard.

Gary Wolfe – Be engaged; legislators really do pay attention when calls and e-mails received. A legislator might not be personally engaged in hunting/fishing issues; needs to hear from you. FWP home page, lower right – public comment opportunity for issues addressed by Commission.

FWP Updates:

Mark Deleray – New CAC angler subcommittee met for first time this evening at 5:00 p.m. Discussed wide range of ideas, from balancing native/nonnative fish to illegal introductions. Will do again at next CAC meeting; everyone is welcome.

Gary Wolfe – R-2 anglers recreating/interested in R-1; how could they interact? Contact Mark Deleray.

Mark Deleray – Opportunity this year to provide input to MT Fish Reg process; April: public scoping, August: tentatives to Commission, October: final Commission ruling; rewrite regs.

Alan Wood – Introduced South Whitefish Range Conservation Project; public review process will begin in a couple of weeks.

Dave Landstrom – Explained State Parks situation with DNRC land leases, affecting Thompson Falls & Big Arm State Parks. Thompson Falls SP will get a permanent easement (on Gov. Bullock's desk for signature), but Big Arm SP future is uncertain because of rising land values affecting cost of lease.

Lee Anderson – have high-profile cases; doing follow-up from hunting season; game damage picking up/elk being hit near Kila because of haystack; a lot of vandalism at FASs/have suspect. Tony A. – Any way to get signs up for elk? Lee – Will follow up and get status. Gary Wolfe – Take issue to MDT Commission; access on MDT website.

Roundtable Discussion:

Jay Sheffield –

- Positive responses to raising rates.

Ron Hawkinson:

- Lots of complaints about number of outfitters in small area. Can all be in same drainage if they choose.
- Outfitters can have so many days; pay up front. FS has no check on days. Lee – Have to submit records to Board of Outfitters; maybe can tell from that. – Believe we have outfitters that aren't permitted.

Charlie Abell –

- Asked Gary about mining on Smith River. Gary – Commission has no role in mining issues. Charlie – Will impact fisheries; would give reason to be involved. Gary – will bring up with Commissioner Vermillion and get back to you.
- Roads shut off before end of hunting season so snowmobiles can use.

- Whitefish River use; special privileges for new folks upstream from trestle, but downstream can't have same privileges.

Mike Rooney –

- Fee increases; fishing buddies agree, good way to go.
- Good meetings regarding habitat project on Kootenai. Neat project; could be one among many. John – Maybe bring pictures when all wrapped up.

Mike Robertson –

- Brought copies of Lee Rost's book, *For a Better Life*. Rost was original outfitter of S Fork; written when horse was mode of transportation.
- Some of east side landowners feel FWP more for new Montanans.

Chuck Hunt –

- Presentation on Lake Pend Oreille – doing Sept.-April with 300' of nets. Take rate 50% on bull trout. Proven can reduce lake trout, but at what cost to bull trout? If they are doing heavy gillnetting, need to give something back. Stand behind our lake up here. Flathead Wildlife will keep you posted. Deleray – Different situations; improved stocking of kokanee.
- Hearing in Helena regarding transfer of federal land to states. Keep eyes open; cost to state.
- Lori Roberts doing presentation on grizzly bear Ethyl, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Kari Gabriel –

- Year-end figures for raptors: rescue & rehabbing birds of prey – 89 raptors. Currently have 21 resident raptors; rehabbing 2.
- Spoke with Chris Hammond regarding doing lead poisoning testing, purchase of lead tester (around \$2,000). At present, Montana Raptor does testing.

Larry Lack –

- Vice-chair of Invasive Aquatic Species. Issue: to get more money next year. Did great job on Noxon Canyon boat inspection station.
- Discussed rule in regs: can't use trail cameras; we're only state with that rule. Friends are trying to photograph wolverines; can use camera outside hunting season. How did law come about? Nonhunter can put out trail cam. Lee – Can't use for hunting. Gary W. – NW Connections have numerous videos online. Larry – Could document wolverine. Jim W. – There was an imminent possibility of listing wolverine, but the USFWS decided not to. It's being challenged. Ken McDonald and Jeff Hagener worked hard on this issue.

Jerry Smalley –

- Asked about elk through ice at Echo Lake. It was confirmed that this was a rumor.

Tony Anderson –

- Invasive species: need to give \$10,000 fine for coming in from other lakes. Gary – Requires legislation to crank up fines.

Mike Shepard –

- About bow hunter self-regulation, out-of-stater put up trail cam/got arrested. Concerned about sustainability and from safety standpoint.

Jim Vashro –

- Becoming an Outdoors Woman Ice fishing workshop January 28.
- Lots of illegal fish introductions last two months.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next CAC meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015