

**CAC Meeting  
R1 Public Meeting Room  
December 1, 2015**

Present: Jay Sheffield, Mike Shepard, Ron Hawkinson, Mike Robertson, Mike Rooney, Charles Abell, Dan Short, Larry Lack, Mike Corkish, and Tony Anderson  
Jim Williams, John Fraley, Mark Deleray, Lee Anderson, Jerry Smalley, Dan Olson

**Housekeeping:**

Leo Marnell is stepping down and we will need a replacement. We need to have someone from the Eureka area. We will be seeking new members this summer.

Mark Deleray gives update on sub-committee meeting regarding development of message on how to deter illegal introduction. Review of 12/10/15 FWP Commission Agenda Cover Sheet for Mandatory Angler Kill and Reporting for Walleye Caught in Swan Lake & River.

Mike Sheppard discusses possibility of family fishing pond in Columbia Falls. A portion of the funding from Bill Kamps generous donation would likely be used to see this project to fruition. There also seems to be plenty of community support.

Neil reviews hunting seasons, shoulder seasons, mule deer, whitetail deer, and elk harvest numbers for the last 5 years. **See handouts.**

Neil also starts discussion regarding possible mule deer project. Looking for support from other entities for this project.

Neil is still wants to get sub-committee off the ground for bighorn sheep to come up with educational plan for agency. i.e., people who have hobby farms around bighorn sheep etc.

Ron Hawkinson makes comments on game damage hunt that took place in Thompson Falls. This game damage hunt had adverse effects. Only 1 elk was killed as they all became nocturnal and didn't come out. I'm against killing cow elk as early as Aug 15. Calves are too young to even make it. Ron asks if the property owner doesn't have a responsibility to try to keep the elk out? Neil cautions against fencing that could change migration routes, etc. Neil also says that even if only one elk harvested but those elk were pushed off the property....it was a success, as it reduced game damage. Reminder: game damage hunts are not part of population management.

Mike S. says the shoulder season has a lot of bow hunters up in arms.

**Round Table:**

Mike Robertson: Libby fishing pond is a success! Kids are having a ball. Kootenai River habitat enhancement project looks really good. It's pretty amazing what the crew did there. Boats should have to pay for an AIS Stamp in MT. It would finance mitigation, illegal introductions, etc. John asks Mike to remember that some money from the Bill Kamps inheritance may be available for fishing pond

Charles Abell: Unlit boats mixed in with power boats is dangerous. For example, paddlers should be limited to the 200 foot no wake zone when the sun is down and visibility is horrible. This is something that would be a commission regulation if it were to happen. We should ask judges before they are elected how they are going to defend our resources by people that are selfish or ignorant. There are many judges that are absolutely hostile about dealing with these "piddly" tickets. Some

judges have bad relations with the FWP law enforcement.

Dan Short: Regarding AIS, I know Walleye introduction is tops on our minds. On the part of TU, this issue has been extremely frustrating since we thought we were beginning to get somewhere with the netting of lake trout. Thanks to FWP for coming to the recent meeting. Since that time, TU has committed an additional \$10k to the original \$10K that was on the table for information leading to the perps who are committing these introductions. Jay Sheffield asks if TU thought about spending a little bit of money on ads to get the word out that this is \$\$\$ just sitting there waiting for people to let us know about illegal introductions? Flathead Chapter of TU is having Christmas social on 12/15 at Kalispell Brewery, you are all welcome to attend.

Larry Lack: I salvaged a bear that was hit by a train by T Falls, the taxidermist asked if I had sent the meat in to be tested as the bear was very old. Neil speaks up on the matter of testing. Larry -No matter what, my wife won't cook it. We've all heard that Weyerhaeuser is buying Plum Creek. Larry spoke at length about private landowners charging access fees and how he hopes the new owners will honor Montana's tradition of open access to these lands.

Mike Corkish: Hunter apprentice program.....saw good from this program even though adamantly against it at the beginning. Still believes that they should be required to pass hunter education first though. Legislators need to be encouraged to get rid of the 2 year thing and just make them take hunter education. Larry Lack says that the process needs to be clearer.

Jay Sheffield: Regarding Doe seasons....why can't Moose, Sheep, & Goat be moved to 9/15 as well? People appreciate the fall turkey quota. Neil - turkey regulation is going to be more streamlined.

Ron Hawkinson: Don't agree with 8/15 depredation hunt.

Mike Robertson: R1 could improve its image if you really managed all species of fish. When you are going to deal with illegal activities, be open & aggressive about the issue. Be aggressive about enforcing new regulations. Make public aware the science behind the new regs. Give us the reasons for the changes.

Mike Shepard: Bow hunting is split over lit knocks

Tony Anderson: We are the only state that doesn't allow lit knocks. We have a only small group of people in the state of MT that is making it illegal to use this technology.

CAC future meeting dates:

Jan 20

Mar 2

Apr 20

Jun 1

Adjourn 9 pm