

CAC Meeting

Region 5 Citizen Advisory Council Meeting

July 11, 2016
3:00-5:00 PM
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105

Meeting called by: Bob Gibson

Type of meeting: CAC Council Meeting

Location: Region 5 Headquarters

Facilitator: Bob Gibson

Attendees: Lee Deming, Bill Milton, Doug Dreeszen, Doug Haacke, Lee Burroughs, Barb Beck, Bob Gibson, Chris Dantic, Harold Guse, Ken Frazer, Ray Mule', Dianne Stiff

Absent: Thomas Miller, Chris Fleck, JW Westman, Brady Norland, Lee Brunckhorst

Topics

3:00 p.m.	Welcome/Communication	Bob Gibson/Barb Beck
3:10 p.m.	Video – “The Perfect Storm”/discussion	Barb Beck
4:10 p.m.	Vision and Guide ('15 and Forward)	Barb Beck
4:20 p.m.	Manager’s Updates	R-5 Managers
4:35 p.m.	CAC Member Comments/Input	CAC Members
4:50 p.m.	Wrap-up (feedback, next meeting/topics)	Bob Gibson/Barb Beck
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Barb Beck

Welcome/Communication		Bob Gibson/Barb Beck
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Miller is out due to a serious illness. • Gary Schaff resigned. • We are accepting CAC applications from now until July 29th. 		
Action items: Ongoing communication with CAC members.	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: Ongoing
Video – “The Perfect Storm”/discussion		Barb Beck
<p>Video - “The Perfect Storm” - Jim Martin, conservation director of the Berkley Conservation Institute, talks about four factors facing the future of fish and wildlife agencies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the gap between the public’s expectations of managing natural resources and the money available. 2. The rate of development. 3. The way and speed the climate is changing. 4. Politicization of our agencies. <p>Reactions to this video were discussed between the CAC members and the staff. Overall, members thought it was really good, engaging, and had some valid points. It is meant to be thought provoking, and here is the link to the video online:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm9p-kYu9wU</p>		
Action items: None	Person responsible: Barb Beck & Bob Gibson	Deadline: None
Vision and Guide (’15 and Forward)		Barb Beck
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Hagener directed employees towards this effort looking at the amount of new employees with FWP, and FWP staying relevant to people within Montana and beyond. There were 27 employees across the agency who worked on this effort through the course of a year and a half. Lee Burroughs and Ashley Taylor were our Region 5 representatives. • Barb discussed the case of action (page 1) and the core values (page 4). FWP has three commitments which are public service, resource management and capacity building for effective management. • It was rolled out to employees, Commission and Parks Board at the same time and is now available to the public in printed form and on the FWP website: http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/insideFwp/visionAndGuide/ • If CAC members have a desire to talk about this document at future meeting, please let Bob or Barb know. 		
Action items: Potential future CAC meeting.	Person responsible: Bob Gibson/Barb Beck	Deadline: None
Manager’s Updates		R-5 Managers
<p>Ken Frazer – Field crews doing well; with the Bighorn River we are working on water issues again and will have flows around 2200 cfs through the rest of the summer; the big project this fall is the Soda Butte Creek cutthroat recovery; coming up is the Quiet Water Petition which could affect the Stillwater, Boulder and Yellowstone in our Region.</p> <p>Ray – Sage grouse numbers across the state have improved dramatically this year. We are almost double our long term average population for Region 5. As a result of that we are recommending to the Commission to</p>		

reopen the sage grouse areas that have been closed with a very conservative bag limit with two birds per day and only a month long season, September 1-30. It follows our sage grouse management plan. Deer numbers across the region have rebounded nicely. The two areas have not for mule deer which includes the east end of the Beartooth face. There are no numbers on antelope yet as biologists are in the middle of surveys right now until the end of the month. Elk continue to do well across the region. We are over objective in almost all of our hunting districts with the exception of two districts that have a lot of public land. We will have shoulder seasons in almost all of our districts for cow elk on private land (August 15-September 2, October 17-October 21, November 28-January 1: all R5 except HD 500, 511 and 530; HD 511 & 530 runs until January 15th). The regular archery season runs September 3-October 16 and the five week rifle season runs October 22-November 27. FWP is sending out to letters to landowners that have land in the shoulder season areas. A follow up letter will be sent later on regarding implementation. We will have a hunt information coordinator in Region 5 that will be responsible for the coordination effort between landowners and hunters beginning in November. We are working on an addition to the Grant Marsh WMA and have approval to move forward from Commission. The EA is ready to go. The Commission will be voting on the final grizzly bear season structure.

Harold – Wardens are going to be spending more time on the education of shoulder seasons with the landowners; warden staff is on the ground with last warden out of the academy, so we have eleven game wardens, an investigator, captain, and two sergeants; resource law enforcement – there was a bear incident in northwestern Montana with a park ranger getting killed by a bear while going on a mountain bike ride from his house; one of our warden’s attended the funeral who is a good friend of his and the family.

Chris Dantic – Visitation is steady at all state parks; fires a big concern right now with Stage I fire restriction signing; strategic plan for state parks was put in place this last year with parts of this plan being implemented to include the heritage cultural parks like Chief Plenty Coups SP and Pictograph Caves SP; the Day of Honor at Chief Plenty Coups SP is on Labor Day weekend, so we did a MOU with the Crow Tribe for the harvest of two bison for this event.

Bob Gibson– Busy with hunter and bowhunter education; aquatic education will begin as soon as school starts. Our side project this year is the redesign and remodel of the interpretive center at our Regional Headquarters. We have an interpretive person in Helena and a local committee working on this.

Dianne Stiff – We will have surplus licenses and over-the-counter licenses on sale August 8, block management information available on August 15, and block management reservations beginning August 22.

Action items: None	Person responsible: Bob Gibson	Deadline: None
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CAC Member Comments/Input	CAC Members
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Lee Deming – The people he has talked to are ecstatic about shoulder seasons and some landowners are happy too; the only criticism he has had is people wanting the hoot owl restriction triggers to be earlier in the season (FWP’s current triggers being used are 73 degrees for three days in a row and/or below the 95% flows).

Bill Milton – In relation to sage grouse, he stays in tune with FWP’s Musselshell study. On the down side is the chicks that have been chipped and captured, the fledgling success has been below average. Visiting with Lorelle Berkeley who runs this program, they are starting to get some research fatigue where a lot of landowners have been providing land and now we are six years from the study, and it’s a 10 year study. The things coming out of the study are going to be hugely beneficial to ranchers, but the ranchers do not fully understand what they are finding in this study. Bill will be working with Lorelle to hold a meeting with landowners that could potentially be a segue into a community partnership/forum.

Action items: Future meeting ideas – What we’ve learned with elk shoulder seasons; community partnerships/forums.	Person responsible: Bob Gibson/Barb Beck	Deadline: None
Housekeeping and Adjourn		Bob Gibson
Next Meeting Date – Bob will start working on a couple of potential dates the first week of December. This will be the legislator/CAC meeting with legislators being invited. Someone from the Director’s office should be attending also. The main topic for discussion will be the upcoming proposed legislation.		

CAC Members: FWP’s website now has both general and region-specific information posted about the upcoming elk shoulder seasons. If you get any questions, this is a good place to refer people for accurate information.

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasons/elkShoulder/>