
MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY -- FINAL
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks UGBEP CAC Meeting
Sheridan County Courthouse
Plentywood, MT
October 3-4, 2016 (Meeting 22)

Council Members: Joe Ball, Sen. Jill Cohenour, Rep. Rob Cook, Jay Gore, Bill Howell, Mike Jensen, Bill McChesney (absent), Charlie Noland, Dustin Ramoie, Craig Roberts, and Dale Tribby (Chair).

FWP Employees and Conservation Partners: Dan Bailey, Joe Cohenour, Jake Doggett, Brett Dorak, Michelle Downey, John Ensign, Chris Hammond, Drew Henry, Debbie Hohler, Kelvin Johnson, Nick Mulvaney, Dave Nikonow, Rick Northrup, Ken Plourde, Brad Schmitz, Mark Sullivan, Scott Thompson, Jackie Tooke, and Julie Unfried.

Monday, October 3

The Council gathered at 7:15 am to participate in a habitat tour. We saw shelterbelts, Open Fields sites, food plots, and CRP seed cost-share projects on a very rainy tour. The tour ended early because of the inclement weather. Council had lunch back at the meeting room.

1. **Dale convened the meeting at 12:30.** Dale stated how important and valuable the members of the Council have been for the program. Our newest Council members, Sen. Cohenour and Rep. Cook, were introduced to everyone. Pete Husby was unable to continue as a member of the Council. The Department has been in contact with Josh Schrecengost, NRCS Biologist in Great Falls, who will be appointed by the director. Josh will be attending the meeting in Helena next year.
 - a. Review of minutes: Dale went over topics from last meeting and identified areas where he wanted input from the department:
 - UGBEP Access Guides update
 - Open Fields cap increase (160 → 320 acres)
 - Pheasant release – 5-year plan
 - R5 Habitat Specialist
 - “Road Blocks” - Habitat Specialists to provide input on areas that make it difficult to get work done.
2. **Overview of Council history and function.** Rick provided an overview of the Council’s role with the program. The outcome of a legislative audit tasked the department to

develop a 12-member council to recommend a long-term strategic plan, which was completed in 2011. Currently, there are 2 Council meetings annually. One occurs in the spring to review and provide input on the upcoming field plan. The second meeting is held in the fall and summarizes accomplishments done throughout the field season. The Council has been a great source of support during legislation. The program has gained a lot from the expertise of the Council, which has been valuable and effective. Jay commented that that it's important to have legislators on the Council.

3. **Debbie gave a summary of UGBEP accomplishments for the year.**

- a. Reviewed program fiscal accounts, revenue, expenditures, obligations, and balances (current and future). Council provided suggestions:
 - Use higher Admin costs.
 - Add column of Project Habitat Obligations with assumed expenditures, similar to fiscal notes for legislature.
 - Change headed to committed and projected expenditures.
 - ***Debbie to provide a summary of license sales by type – resident NR, license type, and fees.***
- b. Summary of UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects initiated in 2016: Contracts, project types, acreages, obligations. Council was interested to hear more on Habitat Management Leases (HML). Council added the following input:
 - There is an inconsistency of reporting hunter-days and acres of access for public land. Council recommends the department look at trying to be more concise and consistent. For example, does the private lands project open up access to public land?
 - Open Fields and the 320-acre cap increase. Rick reported that FWP chose not to request the change to 320 acres until the department saw this general sign up to completion.
- c. 2016 Pheasant Release summary. Council discussion led to program access guides. Charlie expressed strong support for the guides and was very complimentary. Referring back to the last meeting, what steps have been made by the department to get guides to other areas beyond the regional offices?
 - Each specialist was given 200 guides, and they have since distributed to other key locations commonly used by hunters. R7 remained consistent with how Block Management documents are distributed, only out of regional office and mailings as requested.

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- Council discussion – there was still some frustration stated on the limited number of guides being distributed to communities, particularly at license vendors.
 - d. Debbie provided a summary table of the VPA-HIP grants from 2012 and the current grant. Region 6 has been working with a landowner in Region 6 on a possible NFWF grant to conserve native grasslands and wetland through a 30-year conservation lease.
 - e. Debbie provided additional review on Habitat Leases, field manual, access guides, and program marketing.
4. **Region 7 Projects Overview – Jackie Tooke.** Jackie acknowledged that she feels privileged to work with department staff, landowners, government agencies, and conservation organizations on program implementation. Much of her work includes NRCS, FSA, and Conservation Districts.
- a. Jackie reviewed the Priority Areas from R7's Strategic Plan and public lands projects for 2016.
 - Isaac Homestead WMA food plot, brood strips
 - Seven Sister and Elk Island WMA shelterbelt projects
 - BLM Pumpkin Creek nesting cover project: PF, BLM, and FWP partnership to convert former cropland to a productive nest cover on 132 acres.
 - b. Jackie reviewed private lands projects in 2016.
 - 4 food plots, all were established in priority counties and placed near winter and nesting cover.
 - Shelterbelt – 5 project acres
 - Nest Cover – South of Sidney (conversion of farm ground to native grasses and forbs). 440 project acres and 960 access acres.
 - Habitat Management Lease (south of Richey) – 86 habitat acres, 2,400 access acres.
 - Veebaray grazing management agreement. The ranch has been in the family for over a century. Historically, the ranch was not open to public (outfitted for past 10 years). Jackie provided a detailed overview of the evaluation and approval process for program enrollment. Access requirements: a minimum of 2 parties per day 7 days a week for up to 3 years. Block Management will track hunter use by way of access slips. John Ensign pointed out that this is a minimum daily number and that this can be adjusted based on experience. Charlie has hunted the

property and called it an “outstanding property with tremendous potential”. He harvested sharp-tailed grouse and doves. He also flushed lots of pheasants. Charlie also complimented the Open Fields areas in Region 7.

5. **Veebaray Discussion.** Dale gave an overview of the Veebaray grazing management proposal and approval process. He stated there was concern from some Council members over the apparent lack of coordination with the Council. He recalled that the original presentation to the Council suggested that the project could be done for under \$100,000 or possibly more. In March, the Council was presented with a proposed cost of \$99,000 and \$179,000 for the 12,000 acre rest rotation system. Dale noted that since the Council meeting, the landowner added 4,000 acres for access and agreed to a contract length for 21 years. Dale reached out to the Council, and there were 3 items of concern.
 - a. The program’s obligated cost was established at \$179,000.
 - b. The level of stocking rate was not clear with regard to the 3-pasture rest-rotation system.
 - c. The Hunter-Use days and availability were not clear.

During the Commission, Dan Vermillion asked Ken McDonald if the proposal was presented to the council and whether they were supported. Ken confirmed that the Council was supportive. Dale felt that the Council was used to provide tentative approval, yet when the department was asked for specific information, none was provided. A discussion about grazing and rotation followed. Jay stated that he felt apprehensive because stocking rates were not clear. Craig stated that the rest-rotation is likely sound; however the biggest problem is with compliance. On Beckman WMA, there is a lack of compliance. Craig wants to know what will be done to ensure compliancy. Craig added that turn-out days often are abused. Jackie stated that there would be monitoring from FWP and NRCS. Mike felt that Council endorsement was important in getting Commission involvement, but he feels this project is a poor return on the investment. In the future, Mike suggests that if the Council is asked for their opinion, the Council is entitled to information they asked for regarding the topic. Charlie wanted to know why there was a push. Rick replied that there was a lot to get done on the front end (FWP and Ranch). With regard to stocking rate, Rick pointed out that NRCS will supply stocking rate/technical assistance; NRCS is a key player. Additional comments:

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- Payment based on hunter-days is \$45/hunter-day then on top of that is a Block Management payment.
 - Bill Howell stated doesn't seem like enough hunter days for the size of the property. The Council was reminded that this is a start of a 21-year contract.
 - 2-parties per day is based on the Block Management contract and is a starting point.
 - Need to make sure Council has appropriate amount of time to fully vet these expensive projects near or in excess of \$100,000.
 - Charlie pointed out that there is money in the account to spend. He feels it is a worthwhile investment.
 - Sen. Cohenour recognizes the value of the Council to track money and making sure their voice is heard. She questioned if this example was an abuse of council's good will. Rick stated that it will not happen in the future. The department will make sure that as proposals go forward, we need to maintain good relationship with council. Commission is looking to council to make good recommendations.

6. **Update on Sharp-tailed grouse (STG) restoration efforts (Chris Hammond).** The bird has dual classification in Montana. S4 rank, which indicates the species is declining (eastern Montana) but is also critically imperiled in western Montana (S1). West of plains, the STG are pretty much gone with a few exceptions. About 32 years ago, there were attempts to reintroduce Columbian STG (CSTG) in Dancing Prairie area by Eureka. The population increased but then crashed. They looked at genetics to determine if the birds were CSTG but discovered that the birds were actually Plains subspecies, not CSTG. In 2015, through the State Wildlife Action Plan, the State conducted habitat evaluation projects, initially GIS, and modeled the entire western part of the state. On-the-ground evaluations were conducted at three locations east and west of the divide, comparing occupied and unoccupied habitats. The best areas appear to be the Blackfoot Valley, followed by the Drummond site, followed by MPG ranch in northern Bitterroot Valley. The Flathead Reservation didn't score well on any of the components. Currently, they are starting on a restoration plan. The plan was presented to wildlife managers and received a "thumbs up" on developing a plan. If the restoration plan is feasible, the staff will then do an environmental assessment. Once completed, and if still feasible, the department will then go to FW Commission to proceed.

Questions/Comments from the Council:

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- a. Bill Howell asked how many birds will be needed for the release. Chris responded that the initial estimate is 400 birds, but they intend to do a more in-depth analysis using population viability analysis models.
 - b. Bill asked about leks. There are 2 options: (1) capture juvenile males in spring then release to establish leks or (2) capture and release anytime of the year.
 - c. Dale asked about the time schedule for the restoration plan. The first draft will be in December.
 - d. Sen. Cohenour asked where the funding would come from. Some funds will come from mitigation program, Wildlife Trust Fund (Bonneville Power), and possibly other FWP programs.
 - e. Dale feels the UGBEP for transferring upland game birds would be a likely source of funds.
 - f. Additional questions/comments:
 - Why didn't the existing birds survive and thrive? Don't know, may be a number of factors.
 - Source population? Feel best to go around the state from multiple areas,
 - 10-years of no birds, what about predator angle?
 - Transmitters on all birds? Need transmitters on as many birds as possible to evaluate effectiveness.
 - Has this been done in other areas? Yes, a lot of work in Colorado in particular; developed good methodologies.
7. **Region 2 – David Nikonow, western Montana Cooperative Biologist.** Dave has been in his position for 1-year as of today's meeting! He works in the Lolo and Bitterroot NF and focuses on ponderosa pine and deciduous communities. His work benefits forest grouse and wild turkey habitats. His position is funded 50:50 by UGBEP and USFS. Project updates:
- a. Bitterroot trails (Larry Creek) foreclosed property on NF boundary. Dave garnered funding from NWTF and MDF, RMEF joined and submitted FWCT funding. They would be acquirers and would turn the land over to NF system
 - b. Swamp Eddy – 9,200-acre timber sale.
 - c. Murphy Creek – 120-acre thinning, community developed project.
 - d. Frenchtown Face – maintenance burn 524 acres to date, currently working on improving burns to establish better habitat.
 - e. Redd Bull – 2,500-acre vegetation project and very early in NEPA process. Dave's goal is focusing on shelf-ready projects.
 - f. Blackfoot Community Conservation Area – Aspen release/regeneration project on 35 acres.
 - g. South Fork – maintenance burn – 50 acres treated this summer
 - h. French Gulch/Madison Gulch – pre-fire weed management

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- i. Petty Creek maintenance burn – over 6,300 acres, conifer removal on grasslands
 - j. Aspen Categorical Exclusion: Dave is working to help reduce regulatory paperwork “bottlenecks.” He is also using GIS to survey sites, which leads to “rapid assessments.”
 - k. Aspen workshop at Red Lodge – good training on techniques and science.
- 8. Dale adjourned today’s meeting at 5:15 pm. Our meeting will resume tomorrow at 8:00 am.**

Day 2 – October 4, 2016

- 1. Dale convened the meeting at 8:00 am and reviewed the agenda for the day.**
- 2. Region 6: Kenny Plourde.** Kenny introduced himself and described what his duties are and highlighted elements of the Region 6’s strategic plan. The region-wide focus is on shelterbelts and grazing systems.
 - a. 11 projects completed this year
 - b. Food Plots
 - Annual food plot and perennial brood plot (many native species, weedy but okay)
 - Looking for ways to incentivize more diverse food plots
 - c. Shelterbelt near ND border: 6 rows, 1,700 shrubs, irrigated, and fence. 300 acres of access. \$8,000 final cost. The irrigation system went under the fabric with the emitters positioned near the shrub.
 - d. 6 CRP Seed Cost-share nesting cover projects associated with Open Fields and Block Management. Areas are walk-in with no further permission, unless on BMA.
 - e. Looking to incentivize more diverse means for maintaining CRP acres.
 - f. Open Fields – the ones that got away. 3 OF contracts were not signed. Two of these were for personal reasons and 1 person wanted to be able to manage/harvest their hay. Managed harvesting (per FSA) means that producers can hay 50% of their CRP every 3 years or graze 100% of CRP every other year. There were 4 applicants who were not accepted into CRP, therefore were ineligible for Open Fields.
 - g. Grazing system renewal and enhancement 1992-2007, includes new leases on state and deeded lands. 6 pastures.
 - Financial incentives? Fence repairs, replacement, water distribution, well for new pasture, adding pipe and stock tanks
 - h. Pheasant releases – released 4,716 pheasants
 - 35 contracts, down 4 from last year
 - Reviewed 5-year deadline. 2017 will be the last year for releases. If no changes, will no longer release birds. Otherwise, significant habitat improvements could be a reason for an additional 5-year release period.

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- ***Council requested updates on the 5-year release period at the spring meeting: Kenny will provide information on pheasant releases and possible loss of access opportunities.***
 - i. Habitat Management Lease – 22-acre shelterbelts, 12 acres of native prairie, 240 acre property in Block Management (part of a 1,974-acre conglomerate).
 - j. Rest of Region
 - Cree Crossing WMA food plots
 - Shelterbelt maintenance
 - Fox Lake WMA dikes
 - Hinsdale food plot
 - Olson Conservation Easement shelterbelts
 - Rookery WMA seeding DNC, leveled for irrigation
 - CE possibility by Culbertson
 - Ash Coulee CE is still in the works
 - CRP Expirations – losing 174,000 acres in Region 6 in 2017; 412,000 acres statewide; 9% of offers accepted among the lowest rate in the nation; 2007-2015 lost 57% of acres during that period; average rental rate dropped over the past 10 years by \$3.84 – no other state except smaller acreage states like Maine, etc. Commodity prices are down, if they stay down, we will likely see an increase in interest.
 - Population status – pheasants up, a lot of broods; STG above average in eastern portion, near average in west portion.
3. **Craig Roberts provided an overview on FWP and Pheasants Forever work in Denton.**
- a. 4 food plots on Coffee Creek
 - b. PF Wolf Creek – 1 new food plots, total of 4
 - c. DNRC Wolf Creek – 2 food plots
 - d. Coffee Creek DNRC – 9 food plots
 - e. Total 18 small grain food plots. Eleven of them are chem-fallow food plots. There are almost 67 acres on the properties.
 - f. Shelterbelt summary for all of the properties: 11 shelterbelts on 59 project acres. The focus is mainly maintenance of these projects
 - g. A lot of double row silver sage plantings 8.3 miles, totaling 10 acres. There is approximately 7' between the rows.
 - Starting to seed between these rows with permanent cover, no longer cultivating.
 - h. Beckman WMA field – cropland had been abandoned. Mowed and sprayed the last 3 years. Seeded to permanent cover 52 acres of which 10 will remain in food plots. River debris was cleaned off of another 50-acre field and seeded this spring. Both seedings looking good and are successfully established.
 - i. Beckman and Wolf Creek – salt cedar problems have come up from Missouri River. Crews last year came up Wolf Creek from the county. They hand cut and sprayed.

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- j. White top problem on Beckman and other places. Virgil has been actively treating these problem areas. Virg also mows and maintains parking lots and trails on the Beckman.
 - k. CRP on Coffee Creek: When it was acquired, there had been in a full 10-year cycle. Craig did renovation strips through all of the contracts totaling 450 acres (2 contracts). Now have another 10 years and into a 3rd term. In total, there has been 27 years of CRP. Approximately 60 to 70% is 26 years old and has had nothing done to them. Pheasants are not using those areas.
 - l. Craig showed images from the past year. Good growing season for food plots and nest cover, and Craig has observed good broods. This year, the grain was interseeded with yellow sweet clover. The ground stays bare during the second year with yellow sweet clover, which allows for good brood travel.
 - m. Marshelder – annual native plant, cultivated for edible seeds. Seems to be self sustained if lightly tilled in the spring. Seems to be standing up all winter. Structure with bare ground and seed appears to be very attractive to pheasants.
 - n. Disk harrowed about 300 acres of CRP this spring, about 1/3 went over twice.
 - Fields responded very well. Broods showed up in the interior of the fields. Alfalfa also responded. Craig and Virg spread sweetclover seed and are expecting a 1-year flush of sweetclover.
 - There is about another 150 acres to do. Will double disk all of them next spring, based on response of 300 acres done this year. Single pass with light disking with heavy thatch isn't sufficient.
- 4. Region 4 – Jake Doggett gave his presentation on program accomplishments in his region.**
- a. Open Fields – Jake turned down a number of applications because of lack of quality. He accepted 12 of 21 applications. Because of input from a few hunters, he wanted to make sure the region maintained the image of productive enrollments for Open Fields. Most of the Region's enrollments were in Chouteau County. He noted that many of the 2016 enrollments were offered substantial additional access acres. Three new OF contracts were new CRP.
 - 14 existing Open Fields will be expiring after 2016 hunting season
 - b. Pheasant releases – 3 this year. New first time raiser. Jake stated that he was Interested in using pheasant releases as a foot in the door for other projects.
 - c. Habitat Management Leases
 - 1 mile-long coulee on 87 project acres and 2,117 access acres (Block Management Area, Type 1). This is a 3-year contract. Jake noted that it has been grazed hard in years past. It's already fenced off, and the fence is in good condition. Pheasants, huns, STG are present on the property. The project acres average \$13.82/acre/year; \$1,202.70/year.

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- DNRC Habitat Mgt Lease (Tomayer, Toole County). The management lease is 55 acres and was an expired UGBEP shelterbelt project initiated in the 1990s. UGBEP has a 3-year contract. Total cost is \$1,115.50/year, including weed control allowance. The State land was landlocked, but enrolling the private land into Block Management opened access to public land.
 - d. Freezout WMA – in the past have used tall wheatgrass, which has dominated other species. We’re now trying Basin Wildrye again among a number of other species.
 - e. Proposed projects
 - Rumney Ranch CE – Missouri River bottom
 - 2 Wolf Creeks BMA –Sage Creek - Shelterbelt and Livestock exclosure. Project will include a 3-D electric deer fence. The landowner is on board with maintenance requirements.
 - f. Jake provided a status update of existing projects
 - g. Monitoring – Jake reported that the monitoring is ongoing. He is seeing good things with the projects and landowners.
 - h. Upland game bird fall outlook – STG lek surveys are average to better. Pheasant crow counts were good.

5. Debbie gave an overview of Regions 1, 3, and 5

- a. Region 1:
 - Debbie provided updates from Charlie Holtz, Habitat Forever Specialist in Charlo.
 - Joe Ball gave an overview of the work done in the Charlo area. He reported that Charlie’s work is a substantial increase for the work that’s been done in that area, enhancing cover that directly benefits pheasants.
 - Dan Bailey stated that the tribe has been involved also, great job opening up opportunities on tribal lands.
- b. Region 3:
 - Canyon Ferry WMA work: the recently planted nesting cover did not perform well this year and was likely a failure. The 2 food plots were a success. The seed mixes were developed by Tom Pick. Fred gave a tour to the new members of the PF chapters. The PF chapters indicate that they are eager to work with Fred to do enhancement work.
 - Poindexter Slough FAS – maintenance work continues on shelterbelts, and the PF chapter remains involved.
- c. Region 5:
 - There is a new Habitat Forever Specialist – Ben Hoesl. Habitat work continues on Voyager’s Rest, Pompeys Pillar, and Yellowstone WMA.
 - Aspen regeneration work also continues on at the Gallatin and Custer National Forests.

Comments:

- Craig Roberts noted how much work the Jackie, Jake, and Kenny have done this year and complimented them on their work.

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- Dan Bailey stated that PF is now using Great Basin Seed out of Utah. It seems that the seed is better developed for the arid west.
 - Rick mentioned food plot streamlining to help expedite work.

6. Meet the 3 Farm Bill Biologists

The PF Farm Bill Biologists are Michelle Downey (Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt counties), Julie Unfried (Hill, Blaine, and Phillips counties), and Aaron Clawson (Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, and Cascade counties). These positions are funded by PF, FWP, DU, and NRCS.

- Focused on cropland areas for converting to grass cover.
- Can offer the program opportunities from variety of entities.
- Contacts: 452
- Projects: 133
- 10,543 acres of new habitat
- Involved with 215 projects and associated monitoring.
- Majority involving general CRP sign up (5,000 acres); EQIP – (3,228 acres mostly PPCRI – Prairie Pothole Cropland Retention Initiative)
- Pollinator strategy – not just for the bees, good for chicks. Helped with the design and implementation of test plots for future recommendations. They have focused on monitoring and evaluating the plots.
- FWP collaboration
 - UGBEP, Open Fields, and CRP Seed Cost-Share
 - Located in NRCS office to talk to landowners
 - Landowners are hesitant to give up haying/grazing opportunities in Open Fields.
 - Technical assistance for CE properties in R6 and R4 (3 habitat renovation plans, including funding from PF Chapters)
- Opportunities for working together – Maximize Impact
 - Reach out to BMA participants – offer services
 - Target FWP easements and Lands, tap chapter funds
- Innovative Partnerships - Colorado example
 - Pheasant Habitat Improvement Program
 - State agency provides funds and specs
 - Bio designs and contracts
 - Chapters have been installing projects
- Expiring CRP – looking for ideas?
 - Options
 - Special Initiatives for targeting lands
 - FWP Program? Habitat leases?
- Questions
 - Craig Roberts asked about the current rules for CRP. The current sign up, General 49, can hay every 3 years or graze every other year once

established. For mid contract have to do half the acreage if over 80 acres. Can sign up to do all acres for Managed Haying and Grazing. Craig felt it was a real “deal breaker” to allow that amount of haying and grazing.

- Charlie Noland - Financial rewards are not there. Payments are low enough that into fourth or fifth year to break even.
- Dale – Are the biologists constrained by privacy issues to work with our habitat specialists? Yes, there are constraints, usually provide number to landowner or get permission from landowner to provide contact to FWP staff.
- Charlie – asked about EBI ranking and enrollment.
- Dan Bailey – opportunity for “putting more boots on the ground.” He is looking for match to get 3 additional positions, to be located where biggest need is.
- Charlie – will there be another general sign up? Nothing concrete has been announced.
- Dale noted that the Farm Bill bios and UGBEP are intertwined and important. He asked that Dan join us again for spring meeting. Like to make Dan a part of each meeting unless something else changes.
- Debbie asked the FB Bios if they are feeling comfortable with UGBEP and requirements. Yes, and there is open communication between them and the specialists.

7. Rick gave a presentation on the program’s funding cap handout developed by the department. This topic will be tabled for the next meeting.

8. Next year’s meetings – discussion:

- a. May 7 (travel) and meeting dates May 8 and 9 (Monday and Tuesday) in Helena.
- b. October 1 (travel) and meeting dates October 2 and 3 (Monday and Tuesday) in Lewistown.

9. Closing remarks:

- a. Expiring Contracts: Dale asked how do we keep them in the program? We will devote some additional time on this topic. He asked for recommendations or feedback from FWP prior to May 2017 meeting.
 - Shelterbelts – management leases
 - Grazing systems – what if no infrastructure needs? Incentive payment?

10. Discussion of 2016 and 2017 Field Seasons. Dale asked if anything else needs further discussion.

- a. Charlie - Hunters were grateful to have opportunity to hunt sage-grouse (Region 6).

- b. Dale and Jill – they recognized the amount of effort behind projects, impressed with projects and proposals of habitat specialists. They are impressed with what has been done to date.
- c. Brad Schmitz – participation by FWP is a testament to the commitment by FWP, fun to be a part of what is successful.

11. Dale asked if any CAC members wished to leave the council after this meeting.

- a. Jay Gore – would like to leave after this meeting. Commended current and past chairs of the council and department staff, liked to see implementation on the ground. Recognized past void when someone leaves, need to get these filled ASAP. Money is well spent on shelterbelts to help with severe winters. Seed source of birds carried over. Jay can't leave the council without one more pitch for Russian olive – value for STG and pheasants. Jay appreciates the council and will miss it.
- b. Tribby – appreciation to Cousins and FWP for the lunches. Safe travels.

12. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.