



FWP Region 1 Citizen Advisory Committee

January 15, 2026

FWP Region 1 Office, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell

CAC Member Present

Don Wilkins, Libby, **Katie Little**, Eureka, **Kendal Bortisser**, Kalispell, **Rett Parker**, Whitefish, **Ray Halloran**, Bigfork, **Shane Oehler**, Kalispell

FWP Staff Present

Amber Steed, Dillon Tabish, Chris Neu, Sean Cox, Macy Dugan, Mike Hensler, Dave Landstrom, Lynsay Maykuth

Others Present

Jim Vashro, Fish On Outfitters (Cameron, Mike 3 others), Pete Jellar

Agenda

5:30 p.m. – Dinner

6 p.m. — Welcome and Introductions

6:10 p.m. – Biennial fishing regulation setting process update

Mike Hensler Presentation:

- Public expressed concerns on lake trout numbers in Flathead Lake
- Public asked how can they get their concerns heard and have them matter

7:35 p.m. Ian Wargo, Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

8:00 p.m. – CAC member roundtable discussion

- **Kendal Bortisser:** Discussed the potential for a mentor program or class for those that want to learn to hunt, are new to the area, etc.
 - **Response by Dillon (FWP):** Discussed that FWP is in the early stages of creating an “advanced hunter ed” course that will be more in-depth education.
- **Shane Oehler:** Discussed mandatory reporting, stated that it is important to get good data to make the best decisions. Where do we stand with the status?
 - **Response by Commissioner Wargo:** Department is making strides towards that.
- **Katie Little:** Discussed hunting pressure by non-residents. Discussed potential for road closures in HD 100 and 101 –low level close to town. Suggestion to close during hunting season only. Mainly Forest service roads. Population surveys in these HD’s too. Management decisions are based on harvest data alone.

- **Response by Commissioner Wargo:** Commission heard that, made some changes on nonresident deer.
- **Rett Parker:** Inquired about the potential for a field trip. Requested a CWD landfill update, and a newsletter. Increase awareness about requests for public comment, would appreciate the opportunity.
- **Don Wilkins:** Appreciate the commission staying on the hard issues. Persistency pays off.
- **Ray Holloran:** No topics

8:30 p.m. – Adjourn