



FWP Region 1 Citizen Advisory Committee

Oct. 1, 2025

FWP Region 1 Office, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell

CAC Members Present

Patrick Smith, Kalispell (chair), **Jay Sheffield**, Libby, **Denise VanArtsdale**, Rollins, **Ray Halloran**, Bigfork, **Don Wilkins** Libby, **Emery Grady**, Bigfork, **Don Wilkins**, Libby, **Katie Little**, Eureka (*new advisor*), **Kendal Bortisser**, Kalispell (*new advisor*), **James Nielsen**, Bigfork (*new advisor*)

FWP Staff Present

Amber Steed, Neil Anderson, Dale Landstrom, Macy Dugan, Sean Cox, Chris Neu, Mike Hensler, Lynsay Maykuth

Others Present

Jim Vashro, Representative Tom Millet, 2 members of the public

Agenda

6:30 p.m. — Welcome and Introductions

- Discussed the season ahead
- Planned the dates for upcoming meetings

6:45 p.m. – Commissioner/Parks Board Member Update

- Ian Wargo, Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, explained to new members the roll of the commission.

7 p.m. – FWP Program and Project Updates

- Question was received from a member of the public. They asked about Brook Trout and Bull Trout Hybridization—Does it happen? Why would we want to suppress Brook Trout?

7:45 p.m. – CAC Member Roundtable Discussion

- **Patrick Smith**- Welcome new members, look for some communication.
- **Jay Sheffield**- Discussed making regulations easier –Referring to Waste of Game and upland game bird regulations. Requested to simplify the wording of what has to be kept. Additional clarifications are needed for predatory animals and consistency in descriptions—why not just say skunk instead of civid cat? Why are mountain lions not also included in the Sept 15 rifle seasons for bear and wolf?

- **Denise VanArtsdale**- Educational info that is being put out there is amazing! Park volunteers are doing a lot of good work. What can be done about Elk crossing the highway by Somers. Is signage a possibility?
- **Emery Grady**- CWD and Blue Tongue questions answered. So many animals killed on the highway in the Swan. Signage would be helpful.
- **Katie Little**- Elk concerns in Eureka—timber management and predator management issues of resident elk numbers. Question regarding waste of game on big game, can there be additions to what needs to be kept?
- **James Nielsen**- Access for elderly to fish and places to fish and keep a fish. Access for kids.
- **Don Wilkins**- Encourage SPP to enroll their land in conservation easements. Very critical wildlife habitat. Instead of being sold off in parcels.

Other discussion:

- **Jim Vashro**- Update on MGO Phase 2 goes before land board. Fence pull on Green Diamond, Volunteer opportunity.
- **Ian Wargo**- Discussion on CSKT netting on Flathead Lake
- **Mike- (Outfitter)**- Wanting some fishing cleaning stations on Flathead Lake, becoming a real need

9 p.m. – Adjourn