

FWP, Region One CAC Meeting
12/06/2017, 6:00 p.m.

FWP Present: Joe Rudolph, Andy Gentry, Larry Rattray, Rich Hjort, Tryg Koch, Jessie Walthers, Arlie Burk, Thad Briggs, Darwon Stoneman, Nicole Stickney, Kyle Smalley

Alumni: Jay Sheffield, Ron Hawkinson

Public: Norm Brewer, Jim Vashro

Daily Interlake, Hungry Horse News, Missoulian

Introduction / Bio from Dillon Tabish

New Hires:

- Mark Deleray is the new Reg Sup for R3 / Bozeman
- Greg Lemon is the new Communication Education Administrator
- Beth Shumate is the new Parks Division Administrator

Update on CWD by Jim Williams

Primary Presentation: Detailed Moose Study Research Update by Jesse Newby, Q & A (see presentation in PDF format, attached)

Round Table:

Jessie Walthers – Urban interface with HWY 82 connecting to HWY 93...swans hitting power lines that are going across the area. Will mention to Jessy Coltrane. Will FEC put reflective spinners on the lines to help deter swans from that area? - **Info to Jessy Coltrane 1/03/2018**

Joe Rudolph – lots of concerns about mule deer. Might need a change of regulation to give them a chance to recover. AIS – all folks need to get together (all water users) to help pay for this.

Andy Gentry – 2/3 of license sales at Sportsman in WF are tourists. A lot of balking about the increase in the fishing license fees. More & More people are starting to fish in GNP because of this. Wondering how this will affect the pressure overall on the fishery. It's causing people to weigh that they still want to fish MT but they're going to do in GNP so they don't have to pay the license prices.

Kyle Smalley – AIS funding is important and spreading the funding among all user groups is very important. Hearing how great the youth hunt has been

Larry Rattray – CWD – what part do wolves play in spreading prions throughout the state? Sara Smith sent a note stating that the policies & procedures needs to be signed off. Wayde (Cooperider) stated that they addressed all concerns.... they have not addressed all the issues. Commission meeting tomorrow in Helena...some of us are going over for the wolf trapping issue. What are the results of the first shoulder season, not only in R1 but elsewhere too...?

Rich Hjort – in Libby area the hunter success was very low. HD 103 Mule Deer will be discussed at the FWP Commission. Shared RMEF simulated elk hunt stories for the kids in Sula.

Tryg Koch – Salmon fishery on Bitterroot lake used to be great, why is that? The elk population in HD 170 is going to be out of control in just a few years, 110 elk in his field off Blackmer. The WT deer population is excellent in HD170...is it time that an increased harvest be talked about? The limit on Canada Geese hasn't gone up.... there's A LOT of geese out there...I know this is a Federal issue. At Grain Growers meeting the Grizzly bear population on the FRONT is out of control. New Hunter Safety Program that will teach how to respect landowners, there's already a ranch that is signed up to do this...the thought is to maintain hunter/sportsman comradery. This will be a pilot program for next year, once a person passes this training session, you'll be able to access these private ranches to access these animals that are finding sanctuary there. Screw up once...you'll never be able to access these ranches again.

Arlie Burk – Mule Deer study Arlie knows ranchers in some of those areas and may be able to help get researchers on the ranches.

Thad Briggs – Deer population around Olney is not doing so well. Would like to see R1 go to super tag for extra black bear tag.

Darwon – USFS is ready to do a new river management plan. The worst place is at Blankenship...if the USFS just did a little bit of road work there would be a lot more access. I'm always going to be a advocate of single hooks. TU is always going to keep pushing for elimination of lake trout especially in Swan lake. (Leo should likely come in a give an update on the monitoring of Swan Lake)

Nicole Stickney – Confirms the DNRC plan with the Wild & Scenic management plan. The public is still a little confused regarding the change in ownership for Weyerhaeuser / TPL etc. It's still amazing to see the education needed for the general recreation use license (DNRC). There's a general disconnect that is disheartening that even the people selling these don't know what they are.

DJ Rankosky / Absent but emailed comments for Round Table –

A lot of concern about mule deer. 50 bucks in all of region 1? Poaching in east valley.

Where are the racked bucks??? When did the rut hit?

Quality of hunts that are special draws. Breaks bull tags. Too many cow hunters chasing game all over with side by sides.

What effect are bowhunters having? Equipment shooting 100 yds. now. Many more bow hunters are having effects never seen before.

And grizzlies. Omg. This is my comment. Ridiculous amounts of them in the east valley. I know there is nothing that can be done. But it is getting asinine. I am shocked there was only one shooting there on peters.

And of course. My windmill again. Complete and total lack of elk in 132! The early snow brought a few of the remaining elk left in the south fork over and down into the valley only to be shot to hell on private land. Move the line north to the Lake Blaine road and trail creek. Stop killing cows south of there.

Poaching. Shooting these south fork elk like this makes no sense to me given that the south fork is in shambles population wise as well as recruitment wise. 140 and 132 should be the same HD or managed more closely the same. What are all these bears doing to fawns and calves. The Muleys are all down on the east face in the spring dropping fawns.

Publish the game check numbers and total game check and phone survey numbers so we can see the big picture. Maybe have this info available before the season setting public comment meetings. Just relating this season to last season in the news articles seems like spin.

Adjourned: 9:15 pm