



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

November 8, 2018

R1 CAC Legislative Meeting took place 2 days after the election on 11/6/18

A total of 48 people attended

11 Legislators: Senator Regier, Senator-Elect Cuffe, Senator Blasdel, Senator Keenan, Representative Noland, Representative Regier, Representative Brown, Representative Fern, Representative Glimm, Representative Duram, and Representative Fuller

11 CAC Current Members: Amy Jacobs, Darwon Stoneman, Nicole Stickney, Jessica Shaw, Sue Corrigan, Erik Browne, Cheryl Bowland, Bill Swagger, Mark Christensen, Danielle Coffman, and Sandy Burch, and Kyle Smalley

4 CAC Alumni: Tony Anderson, Chuck Hunt, Larry Lack, and Larry Rattray

4 Public Citizens: Fred Royce, Teri Royce, Nick Gevock and Alec Underwood/MT Wildlife Federation

17 FWP Staff: Jim Williams, Dillon Tabish, Tim Aldrich, Martha Williams, Dustin Temple, Hank Worsech, Ron Jendro, Deb O'Neill, Neil Anderson, Lee Anderson, Nate Reiner, Jon Obst, Kristy Personett, Lysay Maykuth, Dave Landstrom, Mike Hensler, and Martha Abbrescia

Jim Williams and Dillon Tabish – Ground rules & introductions all around - wants this to be active conversation.

Tim Aldrich- Welcomes everyone and gives brief history on himself

Director Williams:

What questions/feedback do you have?

Have appreciation for feedback from CAC.

Goals:

- Focus internally to better serve
- Build credibility; key is financial stability
- Hope you've seen our progress
- Budget & legislation should reflect priorities
- What disconnect do we have with legislators?
- Our responsibility to better explain what we do (well);
- Who are we and what are our values
- Perpetuate outside opportunity
- Focus on integrity; preserving it, the experience
- Bring people together
- What do we do, and why do we do it?



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Budget priorities:

- Restore fisheries, invest in it (hatcheries)
- Support MT State Parks
 - Internally do surveys – angler/hunter use
 - Use license \$ to invest; 1.2 million
 - Work as Agency, not individual Divisions

AIS Program:

- Build/improve; program sunsets soon

Wildlife:

- Restore grizzly & wolf specialist positions
- Increase tolerance/reduce conflicts

Deferred maintenance capital request

- Numerous projects need maintenance

Equipment:

- Create fleet type system

Dustin Temple – Chief Financial Officer

Regarding a new ALS system:

- It's necessary to move into the future and allow all users go to one place, also will integrate Parks Reservations into the universal FWP
- RFI - \$5-10M (13 responses from various vendors)
- Eligible for DJ funds (Federal)
- May have open house to showcase draft program. (Since CAC meeting, a public listening session has been scheduled in Kalispell FWP for 12/10/18)

Financial health of FWP

- Parks – budgets keep getting further & further behind
- License Account
 - Nonresident licenses fund 70-75% of Dept.
 - Have 2.5 years of budget, balance \$20-23 M
- Conservation license purchase is consistent, more licenses/person
- Budget functions have been consolidated

Director Williams:

We're keeping promises regarding open budget information
Not "resting on laurels" with strong license sells



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Hank Worsech – Legislative Liaison

- Bonus point squaring; clarification in statute (Average then square or square then average)
- BMA cooperator licenses – Clarify to have base hunting and AIS fee free
- Conservation – standalone license
- Change March 15th nonresident combination license deadline to April 1st (also deer/elk permits)
*Recommended by regulation committee
- Headwaters State Park move from primitive
- Explanation of “liaisons” – worked well, available for information/talks

Senator-Elect Cuffe:

- Had lunch with Director Williams - Appreciates the “direct line” of communication, creation of the AIS position, her integrity, honesty and directness.
- Moose study \$ - need results
On-going study. Annual report on website. Cabinet population stable, RM Front increasing, Big Hole declining – learning habitat needs

Rep. Fern:

Parks

- Total amount needed in deferred maintenance? Potential to do more, but held back?
- Classify Parks into what they offer (basic function): water based, historical...
- May require a bold proposal to get ahead

Prioritize

- Biggest bang for our buck
- Should be an obligation to have safe and modern places to recreate
- Discussion as to what infrastructure is – it’s agreed that the infrastructure of Parks is important.

Jessica Shaw:

- Pay to play - hunters pay most
- How to get more funding from diverse people/users

Darwon Stoneman:

- AIS \$15 nonresident fee is burdensome – need different financing
- He would lobby for single hook (at least) for catch & release



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Rep Browne:

- Hunter education in their community needs improvement – get education out there
- Concerns about wolf effect on elk hunting (not the only thing effecting)
- Next meeting on 28th; FWP didn't attend last meeting

Tim Aldrich – couldn't meet last time but will be there along with Diane, Neil, Dillon & Lee

Danielle Coffman:

- Obvious biologists need funding to continue studies, to give the public better information and numbers to back it up.

Rep. Fuller:

- Commend FWP
- Attended Grizzly bear public meeting
- After delisting, economic value of bear hunting; provide for protection (\$) of such – “not dictatorial & tyrannical control”, economic value areas, animals not poached

Director Williams – we fully recognize responsibility of managing; planning for that, FWP won't dictate. Have learned from wolf management plan to include public involvement

Rep. Noland:

- What is FWP budget? = \$100M
- Thanks for transparency
- Wants explanation of \$ in/\$ out = 2 years
Dustin will provide Monday (FY17 & 18)
- What is AIS annual budget?
= 5.9M FWP, 350K DNRC
- Capital appropriations
Amount of \$ spent on land purchases?

Senator-Elect Cuffe:

- Amount of land purchased?
Numerous ways to acquire interest in land

Bill Swagger:

- PR work – entry level bio work done by wardens; need to have wardens do enforcement work legislation needs changed
- Hunter Ed – adapted to apprentice program, having trouble with no upper age limit, reduce age to 10 & 11 again. Relationship has improved in Lincoln County



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Sen. Blasdel:

- No opposition to no age limit – wants feedback
- Heard from instructor's; good feedback
- Reason for no upper age, like veterans
Bill Swagger – need veterans provision?

Rep. Glimm:

PR funds:

- More \$ from PR funds means license \$ going longer
- Intention wasn't for wardens to count "moose scat"
- Wanted landowner relations improvement
- Classification of time needs clarified

Director Williams – joined Joint task force on Federal Aid sort through it. PR eligible definition of hours. commend enforcement for doing their best; have been very careful. Move to tracking thru MCT has been challenging

Jim Williams- Commended Lee and crew for tracking PR hours and the system Enforcement developed

Rep. Fern:

- Game warden shortage? How to determine? What to do about it?
80 wardens, 17 sergeants, 7 captains- PR takes 30% of enforcement time and cover AIS and parks, being pulled many ways. Hard to track shortages

Erik Browne:

- Metric for warden, how to measure need for new resources (Parks, wardens, etc.)

Darwon Stoneman:

- Multi-use funding important ex. FAS -get \$ from recreational users as well
Director Williams – million-dollar question... looking at other revenue resources

Senator-Elect Cuffe:

- Use PR funds for education/communication?
Director Williams – working on other options to use \$ more broadly it's a federal decision

Kyle Smalley:

- Recreation broad view funding
Director Williams – S Carolina 80% sales tax goes to recreation



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Danielle Coffman:

- Users, resources used (need data)?
- MW MT residents cross over in use

Dave Landstrom: for instance, FAS use other than fishing – funded by fishing license \$

Mark Christensen:

- Tax visitors

Jim Williams: cannot safely meet demand for recreation

Nicole Stickney:

- GNP pushing visitors to other Federal and State lands
- Looking into future with 30K' view
- State Lands roads paid by loggers; 20% logging use, 80% recreation

**very few recreational use only State Lands licenses sold*

Bill Swagger:

- Permit for access like the boat validation decal for kayaking etc. with fee associated

Larry Rattray:

- Donated vet license; shouldn't be any left, is due to 70% disability requirement and non-profit org

Hank Worsech – we need more organizations to participate

Erik Browne:

- Legislators – sponsoring any FWP bills?

Nolan – yes, Brown – yes; but not willing to share with the group

Adjourn 8:50pm