

**Region 4 CAC Meeting  
Minutes  
August 3, 2010  
Region 4 Headquarters  
Great Falls MT**

FWP Staff – Gary Bertellotti, Fred Schultz, Matt Marcinek, Bruce Auchly, Ken Farthing and George Liknes

CAC Members – Fred Davison, Doug Deffe', Karl Gies, Dennis Hanson, Jodie Butler, Mike Labriola and Judie Suden

Public/Guests – Bryan Thies, Cascade; Don Pfau, Lewistown

**CAC Member Discussion Items:**

Went around the room for CAC discussion items and comments.

Karl Gies – Access Fergus County is going to court over an access issue with a rancher in the Roy area. Could be rather expensive. Lot of interest in my area about I-161. Seems to be 50/50 for and against. Big Spring Creek has been blown out all spring due to high water conditions. Like to suggest we have our next meeting in Lewistown so we can tour Central Montana Shooting Complex. (Don Pfau –Lewistown) – Handed out some information on the Shooting Complex. All boat ramps on Ft Peck are now open. There is nine feet of water on Crooked Creek boat ramp.

Mike Labriola – Read a letter he has written and plans to send to the Governor over improving conditions at Bean Lake.

Jodie Butler – Attended some of the trial in Ft Benton concerning the guiding issue and taking of a Big Horn Sheep by an uncover warden. Seemed to be a guide versus outfitter issue. I-161 is a concern for sportsmen in the area. Thane Creek campground is closed due to flooding issues. It is beautiful up there in the Highwood Mountains. Asked if cutthroat trout are going to be planted in Highwood Creek. George L., Fisheries Manager, said that none have been planted as of now but we are working on Smith Creek and the North Fork of Highwood Creek for reintroduction. Some grizzly bear excitement and concern in the Carter/Ft Benton area. No real issues but folks are watching and aware.

Judi Sudan - Wanted to know what was going to happen about wolf licenses? Also asked if antelope numbers are dropping?

Doug Deffe' – Landowners have expressed concerns of “bucks only” hunting in hunting districts around Great Falls. Landowners believe the bucks will just get hammered. Concerned that we didn't cut back on enough doe tags and that HD 445 hunters can hunt does in HD 413. Also had some questions on Big Horn Sheep case – the sheep that was killed by the undercover agent – genes were taken out of the pool? That the law suit against the department and warden is costing more money. He would like an explanation as to what went wrong and what really happened. Had some concerns about I-161 – wondered about funding for the Block Management program. Gary B. handed out some information explaining the initiative and briefly discussed some of the information about the initiative. Wanted to know if our CAC should send a letter of support of the wolf/elk study being conducted in Region 2? Gary B. said he would check into that – it may be more of a funding issue than a support issue.

Fred Davison – Fishing on Highwood creek has picked up and has been very good. Everything is on hold for Joint Resolution 15.

Dennis Hanson – Had a good meeting in Chester with Region 4 fish folks concerning Tiber Reservoir. Possibility of another meeting in Lewistown on August 27. Fishing has been slow on Tiber. FWP is looking into some options and/or solutions about Tiber. Some folks in the Chester have had some discussions about sheep case. Happy that antelope tag numbers have risen in HD 401 and 404. Asked if he could get some stats on drawing stats for elk in HD 401 and 403; antelope in HD 401 and 404; and deer b tags for HD 400 and 401. Fred S. said he would check into that and email them up to him.

### **General Discussion Items:**

We needed to replace three members on the CAC due to resignations this past spring. We advertised and received 10 applications for the 3 slots. Regional managers reviewed the applications and scored them and applications were also sent out to CAC members to review and score. Everyone was requested to give their top 3-5 picks to Fred. We tallied up the selections and found we had three applicants that separated themselves from the group by getting the most votes. We held a discussion as to the top three applicants and got a consensus that those folks would be good members and they were approved to be on the committee. The three selected were: Bryan Thies of Great Falls/Cascade; Lisa Flowers of Choteau/Dupuyer; and Joe Rapkoch of Shelby. Gary will send letters of welcome to the selectees and we will also send out sorry letters to those that weren't selected. It was a very good pool and our next turnover should be in two years. We encouraged those that put in to keep this in mind for next round of applications.

Had a short discussion about possible changes to the fishing regulations especially due the Missouri River Reservoir Management Plan. There are as many as nine possible changes that could occur. Looks like walleyes on Canyon Ferry Reservoir will go from 20 to a limit of 10 with 4 over 16” and 1 over 28”.

Also discussed grizzly bears on the plains. We want to educate folks to avoid conflicts.

Matt Marcinek, our Region 4 Parks Manager, discussed some things that are happening in Parks. We just finished selecting a new Park Manager for Giant Springs/Ackley Lake State Parks. Her name is Suann “Suze” Havener. She will be starting September 13. She brings a wealth of experience to this position gained through her work at Pictograph Cave State Park, BLM at various locations, and private resource management firms. The Parks Biennial Fee Rule and Smith River Biennial Rule will be reviewed by the Commission this week. Went over some of the rule changes that will be voted on. This spring/early summer we had to close several fishing access sites on the Smith River and Missouri River due to high water levels. Mentioned that we opened up several new Fishing Access Sites – Bull Pasture, Lone Tree and Cottonwood Grove. We are still having access problems with the Lewis property, now called Largent’s Bend. We had a huge problem with downed trees at Sluice Boxes State Park. Also had a log jam on Belt Creek within the park that was very dangerous and we had to close the creek to floating. Both the log jam and trees have been cleaned up and the Park is fully open for hiking and floating the creek. We had some real safety issues with the log jam in the creek not only for floaters but in trying to clear the jam itself. We just started the effort to get First People’s Buffalo Jump State Park listed as a National Historical Landmark.

Gary asked that all members talk to their constituents about hot issues such as grizzly bears, wolves, or whatever their concerns maybe and bring it to the next meeting.

A few items to consider for the next meeting and agenda are – Upland Game Bird Programs and update on Whirling Disease.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 21, Tuesday, at the Lewistown Area Office, 215 West Aztec Drive, 4-8 pm. We will also set up a tour, prior to the meeting, for those that want to visit the Central Montana Shooting Complex in Lewistown.

**NOTE:** We will put out a note prior to the meeting about transportation to Lewistown for those folks in the Great Falls and surrounding area.