

Spotted Dog Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

First Meeting, May 22, 2013

The Pen Convention Center, Deer Lodge

Members in attendance: John Beck, Jim Flynn, John Hollenback, Neil Horne, Luke Johnson, Bill Lombardi, Bill Mosier, Jodi Pauley, Bill Pierce, Brian Quigley, Liz Smith, Louis Smith, Jason Swant, Gayle Tomlinson, Donna Young

FWP in attendance: David Dziak, Ray Vinkey, Jason Lindstrom, Joe Kambic, Rick Northrup, Paul Sihler, Vivaca Crowser, Mike Thompson

DNRC in attendance: Fred Staedler

Introductions: All members introduced themselves and described their interests in serving on the workgroup. Common themes expressed by members were:

- A need for FWP to repair relationships and regain trust.
- Interest in adding local knowledge and local needs to management of the WMA.
- Interest by some in livestock grazing and range management.
- Work toward a balance among all interests.
- Some are representatives of organized groups.
- Some have hunted the WMA for many years.
- Promote good stewardship and proper management.

Materials & References: FWP passed out the Draft Management Plan and Final Decision Notice for Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which together constitutes the existing Final Management Plan for the WMA (adopted in August 2010). Attention was paid to the stated goals of the WMA.

The NRDP funding for the acquisition of Spotted Dog WMA was discussed and opinions offered.

Neighbors raised issues about some particular gates, signs, and weeds. Dave Dziak, WMAs Manager, heard these and noted them.

Draft Charter: FWP presented a draft charter for review and led a discussion on its proposed provisions.

There was a discussion about who is “the community” that FWP hopes to reach out to with the workgroup. Some advocated for neighbors and some advocated for a broader public. In a roll call vote, the group unanimously affirmed that the proper membership is currently seated on the workgroup.

In the course of discussion, FWP recorded the following topic areas of interest for the group to discuss:

- Weeds
- Fences/gates

- Trespass
- Lack of respect for lands
- Grazing
- Road maintenance
- Motorized vs nonmotorized use
- Riparian areas

Workgroup Chair: John Hollenback accepted the role of Chairman, and the chairman will run the meetings. He called for the group to work together through a good process.

Jim Flynn accepted the role of Vice Chair. Jim asked FWP to provide a briefing on what resources—financial, personnel, expertise, policy—are in place.

Paul Sihler, FWP, stated that one of FWP Director Hagener's priorities is an assessment of operations and maintenance needs and capabilities on WMAs statewide.

Next meeting: Set for June 19, 6:30pm, at the Deer Lodge Community Center to include a presentation by FWP on what has been done already and the processes and funding limitations within which we are working.