

## Spotted Dog Minutes

10/16/2014

Attendance: John Hollenback, Bill Mosier, Liz Smith, Jodi Pauley, John Beck, Donna Young, Dan Lucas, Fred Staedler, Brian Quigley, Dan McQuery . Others present: Pat Hansen, FWP present: Ray Vinkey, Dave Dziak, Mike Thompson

John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. John discussed that he would like this group to keep working on the bullet points that we talked about last meeting. He said the adjacent landowners have met and Dan handed out some bullet points from that meeting. Mike Thompson said at the last meeting we talked about some guiding principles and he went over those again.

1. The primary purpose of the Spotted Dog WMA is to benefit wildlife and fish habitats, and natural resources on behalf of the general public
2. Actions will be sustainable for future generations
3. Provide access for a wide variety of uses consistent with the management plan
4. Be a good neighbor with the landowners and the residents of Powell County.

Bill Mosier said he likes these guidelines. Brian Quigley agreed and felt we should go with it. We decided to break into sub-groups and discuss wildlife and access. Dan Lucas discussed what the wildlife group talked about. They mostly discussed elk. He said they talked about hunting pressure and how that affects the Spotted Dog. He said they talked about the hunting district 215 which runs all the way from Butte to Garrison. He said some of the private land owner considerations is access to hunting surrounding the WMA. He said some of the tools could be issuing cow tags for folks over 65 years of age. Limit hunting numbers and the time frame that the hunting may take place, maybe focus regulations on certain parts of 215, also what kind of vegetations management tools can be used with grazing. Can we attract elk at certain times of year, etc. The group discussed why there is not as much calving on the WMA and that perhaps having some aspen enclosures, etc may help. Also giving out cow tags specific to private lands or doing late season hunts on private lands. He said FWP can change cow tags numbers given out every year to help manipulate management. He said as we move forward the group felt like this group could be advisory to the commission on management of the WMA yearly concerning wildlife management. There was some discussion on deer and concern on predator problems.

Mike Thompson said their group discussed access. They discussed some boundary adjustments with the McGraw ranch and some exchange of lands. Donna Young said the county has GPS'ed the Stage Coach road and it is not really clear where that road goes especially over by the reservoir. She said they are still working with their GIS experts on determining a better road route. There is still the possibility that the road could be opened in the future. Mike said there was discussion on whether it would be open seasonally, maintenance, etc. He said there was discussion of seasonal fishing on the reservoir. He said they talked about the closure on Jake Creek Road and how that will affect hunting and access, etc. He said there was also discussion on alternative routes and is that feasible. He said they talked about handicapped access, how do we allow folks for retrieve an elk if it is in a remote area. He said the group strongly feels that the Jake Creek access needs to be replaced in some form or fashion. There was a

feeling that there should be some notification in the paper or something that Jake Creek access has been closed. Dave Dziak talked that there should be some flexibility on road openings during the summer and possibly hunting season. He said they talked about having a senior citizen designated area for hunting. Dan McQueary said he was happy that Jake Creek road was closed as it has kept the elk in the Spotted Dog as there has been no hunting in that area and has relieved pressure on his private ground.

The group would like to look at other WMA plans at the next meeting. Stan Frasier asked if there has been some discussion on grazing as that is one of his concerns. John said yes but we are not going to discuss it at this meeting as we have discussed that extensively. Mike will send out management plans to the group and next meeting we will also discuss fisheries.

Next meeting is November 20, 6:30 pm.