

MONTANA TRAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Second Meeting Agenda August 28 - 29, 2018
Emergency Services Building, 3615 Wynne Avenue, Butte, Montana

OBJECTIVES

1. For Committee members absent from the first meeting and the public in attendance, affirm the Committee's Charter; clarify roles in the process; review the collaborative process and timeline, and announce each day's public comment time.
2. Based on assigned reading material, FWP and other statistics/data, and member research, continue learning about trapping in Montana.
3. Draft "guiding principles" and begin work on the "important questions".
4. Confirm the future meeting date and location and assign homework.

AGENDA

Tuesday, August 28: 9:00 AM to Noon (lunch provided for Committee members)

Here we go:

- Welcome back; affirming the Committee's Charter and roles in the process (John Vore - FWP Game Management Bureau Chief)
- Briefly: Review the session objectives/agenda, discussion ground rules and the collaborative process; generally approval/edit the first meeting summary with particular attention to the facilitator's grouping of the "important questions"; explain data/new materials, etc. (making sure all members have the same information)
- Brief re-introductions/introductions of members who were absent from the first meeting:
 - "Who am I, who do I think I represent; sharing "interest" sheets (time to edit/expand if desired)
 - Others present who are not part of the Committee

Evolving the discussion:

- What did you learn from reading the assigned materials? Clarifying questions...
- What useful thing did you learn from your "trapline"?
- How can we use it in the collaborative process?
- Based on what you learned, are there changes, additions, etc., to the "important questions"?

Noon to 12:45 PM

- Public comment period
- Working lunch while Committee members hear public comment

Afternoon: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Refocusing...

Working in small groups, developing/committing to collective guiding principles

Using the refreshed “important questions” as context, what collective guiding principles would be useful to help narrow the decision space and guide them toward recommendations?

Small Group One

- A. Is trapping constitutionally protected in Montana and if so, what language in the Constitution protects it?
- B. How is trapping supported financially by/within FWP?
What is the data related to the number of trappers who pay for a license to trap in Montana?
What direct income do Trappers bring to FWP and what might be the income from supporting industries?
- C. What is the spectrum of trappers and their activities (e.g., recreation, livelihood, predator control, cultural/historical, etc.)? Might certain regulations be applicable to different kinds of trappers?
- D. What outcomes do we desire related to trapping? How will our accepted recommendations be evaluated for effectiveness related to our desired outcomes?
How can the Committee forward issues to FWP where they cannot reach agreement and/or it involves another entity beyond the Department?

Small Group Two

- E. What is meant/how do we collectively define terms like “ethical” and/or “positive trapping behaviors/actions”?
What are the varying/different impacts on animals from different kinds of traps?
Based on our definitions, are there particular traps that should be encouraged and why?
- F. What behaviors related to trapping need to be addressed?
What can be done about “bad” (outlaw) trappers? What can be done about unethical trapping?
What “tickets”/fines are given for what infractions related to trapping?
Geographically, where are the most tickets given?
- G. How might a particular problem be best resolved – education, regulation, enforcement, consequences, etc.
How can the public be made aware of traps – where, when, how, etc. – to decrease negative interactions between traps and the general public?
What is the rate of citation for pets at large (e.g., off leash in a leash area; chasing wildlife, etc.)?
How can we educate/promote responsible pet ownership in areas with wildlife and where trapping occurs?
What are the statistics about how many domestic animals are treated for trap-related injuries compared to injuries from other things?
What options are there for implementing an education program related to trapping?

Group Three

- H. What role should enforcement play?
What can be done to help enforcement?
What information do we need to inform recommendations related to enforcement and trapping?
- I. What are the regulations for the Montana Department of Agriculture related to trapping on private land and how are those regulations different from FWP?
What authority does FWP have on private land related to trapping?
Where FWP does not have authority related to trapping, what can be done?
- J. How can we get useful data related to non-target species and how can we use it for useful analysis?
How do we collectively define “non-target” species? What do we mean by “non-target” and “incidental”?
What data is available related to incidental catch; what does FWP do when this happens?
How can incidental catch data be more effective/accurate?
- K. What does a “trap-free” zone look like and how/when might it be useful?
What approach can/should be used for how death takes place for animals (still alive) caught in a trap – or for release from a trap?
What do we need to discuss about 24 hour trap checks, mandatory trap checks, etc.?
What might be alternative methods – lethal or non-lethal – that could be used in place of trapping – when, where, etc.?

Getting started on the “important questions”

- Based on the draft guiding principle(s), what are we trying to resolve... affirm... redesign... find solutions, etc., per “important questions”?
- Which, if any, of the “important questions” have already been completed/resolved? Are there any “important questions” where we have collective vision?

Summarizing today’s meeting; prepping for tomorrow – see back for tomorrow’s agenda

Wednesday, August 29: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (lunch provided)

Refocusing...

Continuing work on “important questions”

- Vision, guiding principles and possible options per “important question”
- Additional data needed per “important question”

Where do we go from here?

- Affirming the October meeting date and location (Committee progress will determine the last date before the March Commission meeting)
- Summarizing the results of the session; requests?
- Homework
- “Gifts” to each other

2018 MONTANA TRAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

Original Charter September 26, 2017 – revised May 2, 2018 to accommodate new dates
Hunting and trapping of managed species in Montana is highly regulated by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) so that population viability of those species is protected. Yet trapping in particular has been and remains controversial. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will assemble a citizen committee representing the spectrum of opinions on trapping that will provide recommendations to FWP that ensure population viability of trapped species, the humane treatment of animals, and minimize social conflict.

FWP will put out a call for participation through newspapers, social media and on our website. Applications will be reviewed by FWP with the final selection by the Director of approximately 12 people who represent the geography of Montana, the spectrum of opinions on trapping, and who can respectfully work together to address issues and reach consensus. FWP wants people who are solution-oriented and respectful of diverse opinions, not people with an exclusive unilateral agenda. Committee members will be expected to participate in 3 – 4 meetings that will be professionally-facilitated by a non-FWP person over six to eight months, and present recommendations to FWP by March 30, 2019. FWP will not be a member of the committee, but will provide technical and information assistance.

The committee will not consider whether or not there will be trapping in Montana. Trapping is a legal activity, a sound wildlife management practice and a legitimate use of wildlife, and is well represented in Montana's history and culture. Through this collaborative effort, FWP looks to ensure trapping will continue. It is protected by the Montana Constitution's Article IX in the Preservation of Harvest Heritage Section 7. Also, in FWP's Vision and Guide for 2016-2026, the department states that it values "the continued importance of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor recreation to Montana's culture and conservation ethic."

Eighteen years ago, in 1999, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' then director, Pat Graham, assembled a similar Trapping Advisory Committee to "Identify recommendations for the Director's consideration to minimize conflicts between land-use practices, outdoor recreation and trapping." That committee made nine recommendations to the Director, many of which have been implemented. At a minimum, this Trapping Advisory Committee will review the recommendations of the 1999 committee, including the controversial issue of trap check time, and will evaluate those recommendations as part of its charge. This effort will also provide opportunity for other trapping-related specifics to be discussed and reviewed.

STEPS IN THE FACILITATED COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

- Revisit/affirm the ground rules and any needed process agreements; develop collective understanding/acceptance of the collaborative process we'll be using
- Recognize the "Hard Facts"
- Identify individual Committee member "interests" related to this process and work toward mutual understanding of those interests
- Identify "Important Questions" that need to be discussed... addressed in this process in order to reach consensus recommendations
- Agree on a set of "guiding principles"
- Problem-solve to get to agreement
- Develop collective recommendations

DISCUSSION GROUND RULES

Committee members created the following ground rules to encourage productive and “safe” discussion in the session and throughout the process:

- Listen actively and honorably.
- Manage your own communication (allow the other to finish; avoid side conversations at the table unless part of the process).
- Allow the facilitator to remind individuals/the group about the ground rules.
- Arrive at common definitions... and use them.
- Respect each individual’s right to their opinion – even if you don’t agree.
- Define problems and seek solutions – rather than finding opportunities to further one’s agenda.
- Encourage data... science based discussion and solutions. Use data to explore “fair standards”.
- Do your homework so you are prepared for the next meeting.
- Work to find consensus. When agreement is not reached, allow the facilitator to use an interest-based approach to try to build a collaborative solution. When agreement still cannot be reached, the group will decide how to forward their outcome on that issue to the Department/Commission. If a Committee member is absent, the group will move ahead rather than revisiting issues.
- Refer media contacts to John Vore.
- Refer questions from others to the meeting summaries on the Department website.
- Avoid using email to build agreement or cliques around a particular solution.

DRAFT “IMPORTANT QUESTIONS”

The following is the Committee’s initial brainstormed list of “important questions” that need to be discussed in the process and any data they felt would help inform the discussion. For discussion purposes, the facilitator drafted the following groupings – the groupings are not in any rank order of importance (and may be changed by the Committee at the 2nd meeting).

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- C. What is the spectrum of trappers and their activities (e.g., recreation, livelihood, predator control, cultural/historical, etc.)? Might certain regulations be applicable to different kinds of trappers?
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