



**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019  
**Location:** Region 3 Headquarters, 1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
**FWP Staff:** Mark Deleray, Adam Pankratz, Howard Burt, Travis Horton, Betsey LaBroad, Lorenzo Aguilar, Kelsie Dougherty, Linnaea Schroeer

**CAC:**

**Present:** Jeremy Fadness, Cindy Christophersen, Myrtle Woosley, Richard Lessner, Dan Wirak, Logan Miller.

**Not Present:** Jared Brown, Mark Savinski, Henry Hardin, Dennis Nelson, Harold Johns, Ronald Fick, Becca Wood, John Salazar, Julie Kennedy, Josh White.

**Welcome & Introductions – Mark Deleray, Regional Supervisor**

Two new members – Brown and Sevinsky, they will both attend the May meeting. Will hold off on Charter discussion until those members are available for discussion.

**2019 Topic Discussion – Mark Deleray, Regional Supervisor**

Discussion of Product-Driven Approach & CAC Recommendations or Solutions

Proposed to the CAC – change how we approach our time together and what we achieve.

- Primarily to date this has been a “sharing of information” between the agency and members and we want to be more effective with our time. We want to emphasize the advisory role of the CAC.
- Propose to focus on specific topics/issues that timely and are important to CAC members and the agency and come up with a “product” (recommendations, conclusions) that help guide decision making.
  - Lessner: Agree that the “advisory” portion of the committee is essential, and we have not been able to really “do the advising” to date. I support this change in direction in order to enhance the advisory portion of our role.
- Possibility to develop sub-committees to tackle specific issues and bring results to the quarterly meetings or through email communications.
- Deleray proposed a meeting format where a topic is discussed and if the CAC is interested in providing advise to the department regarding this topic, individual CAC members would take the lead in forming the groups comments and providing them to the region in a formal letter, email or verbally. The comments provided would be agreed to by all members of the CAC.

## **Discussion of Topics to Address in 2019-2020 – Linnaea Schroeer, Responsive Management Unit**

### **FWP Topics and Solicitation of CAC Topic Ideas**

Schroeer lead CAC members through a prioritization exercise where they worked to identify some of the top issues that they were concerned with and thought the group should focus on in upcoming meetings. The topics with the most interest were:

- Public Access (mostly in general terms, but a few participants voiced special concern for access in the Crazy Mountains and the Ruby River, private land/public wildlife, prescriptive easements, and issues with dogs on public land harassing wildlife).
- Aquatic Invasive Species (particularly funding, monitoring information, and department strategy for containment)
- Disease Management (specifically regarding chronic wasting disease and brucellosis. Members were interested in more information and were concerned with how disease might impact livestock and lead to increased costs to producers).
- State Parks (parks planning and funding)
- Habitat (being proactive, particularly on our Wildlife Management Areas, and support for Habitat MT)
- Fisheries Management (particularly fishing pressure on the Madison, Canyon Ferry, Holter and Hauser)
- Conservation Easements (department's legal opinion of Land Board approval of conservation easements)
- The Elk Management Plan
- River Recreation Management (getting all users to pay their fair share for use of the resource)
- FWP Funding Growth (expanding revenue sources)

This was a preliminary exercise to start identifying topics of interest and generate discussion. This exercise will be continued at the next meeting when more members are present. Also, for those members unable to attend this last meeting, if you have ideas for topics to discuss and provide advise please provide them to Lorenzo Aguilar.

### **State Parks – Betsey LaBroad, Parks Manager**

Discussion regarding State Parks (SP) funding sources – misconception that State Parks receives state tax dollars. The license plate fee of \$6 is the primary funding source (~70% success), as well as some FWP license dollars. Comparison of how MT manages parks with very little funds to neighboring states with similar size (CO, WY, ID, etc.) and much higher budgets.

- The Headwaters SP primitive HB70 (primitive removal) is going along very well. Primitive parks don't charge fees, no improvements, interpretive signs, electricity etc. we want to add 10 sites (limited by riparian environment), add electricity (aging population requires medical devices to be plugged in, generators are the alternative and that is not popular, staff have no indoor plumbing), increase revenues to improve park. Add bike in and boat-in camp sites.
- A previous attempt at park classification came out of an audit and was not received well. It was based on a scarcity scale of 1-4, lower numbers receive less funding and resources.

New parks classification and investment strategy – no longer on a scale or based on scarcity. Parks will utilize a rubric/matrix to determine how to organize management (investment,

promotion, management). This allows us to better identify needs/potentials for individual parks by breaking down into frameworks based on experience categories and service levels.

- **Experience categories** (why is it a park?) areas can overlap.

- Natural
- Recreational
- Heritage

Putting it in a primary category will assure that the primary attributes are managed for (preserved). Ex: L&C is there because of the caverns so it is considered a “natural” park. There are obviously vast recreational opportunities, however the designation of “natural” will ensure that management will always consider the cavern resource as the primary management objective and does not impact the natural resources that make the park unique.

- **Service levels** – what do we expect from the parks? The matrix will break down the service levels, they are not set in stone.
  - Core park – drinking water, gravel/paved roads, some on site staff, vault toilet etc.
  - Enhanced parks – overnight camping, open year-round, interpretive program, concessions, and other development.
  - Rustic parks – fewer amenities and infrastructure. Eliminating the scale-based system allows for improvements, just because it is rustic doesn’t mean it has to be in poor condition.

FWP is seeking comments on the draft policy. The region wants the R3 CAC to provide recommendations/comments on the proposed policy. Specifically, the region is looking for input regarding understandability of the proposed classification system and recommendations for clarification.

- The proposed policy is available at [http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/newsPage.html?id=nr\\_1401.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/newsPage.html?id=nr_1401.html)
- R3 CAC members who have comments please send them to Logan Miller at [lmiller@ranchresources.net](mailto:lmiller@ranchresources.net) and Jeremy Fadness at [jfadness@wwcengineering.com](mailto:jfadness@wwcengineering.com) April 10th. Lorenzo will pass these along to Jeremy Fadness and Logan Miller who will pull them together into a recommendation from the R3 CAC.
- Jeremy and Logan will formulate something based on all CAC member comments for the entire CAC to look at and decide to support or not.
- the Region will send to entire CAC with the request for individual comment from members. The 30-day comment period ends April 18. CAC process:
  - 10-14-day limit for CAC members to get in their comments.
  - Send comments to letter writer.
  - Send letter back out to entire group for verification and agreement prior to becoming official.
  - Include comments in the letter (depending on range of comments).
  - **Coordinating comments: Logan and Jeremy. Drafting letter: Jeremy**

## Adjourn

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