



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

CAC MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2020

In Attendance

Members: Lea Bossler, Louie Bouma, Marc Cooke, Robert Edwards, Matt Graveley, Everett Headley, Laurie Johnston, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Bill Mitchell, Jim Olson, Kylie Paul, Gregory Price, Thomas Puchlerz, Matthew Quinlan, Joanne Weimer.

Staff: Randy Arnold, Lori Brooks, Vivaca Crowser, Loren Flynn, Joe Jaquith, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele, Mike Thompson.

Guests: Tim Aldrich (Fish & Wildlife Commissioner); Chris Parish (Director of Global Conservation, Peregrine Fund).

Welcome & introductions

Vivaca Crowser welcomed all in attendance and gave a special welcome to guest speaker, Chris Parish.

Considering Non-Lead Ammunition-Chris Parish

Goal: Working with the national sporting community (North American Non-Lead Partnership) to reduce use of lead ammunition and contribute to wildlife and habitat health.

- **In Humans, lead:**

- Stays in the body for 1-3 weeks.
- Mistaken for calcium and sometimes the body stores it.
- Disrupts the nervous system.

- **In live animals:**

- Affects blood levels.
- Shows up in Feather Lead Concentrations and Radiographs.
- California Condor-Lead was detected in 80% of the population during the hunting season.

- **In deceased animals:**

- Lead fragments show up in gut piles. It affects the scavenging communities, especially raptors.
 - Mike Thompson – How does MT initiate the conversation or get started? Chris: Partnership can assist with outreach to interested persons to begin the conservations.
- **Best practices:** Outreach, education and incentivization, build partnerships, implement new programs, social media and podcasts.

Wildlife-Mike Thompson

Hunting Season Setting Wrap-Up:

- The R2 elk/shoulder season workgroup (which included quite a few CAC members) had four meetings last summer/early fall (mostly discussing the Elk Shoulder Seasons)
- FWP wildlife staff also learned a lot from public meetings this winter.
- We gave the Commission what they needed and enough common ground for the public to approve and accept.
- One of our biggest regional changes is Fewer “late” shoulder season hunts but nearly the same number of “early” season hunts.

Wolves:

- Extreme interest in Wolf management during this season-setting process.
- State-wide, population numbers were down from 2011.
- Opportunity with UM to develop estimates that are more localized.
 - Goal: To provide the best available science to encourage more discussion.

Front Office-Dori Schiele

License changes:

- Will now print on regular copy paper.
 - No confidence in thermal paper quality (disappearing ink issue) and cannot get printers/parts anymore.
- Customers will be able to print out their licenses/tags at home on their copier via “one-time” link to prevent duplication.
- Hunters will utilize “baggies” to affix to the animal after tag dates are notched.
- This change is a “stepping-stone” for the eventual change coming to the ALX software system.
- The first drawing date deadline was changed from March 15 to April 1:
 - April 1st- NR Combo pkgs and Deer/Elk permits
 - May 1st-Bison, Moose, Sheep and Goat.
 - June 1st-Antelope, Antelope B, Deer B and Elk B.
- Permit drawing applications will no longer be mailed into Helena. Only way to put into drawing in on-line or at a regional office.
- Any issues with damaged or wet licenses will be dealt with on a “case-by-case” basis during the season.
**(per Joe Jaquith)*

Questions/Input from CAC members:

- How does the public find out about changes to regulations after the fact (ie. Commission’s decision to close a HD mid-season)?
- In 2019, how many grizzlies were taken out of the system? (50-55)
- 10 years ago-MT FWP proposed a ban on lead on the WMAs but was told “not reasonable” by the public and legislators. Maybe solution is to let partnerships educate.
- Have a pamphlet available at Hunter’s Education to start the conversation about dangers of lead. This may be a good method of informing the public so they can make a choice. Some parents may not like this information given to their children at these classes.
- Put information on the FWP website or non-traditional sources (not FWP). These could include “Lead-Free” video clips. Need to be careful that we are sending the message to inform not proclaim.
- Is CWD expanding in Montana? Detections are rising (i.e. found in game farm in Montana).
- We can assume we will have more detections. Shift the movement to a statewide rule of carcasses going to landfill to manage the disease better.
- Have pamphlets included in the regulations for the hunter on how to remove the lymph nodes for CWD testing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. Next meeting TBD