



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

CAC MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 2022-Lubrecht Experimental Forest Pavilion-Greenough, MT

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Louie Bouma, Marc Cooke, Peggy Cordell, Clayton Elliott, Kit Fischer, Everett Headley, Laurie Johnston, Denley Loge, Bill Mitchell, Kylie Paul, Greg Price, Pat Sweeney, Susan Thraen

Staff: Randy Arnold, Lori Brooks, Vivaca Crowser, Morgan Dollinger, Mike Ebinger, Loren Flynn, Kyle Miller, Deb O'Neill, Chrissy Oschell, Eric Roberts, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele, Ryan Sokoloski.

Other FWP staff & guests: Jody Loomis, Deb O'Neill, Eric Roberts, Beth Schumate.

Field trip to FWP Blackfoot area recreation sites

- Placid Lake State Park
- Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area
- Blackfoot River Float-In Campsite Program

Participants visited these locations for several hours in the afternoon and talked about current issues, planning efforts and management challenges. They heard from local land, resources and recreation managers.

Fisheries

- Eric Roberts (Fish Management Bureau Chief) discussed the two-year Biennial process for fishing regulation changes.
 - Ice fishing shelter clean up
 - Crayfish (native vs. non-native)-No live transport, must kill on-site
 - Northern pike spearing-more opportunities in R1 and R2
 - Lake Mary Ronan-pike discovered, proposing mandatory harvest reporting.
 - Intake bypass channel-Pallid sturgeon swimming up channel. Close to fishing during paddlefish season.
 - Fort Peck Chinook Fishery- Propose a two-week archery season
- September 13, 2022-Statewide Zoom meeting with 42 proposals to provide clarification on the proposals. No public comment on this meeting.
- Public comment taken online, via email and mail, from August 26-September 22, 2022, then changes will go to the Commission.

Parks & Recreation

- Placid Lake State Park-Visitation increased. Trends 2011-200,000 visitors/year, increased by 50% in three years. In 2021-500,000 visitors/year.
- Blackfoot Corridor – Access sites are packed. Float-in campsites are very popular.
- Fish Creek- Planning process is underway for the watershed as a whole.
- Staff reorganization-parks and outdoor recreation staff are now managing all sites (FAS, WMA, parks, maintenance of these areas).

Legislative Joint Resolution Study

- Trapping and incidental captures- Thoughts about reducing conflicts-send ideas to Vivaca. Each region is compiling ideas from their CACs from now through November that will then be sent to the EQC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

** Next CAC meeting/Legislative Open House-December 6, 2022.