



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

CAC MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2024

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Louie Bouma, Marc Cooke, Peggy Cordell, Matt Fregerio, Laurie Johnston, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Bill Mitchell, Kylie Paul, Gregory Price, and Pat Sweeney

Online: R2 Commissioner Jeff Burrows and CAC member Lea Bossler

R2 FWP managers: Kendra McKlosky, Vivaca Crowser, Morgan Dollinger, Kyle Miller, Liz Bradley, Ben Dickinson, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele, Sonia Ward and Desiree Cozad

Other FWP staff & guests: *Hellgate District Recreation Manager, Cody Kenyon; Upper Clark Fork District Recreation Manager, Ryan Schreiner; Regional Access Manager, Trenton Heisel; Blackfoot Area Wildlife Biologist, Lee Tafelmeyer. Parks and Recreation Board member, Jody Loomis. FWP wildlife staff, Mikel Newberg and Ty Smucker.*

Welcome, Overview & Introductions

Vivaca and Kendra welcomed all in attendance and gave an overview of what was going to be discussed for the evening. New FWP staff Lee Tafelmeyer, Trenton Heisel, Ryan Schreiner, and Cody Kenyon introduced themselves, and the group did a quick-round robin of introductions. Vivaca and Kendra discussed upcoming CAC meeting dates for 2025 including scheduling and topics of interest.

Scheduling and other general thoughts:

- CAC group members agreed four meetings per year helps everyone to know one another and meet any new staff. Potentially 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month? Vivaca will send out tentative dates to the group.
- Field trip once per year is popular amongst the group.
- Group members enjoy the education presentations and would like to keep these.
- The group also likes to provide feedback and work on issues/serve as a sounding board on issues when those opportunities come up.
- Zoom was offered as an alternative for bad weather conditions etc. Group prefers we continue to offer both options either way but also prefers to avoid Zoom-only meetings.
- Continue sending the FWP program updates ahead of meetings—they are helpful.
- Having a CAC member provide legislative updates during the session is helpful.

Topics to discuss throughout 2025:

- Urban deer management plans in regional communities (give any updates)

- Presentation of spring wildlife survey info
- Grizzly bear listed/delisted status
- Stresses on water resources and fish
- Crowding at recreation sites
- License numbers being sold to nonresident vs residents
- Block Management hunter day numbers, statistics, landowner enrollment statistics—current status
- Outcome so far of the new conservation license requirements that began in July 2023
- Discussion of fish pond EAs (ie. how many ponds being approved etc.) in SPA 124 permits
- Update on FWP budget/funding picture
- FWP’s role in commenting related to subdivision and development review
- Potentially build a field trip based on discussions from 1st two meetings in 2025—to be discussed more later.
- Make time for “round-robin” topics from CAC members
- Suggestion to bring back subcommittees when needed/look for opportunities.

Restoring Sharp-tailed Grouse in Western MT special presentation by Mikel Newberg & Ty Smucker

- Restoration project took place in Drummond, Bitterroot, and Blackfoot.
- Blackfoot area has had the most success rate.

Closing:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. The next quarterly meeting is an open house with regional legislators and is scheduled for December 9, 2024 at the Missoula FWP office. Stay tuned for more details.