

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 7 <commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 12:37 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Hi!

Will do.

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 3:19 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:

I just tried to leave you a voicemail but your voicemail is full. Give me a call when you get a chance, I wanted to visit about an issue that is not on the agenda.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:45 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: June 20 Meeting

It's an antique!!! LOL

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: June 20 Meeting

I will. It's pretty hilarious.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 3:43 PM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

That is super cool!!!! 😊 Any possible way you could bring that when you come to Helena for the August meeting? I'd love to take a closer look!

~E

Erik Wickman | Executive Office Manager

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:41 PM

To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: June 20 Meeting

Found this in my Dads file cabinet. No zoom meetings for these guys.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 12:51 PM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon!

Just a reminder that the June meeting will be virtually via Zoom. This was decided by Chair Robinson.

This message will be sent to all commissioners individually.

Thank you!

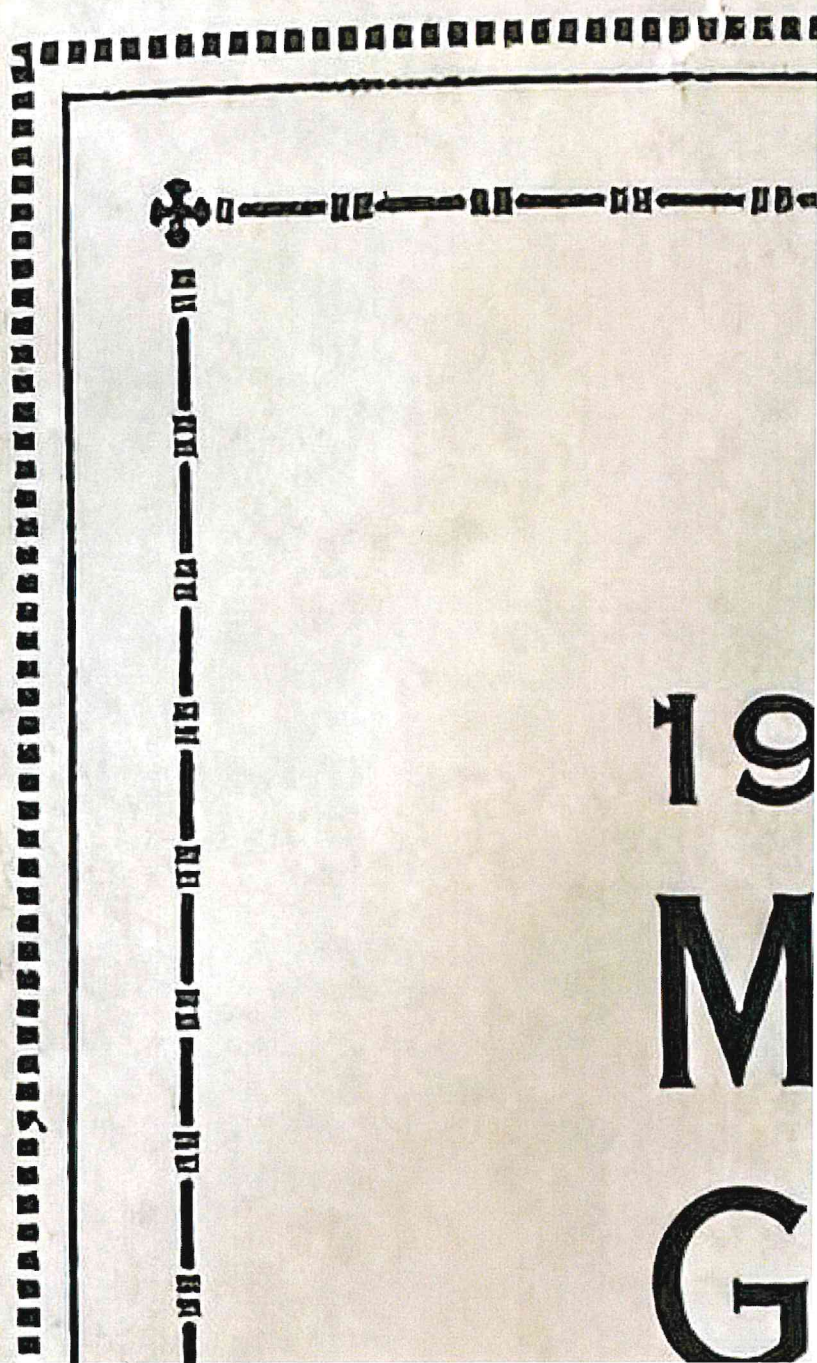
~E

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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M
G

Wickman, Erik

From: Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:51 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: time to meet re: wolf management

Hi Susan-

We are looking forward to talking with you at the GYC Bozeman office tomorrow afternoon at 1 pm. We will meet in the large conference room (Yellowstone room) to your right as you walk in the front door.

Take care,
Brooke

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)
Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition
bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813
Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: Brooke Shifrin
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:33 PM
To: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Subject: RE: time to meet re: wolf management

Thanks so much Susan. We look forward to meeting with you at the GYC Bozeman office at 1 pm on Thursday 5/9!

Take care,
Brooke

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)
Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition
bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813
Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:28 AM
To: Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org>
Subject: Re: time to meet re: wolf management

1pm works

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 10:16 AM Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org> wrote:

Is there another time the afternoon of 5/9 that works? I have a meeting conflict at 2 pm that day. Are you available at 1 pm?

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition

bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813

Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:48 AM

To: Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org>

Cc: karrie <karrie@pcecmt.org>

Subject: Re: time to meet re: wolf management

May 9 at 2pm works. Your office at GYC is convenient.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

On Fri, Apr 19, 2024, 9:16 AM Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org> wrote:

No worries Susan! I've been trying to figure out how all of our schedules align, and it looks like mid next week will not work. How is the week of May 6th for you? Are 5/6 or 5/9 in the afternoon, or 5/7 at 2 pm options?

And, where is the most convenient location for you to meet? We can host here at the GYC office in Bozeman but happy to do it elsewhere if something else makes more sense.

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition

bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813

Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org>
Cc: karrie <karrie@pcecmt.org>
Subject: Re: time to meet re: wolf management

I apologize for not getting back to you! How does mid week next week work for you?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024, 10:02 AM Brooke Shifrin <bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org> wrote:

Hi Susan- I'm back in town and wanted to follow up on this inquiry about meeting with our coalition. If you have some availability in the coming weeks, we'd love an opportunity to talk with you.

Thanks so much,

Brooke

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition

bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813

Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: Brooke Shifrin
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 1:31 PM
To: commissionerregion3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Cc: karrie@pcecm.org
Subject: RE: time to meet re: wolf management

Hi Susan-

Apologies for an additional email. I wanted to add Karrie from PCEC to this thread, as I will be out of the office starting tomorrow afternoon through the next couple weeks. This way, Karrie can help with sorting logistics.

Thanks both of you,

Brooke

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition

bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813

Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

From: Brooke Shifrin
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 3:38 PM

To: commissionerregion3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>

Subject: time to meet re: wolf management

Hi Susan-

We met a few months ago when you talked with me and my colleagues Shana Drimal and Sally Schrank regarding GYC's conservation priorities. I hope you are doing well!

I was wondering if you might have some availability to meet with a group of partners I am working with on wolf management issues, in particular in relation to some of our concerns and ideas regarding WMU 313. The coalition consists of GYC, Park County Environmental Council, and Bear Creek Council. We would also like to include Doug Smith in the meeting, given his wealth of expertise as the former Yellowstone Wolf Project lead for many years.

We have some availability in the second half of April. One idea could be a field trip to the park to discuss our thoughts and ideas, in which case Thursday 4/18 could work well. Or, if you'd rather sit down for a meeting at either the GYC or PCEC offices, we could potentially do that on Monday 4/15 or Friday 4/19. I'm happy to look at the weeks of 4/22 or 4/29 if those would be better.

Thanks so much for considering!

Best,

Brooke

Brooke Shifrin (she/her/hers)

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator • Greater Yellowstone Coalition

bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org • 406-556-2813

Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org]

Wickman, Erik

From: Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 3:16 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Thank you

Thanks, Susan! I'll work with Ron and the Division to come up with a game plan for the next regs package. If needed, I'm happy to chat about how you thought the work session went last week. We could have done a much better job laying things out for the Commission and others in attendance. I'll make sure that happens for future meetings.

We're likely going to need to start thinking about hoot owl closures in another month or so. I was thinking about providing you with a weekly update before we have our internal meetings to discuss any restrictions or closures and then circle back for your approval once the Division and DO have signed off on anything. Does that work for you?

Thanks!
Mike

Mike Duncan
Region 3 Fisheries Program Manager
[Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#)

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
Office - (406) 577-7871
Cell - (406) 224-2656



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>; Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Thank you

FYI
This email was the response from me reaching out and asking if they could come up with anything that would be a compromise.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Steve Harada** <sharada@nemont.net>

Date: Mon, May 20, 2024, 9:53 AM

Subject: Thank you

To: <commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org>, Leslie Robinson <CommissionerRegion6@mtfwp.org>, Susan Kirby Brooke <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>, Brian Cebell <CommissionerRegion5@mtfwp.org>, Jeff Burrows <CommissionerRegion2@mtfwp.org>, KC Walsh <CommissionerRegion4@mtfwp.org>, William Lane <commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org>

Cc: Lance Kresge <Lancekresge@gmail.com>, dpyrah2@gmail.com <dpyrah2@gmail.com>, mtwalleye@gmail.com <mtwalleye@gmail.com>, clayton@montanatu.org <clayton@montanatu.org>

Dear FWP Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the recent FWP Commissioners work session. I'd be happy to continue an open dialogue with Clayton Elliot from TU and try to work out a solution. However, I don't foresee a reasonable compromise or much room to modify the existing regulations. But maybe there's other areas we can work together for possible habitat improvement, Pelican problem solutions and/or other collaborations to improve the fisheries.

I'd like to point out just a few items that remain unanswered and I believe the FWP has had more than ample time to provide the data to support their rationale.

- There isn't any evidence that the Walleye are causing a negative impact to trout in that section of Missouri River when FWP goals are being met.
- The proposed regulations would negatively impact the slightly improving size of walleye on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and it conflicts their UMRRMP!
- The "standard regulation" of the Central District doesn't make sense when the river section is accessible from Canyon Ferry that has different regulations.
- Why would 5 Walleye without size limits consume more trout than 10 walleye with only one 15" or larger?
- I don't feel this regulation proposal has any merit and the FWP has failed to provide any rationale to support it and additional time would just give time for more creative data.

Thanks again for the working group session and thank you for all you do as FWP Commissioners. Feel free to contact me at anytime with any questions or concerns. Hopefully, we can move forward and both fisheries will continue to improve for all anglers for their preferred species.

Sincerely,

Steve Harada
Executive Director
Walleyes Unlimited of Montana
406-650-2222

Wickman, Erik

From: lionsden01@mt.net
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 8:07 AM
To: Shelley, Brooke; Moverton@bozeman.net; elkhornqh@gmail.com; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org
Cc: Kilbreath, Phillip
Subject: Re: Tipmont Board Meeting

I can make that date Brooke.
Sherri

From: Shelley, Brooke <brjohnson@mt.gov>
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 11:10 AM
To: Moverton@bozeman.net <Moverton@bozemannet>, lionsden01@mt.net <lionsden01@mt.net>, elkhornqh@gmail.com <elkhornqh@gmail.com>, commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>, commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org <commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org>
Cc: Kilbreath, Phillip <PKilbreath@mt.gov>
Subject: Tipmont Board Meeting

Hello,

I hope everyone is having a good start to summer. I wanted to work on getting a rewards meeting set up for July to go over cases from this last hunting season. I'd like the meeting to run a little different this time so I will be inviting all the wardens to watch/participate via zoom on this meeting. I was looking at holding the meeting on July 11th at 6 p.m. We will be in person at the HQ office in Helena, but the zoom option will be there as well. Please let me know if anyone has conflict with this so we can look at other options.

Thanks,

Brooke Shelley
Operation Sergeant- Tipmont
Enforcement Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, HQ

930 W Custer
Helena, MT 59602
C: (406) 594-8266



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Wickman, Erik

From: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 7:32 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Updated Walleye Information - Missouri River
Attachments: WalleyeRegMay14I2024ComBrooke.docx

Sorry. See page 3 for updated trends.

Ron

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:25 AM
To: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Updated Walleye Information - Missouri River

Ron,
Thank you for this, but I didn't see the page with the charts.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Tue, May 14, 2024 at 3:06 PM Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov> wrote:
Commissioner Brooke-

I attached something very short - 3 pages. On the last page you will see two updated charts. You will find that the walleye abundance has increased in the river in 2024. Average size has decreased.

Eileen, Mike and I have discussed this trend and plan to stay with our proposal for the Central District Standard. However, we wanted you to know that this new information could be an early sign that the relatively high quality walleye fishery in the river (larger fish than the lake population) may be changing for the worse. However, we often have to remind ourselves that one year of data is best considered with caution.

If you would like to discuss this new information prior to the work session, Eileen, Mike or myself are available at any time. My phone contact is 406-459-6169.

Thanks,

Ron Spoon

Wickman, Erik

From: Grove, Adam <adgrove@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 8:39 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Upper Missouri WTD survey results - 2024

Sorry, epizootic hemorrhagic disease.

Adam Grove
Wildlife Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3

P.O. Box 998
Townsend, MT 59644
Office: (406) 266-3367 | Cell: (406) 551-0454



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 21, 2024 8:13 AM
To: Grove, Adam <adgrove@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Upper Missouri WTD survey results - 2024

Hi Adam, Thank you for sharing. What is an EHD event?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 3:12 PM Grove, Adam <adgrove@mt.gov> wrote:
See attached.

Adam Grove

Wildlife Biologist

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3

P.O. Box 998

Townsend, MT 59644

Office: (406) 266-3367 | Cell: (406) 551-0454



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Wickman, Erik

From: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 8:58 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Cc: Duncan, Mike; Strainer, Adam
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Walleye diet

Commissioner Brooke-

We sample stomachs within a few minutes of sacrificing a fish, and sometimes determine contents visually on the spot if they are fresh. If they are "mushy" and not recognizable, we preserve and examine later looking for diagnostic bones or other things to identify the species.

The preserved samples from the Missouri River were analyzed by the Canyon Ferry Crew (Adam's technician) who routinely does this for Canyon Ferry.

The rate of digestion depends on temperature (warm conditions result in a fast process). The really small trout fry I showed in the photo (1 to 2" long) probably digest very quickly and we did not see any 1 to 2" fry in samples despite being a common migrant from Deep Creek. We did see some yearlings (about 3", which I showed a photo of during the presentation).

In contrast, the high number of stonecat in samples may be representative, but might also be due to the large head and spines on fins that make them easy to indentify after partial digestions. Hence, there is potential bias int he process. Bottom line is that very small trout digest quickly and are likely under-reported.

The 35% of samples with unknown contents (basically looks like phlegm), likely has some unknown number trout.

Finally, Mike might be able to weigh-in on alternative techniques to determine walleye diet during their lifetime using DNA. Nathan, the new biologist for CFR has experience with this, but we don't want a target on his back the first month of work.

Let me know if this helps. Thanks.

RS

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 7:08 AM
To: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Cc: Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walleye diet

Hi Ron,

Nice presentation last night. Well done. I was thinking about the graph on the results of the sampling and it seems like the focus becomes on the "fact" that only 5% were salmonoids and the 49% that was empty or unknown is less important.

I don't know fish biology but would that be a normal finding for sampling? Is fish digestion quick? Can you sample from a live fish? Is it a result of too little forage? It seems curious to me that such a large percentage has little or undetectable food in their stomach.

Thanks for your time answering my questions.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 11:26 AM
To: Spoon, Ronald
Subject: Re: Walleye Regulation

Hi Ron,

On the contrary! It was an excellent opportunity for me to become better versed and gain a better understanding of the complexity of the river biology. I would like to go out with you next spring again if you'll have me.

This issue is very troubling and I feel a pang of helplessness as we bear witness to the slow and steady human caused ecological damage to the wild fishery. I know some people were concerned about me taking the hit on this issue but I am committed to standing by the scientific data gathered from you and the rest of the team.

Thanks for the note, enjoy the nice weekend.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 9:58 AM Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov> wrote:
Commissioner Brooke-

I hope you didn't find it to be a poor use of your time to work on the walleye regulation this spring now that our proposal has been withdrawn by the Director's Office. The proposal illustrated areas of disagreement between FWP and WU, and this might be productive when preparing the new plan in a couple years.

If the walleye fishery is not up to standards in the near future (very likely), the decline will have taken place under the preferred harvest regulation of walleye unlimited and not FWP. Everyone has played their hand in a public way.

Perhaps the future discussion can turn to real limiting factors for the fishery (too many predators relative to the food source) and less time can be spent on angling regulation details. We appreciated your feedback, questions, and support during this public process.

Thanks Again,

Ron

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 3:48 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Walleye

See the email chain for contact information. 😊

~Erik Wickman
Executive Office Manager
Assistant to the Director



Sent from my iPhone

From: Youde, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Youde@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 3:45:42 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Cc: Youde, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Youde@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Walleye

Good afternoon, all,

You can reach Clayton and Steve at the numbers below:

Clayton Elliott
Conservation and Government Affairs Director
Trout Unlimited:
Office: 406-543-0054
Cell: 307-272-6298

Steve Herada
Executive Director
Walleyes Unlimited:
406-520-2222

Thank you,

Ellie Youde | *Administrative Assistant 3*
Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-5290



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From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 3:38 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfw.org
Cc: Youde, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Youde@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Walleye

I do not, but Ellie Youde is the Admin in Fisheries and I am CCing her in this reply.

Ellie, could you help Commissioner Brooke with this contact information, please?

~E

~Erik Wickman
Executive Office Manager
Assistant to the Director



Sent from my iPhone

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfw.org>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:33:06 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walleye

Hi Eric,

Do you have any of the Phone contact info for the three presenters from the walleye groups from last night?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfw.org

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Chris Morgan
Subject: Re: Wolves in the news

Thank you for the information.

I have passed this information on to the regional biologist to see if they can reach out to county health officials to mitigate or investigate any possibilities of disease transmission on the football field.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

On Fri, Apr 19, 2024, 1:30 PM Chris Morgan <c.morgan11@icloud.com> wrote:

Greetings commissioners,

I realize recent headlines from Wyoming may make wolf management an even hotter topic than normal this year, but I'd like to offer a viewpoint considering another headline that surfaced this week.

On April 12th, a cow elk was hauled off the Gardiner football field, a confirmed kill by wolves. Now, I'm not a scare tactic type of person, but this raises concerns in my mind that most other folks likely never even consider.

Echinococcus is prevalent in our wolf populations and hydatid cysts are becoming the norm in our ungulates that reside in wolf country. This tapeworm's eggs are found in wolf scat. These eggs can stay viable in the soil for up to a year. If any of those eggs were deposited on the field it could pose a major health risk as the cysts they cause in humans are inoperable. Of all places, a football field would be a very likely place to come into contact.

The pack credited with this kill is comprised of 21 individuals.

I'd hope the commission considers working with county health officials to ensure none of these volatile landmines are left behind. I'd also hope the commission considers Doug Smith's recommendation that 10 wolves taken from 313 would not affect viability of park packs. I'd imagine MCA 87-1-217 would allow you to increase the quota in that unit with minimal opportunity of a viable lawsuit filed against the department. Then again, nothing you've done in the past has satisfied these folks...

If you got this far, I appreciate your time and will most likely bring this topic up at the August commission meeting.

Thanks for all you do.

Chris Morgan
Montana Trapper's Association
VP West

Wickman, Erik

From: Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:14 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; Spoon, Ronald
Cc: Duncan, Mike
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: MoRiv Photo

Thank you for taking the time with us, always nice to meet in a more casual setting. I'm glad you had a nice morning on the river.

Eileen Ryce | *Division Administrator*
Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-2449



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:34 AM
To: Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Cc: Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>; Ryce, Eileen <ERyce@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MoRiv Photo

Thanks to you all for the great meeting yesterday. Hope to be able to join you on another occasion.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 8:11 AM Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov> wrote:

Commissioner Brooke-

Not a good photo, as usual. However, it is proof you have been to the area creating such controversy. Thanks for coming out to see the situation first hand.

Ron Spoon

Wickman, Erik

From: Waltee, Dean <DWaltee@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 12:52 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Mule Deer Survey Summary_Spring 2024

Hello Commissioner Brooke,

You're welcome. I agree. It's a welcome site to detect the most recent downward trend reversing. Now begins the process of hoping growing season precipitation arrives.

Dean Waltee | *Wildlife Biologist*
Wildlife Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 842-7407

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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 21, 2024 8:08 AM
To: Waltee, Dean <DWaltee@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Mule Deer Survey Summary_Spring 2024

Thanks Dean, good to see the mule deer numbers improving.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
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On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 5:44 PM Waltee, Dean <DWaltee@mt.gov> wrote:

Folks,

I completed aerial surveys of the Snowcrest, Tobacco Root, Sweetwater Hills, and Red Rock mule deer trend survey areas (see attached map) during March 24 through April 13. I also classified samples of mule deer from the ground along the west Greenhorn Mountains and east Ruby Mountains to document fawn recruitment in those areas. These surveys are timed to align with deer concentration across non-forested habitats where initial grass green-up occurs. The surveys are designed to provide population and fawn recruitment trends at the time of year they are at their lowest—post hunting season and winter and pre-birth. They don't provide a population census because only portions of known winter range are surveyed. Survey results are below, and past data are attached. If you have questions about these surveys or would like to discuss mule deer, please feel free to contact me anytime.

The general observed trend was year-over-year population increase and near average fawn recruitment. Population growth was influenced by stable or moderate increases among adults and substantial increases among fawns. This was the first time in three years mule deer fawn recruitment was near long-term average. Well below average fawn recruitment was observed during 2022 and 2023. Low fawn recruitment during spring 2022 was likely influenced by severe drought conditions during 2020 and 2021 growing seasons. Standardized Precipitation Index data from NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System for Beaverhead and Madison counties indicates the proportion of those counties that experienced extreme or exceptional drought and the length of time those drought conditions persisted during 2020 and 2021 was greater than any period since the early 1970s. Current data indicates drought conditions have reversed over the past year (see attached figure or visit <https://www.drought.gov/states/montana/county/> [[drought.gov](https://www.drought.gov/)]). A summary of how prolonged drought impacts mule deer, produced by the Utah Division of Wildlife, is available at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/news/wildlife-blog/1291-drought-and-our-deer-herds.html> [wildlife.utah.gov]. As with fawns, prolonged drought often negatively impacts survival of adult bucks because of their relatively poor body condition following the breeding season. Severe or extended winters may have similar impacts on adult buck survival for the same reasons. The extended period of deep snow cover undoubtedly resulted in high fawn mortality during winter 2022-23 and low fawn recruitment during spring 2023. The last year, which included a long and productive growing season, autumn green-up of grasses, and mild winter were all favorable conditions for mule deer. In addition to 2024 fawn recruitment increasing to near average, I expect a robust crop of fawns of relatively large birth size to be produced this spring. From there, growing season conditions will influence fawn growth and nutritional condition of does going into next winter.

Snowcrest Trend Area

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Pilot, TJ Reynolds and I completed this survey during the morning of April 13 using a fixed-wing SuperCub. Survey conditions were very good. The survey quality index was 10/10. That compared to 10 last year and an average of 9.5 (N=11, SD=0.7, 95% CI=9.1–9.9). Most observed deer were distributed in open habitat, at low elevation, and in relatively large groups. Less than 10% of observed deer were above the current green-up elevation zone but within traditional winter range. We didn't observe any sign suggesting deer were leaving winter range. That was the desired distribution for achieving a representative trend measure of population.

We observed 156 mule deer. That compared to 136 last year (14.7% increase) and a long-term average (LTA) of 342 (N=27, SD=187, 95% CI=271–413). We classified 152 deer as 115 adults and 37 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 32.2 (95% CI=22.8–41.6). That compared to 11.3 last year and a LTA of 38.9 (N=32, SD=16.1, 95% CI=33.3–44.5). Observed fawn recruitment was the highest observed since 2021. The body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared good. In addition to mule deer, we observed 77 antelope, 216 elk, 2 bighorn sheep, and two sage-grouse.

The observed year-over-year population increase was influenced by a stable population of adults and increased fawns. We observed 3.3% (4) fewer adults and 171.4% more fawns than during the 2023 survey. Growth among fawns was likely influenced by more favorable conditions over the past year—long and productive growing season, extended period of autumn green-up and grasses, and a mild winter. The relatively stable adult population was driven by adult mortality being in line with recruitment into the population last spring, which was the lowest on record. If adult mortality remains approximately stable this coming year, increased recruitment should result in increased adults this coming year.

Tobacco Roots Trend Area

Montana FWP Pilot, TJ Reynolds and I completed this survey during the morning of April 8 using a fixed-wing SuperCub. Survey conditions were very good. The survey quality index was 9/10. That compared to 9 last year and an average of 8.5 (N=11, SD=1.1, 95% CI=7.8–9.2). Partly cloudy sky conditions reduced the survey quality score by one point. I don't believe those conditions reduced deer observability. Most observed deer were distributed in open habitat, at low elevation, and in large groups. About 10% of observed deer were above the current green-up elevation

zone but within traditional winter range. We didn't observe any sign suggesting deer were leaving winter range. That was the desired distribution for achieving a representative trend measure of population.

We observed 349 mule deer. That compared to 277 last year (25.9% increase) and a LTA of 381 (N=25, SD=117, 95% CI=335–427). We classified 318 deer as 218 adults at 100 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 45.9 (95% CI=39.1–52.7). That compared to 15.8 last year and a LTA of 43.7 (N=30, SD=15.5, 95% CI=38.2–49.2). Observed fawn recruitment was the highest observed since 2018. The body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared very good. In addition to mule deer, we observed 131 antelope, 84 elk, 2 white-tailed deer, and 1 coyote.

The observed year-over-year population increase was influenced by a stable population of adults and increased fawns. We observed no change in adults and 189.4% more fawns than during the 2023 survey. Growth among fawns was likely influenced by more favorable conditions over the past year—long and productive growing season, extended period of autumn green-up and grasses, and a mild winter. The relatively stable adult population was driven by adult mortality being in line with recruitment into the population last spring, which was the lowest on record. If adult mortality remains approximately stable this coming year, increased recruitment should result in increased adults this coming year.

Sweetwater Hills Trend Area

Montana FWP Pilot, TJ Reynolds and I completed this survey during the morning of April 1 using a fixed-wing SuperCub. Survey conditions were very good. The survey quality index was 10/10. That compared to 10 last year and an average of 8.8 (N=11, SD=1.2, 95% CI=8.1–9.5). Observed deer were distributed in open habitat, at low elevation, and in large groups. No deer were observed above the current green-up elevation zone. That was the desired distribution for achieving a representative trend measure of population.

We observed 714 mule deer. That compared to 580 last year (23.1% increase) and a LTA of 928 (N=30, SD=352, 95% CI=804–1,052). We classified 599 deer as 410 adults and 189 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 46.1 (95% CI=41.2–51.0). That compared to 22.6 last year and a LTA of 42.9 (N=33, SD=13.0, 95% CI=38.5–47.3). Observed fawn recruitment was the highest observed since 2021. The body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared very good. In addition to mule deer, we observed 189 antelope, 329 elk, 21 white-tailed deer, and 1 moose.

The observed year-over-year population increase was influenced by a stable population of adults and increased fawns. We observed 3.2% more adults and 111.2% more fawns than during the 2023 survey. Growth among fawns was likely influenced by more favorable conditions over the past year—long and productive growing season, extended period of autumn green-up and grasses, and a mild winter. The relatively stable adult population was driven by adult mortality being in line with recruitment into the population last spring, which was the lowest on record. If adult mortality remains approximately stable this coming year, increased recruitment should result in increased adults this coming year.

Red Rock Trend Area

Montana FWP Pilot, TJ Reynolds and I completed this survey during the morning of March 24 using a fixed-wing SuperCub. Survey conditions were very good. The survey quality index was 8/10. That compared to 9 last year and an average of 8.8 (N=11, SD=0.9, 95% CI=8.3–9.3). Partly cloudy skies and bedded deer reduced the survey quality score by 2 points. I don't believe the partly cloudy skies reduced observability of deer. Deer groups bedded within sagebrush canopies may have resulted in a small percentage of deer being missed. Observed deer were distributed in open habitat, at low elevation, and in large groups. We didn't observe any sign suggesting deer were leaving winter range. That was the desired distribution for achieving a representative trend measure of population.

We observed 1,082 mule deer. That compared to 901 last year (20.1% increase) and a LTA of 595 (N=24, SD=331, 95% CI=463–727). We classified 897 deer as 629 adults and 268 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 42.6 (95% CI=38.7–46.5). That compared to 22.2 last year and an LTA of 43.7 (N=21, SD=13.0, 95% CI=38.1–49.3). Observed fawn recruitment was the highest observed since 2021. The body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared very good. In addition to mule deer, we observed 678 antelope, 213 elk, and 4 coyotes.

The observed year-over-year population increase was influenced by increases in adults and fawns. We observed 10.9% more adults and 113.1% more fawns than during the 2023 survey. Growth among fawns was likely influenced by more favorable conditions over the past year—long and productive growing season, extended period of autumn green-up and grasses, and a mild winter. Moderate growth among the adult population was driven by adult mortality being lower than recruitment into the population last spring, which was the second lowest on record. If adult mortality remains approximately stable this coming year, increased recruitment should result in increased adults this coming year.

West Greenhorn Mountains

During the morning of April 16, I classified 126 mule deer from the ground between Williams and Warm Springs creeks as 93 adults and 34 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 36.6 (95% CI=20.0–47.2). That compared to 32.5 last year and a long-term average of 46.0 (N=18, SD=13.9, 95% CI=39.7–52.3). Body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared good.

East Ruby Mountains

During the morning and evening of April 20, I classified 386 mule deer from the ground between lower Sweetwater Creek and Beach Canyon as 262 adults and 124 fawns. The observed fawns: 100 adults ratio was 43.7 (95% CI=37.5–49.9). That compared to 34.6 last year and an average of 38.3 (N=9, SD=6.4, 95% CI=34.1–42.5). Body condition of observed adults and fawns appeared good.

Management Recommendation

Based primarily on recently completed radio collar data collection among elk, I recommended dividing Hunting District 322 into three deer/elk hunting districts titled 322, 323, and 324 (see attached map). I also recommended maintaining the existing general license either-sex harvest regulation for white-tailed and mule deer and maintaining the 003-00 and 399-00 white-tailed deer B-licenses, valid for antlerless harvest. No B-licenses were recommended for mule deer. That recommendation was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission last December and will be the regulation for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons. Dillon-area Wildlife Biologist, Jesse Newby and I will evaluate data associated with the either-sex mule deer hunting area that was established across southwest Montana in 2016 and draft an annual progress report soon after hunter-harvest data are released.

Dean Waltee | *Wildlife Biologist*
Wildlife Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 842-7407

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Dorian Boling
Subject: Re: Proposal mule deer

Hi Dorian,

Thank you for your comments. I appreciate your involvement in this process and will keep these ideas in mind as we move forward on season setting this year.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Wed, May 1, 2024 at 9:58 AM Dorian Boling <dorianboling@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Here is a viable deer proposal across the state that may remedy some problems with too many mule deer hunters in certain areas, the complaint of too many mule deer are being taken, all without having to take opportunity away for the majority or change season dates or piss everyone off.

This person used numbers he got from FWP, he also references the most current mule deer survey. It is a small change that may produce good things. Niel Anderson has stated horn restrictions and draw areas do nothing for deer population. Mule deer populations are different and have different obstacles but this could very well be a good thing.

If you try regional tags, all that will do is show you where everyone is hunting and the true number of hunters from the NW corner that go to hunt region 6 and 7, which will get people to cry about it and they will try to implement mule deer restrictions just so all those hunters will move to another area.

If a good size group is already willing to only shoot a mule deer every so many years -according to the mule deer survey and they claim to not always get one every year and they are not mad about passing, then they are the group that is willing, yes they are also the loud group but according to the mule deer study the loud group is also not the majority of mule deer hunters. Sling this idea to your mule deer group or who ever it needs to go to so they can get working on it.

We just changed the mountain lion regs across the state and we need time to see how that is working, personally I am already seeing the benefits of it so I believe it is helping with herd numbers and survival.

Thank you for your time,
Dorian Boling

Wickman, Erik

From: Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 3:17 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: June Commission Mtg

Perfect. I will stroll across the street now

On Tue, May 7, 2024 at 3:16 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
Library?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

On Tue, May 7, 2024, 3:14 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
Ok. Where to? I just pulled up

On Tue, May 7, 2024 at 3:13 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
Cafe M is. Closed

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
406.438.0460

On Tue, May 7, 2024, 9:01 AM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
See you there.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Tue, May 7, 2024 at 8:50 AM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
3:30 at that coffee shop on east main that we met at last year? Near the public library.

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 9:36 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
Yes. 3:30 would work

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 9:03 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
Can we aim for 3:30 tomorrow? That would be best for me looking ahead.

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 8:24 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
What about Wednesday? I may not be able to make it over to Boze quite that early. Noon would have been pushing it. I could also do after my appointment. Say 3:30?

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 8:10 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
What about 11:30. I have a 1 o'clock but we could meet somewhere closer to your appt.

Susan Kirby Brooke
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Helena, MT 59620-0701
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On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 5:19 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
I have not heard anything from any LEPOC people.

I could meet up tomorrow about noon in Bozeman. I have an orthopedic appointment at 2:15 over near the hospital.

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 4:54 PM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:
Hi Justin,
I am around this week and early next week. LMK what works for you. Are folks from the LEPOC reaching out to you?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
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Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Mon, May 6, 2024 at 3:15 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:
Susan,

Do you want to set up a time to meet and talk or have a phone call?

Let me know.

Thanks

Justin

On Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 5:29 PM Justin Duffy <justinduffy79@gmail.com> wrote:

For sure. Call me any time and I will do my best to be available.

Thanks!

On Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 9:20 AM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Hi Justin,

The agenda is now posted for the June meeting and lion quotas have been recommended by FWP. If you have any time, lets chat about this.

Susan Kirby Brooke

Region 3 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:14 PM
To: FWP COMMISSIONERS
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Legal Update Meetings

As of tonight, the May 13th legal update now is full (Brooke, Tabor, and Burrows attending).

May 7th has one more slot (currently Cebull and Robinson) and May 16th is still wide open for takers.

Another reminder.....the work session via Zoom involving Fishing Regulations on the Missouri River between Toston and Canyon Ferry Reservoir is still scheduled for 5-7pm on May 16th.

Respectfully,

~E

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:09 PM
To: commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org
Cc: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>; FWP COMMISSIONERS <FWP_COMMISSIONERS@mt.gov>; Clerget, Sarah <sclerget@mt.gov>; Rechhoff, Kevin <Kevin.Rechhoff@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Legal Update Meetings

May 13th works for me.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Apr 25, 2024, at 11:23 AM, FWP Commissioner Region 1 <commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Erik
Of those choices I can only do May 13
Pat Tabor
Vice Chairman
FWP Commission

On Thu, Apr 25, 2024, 5:16 AM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning, commissioners,

I have scheduled 3 one-hour Legal Update Meetings for the month of May, in preparation for the June 20 Commission Meeting.

These are the dates available:

Tuesday, May 7 10:30 am

Monday, May 13 9:30 am

Thursday, May 16 11:00 am

These will be via Zoom, and those links will be added to the invites once I have the meeting slots filled.

Please advise if you are available for any and/or all of these dates and I will get you into the meeting of your choice.

Festival seating on these...first come, first served. 😊

Respectfully,

~E

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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Wickman, Erik

From: Hansen, Warren <Warren.Hansen@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 7:04 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Lion harvest 2022 to 2023

Hi Susan,

Most of the quotas that were not reached and were significantly below quota were the hunting districts that the commission amended last year to reduce those lion populations by 40% in 6 years. There is one hunting district that we have maintained with a high quota to benefit a sheep population in the Maddison. This quota is rarely reached. Please let me know if you need any more information.

Thank you,
Warren

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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:32:41 AM
To: Hansen, Warren <Warren.Hansen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Lion harvest 2022 to 2023

Hi Warren,

I was just looking at the quota recommendations that are coming before the commission on mountain lions. Wondering why the department didn't recommend lowering some of those quotas in R3 where they were so far off in harvest? is it only because the changes proposed are those That were recommended by LEPOC for the eco region and left it at that?

Based on the feedback from the meeting in Three Forks last month, I feel like the department should have made some accommodation for that. But I will likely propose to amend those anyway, based on the public input that we got. So let's chat about that.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
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On Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 10:48 AM Hansen, Warren <Warren.Hansen@mt.gov> wrote:

Hi Susan,

Below you will see a table of lion harvest from 2022 to 2023 in the lion hunting districts that increased in quota between the two years. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Warren

Lion Hunting District	2022 quota	2022 Harvest	2023 Quota	2023 Harvest
301	7	7	20	6
302	5	3	10	5
304	9	7	17	10
314	5	5	11	4
317	4	4	7	4
320	4	4	7	7
380	6	6	11	5

Warren Hansen

Wildlife Manager

Wildlife Division

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3

1400 S 19th Ave

Bozeman, MT 59718

O: (406) 577-7864



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Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Pankratz, Adam
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meeting before June 20th
Attachments: image001.png

There is not much going on this commission meeting coming up so maybe if you and I could just talk on the phone and you can give me an update on anything that's going on in the region that I should mention. I know everybody is busy doing their thing, but I would like to do an update on the Ruby, big hole, and Beaverhead if there is any new info.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
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Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 9:49 AM Pankratz, Adam <APankratz@mt.gov> wrote:

No worries at all, a number of people are out today so I think if we do it this afternoon it would just be me.

Would you like to schedule a time next week? Totally understand on the schedule. We might be able to come your way too. If there is a specific manager you want to touch base with I can help coordinate their schedule.

Glad to do a call if that's easier too.

Adam

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Pankratz, Adam <APankratz@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meeting before June 20th

Hi Adam,

I apologize that I can't make it today. My summer business is swamping me right now. Maybe we can meet via teams or FaceTime or something? Who is planning on being involved in the meeting?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
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On Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 1:48 PM Pankratz, Adam <APankratz@mt.gov> wrote:

Just checking in, are we still meeting tomorrow afternoon, and what time? Otherwise I am free Thursday and Friday also.

From: Pankratz, Adam
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:26 PM
To: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meeting before June 20th

Yes that works. I am open all afternoon.

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Pankratz, Adam <APankratz@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meeting before June 20th

Hi Adam,

Thank you for reaching out. Would the 12th work? Maybe afternoon ?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Mon, Jun 3, 2024 at 4:34 PM Pankratz, Adam <APankratz@mt.gov> wrote:

Hey Commissioner Brooke,

Just checking in to see if you would like to meet as usual with the R3 Manager team before the June 20th Commission Meeting.

June 12-14 is pretty open for most of us, otherwise we can look at the week of June 17th too.

Please let us know.

Thanks,

Adam Pankratz | Acting Regional Supervisor, R3

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 577-7898 | Cell: (406) 570-4943



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Wickman, Erik

From: Douglas Smith <dwsmith0526@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 11:19 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Meeting Today

I'm tempted not to email back so as not to bother, but oh my goodness! How thoughtful and insightful about the old days and how slow minds change, and thinking about the future. I too pause at old literature like this. Glad you accepted the offer to be on the commission.

If you can afford the time, happy to have coffee, and likely will not lobby for anything, just give you material to think about. And you me.

Thank you for your response.

Doug
Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2024, at 10:03 AM, FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Hi Douglas,

Thank you for the note, I have heard about your work for years so it was nice to put a face with the name! I look forward to working with the group to find a path forward. If you ever want to talk more about wolves let me know and we can meet for coffee.

I am cleaning out my parents house and found a Fish and Game Commission booklet from 1923-24, which was likely my grandparents since they were active hunters/trappers on the ranch. Very interesting read and also the rules and regulations that were still to designed to aggressively eliminate all predators on the landscape - even magpies and kingfishers. I think wolves were mostly absent at that point. 100 years later and here we are...trying to find a workable solution for balancing the environment that was wrecked by so many decades of righteous human mindset. Hopefully in 100 years my great granddaughter will be on the commission and will be proud that maybe we did something right.

Take care and have a great weekend :)

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 4:52 PM Douglas Smith <dwsmith0526@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Susan,

I want to thank you for coming today. You were open, professional, and offered solid recommendations for a way forward. It was also clear you had studied the situation and knew the data. Given all you are up against I was impressed. I also empathize with how difficult a job you have. I appreciate your efforts.

I am tempted to continue talking about wolves, but I'll leave that for later, this is just to recognize a good job when someone like you can often have a tough time.

Thank you.

Douglas Smith

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 4:52 PM
To: Wickman, Erik
Subject: Fwd: April/May expenses
Attachments: Commission Expenses.xlsx

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Susan Kirby Brooke <susanbrooke@msn.com>
Date: Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 4:50 PM
Subject: April/May expenses
To: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 7:44 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: FW: Request REQ0374575 has been opened on your behalf

Trifles. No worries there. 😊

~E

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager* | *Assistant to the Director*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 7:42 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FW: Request REQ0374575 has been opened on your behalf

Spelled your name wrong 😞

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 7:40 AM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Good morning Eric, thank you for this . Did you see there was a tab for April on that spreadsheet? I'm not sure if I already sent you April.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 7:36 AM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning! 😊

Please see below for confirmation of the submission of your May 2024 expenses.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Executive Office Manager* | *Assistant to the Director*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Helpdesk <FWPHelpdesk@service.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 7:35 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: Request REQ0374575 has been opened on your behalf

Number: REQ0374575

Opened: 06-14-2024 07:34:07 AM MDT

Summary of Requested items:

RITM0374774: 1 X Voucher Cover

Options:

Payee Name: = Susan Kirby Brooke

Voucher total \$ = 452.01

Invoice Number = BROOKE_May 2024_Expenses

Line Items: =

Description: Honorarium for meetings - May 2024 Project Code: 9802 Expense Code: 62134 Cost: 400.00

Description: Mileage for Meetings - May 2024 Project Code: 9802 Expense Code: 62494 Cost: 136.01

Description: Meal for May trip Project Code: 9802 Expense Code: 62495 Cost: 16.00

Submitter Name: = Erik Wickman

Submitter Manager = Robin Graham

Division = DO

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 2:15 PM
To: Hansen, Warren
Subject: Re: Lions

Hi Warren,
Thanks for this...can you tell me if any ungulate populations in 301, 304 and 314 are under objective?

Did you see the Burrows amendment yet?

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Wed, May 29, 2024 at 7:49 AM Hansen, Warren <Warren.Hansen@mt.gov> wrote:

Hi Susan,
My apologies for taking so long to get this to you. Please see the attached excel spreadsheet of lion quotas. The list of LMUs below are what the west central eco region total lion quota looks like, maintaining high harvest in 380 with 339 and 318 reduced quotas to reflect the total quota that was recommend by the LEPOC. Call me if you have questions.
Thank you,,
Warren

LMU 318; 4M, 2F, 1LLL
LMU 339; 6M, 2F, 1LLL
LMU 380; 5M, 6F, 1LLL

Wickman, Erik

From: Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:23 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; Spoon, Ronald
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Regulation proposed changes

Thanks, Susan!

Mike Duncan
Region 3 Fisheries Program Manager
[Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#)

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
Office - (406) 577-7871
Cell - (406) 224-2656



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Duncan, Mike <Mike.Duncan@mt.gov>; Spoon, Ronald <rspoon@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Regulation proposed changes

FYI

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jim Muscat <jimmuscat@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 5:45 PM
Subject: Fwd: Regulation proposed changes
To: <CommissionerRegion1@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion4@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org>, <commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org>

Dear FWP Commisioners,

RE: Public comment on proposed regulation changes

I am totally opposed to changing the limits in the river section above Canyon Ferry to Toston dam to allow killing 5 walleyes over 15 inches. Leave the limit in the river the same as in the lake as it has been for all the reasons it got that way. This is the third attempt by the same biologist to get this limit change and the third time the data does support the proposal.

To make this change would blatantly fly in the face of the goals of the department's own management plan for the entire Canyon Ferry system.

I have attended public meetings on the Canyon Ferry "multi species" fishery and the walleye and trout coexistence for decades. I think I may be due an honorary fisheries biologist degree for all the data I have read lol. To listen to a biologist at the latest public comment meetings go back on the departments own historical explanations on the river walleye and now try to portray the river walleye as a separate group from the lake to support this proposal was very disappointing.

The data that was presented at the info meetings and follow up Q/A to try and show the sky is falling for brown trout and the walleye in the river are to blame does not come close to holding water. In fact the data clearly demonstrates the opposite and leaves one wondering if the Helena fisheries department is honestly representing all Montana anglers or just a select group?

Quality wild walleye fishing has been a boon for the area for decades. Time has clearly shown we can have our cake and eat it too with a true multispecies fishery. A continuation of the "kill em all just in case" attitude from the stewards of a valuable public resource is in no one's best interest certainly not the greater angling publics and needs to change.

Please respect the science, the public resource and the entire angling public and deny this proposal...again.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely
Jim Muscat
Townsend Montana

406-580-6138

--

Jim Muscat
(406) 580-6138

Wickman, Erik

From: Rosemary Smith <resmith65@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 7:32 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: Griz

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Rosemary

Rosemary Smith

Getting Better Foundation, Public Relations Manager



01-989-370-2777

3930 US Hwy 89 South

Livingston, Montana 59047

<https://www.gettingbetterfoundation.org> [gettingbetterfoundation.org]

<https://www.trustmedocumentary.com> [trustmedocumentary.com]

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Rosemary Smith <resmith65@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Griz

Dear Rosemary,

While the incident is still under investigation, usually a person who is defending one's life is not charged. I am sure no one involved felt good about the outcome and hopefully he will be a bear spray carrying outdoor user from now on.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Sun, May 5, 2024 at 2:30 PM Rosemary Smith <resmith65@outlook.com> wrote:

Is there retribution for senseless murder of wildlife?

[@mtdepartmentoffish https://www.eastidahonews.com/2024/05/hunter-ignores-fresh-grizzly-track-and-faces-angry-mother-bear-montana-officials-say/](https://www.eastidahonews.com/2024/05/hunter-ignores-fresh-grizzly-track-and-faces-angry-mother-bear-montana-officials-say/) [eastidahonews.com]

Rosemary Smith

Managing Director

Getting Better Foundation

www.gettingbetterfoundation.org [gettingbetterfoundation.org]

www.trustmedocumentary.com [trustmedocumentary.com]

Wickman, Erik

From: Stahler, Daniel <Dan_Stahler@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 7:23 AM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hello and meet up request

I enjoyed our conversations, Susan.

And I appreciate that you took the time to come to the park for the meet up.

I look forward to visiting more.

Dan

~~~~~  
Daniel R. Stahler, PhD  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
Yellowstone Wolf, Cougar, Elk Projects  
Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator  
Yellowstone Center for Resources  
PO Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
307-344-2719

---

**From:** FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 1:28 PM  
**To:** Stahler, Daniel <Dan\_Stahler@nps.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hello and meet up request

Hi Dan,  
Just wanted to thank you for spending the day with me sharing your knowledge and feedback on all these issues before us. Let's keep in touch.

Susan Kirby Brooke  
Region 3 Commissioner  
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | [commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org](mailto:commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org)

On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 9:28 AM FWP Commissioner Region 3 <[commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org](mailto:commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org)> wrote:  
Yes, I will see you tomorrow.

Susan Kirby Brooke  
Region 3 Commissioner  
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks  
406.438.0460

On Tue, Apr 30, 2024, 8:49 AM Stahler, Daniel <[Dan\\_Stahler@nps.gov](mailto:Dan_Stahler@nps.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Susan,

I'm still on for tomorrow's meet up if you still are available. Look forward to visiting. Drive safe on the way to Gardiner as there is some snow in the forecast.

I'll be parked by the Wonderland Cafe in town in one of my work vehicles and you're welcome to ride along with me for the visit.

406-223-7340 (cell)

Best, Dan

~~~~~  
Daniel R. Stahler, PhD
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Yellowstone Wolf, Cougar, Elk Projects
Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator
Yellowstone Center for Resources
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-2719

From: Stahler, Daniel <Dan_Stahler@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:59 AM
To: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hello and meet up request

Perfect. It's on the calendar.

Let's meet at 10 am then at Wonderland Cafe in Gardiner, and we can grab a coffee and head out together for a drive around some of the northern range areas for some fun discussions.

If by chance either of us need to reschedule for whatever reason we reach out ahead of time.

My cell is my best contact - 406-223-7340.

Thanks Susan and take care,

Dan

~~~~~  
Daniel R. Stahler, PhD  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
Yellowstone Wolf, Cougar, Elk Projects  
Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator  
Yellowstone Center for Resources  
PO Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
307-344-2719

---

**From:** FWP Commissioner Region 3 <[commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org](mailto:commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:07 AM  
**To:** Stahler, Daniel <[Dan\\_Stahler@nps.gov](mailto:Dan_Stahler@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hello and meet up request

Dan,  
Actually May 1 works for me. I could meet you by 10 am ish, earlier if need be.

Susan Kirby Brooke  
Region 3 Commissioner  
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | [commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org](mailto:commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org)

On Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 7:01 PM Stahler, Daniel <[Dan\\_Stahler@nps.gov](mailto:Dan_Stahler@nps.gov)> wrote:  
Wonderful Susan, I look forward to visiting.

I'm currently pretty open that week as well. We can just select a day to put on calendars. Not sure exactly your drive time, but I can be flexible as well. Mornings are usually better for wildlife viewing, but that doesn't need to be the goal necessarily. Whatever works best for your schedule. We could aim for Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> as a starting point?

~~~~~  
Daniel R. Stahler, PhD
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Yellowstone Wolf, Cougar, Elk Projects
Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator
Yellowstone Center for Resources
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-2719

From: FWP Commissioner Region 3 <commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:29 PM
To: Stahler, Daniel <Dan_Stahler@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hello and meet up request

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Dan,

Thank you so much for reaching out, I really do appreciate it.

This sounds like a great opportunity to learn from your expertise. I would be happy to meet in person and take a quick tour into the park to discuss your work. Let's drill down on a date in that time period and get together. Maybe Week of April 29th I'm pretty open. Lmk.

Susan Kirby Brooke
Region 3 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-0460 | commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 2:58 PM Stahler, Daniel <Dan_Stahler@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Susan,

I wanted to reach out to you to first introduce myself, but also look for an opportunity this spring to connect in person for a visit.

I oversee Yellowstone's large carnivore (wolves and cougars) and elk research and monitoring programs. I'm a 22-year veteran of NPS spending my entire career here in Yellowstone with carnivores and elk. Before 2002, I worked as a field technician and graduate student with the Yellowstone Wolf Project going back to 1997 near the beginning of wolf reintroduction.

I have lived in the Gardiner community for 24 years now, and when not working, I spend a lot of time hunting, fishing, and recreating on our wonderful public lands in Montana.

I would love a chance to connect in person to talk about several issues where our world's overlap, and share information and give some perspective as a long-term Yellowstone biologist on some of the issues we all wrangle with, as well as opportunities that NPS and MTFWP could both benefit from.

I'm just finishing up a long winter field season early next week, then will slip away for a much needed vacation until mid-April. But if there are any windows in your schedule later in April or early May, I would love an opportunity to meet.

I can come to Bozeman or meet in Livingston for lunch or coffee, or happy to host a visit to the park if you wanted to take a tour with me near Gardiner and/or out into the park's northern range to visit in the field for part of a day. Open to any of these options.

Thank you for your consideration, and look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Dan
cell 406-223-7340

~
Daniel R. Stahler, PhD
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Yellowstone Wolf, Cougar, Elk Projects
Threatened & Endangered Species Coordinator
Yellowstone Center for Resources
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-2719