

CMR Meeting Summary

CMR NWR Community Working Group Meeting Summary for August 25, 2016 Fort Peck Interpretive Center, Fort Peck, MT

Opening - 10:10 am

Attendance: 43

Self-Introduction & Grounding Question: How often have you been attending?

CMR CWG Website: www.cmrcwg.org Rachel went over the website and what information it has to offer (she thanked Travis for his involvement). She informed the group that it is still in development and that they can send any suggestions for improvements or site additions to Rachel.

Additions: no one came forward at this time

Work Plan: Identified 6 projects over all and a quick review of the 3 part goals.

1. **Bison Project** – Bill informed the group of the intent of the committee and reminded everyone that the committee is not to be for one side or another and will not exist to have an open discussion on wild bison in greater Montana, but specifically in the CMR region. Bill asked if there were any questions, concerns and if everyone understands why the group is forming the committee.
 - a. Committee Structure & Mode of Operation defined
 - Additions -*
 - i. Financial – where the money will come from to compensate landowners for possible bison damages.
 - ii. Legalities – Private Property Rights/ Lessee Rights/ Consensus/ Counties with Bison Ordinances.
 - iii. Bison with the Tribes/ Responsibility.
 - iv. Population Management.
 - v. Overall Management of the Animal/ Disease.
 - vi. Lessons learned from Utah’s Henry Mountains.
 - vii. Local input.
 - viii. What will Bison Restoration look like?
 - ix. What does containment look like?
 - x. How do you deal with litigation?
 - xi. What is a realistic outcome we want from the committee and what is a realistic timeline?
 - xii. Committee requires a good firm facilitator.
 - b. Committee Volunteers – Perri Jacobs, Vicki Olson, Mark Sullivan, Mike Lang, Jeni Anderson, Jeff Pattison, Glenn Monahan, Nancy Shultz, Ron Garwood, Jerry Collins, Paul Santavy, Dyrck Van Hyning, Jeremy Sage, Kit Fischer, Scot Heidebrink, Dusty Eike, Dean Rogge, Sandy Youngbaur, Carl Seilstad, and Ron Moody.
 - c. Next step will be gathering the remaining names of any others who wish to sit on the committee and to set a time and date for the first meeting.

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2. Weeds –

- a. Update on current conditions & agency priorities for weeds within the 6 county region
 - i. **CMR** - Paula Grouse – On the east end, Leafy Spurge is the main problem being addressed with station funds and staff. An invasive species strike team came out and did a few inventories. In 2013 they treated Saltcedar on the east end. CMR has undertaken several control efforts but the amount of weeds versus the available funds is drastic. A private contractor was brought in to perform control efforts on West End Whitetop, Hoary Crest, and Russian knapweed. Saltcedar & Russian olive are distributed across much of the refuge. Most all of the money for control efforts is from refuge funds and strike team funds. Canada Thistle is another big problem.
 - ii. **ACOE** – Patricia Gilbert (off handouts) - The ACOE is focused on Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Diffused Knapweed, Russian Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Saltcedar, and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

The ACOE is using limited funds annually (\$70K for FY 2016) to manage over 400,000 acres of land and water, including 1,540 miles of shoreline. The primary goal is to provide a method of prioritizing management strategies and allocating limited resources by surveying, mapping, and treating noxious weeds; eradicating small infestations and providing long term containment of larger infestations to prevent movement to non-infested areas while minimizing negative impacts to native vegetation and existing natural resources. They are working on biological controls on project lands and surveying and monitoring.

3. Tourism & Recreation –

- a. Update on contacts to the tourism industry.
 - i. Jeremy Sage - working with NWF.
 - ii. Eastern Montana – bison restoration effects on tourism and infrastructure needs to handle increase in tourism. A panel survey will be sent out to an email list of about 3000 people (residents and nonresidents) on what they want to see when they tour that area.
- b. Better define parameters/priorities for the work.
- c. Need to have clarifications in place to ensure any economic comparisons are examining similar figures (direct \$ to direct \$ or indirect \$ to indirect \$) with regard to tourism and agriculture dollars.

4. Returning Young Folks to the Community –

- a. Presentation of economic indicators within the region.
 - i. Additions need to be to Travis by November 1st.
 - ii. It was figured that Julie Haggerty with (MSU) should be put on the agenda for a future meeting.
- b. Better define parameters/ priorities for the work.

5. CMR Sage Grouse Committee -

- a. Conservation Menu – Rachel handed out a draft form of the menu and stated that the committee will look for final approval at the September 15, 2016 meeting in Lewistown. The meeting should be available by join me for those who cannot travel.

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Announcements – Musselshell/ Golden Valley sage grouse monitoring tour November 3rd or 4th in Roundup.

Discussion on different monitoring initiatives and efforts currently going on in the region.

MRP – Stacey Barta coordinating the discussion –

1. Provide Technical Assistance - Monitoring
2. Education & Outreach
3. Provide Technical Assistance Grazing plan
4. Some Certification on some of those grazing plans

Bill informed the board how he has been working with a group of people from various locations. This group is meeting once a month via conference call to figure out how to do low cost monitoring. The group is looking at cost effective ways to monitor various things such as rangeland and birds with good sound methodology that is the same across the board so that the data is complimentary to each other.

Next meeting information:

October 6th in Jordan

December in Malta