



AFFILIATE'S CORNER

Anaconda Sportsmen Club (ASC) This year's club picnic was held at Washoe Park in Anaconda on August 23. ASC is concerned about two applications to install private bridges crossing the Big Hole River in close proximity to that club recreation site and will provide sportsmen input in the process.

ASC participated in FWP Region 2 Public meetings on increasing elk objectives in the Pintler and Flint Creek ranges.

Big Sky Upland Bird Association (BSUBA) BSUBA adopted a resolution to study the effects of lead shot in upland bird hunting. BSUBA is in the process of developing a comprehensive hunter survey relating to the measure.

BSUBA has voted to contribute time and money to pursue and study the prospects for reintroduction of Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse, in cooperation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, on the CSKT Reservation.

Billings Rod and Gun Club (BR&GC)

BR&GC once again advanced their landowner appreciation program for 2008. Over the years, the club has presented over 200 landowners with gate openers as a token of their thanks.

BR&GC in cooperation with Magic City Flyfishers and MWF affiliates, Laurel Rod and Gun Club and Public Lands and Waters Access Association collectively worked to secure area FWP projects: the Holmgren Ranch FAS near Columbus, Stillwater River FAS by the Riverside Inn, and Habitat Montana purchase of the 2300 acre Circle R Ranch near Pompey's Pillar. The Circle R will not only provide access to the Yellowstone River, but public access into 640 acres of State School Trust lands and 4500 acres of BLM

BR&GC also held a candidates forum to provide sportsmen an opportunity to become familiar with the positions of 23 candidates who attended.

Bitterroot Valley Houndsmen Association (BVHA) BVHA continues to advocate for a comprehensive state-wide mountain lion plan currently being developed by FWP due out next year. Specifically, they are requesting in-depth analysis of deer and lion mortality caused by trapper's snares set in game paths. In addition, BVHA is very concerned about opportunity for abuse related to the Missoula Special Mountain Lion Management Area. BVHA is encouraging FWP law enforcement to increase physical confirmation of lion kill-sites to ensure that any reported animals were indeed taken in the liberal MSMLMA, and not poached elsewhere with restricted kill objectives.

Custer Rod and Gun Club (CR&GC)

CR&GC is furthering its work with local youth programs. NRA certificates for each youth successfully fulfilling a shotgun course have been awarded; pellet rifle instruction and competitions will be expanded to .22 rifle courses within the next year. CR&GC has also provided assistance to local Boy Scouts in earning their shooting merit badges in August. CR&GC has expanded opportunities by incorporating the local archery club into their membership.

Dawson County R&G (DCR&GC)

DCR&GC has also cooperated with Bill Geer with TRCP in identifying prime hunting/fishing opportunities. DCR&GC has been providing sportsmen input in BLM-sponsored public discussions in August. Securing access opportunities, improving identification, and possible new federal acquisitions were offered for discussion by the BLM.

Flathead Wildlife Inc. (FWI) FWI has offered their support and continues to monitor the progress of a Wildlife Management Area on the North Shore of Flathead Lake. They support, in concept, a \$10 million Open-Space Bond Issue on the November ballot which potentially provides matched funds for hunting and fishing access projects and public parks. FWI also plans to poll legislative candidates for their stance on the 2009 version of the Bridge Access bill.

Gallatin Wildlife Association (GWA)

GWA continues to stay involved with issues relating to wild bison management. GWA participates in the Madison Valley Group, and has been instrumental at discouraging brucellosis-related elk test-and-slaughter recommendations from that group. GWA's October 9 meeting features Bill Geer and the TRCP "Sportsmen's User Value Mapping Project". The club meets every Wednesday for breakfast; call Glenn Hockett for details, 581-6352.

Great Falls Archery (GFA) GFA had a successful King's Hill Shoot, in Harley Park on July 17 and 18, 2008. GFA is developing a program to help archers become familiar with the 2008 archery permits instituted this past spring by the FWP Commission.

Helena Hunters and Anglers (HeH&A)

HeH&A had filed and was denied a formal protest to the Helena National Forest decision to permit a Montana National Guard biathlon project proposed for McDonald Pass. HEH&A has teamed up with 4 other entities to take the decision to District Court. The project has high potential to do significant harm to the area's wildlife habitat and the wildlife movement corridor along the continental divide.

HeH&A also hosted a public September event featuring Rich DeSimone who presented his PowerPoint presentation on mountain lion research in the Garnet Mountains between Drummond and Potomac.

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HgH&A)

HgH&AA has decided to strongly support a proposed Smart Growth Initiative for Missoula County. Typically, these types of initiatives advance benefits for not only retention but improvement of wildlife habitat.

Laurel Rod and Gun Club Laurel Rod and Gun club raised \$23,000 in a successful banquet dedicated to NRA youth shooting education programs on Sept 11th. LR&GC is grateful to Outback Steakhouse who donated the entire steak banquet and Sportsmen's Warehouse of Billings for over \$600 in merchandise plus a new high power rifle.

Libby Rod and Gun Club (LR&GC)

LR&GC enthusiastically supports Bill Geer and TRCP's efforts to protect high value hunting and fishing locations and participated in the mapping project. The county operated shooting range building/clubhouse will be available for LR&GC meetings and other public events within the month. For more information contact Don Clark at 406-293-7659 or email donmon@libby.org.

Medicine River Canoe Club (MRCC)

MRCC has been providing input and support for FWP's long-awaited non-motorized access site on the Sun River. The existing informal site has deteriorated to the point of being unusable. MRCC members currently have a project to take GPS coordinates for removal of junk cars historically used as riprap along the Sun River.

Park County R&G –PCR&GC continues to monitor the Ameya Preserve State Land Banking proposal for the Bullis Creek area south of Livingston (see Montana Wildlife July/August 2007.) The Shields River drainage continues to draw attention. In addition to a proposed FAS (see Montana Wildlife May/June 2008) the EPA is conducting a stream health/particulate study which may eventually recommend closing area access roads due as sources of particulate matter. PCR&GC is monitoring the study's progress but advocates for keeping the public access intact, and suggests that other sources be addressed before losing access opportunities.

PCR&GC provides significant support for area youth and hosted the FWP hunter safety program's field day. Their input with the local 4-H scholastic trap team promotes youth shooting opportunities and hunting ethics.

Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA) PLWA presented a "Know your Rights" meeting at the Billings Rod and Gun Clubhouse on September 20. Sportsmen asked access questions of the panelists from BLM, USFS, DNRC, and FWP. Earlier that day a seminar was presented on how to determine the legal status of any given road and associated statutes. Attending FWP wardens were approached for issuing trespassing citations to hunters on a road where public ownership was in question.

Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association (RCF&WA) The RCFWA Annual Picnic was held June 22 for members and their families. RCF&WA voted to request that FWP revisit the Bitterroot Elk Plan to address the impact of the documented 15 packs of gray wolves in the upper Bitterroot Valley.

For more about RCF&WA visit their new website at: www.rcfwa.com

Rosebud/Treasure Wildlife Association (RTWA) RTWA had their annual meeting on September 22. FWP Region 7 Supervisor, Dwayne Andrews and Waterfowl Coordinator Jim Hansen discussed the status of the Yellowstone River Waterfowl hunting Closure in place since the 1960s.

Russell Country Sportsmen (RCSA)

RCSA continues its intensive participation in sportsmen's issues in the Great Falls area. RCSA has been involved in ongoing discussions between the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the handicapped community for improved access to federal lands and

gated logging roads. RCSA voted to challenge the L&CNF Travel Plan on reduced access opportunities. RCSA also mediated and helped institute a cooperative use plan for the Pilgrim Creek trail near Monarch.

For more, contact President John Borgreen by phone at 406-453-4273 or by email at jjjd2@bresnan.net