

MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes- September 9, 2010
Location- Colonial Inn, Helena, Montana

Board Members Present: Jack Chambers (President), Doug Dreeszen (Secretary), Glenn Erickson (Vice President), Tom Grimes, Steve Kline, Mike Menke (Treasurer), Dan Spicher, Bruce Sterling, and Jim Weatherly (Executive Director)

Directors Absent: Mike Colpo
Members Present: None

Call to Order:

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Jack Chambers at 12:11 P M.

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting, July 7, 2010, a telephone conference call. **Motion: It was moved and seconded that the July 7, 2010, minutes be approved. Motion Passed.**

Treasurer's Report:

Jim W reported the current balance is \$96,547.75, with approximately \$15,972.00, in accounts payable as follows: Plains signs \$3,000.00, Skalkaho Weed Control \$6,300.00, Petty Creek Weed Control \$1,922.00, Pryor Mountains Mahogany Study \$2,000.00, Gilchrist Signs \$1,750.00, WSF Reno Convention, \$1,000.00. **Motion: It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as reported. Motion Passed.**

Informational Items:

Update on bighorn sheep die offs in Region 2: Bruce S reported that the FWP had eradicated 12 sheep from the Anaconda herd, H.D. 213, and the FWP took 9 samples for testing at the Lab. The FWP is pulling the ewe licenses and will be refunding the application fees to the hunters who drew these tags. Letters will also be sent out to the hunters who drew either sex licenses (ram tags) concerning this die off matter. Bruce S also reported on the continuing problem of domestic sheep and goats that have shown up in his area and that he has had some contact with the owners of these animals and they have, for the most part, no knowledge or interest in the dangers that these domestic animals have on the local bighorn sheep populations. Bruce stated that Barbados sheep have shown up in the Bull River area, and other domestics are now in the Cut Off, and Petty Creek areas in Region 2.

Lewistown BLM meeting, July 21: Jim W reported that he met with the BLM managers in Lewistown and that it was a good meeting and they discussed several items including domestic sheep allotments and road access in the Missouri Breaks areas.

Meeting with Matt Wickens and Mike Schmitt, Winifred, MT: Jim W met with Wickens (Dog Creek Outfitters) and Schmitt who is the owner of a small herd of domestic sheep located in Missouri Breaks area, H.D. 482. There are concerns about interaction between these domestics and the local bighorn sheep.

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Board Meeting- Helena, MT

Montana Wild Sheep Foundation

Informational Items:

Montana FWP Wolf Management: Jim W and Bruce S discussed this issue and that we had received a nice thank you letter from the FWP regards to our past involvement.

Teakettle Mountain Transplant: Mike M reported that he personally investigated the area around Teakettle Mountain and has found that this area is not a good area to transplant bighorn sheep into for several negative reasons, including domestic sheep on mini-farms, railroad tracks, the area is surrounded by private property and concerns for hunter access. The Board thanked Mike for all his hard work on this matter.

Wild Horse Island Bighorn Sheep: Bruce S reported that there needs to be 100 bighorns removed from Wild Horse Island and that these sheep need to have a place to be transplanted in Montana as there will be no bighorns going out of state this coming year. There was a discussion on several potential transplant sites within the State of Montana that we have been working on.

Missouri Breaks Bighorn Sheep Hunting Issues: Again this year before hunting season, there have been several complaints and concerns about the state auction tag purchaser leasing up private property and closing access to the local resident sheep hunters. Dan S reported that he had some current information concerning this and informed the Board of the present activities of certain outfitters monitoring several big trophy rams for the auction tag hunter and that this issue is causing problems for the local resident hunters. Also there has been some flying and game spotting from the air. Apparently some landowners are charging a \$9,500.00 trespass fee. After further discussion, it was brought up that we (MT WSF) should perhaps look into this matter in the future and perhaps purchase access for hunters. Dan S will explore some options as he is knowledgeable of the area and has some contact with the local landowners. A correspondence from Guy Eastman regards to this matter was also discussed as it dealt with some of the same issues.

West Boulder River Proposed Transplant Site: Doug D reported that the FWP and the Forest Service are studying the area for habitat compatibility as this area had recently been burned in the Derby Fire of 2006. There are also some concerns that if this area is approved as a transplant site that since this area is a wilderness area, the question came up on how to transport the bighorns into the release area because of the wilderness restrictions.

Old Business:

Bighorn Sheep Poaching Rewards-no activity, Click Ranch Habitat Preservation-no activity,

Region 6 FWP Enforcement Request for Funding: Dan S again requested funds for surveillance cameras to be used by Game Wardens in Region 6. These cameras will be used by Game Wardens in the performance of their duties to keep tabs on sheep hunters trespassing on private property in the Missouri Breaks. Trespassing and access are some of the local concerns and Dan S stated that these cameras could be used as a tool to help the Wardens enforce laws and work with local landowners. After a discussion, Dan S requested that the Board re-consider funding for Reconyx RC 60HO Infrared Cameras at \$649.95, which was presented back on May 25, 2010. Dan S requested two cameras and said that he would personally monitor and work with the FWP on this matter and have Shane Reno, Montana Warden Sergeant give us a follow up report on effectiveness of the cameras. After further discussion, it was brought up that perhaps our Chapter could also explore, in the future, some sort of funding to help alleviate some of the tension by providing maps, GPS on access points to the area, and look into this matter as an educational aspect for future sheep hunting to lessen the concerns of the FWP and local landowners. Our Chapter might even

consider buying access for all sheep hunters and work with FWP Block Management on these issues.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that we will donate \$1,299.50, for the purchase of two cameras to be used by FWP Enforcement in the performance of their duties to monitor sheep hunting issues in the Missouri Breaks. Motion passed. (One dissenting vote)

Die off status and future bighorn sheep lamb monitoring plans (Region 2 & 3 lamb monitoring) and GIA request for Chris Anderson for \$4,300.00. The GIA request was discussed and it was the consensus of the Board that we do not fund this request because the request was submitted after the project and that Anderson should have submitted the request before his involvement. Anderson was a volunteer in the first place. **Motion: It was moved and seconded that we do not fund Anderson's GIA request. Motion Passed. (4 yea, 2 nay, 1 abstained)**

MT WSF Website Updates: Steve K reported that he is done with transferring the entire Chapter's Web Site information on the new site and he is close to having to totally done. The information can be found at Montana bighorn.org. He is using this web address temporarily until the old material is forwarded to him by the former web master.

Affinity License Plates: Mike C is looking into this. The matter is pending at this time.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Now that the 2010 Board of Directors Election is complete. The results are that Doug D, Glenn E, and Mike M, were re-elected to the Board. **Motion: It was moved and seconded that the present officers will keep their present seats for the next term.**

Chambers, President; Erickson, Vice President; Dreeszen, Secretary; Menke, Treasurer. Motion Passed.

MT WSF position on I-161: The matter was discussed and it was the general consensus of the Board not to take a position on this matter.

U.S. Sportsman Alliance: We received a special request for funding. We annually donate \$1,000.00 to them. The Board felt that we didn't need to donate any further funding at this time.

Treasured Landscapes & America's Great Outdoors Initiative: Dan S reported that the BLM and the government are proposing to take private lands and making them into public lands/monuments in northeastern Montana. Dan S asked that everyone brief themselves on this issue.

Newsletter Publication: Items for the next Newsletter are needed. Steve K will write up something on the new Web-site. Doug D submitted an article with photos on the Pryor Guzzler, Mike M will write up an article on his recent successful Stone Sheep hunt in the Yukon. Other items are appreciated.

2011 Legislative Session: One of the items that will be introduced this coming session is that non-profit organizations will be able to sell raffle tickets out of state. This could enhance the income for organizations like ours since we can only sell raffle tickets within the state at present.

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Montana Wild Sheep Foundation

Up-coming Land Acquisitions: Bruce S reported that there are some important bighorn sheep land coming up for sale in Sanders County. One piece of property is 160 acres that would be nice sheep habitat. The other piece of property is the old Pickering place consisting of 400 acres near Knowles Creek, in H.D. 124. This land has been taken over by Glacier Bank. He and Mike M will look into this further and report back to the Board.

2011 Fundraiser Issues:

Our next banquet/fundraiser will be in Missoula, MT, on March 12, 2011, at the Hilton Garden Inn. This will be a one day affair this year. President Chambers is planning on having a breakfast brunch in the morning with some activities and a small auction. Seminars will be scheduled throughout the day to keep people there. The typical banquet and auction will follow in the late afternoon. We are in need of auction items and are looking into hunt trades, sponsorships and advertising for donations. We need to get this on our web site. We discussed the custom rifle, as it is too late at this time to have one built for this year. Several ideas will be explored. We have secured an Oryx Hunt donated by National WSF in Cody, WY.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2010, at 6:30 PM. This will be a telephone conference call. There was a group discussion about today's meeting and the length of the meeting and the travel time involved, even though it is nice to get together more than at the fundraiser general meeting. One idea was that perhaps we should have more conference call meetings and spend less time at each one.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 PM. Motion Passed.

Addendum:

President Chambers, after the meeting, conducted a short over view of our past goals and objectives and our mission statement. With input from the directors, several long range objectives were discussed including: Access/education of sheep hunting areas, domestic sheep/goat issues, membership issues, fundraising, transplants, GIA prioritizing, to name a few. The session was informative and worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dreeszen, Secretary

Montana Wild Sheep Foundation