

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT 

FOSS 
STOLTZ 

KANENWISHER 

Members Present.....Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Greg Chilcott,
Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher

Date.....December 20, 2011

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 9:00 a.m. for various administrative matters as follows: Present at this meeting was Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Association Member Keith Kabista and Citizen William Menager.

- Commissioner Kanenwisher presented a report of public comments received for the possible policy on the wolf issue and a Guide to Living and Recreating in Wolf County by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (see attached). Keith presented tallies from Region 2, Cumulative 2011 Season Totals (number of hunters and game harvested as attached). He also addressed information on the hunting season for the wolves.
- HOMEbuyer Certification for 2004 & 2002: This program is to assist first time homebuyers and the report is compiled and monitored by Human Resource Council for certification signature by Ravalli County and sent to the State. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the certifications for 2004 & 2002 for HOMEbuyer certification. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**
- Application for Storm Water Discharge at the Airport: This is an annual application and fee for water discharge as prepared by the Airport Manager. **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to apply for this permit. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**
- Airport Board Member - Non attendance: The Board was in receipt of a letter from the Airport Board Chair in regard to Scott Weyl's non attendance for the past five months. Commissioner Stoltz noted Scott had advised him four months ago that he intended on resigning from this board. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to remove Scott Weyl from the Airport Board and re-advertise for his position/term. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0).**
- **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to accept George Marshall's letter of resignation from the Airport Board due to his employment in another part of the country. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (4-0)** Commissioner Chilcott was not present for this vote.

- **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to have the Chair sign the application for credit at Murdoch's Store for the maintenance department. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0).**

▶ The Board met at 9:50 a.m. with Human Resource Director Robert Jenni for a weekly update which included the Health Insurance plans and cost to county. Present at this meeting was Citizen William Menager and Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes. Robert noted \$610.36 per employee has been budgeted for FY2012 and the cost for the high deductible insurance will be \$607.45, which will include life insurance, EAP (Employee Assistance Program) and funds the HSA eligible insurance. **The Board concurred the extra \$2.91 being saved from the budgeted amount could be placed in the employee's Health Savings Account or towards the higher deductible premium (of which the employee chooses).**

▶ The Board met at 10:05 a.m. with Chief Financial Officer Klarryse Murphy for a weekly update. Present at this meeting was Citizen William Menager and Ravalli Reporter Whitney Bermes.

▶ The Board met at 11:00 a.m. with Treasurer Marie Keeton for a monthly update. Present at this meeting was CFO Klarryse Murphy and Citizen William Menager.

▶ The Board met at 11:30 a.m. with PHN Judy Griffin relative to obtaining Commission signatures on grant amendments for grants over \$25,000. These amendments are now required for reporting compliance under a new 'Federal Transparency' regulation. She has several grants that will now require addendums for the transparency requirement.

- **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve amendment #1 to Maternal Child Health Grant, Contract # 12-07-5-01-041-0. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**
- **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to approve amendment #1 to the Family Planning Grant, Contract # 12-07-5-11-006-0. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye" (5-0).**

▶ The Board met at 1:30 p.m. for a discussion and to hold a working session on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Map. Present at this meeting was Planning Administrator Terry Nelson, Bitterroot Star Publisher Michael Howell, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes and numerous citizens. Terry presented a power point presentation. After the working session which included public comment, no decisions were made.

The BCC received a draft policy from a small group of hunter/advocates. A primary component of the proposal is to tie the declining elk populations to enhanced predator hunts. The enhanced hunts for predators include the following

Wolves –

1. No quota
2. Trapping permitted 11/15 through 03/15
3. Over the counter tags anytime
4. Snaring allowed
5. Electronic calls allowed
6. 5 tags per year including trapping
7. General season 8-30 through 6-30
8. No hunter orange required
9. Non-resident fee \$31.75
10. Elk/Deer tag can be used on a wolf during general season
11. No baiting for wolves. However wolves may be taken incidentally over a bear bait.

Lions –

1. Over the counter tags bought anytime
2. Deer/elk tags can be used for lion during general season
3. No hunter orange required
4. Harvest based on a quota of 35 per hunting district. Either sex
5. No kill fees
6. Non-resident tag \$31.75
7. Season dates of August 30th- June 30th (no hounds during general archery and rifle)

Bears –

1. No bear test required
2. No hunter orange required
3. Over the counter tags anytime
4. Hound hunting allowed April 15 - June 30
5. Two baiting sites per hunter
6. Spring season closure April 15 – June 30
7. Non-resident fees \$31.75
8. Deer/Elk tag can be used to tag a bear during general season
9. Season dates of August 30 – November 27 and April 15 – June 30

Other comments were made including and typified by the following:

“ ... to reduce livestock or wildlife depredation it would be much more effective to control microbes or promote vegetarian diets than control wolves.”

“ ... leave wolf management to Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.”

“... there are far more significant issues”

The BCC is engaged in “fear mongering”



LIVING WITH WOLVES: a guide to living and recreating in wolf country

Gray wolves primarily live in habitat that supports deer and elk. As a result, wolves sometimes use areas that are in close proximity to humans, particularly in and around deer and elk habitat in rural areas. Wolves can be legally killed if seen attacking dogs, chasing or attacking livestock, or to protect human life. For those living and recreating in wolf country, here are some tips on how to decrease the potential for conflicts.

HUMAN SAFETY

Wolf attacks on people are very rare. Most wolves fear people and will run when encountered. However, wolves are visual learners and some may stop and stare. All wildlife can be dangerous and should be given distance and treated with caution. There have been a small number of documented wolf attacks on people in North America and contributing factors were most often related to habituation to people and/or conditioning to human foods. In areas where people live near wolf habitat it is especially important to follow these steps to discourage habituation:

AT HOME

- Do not feed wolves or leave food outdoors, including pet food.
- Do not feed deer, turkeys, or other wildlife that may attract wolves or other predators like lions and bears.
- If wolves are seen close to people or human-inhabited areas, scare them away by making loud noises.
- Report wolves that seem comfortable around people, seek human food, or frequent human-inhabited areas to FWP (see contact info on back of handout).

Hikers, campers, and hunters are more likely to come upon areas of wolf activity such as a kill site, denning area, or resting site. After detecting a person's presence, some wolves may lope off quietly, others may bark or howl, or some may cautiously approach to get a better look. Hearing wolves barking and howling all around can be loud and startling. However, encountering wolves at close range is seldom a reason for alarm (unless you have a dog; see dog section on back) especially if you know what to expect. Once wolves have identified the disturbance, they generally leave the area. Vocalizing could go on for awhile as wolves regroup out of sight and pull back from the situation. If a wolf is killed, other wolves generally move off but may return to the site later. Here are some tips on what to do and how to avoid close encounters.

IN THE FIELD

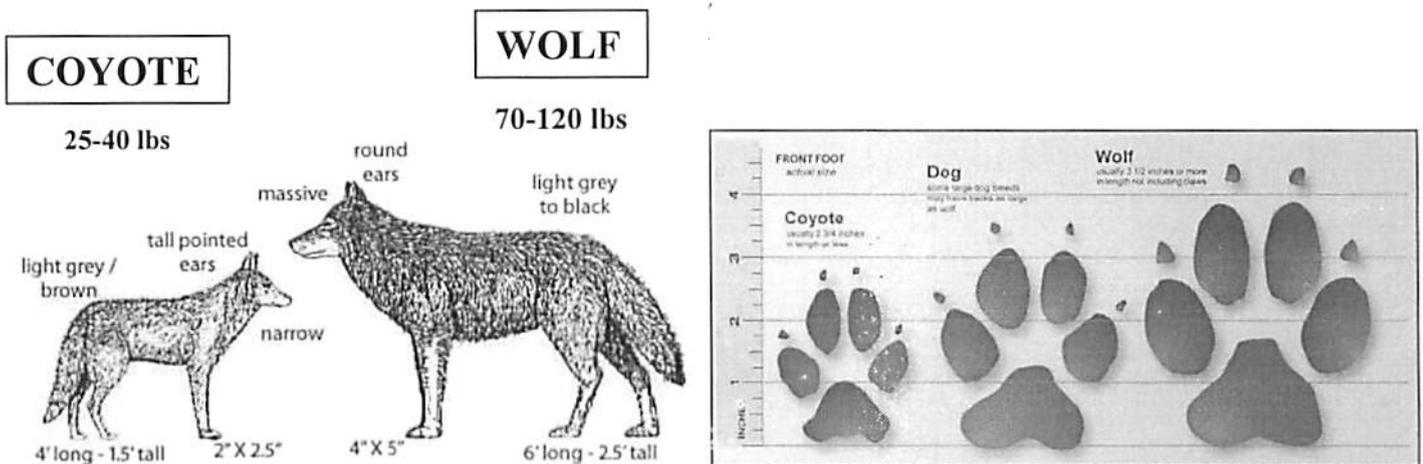
- Avoid areas of wolf activity including fresh wolf kills and denning areas. Do not approach wolves.
- In the event of a close encounter, be calm and slowly leave the area. If approached, stand tall and make noise.
- Hunters: hang game meat out of reach. Wolves may feed on gut piles and carcasses left out overnight but will usually move off upon your return.
- Always carry pepper spray for any potential close encounter with wildlife.

DOGS

Wolves are very territorial and see dogs as competition. As a result, wolves are attracted to and will often try to kill domestic dogs. Traveling with a dog may therefore increase your chances of encountering a wolf. Dogs may even draw wolves into areas of human activity. Keep dogs inside or in protected areas, especially overnight and at dawn and dusk when wolves are most active. Keep dogs on leash or under voice command when walking in areas where wolves may be present. If an encounter occurs, bring your dog to heel at your side as soon as possible. Standing between your dog and the wolf usually ends an encounter. To avoid any risk of injury to yourself, do not try to break up a physical fight between a wolf and your dog.

LIVESTOCK

Wolves sometimes kill livestock. Livestock owners are encouraged to contact FWP to report wolf presence and for assistance. Fencing options or other deterrents may be helpful in certain situations. In the event of dead or injured livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services (WS) for an investigation. If a wolf depredation is confirmed, WS is often authorized to remove offending wolves immediately on site. FWP will work closely with the livestock owner and WS to find the best solution to prevent further losses.



WHO DO I CONTACT?

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

To get information about wolves and wolf management & to report wolf sightings

- Kent Laudon—Wolf Management Specialist, Kalispell, 406-250-5047 klaudon@mt.gov
- Liz Bradley—Wolf Management Specialist, Missoula, 406-865-0017 lbradley@mt.gov
- Nathan Lance—Wolf Management Specialist, Butte, 406-425-3355 nlance@mt.gov
- Mike Ross—Wolf Management Specialist, Bozeman, 406-581-3664 mikross@mt.gov
- Abby Nelson—Wolf Management Specialist, Livingston, 406-600-5150 abnelson@mt.gov

To report a dead wolf or possible illegal activity

- 1-800-TIP-MONT or contact your nearest game warden

USDA Wildlife Services:

To request investigations of dead or injured livestock

- Kraig Glazier—Western District Supervisor, Helena, 406-458-0106 Kraig.L.Glazier@aphis.usda.gov
- Mike Foster—Eastern District Supervisor, Billings, 406-657-6464 Mike.Foster@aphis.usda.gov
- John Steuber—State Director, Billings, 406-657-6464 John.E.Steuber@aphis.usda.gov

<http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

- Annual, weekly, and flight reports
- Report wolves and wolf sign
- Learn more about wolf management