

## **Agenda for PRRR subcommittee meeting 3/19/2013**

Make sure all have seen video of the meeting

Questions about how the meeting was held and recorded

Review of people and questions. All felt we should keep in place taping the meeting so we have a record of the event.

Did everyone get copies of the written comments?

11 letters

8 support program

2 want Wyoming a refuge or 1 want Johns not hunted with rifle or black powder

Capture the essence of the meeting

People are concerned about the safety issue of using high power rifles or black powder on wide open program lands

Ryan feels we have the proper amount of numbers on the area. Safety is not an issue if they wear their orange. Harry and Matt think open area is actually safer than trees. Because they feel the complaints are self-serving. Harry L feels a cottonwood forest is not a sufficient backstop and that should be confirmed by any hunter safety. All rules should be kept simple and clear. Harry L feels deer hunting should continue, NGPC should advise density of each area.

Matt R says rifle season density seems to be fine.

Ryan C likes the numbers as they are now.

Concern about opening up Wyoming land to waterfowl hunting

Matt R for consistency it is easier to keep rules the same across all properties. If we hunt waterfowl and upland it is the same as Johns and he feels conflicts have not occurred. Ryan C feels the complaints are from people thinking of themselves. He thinks it should be opened to duck hunting. 31 days 244 spots are available. This year only 60 actual reservations were used.

John H asked why expanded use is suggested. Matt R feels yes and no; The Department of Interior and F&W sent information to Washington supporting the access program. It is visible and they feel it should continue to provide recreation. "The Secretary of Interior supports and is directing F&W and BOR through the "America's Great Outdoors" initiative to maximize opportunities through increased uses and areas available for public recreation". F&W Secretary supports and feels it should be maximized. Mid November to end of January is a good time to use this area for duck hunting.

Harry L endorses hunting Wyoming for waterfowl. This is a high demand and reasonable place to do so. Matt R has concerns over flows causing a safety issue due to channels to cross. John H says the access program is designed to indemnify PRRIP but suits can occur. The more we do the greater that risk rises. If we decide to hunt an area the hunters accept the liability.

John H has no problem with hunting Wyoming. He has no known reasons for not opening Wyoming. Keep the south line in place and presume hunters will use the north side of the channel for waterfowl hunting.

Discussion about no reason to increase numbers of hunters, but should open Wyoming to waterfowl only. We discussed issues that could be happening as a result of just hunting waterfowl. In the end the waterfowl and upland can be added on the original Wyoming land north of the south channel and line. All

the Blessing land will be posted as no hunting. Access will happen on the west end of Blessing along the county road.

Hunting along fence lines

Not an issue

Young adults with youth hunters

Unenforceable

Non-use of areas after permits are given

Not needed and is non-enforceable.

Comments about habitat changes

Not something we should react to today.

Comments about support for allowing access

Surveys are the best way to learn how positive comments have come in.

Public hearings bring in the most complainers. Almost 50% of the surveys are returned. We feel this is an exceptional representation.

Will we change any discretionary parts of the PRRA

Potential of adding new land available for access. Specifically, Binfield, De Bore wetland, Leaman#2 east of Alda, Bartels/Sullwold.

1)

Binfield – no for next year

De Bore – wait one more year

Martin Meadows – open for Waterfowl and upland

Pump and pit dealt with as a possible hazard. Potential for trade could make a difference. Discuss with other parties.

Bartels – no until Ken is gone

Sullwold – not ready yet

If taking shed deer antlers are a legal thing to do on State land we should consider also allowing sheds to be removed from PRRA land.

2) Success of waterfowl/upland hunting and adding/subtracting to the option of waterfowl/upland (are there other areas where we should think about expanding it).

Possibly Fox – need to circle around and talk with the ED, the TAC and/or the WAC.

Hostetler – table until we know all affects.

How do we evaluate the pilot uses of upland game and waterfowl hunting?

Positive and want more opportunity. No reported major or minor issues. With no problems noted it is suggested opening more of the areas to these additional uses.

Discuss administrative needs of the program with NGPC

Number of users

No known way to adjust. That information is not available.

Type of use

Not able to feel the final use of each area and was what it was.

John H would like to see what demographics are happening to count and plan for program needs. Questions came up about no answer over

use. Survey is best way to answer today. We asked NGPC to look into a better way to capture this data.

Detail needed to have a credible program [part of last question](#)

#### Recommendation to the LAC

It is recommended that the PRRA continue for another year on all tracts used in 2012. The following areas will be added to the PRRA:

**2009001 Fox** to include waterfowl and upland hunting – with approval of ED or TAC and/or WAC.

**2012005 Martin Meadows** – open all seven listed compatible uses under present Agreement subject to the following:

The pump and pit must be dealt with as a possible hazard. Clearing this tract as a potential trade land could make a difference. Parties involved will be contacted.

**2008001 Wyoming** for all seven listed compatible uses. This access does not include the Blessing land.

#### List of Compatible Uses

1. Mushroom collecting
2. Deer hunting
3. Fishing
4. Bird watching/hiking
5. Turkey hunting
6. Upland game hunting
7. Waterfowl hunting