

Wooten CAG Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Last Resort KOA

3PM - 4:30PM

Meeting began just after 3PM with a presentation by Glen Mendel on the Tucannon Lakes Issues. Glen gave a PowerPoint presentation about the current state of the lakes, the engineering report that was done on the costs to improve the lakes, and the 2003 creel survey that was conducted to determine public use of the lakes. He discussed the issues facing the lakes, the opportunities the lakes provide, the current stocking rates of the lakes, and the estimated economic benefit provided by the lakes. Meeting attendees were given a handout with the information Glen covered.

Comments/Questions on Glen's presentation:

- Who ultimately makes the decision on closing the lakes?
- Is the biggest question on whether to keep Big 4 Lake since it is in most danger of being washed out by the river?
- What are the causes attributed to the dam issues?
- We hate to hear about closing any of the lakes. We should be looking at ways to complete the improvements instead.
- Since Rainbow Lake and Curl Lake are funded differently, we should be looking at them and getting them repaired/improved.
- Are there grants available to help with the repairs?
- Have you considered public workdays to help with the minor maintenance and clean up of the lakes?
- Have you considered more user fees?
- Who do we talk to about the lakes? What are some addresses of people we can write letters to? The Last Resort can put it in the monthly newsletter to inform people about the status of the lakes.
 - o Glen's answer: contact local legislators, county commissioners, and WDFW game commission
- WDFW needs to quit buying more land and work on repairing and maintaining the lands they already own.
- Someone should contact the outdoors writer in the Tri-Cities and get him to write a monthly article on the Tucannon Lakes and the issues they are facing.
- Can we use the ESA listed fish species in the river to justify portions of the repairs? Maybe use that money as a match for other funds?
- Should we start looking at other pots of money as funding sources?
- What future fishing restrictions do you foresee on the river? Will that make the lakes even more important?
- What kind of public support is WDFW hoping to get at the public meetings about the Tucannon Lakes?
- What kind of a liability is access to Big 4 Lake to the agency?

Kari Dingman, Assistant Wildlife Area Manager, had mailed out the 2009 Management Plan updates to the CAG members she had addresses for prior to the meeting. She asked

for input from the CAG members on the updates, as well as answering questions pertaining to management of the Wooten Wildlife Area.

Questions/Comments on the 2009 Management Plan Updates:

- Is it true that a private contractor had put in a bid to rebuild the elk fence using metal posts? Was that bid lower? Why didn't the state use that contractor?
- WDFW really needs to get professionally made signs for the Cummings Creek closure if they expect the public to obey them.
- Who decides what the priorities are on the Wooten WLA?
- Sensitive Area Closures: CAG VERY against any further drainage closures in the Tucannon.
- What is the status of burying the power line from the hatchery to Camp Wooten?
- Why are the otter being allowed to populate the Wooten WLA and eat all the fish being stocked in the lakes? What can be done about that?

The meeting came to a close at 4:30PM. Any further comments or questions can be passed on to Kari Dingman through email (dingmkld@dfw.wa.gov) or over the phone (843-1530).