

# Park County WPLI Advisory Committee | MINUTES

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March 15, 2017 | 6:04 – 7:10 pm | Park County Library – Cody – Grizzly Hall

Meeting called by	Bucky Hall, WPLI Committee Chair	Attendees
Type of meeting	Advisory Committee	Chairman Bucky Hall, Facilitator Tara Kuipers, Committee Members JD Radakovich, Chris Pfister, Jenny DeSarro, John McGee, Bob Jackson, Christine Bekes, Phyllis Preator, Doug Smith, Dustin Rosencranse, Greg Mayton, John Gallagher, Rori Renner, Joe Kondelis
Facilitator	Tara Kuipers, Tara Kuipers Consulting	Other Attendees: Tim Woolley, Wildlife Biologist, WY Game & Fish Dept.; Park County Commissioners Loren Grosskopf and Jake Fulkerson; Cody Country Snowmobile Assoc. members Bert Miller, Brenda Miller; Tom Anderson, Tom Reed, Leslie Patten, John Osgood, Barry
		Absent: Wes Allen, Rick Harrison, Karinthia Harrison, Michael Hirsch, Hap Ridgway

## NEXT MEETING

Pending Doodle poll responses: April 18, 19, 25 or 26

## AGENDA TOPICS

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### *Approval of Minutes |*

Additional revisions to the January 18 committee meeting minutes were made and approved. Minutes from the February 15 meeting were approved.

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### *WCCA's March 23 Lander WPLI Meeting*

Participating counties' spokesperson will be asked to speak on:

- What is unique about your advisory committee?
- What is your committee's greatest impediment?
- What one piece of advice would your committee share with other committees?

**ACTION:** Committee members should send Chairman Hall thoughts around these questions; Chairman Hall will be the spokesman for Park County's committee.

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### *High Lakes WSA April 1 Field Trip*

RSVP required to attend.

One group only, 10:30 start time from the trailhead. The trip will be approximately three to four hours.

**Bring: Helmet (let Dusty Rosencranse know if you do not have a helmet), snacks, lunch, water, daypack, camera, sunglasses or goggles, sunscreen. Dress appropriately (bibs, gloves, etc.).**

**All attending: Meet at the turn-out on the Chief Joseph Highway (the former G&F Check Station) pullout area at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Plan to leave the junction/starting point via snowmobile at 10:30 a.m.**

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### *High Lakes WSA Wildlife*

Tim Woolley, Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.

#### **Bighorn Sheep**

CRUWIN: Crucial Winter Range – the minimum area needed for grazing and less snow-high altitude winter ranges not common for Big Horn Sheep in High Lakes.

SSF: Spring, summer, fall

WYL: Winter year-long (can find all times of year)

Department Policy: CRUWIN needs to be protected. Updated with new information collected (i.e., satellite collar)

#### **Elk**

SSF

#### **Mule Deer**

SSF

#### **Moose**

SSF

#### **Mountain Goat**

CRUWYL: Goats year-long

#### **Grizzly Bears and Wolves**

Partly in the Primary Management Area (PMA). Bears are situation 1 (take priority, only trapped when major human conflict occurs).

Wolves: WSA would be Hunt Area 2.

**ACTION:** Wildlife Observations – Tim Woolley will send non-game species to the group similar to the McCullough Peaks data provided.

#### **Q&A:**

Q: Are there mountain lions?

A: It is possible where deer and elk are present, but not common.

Q: Are there pine martens?

A: Yes, in different areas. There are also beavers. There was a trapper who trapped a swift fox at about 9,000 feet, and a sage grouse has been spotted at 11,000 feet.

Q: What other game birds are present?

A: Ruffed grouse, dusky grouse or blue grouse.

Q: What do the small non-game animals do in the winter?

A: A few hang around in the winter, but they are in forested areas. Snowshoe hares and badgers have been seen by snowmobilers.

Q: Are there any management concerns?

A: None in particular, because the high altitude areas are so rocky. (Tim will consult with Game & Fish Biologist Doug McWhirter; initially there was nothing of primary concern.)

Q: Grizzly bears seem to be using the area more?

A: There doesn't seem to be greater grizzly bear activity than in the past.

Q: Specifically in the High Lakes, does G&F have a position regarding snowmobiles being detrimental at all?

A: No.

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### *Public Comment*

Leslie Patten, a Sunlight Basin resident, commented on summer usage. She is very familiar with the High Lakes area as she does a lot of hiking and backpacking in the region. Patten said the area is critical for local and out-of-state use in the summer. Will the group be making a trip in summer? (Yes.) Patten expressed that the High Lakes are a special and beautiful area. She said she has seen more grizzly bears there recently.

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### *Closing*

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.