

**BHWC Monthly Meeting
August 15, 2007
Divide Grange Hall
7:00 pm.**

7:00 pm Introductions and Review of July Minutes
7:10 pm Flow/Precipitation Report
7:25 pm Conservation Easements – New Tax Incentives
7:55 pm Break
8:05 pm Harold Peterson – Water Storage Study Discussion
8:40 pm New Business
9:00 pm Adjourn

**BHWC Monthly Meeting
July 18, 2007**

Those Attending:

Jill and Steve Luebeck and children, Liz Jones, Rancher, Don Jones, Rancher, Randy Smith, Chairman, Noorjahan Parwana, Director, Garth Haugland, Bvhd. County, Marty Hovan, BSB Water, Phil Ralston, Rancher, Jeanne Caddy, BHWWC, Jami Murdoch, TMDL Outreach Coordinator, Erik Kalsta, Rancher, Ed Kilwein, Rancher, Nick Gevock, Mt. Standard, bill Cain, Landowner, Mark and Angie Kambich and children, and Andrew Hanson, Outfitter.

This was our annual bbq/potluck the meeting was not real formal.

Pattengail Fire Update

Dennis Havig and his team gave an update on the fire. As of the meeting date, the fire was only 5-days old. It was burning in the Stone Lakes area and burning generally northeast. Fire fighters were attempting to put a firebreak on the south-side of the fire, but due to terrain difficulty and the absence of safety zones, ground crews were not working on the active sides of the fire. Helicopters and retardant bombers were working to slow the fire's progress, but given the heavy fuel loads and dry conditions, the fire was expected to continue moving to the northeast.

The forest service showed a series of maps showing the fire's location and a video taken from a recent flight over the fire. The video showed that the fire had burned very intensely.

Updates

Noor gave an update about an upcoming Willow Ecology and Riparian Restoration Field Workshop that will be held August 21 and 22, 2007 in the Upper Big Hole (Jackson and Wisdom area sites). This tour is sponsored by NRCS. The topics for that will be discusses are:

- Strategies for successful willow plating and restoration
- Willow identification, growth habits and site suitability requirements.
- Passive vs. active restoration strategies.
- Riparian and river channel functions – what are they?
- Reference conditions – what's the target and how to measure success?
- Cows and fish together – can it ever work?

For workshop RSVP/Questions please call:
Kris Berg, NRCS (406) 683-3803
Jim Magee, FWP (406) 683-2675
Noor Parwana, BHWC (406) 782-3682
Tom Pick, NRCS (406) 587-6947

Jeanne Caddy announced the date of the Weed Whacker's Ball for September 15, 2007 in Wise River. It will again consist of live and silent auctions, live music and a bbq.

The Nature Conservancy Film

The 2nd half of the meeting was dedicated to viewing an inspiring documentary film recently completed and produced by the TNC on the upper Big Hole. The film is entitled "Fish and Cow - A Story of Restoring the Upper Big Hole Valley". Landowners, John Dooling and Guy Peterson are profiled in the movie as well as Nathan Korb (TNC), Jeff, Everett (USFWS), Peter LaMothe (MFWP) and others.

The film can be viewed on The Nature Conservancy website:

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/montana>

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm