



The FOAMLINE

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FISHING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA
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PWOA, MOGA, FOAM REDO MBO STATUTES

Legislative Proposal to Key On Public Safety, Cut Deadwood

Spurred by the passage of Initiative 161, hunting associations (Professional Wilderness Outfitters Assoc. and MOGA) proposed legislation for the 2013 session to remove unnecessary language from MBO laws in the wake of I-161's passage. References to NCHU (Net Client Hunting Use), base camps, associated fees, reporting requirements, and other now unnecessary statutes were redlined for deletion.

Then, FOAM representatives joined in the proposal rewriting MBO laws to eliminate sections that weren't directly related to public safety. For example, all three associations agreed on simplifying the outfitter application and moving the requirements for an operations plan from law to board rule, deleting the long-unused professional guide license, removing the requirement for the MBO to print a list of licensed outfitter contact information, moving all record requirements - aka outfitter logs - to board rule that currently administers other reporting requirements, offing the need for a guide to have a conservation license, and simplifying language regarding grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of a license.

The associations took the proposed language to the MBO in June for board member and staff review, garnering support for those changes that lightened staff requirements that could lead to budget reductions and stabilizing of license fees.

Remember, these proposed changes will need majority support from licensed outfitters and guides and plenty of contact with your legislators if and when they are introduced as bills and sent to review committees. FOAM will keep you up to date on these events and publish proposed language as soon as it is settled.

FOAM TO SURVEY MEMBERS RE LOGS

Reporting Requirements, Historical Use Under Review

As noted above, outfitter associations are promoting simplified outfitter logs: Most hunting outfitters favor no logs whatsoever, while FOAM has argued that minimized client info and the where and when of river use should be retained for fishing outfitters.

We will put out an email survey this September asking guide and outfitter members what they consider essential info in logs and what can be removed. Please respond ASAP so we can have good numbers for or against specific log requirements.

Based on the proposed online outfitter log system under construction at the MBO, a simplified log entry would contain the date, client's ALS number(s), guide or outfitter name and license number, and an OPTION to include the river and portion of river used.

Why only an option on river data? Well, some outfitters

who work on rivers they consider low-odds candidates for river management and possible allocation based on historical use argue that they shouldn't be required to keep river use data. Those on rivers considered next in line or eventually possible for river management want to make sure they have objective, third-party historical river use data available just in case. Making the river use data optional may satisfy both points of view. Of course, a clear warning would be part of the option, making sure those who chose not to record their river data understand what they're losing in the trade-off of simpler log records.

The fall survey will cover this and other possibilities simply and clearly. Your response will help craft rule-making at the MBO to simplify outfitter logs, yet satisfy both staff and industry needs.

TAKE-A-KID-FISHING PROJECT A SUCCESS

Alverson's Idea Getting Traction on Several Rivers

You may remember Dennis Alverson proposed the TAKF (Take a Kid Fishing) project a while back, then starting it in Livingston two years ago. This year, Joe Moore, FOAM director from West Yellowstone, joined in with a group of local guides and outfitters from West, taking a group of middle school students on the Madison.

Basically, the TAKF project requires a local outfitter to solicit support from a local school, church, or youth group to co-sponsor a day of fishing instruction and guiding on some nearby waterbody. FOAM has developed basic sign-up forms and suggestions on how to contact schools or organizations for cooperation. For more complete information, check our TAKF web page at <http://foam-mt.org/takf.php>.

Dennis urges all FOAM members to think about, then start a TAKF day in your area. He notes, "It's time to keep kids interested in fishing throughout Montana. What better way than to teach them fishing basics, then get them on the water?" We agree.

MADISON RIVER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

After Controversial Start, Citizen's Working on Basic Plan

After many public scoping meetings, solicitation for applicants, and Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) appointments, work on a proposed Madison river management plan is slowly progressing after two official meetings.

Based on the number of interests affected by any plan, FOAM urged FWP to appoint some 12-15 persons to the CAC. After receiving 33 applications, FWP forwarded the list to the Governor's office, but received instructions to pick only seven persons. (Check the FWP website - <http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/management/madison/> - for more details about the selected individuals.) Many

believe this is too few persons to represent the variety of interests on the Madison.

Next, at the first meeting, the facilitator, Ginny Tribe, announced that Pat Flowers (FWP) and Chris McGrath (BLM) would be added to the 7 citizen members. Led by Joe Dilschneider and seconded by Robin Cunningham, outfitters asked why the agencies should be allowed to decide on early phases of the plan, when they will be 'deciders' on the final draft itself. After a lengthy discussion among CAC members and Tribe, Flowers and McGrath, Flowers suggested he and McGrath act as technical advisors for the group, representing the two agencies but not taking part in the decision-making processes for the final recommendations for the plan. His suggestion was unanimously approved.

At our second meeting, we met Jon Juracek, a newly-added eighth member of the CAC. After the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce and other citizens communicated their displeasure with leaving West Y'stone unrepresented to the Governor's office, FWP Director Joe Maurier told Flowers to select one more CAC member from West.

At this point, the complete 8-member CAC has spent time deciding how to decide (consensus, not straight voting) and discussing our various interests, described as "It's in my interest to . . . because . . . ". For example, it's in an angler's interest to keep the Madison water clean and flows high enough to support a quality fishery because he or she likes to fish there. Next meeting, we'll be setting river and use conditions we want to preserve.

NEW OUTFITTERS WANT OLD NUMBERS

MBO Database Conversion Creates Higher License #'s

In an industry where time-in and experience mean a lot to individual guides and outfitters, the MBO process of moving from their old Oracle database to a new Accela database means guides moving up to outfitters don't automatically retain their old guide license number. Indeed, some when from four-digit to five-digit license numbers.

FOAM and MBO chairman Lee Kinsey asked Dept. of Labor & Industry (DLI) why the old numbers couldn't be retained. After some back and forth discussions, DLI's Jack Kane suggested staff could manually enter a guide license number as the new outfitter license number. Trudy Phippen, MBO Executive Director, is looking into just how this can happen and how soon board staff can start resetting new outfitter license numbers. Soon . . . very soon, we hope. Keep in touch; we'll let you know.

NEW BOZEMAN AREA FIRST AID CLASSES

Bighorn Fire Company Offers Frequent First Aid Training

Judy Story, lead instructor for the Bighorn Fire Academy, contacted FOAM recently to announce first aid training classes. Located on Quinn Creek Road, the BFC and Judy can be reached online at bighornfire.com, email: storymjsjc@aol.com, or call 406- 222-5464, cell #: 406-223-3473 for more details and finding a session convenient for updating your F.A. certificate.

Guide-at-Large Director Peter Shanafelt 360-5430

Region 5 (Madison) Joe Moore 581-6059	Region 6 (Gallatin) Dave McKee 582-0980	Region 7 (Yellowstone) Eric Adams 223-2488	Region 8 (Bighorn, Ft. Peck) Kurt Olson 666-2473
Region 1 (Kootenai, Flathead) Vacant	Region 2 (Bitterroot, Clark Fork) Russell Parks 543-7078	Region 3 (Missouri) John Arnold 868-1951	Region 4 (Big Hole, Beaverhead) Matt Greenmore 684-5639

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MSU Museum of the Rockies "TwoFly" Event Needs Guides
MOR needs about 9 more guides to volunteer (and get \$250) for teaming up with MOR sponsors for a day of fishing on either the Madison or the Yellowstone on Saturday, 9/15.
More details at http://foam-mt.org/downloads/2012_MOR_2fly_prospectus.pdf
Sign up at <http://www.museumoftherockies.org/AboutMOR/BenefitEvents/TwoFly/OutfitterGuideRegistration.aspx>

Outfitters: Want to expand? 141 client days on Beaverhead river for sale. Reduced from original price. Contact Bill at 1-800-363-2408.

CLASSIFIED ADS

- MBO Law Revisions Proposed
- FOAM Outfitter Log Survey Coming in September
- Take-a-Kid-Fishing Project Gaining Support
- Madison Management Planning Process Update
- New Outfitter License Number Averted?
- BZN First Aid Classes: New Training Available

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