



The FOAMLINE

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FISHING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA
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A NOTE FOR FOAM ONLINE SIGNUP USERS

Online Service Fast, But Check your Email for Certificates

FOAM's new online signup for membership and basic insurance is working well, and many members are using it instead of mailing in their applications and insurance questionnaire.

But, our office has received many calls from online users who expected some kind of paper acknowledgement and/or insurance certificates in the mail.

Online signups only receive an email receipt from PayPal, our payment processing agent, and insurance certificates are emailed to the email address you enter in the online form. Check your email after 24 hours of signing up on a weekday; look for an email from the Bissell Agency. Don't see one? Check your spam folder.

If you don't receive an email after several days, check with Marci at the Bissell Agency, 406.586.6230.

BOARD POSTPONES ADVERTISING REVIEW

Missing Board Members Requires MBO to Delay Discussion

The March Board of Outfitters meeting had scheduled an initial discussion of licensee advertising, but was short three members - a public member and two outfitter members. Barely making a quorum of four members present, board Chair Robin Cunningham decided to set aside the discussion until more outfitter members could attend the next meeting on Friday, September 6.

"Without key fishing or fishing/hunting outfitters attending, our discussion would be premature. We need members who are affected and know the industry needs to bring their opinions and suggestions before we can successfully start this discussion," said Cunningham.

FOAM Vice President Russell Parks was prepared to attend and present the FOAM board's recommendations. Luckily, he received notice in time to delay his trip until September.

If you're interested in attending and offering comments, please notify Trudy Phippen (406.841.2370) by August 12 so she can arrange the agenda accordingly.

NEW RULE CHANGE RE GUIDE LIC. SIGNING

Longterm In-field Policy Adopted in Rule-making Suggestion

For years, outfitters have been required to sign a guide's license and indicate the days that guide worked for the signing outfitter. The easiest way to set the work date(s) was to indicate a spread of months, usually 1/1 through 12/31 of any license year, then simply report the days the guide worked for the signing outfitter on the outfitter's client logs. However, in the past, some board staff

have insisted that an outfitter sign a guide's license each day the guide works. Daily signing is unreasonable, if not impossible, given that an outfitter may have several guides working on widely-separated spots in one day.

At the March MBO meeting, member Robin Cunningham pointed out the inconsistency between two rules governing guide license signing: 24.171.602(4): Each outfitter who uses the services of the guide during the license year shall sign the guide's license, and, *following completion of the guides service on behalf of the outfitter*, shall specify dates on which the guide provided service for the outfitter; 24.171.2301(1)(p): An outfitter shall not use a guide *prior to ensuring that the guide license is fully signed and dated*.

This rule contradiction led to a discussion with the board and board counsel, Tyler Moss, to seek a resolution to the license signing date problem. Board Counsel Tyler Moss understood the problem immediately and agreed the inconsistency needed some solution. Noting the in-field process commonly used by both fishing and hunting outfitters, Cunningham moved that the words "in client logs" be added to 24.171.602(4) so it read, in part "following completion of the guides service on behalf of the outfitter, shall specify *in client logs* dates on which the guide provided service for the outfitter." John Wilkinson, hunting outfitter member, seconded, and the board voted unanimously to make this simple rule change.

Any rule-change takes up to six months to send out a notice, gather public comment, and return to the board for final adoption. Still, recognizing and applying in rule a long-standing in-field practice regarding guide license signing and dates of service will clarify a process interpretation that has constrained and confused the outfitting industry for years.

ANGLERS DISCUSS AIS, ILLEGAL INTRO'S

FWP Angler's Forum Takes a Stand, Seeks Endorsements

Angling groups such as Trout Unlimited, FOAM, Bass Unlimited and Walleyes Unlimited join with FWP fisheries personnel twice a year in an 'Angler's Forum' to discuss and introduce new topics and programs related to Montana fisheries.

You've read many prior FOAMLINe articles about aquatic invasive species (AIS). At the latest forum in June, much of the discussion centered on illegal introductions of fish to waters the species have not inhabited before. Think of Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park, or walleyes in the Flat-head drainage.

All members of the forum agreed that illegal fish introductions (IFI) are just another vector for AIS and talked about a variety of ways to discourage IFI and punish persons convicted of illegal intro's.

Bruce Rich, FWP Fisheries chief, reminded those attending that a coalition of angling and conservation organizations sought widespread endorsement of their stand against IFI. Rich also passed out FWP's policy statement re "unauthorised introductions of aquatic wildlife", circa 2002. You can get a copy of this policy at foam-mt.org/downloads/FWP_IFI_Policy.pdf.

Combining FWP's policy and thinking of the original coalition working on IFI, the Angler's Forum members agreed to endorse a similar education and enforcement resolution, plus seek donations from their member groups to reward successful prosecution of offenders reported through FWP's TipMont program.

The idea is to increase the reward to something substantial (\$2000? \$5000?) to encourage reporting of suspected IFI incidents and benefit those whose information leads to the arrest, trial, and fines or other discipline of suspects.

The FOAM board will discuss our association's involvement at their first meeting late this fall. If you have any feedback or want to donate individually, contact the FOAM offices (info @ foam-mt.org or 406.763.5436).

GUIDE DAY RECORDS & CLIENT LOGS

Outfitter Client Log Record-keeping Must Be Accurate

One qualification for an outfitter license is 100 days of infield service, typically proven by reviewing hiring outfitter client logs to count the days a particular guide worked.

For years, the MBO reviewed occasional inconsistencies between a guide's total work days and the listed outfitter's logged work days. In fact, the board passed a rule in the 90's allowing a guide to prove their 100 day qualification through agency records, client affidavits, letters or personal records.

Recently, the board reviewed redacted copies of a guide's personal logs when his total was more than the accumulated days recorded by a group of outfitters the guide worked for over several years. Eventually, a combination of the guide's records and current outfitter records resolved the issue.

But, board members, particularly public members, reviewed outfitter record-keeping laws and rules to remind each other that accurate outfitter logs are important for many reasons, including "proving up" 100 days of infield service for any particular guide.

FOAM has long emphasized the importance of accurate logs because outfitter records should - and typically are - treated as key information for several reasons: accurate, current logs are mandated in rule, logs are a record of guide days worked to qualify for an outfitter license, and records create an accurate client list for the outfitter's own use, such as "Thank you" notes, Christmas and birthday cards, etc..

The bottom line for outfitters? Keep current, accurate logs. Poor records hurt your business and may subject you to disciplinary action. Be smart, do your part, and keep your client logs complete - including guide days - and up to date

Guide-at-Large Director Peter Shanafelt 360-5430

<p>Region 8 (Bighorn, Ft. Peck) Steve Galletta 666-2473</p>	<p>Region 7 (Yellowstone) Eric Adams 223-2488</p>	<p>Region 6 (Gallatin) Dave McKee 582-0980</p>	<p>Region 5 (Madison) Joe Moore 581-6059</p>
<p>Region 4 (Big Hole, Beaverhead) Matt Greemore 684-5639</p>	<p>Region 3 (Missouri) Mark Raiser 459-8739</p>	<p>Region 2 (Bitterroot, Clark Fork) Russell Parks 543-7078</p>	<p>Region 1 (Kootenai, Flathead) Jason Lanier 387-5340</p>

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CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Montanatroutfishing.com domain name.
Contact Bob at 406.782.0567 for details.