



The FOAMLINE

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FISHING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA
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DECEMBER 2011

“THANKS, MEMBERS” FROM FOAM

Membership Appreciated; Our Work Continues for 2012

During these slowly-improving economic times, we appreciate your continued membership in FOAM. The FOAM directors and staff will keep working hard so you're well-informed and well-represented, and we'll maintain the quality business services and variety of insurance coverage FOAM has always offered.

You may wonder just what FOAM does for you. Here's a brief rundown of highlights from the thirty-something years we've been helping our members:

- First non-profit business organization dedicated to representing the interests of fishing outfitters and guides in licensing and regulation
- Group liability insurance coverage for members, negotiating rates and coverage annually, streamlining the application process, shortening certification “turn-around” time, and reducing the premium rate from original \$450/yr to current \$300
- Inexpensive comprehensive member equipment coverage
- Competitive, affordable commercial auto insurance rates
- Wrote and passed legislation creating independent contractor status for fishing guides
- Defended I.C. guide status by amending law to allow I.C. status even with required sponsorship by outfitter
- Co-sponsored successful “Client Acknowledgement of Risk” legislation
- Wrote, passed a bill allowing the MBO to license guides according to their own requirements without outfitter sponsorship
- Wrote, passed legislation allowing outfitters to contract for equipment instead of buying or leasing gear
- Continually monitored legislative sessions since 1987, representing fishing outfitters and guides interests in regulation and conservation issues
- Representatives were and are involved in all river recreation management policy development and application
- Represented fishing outfitters in original Smith River Management Plan, initial allocation of launches based on historical use
- Worked with FWP during Big Hole, Beaverhead rule-making, adjusted BH2 rules during 2009 review process
- Worked with FWP on Blackfoot RRAFT recreation management planning process
- Represented fishing outfitters during Blackfoot and Madison SRP process implementation
- Negotiated reasonable FWP ‘statewide’ FAS permit and fee structure
- Wrote, passed Montana Board of Outfitters (MBO) rule to allow

statewide river listing and use on outfitter operations plan

- Dropped client addresses in MBO paper outfitter logs to suit ‘in field’ simplicity
- Advised MBO in detail on construction, implementation of online log forms with utility and convenience foremost
- Continually explain MBO processes, including outfitter and guide licensing, operation plans, and discipline procedures
- Advise many individual members during MBO disciplinary actions
- Advise many outfitters and guides when dealing with MBO laws and rules, FWP regulations, BLM rules
- Continue long-term support for fishing outfitters and guides “right to do business” in all state and federal agency rule-making

We can't list all the day-to-day trials and successes of our work - there's simply too much “in the trenches” detail to cover here, but our Board of Directors, staff, and member volunteers work hard for the benefit of all in our association.

FOAM cannot replace important local organizations like the Bighorn Alliance who focus on specific local needs, but our statewide perspective is necessary for the wider membership.

At the end of the year, it's good to look back, take stock, and remember who is important in all of this - the individual members. So, “Thanks, members!”

FOAM DIRECTORS ELECTED, RE-ELECTED

Regions 4, 6, 7 Have New Directors

Using an efficient email ballot, FOAM members re-elected Dave McKee director of our Region 6, Bozeman, elected newcomer Eric Adams director for Region 7, Livingston, and brought back old-timer and former director Matt Greemore in Region 4, Big Hole, Beaverhead. Welcome aboard, Eric; great to have you back, Dave and Matt.

FOAM SEEKING TWO BOARD DIRECTORS

Nominations Open Until Replacement Found

The FOAM Board of Directors has two openings, one for our Region 1 (Kootenai, Yaak) and one for our Guide-at-Large Director. Jim Voeller has been termed-out of the Reg. 1 seat after serving six consecutive years. And, Russell Parks moved up to an outfitter license and left the Guide Director position vacant.

Fishing Outfitters and guides need representation on the FOAM board to bring their perspective and feedback to the board-members and help direct their varied interests in projects or licensing proposals from various agencies. The nominees must be willing to serve and attend board meetings; we generally schedule meet-

ings for October, December, January, February, March, April, and May. Send nominations to FOAM, PO Box 67, Gal Gtwy, MT 59730, email info @ foam-mt.org or call 406.763.5436.

FOAM TO STOP MAILING FORMS

2012 Is Last Year for Mailing FOAM Membership Papers

2012 FOAM membership and insurance forms will be mailed during October for the last time. To save money, beginning in the fall of 2012, we'll email or send postcards to our members when the forms are available on our website, foam-mt.org. Of course, if you need paper forms at any time, just call the FOAM office (406.763.5436).

FOAM REQUESTS UPDATED MBO AD RULE

MBO Advertising Rule Should Include Electronic Media

In the wake of several warnings members have received from the MBO staff regarding ads on websites, FOAM has asked to review the MBO ad rule with an eye for electronic media.

Rule 24.171.2301(3)(n) states all licensees shall "clearly designate the business name and personal name, address, telephone number and license number of the outfitter, when advertising outfitter and guide services."

The rule does not say how or where this information should be included in, say, a website, on Facebook or Craigslist. And, what about radio ads? Old school billboards? Business

cards? Should the information must be clustered in one place or available on several pages in a website as appropriate: business name, personal name, address, phone in a page footer and outfitter number on a rates page?

Suitable for a print-ad era, the rule now needs an overhaul for general clarification and modern media.

FOAM COORDINATING FOR MADISON PLAN

Meetings in Ennis to Set "Involvement Strategy" with FWP

After FWP announced in November the Madison River Recreation Management Planning process (MRRMPP), FOAM called local members / Special Recreation Permit (SRP) holders to two meetings in Ennis. We discussed representation in the process and what forms of commercial control we may consider useful, but *only when and if* our operations need adjustment.

FOAM members should monitor the MRRMPP since it is only the second such process FWP has initiated under the new River Rec Planning rules adopted in 2004, and other waters may well face such planning.

This current Madison process will be much different from the BH2, partially because commercial use on the Madison tops out at an average 14% of total, while nonresident use averages 70% and resident use 30% or so. (Note: our 14% is part of the 70% of nonresident use since our clients are mostly nonresident.) And, the BH2 process was not governed by the 2004 guidelines. For more info, check www.foam-mt.org/blog.php

Guide-at-Large Director Vacant

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 Greemore
684-5639

BOARD of DIRECTORS

- A Big FOAM Thank You to our Members
- FOAM Directors: Need Two, Have Some New
- FOAM Forms Go Online; No Mailing after 2012
- FOAM to Rework MBO Advertising Rules
- FOAM & the Madison Recreation Planning Process

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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