

Meeting on July 28th, At Borderland State Park.

We first talked on the closing of boat access to the Springfield reservoir. This was requested by the selectmen of the town of Ludlow. The local police dept. stated that there's been minimal complaints to their dept. but they will have a detail stationed at the reservoir to monitor any problems that might arise. The cost of the detail will be paid by the Holyoke water and sewer dept..Hopefully this will keep the access open.

Members of the board were working on next years abstracts with the enfaces on including the different agencies purpose and focusing on more information on wildlife, fishing and trapping.

Director Mc Callum stated that the D.F.W. is managing with the 18% budget cut but if there are more cuts it would mean possible lay-offs and program cuts.

The hunter ed. headquarters is now located at westboro.

The controlled deer hunts on the islands seem to have worked but are still being monitored.

There was a large donation of \$ 360,000 to the D.F.W. with a condition that it be used to help purchase lands in the western part of the state.

Environmental police reported that they also where working with a substantial budget cut, and mentioned that there still are numerous atv complaints as well as bear complaints.

Mark Tish, of the D.F.W. did a presentation on the Zebra Mussle,and the severity of the problem. The mussle is only the size of a finger nail and is transported by boats, trailers, animals etc..Precautions have to be taken to contain the spreading of this crustation. Presently it seems to effect the waters in the Berkshires because of the high calcium content in the soil and water.Members should make others aware of this serious problem.

After comments from a number of people supporting our request to expand the turkey season to four weeks here in zones 11& 12. The board will decide on our request at the next board meeting.Jim Cardozza of the D.F.W. spoke in favor of our proposal and requested that people still send in turkey counts to his office.

There was a discussion on a proposal to use D.F.W. lands for state wide bike paths. It was believed that these paths could cause serious conflicts between users, such as ATV'S.

The proposal to ban lead sinkers 1oz. or less was passed. Wont go into effect until 2012.

Jason Zimmer confirmed the sighting of a bear in Attleboro.

There will be a hearing on Bob Cat hunting at the next board meeting at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun club at 1pm on the 28th of Aug.

Lastly, The request to allow Grouse hunting at the Otis base was denied because of training.

See you in Sept. John Fab