



## Beaverhead PF Chapter 862 Newsletter

12 July 2010

Eight wks has spun by since our May update. Chapter activities have been numerous. Our membership at PF national has finally been updated. All of you should have received your membership card and the Fall PF Journal. Eric has us in high gear on our Poindexter Habitat Project, our birds are on order for our Fall Youth Hunt and we participated in a county spray day, with focused on Poindexter. Additionally our monthly Chapter meeting attendance is also on the rise.

President's Corner: I am sure everyone is enjoying our wet, beautiful summer. Rivers have been high and fishing is great! I am seeing more pheasants around the area than I have noticed in the past, which gives me encouragement for the future. Some of our members were out today (July 10) to participate in weed spraying in the Poindexter area where our habitat improvement project is in the formulating stages. We are looking forward to and planning for our next youth hunt, which will take place towards the end of September. Last year's was great fun for me, the young hunters and I am sure the other participant's. I want to extend a special thanks to Eric, Gary, Jerry and Paul who have done everything this year while I had and recovered from hip surgery. You guys are great!

Ron Fick

Eric Hammer, Habitat Chairman, who reminds you that as of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, there are 50 days left to the start of Upland Season, has the following update on our Poindexter Habitat Project.

- 1) We have signed a 10 year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State concerning our intentions to revitalize the habitat at Poindexter.
- 2) Thanks to the hard work of Craig Fager, FWP region 3 biologist, the Environmental Assessment (EA) is out for public review. All members should **read** the EA and **comment** on it. The EA is available for your reading pleasure at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov), click on "news", click on "public notices", and click on "Poindexter". We will be commenting on it as an organization as well. Before we can do a thing at Poindexter, we must clear this EA hurdle first. Do not delay as the comment period ends July 28<sup>th</sup>! Comments can be submitted in person, through the mail or email to Craig Fager, Wildlife Biologist MTFWP, 730 N Montana St. Dillon, MT 59725, [cfager@mt.gov](mailto:cfager@mt.gov). Unfortunately, the Poindexter Project has been flagged by the State for a "full cultural review". For lack of a better explanation, it seems Poindexter, since nothing has really happened on it for some time, has fallen into a "default area" that the State will require a full review. This has the potential to be a show-stopper, but we are hoping that it will not. Additionally, Pheasants Forever may be asked to help foot the bill for some of the costs of the review. We will find out soon enough what will be required of us (if anything) to get over this obstacle.
- 3) Poindexter Priorities. We need to rebuild a very small bridge (its 12 ft. long by 8 ft. wide) to get men and equipment to where we will be establishing cover and food plots. We plan on help from Youth Challenge with the bridge. Also among some of our first priorities is the reestablishment a functioning fence (2,700 linear feet) on the west and northwest sides of Poindexter. There is no sense in doing any food and cover plots if we cannot protect the area from grazing. We hope to still get the fence in and start some "sample plots" yet this year. Simply put, the priorities are: Pass the EA, Replace Bridge, Fence and Plots.
- 4) We have started some conversations with local farmer/ranchers on who will be doing the farm work at Poindexter. Getting a willing local farmer with the hardware to do what we need is very important.
- 5) Farming land that has not seen a plow for decades is not easy or is it free. It is in that light that we have applied for a grant from Patagonia to help pay the designated farmer "a living wage" to do the work. We will hear the results of the application for the grant in September. This money could be extremely valuable to us in the long run. This grant would be an on-going endowment for the 25-35 acres per year we hope to phase in over the next 5-7 years as per the Habitat Reconstruction Plan.

Best,

In closing this months letter do not forget our Chapter's monthly meetings, open to the public are every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 5:30pm at the Dillon Elk's lodge, 27 E. Center Str. **Our July meeting is on the 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please come join us.** Contact Gary for further calendar updates.

"Flushing pheasants" <http://www.mtstandard.com/articles/2009/10/04/bigskylife/hjjaijghhheh.txt>

\*For more information call 1-877-773-2070. Or visit [www.montanapf.org](http://www.montanapf.org) or [www.PheasantsForever.org](http://www.PheasantsForever.org)



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*Pheasants Forever Inc is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements. Public awareness, education and land management polices and programs.*

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