



September 22, 2010

Dear MRPA members,

Greetings and I hope you had a great summer! Things are slowing down a little giving us a chance to enjoy this beautiful fall weather. And with fall, comes our annual conference. I hope you are all planning on being in West Yellowstone the week of October 4. Bob Walker and his committee have put together a stellar program which you can view by going to <http://www.mtrpa.info/PDF's/Tri-State%20Agenda.pdf> . Won't you support our profession by attending and maybe even bringing a colleague that might not have come without your urging? The speakers are excellent and are some of the leaders in our industry. You'll have the chance to meet folks from Idaho and Wyoming and a bunch of good vendors are coming. Ken Soderberg has put together a great pre-conference workshop on connecting children with the outdoors, the agenda for it is at <http://www.mtrpa.info/PDF's/Workshop%20Agenda%20Final.pdf> . Or you can do any number of pre-conference activities such as the golf tournament or river rafting. All this you have access to on the excellent MRPA website and going through the easy registration. Then all you have to do is come to West! We have nearly 200 folks registered and 22 exhibitors at this point. Please also consider bringing some items for the silent auction. This activity raises dollars for our student scholarships and is always a great place to get some great bargains – if you bring them! With three states worth of recreation professionals, we should do very well! And speaking of students, Professor Neil Mosiey from the University of Montana is bringing over a van load of students and there is a contingent coming from the University of Idaho as well. The MRPA board is providing financial support to the students and we will now have our first official student on the MRPA board, following bylaw changes approval. So come do some recruiting for the next generation of recreation professionals! And be inspired by the future recreation leaders of our state!

The Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization is moving forward, having passed the House of Representatives as the CLEAR act this summer. It's onto the Senate with hopefully the change of guaranteed equal funding for the stateside portion of LWCF. Thanks to any of you that contacted Representative Rehberg. It's now time to let Senators Tester and Baucus know the need for stateside funding. For the most current information, go to <http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/> . Although this group does not support equal stateside funding, they probably have the most current info on their site. I urge you to get informed and to get active in helping get this critical funding source passed. I distributed NRPA's latest call for action today, if you didn't get it and would like it, email me back and I'll forward it to you.

See you in West Yellowstone!

Doug Habermann, President
MRPA